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ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 18

REVEALING THE SECRETS NEAR HIGHWAY 395 with Jarett Coons

by Marshall Bissett

How many of us have looked longingly at the small waterways, ponds and streams that border 395 as we race towards Bishop or Mammoth? We have heard stories that many of them are fishable and even hold warmwater species like largemouth and smallmouth bass. We have even heard that the network of canals south of Bishop hold massive carp and the California Aqueduct



GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

can be fished for striped bass. How can we separate fact from fiction – reality from wishful thinking? A good first step would be to ZOOM in to our March speaker Jarett Coons. Yes, you heard me right – we are having a presentation in March in place of the customary Auction and Fundraiser meeting which will take place over a whole week in April (stay tuned for details and catalog.)

Jarett Coons is Owner and operator of Sierra Mountain Trout Guide Service where he teaches anglers of all ages and abilities the art of the fly. Born and raised in Bishop Ca. and of Paiute decent, Jarett is indigenous to the Payahuunadü (Owens Valley) and has spent his life fishing the warm and cold waters of the Eastern Sierra. In 2009, after graduating guide school Jarett returned home from Montana and started SMTGS where he now enjoys teaching others about his home waters. He specializes in guiding the lesser known mostly warm water impounds and streams around Bishop. He likes to call this “forgotten water.” He is a true local guide with an intimate knowledge of the spots you might normally drive by. Aside from being a full-time guide, Jarett also is a member of the Solitude Fly Co. design team, writes articles for several fishing publications, is a co-founder of the Bishop Kids Fish Camp, TIC volunteer, speaker/ presenter, and eternal friend of the underdog. Jarett Coons is a true “Local Guide”, and his knowledge of the Eastern Sierra is second to none.



GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 2)

We cannot guarantee that he will disclose his super-secret spots, but you will think twice every time you see water beside Highway 395. For this meeting, we will be moving away from the typical presentation format and going with a less formal interview style that will allow more questions from Club members. See you on March 18th!



SPFF

1971-2021



**50TH
ANNIVERSARY**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

First, let me apologize to anyone who was unable to join the monthly Zoom meeting in February. There was an unforeseen glitch in the connection having to do with a password. As the meetings are set up, a password is embedded into the invitation so all you have to do is click on the link. Some people had trouble connecting in January, so last month I changed the password to my personal one and sent it with the invitation. The problem compounded when Ren sent the regular email blast reminder which had to be reformatted from a pdf file to jpeg (don't ask, I can't explain it) which somehow removed the imbedded password and moved it somewhere that had to be found. Depending on how you accessed the link, on the email or Facebook or whatever, you may have needed the password. Now that we have found the problem it should be fixed for the March meeting. As a double check, I will send an additional email blast with the passcode should you need it. I can't wait to get back to meeting in person!

For those who saw the presentation, Tony Reinhardt was excellent as usual, reviewing how best to fish from a drift boat. I love fishing this way, and when he gave a similar talk several years ago I picked up some tips that helped me. This time was even better and I'm looking forward to using them in April in Montana, my first out of state trip in more than a year.

One of the few advantages of being older has been getting vaccinated sooner so I can begin to cautiously get out of the house. My only other trip was to HCR last June, since that didn't involve flying and eating out. Unless the

virus surges again we should all be able to resume fishing by midsummer, and certainly in the fall. It's been a long year.

As you read this newsletter, please remember the effort it takes to get it out to you every month. Ed Swanson does a phenomenal job of collecting and formatting the articles and pictures, but he can't create it out of thin air.



We all have stories and pictures we've accumulated over the years; please send us some of them to share with your fellow club members. It's nice to see your name and recollections in print.

Stay safe, clean your fly lines, tie some flies if you care to do so and let's plan some trips to drift, float or wade in clean, cold water to fish that haven't seen us in far too long.

Tight lines!

SPFF ONLINE AUCTION: WEEK OF APRIL 1

Coming Soon!

SPFF On-Line Auction

April 1st

Items Such As:

Guide Trips and Vacation Rentals

Eastern Sierras – Carmel, CA – Alaska – Montana – Oregon – Utah - New Mexico

Rods & Reels

Fly Collections

Fishing Gear

Clothing

Specialty Items

Catalog will open March 25th, Bidding will begin April – 1st

OUTINGS REPORT

by Jim Fleisher, Outings Chairperson

The Getting Started Outing (GSO) is planned for July 16-18, 2021 in Mammoth Lakes. Plans are in the tentative stage at this point. Campground reservations are available at Shady Rest. We were unable to make a reservation at the group campground, so individual reservations will need to be made. Michael Schweit has strongly suggested that members interested in camping go ahead as soon as possible and make reservations at the New Shady Rest Campground and further information will follow as to group get-togethers. Several members have indicated that it would be nice if we all pick campsites near each other. Michael has #158 reserved, so the rest can pick sites near him and be real social

Stay tuned and check your email as I get more solid information.

CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin, SPFF Secretary and SWC-FFI Casting Director

Answer to last month's question: Narrow loops are more efficient, and therefore require less energy to control. This results in better accuracy, less muscle fatigue, greater distance, and a better ability to cut through the wind.

This month's question: Last month I asked about the advantages of having a narrow loop on your back cast and forward cast. Can you think of a reason or situation in which you might not want to have a narrow loop in your cast? Two reasons?

Feel free to email me with your answers, questions, or suggestions for future topics!
jmartin.nhm@gmail.com

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Women's Programs.....	Catrina 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. Our newest member is:

Frank Krieger

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 EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	3
Board Meeting via ZOOM	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	10
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	17
General Meeting: Revealing the Secrets Near Highway 395 with Jarett Coons	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	24
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	31

APRIL

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

SPFF Annual Angler Auction & Fundraiser (on-line auction)	1
Board Meeting via ZOOM	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	3
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	7
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	14
General Meeting and Presentation with Jason Randall via ZOOM	15
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	17
SWC Quarterly Meeting - Club Management Day	17
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	21
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	28

MAY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Annual Lower Owens River Clean-up	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
Board Meeting via ZOOM	6
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	15
General Meeting and Presentation with Skip Morris via ZOOM	20

RECENT AND UPCOMING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

by Catrina White

February 26 Program with Mary Ann Dozer

On February 26, Women's Programs had our inaugural joint program to Fix Those Pesky Faults with Mary Ann Dozer of Sisters, Oregon. We had 35 attendees from 6 states and one lady fly fishing angler from Northern Ireland.

Here are 2 photos from the February 26th program. If we can't have a group photo, a selfie and the zoom screen will work! As you can see, I definitely have not perfected the selfie zoom!



Women Buddies Wanted for New and Existing Women SWC Members

I am currently seeking women in the South West Council to assist me with our next campaign entitled: You Are Not Alone! I would like to identify women in each of the 22 clubs who would be willing to serve as a buddy to new and existing women club members. The only requirement is for you to assist in engaging the new member and providing information about upcoming events, and to make introductions. The sport of FF can be daunting to us women who find ourselves almost alone in a sport dominated by men.

RECENT AND UPCOMING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Let's make each woman member feel welcome, and help them make new friends so we can support each other and have some fun.

Next Women's Program

Our next program will feature two amazing women who are teammates on the U.S. Women's Fly Casting Team. We have champions Donna O'Sullivan and Audrey Wilson who will discuss competition casting, and their equipment. I find this topic fascinating and I hope you will too!

Details for the next event:

Friday, March 26 at 6:00 pm PDT

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4112941257?pwd=cmxZOFYxcFljQ2xyU3h2T2FWQjlIQOT09>

Meeting ID: 411 294 1257

Passcode: SPFF2020

The Women of Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers and South West Council Women's Programs present

**AUDREY WILSON
DONNA O'SULLIVAN**

OUR NEXT PROGRAM WILL FEATURE TWO AMAZING WOMEN WHO ARE TEAMMATES ON THE U.S. WOMEN'S FLY CASTING TEAM. WE HAVE CHAMPIONS DONNA O'SULLIVAN AND AUDREY WILSON WHO WILL DISCUSS COMPETITION CASTING, AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southwest Council

**FRIDAY
MARCH
26, 2021
6:00 PM PACIFIC
ZOOM**

NEW SALMON HABITAT CREATED ALONG THE SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR ANDERSON

by Peter Tira

(reprinted with permission from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Science Spotlight, January 19, 2021)

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Science-Institute/News/new-salmon-habitat-created-along-the-sacramento-river-near-anderson1#>

An oasis of meandering waterways with deep pools, shallow gravel beds, protective log overhangs, oxygenating riffles and a cooling canopy of willows and cottonwood trees is being created for salmon and steelhead along the banks of the Sacramento River on CDFW-owned property near the city of Anderson in Shasta County.

Three new side channels off the Sacramento River have been carved from a dense, 40-acre riparian zone and floodplain that is being reconnected to the river adjacent to the Anderson River Park. The new habitat will serve as a protective nursery for juvenile salmon and steelhead off the main river while providing additional spawning habitat for adult fish.

“This was designed for rearing habitat,” explained Doug Killam, a senior environmental scientist with CDFW’s Northern Region, on a recent tour. “The moment we opened up the first channel and connected it to the river, adult salmon started showing up right away.”

The side channel project at Anderson is one of two currently under construction along the Sacramento River – the other taking place in downtown Redding. Both projects are being overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to mitigate impacts from lost habitat resulting from the construction of the Shasta Dam in 1945. Rocks and gravel being added to the side channels for fish habitat historically would have been delivered from upper reaches of the Sacramento River and all of the tributaries above Shasta Dam.

The Bureau of Reclamation contracted construction of the Anderson-area project out to the Yurok Tribe, whose reservation is situated along the lower 44 miles of the Klamath River. The tribe’s culture is rooted in salmon and fishing along the North Coast. Construction began a year ago and is nearly complete.

Few outside materials were brought in. Almost everything used to create ideal and idyllic fish habitat – stumps and snags, gravel and stones, willow and cottonwood cuttings – were acquired locally at the construction site, repurposed and recycled. The side channels themselves were dug out and designed based on historic waterways that used to exist.

“The Yurok Tribe has been fishing for time immemorial and being a fisherman myself, we know what salmon want,” said Luis Santana, fisheries biologist for the Yurok Tribe. “Everything we’re doing here is in the best interest of native fishes.”

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Media Contact:

[Peter Tira](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 215-3858

CDFW Photos [following page]

NEW SALMON HABITAT CREATED ALONG THE SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR ANDERSON (CONT.)



Luis Santana, fisheries biologist for the Yurok Tribe, holds up a Chinook salmon carcass found in one of the side channels being constructed along the Sacramento River near Anderson in Shasta



Doug Killam, senior environmental scientist with CDFW's Northern Region, stands along the first of three side channels that was excavated and connected to the main stem of the Sacramento River in 2020.



Willow and cottonwood cuttings have been placed throughout the side channels construction site. They will ultimately provide a cooling canopy for salmon and steelhead and relief from the areas' scorching summer heat.



Creating three meandering side channels off the Sacramento River near Anderson has involved heavy construction and earth-moving equipment over the past 12 months.



An oasis of slow-moving, meandering, cooling waters with deep pools and oxygenating riffles off the Sacramento River near Anderson will offer new spawning and rearing habitat for both salmon and steelhead.

FISHING REPORT: WATER AND ROCKS

by Ed Swanson

During the last week of February my wife and I drove to Bishop, where we were joined (socially distanced and with masks) by her brother and niece, for two days of fishing in the Wild Trout section of the Owens River. The weather was below freezing at night and the early morning, so we did not rush to get to the river either day. There was very little surface action when we were there other than a brief BWO hatch in the early afternoon, but nymphing with small nymphs (generally size 18) proved successful.



FISHING REPORT: WATER AND ROCKS (CONT.)

When the fishing came to a halt (or we simply were tired) in the mid afternoon each day, we revisited several of the nearby petroglyph sites. One site is only about 100 yards from a fishing turnout on Chalk Bluff Road. Though a small site, the petroglyphs there are quite impressive.

We also visited several of the petroglyph sites along Fish Slough Road, and made a stop at the



Chalfant site off of Route 6. The petroglyphs can range from a few hundred to several thousand years old.

The Chalfant site was vandalized back in 2012, with several of its petroglyphs cut out and stolen. The petroglyphs eventually were recovered but could not be restored to their original location. I had not been back to the Chalfant site since 2012, and it was both a joy to see the magnificent large circles enclosing symbols and heartbreaking to see the signs of the vandalism.



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.

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14411 Burbank Blvd.
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818.785.7306

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