



Reading the Water

January 2003

MEETING

Monday

January 13

Welcome: 6:30P

Program: 7:15P

Skyline School
Auditorium

606 Lomas Santa Fe
Drive

Solana Beach
(Map—Back Page)

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January program—Kevin Peterson on the Eastern Sierra

Surveys show that about 85 percent of the fly fishers who travel to the town of Mammoth Lakes are from Southern California—this is not to surprising in light of the fact that many of us consider the Eastern Sierra our home waters. So isn't it about time we all learn some valuable information about this

area? There is no better teacher than Kevin Peterson, who will show and tell about the fly fishing opportunities in Mammoth country. He will show us maps and photos of places to fish, how to fish, special techniques to use—including gear and flies—for such places as the Lower Owens, Crowley Lake, Hot Creek, the Upper Owens, the San Joaquin River, the East Walker River, both in California and Nevada, and some special back country waters.

Kevin has been involved in the outdoors all his life. He was born in Wyoming, where his father worked for the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish, along with being a hunting and fishing guide. Understandably, Kevin learned both sports at a very early age. When he was three, the family moved to Fort

Collins, Colorado, where Kevin really developed his outdoor skills. Most of his free time was spent fly fishing on the Thompson or Poudre Rivers. When Kevin was nine, the family moved to Costa Rica. After graduating from Costa Rica Academy in 1974, Kevin moved to Houston, Texas, and spent time in Galveston

fishing for redfish and speckled sea trout. Fast forward four years...Kevin moves to Santa Barbara where he continues fly fishing.

After realizing that he was spending a lot of time driving to Mammoth to fly fish, ski and hunt, Kevin moved there permanently in

1981. And, a few years later became a part-time guide for Fred Rowe at The Sierra Bright Dot. Soon he was working full-time, and in 1986 he became a partner in The Eastside Guide Service and the newly opened Trout Fly Shop. Today, Kevin is co-owner and head guide of both The Trout Fly and The Trout Fitter Fly Shops in Mammoth Lakes. He guides and teaches fly fishing and, while he loves to fly fish around his home, he also fishes for steelhead in Oregon, bonefish in the Bahamas, tarpon in Florida and sailfish, dorado and tuna in Costa Rica.



President's message

A message from Gary and Wanda Taylor...*"Sincere Thanks for inviting us to your 1st fly club meeting. What an honor to be a part of it."*

About 30 members braved the storm, and passed on Monday Night Football and holiday shopping to see one of the best programs I have ever seen. For those of you longing for real how-to programs with fewer photos of people holding fish, Gary Graham presented it.

The March **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** is shaping up to be a very special event! As you know, the Raffle is our *big* fund raiser of the year, and it is extremely important to not only the conservation issues the club chooses to support, but operation of the club in the initial years.

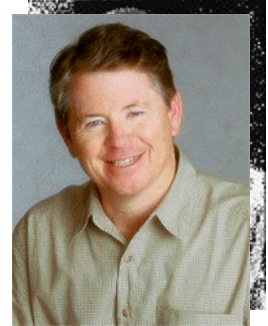
However, what's making this raffle special is the personal interest many of our contributors are taking in it. The following comes from Gary Law, manager of Rancho Leonaro and a resident of Carlsbad...*We would be pleased to contribute a stay at **Rancho Leonero** to help you*

establish a club here in north county. Mo Tidemanis, a member of GSF and one of our sister clubs, *Wilderness Fly Fishers*, also obtained a raffle prize for us from the **Futaleufu Lodge, Chile**, valued at \$7,600!

In response to the generosity of our sponsors, we are introducing the **Mega Trip Raffle** as part of the raffle this year. This is a special *limited ticket* raffle for three premier destinations—from Alaska to Chile—**worth nearly \$14,000!**

As you know, we have begun soliciting raffle and auction prizes. However, we still need your help. If there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please get them to donate to the raffle and auction. Tie flies?...consider tying a dozen or so as a prize. And everyone has books they'll never read again. Another great idea is to simply purchase a gift certificate from the San Diego Fly Shop and donate it to the Raffle.

The Raffle is a great cause and always great fun. **Look for details on page 3.**



Patrick Case, President

"...Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction in March"

Green River Trip—May 18 thru 23

This trip is filling up fast, so sign up now! The lower Green River, Flaming Gorge, Utah, is one of the most beautiful, productive tailwaters in the West (see story on p.5). The water is crystal clear, the scenery breathtaking, and the fish are plentiful!

Late May usually sees a cicada "hatch." For the un-initiated, this means big trout smacking big "bugs" on the surface!

The dates reflect traveling on a Sunday, fishing or sightseeing for four full days—Monday thru Thursday—and traveling back to San Diego on Friday. For those not into fishing four days straight, there are a number of other things to do, including visiting the Dinosaur National Monument.

For details, call Pat Case @ 858-571-3966, pcase@enartec.com.



Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction March 17

Our first **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** will be held March 17! The Raffle is *the* fund raiser of the year, *and it is a lot of fun!*

The Raffle will be a combination of raffle drawings and a silent auction for a variety of items, such as reels, rods, flies, fly tying equipment and materials, lines, vests, dinners, books, binoculars, artwork, videos, etc. We expect to have about 50+ raffle items. The silent auction will be for items of a specialized



nature—items not everyone may want or can take advantage of.

Plus, this year we are introducing the **Mega Trip Raffle**. This is a special limited ticket raffle for *three* premier fishing destinations, **worth a total of nearly \$14,000!**

What is a limited ticket raffle?...We're selling only 150 **Mega Trip Raffle** tickets, on a first come basis...when they're sold, that's it. Tickets for the **Mega Trip Raffle** are \$25 each, or 5 for \$100. When you purchase tickets, you will indicate on the ticket the order of your trip preference if your lucky ticket is drawn. Details will soon also be posted at www.goldenstateflycasters.org.

Mega Trip Raffle prizes include...

! Two-for-one, 7-day stay at Alaska Expedition Co.'s Driftwood Lodge (see inset photo) on the Tsiu River, Alaska, September 6-13, 2003. Two people go for the price of one. Valued at \$3,495!

! Two-for-one, 5-day float trip with Alaska Rainbow Adventures on the Alagnak River, Alaska, June 23 to 27, 2003. This is a deluxe float trip of a lifetime. Two people go for the price of one. Valued at \$2,395.

! Four-for-two, 7-day stay at the Futaleufu Lodge, Chile, in the January thru mid-April, 2003-2004 season. Four people go for the price of two. Valued at \$7,600.

The Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction is open to *everyone*—GSF members, members of SDFP and other organizations, family, friends, and business colleagues, as well as the general public! *There is no limit on the number of prizes you may win in either of the raffles or silent auction.*

You can bring raffle prizes to the meetings, or contact Helen Condict at 858-571-3966, or eguest@enartec.com, for other arrangements.

"...this year we are introducing the Mega Trip Raffle. This is a special limited ticket raffle for three premier fishing destinations, worth a total of nearly \$14,000!"

Southern California native trout

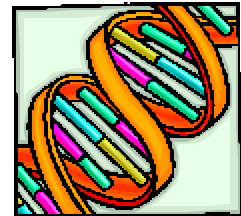
We now know that there are distinct characteristics and unique genes associated with native Southern California rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). It was a long arduous road to discover the information we now accept as fact. Scientists had already designated an evolutionary significant unit (ESU) for Southern California rainbow trout that included all the streams that enter the Pacific Ocean from Point Conception near Santa Barbara to the border with Mexico. The designation of the Southern California ESU (ESU 11) probably had to do with ocean currents that would tend to segregate the ocean environment than identifying unique characteristics of the rainbow trout of the region.

When Dr. Robert Benhke was performing his research on the trout of North America, he studied samples of rainbow trout from the Rio Santo Domingo (*O. m. nelsoni*) and other neighboring streams in Baja California. Dr. Benhke saw unique characteristics in those fish, originally identified by the naturalist E.W. Nelson. In a brief statement in his book, *Trout*, Dr. Benhke mentioned that

trout in Pauma Creek have similar characteristics to the Rio Santo Domingo rainbow trout. The general thinking was leaning toward the belief that Southern California rainbow trout were *O. m. nelsoni*. Concerned citizens were pressuring the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to identify the native trout in ESU 11 and give them the protection they deserve. Dr. Jennifer Nielson performed genetic analyses on Rio Santo Domingo rainbow trout, rainbow trout sampled from streams in ESU 11 and rainbow trout from a variety of other sources. As a result of these studies it was discovered that the rainbow trout from ESU 11 have unique genetic markers that are not present in Rio Santo Domingo rainbow trout or rainbow trout from other areas. This is a significant discovery because it identifies a central issue for Southern California native rainbow trout and steelhead. When the few remaining fish are gone, they cannot be replaced, they are gone forever.

Steve Netti is President for So. California, Trout Unlimited California Council, and Conservation Chairperson for GSF.

“When the few remaining fish are gone, they cannot be replaced, they are gone forever.”



Tom Loe's guide tip of the month—winter fishing

Be prepared for inclement weather by dressing in layers. Hooded jackets and thermals are a must, as well as finger tip gloves and wool knee socks. If you have breathable waders, overdress in several layers or you will become a fishsickle. I prefer 3.5mm neoprenes this time of year for extended immersion in water.

Relax. Sleep in. Trout are lethargic in the early daylight periods. Wait for the gravel beds to warm up before attempting to fool winter trout. Fishing can be great this time of year, but understand that “feeding windows” are open for a much shorter duration than in other warmer and elongated daylight periods.

For Tom's latest fish report go to <http://www.sieradrifters.com/fish.html>

Hooked on the Green River

Like a moving aquarium...fish can be seen everywhere, as you float atop this crystal clear, emerald green river, past the red-cliff canyon walls rising several hundred feet towards that blue Utah sky. You will be mesmerized by this magnificent, world class, trout fishery. You may very well find yourself or lose yourself at the Green, when it draws you into its magical splendor near Dutch John, Utah—the tailwater of Flaming Gorge Reservoir.



The headwaters of the Green actually begin in my home state of Wyoming. From the base of the towering Wind River Mountain Range, spring runoff creates this world-renowned trout fishery that meanders south through carved canyon walls into Utah, before joining the confluence of the mighty Colorado River.

I was first introduced to the Green last Spring, when I had the pleasure of fishing with a fantastic guide from Trout Creek Flies. My beginner's learning curve was soon straightened out as my guide showed me a few tricks of the trade in straightening out lines and leaders, drying and tying on a variety of local flies, smoothing out my awkward casting techniques with just a few simple demonstrations, and getting me onto those finicky Green River fish. My guide just seemed to think like a fish,

and was a natural at reading the water with his sixth sense of fish sense. He even created his own version of the local caddis that tricked more fish than the fly shop version ever could. He was generous enough to share one of his caddis patterns upon my departure, but only if I promised to keep it as my own personal, secret weapon of choice for the Green.

The Green River has over 8,000 per mile on the "A" section (first 7.5 miles from the dam), but there are still fishing challenges for every level of angler seeking feisty browns, cutthroats and rainbows. Although the "B" section (the next 8 downstream miles) has half as many fish per mile, less fishing pressure makes it equally outstanding and serene. The only drawback of the "B" is the long, 30 mile ride home, but you'll



see unique geological formations, complete with oil, gas and dinosaur fields. Check out nearby Dinosaur National Monument where the largest quarry of Jurassic Period dinosaur bones ever discovered is preserved.

Whether a novice or an old timer, this fishery is world class, and you'll be hooked on the Green, returning time and time again.

Helen Condict



In appreciation...Blaise Nauyokas

The following is the first of occasional articles profiling those that have contributed significantly to GSF.

GSF expresses hearty thanks to Blaise Nauyokas and his company, *Brainshine*, for his donation of the design of the club's logo and letterhead, as well as consulting on the our website. Blaise was asked to create a logo that was contemporary, yet had an established feel, and did not play patronize either gender. We think he did a terrific job!



Although, at present, Blaise, wife Karen and dog Lucy are not avid fly fishers by any means, Blaise recalls his early fly fishing days. "I have actually tried my hand at fly fishing up in Idaho. I was with a family of experts that had more gear than most sporting goods stores... they taught me the 10 o'clock/2 o'clock motion and set me

loose. I soon found that I was extremely good at losing flies. So after a couple hours, and about \$100,000 of flies lost, I chose to retire. Perhaps someday Pat will convince me that his patented teaching methodology would be reason enough to come out of retirement."

Blaise, Karen, and Lucy like to camp, hike, bicycle, and play tennis, when Blaise is not playing guitar and singing in his rock and roll band, *Mad Props*. Although we haven't heard them yet, we hear local critics are raving.

Here's to getting Blaise and Karen back into the sport of fly fishing with GSF! Thanks again Blaise Nauyokas for contributing the design of our logo and letterhead.

Helen Condict



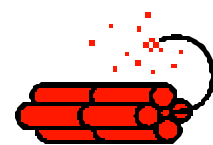
On the lighter side...

No one in this town could catch any fish except this one man. The game warden asked him how he did it. The man told the game warden that he would take him fishing the next day. Once they got to the middle of the lake the man took out a stick of dynamite, lit it, and threw it in the water. After the explosion fish started floating to the top of the water. The man took out a net and started picking up the fish. The game warden told

him that this was illegal. The man took out another stick of dynamite and lit it. He then handed it to the game warden and said " Shut up and fish!".

Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish.

Mark Twain



Submissions to newsletter

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome. We are looking for articles that provide information—preferably not found elsewhere—or entertain. Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for the Green River?...Have a hot newsflash about a fishery?...Send it in for publishing!

Most importantly, we want the newsletter to address the topics you are interested in. So please contact us to let us

know your feelings. What do you want to see in the newsletter?

Please limit your article to about 320 words, submit it in Microsoft Word, and include a photo or relevant image. E-mail your submissions to pcase@enartec.com, or hrconduct@msn.com. The newsletter will be 4 to 8 pages long, depending on the amount of copy we have any particular month.



Advertise in *Reading The Water*

Deliver your message by advertising in *ReadingTheWater*. As the voice of this new, vibrant flyfishing club, *Reading-TheWater* can provide you a direct hit to the affluent North San Diego County market.

Copy must be “camera ready,” and readily inserted into Microsoft Publisher. The annual rates are as follows...

- Full page.....\$300
- Half page.....\$200
- Quarter page vertical.....\$150

Please call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224 to discuss your needs. GSF reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.

Advertise in *Reading The Water!*

Call for speaker hosts

We still have openings for hosts for our speakers in 2003. For those of you with a guest bedroom, this is a rare opportunity to spend personal time with the best in our sport...teachers, guides and outfitters, writers, photographers, and other professionals. Think about it...fireside chats with Mel Kreiger, hearing about the exploits of Charles Jardine, getting personal tips from Ed Engle.

Besides a bedroom, all you need to do is get the speaker from the airport to the meeting, put ‘em up for the night, be a gracious host, and get ‘em back to the airport or train station the next day.

Here’s what to do...go to the website—www.goldenstateflycasters—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224.



