



Dinner Meeting for Thursday, November 19
Mel & Neil's Big Trout, Exotic Location
and Low Cost Adventure
 with Mel and Neil Light



Neil

Most fly fishers dream of an exciting and fulfilling fishing trip that they can design themselves, prepare for and then spend a month or so experiencing. It'd be like a dream of the ultimate fly fishing adventure totally under their control. What fun, right?

But how many people do this? Well, at this month's meeting you're going to meet two who have done this, and more

than once. Mel and Neil Light are true fly fishing fanatics. In fact Mel, a member and past-president of Wilderness Fly Fishers, even writes a column that appears in his club's newsletter, *Mending the Line*, called just that, "The Fishing Fanatic." And Mel's older brother, Neil, is considered by many to be even more of a fanatic about our sport than Mel.



Mel

Last year, they researched, planned, then conducted even more research, constantly adjusting their plans, and then they took off for the bottom of Argentina and South America.



They packed all their own gear and camping equipment, bought their own plane tickets, hoped to get into a campsite they learned about,

(continued on page 3)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| PROGRAM..... | 1/3 |
| BOARD OF DIRECTORS..... | 2 |
| PRESIDENT'S CORNER..... | 2 |
| SWCFF FAIR..... | 4 |
| SCHOLARSHIPS..... | 5 |
| RECREATION FESTIVAL..... | 5 |
| MEMBER OUTINGS..... | 6/10 |
| CALENDER OF EVENTS..... | 11 |
| CATCH OF THE MONTH..... | 12 |

RAFFLE ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER

First Prize — Orvis Clearwater 6wt. 4pc 9' rod

Second Prize — Orvis Battenkill III Reel

Third Prize — Orvis lanyard loaded

Big Barrel

**Rio Line rewind kit, LED Light, Book,
one year subscription The Angling Report**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fly fishing is a sport with endless learning opportunities. I found this out firsthand at the recent **SWC Faire** in Bishop when I found myself the only student in a Czech nymphing class given by **Gary Gunsolly** the one time owner of Brock's in Bishop. We spent a wonderful morning together and I came away with an overload of information and some great memories. Even you dry fly purists have to get down deeper once in a while and you too will have a chance to learn from the best. Coming up **November 13-15** is the **annual nymphing clinic** to be run by Bill Woods, Joey Guzman and Kevin Rainbolt – a trio of experts who can really help you master the art of getting down where the fish feed. Sign up on our website – don't miss a great chance.

It was great to see so many SPFF members up in Bishop for the FAIRE. The new venue, expanded classes and greater vendor presence made for an excellent weekend. Credit is due to **Michael Schweit** for creating this new fixture on our fishing calendar. Kudos also to our own **Steve Fernandez** who assembled an amazing group of fly tiers who donated their finished product to the fundraiser. I still don't believe Steve won his own flies in the raffle – it must have been rigged.

Thanks are also due to **Debbie Sharpton** for organizing an SPFF presence at the second annual **National Park Service Rec Fest**, held at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills. This is an opportunity to show our sport to hundreds (yes) of kids for the first time. Check out the story in this newsletter.

ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS: Each year, SPFF presents service awards to deserving recipients. Please go to the website to review the criteria for the nominees, and if you feel someone is deserving, please email me at marshallbissett@gmail.com by November 30th, or come to the December Board meeting to place your nomination. About the only limitation is that a Board Member cannot be nominated for performing the duties associated with their Board position. We are also open to nominations for the J Stanley Lloyd and Jassid awards and you can check out previous recipients in your roster. We will have a team from SPFF fishing at the **Southwest Council's Inter-Council Tournament in Kernville** over the weekend of November 7th. And we are still looking for one more team member. This year the fishing will be better than ever – I promise. Even if it's not, the camaraderie, jokes and learning will still be there.

Marshall Bissett

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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| Technical Assistant _____ | Aran Dokovna | 661.296.7633 |
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EDITOR'S NOTES

FLY PAPER ENTRIES—Please email copies of your photos or "jpegs" at the unedited, original size and other newsletter items to

Dale Lopez at: news@spff.org

DEADLINE:
3rd Thursday each month
by 5 PM (Dinner Meeting)

(continued from page 1 Mel & Neil's Adventure)



Upper Photo Fly Tying, Lower Cookout.

also hoped they would be able to find transportation once they got there and boarded their flights, each brother leaving from a different city, which was an adventure in itself. (Mel lives in L.A. and flew from LAX, Neil lives in Santa Rosa and flew from San Francisco.) Their trip lasted a month! And, luckily for us, they shot a good amount of video and lots of pictures.



Driving Across Estancia

They had funny experiences, joyous fishing, and some unforeseen problems that were overcome.

They have not only great stories to tell, but also enjoyable, humorous and illuminating video to show us. (After Neil's return home he bought editing software, contracted with a high school student to tutor him on editing, and, through his young tutor and trial and error, became a good editor.) During their adventure, they learned a lot, and luckily for us, we will as well, but without having to live through the difficulties they did. And if you want to see what it is like to catch huge sea-run brown trout, along with big resident brown trout in an amazing

river and spring creek at the bottom of Patagonia, all the while traveling around on their own, camping out, going to local grocery stores, cooking most of their own meals, meeting locals, learning the customs and drinking the Argentinian ubiquitous drink that is as popular there as coffee is here (in Argentina it is known to all as "Mate"), don't miss this presentation.



Argentine Barbeque

Mel, Neil and their sister were born in Minnesota, but when they were all toddlers, the family moved to California, settling in Santa Rosa. It was there that the Light brothers became enraptured with fishing. Their parents weren't fishers, but Neil believes a genetic "bug" must have been passed to them from their grandfather who was a fisherman in Minnesota. In their teens, they both became absolute fishing fanatics.

Mel attended Santa Rosa Junior College before entering the Army, where he served as a 1st Lieutenant in Special Forces in Vietnam. After the Army, Mel settled in SoCal, attended Santa Monica Junior College and started his own landscape contracting company. He backpacked and explored many of the streams in the Sierra and has since fished most of the rivers all around the western states in the U.S. . . . and that means almost **all** the rivers. For example, last year Mel fished more than 90 days, with his specialty being dry fly fishing using tiny flies. In fact, of the most recent 25 fish Mel caught this year, he got them all on flies size 24 or smaller. He is a creative fly tier, creating many new patterns.

Neil is a woodworking artisan specializing in cabinetry and custom furniture who spends three to six months every year fishing around the globe. He loves to chase trout and steelhead in the U.S. northwest, Canada and Russia, along with saltwater species (tarpon, bonefish and snook) in Florida, South America and Christmas Island in the Pacific. Neil also attended Santa Rosa Junior College and later earned a B.A. degree from Chico State University. He, as well as Mel, is an innovative fly tier and has invented new patterns, including what has become known as "The California Neil."

These two siblings will be giving a presentation you will enjoy and learn from.

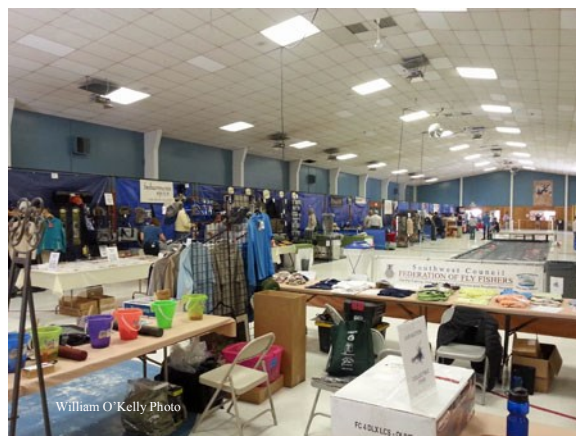
Fall at the SWCFFF Fair

By Rosemary Ecker

It was a wild weather weekend as we headed out on highway 14 toward Mojave for breakfast. No problems in sight at 6 am under the dark clouds over the desert. As we rolled into Mojave a sea of semi's lined every street and road as far as the eye could see. It was a traffic jam, bumper to bumper, caused by the shutdown of I-5 and Hwy 58. After making the turn to 14 we stopped for breakfast wondering what was ahead. Luckily that was the only problem. Bernie and I always enjoy the ride into the string of small towns along 395 beginning with Lone Pine. Snow was on the mountain tops and wisps of clouds made it all look like October magic.

We knew that we were in the right place when we saw to small sign along the roadside declaring the SWCFFF Fair ahead. Good job Michael! The change in venue was very welcoming. The fairgrounds were a great choice for the fair. Bishop had many advertisements about the program and those in town seemed to be very aware that trout anglers were gathering.

The fair had everything. Not that other fairs in the past haven't, but the location here had plenty of space for fishing games, practice casting, lunch area hosted by the Lions Club, informal and spacious meeting rooms and great classes and talks. If you haven't been to a Federation Fair, you shouldn't miss it. Inside the main vendor area there was a casting pond for beginners. Knowledgeable kids taught other kids how to fly tie. It was great!



Many attendees fished and of course we intended to. I got side tracked with the vast beauty of the mountains and the changing light from the dark then puffy white clouds. Steve Fernandez had been fishing up Bishop Creek and showed me some pictures of the fall colors. We had to go.



What a reward from nature!!! It was simply incredible. So in the future, if you have the chance, go to the Federation Fly Fishing Fair next year in Bishop. I saw 15 members there and many were working. Go and have fun. See you next year.

Scholarships are our Educational Thing-Read This!

By Rosemary Ecker, Scholarship Committee

As past president of SPFF and a member for over twenty-five years, I am always looking for worthwhile opportunities to promote our sport and support youth education. It's been my pleasure to participate on the scholarship committee. Each year the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers offers scholarship opportunities to qualified senior high school senior applicants. This is an exciting process and offers the opportunity for us to meet students intending to work in fields that may help our fisheries. Applicants are seeking education in majors related to natural resources, fisheries, environmental science, forest resources, oceanography or related fields supporting our natural resources. Each candidate completes an application, writes an essay, provides transcripts with a minimum requirement of a 3.0 GPA and provides at least two letters of recommendation. The applications are screened by the scholarship committee to determine the award recipients. We have been very proud of the students receiving these funds.

The SPFF Foundation, a 501(c)(3), is pleased to accept donations supporting this purpose. SPFF has been involved in supporting students for many years and in the past several years received generous donations from a couple of members. At this time we are asking all members to support the purpose of supporting educational scholarships. No donation is too small. Our goal is to provide up to four scholarships or \$1000 each. At this time we anticipate a need to gather additional donations totaling \$2000 for the awarding of scholarships in May 2016.

To submit to this worthy cause you may write a check made out to the SPFF Foundation and in the memo area write "scholarship fund". You will be issued a receipt for your contribution. You may also contribute cash in the container labeled **SCHOLARSHIP** at the monthly meeting check-in desk.

2015 Recreation Festival at National Park Service Paramount Ranch

By Debbie Sharpton

On Oct 24th, SPFF joined other outdoor enthusiasts at the second annual National Park Service Rec Fest, held at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a mix of non-profit, city, county, state and federal parklands making it the largest urban park in the nation. Many people from metropolitan Los Angeles have never been to the mountains, or even the beach. The National Park Service provided transportation for approximately 1,000 third and fifth graders and their parents from cities such as Bell, Gardena, East Hollywood, and Torrance, to visit the park for a day and experience what they could do in the outdoors. SPFF volunteers Bill O'Kelly, David Hoffberg, Mike Nichols, Mike Rupp, Pat and Ginny Cates, Mas Okui and myself, as well as Lew Riffle of Santa Barbara Flyfishers, coached about 200 kids how to cast a fly rod. Some kids had never been fishing before. The best part was when we all played the "fish" and tugged on the lines, and the kids started reeling us in. We pretended a big net scoped us up and we told them about taking the hook out of their mouth and putting the fish back in the water. Those little faces were beaming with happiness when they are fighting a "fish". Thanks to all the volunteers, including Michelle Hulac-Morentin for helping out, and making it a special day for many children.

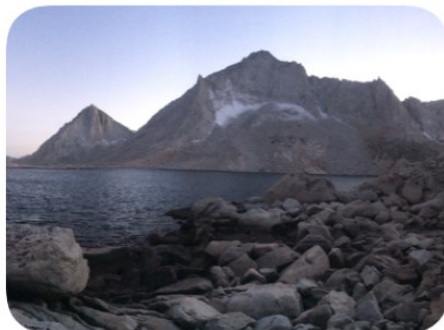
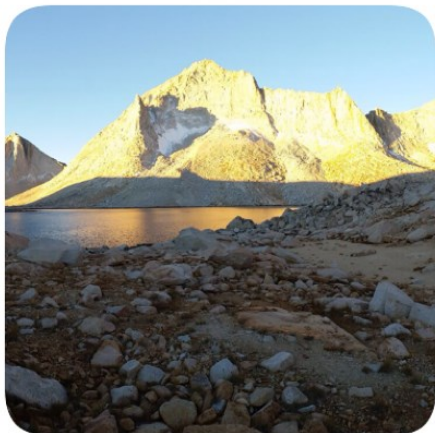
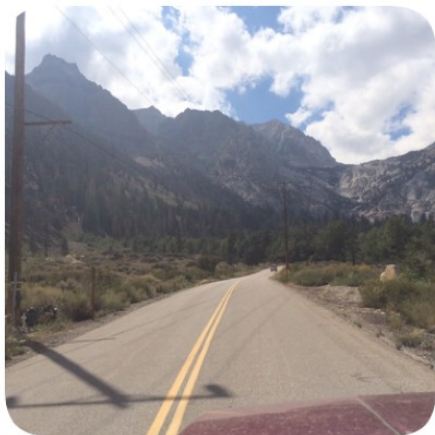


This little girl looks like a future fisher to me!

Debbie Sharpton

In Pursuit of GOLD

By Frank Vargas



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from previous page)



The Big Mo Outing Year Three

By Dale Lopez



Anglers & Guides

Jack Jonathan Photo

Twelve people made the trip this year. From SPFF, Scott Davidson and his son Will, Jack Jonathan, John Roberts, Larry Krokes, myself and a friend of mine from Sand Point Idaho, Paul Myers. From Pasadena Fly Casting Club, Richard Asher and Bill Gardner. We also enjoyed having three from Project Healing Waters, Robert Rodriguez, Charles Guerin and Mark Carlton.

Mornings saw most nymphing until the bug hatches got going. Nymphing was and is generally the most productive method but the dry fly fishing can be off the hook this time of year. One guide fished a hopper with one foot of tippet to a Zebra Midge drifted through the risers. Works very well and easier to see for those of us without the best of vision. I did have a nice Brown trout eat my Hopper one day. Pounded the banks with streamers off and on over several days and managed a couple of fish this way. It became obvious this was not going to be the week streamer fishing was going to pay off.

Weather wise, except for a day and a half of cloud cover, its what we really wanted, it was clear including Friday when we saw unseasonal 80 degree weather. The fat and feisty fish averaged 16" – 20" with more than half the group reporting fish over 21" to the net. Made for great theater with a lot of whoops and hollering from the gang. These trout fight harder than anywhere I personally have fished. Join us next year.

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(continued from page 8)



Robert Rodriguez



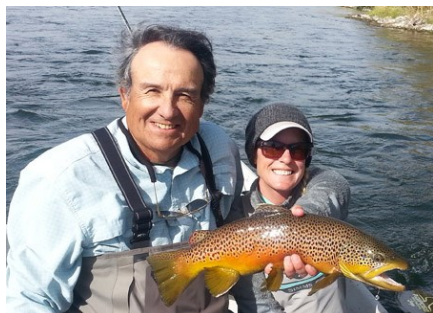
Charles Guerin



John Roberts



Larry Krokes



Dale Lopez



Scott Davidson



Richard Asher

Fishing on the Fortune out of Fisherman's Landing, San Diego

By Aran Dokovna

On a two day, two nights fishing trip on the Fortune out of San Diego's Fisherman's Landing. The charter was put together by Michael Schweit. We had 7 fly fishermen and 8 conventional fishermen. The first day the fishing was very tough, conventional fishers caught almost all the fish, almost all dorado and one 9 inch yellowtail. The second day was slim pickings until late in the day. I had caught none (a new species) on both days. We had already started the return trip to San Diego, when we found a school of tuna. I had already put up my fly gear. I crossed over to conventional and caught about 4 tuna.

The fly fishermen were catching tuna one after another. The deck hand was chumming into the port side at the stern and the fly guys were dropping their flies right after the chum and taking tuna on every cast. Great fun when catching, slow when trolling.



Collin Waters dorado on the fly

FLY FISHING AT CRYSTAL RANCH LODGE IN ALTAMONT UTAH

By Aran Dokovna

Late September four of us (Michael Tansey, George Weisfeld, Daniel Dokovna and I) flew to Utah and drove to the Crystal Ranch Lodge. It took us a little longer than usual as three out of four chose to not follow the GPS instructions and accordingly got lost. The lodge was beautiful and very tastefully decorated. The first day of three fishing days we went to Rock Creek. The fishing was difficult, large slippery rocks (next time we will be in better physical shape). I caught none, Daniel a few, Michael and George a few. Then we moved further up river to the spillway of the reservoir and caught a lot of small trout. That day Daniel caught 4 different species, Tiger Trout, Rainbow, Brookie and Brown.

Day two was fishing on the Yellowstone River for George and Daniel. The river is named for the local area, the Yellowstone valley, not the national park. Fishing was again tough, but smaller slippery rocks. Michael and I went to the Strawberry River, a tail water from the Starvation Reservoir. I caught a few up to 18 inches. Michael caught less. Photos are attached.

The third day we all went to the Strawberry. I caught some browns up to 18 inches, see photos. The others caught less. The lodge and guides were excellent, the fishing was tough but fun.

Overall the fishing was challenging, the guides were excellent, the accommodations were great, and the food was excellent. The lodge allows cooking your own meals or they can provide all meals



OCTOBER 2015**90 Day Membership Renewal Notice**

| | |
|--|--------------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 1 |
| Board Meeting..... | 1 |
| Rod Building Class #1..... | 14 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 15 |
| Dinner Meeting, Ernie Gulley Trophy Stillwater of the Eastern Sierra..... | 15 |
| SWC IFFF FAIRE-BISHOP..... | 16-18 |



| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Rod Building Class 2..... | 21 |
| Rod Building Class 3..... | 28 |
| Halloween..... | 31 |

NOVEMBER 2015**60 Day Membership Renewal Notice**

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Rod Building Class #4..... | 4 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 5 |
| Board Meeting..... | 5 |
| SWC IFFF Interclub Tournament..... | 7 |
| Veterans Day..... | 11 |



| | |
|---|-----------|
| Rod Building Class #5..... | 11 |
| SPFF Nymphing Clinic..... | 13-15 |
| General Trout Season Closes..... | 15 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 19 |
| Dinner Meeting Dave Trimble, Fly Fishing for Sharks..... | 19 |
| Thanksgiving..... | 26 |

DECEMBER 2015**30 Day Membership Renewal Notice**

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 3 |
| Board Meeting..... | 3 |
| Hanukkah..... | 7 |
| Fly-Tiers Holiday Celebration..... | 9 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 17 |
| Annual Awards Dinner Meeting (Bring un-wrapped toy & cash for food bank) | 17 |
| Christmas..... | 25 |

January 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 7 |
| Board Meeting..... | 7 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 21 |
| SPFF Dinner Meeting..... | 21 |

February 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 4 |
| Board Meeting..... | 4 |
| Super Bowl Outing..... | 5-7 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 18 |
| SPFF Dinner Meeting..... | 18 |

March 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Fred Hall Show..... | 2-6 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 3 |
| Board Meeting..... | 3 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 17 |
| Dinner Meeting..... | 7 |

April 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 7 |
| Board Meeting..... | 7 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 21 |
| Dinner Meeting..... | 21 |

MAY 2016

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers..... | 5 |
| Board Meeting..... | 5 |
| Mother's Day..... | 8 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers..... | 19 |
| Dinner Meeting, | 19 |
| Big Horn Outing..... | 22-28 |
| Memorial Day..... | 30 |

JUNE 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 2 |
| Board Meeting | 2 |
| PHW Vets Welcome Volunteers!..... | 16 |
| Dinner Meeting, | 16 |
| Father's Day..... | 19 |

Casting Clinic at Balboa Lake

1st & 3rd Saturday each month unless otherwise noted.

Instructors are usually available most Saturday mornings 9 -11AM, schedules permitting.

Catch of the Month



Glenn Short Photo

Fishing out of Sitka Alaska Glenn Short reported he and 3 others caught 100's of Pink Salmon plus many nice Silvers including the one pictured. The outing was arranged by the Fisherman's Spot.

Next Dinner Meeting Thursday November 19

Monterey At Encino
16821 Burbank Blvd
Encino, CA 91436

Menu

Caesar Salad

Roast Turkey
Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing
and Steamed Vegetables

or

Grilled Salmon
Mashed Potatoes &
Steamed Vegetables

Hot Fudge Sundae

Coffee—Tea—Iced Tea

Cocktails at 5:30 PM / Dinner 7:00
Call 818.789.1919 Ext 10 (Michelle) or
email

MonterevatEncino@Gmail.com
Reserve by Monday November 16
\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards
Non-dining guests \$5

SUPPORT OUR SPONSERS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the following retailers. Their promotion of our club and its activities throughout the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

A16 Outfitters

5425 Reseda Blvd
Tarzana CA 91356
818.345.4266

Fishermen's Spot

14411 Burbank Blvd
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Culvers Sporting Goods

156 South Main St.
Bishop, Ca.
760.872.8361

Great Pacific Iron Works /Patagonia

235 West Santa Clara St
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

Orvis

345 S Lake Ave
Pasadena, CA 91101
626.356.8000

Gangadin Restaurant

12067 Ventura Place
Studio City, CA 91604

Real Cheap Sports

36 W. Santa Clara St
Ventura, CA 93001
805.648.3803

The Trout Fitter

Shell Mart Center #3
Mammoth Lakes, CA
93546, 760.924.3676

Kern River Fly Shop

11301 Kernville Rd
Kernville, CA 93238
760.376.2040

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