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ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

A JOURNEY TO THE AMAZON with GARY BULLA

by Marshall Bissett

Over the years Gary Bulla has explored unique and pristine fly fishing waters and shared his fishing knowledge with us. These include fly fishing the California surf, kayak fly fishing expeditions to the islands of Southern Baja, mothership trips to Belize for tarpon and bonefish, and guiding anglers with his trained family of captains on the Sea of Cortez in Baja Sur, Mexico.

In the last four years he has also hosted trips to Amazonia. His November presentation "Angling the Amazon" will take us through the capital city of Manaus in central Brazil and onto a mothership traveling the waters of the largest river system on the planet. He will cover two incredible tributaries of the central Amazon which he visited on separate expeditions, the Rio Negro and the Uyetama Reserve. His first trip was exploratory on an old wooden mothership. Through intense experimentation he and Michael Williams of Nomadic



(Program continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

Waters helped train the native guides on fly fishing strategies that led them to become believers in the power of the fly in the jungle waters.

Gary will share his discoveries, including a brief geological history of the area, the warmth of the native Amazonians, the stunning biodiversity of the diverse habitats in the jungle's ecosystems, the rhythm and camaraderie of life on a mothership, and the tackle and techniques for wrestling the dazzling variety of fish

in the vast Amazon forest. As you will discover, Brazil should definitely be on every fly fisher's bucket list.

Please join him for a colorful trip through a very biodiverse and mysterious part of the world.

Gary grew up on the beaches and waters of the Southern California coast. His father took him camping, fishing and hiking at least ten times a year. He spent his college years studying philosophy at UCSB, and then moved to the mountains of Colorado where he apprenticed as a carpenter and then traveled on to Oregon working as a wooden boat builder. Once he visited Ojai, he never left. He met



his wife Theresa and they raised two wonderful daughters.

It was Yvon Chouinard (rock climber, environmentalist and co-founder of Patagonia) who first introduced Gary to saltwater flyfishing. He found fishing on the Ventura and Santa Barbara beaches combined his long-time love for the ocean and his passion for fly fishing with the convenience of having fish right at his back door. He realized that there was not a great deal of information on catching surf species on the fly; so began to use his knowledge of tides and tidal life not only to chase down surf perch, but also in pursuit of corbina, halibut, white sea bass and striped bass, observing their habits and habitats in the process. He found that there was an abundant fishery right along the So Cal shores that could provide continuous challenges and recreation for local fly fishers who were otherwise committing to a long weekend in the Eastern Sierras or further to cast a line.



California corbina were the most challenging. visible in the surf line but a difficult catch for the fly fisher. Perfect! Over the next few years, he spent his early mornings and evenings patrolling the beaches, trying to

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 2)

develop presentations and flies that could bring to hand the corbina on a more consistent basis. He began guiding others and holding seminars on surf fishing. He also began cruising the kelp beds in his kayak, and developing flies that would attract the many varieties of fish found in the intertidal zone.

In 1989, and for 18 years afterwards, he accompanied his wife Theresa, on expeditions with her students to camp on Baja's Magdalena Island and to interact with the gray whales and their young. He brought a fly rod and was astounded at the incredible variety of fish that were available in the waters of Baja. Thus began more years of experimentation that have led to Gary being one of the most active fly fishing guides for Baja waters and one of the more knowledgeable salt-water fly-fishers. Several months a year he hosts fly fishing blue water panga trips at Punta Arena/Cerralvo Island area (in the Sea of Cortez). In 1990



he began training a family of fly fishing captains and has fished with them ever since. Gary has landed over 160 species of fish in the salt on the fly, including a California Yellowtail of 34.7 pounds on 16 pound test breaking a 43 year old world record. For many years, he guided kayak fly fishing expeditions each season to Magdalena Island, Espiritu Santo and San Jose Islands. He has hosted several mothership trips to Belize. He has photographed and fished the west coast of California, the Bahamas, Florida, the Outer Banks in North Carolina, freshwater rivers all over the USA and British Columbia. In 2016 in cooperation with Nomadic Waters he began hosting mothership trips deep into the Amazon tributaries of northern Brazil .

Back at home Gary ties flies, presents flyfishing programs, writes articles, teaches casting and surf fishing clinics and practices custom woodwork including rebuilding his own house. His photos have appeared in Southwest Flyfishing, The Drake, Fly Rod and Reel, Patagonia catalog and more. His latest article is *Surf Fishing Santa Barbara* in Southwest Flyfisher Magazine Jan/Feb 2016.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

As I was thinking aloud about what to write for this month's column, First Lady Mira suggested that I just say "Gone Fishing" and leave it at that. It wouldn't be true, but I did go fishing for the first time since the world shut down, and it was highly therapeutic.



A couple of our members had reserved 2 cabins at Hot Creek Ranch for the first weekend in October. Between the pandemic

and the fires and smoke around Mammoth, they elected not to go and graciously offered the cabins to me. Since HCR is among my favorite places on the planet, I jumped at the opportunity. My brother Ron joined me in Cabin 3 and Gene Mahn and Jim D'Angelo took Cabin 4. I've stayed in every cabin except number 9, which I'm told is quite small, not that it matters. To me, what is unique about the Ranch is the sense of timelessness. Until the recent refurbishing of the beds and carpets,



nothing had been changed in decades so it could just as easily be 10 or 20 years ago once you're there. They did add WiFi a couple of years ago, which I supposed was inevitable, and there is now decent, if spotty, cell phone service but other than

the little microwave oven on top of the stove, it's a time capsule. There's no TV, thank God, so the noise of this crazy year is mostly left behind.

The fishing had been severely impacted by drought a few years ago, necessitating the first stocking in decades. Those fish have either died out or learned to behave like the resident, if not native, Hot Creek trout so the fishing has returned to its former glory.



I've heard it was even better a few months ago when there was almost no one fishing. They are still impossibly finicky, requiring near perfect drifts of tiny flies and a stealthy approach to avoid spooking them. I've learned the geography of the place well enough to have my favorite spot. No place on the Ranch is a secret but this one seems to be less used than some others so it's usually all mine when I'm there. My skills have evolved since Jim Fleisher and Norm Willis first took me to Hot Creek some 13 years ago, so I did pretty well. In honor of the Hoffberg brothers, who have taught me a bit of their 40 year knowledge of the Ranch, I fished mostly with a 3 wt cane rod, DT3 line and a long leader. I caught my biggest trout



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

ever at the Ranch, a 17" bruiser that was a chore to muscle to the net with the light rod. Pure joy.

In keeping with tradition, we ate and drank gloriously. A drink before dinner, steaks and



salmon on the Weber grill, a special bottle of wine and good company made for a terrific evening. I sleep better there than anywhere else, a combination of cold nights, thin air and good fatigue.



There were, of course, a couple of flies in the ointment. The smoke was indeed heavy, especially in the afternoon when the wind came up, and no starry skies to be seen. It did seem to keep the biting insects at bay, however.

I hope that by some time next year there will be some semblance of normality so we can all resume the trips we take together, to enjoy our comradery and continue to learn from each other.

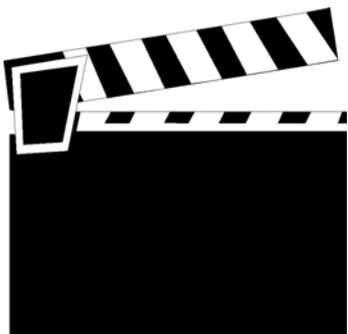
Tight lines!



PROGRAMS NEEDED FOR MEDIA NIGHT

by Glenn Short

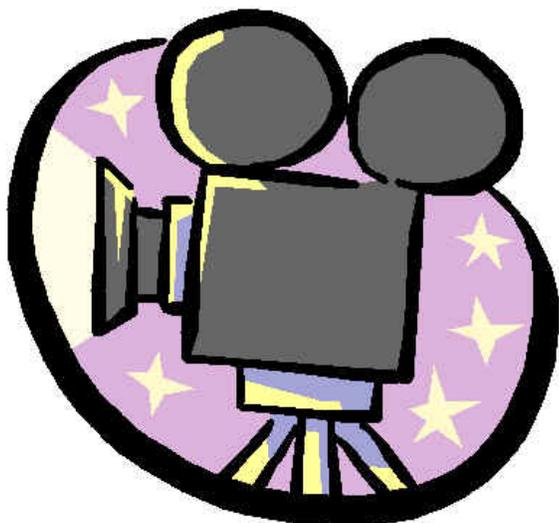
Can you create a presentation to share your fly fishing adventures? We have moved our media night to our virtual Dinner Meeting on December 17. You still have have over six weeks to create your program!



We still need several more videos or slide shows and they only need to be approximately 5 minutes in length. You probably already have the program you need to create your show on your computer—it's easy to do.

If you have any questions, email Glenn Short glenn.short@gmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing where you've been and what you've been catching—or trying to catch. If you can't submit a show, be sure to join the meeting anyway—we miss you! We can still enjoy a drink or two and a meal together in total safety—no driving and no SARS-CoV-2 exposure. Please join us!



DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President.....Richard Ress
 Vice President.....Bernie Ecker
 Secretary.....Jody Martin
 Treasurer.....Mike Hembree
 Calendar MaintenanceTom Wright
 CommunicationsBill Luddy
 Conservation.....Open
 EducationSteve Ebersold
 Education Co-Chair.....Michael Peratis
 Head Fly Casting
 InstructorMarshall Bissett
 FundraisingRich Hoffman
 LibrarianTom Wright
 Membership.....Jay Bushore
 Newsletter EditorEd Swanson
 Outings.....Jim Fleisher
 Programs.....Marshall Bissett
 RafflesSteve Esgate
 Social MediaCatrina White
 Special Projects.....Glenn Short
 SWCFFI RepresentativeTom Wright
 Technical AdvisorAran Dokovna
 Web MasterRen Colantoni
 Women's ProgramsCatrina White

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 spff.org/New_Member_Signup. SPFF always welcomes new members.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

by Catrina White

SPFF's Women's Programs offers support and friendship, as well as top notch programming that is not found in other Fly Fishing clubs!

Due to necessary public health concerns, all programming is currently via zoom. Programming can be also be accessed on our Facebook group page, Women of Sierra Pacific (found under the umbrella page of SPFF Foundation).

This group is open to all who identify as female. It is not to exclude the men, but rather to provide a safe, supportive environment for us to learn, have fun, fish, tie flies, and share our stories as women in one great sport.

We look forward to meeting you all in person when it is safe to do so.

For any questions, comments or to be added to the email list for notification of upcoming programs, please send an email to womensprograms@spff.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

by Catrina White

Please join us on our social media sites:

- Facebook - SPFF Foundation
- Instagram - SPFF Foundation

We have many groups under the umbrella heading of SPFF Foundation to suit your needs from making new fishing friends, Women's programs, participate in programming live on Facebook, and other great groups such as rod building, fly tying, and trade/barter/sell your fishing equipment.

We have over 100 likes and followers to our page with plenty of content to keep you busy!

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

For questions, comments, and suggestions, Please contact: Socialmedia@SPFF.org

SPFF 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).

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Virtual Fly Tying Session via ZOOM.....	4
Board Meeting (Remote)	5
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	7
Virtual Fly Tying Session via ZOOM.....	11
Virtual Fly Tying Session via ZOOM	18
General Meeting and Presentation on ZOOM: Fly Fishing The Amazon with Gary Bulla	19
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	21

DECEMBER

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Board Meeting (remote)	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
General Meeting and Presentation on ZOOM	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	19

JANUARY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

General Meeting and Presentation via ZOOM.....	21
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LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

by Kate Clabeaux

October 29, 2020

Hello there,

I, Kate, received a college scholarship from your organization in 2009. I went to UC Berkeley and majored in Environmental Science specifically studying human-environmental interactions. Since college, I have worked as an outdoor educator and guide, sharing the outdoors with people of all ages and hoping to help them grow a passion for protecting our outdoor resources. I now live in Truckee, CA close to Lake Tahoe. In my free time, I enjoy mountain biking, backpacking, skiing, and of course fishing.

I hope this email finds you well and thank you again for supporting my education,

Kate Clabeaux

BILL O'KELLY COLLECTION ON SALE VIA EBAY

Bill O'Kelly was an avid angler and like so many of us, he had planned on doing different types of fishing throughout his life. His equipment ranges from light fresh to salt, single handed to Spey and everything in between.

The bidding began on November 01, 2020, and will continue for one week. You can bid on as many of the items as you like and eBay will let us list.

All net proceeds will be going to the O'Kelly family so please remember, and in Bill's famous words at many a FlyBuy, "this is a fundraiser!"

PDF of items up for auction. To view: [CLICK HERE](#)

TO FIND US / THE AUCTION SITE ON EBAY:

1. Go to the search: [CLICK HERE](#)
2. Type **swcff** in the Sellers search box & then the "search" button
3. If you end up on the main eBay page, near the top is their product search window. To the right of that is a link to "Advanced". Click that to get to the link above and again, under Sellers, enter **swcff**.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL: HELP WANTED

The Southwest Council is looking to fill the following Board of Director positions:

1st Vice President: The First Vice President will perform the duties of the President in the President's temporary absence and in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the First Vice President shall assume that office.

Vice President of Education: The Vice President for Education shall be responsible for development of educational programs at the Council level; coordinate requests for assistance in development of educational programs from individuals or groups; have control of implementation of directives and police as outlined and funded by the Council Board

Recording Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the membership, the Board, and the Executive Board.

The 2 year positions are open to members of Fly Fishers International. If you have questions or are interested in any of the positions, contact Susi Wright at: secretary@swcffi.org

Responses should be received no later than Friday, November 20th, 2020.

The proposed slate of 2021 Southwest Council Board of Directors is as follows:

SWC Board Position	2020	2021
President	Steve Schalla	Leigh-Ann Swanson
VP	Leigh-Ann Swanson	Vacant
Corresponding Secretary	Susi Wright	Susi Wright
Recording Secretary	Susi Wright	Vacant
Casting For Recovery	Carole Ontiveros	Carole Ontiveros
Casting For Recovery	Teresa Adams	Teresa Adams
Casting Lead	Eric Callow	Eric Callow
Conservation	Debbie Sharpton	Debbie Sharpton
Education	Leigh-Ann Swanson	Vacant
Fly Tying Lead	Steven Fernandez	Steven Fernandez
Project Healing Waters	Carole Katz	Carole Katz
Membership	Melinda Burns	Melinda Burns
Fundraising	Vacant	Steve Schalla
Communication	Cece Rubin	Cece Rubin
Treasurer	Jill Field-Duerr	Jill Field-Duerr
Trout in the Classroom	Rich Bollinger	Rich Bollinger
Webmaster	Greg LaPolla	Greg LaPolla
Youth Program	Carl Crawford	Carl Crawford
Women's Programs	Karen Hall	Cat White
Social Media	Analiza del Rosario	Jordan Dokolas
Volunteer Coordinator	Connie Bullock	Annette Pounds
Special Projects	Michael Schweit	Michael Schweit

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

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

Patagonia Santa Monica

1344 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310-395-6895

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



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