

## Flats Fishing the World with Captain Bruce Chard

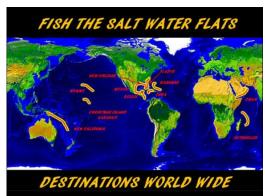


We fly fishers quickly discover that there are at least two elements of our sport that are amazingly constant. One is that we almost always find stunning beauty in where we fish, excusing, of course, the sometimes bizarre and

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unusual location of carp fishing in the L.A. River. Most of the time, however, we are in true beauty and splendor of nature, be it a small mountain stream, a brawling Rockies free stone river, a picturesque alpine lake or a stunning atoll in the Pacific. It is true: most fish live in the most beautiful





places on earth. The second constant is that there is always, AL-WAYS something new to learn – some new strategy, some new fly and some new place to go.

Well, for the second presentation in our new year, we are going to be absolutely smothered in beauty -- unabashed images of spectacular scenery from around our earth that will undoubtedly create a lovely wish list of new

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### **RAFFLE ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY**

<u>First Prize</u> — Mystic 9'3" 5wt 4pc, or St Croix Imperial 9' 8wt 4pc Rod <u>Second Prize</u> — Orvis Mid Arbor II reel 3-4wt, or Aurora reel 6-8wt <u>Third Prize</u> — Print of Brown Trout with flies, or Abel Nippers

> **Big Barrel** Grab Bags (3)

### Board Members & Committees

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

To open on a sad note, I just received the news of the passing of Club member George "Chappie" Chapman at his home in North Carolina. Chappie and his wife Mary were the backbone of SPFF for many years. He was a fly tier, mentor, teacher and all round great guy. For many years he and Mary hosted our speakers in their home and drove them to meetings. Our March newsletter will carry a tribute to him – please send in your memories, photos and thoughts.

As you read this we hope you are signed up for the Super Bowl Outing to Bishop. This used to be the first outing of the year but we have already had a very informative (but not very fishy) outing with Gary Bulla. I am delighted that the pro guided classes on the Lower O are filled. The beginner's tying class just learned to tie the Brassie and so a new generation of fly tiers is born. We all owe a big thanks to Michael Peratis and his helpers for making this such an excellent feature of our club. By now you will have received an email blast with the flier for the **Introduction to**  Fly Fishing Classes that start on March 12<sup>th</sup> and continue with two classroom sessions, an LA River trip and finally the graduation in Bishop on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please tell all your friends about this great opportunity to learn to fly fish – it's the best deal in town. Please share the link on your Facebook page to everyone you know.It is also the best time for the club to attract new members. I will be assembling my casting and teaching team soon – clear your calendars!

In March the dinner meeting is the ever popular MARCH MEDIA MADNESS your opportunity to share your fishing or vacation images or video with the other members. Please let Glenn Short or Michael Peratis know what you are planning to show - remember it has never been easier to put together a short (2-3 minute) show on your laptop or flash drive. In February we have our first Florida guide Bruce Chard speaking on the amazing world of flats fishing. Don't miss this and try to bring a friend to the meeting - we have a minimum for dinner at these meetings and we have to attract more attendees. The food is great, the raffle items are the best of any Club I have ever attended and the company is outstanding - how can you miss it? Finally, we are trying to revive our FACEBOOK presence with the help of social media icon and Internet sensation Al Bundy (Alex Serrano)

homebuyersinspections@yahoo.com) You can email posts to him or just ask your teenage kids to help you!

### **MEMBERSHIP**

### 2015 SPFF MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED What should I do!

If you have not already renewed logon in at <u>www.spff.org</u> and you will receive a reminder notice in a little box. You start the renewal process by clicking on the little red **Renew** link just below the link to log out of the system. This link will take you to the proper screens to process your renew-al.

If you prefer to renew by cash or check, you follow the same procedures as above. However, instead of selecting to pay by credit card, you can select to pay by cash or check. You then need to contact our Membership Chair Jay Bushore at <u>members@spff.org</u> to arrange to get the cash or check to him in some convenient manner. You may also give/send your cash/check to our Treasurer, Mike Hembree. In any event, at the end of the process you can select a button to print a copy of the on-screen receipt.

We hope that the system makes this a convenient and easy method of handling membership renewals for you. If you have any questions, contact Jay at <u>members@spff.org</u>.

#### DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Marshall Bissett	818.908.6921
Vice President		Open
Community Relations	Michael Peratis	818.341.6921
Conservation	Debbie Sharpton	805.338.8278
Recording Secretary		818.248.7448
Education	Steve Ebersold	818.340.5382
Librarian	Tom Wright	818.367.8827
Membership		818.970.4685
Newsletter Editor	Glen Atkinson	661.305.8409
Newsletter Circulation	Duaine Berger	310.455.2846
Outings	Bill Woods	818.694.9019
Programs	Marshall Bissett	818.908.9133
Raffles	Steve Esgate	818.723.5122
Special Projects	Glenn Short	818.990.5599
Fundraising	Kevin Radanovich	818.421.2044
Treasurer	Mike Hembree	818.368.8177
Webmaster	Ren Colantoni	818.842.0389
Technical Assistant	Aran Dokovna	661.296.7633
SWCFF Representative	Tom Wright	818.367.8827
Social Media	Alex Serrano	818.636.1546
Member at Large	Don Lee	818.990.0248

### March Media Madness By Glenn Short

A nother year has passed, and our annual March Media Madness is quickly approaching. Prepare a presentation for the March 17th meeting, which falls on St. Patrick's Day this year.

This is your chance to amaze, amuse or abash your fishing partners and friends by sharing your fish tales or tails, tall or caudal. So, select a theme, such as "My Amazing Trout," "Mating Habits of Mayflies I've Known," or another recent fly fishing adventure and create a five to eight minute presentation using PowerPoint, Keynote, iMovie or Movie Maker. Add music, captions or commentary, as you choose. Please edit your presentation, and bring it on a flash drive, CD-ROM, DVD, or your laptop.

Please email me with the subject, length and format of your program.



(Continued from page 1)

destinations, all the while being bombarded with new ideas and tactics and gadgets.

For more than two decades, Capt. Bruce Chard has made his love and commitment to fly fishing abundantly clear through countless activities and accomplishments. And without a doubt, his first love (after fly fishing) is teaching people - all kinds of people - how to fish, how to cast, how to see all the grace, charm and beauty in what we do and where we "do" it.

Bruce started fishing when he was 10-years-



old, living in Venice, by Florida, tossing shrimp in the intercostal waterways. After moving to Pennsylvania, he saw a fly fishing magazine while he was still in his

even wider world locations. He's also the Director of Fly Fishing School Operations for Bozeman, Montana-based Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures.



teens and loved the way the casting looked; he's been a devotee ever since. After graduating high school in the keystone state, Bruce moved immediately back to Florida and, at 18, started guiding in the Keys. His mentor was Jake Jordan, who was affiliated with the fly shop where Bruce

had started working. Jake took young Bruce under his wing, introducing him to the many fly fishing icons he knew.

That was 24 years ago and Bruce's rise in the fly fishing world has been

meteoric. From when he was certified as а Federation of Fly Fishers Master Certified Fly Casting

Instructor

while still in his early 20s, Bruce has been conducting multiple fly casting and fly fishing schools through-

out the Florida Keys, the Bahamas, Mexico and Belize, and he's recently been expanding these

schools to

14 times has Bruce been on the cover of wellknown fly fishing magazines and he's been written about countless

times. He is a published writer and photographer himself and is currently under contract to write a fly fishing book for Stackpole. And Bruce

gives back; he has devoted his expertise and time as a board member of the Ameri-

can Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) and regularly contributes time and energy to the many important conservation efforts of Bonefish and Tarpon Trust (BTT). Still in his early 40s,



Bruce has already accomplished multiple achievements in both the introduction of new developments in the fly fishing industry as well as game changing flats fishing techniques, fly patterns and equipment.

And yet, of all his many accomplishments, overriding all seems to be his undisputed gift of connecting with fly fishers of all ages and skill levels. And his enthusiasm is described by everyone who knows him as absolutely infectious -people say fly fishing isn't Bruce's job, it's his life. And he loves all of it.

As Bruce takes us literally around the world, this is a presentation you will definitely enjoy, whether you are a flats fishing aficionado (yet) or not.

То learn more about Bruce and all that he does, go to:

www.brucechard.com



### **SPFF Members Step Forward for Scholarships** By Rosemary Ecker

hank you to all the club members that contributed to our Scholarship Fund at the meeting in November. Members were very generous and every dollar goes directly to assisting youth. Your contributions will ensure scholarships for current high school seniors that will enter a college or university and major in a field related to the environment. Our committee recently surveyed past recipients to find out how they are doing.

Here's what Katie Clabeaux had to say: "I would like to again thank your organization for granting me the scholarship and supporting me in my education. After graduating high school in 2009, I went to the University of California at Berkelev to study Environmental Science. In school I focused on the relationship between humans and natural resources. Within that scope my interests included water, agriculture, and forest ecosystems. In 2013, I graduated from Berkeley with my B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Global Poverty and Practice. For my minor, I spent 3 months in Karnataka, India examining water and health issues. After college, I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail. Spending 5 months backpacking cemented my desire to share nature with others. That desire has led me to pursue a career in outdoor education. For the last 2 years I have been working for a non-profit, exposing youth to the outdoors. My goal is to share the beauty and value of the outdoors with the next generation, in order to encourage them to protect it. I love my job and get to spend every day outside teaching about my passion, nature."

In future issues I will provide other success stories. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund the contribution can will be available in January.



### SURF FISHING - A GREAT WAY TO SAY GOODBYE TO 2015 **By Marshall Bissett**

n a day that started out chilly, Club members met at Santa Claus Lane for the annual New Year's Day

Surf Outing. Proving that things some never change, Short Glenn shorts wore and was heard



to say, "Don't worry about me - I run hot."



The conditions looked

perfect with mildbreakly ing waves on а slow incoming tide. A few corbina were spotted but apprenot hended and



taken into custody. A few of the group caught the usual barred surf perch. The trick was to find the holes, troughs and surf breaks - the "reading the water" equivalent of looking at a trout stream.

Around 11.00 the lure of the indoors

and breakfast at the Garden Café proved stronger than man's predatory instincts. Club mem-



bers included Bill O'Kelly, Gene "The Knife" Mahn, Debbie Sharpton, Bill Woods, Glenn Short, Kenji Machida, Castellanos and Smoother Israel Smyth. Michael "FFF" Schweit told us he had to work that day but promised to do better in the future.



### THE CLUB'S BUDGET FOR 2016 – WHERE OUR MONEY GOES By Marshall Bissett

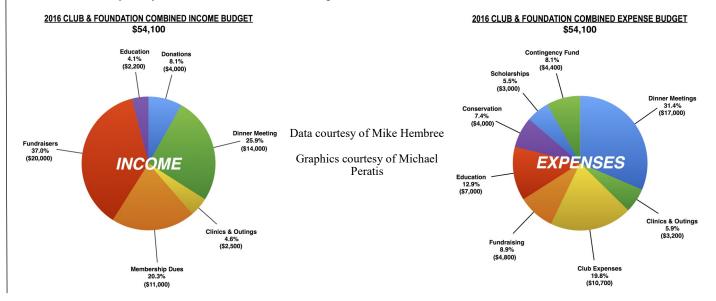
C ome members have asked for details on how the Club is doing financially and where our funds are used. Our treasurer Mike Hembre with help from Michael Peratis prepared the two charts showing Club income and Club expense. "The Club" is actually made up of two entities – a Club and a Foundation that allows donors to receive tax deductions.

For the 2016 budget we combined the two for clarity. As you can see, the Club either breaks even or records a small loss each year. Any surplus funds we have go to Conservation and the Board votes on the causes we think most deserving. This year we will give \$4000. The education expense includes the fees for the monthly speakers and their travel costs.

The chart clearly shows how important fundraisers are to our survival - the dues alone will not keep the Club in a position to offer all the

member benefits it presently does. As you can see the dinner meetings actually lose about \$3000 because we have a fifty person minimum at The Glen and do not always hit that number. The shortfall is approximately what a straight room rental would cost us.

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions - the Board is always ready to listen.



### Steelhead Fever by Marshall Bissett

If you enjoy standing waist deep in cold water, pelted by torrential rain or snow, making hundreds of casts to a fish that may not even be in the river you are

fishing, then you have contracted winter steelhead fever. Last weekend Glenn Short and I flew to Portland and made the short drive to Sandy, OR a town where, based on observation, it



rains constantly. At dark 0600 the following day we were picked up by guide Marty Sheppard. Before first light we were racing downstream in a catamaran

> style raft loaded with dry bags, coolers and enough rigged Spey rods to open a retail store. With the river flowing at 6,000 cfs and swollen by snow melt, Marty warned us that like

ly steelhead holding spots might be limited and challenging. We were about a hundred miles from the ocean where steelhead spend three years before mak-



ing their long journey up stream to their spawning grounds. These fish have strength and stamina but still need resting places before fighting rapids.

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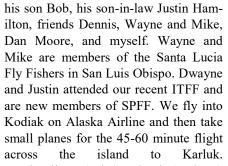
### Kodiak Silver by Bill Woods

Karluk is an Alutiiq village at the mouth of the Karluk River in Southwest Kodiak Island. The Karluk River runs 22 miles from Karluk Lake to the Shelikof Strait. It receives annual runs of Chinook (King), Pink (Humpback), Red (Sockeye), Coho (Silver) Salmon and a few Steelhead Trout. It also supports a healthy population of Dolly Varden and, of course, Kodiak Brown Bears.

Last year (September 2013) I had the pleasure of joining a group of fishermen that have been making their own annual run to the Karluk. Not as the salmon run to spawn, they run for the silver - nice thick fillets of Silver Salmon. The goal is for each to return with a fifty pound box of vacuum packed salmon filets.

Long time friend and fellow SPFF member Dan Moore asked me if I would like to take the place of his son in the upcoming trip organized by his neighbor, Dwayne Ericsson. The group included Dwayne,





The silvers (coho) and reds (sockeye) are filleted fresh by our host, then we cut the filets down, vacuum pack, and put them in the freezer each evening before dinner. The rest of the group spent most of their time fishing with spinning gear. I stuck with flies. I had taken only a handful of chartreuse and white clousers in size two. They worked, but were not as productive as the flashy spinning lures. I finished the week with five silvers and five to ten

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reds but still came home with a fifty pound box because once caught, the catch is shared. On our final day we already had more than enough to fill our boxes. I tied on a plastic egg and started catching Dolly Varden, a member of the char family. All but one member of the group also worked on their fly fishing. Great fun - dollies galore.

This year (September 2014) I went better prepared. I tried to match the hatch... The spinning lure hatch. I tied a bunch of large gaudy Mini Hang



Time Optic Minnow flies (check them out on the Fly Of The Month page at spff.org) including several in pink yup, bright hot pink. The four inch pink MHTOMs did the trick. I caught fifteen silvers and fifteen reds during the week. Five of the other six fishermen in our group spent much of their time successfully fly fishing, and we still filled our boxes with filets with a day to spare.

Another contrast between my first and second years in Karluk was the number of zombie fish snagged. Zombie fish are the dead and virtually dead spawned out salmon that are still in the water. If a clouser on the bottom wasn't taken quickly by a fresh salmon, then it was very likely to snag a zombie. Hauling zombies in just to retrieve your fly is drudgery and time wasting. So I incorporated a "weed guard" that I discovered while fishing with a Wisconsin Musky guide into several of my flies. I didn't snag a single zombie and only had one foul hooked fish while using guarded flies. Next time... All of my Karluk flies will have guards.

### Enough of fish and flies. What about the famous Kodiak Brown Bears?

This gal had three cubs. She left the cubs playing some two hundred yards upstream when she came to feast on the carcasses if the fish Larry had filleted. We were in about two

feet of water trying to get the motors started when I got this shot. We saw this family unit

several times during the week, but this first day encounter was the only close up. The following year we had another mother with three cubs that were within a hundred yards of where we were fishing on several occasions. We didn't both-

er them and they left us alone.

I missed the 2015 trip but am planning on joining the group in 2016.







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The trick is to find these long tailouts of slacker water before other guides do. We fished the first run in the classic Pacific Northwest style with 13 foot 6 or 7 weight two handed rods with Skagit lines and 15 pound 10 foot sink tips, a very short leader and a flashy fly often with a trailer hook. For this you need to know two casts – the Double Spey and the Circle Cast.

Steelhead are often called "the fish of a thousand casts" so you get plenty of time to work on your technique. The mantra of "cast – swing – strip – step down" ensures that you cover every foot of potential fish habitat.



Day one produced a lot of rain, a mixed bag of casts but no fish. Marty was not surprised. "It's really tough on a rising river – tomorrow will be better." He was right. The following day, despite or because of torrential rains, we finally hooked up to three fish, one of them a wild bright chrome "hen" and a couple of "bucks" from the breeding stock program. The next day, in conditions that almost called for sunglasses, saw three more fish – one a twenty pound beast that could not resist a blue and black "Tammy Faye" fly and two fifteen pounders.

According to the perverse laws of the sport, days like these will inevitably be followed by fishless casting practice outings. By that time the virus has been planted and the fever has begun.



### Natural Mosquito Repellents By Gayle Ocheltree, Army Airborne Veteran

My military training included courses in land navigation, use of weapons, escape and evasion and the ability to survive alone in the woods. I enjoy casually sharing this vital information with my grandchildren when we're near a river fly-fishing. On one occasion, while placing Kill Sting patches on my granddaughter's neck and face, I explained that any time she eats a sugary doughnut before fishing the mosquitoes will bite her. "But I like doughnuts," the four year old said. "Yes, we all do," I responded, "but on fishing days let's eat an apple and a granola bar."

As a result of my military experience in Nicaragua with extreme black swarms of mosquitoes, I learned the necessity of finding indigenous plants as a counter-measure to the little pests; also a helicopter with spray rig attached can be a handy asset. Plants should always be tested on a very small area of the skin before wide application. One of my personal favorites is "whole cloves" wrapped in some kind of netting material. During a fishing trip to Montana someone asked why the bugs weren't biting me. I pulled a bouquet garnet cooking bag, filled with whole cloves, from an interior netted-pocket of my Gore-Tex jacket and smiled.

During survival training at Vandenberg AFB, I was trained to use Old Woodmen's repellent; one drop on my head gear was often enough in average conditions. I really hate the buzzing sound of mosquitoes announcing their arrival to suck my blood! Each year I research the best ways to widen my survival skill set and this year it was all about repellents.

Plant-based mosquito repellents are especially useful for people who spend a great deal of time in the wilderness. Almost anywhere you go, you can expect to find several plant species that you can use to ward off these pesky critters.

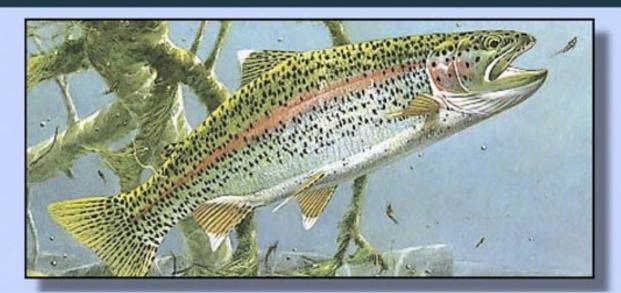
The repelling compounds found within these plants needs to be released in some matter, unlocking the mosquitorepelling qualities. Depending on the species of plant, compounds can be released by crushing, drying, or infusing the plant into an oil or alcohol base that can be applied to skin, clothing, or living spaces. Others are best used as a smudge, which releases the compounds in a smoke. It's important to note that insect repellents applied to the skin generally only last one to two hours. Frequent re-application is necessary.

In addition to using mosquito repelling plants, you may want to consider some other factors that can help keep mosquitoes away. Mosquitoes find their prey by following carbon dioxide and other components that animals breathe out. Many outdoors-people have noticed that mosquitoes have a greater attraction to people that have been eating processed, sugary foods, and less attracted to people eating more of a natural diet such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. The processed food diet may make your odor and blood chemistry more attractive to mosquitoes. Additionally, diets high in garlic and onions have been noted to help reduce the attraction of mosquitoes.

When it's mosquito season, choose to camp in places away from water with a breeze, which can help keep mosquitoes at a minimum. Smoke from a campfire helps to detour insects but the right plants will almost eliminate them. Vanilla Leaf (Achlys triphylla) is a plant native to the northwest and Japan. Indigenous peoples were known to hang bundles of the dried plants in and around their dwellings to keep mosquitoes and flies away. The plant can be rubbed on the skin fresh or dried to detour mosquitoes. I think it's interesting that it often grows in shady, moist areas - the very places where mosquitoes can be the thickest. These days I use and OFF battery operated repellent on my fishing belt but when the battery goes out I start looking for native plants. Poison oak isn't a smart choice! Next month look for the list of 25 known plants that repel mosquitoes and how to exploit their compounds.



Sierra Pacific Flyfishers Foundation Presents a Learn to Fly Fish Course 14.5 Hours of Classroom & On-the-Water Fly Fishing Instruction over 4 Saturdays



### Classes are on March 12, 19, 26 & April 2

At the One Generation Senior Center 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA 91335

On-the-Water Instruction will be at Reseda Park & the L.A. River

ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 8:30 AM

Graduation Fishing Outing in Bishop April 8, 9 & 10 (Optional)

Cost for adults is \$40 Kids Under 18 FREE

Free Loaner Rods & Reels will be available

Go to www.spff.org to register

Contact Steve Ebersold at 818-439-0556 or email to education@spff.org for more information

# California Waterfowl Association

**Owens River Annual Clean Up** 

Saturday, February 6, 2016



Meet @ 8AM Pleasant Valley Campground

Bring gloves and be prepared to help clean up as much of the Owens River as we can. Wear waders if you own them. Bring family and friends! The more people we have helping, the cleaner the river will become! Lunch will be provided for all volunteers at 12PM (a) Pleasant Valley Campground Sponsors include: California Waterfowl Association - Bishop Caltrout – Eastern Sierra Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Association International Federation of Fly Fishers Southwest Council Preferred Septic and Disposal - Bishop Silver Lake Resort – June Lake Trout Unlimited - Eastern Sierra Field Office Talk it up. Bring family and friends. This is our chance to clean up our blue ribbon fishery. For general information, call Chris Leonard. 818.288.3271.

### Board Members & Committees



### Volunteer Opportunity!

Become an SPFF Project Healing Waters Volunteer.

S pend time with a Veteran and share the wonderful world of Fly Fishing.

W e teach fly casting, fly tying, show a fishing video from time to time, share fishing trip stories, go fishing occasionally, and always have a FUN TIME!

Many of the Veterans have become SPFF club members and are enjoying attending SPFF monthly dinner meetings, learning to fly cast and tie flies, and are making new fly fishing friends.

S o Come Join the Fun! 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM Sepulveda Vet Center 9739 Haskell Avenue Sepulveda / Mission Hills, CA 91343 Send an email to David Hoffberg, Project Healing Waters Program Lead <u>dhoffberg@aol.com</u>

#### Montana Outing





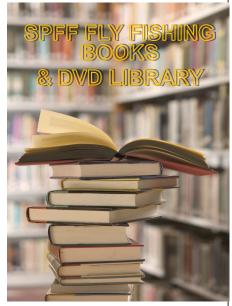
Sponsors Fly Tying Classes!





Every 1st & 3rd Session At the Vet Center

### **SPFF Library**



You can "browse the stacks" online by going to the www.spff.org website.



### EDITOR'S NOTES

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

### news@spff.org

<u>DEADLINE:</u> <u>3rd Thursday each month</u> by 5 PM (<u>Dinner Meeting</u>)

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### Casting Clinic at Balboa Lake

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

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

#### September 2016

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### October 2016

90 Day Membership Renewal No	otice
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Yom Kipper	12
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### November 2016

60 Day Membership Renewal	Notice
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Don't Forget to Buy Your 2016 Fishing License. Visit any sporting goods store or on the web at www.wildlife.ca.gov





**Oregon Steelhead—Marshall Bissett** 

Next Dinner Meeting <u>Thursday February 18</u>

Monterey At Encino 16821 Burbank Blvd Encino, CA 91436

#### Menu

Salad: Tri Color Salad

Entree: Tri Tip or Chicken Marsala

Starch: Mashed Potatoes

Vegetable: Green Beans

Dessert: Chocolate Sundae & Coffee

Cocktails at 5:30 PM / Dinner 7:00 Call 818.789.1919 Ext 10 (Michelle) or email <u>MonterevatEncino@Gmail.com</u> Reserve by Monday February 15 \$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards Non-dining guests are now FREE!

### SUPPORT OUR SPONSERS

T he 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

