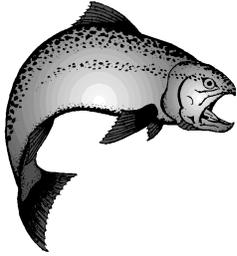


Downey Fly Fishers

"The Fishingest Club Around"

July 2009

Monthly Newsletter



Upcoming Events

July 14th

General Meeting 7pm

Mike Demo 6pm

July 16th

Board Meeting 7pm

Alan Grosdidier's

July 28th

Fly Tying At Brian's 6pm

At This Month's Meeting

Mike St. Clair is a Los Angeles born - native Californian. Growing up in and near L.A., he was rarely exposed to the rivers, mountains and forests he has come to love. His first attempt at fishing came at age 13 on the pier in Pismo Beach. A favorite uncle provided him with a pole and sparsely equipped tackle box. After watching other pier anglers jigging in some fish, Mike struck gold with a good-sized mackerel. BOTH Mike and the fish were hooked!

A lifetime later, it seems, Mike and his fishing partners began noticing their fishing habits starting to mature. They now practiced catch and release. They noticed changes in the rivers, the environment, and their own attitudes toward the way people used, and abused, the waterways he loved so much.

He and his friends took up fly-fishing regularly, visiting new spots throughout the Sierras. However, they always gravitated back to the Kern for their annual trip ~ plus several in between.

Mike's primary occupation, for the last 35 years, has been as an illustrator and design artist. Designing and decorating bamboo rods from scratch is not a major leap from his occupation. He has done work for Disney, SCE, numerous advertising agencies, and is currently the art director for a major hardware manufacturer.

Mike's affair with bamboo started when he rebuilt an old rod that belonged to his grandfather. "I can look at it now and know it was just an old production rod... not worth anything really. It was, however, a sentimental thing and I found I really enjoyed the detail involved. The end result was satisfying, which lead me to discover better methods and finer components. I've torn that rod down and rebuilt it a half dozen times and it's still in the shop... waiting for my final rebuild."

Mike found several old rods and practiced his rebuilding techniques for a number of years, finally deciding that starting from a raw piece of bamboo, and making his own rod was something he wanted to try. Several years ago, he hooked up with Bill Carter in Massachusetts. He gave Mike an old form and some splitting tools he was going to toss out. Mike jumped on the chance to take them and paid to ship them cross country.

Mike and his wife traveled to the east coast to meet Bill and took some cursory lessons in bamboo rod making, and returned with a dream to build rods from the tall grass sticks that had been used for over a hundred years. A couple of attempts later, and building a

Deadline for the Aug newsletter is July 29th

Members who have access to E-mail can send stories, announcements or classified ads to: Liz Rasmussen or Brain Matthews

working relationship with Bill to supply him with a few blanks, Mike eventually formed a partnership with Chris Hynes, a relative by marriage, and a close personal friend, hoping to help Mike build his dream, and some handsome bamboo rods. Thus was born St. Clair & Hynes Rodsmiths.

Several years, and dozens of rods later, Mike has built a reputation in the rodmaking community that is solid and respected. Sought by collectors and anglers with a longing to fish with the noble reed, St. Clair & Hynes rods are a throwback to the heyday of traditional fly-fishing. Mike is enthusiastic when he speaks about his fly rods and smiles broadly when someone picks one out and feels the difference a hand-crafted rod imparts. "People are amazed at the feel", he explains. "There's just something about bamboo that makes it cast itself. If you load it with a real silk line, it's as if it is teaching you how to cast ~ there's almost no effort to it at all."

Mike's next project is to put together enough equipment to offer bamboo rodmaking classes in the future. "I'd love to offer a three to four day class that will allow attendees to learn the basics in a hands-on workshop. The attendees would actually participate in every stage of the build and leave with a blank they could complete on their own. However, getting the space and equipment together will take some time." Mike and Chris have annually exhibited at the Fly Fishing Show and are regulars at the Rancho Cucamonga Bass Pro Shop. Mike takes custom rod orders and rebuilding requests through events, Bass Pro Shop, and his website at www.schflyrods.com. St. Clair & Hynes is one of the sponsors of Kern River Fly Fishing Forum, and is both happy and proud to be able to answer questions submitted on the bamboo section.

To contact Mike, call: (951) 255-8331 ~ visit the web site www.schflyrods.com ~ or send him an e-mail to mike@schflyrods.com.

Mike will be on hand to exhibit a work in process rod, tools of his trade and answer any questions that you may have regarding bamboo fly rods at six.

Club Officers

President.....John Barnett
V.President.....Brian Matthews
Secretary.....Brian Matthews
Treasurer.....Bob Stuart
Past President.....Carl Laski

Board of Directors

Alan Grosdidier	Jim Buchannan
Mike Jedlick	Terry Matsuura
Eric Rasmussen	Frank Russick
Liz Rasmussen	"Doc" Phil Solomon

Chairpersons

Trout in The Classroom.....Randy Teeple & Richard Dekker
Conservation & FFF Rep.....Carl Laski
Education.....John Barnett & Bob Stuart
Pot Lucks.....Brian Matthews
Membership.....Brian Matthews
Outings.....Position open
Programs..... Zino Nakasuji & Ray Sugiyama
Refreshments...Mike Jedlick
Video Library....Fred Roberts
NewsletterLiz Rasmussen
Raffles.....Brian Matthews
WebsiteJerry Phan & Tod Suttle
Publicity.....Brian Matthews & John Barnett
Fly bank.....Ron Sakoda



Mike St Clair

Mixed Bag of Fish in Blythe

Submitted by Zino Nakasugi

Jerry and I took off for Blythe on Friday at 12:30pm and got there around 4:30pm. It was pretty windy which was never a problem on Jerry's previous trips. You don't need to cast very far but the wind made spotting the smallmouth very difficult. I only caught three and Jerry caught around 10. He said the fishing was slow and he wasn't seeing as many fish. I did notice the 5 to 10 pound carp muddying up the water line. I couldn't figure out how to catch these toads. They were tailing up and must have been eating freshwater clams. I could see the shells all over the place. I wish I had the clam fly that Guy Jeans uses at Lake Isabella. Carp aren't dumb and will spook if you get in their face with a fly or fly rod above them. We saw crawfish along the edge so they must munch on them as well.

We tent camped at a trailer park that has a tent camp site off to the side. The Colorado River is adjacent to the park and we fished it with no luck that night. Jerry helped me pitch my tent that I've had for 10 plus years but have never used. I purchased it for DFF outings, but our schedules didn't pan out.

We hit the irrigation canals the next morning around 6 am. Same deal, Jerry was very apologetic about the fishing, but I just told him that it's fishing and I've got no problem with the situation. We decided to fish the Indian property and pay a day fishing pass to fish on the Colorado River. I think Jerry caught around eight to my two. Not a hot bite by any means. Again, the carp caught my attention, but these 12 pound plus carp didn't want my fly.

Jerry was feeling so distraught at the slow fishing that he figured we should check out the local bait/tackle shop (B&B Bait & Tackle, "Where all the Masterbaiters Come."). They have a bunch of large catfish skeletons hanging below the street sign. I thought Jerry knew everything about Blythe fishing, but the two fellows at the shop had the low down on bait and lure fishing. We learned the difference between an irrigation ditch and an irrigation canal. They also pointed out a ditches and canals that Jerry never fished before. We also learned that they have a lot of tilapia in the ditches.

We got to the ditch (30 plus foot steep sides with vegetation on the sides) and spotted a bunch of fish that didn't look like bass. We went down into the ditch in separate areas but we both came up with the same idea to switch to a small top water foam bug. The switch resulted in catching bluegill and several tilapia. Jerry out fished me many times over again. There was a deeper pool at the start of the ditch where Jerry spotted some largemouth bass. We carefully made our way down the steep sides to show these fish who's really the King of the Ditch. Well, guess what...Jerry caught fish left and right with the biggest largemouth to boot. We both caught so many largemouth that we both broke out flies that we never caught fish on before. Jerry put on his floating frog that looks like it belongs in a bathtub along with your proverbial rubber duck! A few casts and jerks later...bam...a suicidal bass jumps on the frog. I broke out a rabbit strip surf pattern that never caught anything before. These fish didn't do a thorough back ground check and bit that fly like it was a Sluggo! We worked that pool so hard that the fish finally got the word out.

Time to fish a canal that Jerry never fished before. Canals with some rock structure on the sides are always better than canals that are cement formed. It was getting late in the day so I let Jerry hit the canal as I stopped to eat a meatloaf sandwich that Marcia made for us. I had to gobble it down. Why? Because Jerry started catching smallmouth again. Of course, I had to ask him, "Jerry, how are you doing it?". The big trick is to spot fish and to use the tip of the rod a long with your stripping hand to make erratic fast strips that piss the bass off. A regular trout strip doesn't interest them, but this fast strip gets them going and they hit the fly like a pit bull after a mailman's leg. By using this technique, I was able to come up with a feat that Jerry wasn't able to pull off on this trip. I used a two fly set up (conehead muddler with a trailing bead head wooly bugger) and landed a nice smallie and as I pulled it out of the canal another smallie ate the bugger! Good thing the second fish was smaller!

Even though I was buried by Jerry the bass king, I had a great time and would do it again if Jerry ties one of his arms around his back!

SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers President's Message

Greetings from the SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers. My name is Michael Schweit and I just became president of this wonderful group of anglers. And we just completed our Spring Quarterly meeting with representatives from clubs all over Southern California.

This was a great meeting where we all exchanged lots of ideas on how to improve what the clubs are doing. Some of the topics were member recruitment, Trout in the Classroom and Project Healing Waters. I can assure you that the current representatives and directors are putting their heart and soul into this endeavor.

One thing is clear to me as I speak at clubs and meet the members in this region. There is an appetite for more programs (casting, fly tying, specific fishing techniques) than what is currently put out by the clubs. The SWC is here to help change that. By organizing what is best in each club and sharing it with others, we will develop a whole menu of options to keep everyone involved, from fishing to conservation.

But I need your help. YOUR CLUB needs your help. The people that attend these quarterly meetings are the movers and the shakers but as we all know, these are voluntary positions and we all have other obligations to work and family. We are not asking you to jump on the Board or set up an entire casting program. We are asking you to make yourself available to help in small ways. Send me or your club representative your e-mail address and when something comes up (we need a venue in your area to show a fly fishing movie or the best places to stay in Montana), I or one of the directors can send out an e-mail to all of you with the question. I would bet you have one hour a month to help out and that one hour relieves the pressure from your club and the SWC.

We all want our sport to grow. We also want to protect it. But it cannot always be the other person that does it. The best way to do that is to have an involved membership that is willing to step up in ways big and small. Please join the Federation (10 cents a day less major holidays is all it takes) and consider sending me your name and e-mail for future help to further fly fishing.

Michael Schweit, President, SouthWest Council FFF
818-757-3474 President@Southwestcouncilfff.org

Reminder

It's time for membership renewals! Please bring your dues to the next meeting or mail them to the address on the form. Your dues help pay for speakers, our meeting room and the classes DFF gives each year. Thanks!

Guide Dog Raffle

As many of you know Brian & Nancy are involved in raising puppies for Guide Dogs Of America. Their latest one is Ellie a female Black Lab. They are helping GDA to raise \$\$\$ to upgrade the school's Medical Department. Brian will have tickets if anyone is interested in purchasing them. They are \$10 each and give you a chance to win \$3000.00. If you can help see Brian at the July meeting.
Thanks for all your support!!!!

Fly Tying Nights

This month it will be on Tuesday July 28th at 4729 Coldbrook Ave in Lakewood from 6PM to 9 PM. This is for those members or friends that want to get together to fly tie, learn about news patterns, get tips on techniques or just visit and BS. Contact info is (562) 425-7936 or e-mail at bnmamdthegirls@earthlink.net. Hope to see you all there!

Downey Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 516
Downey, Ca 90241



Membership Application

Member's Name(s) _____

Spouse's Name (non member) _____

Participating Children (names and ages under 18) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____

Renewing Individual and Family Memberships- \$40.00

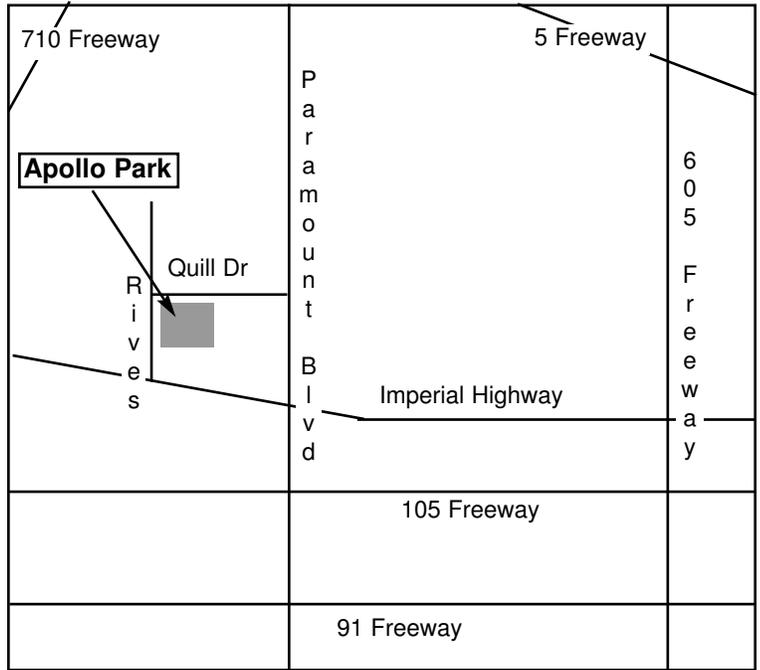
New Individual or Family Memberships add \$5.00 Initiation Fee- Total \$45.00

Club Objectives and Purpose

1. To promote, maintain and enjoy all phases of fly fishing.
2. To maintain a high standard of true sportsmanship and promote social relations among it's members.
3. We, individually, undertake to take at least one youth fly fishing annually; instructing them, to the best of our ability, in the art and responsibilities that are soon to be wholly theirs.
4. To fraternize and cooperate with organizations whose aims and purposes are for the protection and betterment of California fisheries, to preserve our waters and to promote our sport.
5. To promote instruction and information in fly casting, fly tying, rod building, and entomology. These classes will be open to the public and free of charge.

*Downey Fly Fishers Supports:
Federation of Fly Fishers, California Trout, and Trout Unlimited*

DFF Supports;



www.downeyflyfishers.org

This Month's Meeting
July 14th

Apollo Park Senior Center
12458 Rives Ave, Downey



PO Box 516
Downey Ca 90241