



Reading The Water

Newsletter of Golden State Flycasters Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Newsletter Date: February 2015

Fly Fishing the Northern Sierra with Jon Baiocchi

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NEXT MEETING

Monday

Feb 21, 2015

Wetflies 6:00 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

Program 7:00 PM

Tio Leo's

3510 Valley Center Dr
San Diego, CA 92130

(Map—back page)

Next water quality monitoring will be Saturday, February 21. Please speak to Jack Marshall for details and to volunteer:

marshall@econ.ucsb.edu

Many of us tend to forget how big a state California is and how varied and diverse this large, 800-mile+ north-south land mass really is. Most of know about the eastern Sierra (the area around Mammoth, the Owens River, etc.) and we have recently learned details about the southern Sierra, with the Kern River, its North Fork, South Fork and Isabella Lake.

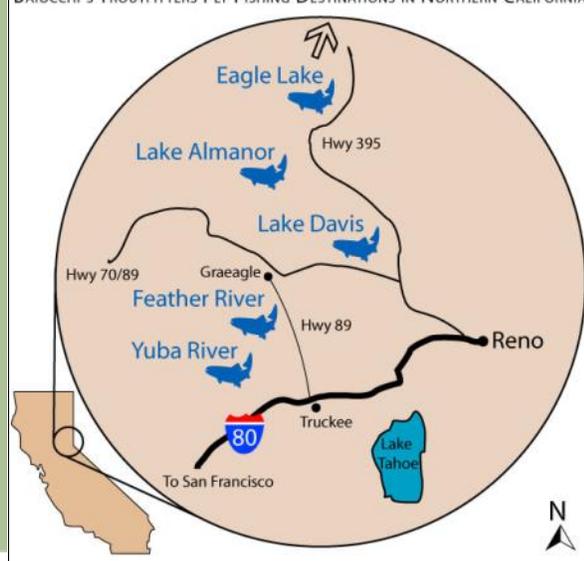


But what many are not aware of is the gorgeous country and the great fishing that can be found in the northern Sierra. Well, this month that is all going to change. We'll be seeing a presentation about fly fishing on three different waters -- two rivers and a stillwater -- that are all exciting, all lovely and all filled with great fish. We'll be focusing on Plumas and Sierra Counties where we'll learn about the pristine watershed of the North Fork of the Yuba River, the designated "Wild and Scenic" Middle

Fork of the Feather River and the amazing Lake Davis. And our guide will be the perfect person to show and teach us about these wonderful fisheries. (And remember, these places are not that far away from our homes in southern California.)

Jon Baiocchi has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972, and is a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, innovative fly tier and talented educator who gives fly fishing presentations to clubs and expos across the state. Born in San Jose in 1965, Jon's dad, Bob Baiocchi, moved his family to Paradise, California (in the foothills of the northern Sierra near Chico) in 1967 to be closer to prime fly fishing and to raise his family in northern California's spectacular forests. Bob Baiocchi was inducted into the Federation of Fly Fishers Hall of Fame in 1999 and is remembered as one of the leading (if not the leading) fly fishing educators, environmental conservationists and water rights experts of the last 25 years. Obviously, Bob was a major influence in helping Jon hone his fly fishing skills at a very young age.

BAIOCCHI'S TROUTFITTERS FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Fly Fishing the Northern Sierra with Jon Baiocchi - Cont'd



In 1991, Jon moved to Colorado to pursue a career as a professional snowboarder. He competed at the national level, starred in feature films, (such as the strangely-named *The Hard, the Hungry and the Homeless*) and worked with manufacturers in their research and development programs. When this snowboarding career ended, Jon moved back to California in 1997 and started fly fishing full time. He is now based in Nevada City and guides, lectures and teaches year round.

Jon is excited about coming to southern California and giving us all a visual tour about a few of his “home” waters. He’ll show us great fly fishing opportunities and how to take advantage of them. We’ll learn about the gear to use, exactly where to go, including where the access points are, the entomology in the areas and how to approach the fishing during all four seasons. We’ll see wonderful photography (including beautiful flora and fauna), maps and diagrams that can set us up for great adventures. We will also be given insider tips and current information such as the origin of the spectacular *Hexagenia* mayfly hatch at Lake Davis that just “popped” into existence two years ago. The biomass of this lake makes it one of the healthiest and most productive fisheries in our state.

Jon’s enthusiasm for our sport is contagious and, combined with his straightforward and simple approach to teaching, gives students the skills needed to be successful on all types of water. Sharing knowledge with others is of the greatest importance to him and to see others progress and reach the next level in fly fishing, as he says, “fulfills his life.” Jon’s philosophy on fly fishing is: Keep it simple, be confident in your presentation and, most of all, have fun. His favorite game is stalking and sight fishing to large trout in shallow water, whether on a river, or a stillwater. You can learn more about Jon by going to:

www.baiocchistroutfitters.com



President's Message

By Wayne Johnson



Presidents Column -February 2015

Our Annual Fundraiser - Silent/Live Auction and Raffle is upon us, please place Saturday March 14, 5PM to 8 PM on your calendar and plan to attend. The event is free. Our Annual Fundraiser is the most important event of the year, and ultimately enables our club to support conservation programs and educational programs. Your participation this year will allow us to continue various projects including:

- Water quality monitoring of the San Luis Rey River
- Habitat assessment for endangered steelhead recovery
- Genetic fin clipping of trout in several Southern California watersheds
- Teaching fly casting, fly tying, rod building, knots and rigging
- Speaker presentations for the monthly meetings
- Statewide conservation support as part of Trout Unlimited, California
- Embrace-A-Stream (Trout Unlimited) trout habitat restoration program
- Casting for Recovery, a Breast Cancer support group

This year our Annual GSF Fundraiser will be held at University of San Diego within the Jenny Craig Pavilion, Building 209, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110. Our venue will be spacious and accommodating, allowing us to have more than adequate space for the auction and viewing tables. Additionally there will be a no host bar and buffet dinner in a designated dining and bar area. The buffet dinner is optional, but if you take advantage of the early bird special and purchase a buffet dinner before March 1, you will receive a bonus of \$12 in event raffle tickets. Please note that buffet dinner tickets will NOT be available for purchase on the night of the event.

GSF Members and non-member guests alike are encouraged to attend; admission to the event is free. A special member drawing is being offered to members who bring (non-member) guest(s). You will receive an entry into a special drawing for a Fishpond Westwater Large Rolling Duffel Bag (\$390 value) for EACH guest you bring (couples = one guest). We ask the members to escort their guests to the check-in table to be sure their entry is received.

The list of auction items that will be available this year is very extensive. Examples include a selection of great rods, reels, travel bags, discount coupons, trips, guide services, etc. Also, you as a member, we ask that you look through your inventory of stuff that you would be willing to donate. It can be old or new, never used, or near new stuff that you may consider as a donation. We are confident that within your stuff, you will find a few duplications in your inventory .

The Annual Fundraiser Chairman and Committee want to extend a thank you to members who have already been generous with donations and solicitations!

To make this year's Annual Fundraiser a success, we need your help. This is a great opportunity for you to contribute to the club, and become involved. Please bring spouses, significant others, family, friends, work associates, or anyone else who might enjoy attending. Also, If you plan to dine with us, please don't delay in purchasing your meal tickets for yourself and anyone else who will accompany you. Join us for this fun and important event ... And remember the fundraiser is open to all.

Our club has stated 2015 variety of educational, conservation, and upcoming outing activities. Our monthly meeting will be held on February 16 (Monday before the

President's Message— Cont'd

3rd Thursday of the month) 6PM at Tio Leo's Restaurant in Del Mar (Located at I-5 and Hwy 56).

Our February guest speaker, Jon Baiocchi, a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, innovative fly tier and talented educator who has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972. Jon now lives in Nevada City, CA. and is excited about coming to southern California and giving us all a visual tour about a few of his "home" waters. This month we'll be seeing a presentation about fly fishing on three different waters -- two rivers and a Stillwater -- that are all exciting, all lovely and all filled with great fish. We'll be focusing on Plumas and Sierra Counties where we'll learn about the pristine watershed of the North Fork of the Yuba River, the designated "Wild and Scenic" Middle Fork of the Feather River and the amazing Lake Davis. He'll show us great fly fishing opportunities and how to take advantage of them. We'll learn about the gear to use, exactly where to go, including where the access points are, the entomology in the areas and how to approach the fishing during all four seasons.

Please tell your friends or anyone else that would enjoy learning more about fly fishing the Northern Sierra; they are more than welcome to attend.

Our Fly Tying Class that began in January will be concluding this month and we will see another class starting soon, visit our website for the class registration dates. The class instructor is **Chuck Waterman**, our very own GSF member who contributes to our "Fly of the Month" in our monthly newsletter

Our annual club trip to the Lower Owens River is coming up the weekend February 26-March 1. The trip is being coordinated by **Rod Hendrickson-Trips Chairman**, please let Rod know you are planning join to us as soon as possible, he has a limited number of rooms at a negotiated special rate with Holiday Inn Express and La Quinta Hotel in Bishop. Be prepared as the weather conditions can change from mild spring to winter snow storms.

In preparation for the upcoming trip **Dave Smith-VP**, **Steve Piper-Education Chairman**, **Rod Hendrickson-Trips Chairman**, and **Chuck Loudat - Past Fly of the Month Editor** are coordinating an educational class, providing the essential tips on how to fish the Lower Owens River using the variety of Nymphing techniques. The class is being held Thursday Feb 12, 6PM at San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club.

You can Like us on Facebook and also follow our Twitter feed to stay connected with us.

Thank you!

Wayne Johnson - President



**GOLDEN STATE FLYCASTERS
CHAPTER 920, TROUT UNLIMITED**

13th Annual GSF Fundraiser - Silent/Live Auction and Raffle

Saturday, March 14, 2015 @ 5PM

University San Diego Jenny Craig Pavilion 209

5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110

We welcome everyone (especially crazed fly-fishing enthusiasts) to come and support a great organization. Members and non-member guests alike are encouraged to attend, admission to the event is free. This is our feature event of the year, and ultimately enables our organization to support conservation programs for the preservation of our fisheries, as well as support foundations and educational programs.

Some of our projects include support of:

- Water quality monitoring of the San Luis Rey River
- Habitat assessment for endangered steelhead recovery.
- Genetic fin clipping of trout in several Southern California watersheds.
- Teaching fly casting, fly tying, rod building, knots and rigging.
- Statewide conservation support as part of Trout Unlimited, California
- Embrace-A-Stream (Trout Unlimited) trout habitat restoration program
- Casting for Recovery, a Breast Cancer support group

This event is always a huge success, with a generous selection of products and services available to bid on. Merchandise from companies including:

Sage Fly Rods & Reels	Echo Fly Rods & Reels	Redington Fly Rods & Reels
Aspen Reels	Orvis	Fishpond Packs & Gear
Guided Local Fishing	Restaurant Gift Cards	Golf Equipment/4-somes
Sierra Fishing Trips	Artwork	Local Attractions

Thousands of dollars in merchandise and gift cards will be raffled/auctioned. Please come join us for our annual event and tell all your friends!!!! If you have any questions, please email event Chairs Chuck & Michelle Waterman at Donations.Chairperson@goldenstateflycasters.org

Dinner: USD is presenting an Italian Buffet; entrees include Chicken Piccata and Vegetarian Lasagna, with side dishes, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages. Dinner price of \$27/pp includes all taxes/gratuities. Dinner tickets must be purchased before midnight Saturday, March 7th. A no-host (cash) bar will also be available.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: [Purchase your dinner tickets](#) before midnight March 1st, and receive \$12 in event raffle tickets **FREE***.

*For those who prefer to forego the dinner/raffle tickets package, admission to the event is free. *Raffle ticket offer good only with dinner purchase.*

Dinner will NOT be available for purchase on the night of the event – we must provide our count to USD in advance. **Special**

Member Drawing: Members who bring (non-member) guest(s) will receive an entry into a special drawing for a Fishpond Westwater Large Rolling Duffel Bag (\$390 value) for **EACH** guest they bring (couples = one guest). Members should escort their guests to the check-in table to be sure their entry is received. [Click this link for info on the bag.](#)

Special Guest Drawing: A separate drawing for non-member guests will ALSO be held – prize is a matching Fishpond bag.

It's a Girl!



Penny Josephine Moore (future fly fisher for sure)

Please congratulate Dylan Moore on the new addition to his family on January 20th, 2015. Both mother and baby are doing great....

Closed to Fishing - by Steve Niles

On a clear Oregon summer day, windless, and warm as just baked bread, I cast from along the bank of the Chetco's South Fork, my dry stonefly optimistically drifting quietly on this midsize stream, long calmed of its raging white winter waters, so pure and clear now that depth perception becomes tricky as I wade into it. Two feet deep? Five feet? Hard to tell. This tributary plunges dramatically out of coastal mountains, diving and twisting through steep gorges until it finally empties into the main stem of the Chetco River. The summer fish range from small to medium size at best—a fifteen-inch cutthroat is the largest I've ever landed on this stretch of water, although I've seen larger ones swim by unimpressed by my offering. Steelhead and salmon spawn here every winter.

I had just hooked, landed and released a small rainbow, maybe eight inches but plenty energetic, when I heard a voice float up behind me.

"Nice job but you know it's illegal to fish here."

I turned to see a middle aged guy, bearded and dressed in Cabela's finest camo. Given that I had previously called the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, not once but twice, to clear up my own confusion regarding the regulations for this watershed, I replied assuredly, "You're right, it's closed for steelhead and salmon year round, but it's *open* for resident trout and sea run cutthroats during the summer season."

"Oh", he replied, more casually than I'd expected, "I've lived here all my life, camp on this spot with my kids most summer weekends when I'm not hunting. Always thought it was completely closed to all angling."

Oregon fishing regulations! Locals say you need a lawyer to wade through the convoluted wording of these regulations to determine what's open, when and for what. Nor can you reason it out because the regs never give any reasons for their restrictions or catch limits that you might, thereafter, apply to other areas.

Famous for its large salmon and steelhead, the Chetco is essentially deserted during the summer season. Why? Because the steelhead and salmon have made their annual journey from the sea, procreated (or tried) and left one way or another, ceding their migrant waters to others. The main stem, extremely busy in the winter, is angler less now, its tributaries essentially untouched for years.

Getting back to that middle-aged camper, I was a little reluctant to inform him of the truth. That prevalent if erroneous idea that fishing is illegal here keeps quite a few anglers away. So much the better for me! But there are other reasons anglers avoid the South Fork: the banks are difficult to hike, there are no trails, the brush is dense - necessitating annoying bushwhacking, and then there are the boulders, river detritus,

Closed to Fishing - Cont'd

downed trees, and just about any other natural obstacle you can name. Slow going and you'd better pay attention. Rarely I have seen evidence, tracks or some snagged mono, indicating that someone has been through there, and in ten years I've never once encountered anyone more than 100 yards up the river.

This is a shame for most, except me, as the fishing is superb; superb that is for catching small trout. Small trout that smack dry flies like a bird hitting the window! Captivating fishing. If I'm catching smolts, or juvenile steelhead, I move on to the next likely area, leaving them a better chance to grow up and entertain us later. I use a two weight rod and 5x tippet. And the South Fork is only one of quite a few tributaries in that area. But you had better hit the small ones early in the season before they run so low they become fishless. And be ready to boulder hop, wade, jump and find your own way! This, for me, just adds to the day's adventure! Days of twenty plus fish, and hours of solitude except for abundant wildlife (there was that time last season when two cow elk eyed me down from 30 feet, and another time when black bears ran from my warning yell, in a direction fortunately away from me.) If you like finding your own way up and down a pristine watershed, the South Fork Chetco is calling you. Or its many cousins. You may want to hike around and find your own! If you find one let me know: I'm just sayin'....



Upcoming Events & Monthly Speakers

February 16: GSF Members Monthly Meeting, Speaker Jon Baiocchi, "Fly Fishing California's Eagle Lake", Monday 6PM at Tio Leo's Restaurant, Del Mar CA.

February 21: Conservation Water Quality Monitoring-- Saturday 8:30-1:00, Contact- Jack Marshall, Conservation Coordinator

February 26: March 1: GSF Annual Lower Owens Trip, Bishop CA., Contact- Rod Hendrickson, Trip Coordinator

March 14, 2015: GSF Annual Fundraiser, USD Jenny Craig Pavilion, Saturday at 5PM. Save the date! Details to come

March 26-29: Fred Hall Show, Del Mar Fair Grounds

GSF Board Member contact info

President - Wayne Johnson - wayne.johnson@philips.com

Vice President - Dave Smith - sdsume04@gmail.com

Secretary – Mark Utter - mdutter@qti.qualcomm.com

Treasurer - John Wohfiel - wohlfiel@cox.net

Director - Mike McClain – mikegmccain@gmail.com

Director Kevin McClain – mcclain.kevin@gmail.com

Director/ Communications Chair - Tim Hunt - sea2peak@gmail.com

Education Chair/ Casting/ Liaison SWCIFFF - Steve Piper - scpiper@ucsd.edu

Trips Chair - Rod Hendrickson - sagerod@cox.net

Local Outings Chair – Mark Turner - MTurner2@gnf.org and Ken Kaufmann - kkaufmann30@gmail.com

Membership Chair - Ken Notter - knotter@gmail.com

Conservation Chair - Jack Marshall - marshall@econ.ucsb.edu

Trout Unlimited Liaison - Frank Grant - outbackbum@gmail.com

Newsletter – Tiffany Chatham Smith - tiffany@regentpublishingservices.com

Fly Tying - Chuck Waterman - cwaterml@san.rr.com

Annual Fund Raiser Chair – Chuck Waterman and Michelle Waterman

GSF Librarian - Peter Syka - p_syka@yahoo.com

Reading The Water

Golden State Flycasters

GSF, A 501 (C)3 NON-PROFIT, WAS FORMED IN 2002 TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF FLY FISHERS IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY, SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY, AND CAMP PENDLETON.

Mission Statement

Golden State Flycasters supports the conservation and restoration of fisheries, and education in the sport and art of fly fishing.

3830 Valley Center Dr., Suite 705, Box 721, San Diego, CA 92130

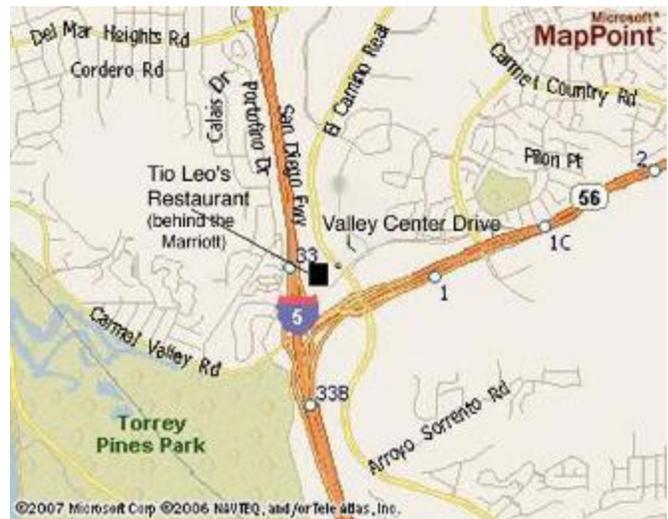
Meeting Location and Map

Tio Leo's Mexican Restaurant

3510 Valley Centre Drive
Del Mar, CA 92130
(858) 350-1468

Don't use MapQuest directions, they are incorrect

From I-5, exit Carmel Valley Road, go east 0.2 miles then left onto El Camino Real. At second stoplight, take left onto Valley Centre Drive. Marriott Hotel is on corner, go past hotel entrance to cul-de-sac and take right into Tio Leo's parking lot.



Newsletter Submissions

Submit & share personal, entertaining or informative articles.

Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently? Taken a trip won at the Annual Raffle? Come across a killer fly for a favorite river? Have a newflash about a fishery or event? Please share it with the rest of our members.

Please limit your Word article to 1,000 words or less, and

include photos. Use straight typing, no indentions, nothing tricky. Submit photos as attachments, not embedded in the article. Editors may edit your submission for grammar or to adjust article length for space available. **Submission deadline is the 25th of each month.**

E-mail submissions to Tiffany Smith at:

tiffany@regentpublishingservices.com