



RAFFLE

All prizes will be drawn from the Big Barrel this month, the rod being last:

Echo Carbon XL Carbon 9ft 5 wt rod

TFS3 LA 9/10 Reel

Sequoia Wader/Gear Bag

Net

SPFF T-Shirt

Misc. Goodies

CONTENTS

Program: Tactical Fly

Fishing with Devin Olsen1

President's Message3

Directors & Com. Chairs3

Education.....4

Membership.....4

SPFF Event Calendar.....4

Project Healing Waters4

Outings5

Rip Tide Rendezvous5

Barbed or Barbless: A Pointed

Discussion.....6

Getting Started Outing.....7

Library.....7

URGENT: Send in Your

Comments on the Proposed

Trout Regs.....8

Dinner Information.....8

New SPFF Display Board.....9

DINNER MEETING: THURS, MAY 16

TACTICAL FLY FISHING:

LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMPETITION FOR ALL ANGLERS

with Devin Olsen



by Marshall Bissett

Let's face it – we've all been out-fished by someone who keeps catching fish while we struggle to get our first take. Frustrating as this can be, it can also be a valuable learning experience. What separates the consistently successful angler

from the average is an attention to detail and keen observation of the river conditions.

Some say it is better to be lucky than good, but this is not a view shared by professional poker players or tournament anglers. A few elite fly fishermen will pass through local competition to regional finals and into the US International team. Some might win medals in this extremely competitive worldwide arena, where the USA is still fighting to keep up with teams from Poland, France and Bosnia.

Our May presenter, USA team member and medal winner Devin Olsen, will show how competitive angling techniques can help the everyday angler.



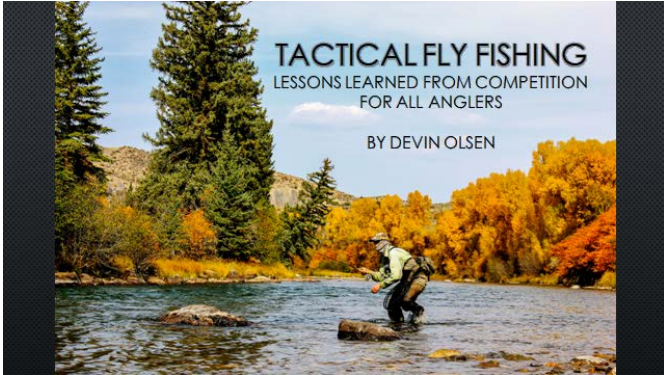
His program, **"Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned From Competition For All"**

(Program continued on next page)

DINNER MEETING (CONTINUED)

(Program continued from page 1)

Anglers,” will discuss analysis of the water, fly selection and strategy that will help us on our local waters and prepare us for new destinations.



Devin Olsen started fly fishing in Yellowstone at age 9. Within a couple of years, it became an addiction he could not shake and he begged for rides to local streams until he could drive. He started competing at age 19 and made Fly Fishing Team USA in 2006 when he was 21 years old. He has competed in 10 consecutive World Fly Fishing Championships and in 2019 will compete in

his 11th in Tasmania. He has earned a bronze individual medal and silver and bronze team medals from these championships and numerous medals from competitions in the United States.

Away from competitive fishing, Devin holds a Bachelor's degree in Ecology and a Master's degree in Fisheries Science. He worked as a fisheries biologist for several years before starting his company, Tactical Fly Fisher. He has produced two instructional films, *Modern Nymphing: European Inspired Techniques* and *Modern Nymphing Elevated: Beyond the Basics*, and authored the book *Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned from Competition for All Anglers*.

Devin lives in Utah with his wife Julia, a four-year old son Levi, whose favorite fish are bull trout, and a one-year old daughter who shows early signs of fly fishing virtuosity. Devin operates a web site that sells everything the everyday angler needs to raise his game to competition level. See:

<https://www.tacticalflyfisher.com/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

I'm writing this the morning after our April dinner meeting, at which Kirk Johnson spoke about his book, "The Feather Thief." This was a departure from our usual fare, as was the delayed St. Patrick's Day corned beef, and it was a



resounding success. We had a larger audience than usual, helped by Jim Fleisher's bringing his book club who had read and discussed the story. Some non-fishing wives and friends came, we stayed later than usual and there were

many questions that could have gone on even longer. I had the pleasure of presenting Michael Peratis with a Life Membership in recognition of all he does for us, whether it is at ITFF, fundraising, Saturday casting sessions, fly tying and anything else that needs to be done. We greeted a few new members, hailed Michelle's birthday and both she and new member Kimberly scored in the raffle. All in all, a good evening.

Debbie Sharpton answered questions about the proposed CDFW regulations which have been so upsetting to many of us. Michael Peratis and I attended the informational meeting on April 6 at Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga. There were about 100 attendees there, mostly fly fishers, and Roger Bloom from CDFW made it clear that our concerns were heard, especially about the regs for Hot Creek and the Owens River. There was an even larger group at the previous meeting in Bishop and a smaller one in

Northern California. We came away feeling somewhat better but the outcome is not yet certain. Online comments should be sent ASAP. Final decisions by the Commission will be forthcoming by the end of the year.

Last month I thanked several members for their work on our successful fundraiser, and indicated that I probably missed a few whose hard work I didn't acknowledge. These include Howard Rosen, who has for many years prepared the catalog and descriptions of the offerings, and Rich Hoffman, who made the calls to guides and outfitters who donated discounted trips with which we did so well in the silent auction. I'm sure I'm still missing someone; rest assured that your contributions are appreciated.

The May 16 dinner meeting will welcome Devin Olsen on "European Nymphing Techniques That Work Everywhere." This will be welcome education for me and, I'm sure, for others who would like to divest ourselves of floating indicators when possible but are having a hard time getting set up and making the transition. I hope to see you there.

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Richard Ress
Vice President	Bernie Ecker
Secretary	Jody Martin
Treasurer	Mike Hembree
Communications	Bill Luddy
Conservation.....	Debbie Sharpton
Education	Steve Ebersold
Education Co-Chair.....	Michael Peratis
Librarian.....	Tom Wright
Membership	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor	Ed Swanson
Newsletter Circulation	Richard Ress
Outings	Jim Fleisher
Programs	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Special Projects	Glenn Short
Fundraising	Kevin Radanovich
Web Master	Ren Colantoni
Technical Assistant.....	Aran Dokovna
SWCFFI Representative	Tom Wright

EDUCATION

by Michael Peratis

FLY TYING

This short notice is targeted at those of you who **DON'T** attend our fly tying sessions. As you may or may not know, we meet weekly during most of the year to learn how to tie flies which are later used to tempt trout, bass, and various species that hang out in the surf.

The way we operate is as follows: For a couple of hours each week a member of our group demonstrates & then step-by-step teaches a favorite or a new fly to the rest of us.

Lucky us....every so often we're very fortunate to have outstanding people from the fly tying world come to instruct us. So far this year we've been joined by Dean Endress and John VanDerhoof for a couple of terrific evenings. We're looking forward to having Steven Fernandez and Naomi Okamoto be our guest tiers in a few weeks.

We would like to have you join us. Think you might be interested? Give me a shout at education2@spff.org.

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. SPFF always welcomes new members. New membership signup is at [spff.org/New Member Signup](http://spff.org/New_Member_Signup).

SPFF always welcomes new members. Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest members:

KIMBERLY CHASE
JACK CHANG

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

MAY

Project Healing Waters Vets	2
Board Meeting	2
Riptide Rendezvous 2019 @ Rincon Beach Park	4
Casting Clinic at Lake Balboa	4
Project Healing Waters Vets	16
Dinner Meeting (Devin Olsen, "Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned From Competition for All Anglers)	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18

JUNE

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
Project Healing Waters Vets	6
Board Meeting	6
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend 2019	7-10
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	15
Project Healing Waters Vets	20
Dinner Meeting (Dave Hughes, Wet Flies and Wet Fly Fishing")	20

JULY

Independence Day	4
Dinner Meeting (Kesley Gallagher, "Introduction to Flats Fishing")	16
Project Healing Waters Vets	18
Get Started Outing	19-21
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20
FFI Fly Fishing Expo (Bozeman, MT)	23-27

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

By David Hoffberg

Volunteers meet at Sepulveda Vet Center twice a month to teach Veterans fly tying and fly casting.

Visit [spff.org/Project Healing Waters](http://spff.org/Project_Healing_Waters) for more information.

OUTINGS

By Jim Fleisher

Now as the summer approaches, the water settles down and the fish become more available, we can start planning for our summer outings.

The club has reserved most of the Hot Creek Ranch for the weekend of June 7-10. This could be an epic weekend for fishing even if the flows are a bit high. You might be able to nymph fish, a rare occurrence on the Ranch.

The Getting Started Outing (GSO) will take place the weekend of July 19-21, 2019 in Mammoth Lakes, CA. This is our most popular outing of the year and should be very exciting this year. With the cancellation of the Graduation Outing in March, we expect a number of our ITFF students to attend. We are in great need of trip leaders for this event. Some of you have already volunteered and the Club greatly appreciates this. If not, please let me know ASAP so that we can start to open registration and have a list of events for our members and students.

In addition to the outings led by club members, we have two excellent professional guides taking out small groups. These clinics have a modest fee, but the rewards can be tremendous. Pat Jaeger will be leading a Tenkara fishing clinic on Friday, July 19. If you have never tried this, you are missing a great opportunity to learn a fishing method that is really useful in the Sierras. Pat will supply equipment if you do not own a Tenkara Rod. In addition, Joe Contaldi will lead an Owens River clinic on Saturday, July 20, which will focus on dry fly fishing, probably with lots of hoppers. He will supply the flies. Details, meeting places and times will be forthcoming once registration is opened.

Through the efforts of Michael Schweit, we again have the group campsite reserved from Thursday, July 18 through Sunday, July 21. For those of you who usually camp, but could not the last two years because of construction in the campgrounds, we are back in business. Please contact Michael at 818-601-9702 or msangler@earthlink.net.

In addition to the campsite, there will also be condominium units available in a group setting all in the same development. This has been done in the past and has been very successful. Please contact Michael Peratis at 818-645-6031 or mperatis@aol.com for details and prices.

Finally, there will again be a Saturday night barbecue at the Breakfast Club in Mammoth Lakes courtesy Steve Ebersold and his sister Sue. This year payment will be required in advance on the website at the time of registration. Details, pricing etc. will be available on the website.

A future email will be sent when the SPFF website is open for registrations for these items and all the various outings planned for that weekend.

RIP TIDE RENDEZVOUS

On Saturday, May 04, 2019, the Southwest Council, in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association California, will hold its annual **"Riptide Rendezvous"**, a surf fishing contest for anyone that can throw a line.

Where: Rincon Beach Park in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County

Divisions: **Conventional** and **Fly-fishing!** Prizes awarded in each division for first fish, biggest fish, and most points (1 point / inch).

Time: Check-in begins at 6:00 am. On-site fly and lure exchange starts at 7:15 am. Lines-in will be 8:15 am, and fishing will end 2 hours later. Awards, food, and the raffle follow at 10:45 am.

Rules: The main one...you only get to use one fly or lure that you pick at random from a bag!

Cost: \$10.00

Thank you for submitting your Newsletter Items to news@spff.org by the 3rd Thursday, each month. Look for the Newsletter on spff.org on the 1st of each month.



SIERRA PACIFIC FLY FISHERS

BARBED OR BARBLESS: A POINTED DISCUSSION

By Marshall Bissett

A friend of mine was helping a student cast a dry fly on a California Sierra river. He was using the student's rod for demonstration when a DFW agent came upon the scene and checked the #18 Parachute Adams on the student's line and found that it had a tiny barb. This resulted in the teacher receiving a fine of around \$450 and a severe and expensive reminder that no good deed goes unpunished. The fine fell into the same violation class as using a barbed treble hook or fishing live bait in fly only water. The devastated student was heard to say, "But that was the fly they sold me at the fly shop down the road." It is well known that agents will test for barbs using the "snag" test on microfiber materials. Often crimped down barbs will fail this test – the fine is the same – there is no discount for good intentions. Does the fly shop share any liability? Is the liquor store that sells booze to the DUI driver liable? These legal points are outside our scope but prompt me to assert that fly shops should mainly sell barbless flies, especially in areas where the law mandates their use. Not as a matter of liability but of customer service. They should explain to their customers the pros and cons of barbs and demand their suppliers offer more flies tied on barbless hooks. These are:

PROS

- *Better hook penetration
- *Kinder to the fish
- *Will not get stuck in your flesh, clothes, nets
- *Easier to release fish

CONS

- *You might lose a fish or two (but you can never prove it was through lack of barb)
- *Accidentally breaking the law (see cautionary tale)
- *Harder to secure to the bend of the hook for dropper rigs

Of course, I'm not suggesting that retailers stock all flies in barbed and barbless – that would be an expensive inventory nightmare. But surely it wouldn't hurt to hold parallel stock of locally popular patterns.

HOOK POINTS AND PRICE POINTS

Author, guide and retired tournament angler George Daniel adds fly preservation to the list of barbless benefits: "Just about all my hooks now are tied on barbless flies. Not only is removing the fly so much easier on the fish (the most important point), but I also

believe it adds to the longevity of the fly. This is especially true with small barb flies (midges) where most normal sized hands cannot get a good enough grip on the fly to pull it out. Instead, we are forced the use forceps to grab the fly, but most of the time end up destroying or ripping the small fly trying to retrieve it from the fish. Because of how easy barbless flies are to pull out of a fish's mouth, we not only return the fish unharmed to the river, but we also do less damage to the fly. I think the hook companies need to do a better job with the barbless hook price points. Create a better price point, and I think you'll have more anglers subscribing to using barbless hooks."

FULLING MILL, a relative newcomer to the US fly market, offers an impressive range of barbless flies and hooks. Company President Nick Yardley attributes this to their roots in the UK market where competition style flies are more in demand. They overcome the "hopper dropper dilemma" by adding a tiny tippet ring to the bend of their larger dry flies. "I expect we will see more innovation of this kind," says Yardley. Eric Kelley, their Technical Manager, confirmed that, because of the need for special tooling, it costs more to produce a barbless hook. Let's hope that in time the savings of amortization will be passed on. Yardley adds, "For trout and small fish, barbless flies make complete sense, but there are those who fear losing "the fish of a lifetime" to a barbless hook - that being said, barbless is now the legal standard in British Columbia."

UMPQUA, one of the leading players, sells barbed and barbless flies because the market still demands both. Dave Student, their Fly Specialist says, "You can take things off a fly – be it flash or a barb – but you can't add to it." Admitting that the industry uses "fairly nebulous data," he foresees push back from anglers who are convinced that barbless flies lose fish. "Once a barbless hook is associated with losing fish it's hard to shake that notion," he says, "I think we would see resistance if we went all barbless." Regional variations are also a big factor. "In my home state of Colorado, the trout guys in the South might go barbless but the streamer fishermen up North would want their barbs," he added. Student did admit to going barbless for tarpon where "it's not about losing the fish – it's about sticking it in the first place." Pasadena based SOLITUDE FLY COMPANY has not seen an increase in the sale of barbless flies. "Catch and release is increasingly popular, but the shops still rely on the fisherman to de-barb their flies," says President Ray Chang.

(This is an excerpt from an article soon to appear in *Angling Trade* magazine)

GETTING STARTED OUTING

The Getting Started Outing is a fantastic event designed especially to help beginning fly fishers to get started fly fishing the Eastern Sierra. But even experienced old time members can join in the fun. Check out the lineup of guided activities. Register for the BBQ Dinner and those events for which you qualify. Please note that a few are specifically encouraging beginners. Others are planned for more advanced anglers. Many are open to all. Or, don't register for any of the guided activities, but come and fish some of your favorite Sierra spots and get together with friends for meals and campfires.

You can get more information by going to our website (spff.org) and clicking the "Additional Info:" link or going to "Getting Started Outing" under "Special Events".

Camping

We do have a reservation at the group campground in Shady Rest. In order to reserve a campsite contact Michael Schweit (msangler@earthlink.net or 818-601-9702). The costs will be divided by the participants. The site is reserved from Thursday through Sunday.

Registration

You can register on the spff.org website. Note that the BBQ Dinner is listed at \$30.00 and youngsters under 12 are only \$15.00 and 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. 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 the Dana Fork. If you have difficulties, you may contact Jim Fleisher ([\(818\) 430-2909](tel:8184302909)) (text or voice).

About our professional guided clinics

Our paid clinics all use professional fly fishing guides. You can check out their bio's at <http://www.jaeger-flyfishing.com>

There is a charge for each student for these clinics. The fee is listed in each clinic description. You must pay online when registering.

About our volunteer leaders

Other than the pay clinics, the rest of 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.

When:

Friday, July 19, 2019 to
Sunday, July 21, 2019

Where:

Mammoth Lakes, CA

LIBRARY

by Tom Wright

Learn more about fly fishing. Please visit our vast Fly Fishing Library online at [spff.org/Library Catalog](http://spff.org/LibraryCatalog).

URGENT: SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED TROUT REGS

Friday, May 3, is the last date to provide your comments online regarding the sweeping, potentially devastating, proposed changes to the Inland Trout Angling Regulations. For the CDFW online comment form click here: [COMMENT ONLINE](#)

A spreadsheet previously has been emailed to members regarding specific waters and suggested specific comments. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY ANGLERS AS POSSIBLE PROVIDE COMMENTS. CDFW IS SUGGESTING OPENING UP SEVERAL HUNDRED STATEWIDE FISHERIES TO YEAR-ROUND FISHING, AND EXTENDING THE SEASON FOR FIVE-TROUT DAILY LIMIT, WITH ANY METHOD OF TAKE, FOR SEVERAL OF THE PROPOSED FISHERIES.**

There are some sweeping changes and concerns, such as:

- State designated Wild and Heritage Trout water changes without sufficient support documentation, such as revised management and hatchery plans, on how wild trout will be protected and sustained.
- Impacts of bait fishing on certain waters, such as the Golden Trout Wilderness.
- Increased bag limits without supporting documentation on how the fisheries will be sustained.
- Open season dates that conflict with spawning fish, such as Crowley Lake tributaries.
- Native trout recovery waters, and those holding genetic rainbow/southern steelhead, are open to take and increased fishing seasons.
- Waters missing from the special regulation list and now open to all year, all

gear, 5 trout bag limit, 10 in possession general regulation.

- All year open season without supporting evidence provided to public that additional anticipated takes will be supplemented throughout the year.

The CDFW staff will review comments and will, hopefully, provide a revised list of proposed changes. The California Fish and Game Commission will have a formal public comment period when the item comes to it for consideration.

The website for more CDFW supplied information can be found at:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Trout-Plan/Regulation-Simplification>

MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAM MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAY

Monterey At Encino

16821 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91436

6:00 Cocktails / 7:00 Dinner / Program follows

\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards

Non-dining guests are FREE!

Reserve Dinner by Monday Prior

818.789.1919

montereyatencino@gmail.com

DINNER MENU:

Appetizer

Caesar Salad

Entree

Baked Chicken or Spaghetti and Meatballs
Mashed Potatoes and Steamed Vegetables

Dessert

Ice Cream Sundae

NEW SPFF DISPLAY BOARD

Thanks to Ellie Brittain, our club has an amazing new Club Display Board that will be first used at the SWC Faire. Our new Display Board requires no assembly, can be easily updated whenever necessary, and is organized so that anything can be found easily. Kudos, Ellie!



SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers 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.

Fishermen's Spot
14411 Burbank Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Gangadin Restaurant
12067 Ventura Place
Studio City, Ca 91604
(818) 509-0722

Kern River Fly Shop
11301 Kernville, Rd.
Kernville, CA 93238
760.376.2040

Orvis
345 S. Lake Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626.356.8000

Pat Jaeger
Eastern Sierra Guide Service
2327 Stone Circle
Bishop, CA 93514
760.872.7770

Patagonia-Ventura
Great Pacific Iron Works
235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

Patagonia-Pasadena
47 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
626.795.0319

Real Cheap Sports
235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074



Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers proudly supports the conservation efforts of:



dfg.ca.gov/fishing



caltrout.org



flyfishersinternational.org



tu.org