



# Tightlines

SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers



**July 2009**

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**President:** Michael Schweit  
**First V.P.:** Greg Stumpf  
**Treasurer:** Carl Laski  
**Recording Secretary:** Melinda Burns  
**Senior Advisor:** Greg Stumpf  
**Conservation:** Bill Reeves  
**Youth:** Chris Leonard  
**TIC:** Mark Landre  
**Communications:** Bennett Mintz  
**Membership:** Joe Lemire  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Rose  
**Web Master:** Melinda Burns  
**Education:**  
**FlyTying:** Naomi Okamoto & Steve Fernandez  
**Education:** Open

Actually, we never left. The SWC faced what challenged a lot of our clubs. Volunteerism or lack thereof. But we now have a very enthusiastic Board of Directors and lots of plans for the future.

Melinda Burns is our new Webmaster and recording secretary. When she volunteered to get the web site back up, we never thought it would be running in less than six weeks. She needs more material but we now have a calendar of events and conservation reports.

Our resident Hearst publisher is John Rose. His plan is to compile what is happening with the other clubs and councils so we all stay informed. If you have any bit of club news, fishing photo or report or conservation issue, please send it to John.

## SWCFFF Presidents Message



Conservation is headed up by Steve Kopp. If he does not know of it, it just is not happening. He is the backbone of the conservation arm of the SWC and if there is any issue facing your club, forward it to Steve so we can tackle it with more than just a few club members.

Carole Katz is the head of Project Healing Waters. Her efforts have been recognized nationally and having her at the helm of this endeavor is what makes it work so well. If you want to involve your clubs with one of the many VA centers, please contact Carole.

Reboot. Do over. Gimme. Mulligan. Whatever you want to call it, this is the brand new SouthWest Council newsletter. After an absence of over 2 years, we are back.

We also have Mark Landre, our Trout in the Classroom Coordinator. He will be working with the clubs to ensure a supply of trout eggs, chillers, aquariums or anything else they need to educate our youth about local stream ecology, biology that they can touch and hopefully, an added appreciation of the outdoors.

Chris Leonard is a fishing guide in Mammoth, a teacher AND our Youth Director. His boundless enthusiasm will be brought to bear on how to attract younger members to our sport.

We now have **TWO** fly tying directors. Steve Fernandez and Naomi Okamoto are well known in the fly tying world and will be bringing their expertise to the clubs to start or enhance their tying programs.

Finally, the unsung heroes behind the scenes. Joe Lemire works Membership, Bennett Mintz is Communication and Carl Laski keeps our finances in order. Without these three, there would be no money, members or messages.

I am looking forward to the next two years. I see a great future for this Council and all the member clubs. I have met many of the memberships and find nothing but enthusiasm for all things fly fishing. But to continue to grow, the SWC will need your help. Please step up to help out your club when they have a need. We all want to sit back and have the other person take care of it. For us to be the best, that person needs to be you.

See you on the water!

Michael Schweit

## Who or What is the Southwest Council?

The Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers represents all of Southern California and Nevada through local 25 community-based member clubs. The FFF is a 43 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly-fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. The Federation of Fly Fishers and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on a national and regional level.

**What Has the Southwest Council FFF done for me?**

**Nothing. Unless you take into consideration what it does to promote conservation and fly-fishing.**

- . SWC volunteers work with disabled veterans at VA hospitals helping with their rehabilitation by teaching fly-tying and fly-fishing, taking them on outings and helping pay back our veterans for their service to our country. It's a small thing, but very important to them.
- . Council members are continually teaching young and old alike fly-tying, fly-casting and fishing techniques, through its 25 member clubs.
- . Council members regularly volunteer to work with the US Forest Service, through FRVC\*. SWC members volunteered more than 6,000 hours annually contacting about 5,000 forest visitors, educating them about fishing regulations and the care of our Southern California trout streams. In the Angeles National Forest alone, SWC members

- working with the FRVC\*, removed some 10,200 pounds of trash from our streams. All of this was in one year.
- . Continually removes graffiti along numerous streams in our Southern California mountains.
- . Working with the California Fish and Game Department performing Southern California and eastern Sierra on-stream surveys allowing better management of our fisheries.
- . Maintains angler survey boxes in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.
- . SWC members are continually working to remove invasive plants from our Southern California streams.
- . SWC volunteers are continually removing small mud or gravel dams along our streams, built by forest visitors. These dams allow silt to build up behind them. This reduces the spawning areas for trout and prohibits their movement up and down stream.
- . SWC volunteers installed a new informational kiosk in Kernville. The information on this kiosk promotes a better understanding of our native fish and state fish, the Golden Trout.
- . The council placed educational signs on Hot Creek in the eastern Sierra.
- . SWC volunteers are currently working to rehabilitate the Hot Creek information kiosk.
- . SWC volunteers have gone into the Golden Trout Wilderness with the USFS and DFG. They have done restoration projects, such the rehab on Templeton Meadows. This is an area that had been over-grazed by cattle for 100 years. Willows were replanted in order to restore the

river bank for the native Golden Trout.

- . SWC volunteers have installed (75) monofilament recycle receptacles.

**The list goes on and on, there just isn't room for it all.**

**The question is: Has the council done anything for you?**

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME PART OF THIS ON-GOING PROGRAM?**

**\*FRVC is the Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps, and is part of the conservation arm of the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers**

**New SWCFFF Website Launched!**

Please look at the new SWCFFF website ([www.southwestcouncilfff.org](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org)) which was recently designed and developed by Melinda Burns of the Fly Fishers Club of Orange County. From the SWCFFF board of directors and club representatives, Melinda, we sincerely thank you for your hard work and for volunteering as the webmaster. Great job!

**SWCFFF Elects New President**

Michael Schweit, Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, was installed as the new President at the SWCFFF at the quarterly meeting, June 13. See Michael's President's Message on the home page of the SWCFFF website ([www.southwestcouncilfff.org](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org)). At the meeting, the SWCFFF board of directors and club representatives acknowledged

and thanked past president Greg Stumpf for his contributions and service to the council.

### **Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC)**

The FRVC ([www.frvc.net](http://www.frvc.net)) held their Annual Meeting in January, at which time awards were presented to acknowledge service and achievements. In 2008, the volunteers of the FRVC logged 6,064 hours, 150 stream patrols, 5,273 public contacts, removed 10,226 pounds of trash from our rivers, broke 207 illegal fire rings, removed 1,300 Tamarisk trees (a invasive plant), serviced DFG Angler Survey boxes, graffiti removal, sold Adventure Passes, and participated in recreational dam removal projects on Piru Creek and the San Gabriel River.

### **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF)**

PHWFF currently has operational programs at Long Beach Veteran's Administration (VA) by Long Beach Casting Club, at Camp Pendleton by San Diego Fly Fishers, at San Fernando Valley VA by Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, and at West LA VA by Wilderness Fly Fishers. Another program should get started soon at the Barstow VA by Hi-Desert Fly Fishers. A few of these are in the recruiting-of-patients phase, which can be difficult depending upon the level of involvement of hospital staff.

At Long Beach, where we've been operational for more than two years, we had eight disabled veterans participate in a national rod building contest. One of our vets won third place in a special category for those

with serious arm disabilities, and our vets took first and second place in the "able bodied" category. As prizes, they were able to pick national destination fishing trips. We took a group of nine to Bishop in April where everyone caught fish, and some caught a lot of fish. We've been having casting classes for the last three months. One of our paraplegics, an excellent caster, is helping us teach others.

A film maker has approached us about making a documentary about PHWFF. His focus likely will be on PHWFF in VA hospitals to present a different point of view, and filming will be in the Los Angeles area predominantly.

Richard Bean has written an article about PHWFF in California that should be in the next issue of California Fly Fisher Magazine.

Nationally, 2008 was a great year. We now have grown to 65 programs, with more in the start-up phase. This is in comparison to the 15 programs we had just 17 months ago. Past participants are now returning as volunteers in many parts of the country. Examples include our National Program Manager and the Southern Regional Coordinator, both of whom were wounded in Iraq.

Any club interested in starting a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program can contact Carole Katz, National Trustee & Southwest Regional Coordinator at (714) 731-6044 or [Katzhogan@cox.net](mailto:Katzhogan@cox.net).

## Clean-Up Project

### **SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFF HELPS FUND EAGLE SCOUT**

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. - Kyle Romero, 15, a seven year member of the Boy Scouts of America, began a monofilament clean-up project at Mojave Narrows Recreation Park as a conservation project in order to reach the rank of Eagle Scout with help from the Southwest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers.

Romero, an upcoming junior at Granite Hills High School in the high desert community, needed funds for materials to construct 15 ABS plastic recycling tubes to be placed around two lakes.

"I fish there regularly with my friends and saw the need. Mojave Narrows has 304 species of birds that visit the park, and eight species of fish. Kyle stated that he knew this project would help clean up our community and save a lot of wildlife," said the future Eagle Scout". Kyle contacted local businesses and later to the HI-Desert Flyfishers and with their help discovered the SouthWest Council, of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The council is composed of 25 independent fly-fishing clubs in Southern California and Southern Nevada.

The Southwest Council after reviewing Kyle's request responded with a donation of \$250. Other donations were also made. Wayne Campbell from High Desert Flyfishers gave a generous donation of \$100.00 and also a hardware store.

The mono recovery tubes are about 4-foot tall, made from 4-inch diameter

black ABS plastic with a 90-degree elbow glued to the top and a screw adapter plug on the bottom.

"Discarded mono spin fishing line and leader material is a death trap for birds and other wildlife as well as being an eyesore. If you are discarding line, please dispose of it properly and safely. Carry it back to your car in your vest or jacket and either dispose of it there or use one of the recovery tubes," said Romero.

### This is What Kyle Wrote the SWC

My name is Kyle Romero, 15 years old and will be a junior at Granite Hills High School in Apple Valley. I am an honor student and a black belt in Shotokan Karate. Currently, I am a Life Scout in Troop 357 and I have been scouting for 7 years. In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout I started a monofilament clean up program at Mojave Narrows Regional Park as my community service project. I fish there regularly with my friends and saw the need.

Mojave Narrows has 304 species of birds that visit the park, and 8 species of fish. I knew this project would help clean up our community and save a lot of wildlife.

I used the internet to see what steps I would need to take. I contacted Southern Tape and Label and I asked them to donate the stickers. I contacted Berkley to get the park on their monofilament recycling program, they send the park empty recycling boxes and the park sends them back when they are full. I shopped around to find the least expensive ABS materials and built a proto type. From there I spoke to High Desert Fly Fishers and with help from John Rose. I was able to make contacts with the F.F.F.SWC. The SWC

was very generous with a donation of \$250.00. Also Wayne Campbell from High Desert FlyFishers gave me a generous donation of \$100.00. With this I was able to build and install 15 monofilament recycling tubes around the 2 lakes. Which I have to say was a great success!

Mr. Myers, Mohave Narrows park Superintendent, is very pleased with the results and when I went back to the park next day I could see that the community was just as excited about the tubes and were already using them. Thank you everybody for helping me with this project!

The next email was sent to John Rose, Vice Pres. HI-Desert Flyfishers. I thought it was very nice, so I included it in this report!

Dear Mr. Rose

I really appreciate you taking the time contacting the Federation of Flyfishers. With your help I was able to receive my needed donations to help defray the cost of my Eagle Project.

I was able to get enough donations to build 15 Monofilament recycling Containers, purchase post, stickers and rent an auger to install my tubes at Mojave Narrows Regional Park. I am pleased at how well the project turned out, and I have sent pictures of it for you to see.

It is with the support of my friends in scouting, Troop 357, and the generous support of the community that I was able to do my community service project to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Thank you for supporting Boy Scouts. Sincerely, Kyle Romero  
6/16/09

Here is Kyles, fellow troop members assisting him in constructing the Mono Tubes!



