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### **MEETING INFORMATION:**

This is a dinner/meeting venue attached to the Sepulveda Golf Complex at 16821 Burbank Blvd., Encino CA 91436. We are in the smaller room next to the bar by the golf course.

There is a no-host bar starting at 6:30. Dinner is optional and may be ordered any time. Some social business is conducted before our speaker, who will begin at 8:00 PM.

# GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 16 6:30 PM: Cocktail Hour 8:00 PM: Speaker

# ICELAND: TRIP OF A LIFETIME with Matthías Hákonarson

by Marshall Bissett

Iceland makes it on to every bucket and 'places to go before you die' list and rightly so. You have probably heard about how fantastic Iceland fly fishing is - a mecca for trout, salmon, sea trout, arctic char, and more. The health of the fisheries is incredible, and the scenery is simply mind-blowing. With that comes a reputation for being too expensive for the average angler. Matthías Hákonarson, our May presenter, will explore fishing packages from exclusive to DIY, to turn your dream into reality. If you are a keen freshwater fly angler, Iceland needs to be at the top of your list. The size and numbers of the fish in its rivers and lakes are nothing short of amazing. Throw in the scenery, the local culture, and the feeling of being in one of the most special places in the



### **GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)**

world (nature-wise), and you really can't beat it. It is one of the last reliable salmon fishing destinations. A seven hour flight from Seattle is the gateway to an unforgettable and surprisingly affordable trip of a lifetime.



Matthías formed Iceland Fishing Guide in 2009 to host anglers from around the world to come to Iceland and make use of the experience he has gained through his endless urge to explore new water in his home country. Born in 1981, Matti hails from the picturesque town of Akureyri. He is a skilled guide who devotes a significant amount of time to river expeditions each year, surpassing the average person's fishing days in a decade. With a great sense of humor and a love for fishing, this former hockey player continues to inspire and lead others on unforgettable outdoor adventures. The company has grown a lot over the years and is now the proud lease holder on various rivers and beats in Northern Iceland with Myrarkvisl at the top of the list. Bear in mind that the

beats on Iceland's rivers are privately owned and leases must be arranged for river access.

Iceland Fishing Guide offers guided fishing tours to the premier lakes and rivers in Iceland. These work for beginners as well as experienced anglers, for individuals or groups. The guides are expert anglers and have extensive experience fishing in the area. They arrange the licenses needed for the fishing tour in advance and plan the tour itinerary.

The season kicks off on April 1<sup>st</sup> with the emphasis on large brown trout in any of the five rivers leased by IFG. Leave the nymph rod at home as dries, skated flies, soft hackles and streamers are the order of the day. Later in the season the emphasis shifts to Atlantic salmon and several rivers offer the chance to fish these with traditional Spev technique. The

long summer evenings allow late night sessions long after darkness has fallen on American rivers. The season ends in late September.

Iceland has much to offer the non-fishing spouse or travel companion. Horseback riding, hiking, volcanoes, thermal spas and of course the spectacular Northern Lights are but a few of the attractions.

This is the first ever presentation on this exciting fishery – mark your calendars to attend this very special meeting.







### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### by Bernie Ecker

The speaker this m o n t h , Matthias (Matti) Hakonarson, will be taking us to Iceland for a "Trip of a Lifetime". This is the first time SPFF has hosted a presentation on Iceland so this meeting is



something special that you don't want to miss. According to Programs Chair Marshall Bissett Iceland has fantastic fly fishing opportunities for Atlantic salmon, trout, sea trout, arctic char and more. Iceland takes pride in managing their incredibly healthy fisheries for sustainability and is a highly desired fly fishing destination. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this unique presentation of opportunity.

The guest speaker at the first quarterly SWCFFI meeting on Saturday April 20th was Jim Burns who spoke about local fishing opportunities on the on the West and East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The West Fork, with easier access, is unfortunately closed temporarily for gravel removal during the week so for those that can get away mid-week he provided tips about fishing the East Fork. Writer, journalist and author Jim Burns is on the staff of Occidental College, Los Angeles runs a popular blog that you should check out. www.lariverflyfishing.blog. Another source of information is our Outings Chair, Haik Topadzhikyan.

Every fall, early in the school year, our Scholarship Chair, Erwin Goldbloom contacts local high schools soliciting applications for our annual scholarship. Applications are due May 15<sup>th</sup>. Sierra Pacific Flyfishers Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting educational and conservation efforts toward preserving the sport of fly fishing. If you know of a student seeking enrollment in a two or four year college program in the field of fisheries, natural resources, environmental sciences, forest resources, oceanography or related field we are offering an opportunity for a scholarship. Details can be found on our website; just follow the Scholarship tab.

SPFF is offering members a photography class and workshop on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. The instructors are club members and accomplished photographers Glenn Short and Joey Guzman. Many of the great photos you have seen over the years in the Flypaper are due to their efforts. The purpose of the class is to give you the knowledge, capability and confidence to use your camera or phone and improve your photos to share with everyone. This is a very special opportunity and I encourage you to register on our website. Enrollment is limited. Don't be left out.

Also happening this month on May 9<sup>th</sup>, California Trout is presenting the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) for 2024 at the Pasadena Playhouse. All proceeds from the event benefit CalTrout and its work to ensure healthy waters and resilient wild fish for a better California. For details to this and all other club activities go to our website, <u>www.spff.org</u>, view the calendar and click on the item to jump to the event details. Also check the activity Forum for other opportunities for trips and fishing experiences.

Tight Lines,

Bernie

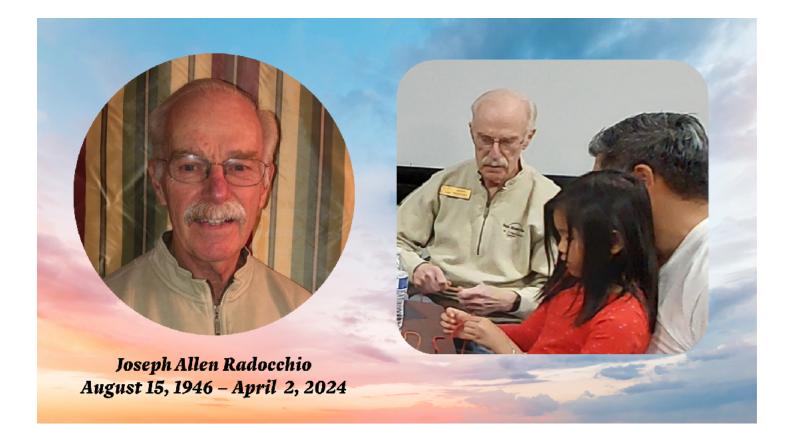
### **IN MEMORIAM: JOE RADOCCHIO**

Sierra Pacific Flyfishers announces the recent passing of Joe Radocchio. Joe also served as Vice President of Education for the Southwest Council of the Federation of Flyfishers (SWCFFI). He enjoyed supporting SPFF's annual Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) classes and attending Fly Fishers International's meetings on the Learning Center and was always eager to offer new ideas. If you had the opportunity to fish with him you could always count on him to share his expertise and knowledge.

As a boy, Joe learned fly fishing from his grandfather and remained an avid fisherman. Joe was a longtime member since 1993 of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers. He regularly attended our monthly meetings and volunteered on our outings. Sharing his passion for fly fishing over the years, Joe taught classes focusing on Fly Fishing basics at several adult education programs in the South Bay.

Joe graduated from the University of Hartford with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1968. He worked for Litton Guidance and Control Systems/Northrop Grumman for 37 years.

Joe was married to his wife Gina for over 50 years. They have 1 daughter. The Sierra Pacific Flyfishers sends condolences to the family during this time. We will miss him.



### DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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# **SPFF EVENT CALENDAR**

### MAY

Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	1
Board Meeting	2
Nature Photography Workshop	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	4
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	8
Pasadena - International Fly Fishing Film	
Festival	9
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	15
Dinner Meeting & Program ("Iceland - Trip	
of a Lifetime" with Matt Harkonarson	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	22
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	29

### JUNE

Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	5
Hot CreekRanch Weekend 2024	7-10
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	12
Board Meeting	13
Granite Creek Camping Trip	.15-16
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	19
Dinner Meeting & Program ("What Trout	Like
to Eat and What We Can Feed Them"	
with Tim Flagler)	20
Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)	26

### JULY

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Great Summer Outing (GSO) - Mammoth	
Lakes	
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Fly Tying (In Person and Zoom)17	
Dinner Meeting and Program ("The Eastern	
Sierra - A Guide's Fresh Look" with Doug	
Rodricks16	
Summer 2024 Southwest Council Quarterly	
Meeting (via ZOOM)20	

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### by Jay Bushore

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water.

New membership signup is at <u>spff.org/New Member</u> <u>Signup</u>.

Please welcome our new member:

Sami Dahdal Daniel Esquivias Eric Bergstrom Steven Henderson John McGuire

### SPFF MEMBERS IN RECENT SWC EVENTS

#### by Glenn Short

Recently, SPFF members participated in two Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International events. We were well represented at the annual FlyBuy held at the Long Beach Casting Club. Steven Fernandez, Mas Okui and Bill Woods demonstrated their exceptional fly tying skills, while Jody Martin and Marshall Bissett volunteered their stellar casting ability and knowledge. On April 27, longtime member Debbie Sharpton led a group of volunteers fly fishing to remove invasive species from Malibu Creek as part of the Southern Steelhead Recovery Project. Unfortunately, neither the carp nor the bass were sufficiently interested in our flies that morning.

### SOUTHERN CA STEELHEAD NOW PROTECTED

#### by Rich Fricke

On April 18, 2024, the California Fish and Game Commission unanimously voted to list Southern California steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This landmark decision provides critically important protections for this iconic species which is on the brink of extinction.

Southern California steelhead are the only members of the salmon family native to Southern California. They are anadromous fish, that is, they hatch and live for a part of their life cycle in fresh water, migrate to the ocean to mature then return to the freshwater stream from where they hatched, to spawn. Unlike their salmon relatives, they usually do not die after spawning.

At one time steelhead spawned in the majority, if not all, of California's coastal rivers. Now the number in Southern California has declined 99% and some runs are extinct. The southern California population has declined from about 40,000 steelhead to less than 500.

Being included in CESA, allows the Southern California steelhead to benefit from increased protections beyond the conservation tools provided by the Federal Endangered Species Act. The new listing can now be used as a basis for habitat projects, such as the removal of obsolete dams, establishment of secure flow rates, and restoration of watersheds.



# 2024 GETTING STARTED OUTING (GSO): JULY 11-14

#### by Haik Topadzhikyan

The Great Summer Outing is a fantastic event designed especially to help beginning fly fishers to get started fly fishing the Eastern Sierra. But even experienced anglers can join in the fun. The eastern Sierra is known for their exceptional trout fishing, and several creeks and lakes are within a short drive from the campground.

#### ITINERARY

- THURSDAY, JULY 11 Travel to campsite/lodging
- THURSDAY, JULY 11 Morning-Afternoon > Fishing Activities
- FRIDAY, JULY 12 Morning-Afternoon > Fishing Activities
- FRIDAY, July 12 Evening > Happy hour (TBA)
- SATURDAY, July 13 Morning-Afternoon > Fishing Activities
- SATURDAY, July 13 Evening Dinner (TBA)
- SUNDAY, July 14 Campsite checkout, free day
- **OVERVIEW:** Register for the Saturday evening dinner and those events that interest you. This year we have arranged for Beryl Rea, a long-time Mammoth guide, to have a special session on Friday focusing on the Upper Owens River. Details about her outing are in the special description. We have also arranged for Fred Rowe, a long time Bishop guide with Sierra Bright Dot on Saturday focusing on nymphing. Details are in the special description.

#### LODGING:

If you're planning to stay in the Mammoth Lakes area, you want to to set up a comfortable launching pad for your epic fly fishing adventures in the Eastern Sierra. Mammoth Lakes offers accommodations to fit every group and budget, from campsites, RV parks, Inns, motels, resorts, and condominiums.

#### CAMPING:

SPFF was able to reserve the Pine Glen 09 group campground. Here are some facts about the campground. Our max occupancy is 30 individuals and 8 vehicles.

Thursday July 11: Check-in 2:00 PM & Check-out 12 PM Sunday July 14.

The cost is shared by the individuals after the event.

- 3 bear boxes, 1 fire ring, 1 water spigot, 4 tables, 4 picnic grills
- 4 unisex vault bathroom stalls shared with other campsites, plenty of flat ground for tents, firewood for sale on-site
- For showers, you can go across the street to the RV park (3 min drive) and for \$8 you can take a hot shower
- The campsites are located under the shady canopy of a mature Jeffery pine forest at an elevation of 7,800 feet. Many species of wildlife call the mountains home, such as black bear, mountain lions, mule deer, pine marten, pika and numerous fish and birds.

# 2024 GETTING STARTED OUTING (GSO): JULY 11-14 (CONT.)

#### • GETTING HERE:

Pine Glen is near Mammoth Lakes, 300 miles north of Los Angeles. Take U.S. Highway 395 to State Route 203. Proceed west on 203 for 2.8 miles to Old Sawmill Road. Take a right, go 0.1 mile, and turn right into the campground. Proceed to the rear of New Shady Rest Campground near site #127 to the entrance of Pine Glen Campground.

#### OUTINGS

Review the activities and check those that you want to do.

Make sure that your selected activities don't overlap as it's rather difficult to float tube Crowley while casting dry flies on Lyell Creek.

- Note that a few are specifically encouraging beginners.
- Others are planned for more advanced anglers.
- Many are open to all. You may only select 1-2 activities per day that do not overlap.
- You do not need to sign up for any activities if you want to just fish your favorite Sierra Spots. Hope you'll join us for post fishing social times and the Saturday night dinner.
- ACTIVITIES

East Walker River w/Joey Guzman - Thursday ITFF Student Additional Instruction w/Rick Russo - Friday Fishing the Upper Owens River with Beryl Rea - Friday In Search Of (Fly) Water w/Bill Woods - Friday Big Springs w/Steve Ebersold - Friday Hot Creek Canyon Section w/Joey Guzman - Friday San Joaquin River w/Roger Backlar - Friday Photography Workshop w/Glenn & Joey - Friday afternoon Euro Nymphing Master Class with Fred Rowe - Saturday Big Springs w/Steve Ebersold - Saturday Little Lakes Basin w/Rick Russo - Saturday San Joaquin River w/Roger Backlar – Saturday

- REGISTRATION:
- Click on the "Register Now" button. follow the instructions.
- Note that the BBQ Dinner is listed at \$35.00 and youngsters 12 and under are only \$15.00. The open bar is of course additional. You must pay for the dinner at the time of registration with either a credit card or PayPal.

#### • ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS

• Our leaders are volunteers.None are paid, certified, or licensed. They volunteer their time and knowledge purely for the love of our sport and their genuine desire to help our members and guests enjoy fly fishing. They are friends helping friends.

If you have questions, you may contact Haik Topadzhikyan 818-823-0688 (text or voice) or email at outings@SPFF.org

### **INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL: MAY 9**

### Pasadena will be hosting the 2024 International Fly Fishing Film Festival: Thursday, May 9

Enjoy an evening immersed in short films that showcase fly fishing stories from around the globe. Before the show, chat with CalTrout staff about recent projects. Presentation to be featured at the Landmark Pasadena Playhouse on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Doors open at 6:30pm Show at 7:00pm - 9:30pm Tickets \$25.

Landmark Pasadena Playhouse 673 E. Colorado Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91101

Festival Previews: <u>https://www.flyfilmfest.com/films/</u>

Advanced ticket sales: <u>https://caltrout.org/event/pasadena-international-fly-fishing-film-festival-2024</u>

For questions email info@flyfilmfest.com.

All proceeds from the event benefit CalTrout and its work to ensure healthy waters and resilient wild fish for a better California.



## **GRANITE CREEK OUTING: JUNE 15-16**

by Haik Topadzhikyan, SPFF Outings Chair

Hello,

I have scheduled a new Outing this year June 15 Saturday - 16 Sunday 2024 to add some variety to our trips. This will be in the Western Sierras. We will give it a try and if it works out well with our members, we will explore more new destinations on the Western side of the Sierras. Registration is required for this trip on our website so we know who is going and I can survey anglers after the trip. You may invite your friends or family that are non-members.

A two day camping & fly fishing trip on the banks of Granite Creek. This is creek fishing for Brook, Brown, and Rainbow trout ranging from 6-12 inches and at occasion a larger fish. A 4wt or 5wt fly rod is recommended depending on your casting skill. Granite Creek is in the Sierra National Forest near the town of Oakhurst and on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Think of a miniature Kings River - Granite Creek is awesome. A beautiful place off the beaten path for dispersed camping and honing your dry fly skills on a classic Sierra freestone creek. Camping is in a dispersed area, you are responsible for all your food, water, and transportation.

Carpooling is encouraged as the drive to Oakhurst is about 260 miles from Los Angeles and then about 1.5 hours into the wilderness. Some folks may drive in Friday to the camp or stay at a hotel in Oakhurst on Friday night. Depending on the registrants, a group can go in on Friday or Saturday morning. The outing is for Saturday and Sunday, but you may fish on your own on Friday.



A valid CDFW fishing license is required. Leave No Trace and pack in and out everything you bring. It is a drive up area for your vehicle. Usually 3-4 anglers are assigned to a Guide from the Sierra Fly Fisher, this is suited for the beginner or intermediate fly fisher, although everyone is welcome. Call Sierra Fly Fisher to book your trip today - 559-367-7467.

\$425 per angler directly paid to the Sierra Fly Fisher.

by Haik Topadzhikyan, SPFF Outings Chair

# **PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES**

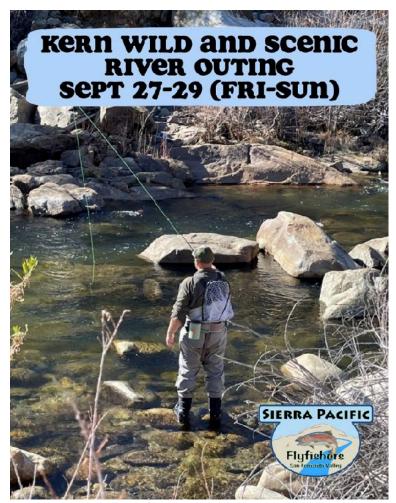
1st Place - Largest Trout catch on the Fly 2nd Place - Most Fish on the Fly

Base camp will be at the Fairview Campground which is right next to McNally's Fairview Lodge & Restaurant.

This Outing can be fished independently (but always good to have a buddy) or in small groups, with no guides. For those who have never fished the Kern River, consider hiring a guide for half/full day with a few members to split the cost. The Kern River Fly Shop is located in Kernville and has a wide selection of local water flies.

We are trying to plan an activity on the morning of Friday September 27 on how to read the Kern river water, structures, and entomology.

For members trekking out on Friday, there will be a campfire at one of the campsites to socialize and share fish stories. And, on Saturday folks can join fellow club members at McNally's for dinner or local craft beers on tap. There are many options in Kernville and along Mountain Highway 99 for lodging. If you aren't in the camping spirit, there is McNally's Fairview lodge and Corral Creek Lodge, but there are many more from budget motels to Inns.



Please go to the Calendar Event and Outings Tab for more details. We have reserved all of the rooms at McNally's lodge. There is a special rate and if you register for a room on the calendar, you will need to call McNally's and mention your are with SPFF to get a special rate.

Please register for the event and Saturday night dinner. If you will be staying at the Fairview Campsite, please register the campsite event so we can connect you with your fellow campers. Campsite reservations must be completed and paid at <u>www.reservations.gov</u>.

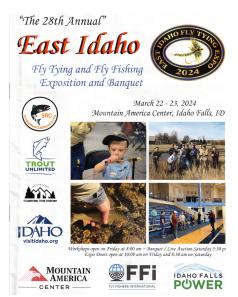
#### by Jim Fleisher

It was that time of the year again: Our annual Missoula, MT Skwala hatch trip. This time, David Hoffberg and I decided to add the East Idaho Fly Tying Expo to our itinerary. We had planned to go several years ago, but nasty COVID cancelled the event. This year the timing was good, so we went for it. Once you are in Idaho Falls, you have to add at least one day fishing on the famous Henry's Fork! So that is what we did.

So, we arrived in Idaho Falls on a Thursday with plans for the show on Friday and Saturday, then fishing on Sunday and drive to Missoula on Monday. One slight glitch was that my luggage with all my fishing gear and warm weather clothing decided to go to Boise, ID instead of Idaho Falls. At least we had two days of "normal" clothing before I really needed my gear. Fortunately, I managed to snag a free shirt at the fly fishing movie night, so I was set! After a comedy of errors with the airline, the luggage arrived in Idaho Falls late Saturday, but was somehow hidden in the tiny airport and it took more luck and stealth to get it.



Two days of watching some extraordinary fly tyers from around the country, a couple great lectures and lots of vendor booths with deals that could not be missed. Two of the celebratory fly tyers were our own Stephen Fernandez and John Van Derhoof from the Long Beach club (and frequent instructor at our Wednesday fly tying sessions). We both learned quite a few secrets and tricks to improve our skills. It also snowed every morning!



Our third day was spent with guide Eldon Berrett from the Henry's Fork Angler. He was also one of the fly tyers. We started our day pushing his stuck truck out of the snow at the boat ramp. But things improved after that. We floated the south portion of the Henry's Fork, which is the only accessible portion in March. Several really large quality fish were captured. It was bobber and dry dropper fishing most of the day. Not a lot of dry fly action.

The next day we again ventured out into a snow storm and started our drive to Missoula. Once we left the city the weather cleared and we had an uneventful trip to our next destination.

In Missoula we met up with the rest of our group including Bill Woods, Jeff Work and his friend David Enzer, Rich Ress, Stephen Graham, Debbie Sharpton and Lew Riffle and former member Tim Reagan.

That night it snowed again!. The next morning we all headed out to the Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers to test our mettle against the elements and the fish. Each day was incredibly successful with dry dropper fishing in the

# IDAHO FLY FISHING EXPO AND MT. SKWALA TRIP (CONT.)

chilly morning and then major dry fly action in the warmer afternoon. Doubles were not uncommon. In fact, David and I even had double "stick fish"!!

It was one of the best years for everyone catching quite a few fish. I was particularly excited when I caught a few fish on the Skwala fly that I taught at a Wednesday fly tying class. It seemed like the guides provided by Joe Cummings were particularly excited to see us this year and put a great deal of effort to getting a lot of "catching" rather than just "fishing".

In addition to the fishing, we had some great dinners and of course drove by the "Yellowstone TV ranch" the the Norman Maclean home (from "A River Runs Through It" fame) where descendants are still living. We also had to do our annual pilgrimage to the Big Dipper Ice Cream stand (which happens to be across the street from Norman Maclean's church) and stand in line wrapped in our Patagonia down jackets while the college students are in shorts and tee shirts.



It was a great trip and looking forward to next year.





## PHOTOS FROM 2024 FLYBUY

(Photos courtesy of Glenn Short)



(Bill Woods demonstrating)



(Marshall casting)





(Mas @ FlyBuy)

(Steven Fernandez demonstrating)

## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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

Bishop Flyfishing Guide Service www.bishopflyfishing.com

Cal Trout's Shasta Springs Trout Camp www.caltrout.org

> Cabela's www.cabelas.com

Charles Jardine www.charlesjardine.co.uk

Eastern Sierra Guide Service www.shop.jaeger-flyfishing.com

Fishermen's Spot www.fishermensspot.com

Fly Fish Oregon – Guide Service www.flyfishoregon.net

Frontier Anglers – Guide Service & Shop – Dillon, Montana www.frontieranglers.com

Golden Trout Guiding Co. www.goldentroutguidingcom.com

Griff Marshall Outdoors – Guide Service – Oregon www.griffmarshalloutdoors.com

> Hot Creek Ranch www.hotcreekranch.com

Lonesome Duck Ranch - Oregon www.lonesomeduck.com Long Branch Fly Fishing – Guide Service - Surf & More So Cal www.longbranchflyfishing.com

Mission Bay Fly Fishing Co. – Guide Service – Salt Water www.missionbayflyfishingco.com

Oasis Fly Fishing – Guide Service - Eastern Sierras www.oasisflyshop.com

> On The Fly – Guide Service – Utah www.ontheflyutah.com

Orvis, Pasadena http://stores.orvis.com/us/california/pasadena

Patagonia - Ventura, Santa Monica & Pasadena www.patagonia.com

Sierra Bright Dot - Guide Service – Eastern Sierras www.sierrabrightdot.com

Sierra Trout Magnet – Guide Service - Eastern Sierras www.sierratroutmagnet.com

> Solitude Fly Co. www.solitudefly.com

Tenkara USA www.tenkarausa.com

The Fly Shop – Guide Service & Shop – Redding CA. www.theflyshop.com

> The Troutfitter www.thetroutfitter.com

Trout On the Fly - Fly Fishing Outfitters – Montana www.montanatroutonthefly.com

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caltrout.org







flyfishersinternational.org