



Reading the Water

June 2003

MEETING

Monday

June 16

Welcome: 6:30 P

Program: 7:15 P

Skyline School
Auditorium

606 Lomas Santa Fe
Drive

Solana Beach
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June 16 program—Charles Jardine on the origins of fly fishing

We have another special treat this month. The humorous and personable **Charles Jardine**, a world acclaimed artist, author, conservationist, lecturer, fishing guide and fly casting instructor, will present his program on how our sport was born, where it was born and when.

Hailing from the other side of the big pond, Charles was born in England, and currently lives in Wales with his wife and two children; although his travels take him to fishing spots around the globe. He is currently the National Angling Director for Countryside Alliance, a venerated and active British conservation group, and was recently elected Chairman of All Game Angling, Coaching and Guiding in the U.K.

Charles will present a lighthearted and intensely personal approach to the origins of fly fishing and its subsequent spread beyond English shores. Our journey will begin on the “Grand Dames” of the south and the hallowed chalk streams, then venture further afield and examine the cornerstones of the sport that have cov-

ered the globe.

No one is better qualified to present this program than Charles. He was born into a family of fly fishers and artists. Charles started fishing when he was three, and by the age of six was stalking trout with a fly rod. He attended Art College at Thanet, Canterbury and Medway

and later obtained the Advance Professional Game Angling Instructors Qualification while guiding on the famous Test and Itchen chalk-streams.

Off the stream, Charles' adventures have included demonstrating the skills of fly casting *inside* London's Man-

sion House at a fund raising event for the Lord Mayor of London, and demonstrating float tubing in the lobby of that city's famous Savoy Hotel.

In 1993 and 1995, Charles was a member of the winning English team in the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships held in British Columbia and Scotland. He has been Manager of the English La



(See **Jardine**, 3)

President's message

I have been looking forward to this month's meeting ever since meeting Charles Jardine at the Bob Marriott show last November. I didn't know the half of his accomplishments at the time, but I knew his humor and wit were going to make for a great evening. This is an opportunity to meet one of the most accomplished and respected fishermen and artists in the world, as well as learn how our sport was born and spread across the land.

This issue also reports on the our first club trip to the Green River. In spite of the flow being suddenly increased by six times in the 24 hours proceeding our arrival, the fishing was terrific. See p. 4 for the story and photos.

On the same trip, Helen and I also had the chance to visit the fishing and hunting luxury dude ranch, Three Forks Ranch, in conjunction with interviewing the owner, David Pratt, for a magazine article. Beside being an incredible destination resort, Three Forks is a case study in fishery restoration. The owner spent \$5 million restoring the three forks of the Little Snake River on the property. See the story on p. 5.

As you know, we cannot meet at the school for the July meeting. In consideration that this is the last meeting before our summer recess, we are considering having a cheap dinner meeting at Tony's Jacal restaurant in Solana Beach. What you will get is a good Mexican dinner for about \$12, the opportunity to have a cerveza, and a memorable evening with our renown speaker and John Gierach chum, **Ed Engle**. If you have another venue to offer, please contact me at red20hook@aol.com. We will give special notice of the meeting location. *Remember, we are taking the month of August off for fishing.*

The September program will be a special program of members presenting their experiences of the season. These are always fun programs. For starters, the Moons are taking two week-long, back-to-back trips in Alaska, which they will be reporting on; and Heinz Heonecke will be reporting on Gary Graham's Baja Safari. Others are encouraged to put together a 10 to 15 minute slide show or PowerPoint presentation of their trips for the September program. Give me a call at 619-787-2280 if you are interested.



Patrick Case, President

"Remember, we are taking the month of August off for fishing. "

Excerpts from "The Fisherman's Guide to Life"

"Fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of a brook or with the shimmer of the sun on blue water."

Herbert Hoover

"The trout do not rise in the cemetery, so you better do your fishing while you are still able."

Sparse Grey Hackle

(Jardine)

dies' Fly Fishing Team and is on the Council of the Handicapped Anglers' Trust. In the 80's, Charles spent three years in Kent teaching art and sport to handicapped youngsters. In his spare time, he often appears as a chef in such places as the famous London store Selfridges and on television.

Charles' paintings and watercolors adorn public art galleries and private collections around the world. His illustrations accompany most of his articles and books. He is in his eighth year of writing and illustrating for the magazines Trout Fisherman and Trout and Salmon, and he is the author of several books, including Dark Pools, Small Water Trout Fishing and Sotheby's Classic Guide to Fly Fishing for Trout. This Classic Guide is now in its fifth edition, having been translated into five languages and believed to be among the largest selling fly fishing books of all time.

Charles has written two editions of The Pocket Guide to Fly Fishing for Trout, one edition focusing on the U.K. and one on the U.S. He did the watercolor illustrations for The Illustrated Angler

(with text by the late Trevor Housby) and Trout Fly Fishing – An Expert Approach, with John Dawson and Martin Cairncross. Charles has illustrated more than 20 other books on fishing and wildlife for diverse authors ranging from the late Poet Laureate Ted Hughes to John Goddard, Tom Fort, Conrad Voss Bark and Dermot Wilson.

Charles has been the angling feature writer for the Kent Messenger group of newspapers and the illustrator for the German magazine, Fliegen Fiescher, and he writes and illustrates for American magazines such as American Angler, as well as Italian and Scandinavian fishing magazines.

Charles holds the Federation of Fly Fishers Masters Certificate in fly casting instruction and he writes a casting column for the Federation's Newswire. Charles holds the coveted Society of Wildlife Artists' Honour, the Salmon and Trout Associations' Qualification in Casting and Fly Tying, and is on the American Casting Board of Governors, the European Casting Board of Governors and a Vice-President of the Fly Dressers' Guild.

“Off the stream, Charles' adventures have included demonstrating... float tubing in the lobby of [London's] famous Savoy Hotel.”

One the lighter side...

One day while driving home from his fishing trip in the pouring rain, a man got a flat tire outside of a monastery. A monk came out and invited the man inside to have dinner and to spend the night. The stranded motorist gladly accepted the monk's offer.

That evening the man had a wonderful dinner of fish and chips. He decided to compliment the chef. Entering the kitchen, the man asked the cook, "Are you the fish friar?" "No," the chef replied, "I'm the chip monk."

(Hey, we don't write 'em!)



Club trip to the Green River

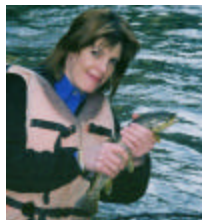
With fresh reports from the San Diego Fly Fishers group that went to the Green the week before, saying the cicada “hatch” had turned on, six of us arrived at the river May 19 with great



anticipation. The group consisted of Heinz Heonecke, Rich Carlson, Bob Rosenthal, Byron Shovlain, Helen Condict, and Pat Case. Heinz Jr. and his wife, Barbara, also joined us for a day.

We soon learned from Dennis Breer, owner of Trout Creek Flies, that in the 36 hours prior to our arrival the flow of water had been raised from 800 cfs to 4,800 cfs. This meant the fishing was going to be iffy, at best.

To our surprise, the fishing was fairly good the first two days (meaning *terrific* on any other river), but we had to work harder, trying various dry and nymph patterns. Normally, you could fish with cicada or similar patterns from dawn to dusk, and the only variable would be the color and size of the fly.



To further make it interesting, the quality of the fishing seemed to vary with

where you were on the river. For example, on the third day of fishing, the lower part of A and the upper part of B fished best, which seems contrary to the expectation of the river closest to the dam settling down first. Such is life on the river.

The third and fourth days provided some of the best trout fishing most of use have ever seen. Obviously the fishing gods



were with us, as this river normally does not fish as well so soon after a radical increase in water flow.

The group stayed at Flaming Gorge Lodge. However, after an inspection of Red Canyon Lodge, there was a unanimous vote to stay there in the future. Red Canyon has beautiful cabins right on the edge of a lake—as opposed to a parking lot—and a vary decent restaurant—and the price is right. It is a further drive from the dam, but well worth the fishier atmosphere.

Patrick Case

Heinz, Barbara and Heinz Jr. (upper left) get ready to launch at the dam. Pat, Helen, Rich, Doug Roberts and Pat Nichols (right) at the lunch stop. Helen (lower left) admires catch. Pat (below) and Doug admire nice Green rainbow.



Three Forks Ranch—a model of fishery restoration

Helen and I were recently invited to Three Forks Ranch to interview the owner for a magazine article. Three Forks is a luxury fishing and hunting dude ranch that, at a little over \$1,000 per person per day, admittedly does not cater to everyone.



The daily ante aside, the ambition stream restoration work achieved here is noteworthy in itself.

Three Forks Ranch is located on the Little Snake River, on the Colorado/ Wyoming border. The 40,000-acre ranch has been owned by David Pratt since 1999. As an avid fly fisherman, he recognized problems with the condition of the river. Immediately after purchasing the property, he began to develop and implement a river restoration plan. The result was the *largest privately funded river restoration project in the history of the Army Corps of Engineers district*, and the only Section 404 permit application in recent memory supported by the Sierra Club.

The ranch has been an agricultural enterprise since the 1870's. The river bottom was overused and abused for many years. Overgrazing and haying resulted in the destruction of the willow community along the river banks. Bank degradation soon followed. Over time, the river channel became wide and shallow.

Water temperatures increased and dissolved oxygen levels declined. These two factors, along with increased sedimentation, destroyed the trout fishery.

The restoration plan required deepening and narrowing the river channel, which led to cooler water temperatures and increased dissolved oxygen levels. Approximately 22,000 large boulders were placed along about four miles of river to create structure for the fish, and holes were reconstructed. When the massive reconstruction was completed, mature willows and sod were transplanted on the outside of every meander bend to



further stabilize the banks and to create shade to reduce water temperature. The total tab of the restoration was about \$5 million.

As a result, the three forks of the Little Snake River on the ranch are now productive fisheries. The ranch will be hosting the OLN Fly Fishing Tournament this August.

Before making your reservations to stay at Three Forks, consider waiting until the new \$10 million lodge is completed in 2005. The fare may be a bit higher by then, but what the hell.

Patrick Case

“The result was the largest privately funded river restoration project in the history of the Army Corps of Engineers district, and the only Section 404 permit application in recent memory supported by the Sierra Club.”

Tom Loe fishing tips—Selecting the killer fly pattern

Selecting the right pattern can be a frustrating event. We have all been in the situation where the trout are actively feeding and you do not, or can not see what is the bug-o-choice. I have found in most situations that it is presentation and size that will get results, other than an exacting imitation of the bug.

Here are some tips that can help you decide what fly to choose and when. HOW a fish is feeding can tell you a lot about WHAT a fish is feeding on.

You are on a slow moving body of water and there are heads quietly poking through the surface film sipping insects.

Most likely may flies. Duns or spinners will fall to the water and have no escape mechanism. Fish know this and will act accordingly. Spinner

falls will trigger feeding hysteria with intervals between rise forms sometimes only seconds apart. Duns spiraling in an eddy will also have the same rise form, only the takes will be slower and longer between rises.

The sun is just peaking over the top of the ridge and trout are beginning to make loud splashy takes sometimes leaving the water. Most likely a caddis fly emergence, or Troutzilla looking for breakfast. Many caddis swim to the surface during emergence. The trout will hit them quickly before they clear the surface film, hence the aggressive behavior.

The surface of the high desert lake is glassy. There are periodic splashy rises, but you do not see any winged insects except for a cloud of black midges above. Try a chironomid pupa. As the

insect rises in the water column they may be shedding their shuck before emergence. The trout glide along the bottom in the flats of the lake, eyes looking upward. They key on the movement the insect makes while removing itself from the shuck. The fish skyrockets upwards turning at the last moment after snatching up the helpless pupa. Small bugs, hard takes.

It is cloudy, dark and windy. You may be on any body of water. Nothing going on that you can see. Try a streamer pattern. A baitfish imitation. What color and size you ask? A good rule of thumb...Dark day, dark color. Bright day, bright color. Higher background

contrast. Larger patterns will produce on these days. Big trout and wild fish are photo-sensitive to sunlight. It is well documented

that big browns feed nocturnally. Dark days are great for big dark baitfish patterns. Bright sunny day, you may want to try something with crystal flash in the pattern. Drop a hook size or so for this situation. Silver or gold tinsel bodied flies work well on sunny bright days.

We can get very technical about this also. Examining the undersides of streambed rocks for nymphs, seeing what is holding in the vegetation along the banks, using a specimen net to skim the water for exacting information. Pumping the trout's stomach is the fun...You got to catch one first is the problem!

Hope this will help you out a little when you have a problem deciding what pattern to use.



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

"The sun is just peaking over the top of the ridge and trout are beginning to make loud splashy takes sometimes leaving the water. Most likely a caddis fly emergence, or Troutzilla looking for breakfast."

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- Full page.....\$300
- Half page.....\$200

Please call Patrick Case at 619-787-2280 to discuss your needs. GSF reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.



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 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.org—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 619-787-2280.



