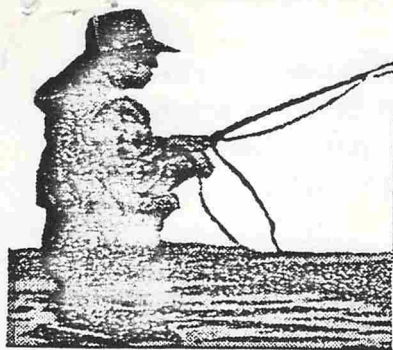


The Conejo Valley Flyfisher



May 1991

Costa Rica & Baja

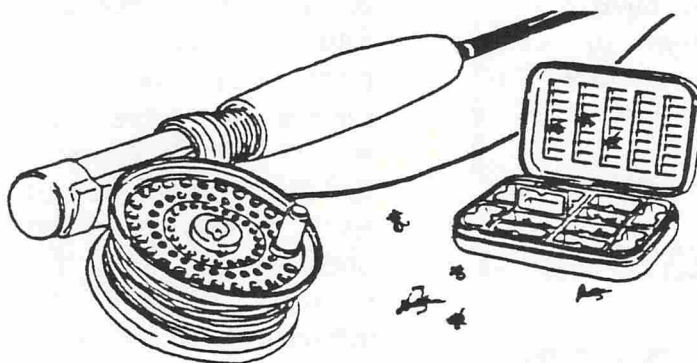
If you've ever wondered what it would be like to hook into a monster tarpon or beautiful sailfish on a fly rod, you had better not miss the May meeting. Our special guest speaker for May will be *Larry Hampy*. Larry comes to us highly qualified as a master fly tyer and past president of the infamous Pasadena Casting Club. Presently, Larry is president of the Southwest Council of the Fly Fishing Federation and an active member of the Saltwater Flyrodders Club. Larry will present highlights of his many trips to Costa Rica and Baja. Costa Rica is currently the #1 hotspot among travelin' anglers with Baja a close second.

So...BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY SEEING "JAWS" CAUGHT ON A FLY ROD!!

Larry has also agreed to Host our Fly Tying session which begins at 6:00 p.m. He promises to tie his most productive patterns from his recent jaunt to the Sierras for the season opener. Bring your vise and tools!

May's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on May 14th at the Oaks Mall community room, upper level, next to MacDonalds. Time 6:00 p.m. for fly tying. General meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. See you there.



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Membership

Jim Garrett
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The purpose of the CVFF is to cultivate and advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as a sporting and enjoyable method of angling and a way of fishing consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources, to promote conservation of recreational resources, to facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy of anglers and to cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere.

Sorry We Missed You

It's a bit like the C & R clothier commercial on T.V. and its jingle about what a difference a day makes. What a difference a day does make. The Lower Owens River trip this last April started out on Friday to be a phenomenal fishing repeat like last year. Nathan Bordofsky and I arrived at Pleasant Valley campground late Thursday night. After a few hours sleep we hit the stream. Fishing was pretty good for about three hours, a hopeful sign for the coming weekend. But then a storm front moved in over the snow capped Sierras and that was the end of the good fishing. While the group did catch fish, it wasn't like last year. But it was still an enjoyable weekend. 10 of your fellow club members showed up at the lower Owens. Not a bad turnout.

The condition of the River was good. The water was up, at least twice what has been flowing for the last several years. I prefer that the river run at that level, roughly 170cfs. It opens more area for fishing. It will be interesting to see what

transpires over the next 9 months or so as a result of the pipe blowout on the Aqueduct.

While on the subject of the blowout, there was a piece on re-watering the gorge below Crowley in the L.A. Times on May 1st. To paraphrase the article, it said that DWP officials are confident that the gorge will be re-watered in *due time*. I love those vague time tables. There has been much discussion by all sides that have vested interest in the gorge. The most interesting is from the DWP. The DWP feel they had a valid agreement to de-water the gorge with the DFG. As compensation for the lost fishery, they point to the creation of Crowley Lake and its fine fishing waters. But even state agencies are bound by the state constitution and the DFG had no right to dry up a fish environment. The DFG now knows this. The DWP also knows this, and it is going to probably take litigation to make them agree to re-water Owens River Gorge. But the DWP will, as history has borne out, make life rough for fisherman and trout lover alike. This situation bears close watching. More on this as it unfolds.

IN MEMORIAM

**LEE WULFF
FLYFISHERMAN
1905-1991**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Some concern was voiced over the lack of an upcoming events calendar recently in the newsletter. Sometimes I get caught up in the furor of producing a newsletter and neglect to include some items. Sorry.

May 25th - Opening day of Malibu Creek Fishing Season

June 11th - General Meeting

June 15th - Fin Clipping at Big Springs Fish Hatchery. Brown Trout fishing on the Lower Owens that evening. Great dry fly fishing for nice brownies. For details call Tom Robison at (805)496-9371.

July 13-15 Arcularius Ranch. Contact Wayne at Malibu Fish'n Tackle, (805)496-7332 to sign up.

September Dave Whitlock

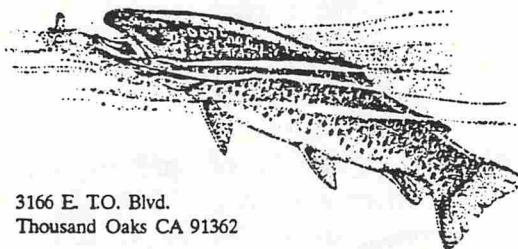
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A NEW SERVICE TO THE CVFF

I was talking with Tom Greenup the other day and he suggested a new feature that may be of interest to those of you who have kids. There are many of us who have fishing equipment that we don't use or use so seldomly that it is in danger of growing old. Instead of letting it go to waste, why not recycle it to the up and coming generation of Fly Fishers in our club. Perhaps you have a pair of waders you can't quite fit into. Or maybe a fly rod or two that you don't like anymore and they are just laying around the house gathering dust. Drop me a line at 1611 Feather Ave., Thousand Oaks, or 496-9371, or better yet, see me at one of the meetings, and we will try and match up your old faithfuls with someone new. This is a great way to help out the next generation of fly fishers. And maybe clean out the house.

TINY FLIES BIG FISH

by
Mike Weigand

As a teacher, I get a lot of time off, but it is usually when everyone else is off, and not at optimum fishing times. But times are a changing. (At least when I'll be off.) This year the L.A. School District did not have Easter week off, but two weeks later; and next school year we go to year-round, starting in the middle of August. I can feel the heat now.

So, what to do with the second week of April off, and my two high school kids in class? I convinced my wife we should try the San Juan River in Northwest New Mexico. If you haven't been there, the 850 miles is more than a day's drive in a motor home pulling a drift boat. I think we spent almost as much time driving to and from as we did fishing.

Now you may be asking: "Was it worth it?" Well, we didn't join the 20/20 club but we came darn close. On Tuesday, April 9, we floated with John Flick of *Durangler's Fly Shop*, and he had the flies the fish were interested in. A couple times it seemed he had the fish trained. If we didn't pull one out of a hole, he would tell it to take the fly, AND IT WOULD! Now that's a guide! We took a bunch of 16 to 18" rainbows, plus several 19" plus. And these were mostly on size 20-22 nymphs. Needless to say, we hooked a lot of fish which we didn't land because of the small hook size. Mine were all rainbows except one, while Patti caught a few browns which were usually smaller than the 'bows'.

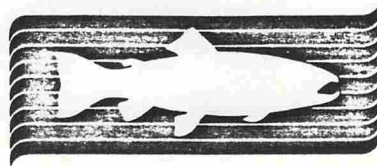
In April, spring is not in bloom in that part of country. Both the air and water were cold. It got well below freezing at night, and the heater in our motor home worked through the night to keep us warm. The river got up to 42 degrees during the day. Even so, when the wind wasn't blowing (and it didn't when we were with John Flick) there was a bit of a midge hatch in the afternoons.

The primary fly fishing area is the first three miles below the dam, not much water for the number of fisherfolk the river attracts. Even midweek, there was some congestion launching the boat. I would hate to see it on a popular weekend. Unfortunately, a lot of our waters are getting that way. Let us hope the growing numbers of fly fishers will be able to exert some pressure for more streams and rivers to be set aside for our sport.



Jeff Sweet
Norman Chung
W. J. "Bill" Robinson
Bruce Herskovitz
Alan Reos

CALIFORNIA TROUT



KEEPER OF THE STREAMS

NEWS RELEASE

AGENCIES AND ENVIRONMENTALIST REACH AGREEMENT ON RESERVOIR RENOVATION PROJECT

West Fork San Gabriel/Cogswell Reservoir Project

Los Angeles - For decades the West Fork San Gabriel River has been the scene of care and controversy. This Los Angeles area stream has provided a unique wild trout fishing opportunity, and been the scene of compassionate restoration efforts - spearheaded by the Pasadena Casting Club. It has also been the location of ill-conceived and tragic sediment sluicing projects from an upstream flood control reservoir.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), formerly called Flood Control, operate the key component in the West Fork equation. Past sediment removal methods have wrecked havoc caused by sluicing huge amounts of silt into the wild trout stream, and trout prosper or suffer due in part to DPW's operations of Cogswell Reservoir. Currently 25% of Cogswell's storage capacity is lost due to 50 year's of accumulated sediments and the dam's release valves are showing age. This lost storage capacity, and the tired valves, largely prevent dam operations more to our liking. Last December DPW circulated plans to renovate their reservoir by removing 5.6 million cubic yards of sediments and rebuilding the valves. Although these plans did not include holocaust type sluicing, CalTrout filled a protest and demanded a full re-examination of the project.

It looks likely that DPW's project will result in both temporary short-term impacts and numerous long-term benefits. A negotiated agreement has been reached where DPW will: (1) Comply with state and federal environment guidelines, (2) Fund studies to restore the West Fork to its greatest potential, (3) Open Cogswell Reservoir to creative and quality fishing opportunities (its' been closed to fishing for 50 years), (4) Improve critical instream habitat prior to beginning the project, and a host of other proposals. Our legal council, Bob Graham (Pasadena Casting Club Conservation Chairman), and a squadron of other "Barristers", advised us to sign.

We are convinced the largest benefit of this agreement is the installation of an entirely new DPW Reservoir Operations Plan. Over the past decades, DPW operations have allowed little storage of water for summer West Fork fishery releases. Only 23% of the time is there adequate water in storage to meet instream flow needs. This new reservoir procedure is projected to provide excellent instream temperature and flow conditions in the majority of the coming years. Past experience has shown that when dam releases and flow conditions attain enhance levels, the stream responds favorably. With project completion this new operation mode provides assurances these superior instream flows will happen on a regular fashion.

The choices here where difficult. Faced with erratic streamflow conditions, and reservoir realities, CalTrout believes that taking these steps now are the means to achieve long-term excellence for this special resources.

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Directions: Exit 101 at Victoria, west towards Oxnard approximately one mile to the stoplight at Olivias Park Drive, turn left. Go three blocks to the dead end, turn left. Go two blocks to Nicolle Street, turn right. Go one block to the dead end. We are in unit D at the ABCO Hardware building.