



# Reading The Water

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## NEXT MEETING

**Monday**

**May 18, 2015**

**Wetflies 6:00 PM**

**Dinner 6:45 PM**

**Program 7:00 PM**

**Tio Leo's**

3510 Valley Centre Dr

Del Mar, CA 92130

(Map—back page)

**Next water quality**

**monitoring will be**

**Saturday, May 13.**

**Please speak to Jack**

**Marshall for details**

**and to volunteer:**

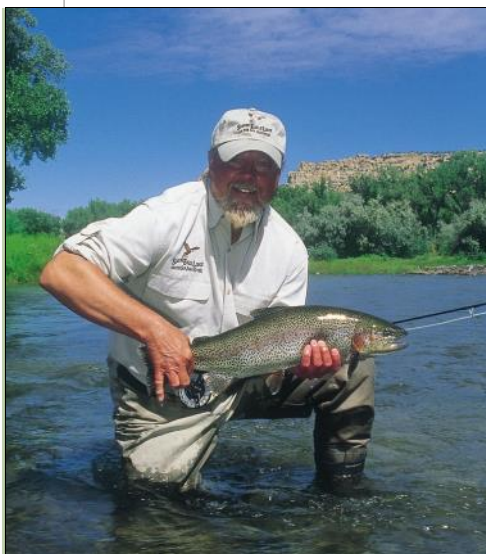
[marshall@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:marshall@econ.ucsb.edu)



Newsletter of Golden State Flycasters Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Newsletter Date: May 2015

## Fly Fishing the Spectacular San Juan with Larry Johnson



Not too far from southern California is a river that is world famous . . . world famous, that is, among fly fishers. In the northwest corner of New Mexico is where the San Juan River flows out of Navajo Dam, and there are very few fly fishing waters that can compete with this stream for numbers, size or the strength and fighting abilities of these trout.

The San Juan is a tributary of the Colorado River and became famous as a trout fishery after the Navajo Dam was built, which made the San Juan a tailwater. Construction began on this earthen dam in 1957 and was completed in 1962, originally designed for water storage in the newly created Navajo Lake. It is 402 feet high and more than 3,600 feet in length. Before the dam, the river was a relatively small one in the arid western foothills of the Rocky Mountains with not much to attract hordes of fly fishers.



But after the dam was in operation, with water flowing at a constant temperature of 42 to 44 degrees year-round, and the initial stocking of brown trout, the world began to take notice and for good reason. The trout average 17 to 19 inches, with many much larger. The fish took to the San Juan perfectly and the stocking of browns actually stopped 25 to 30 years ago so the browns are now considered wild. (These days some rainbows are stocked.) The pristine water below the dam runs for about 20 miles, with the fish numbering an incredible nine to twelve thousand per mile. This desert setting is indeed a unique one for a trout fishery, with the fish of the San Juan holding in pods, scattered in many of the riffles, as well as in back channels. The

## Fly Fishing the Spectacular San Juan with Larry Johnson - Cont'd

primary food source is midges, with the trout also taking mayflies, blue-wing olives, caddis, stoneflies, terrestrials like hoppers and ants and more meaty food such as worms, (yes, where did you think the San Juan worm got its name), leeches, snails and scuds.

You can drive to the river, or you can fly into Albuquerque, which then leaves you a little more than a three hour drive to the northwest, or you can fly into Durango, Colorado, which is one hour north of the river.



Larry Johnson has been fishing the San Juan for years. He loved it when he first fished it in the mid-80s and that love has steadily increased during the last 14 years that he's been living on the banks of the river. The southwest was a new experience for Larry. He was born and raised in New Jersey where his family had a restaurant along the shore of Lake Lackawanna – yes there is a Lake Lackawanna -- that has been a summer resort 50 miles outside of New York City since 1911. Larry is one of five children born to a man whose first job was a mathematician working on what would become a new invention -- called a computer -- for IBM. Then Larry's father went off to fight in World War II.

Larry learned to fish from a neighbor at the lake, a Catholic priest whom Larry describes as being a family friend and a good fishing teacher who was the person to first put a bamboo rod in Larry's hand. Larry describes Fa-

ther John Dericks as a man his family loved so much that he married everyone in the family . . . and they weren't even Catholic.

Larry graduated from Nichols College of Business in Dudley, Massachusetts in 1975 with degrees in business administration and marketing. After graduating, he worked at a ski lodge in Vermont until his brother-in-law convinced him to come out west to California. After a few years of working in different sales positions, Larry was hired by Polaroid where he spent more than a decade working for that corporation in Europe. In 1991 he was on a fishing trip in Florida where he had dinner with a doctor when this doctor showed him a new-fangled invention – a digital camera. Larry is a smart man and almost immediately realized that the Polaroid camera was doomed. He took early retirement and eventually wound up in New Mexico where, in 2000, he decided to become something of a trout bum on the San Juan. He actually took a job working behind the counter in a fly shop and, a year later, when Soaring Eagle Lodge came on the market, he bought it. He lived through some rough spots, like the actual day he took possession of the lodge. It was September 11, 2001 and by early afternoon, he was flooded with cancellations. But his skills at sales, marketing and publicity have proven invaluable and his investment paid off. He loves the San Juan, he loves guiding on the San Juan and he loves all the people who come there to fish.

To see and learn more about the San Juan, Larry Johnson and Soaring Eagle Lodge, go to: [www.soaringeaglelodge.net](http://www.soaringeaglelodge.net)



# President's Message

By Wayne Johnson



## Presidents Column –May 2015

Our GSF Annual Fundraiser was held the Jenny Craig Pavilion (USD Campus) this year, what a classy looking venue site, great buffet, excellent selection of refreshments, an attentive staff, and a wonderful night of fun, those were some the compliments that were voiced from GSF'ers who attended. This year we had a huge selection of items, for both the fly fisher and non-fisher person in all three categories; raffle, silent auction, and live auction. GSF fundraiser set new records for attendance due in part to the spacious venue, which resulted in another successful fundraiser. Your GSF Board of Directors congratulates you and your guests for the large number of raffle tickets purchased and for purchasing every item in the Live Auction and Silent Auction. A big round of applause goes to our Fundraiser Committee members and especially to **Chuck and Michelle Waterman**, this year Chairpersons, for coordinating, organizing and driving the event like clockwork. **Chuck and Michelle**, we cannot thank you enough for all the hard work. Many thanks are order to all of you who helped with your donations to make it a success, starting with our member donors **Bob Day , John Grimm, Charlene Price, Cheryl Cline, Chuck & Michelle Waterman, Dave Smith, Frank Grant, Frank Kawasaki, Chuck Waterman, Larry Gach, Lucky Ketcham, Marshall Madruga, Norb, Spitzer, Roger & Sue Crenshaw, Steve Piper, Tom French, and Joel Stewart.**

An additional thanks and recognition goes to many the companies who supported our fundraiser with their donations. Our local fly shops included the Fly Stop and So Cal Fly Shop; see them before you make that next purchase. Guide services provided by, Peter Pioconni, Pat Jeager, Jeff Solis, Matt Callies, Bowman Bluewater, Gary Gunsolley, Mark Rosen, Bob Day, Jed Waterman Ernie Gulley; contact them whenever you or someone you know wants to seek out services for a guided trip. Equipment manufacturers, Orvis, Fishpond, Sage, Redington, Temple Fork Outfitters, Scientific Anglers, Echo, Hatch, Nucast, Aspen; as a note Hatch Aspen, and Nucast are three 3 local San Diego companies that all produce well-designed hand-crafted reels. Lodge packages from Alaska's Boardwalk Lodge, Kingfisher Charter & Lodge, Copper on the Fly Lodge, and Parcher's Resort; all great destination location. Service discount coupons from Crowley Fish Camp, Seaforth Boat Rental, Lodge at Torrey Pines, Hotel Vyvant, Buca di Beppo, The Comedy Store, Karl Strauss, Sports Authority, Aqua Clean, Trader Joe's, Sprouts, Starbucks, Dick's Sporting Goods, Riverwalk Golf, Crossfit Outlier, TGI Fridays, Slater's 50/50 Restaurant, O's American, Kitchen, Outback Steakhouse, Couples Therapy with Dr. Roger Crenshaw, M.D.; all deserving your patronage. Art works from Wyland Galleries, and Marshall Madruga; providing that one of kind gift .

If you did not get an item that you were hoping to acquire (i.e. a fly line, rod, new reel, and guide services), please keep our supporting businesses in mind, they were all generous contributors to our Annual Fundraiser and deserving of your business. The vendors also offer some great one-on-one expert advice and the interaction of actually talking to someone who will help you can take your fishing experience to the next level.

At each fundraiser we like to remind you that your purchases are for a good cause. Our fundraiser enables GSF to bring in some of the best speakers in the country to our members meetings, it assists our conservation programs, supports education programs, and funds our outreach programs.

You as a member have a lot of fun activities in the coming weeks, visit our GSF website calendar to get all the details for the scheduled events.

First on the list is the **One Surf Fly Beach Classic** on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year it's being held here at **Mission Beach**. Event organizers and parking will be in the lot just south of Belmont Park (home of the famous Wooden Roller Coaster). The event is free.....there is



## President's Message— Cont'd

no cost to participate. If you currently don't fish the surf but have an interest in learning about it, this is a good place to meet and mingle with people who will be happy to share their knowledge... and our very own **Steve Piper** gives his endorsement! If you don't plan to fish in the event but would like to help as a volunteer, the event could use some additional "controllers" who will stand near each of surf fly fishers and mark their catches on a tournament card. Watching experienced fly fisher persons in action is another good way to learn more about fishing the surf! There will be a pre-event gathering and greetings at **The Fly Stop** (located at 5785 La Jolla Blvd, Ste B, La Jolla) on Friday night May 1<sup>st</sup>, visit their website [www.theflystop.com](http://www.theflystop.com) for all the details. Remember, the event takes place Saturday morning May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 AM for registration and fishing tournament starts at 7 AM and ends at 9:30 AM. Following the One Fly tournament, everyone invited to **So Cal Fly Fishing Outfitters** for a raffle, food, drink, and socializing. Most importantly, this year's One Surf Fly raffle event will support The **Shane Chung** Memorial College Fund for his son, Devon.

Next on the list is the **2015 Fly Fishing Film Tour 3 F3T**. The film tour is being sponsored by **The Fly Stop** and held on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club [www.sdmmbbsc.org](http://www.sdmmbbsc.org). The event will be held outside, directly on the bay under the stars with beer, food, casting competitions and more. Come early and enjoy fun, and view some of the best movies the Fly Fishing industry has to offer under a starlit night on the Bay! The event will start at approximately 7:00 PM, with the actual film scheduled for viewing starting at 8:00 PM – 8:30 PM. Pre-purchased tickets will be available for \$14.75, at [www.theflystop.com](http://www.theflystop.com) with tickets at the door for just \$18.50. Coming June 13 is the **Carp Throw Down** at Lake Henshaw. This is a warm water catch and release fly fishing tournament by hosted the **The Fly Stop**. Their website [www.carpthrowdown.com](http://www.carpthrowdown.com) contains the details for the event.

Our next GSF Outing event is being planned for May 22-25, over the Memorial Day weekend. Our Outings Chairperson, **Rod Hendrickson**, is organizing a camping event in the Bridgeport area. Rod is scouting the area for a prime camping location, details to follow.

More adventures this summer, keep some dates open as a volunteer for a number of conservation opportunities. Trout Unlimited (TU National) Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) program awarded a grant to Golden State Flycasters/TU Chapter 920, for recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout in Slinkard Creek. Slinkard Creek is a headwaters stream of the West Walker River, about an hour northwest of Bridgeport, CA. The award follows a similar EAS award last year for work on nearby Silver Creek, and it continues a collaboration of organizations to extend the recovery habitat of Lahontan cutthroat trout. We will be working as volunteers with paid biologist interns in preserving the habitat for Lahontans. For the interns it is a useful career step; for the volunteers who enjoy camping and hiking it is a refreshing break from the routine and an education in the recovery process; for the trout it is life and death. GSF and the South West Council International Federation of Fly Fishers (SWCIIFF) will be signing up volunteers to assist the interns. If you want to volunteer go to [www.southwestcouncil.org](http://www.southwestcouncil.org), click on the "conservation" button, read the page for details, and sign up for one of the eleven work parties available this summer. For more information on the EAS program see the national web site of Trout Unlimited. For more information on this EAS grant and the area that it will support email Jack Marshall at [marshall@ucsb.edu](mailto:marshall@ucsb.edu).

In retrospect, this last month we had a an event that got the San Diego Fly Fishers and the Golden State Flycasters together on March 15<sup>th</sup> for surf fishing the early morning outgoing tide at Mission Beach. The event had a great turnout from both clubs. **Fred Gregory and Paul Woolery from Sdff** were on hand to prepare a hardy breakfast and **Wayne Johnson** provided hot coffee and pastries for the adventurous fly fishers. **Mark Turner** provided set-up tables, **Steve Piper** put together a workable schedule and conducted a surf fishing clinic after breakfast. We had

## President's Message– Cont'd

a few persons that have never fished the surf before and a number of occasional surf fishers. We will be planning similar outing this summer with members from both clubs.

Our GSF membership drive at the March 2015 Fred Hall Show broke all records, resulting in 14 new members. The credit goes to all of our GSF volunteers who contributed their time and big thank you to **John Wohlfel** who did a fantastic job of organizing the volunteer schedule and booth planning.

The GSF Board will have some open committee positions in the coming weeks and would enjoy your consideration of becoming involved in our club functions. Please contact any of the Board members to express your interest and ask questions about being a GSF Board Member, or volunteering on a committee. If you would like to speak with me I can be reached by email or phone, 760-402-4482. Please, we need you, volunteer and get involved.

See you at our May 18th members meeting. We have a great speaker, Larry Johnson, who has been fishing and guiding the scenic San Juan River in New Mexico for years. In 2001 Larry purchased and since then been the owner/operator of the Soaring Eagle Lodge, which is located on the banks of the San Juan.

Thank you!

[Like us on Facebook and also follow our Twitter feed](#)}

Wayne Johnson - President

# Conservation Report

By Jack Marshall



## HELP WITH NATIVE LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT RECOVERY IN THE WEST WALKER BASIN

Volunteers are needed from Trout Unlimited to assist the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in recovering the native Lahontan cutthroat trout in Eastern Sierra streams. The Lahontans were all but eliminated from their habitat by illegally planted brook trout in Silver Creek and Slinkard Creek in the West Walker basin.

This is a great opportunity to give back to the eastern Sierras for all the wonderful fishing experiences they provide. This year could be extremely tough on fish, so let's give them a hand by removing a stressor (non-native fish), something we can do with immediate beneficial impacts. For more information go to: <http://southwestcouncilfff.org/lahontan-project>

**WHEN:** Volunteers are needed for FOUR DAY shifts starting on Thursdays and ending on Sundays with shifts available from early July to September. The schedule is as follows:

**SLINKARD CREEK** *(Click the links below to volunteer)*

[July 9 through July 12](#)

[July 23 through July 26](#)

[August 6 through August 9](#)

[August 20 through August 23](#)

[September 3 through September 6](#)

**SILVER CREEK** *(Click the links below to volunteer)*

[July 9 through July 12](#)

[July 23 through July 26](#)

[August 6 through August 9](#)

[August 20 through August 23](#)

[September 3 through September 6](#)

### WHERE:

**SLINKARD CREEK:** The Slinkard Creek site is 50 minutes north of Bridgeport, CA, on highway 89, followed by a drive along a rough road for two to three miles. Access to the creek is generally less than a mile but over challenging terrain. Expect to camp near the work site, though each person is free to do otherwise.

**SILVER CREEK:** The Silver Creek site is located 23 minutes north of Bridgeport, CA, on highway 108. Silver Creek runs through the US Marine's Mountain Warfare Training Base on Hwy 108 (Sonora Junction). There is a road

# Conservation Report - Cont'd

through the base to a parking area where we hike in app. 2 miles of easy terrain. The elevation is in the 9,000 ft range. Volunteers camp near the work site or trail head.

**WHAT:** Volunteers will assist interns that will be electroshocking the water that temporarily stuns the brook and Lahontan trout. The brook trout are removed from the water and killed while the Lahontans are returned. Volunteers will be netting the stunned fish, caring for the Lahontans, and removing stream side vegetation. At the Slinkard Creek site volunteers will be primarily tasked with brush clearance and path creation for the team of electro-shockers. Volunteer experience with hand and power tools will be particularly valuable.

**FACILITIES:** Expect primitive camping near the work site. Volunteers will need their own camping materials and food.

**CONTACT INFO:** Jack Marshall of the Golden State Flycasters is the volunteer coordinator. To sign up for a shift click on the links provided about or contact Jack at [conservation@goldenstateflycasters.org](mailto:conservation@goldenstateflycasters.org). For general questions please contact Jessica Strickland at [jstrickland@tu.org](mailto:jstrickland@tu.org) or 830-515-9917. This project is funded through a TU Embrace-A-Stream Grant to the Golden State Flycasters Chapter of TU.

## *Fly of the Month*

By Dave Smith – GSF Vice Prez



### **Balance Bug - Greenie**

This is a combination of one of my favorite still water flies “Greenie” and the balance bug tying method. The Greenie was designed by Dan Seitz who was a fellow Nationals and America Cup teammate. Greenies have worked on stocked fish and wild fish in every still water I have ever fished.

The balance bug Method allows for the fly to “hang” level when fished under a bobber or using advanced still water techniques. These flies sink at a 45 deg angle and look like a fish slowly swimming down towards the bottom. Fish hit these really hard, especially after some added movement with short or long strips.

#### **Materials**

**Hook:** Syndicate 400BK Size 12 (Available at The Fly Stop)

**Extender:** Dressmaker pins, Size 20

**Bead:** 3.3 mm Countersunk Fluro Green or Chartreuse Tungsten Bead

**Thread:** Veevus Black 8/0

**Tail:** Black Marabou

**Body:** Hareline Dubbin UV Ice Dub Black

**Rib:** Waspi Palmer Chenille Black

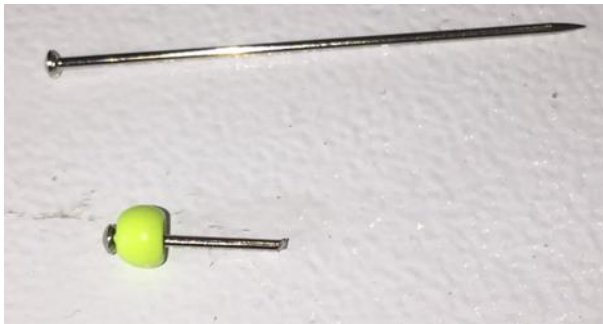


## *Fly of the Month - Cont'd*

**Step 1:** Place Bead onto Dress maker pin



**Step 2:** Cut dressmaker pin to about 1/3 its original length with a pair of Dykes.



**Step 3:** Put hook into vice and start thread base about 1/3 down hook shank. (I messed up and started with green thread. I change later to the required black thread)



**Step 4:** Tie pin and bead onto top of shank. This can be difficult to get it to stay on top.



## *Fly of the Month - Cont'd*

### **Step 5: Whip Finish**



**Step 6:** Remove hook from vice and test to see if it “balances”. If it doesn’t balance (like shown) push the pin back until it does.



**Step 7:** Wrap thread to back. Be careful around pin cut. It is sharp and will cut your thread.



## *Fly of the Month - Cont'd*

**Step 8:** Tie in Marabou tail.



**Step 9:** Tie Palmer Chenille in at the back. Thread to remain towards back of fly.



**Step 10:** Dub the body with UV Ice dubbing. This will be picked out later, so a heavier than usual dubbing is OK.



## *Fly of the Month - Cont'd*

**Step 11:** Wrap Palmer Chenille forward. Looking for about 4-5 wraps. Same amount as a rib on a typical bugger. You do not want touching turns. Sweep the fibers towards the back as you wrap forward.



**Step 12:** Wrap up to bead (past eye of the hook) and provide (2) four turn whip finishes.



**Step 13:** Test the fly to confirm balance is acceptable. (The fly is level)



# FLY FISH THE BACKCOUNTRY WITHOUT ALL THE WEIGHT

BY STEVE PIPER

Golden State Flycasters Present: "Backpack and Day Hike the Backcountry for Fly Fishing Without All the Weight"

GSF Members Richard Cullip, Rod Hendrickson, and Tim Hunt might divulge some secret spots in California where the water is pristine, the views are spectacular, and the fish are as long as your leg - caution - fish tales ahead... plus they will show you and tell you about the lightweight gear they take to get there.

**RSVP** right away if you plan to attend! We need a head count.

This seminar will be held at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00. The boat club has beverages for all ages and you may bring something to eat if you don't have a chance to dine beforehand. The address is: 2606 N Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109 and here is a link to their website: [Boat Club](#)

Thank You,

Steve Piper - GSF Education Chair

[scpiper2@gmail.com](mailto:scpiper2@gmail.com)





## Upcoming Events & Monthly Speakers

Thursday May 14 at 6:00PM : Backpack and Day Hike the Backcountry for Fly Fishing With-out All the Weight, San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

Saturday May 16 at 7:00PM: 2015 Fly Fishing Film Tour 3 F3T, San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

Monday May 18 at 6:00PM: Members Monthly Meeting, Tio Leo Restaurant- Del Mar

May 22-25: GSF Fish and Dry Camp Outing event, Green Creek Campgrounds (Bridgeport, CA. area)

Saturday June 13 at 8:00AM: Water Quality Monitoring, San Luis Rey River

Saturday June 13 at 6:00AM: Carp Throw Down Fishing Tourney, Lake Henshaw

Monday June 15 at 6:15PM: Members Monthly Meeting, Tio Leo Restaurant- Del Mar

Monday July 13 at 6:15PM: Members Monthly Meeting, Tio Leo Restaurant- Del Mar

June-July-August-September: Embrace-A-Stream Conservation volunteers, for recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout at Slinkard Creek (Bridgeport area)

## GSF Board Member contact info

President - Wayne Johnson - [wayne.johnson@philips.com](mailto:wayne.johnson@philips.com)

Vice President - Dave Smith - [sdsume04@gmail.com](mailto:sdsume04@gmail.com)

Secretary – Mark Utter - [mdutter@qti.qualcomm.com](mailto:mdutter@qti.qualcomm.com)

Treasurer - John Wohfiel - [wohlfiel@cox.net](mailto:wohlfiel@cox.net)

Director - Mike McClain – [mikegmcclain@gmail.com](mailto:mikegmcclain@gmail.com)

Director Kevin McClain – [mcclain.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:mcclain.kevin@gmail.com)

Director/ Communications Chair - Tim Hunt - [sea2peak@gmail.com](mailto:sea2peak@gmail.com)

Education Chair/ Casting/ Liaison SWCFFFF - Steve Piper - [scpiper@ucsd.edu](mailto:scpiper@ucsd.edu)

Trips Chair - Rod Hendrickson - [sagerod@cox.net](mailto:sagerod@cox.net)

Local Outings Chair – Mark Turner - [MTurner2@gnf.org](mailto:MTurner2@gnf.org) and Ken Kaufmann - [kkaufmann30@gmail.com](mailto:kkaufmann30@gmail.com)

Membership Chair - Open

Conservation Chair - Jack Marshall - [marshall@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:marshall@econ.ucsb.edu)

Trout Unlimited Liaison - Frank Grant - [outbackbum@gmail.com](mailto:outbackbum@gmail.com)

Newsletter – Tiffany Chatham Smith - [tiffany@regentpublishingservices.com](mailto:tiffany@regentpublishingservices.com)

Fly Tying - Chuck Waterman - [cwaterm1@san.rr.com](mailto:cwaterm1@san.rr.com)

Annual Fund Raiser Chair – Chuck Waterman and Michelle Waterman

GSF Librarian - Peter Syka - [p\\_syka@yahoo.com](mailto: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

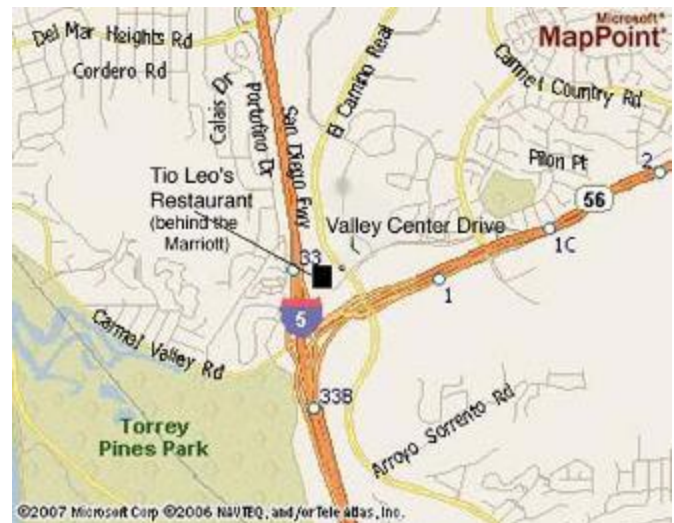
## Meeting Location and Map

### 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

**S**ubmit & 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](mailto:tiffany@regentpublishingservices.com)