



Reading the Water

March 2003

MEETING

Monday

March 17

Welcome: 6:30P

Program: 7:30P

Skyline School
Auditorium

606 Lomas Santa Fe
Drive

Solana Beach
(Map—Back Page)

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1st Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction

It's here at last...our 1st Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction! Who will go home the winners?

Let's cut to the chase and talk about the prizes. First, there is the **Mega Trip Raffle** (tickets are \$25 ea, or 5 for \$100) for *three* premier fishing destinations, **worth a total of nearly \$14,000!...**

Two-for-one, 7-day stay at **Driftwood Lodge** on the **Tsiu River, Alaska** (photo below), \$3,495 value!



Two-for-one, 5-day float trip with **Alaska Rainbow Adventures** on the **Alagnak River, Alaska**, \$2,395 value.

Four-for-two, 7-day stay at the **Futaleufu Lodge, Chile**, \$7,600 value. (see story on p. 3)

The **Raffle** (5 tickets for \$25) will include...

- Winston Ibis 6 wt rod
- TFO 6pc, 6 wt, 9 ft rod
- TFO 4pc, 8 wt, 9 ft rod
- TFO 4pc, 10 wt, 9 ft rod

- Tibor reel
- Regal tying vise
- Stripping basket
- Day on **Tom Loe's** private lake!
- Half-day blue water trip
- "Boga"-like grip.
- Fly tackle luggage
- Lunch at **Jakes Del Mar**
- Theater tickets
- Videos and books galore!
- Gift certificates galore!
- And much more...

Then there is the **Silent Auction...**

- Farewell Lodge, 2-for-1 trip (photo below)



- Baja Safari Trip, 2-for-1 trip
- Condo in Mammoth for 5-days
- Three days at **Rancho Leanaro**, Baja
- 4-for-3 trip to **Northern Rockies Lodge**, BC
- 4-for-3 trip (or 33% discount for one) to **Ten Rivers & Ten Lakes Lodge**, Patagonia

Plus, you will have plenty of fun!

President's message

Hey, the time for the big event of the year is here...the Annual Raffle! Thanks to the generosity of a number of our members, our **1st Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** promises to be a terrific evening! The Raffle is our *big* fund raiser of the year. It is important not only to the conservation issues the club supports, *but operation of the club in its initial years* (see discussion of budget, p. 5).

GSF is fortunate to have a number of members who have selflessly stepped forward with generous donations just to make sure the club is a success. Again, I want to recognize **Gary Law**, manager of **Rancho Leonero**, **Mo Tidemanis**, who obtained the prize for us at the **Fu-taleufu Lodge**, **Paul Weaver**, owner of **Farewell Harbor**, and **Tom Nielsen**, who donated a 5-night stay at his *condo in Mammoth*.

As a result of the generosity of these members and others, we are able to offer **over \$20,000 in prizes!!!** The **Mega Trip Raffle** alone—a special *limited ticket* raffle for three premier destinations, from Alaska to Chile—is worth nearly \$14,000!

However, *there is still time to donate to the Raffle*. If there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please get them to donate to our raffle and auction. *Another great idea is to simply purchase a gift certifi-*

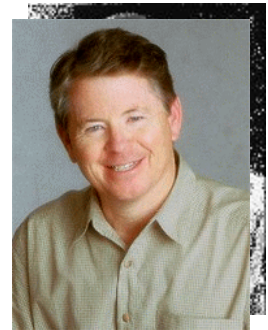
cate from the San Diego Fly Shop. The Raffle is a great cause and always great fun.

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 the evening of the raffle, or contact Helen Condict at 858-523-0224, or hrcondict@msn.com, for other arrangements.

Mel Kreiger, **April 7!**...Mark this special meeting date on your calendars now—

Monday, April 7. We are bringing Mel Kreiger to Solana Beach. If there were such people as “rock stars” in our sport, Mel would be one of them! Mel has not only devoted a lifetime to fly fishing as a profession—including production of videos, author of books and articles, teaching, etc—but he is one of *the* most entertaining men in the sport. *This is a must see program!*



Patrick Case, President

“As a result of the generosity of these members and others, we are able to offer over \$20,000 in prizes!!!”

Futaleufu Lodge—found perfection!

The following is an excerpt from a report by Mo Tidemanis, a member of GSF and the Wilderness Flyfishers, on his recent trip to the Futaleufu Lodge, Chile, one of our Mega Trip Raffle prizes.

In addition to being an internationally acclaimed author and photo-journalist, Jim Repine is the owner and operator of the Futaleufu Lodge in Chile. When Jim was generous enough to donate a \$4 for 2" trip to the Wilderness Flyfishers Auction last year, I was fortunate enough to be the high bidder. While I don't trust the word "perfection," Futaleufu Lodge comes as close as it gets.



The Futaleufu Lodge accepts only four guests at a time, and some 90% of their guests are couples. My wife Jann and I, along with Van and Sherry Stephens, traveled to the Futaleufu Lodge in early March. The Lodge is located in an unbelievably scenic valley, right on the Futaleufu River, just west of the Argentine border, near Esquel. Jim and his wonderful Chilean wife, Sonia, run the Lodge. They are both such interesting and warm people that just staying with them and their family in their little piece of heaven is worth the trip. I have been fortunate to be able to fly fish many places throughout the western states and the world, and I can honestly say without hesitation that this is the most beautiful place that I have ever fished.

After a nonstop flight from LAX to Santiago on Lan Chile, we spent a night at the Hotel Carrera, an authentic Auld Chilean experience. The next morning we took a short flight south to Puerto Montt, followed by a short charter flight to the village of Futaleufu. There we were met by Jim and two beaming outbound couples.

After a short but bumpy drive, we arrived at the banks of the Futaleufu River. The aquamarine color and clarity of the Futaleufu River simply have to be seen to be believed. We were then rowed across the river to the Lodge. We soon learned that Jim's Lodge is the only property in the valley with running water or electricity (via generator). The local mode of transportation was by horseback and oxcart. It was truly like stepping back in time by 75 to 100 years.



We also learned very quickly the value of Jim's extensive previous experience guiding and working with lodges in Alaska. As Jim explained to me, "The fishing is going to be the fishing, and the weather is going to be the weather. Where a lodge owner can really make a difference is in service." This commitment to service was evident, with a staff of 12 to accommodate four guests. We were greeted by Marcello with a *piso sour* (local cocktail favorite)—this ritual was repeated daily, with Marcello asking us for our drink orders within minutes of



Jim Repine, Owner

"I have been fortunate to be able to fly fish many places throughout the western states and the world, and I can honestly say without hesitation that this is the most beautiful place that I have ever fished."

Futaleufu Lodge—found perfection!...(cont.)

our returning to the Lodge each day after fishing. I have experienced A service@ before, but I have never *not* been allowed to carry my backpack to the boat or take off my own wading boots after a long day! And the food, which often involved vegetables picked from the garden or lamb or beef slaughtered fresh the same morning, was absolutely five star.

And then there was the fishing. The Futaleufu River right in front of the Lodge held mostly rainbows, some browns, a few king salmon, and an indigenous fish, the perca. The hatch each evening was spectacular, with fish rising everywhere. We quickly learned that the fly-fishing in this area of Chile is actually *better* on bright sunny days than on the overcast days that we hope for back



home, and that the fish actually preferred a dry fly skated on a quartering downstream swing to a dead drift.

The Futaleufu River made us work for our fish, but the rewards were great—beautiful strong wild rainbows. On the second day, an eager rainbow quickly pounced on a hopper I presented into a pool behind a downed tree. After four runs under the tree with my rod tip in the water to prevent a break off, and a half dozen

jumps, my first 20" plus rainbow of the trip came to the net. On subsequent days we floated the river near the Argentine border, rode horses to the Futaleufu River lagoon, and sampled fast action small stream fishing. All were places that must be seen to comprehend their beauty, with plenty of willing fish.

We brought a raft to the lagoon. Guide Bill Bernhardt positioning us for casts to large cruising rainbows. I lost count, but Bill estimated that I landed 18-20 cruising rainbows on a #18 black gnat, at least 10 of which were over 20"...not a bad day anywhere in the world. At the end of the week, Jim presented me with a handcrafted A Merit Award,@ commemorating my entry into the A International 20 - 20 Club (landing over 20 fish over 20" for the week).



On the last evening, the Lodge invited all of the neighbors from the valley to a traditional Chilean A Asado@(barbeque). Two lambs were roasted over a fire and served with excellent Chilean wine. Soon we were all dancing the Cueka, the traditional Chilean dance, into the night. As we returned to our rooms we saw more stars in the night sky than my wife or I had ever seen before. As we came to the end of our stay in A Shangri-La@, we immediately began dreaming of a return trip.

Mo Tidemanis

“Jim presented me with a handcrafted A Merit Award@, commemorating my entry into the A International 20 - 20 Club (landing over 20 fish over 20" for the week).”

The budget...

As GSF is a new, growing club, and we haven't gone through a full year yet, the budget has been somewhat of a moving target. As a past President and raffle chairman of San Diego Fly Fishers, I have a fairly good idea of what it costs a club to operate; however, there are, nevertheless, many unknowns, such as...how big and how fast will we grow?...what are the long-term administrative costs going to be?...what will be the travel expenses for the speakers?...and, how successful will the Annual Raffle be?

In forming the club, our primary goals were to provide top quality speakers (eg, Mel Kreiger) and educational opportunities for the members, while keeping the labor requirements and costs down. We have accomplished this in a number of ways—see FAQ page of the website—nevertheless, it does cost significant money to operate a club such as this.

Here is the current budget for 2003, based on a membership of 75...

Where the money comes from...

Membership fees	\$2,100
Annual raffle	3,000
Monthly raffle	1,250

Meeting admissions	400
Classes	1,025
Newsletter ads	200
Newsletter fees	<u>75</u>
Total	\$8,050

Where the money goes...

Administration	\$1,400
Annual raffle	800
Monthly raffle	825
Speakers, travel	4,200
Classes	750
Newsletter publishing	<u>75</u>
Total	\$8,050

A couple of things are evident, membership fees represent only about 35% of the costs; and, certainly with our fledgling membership, we rely heavily on the success of the raffle.

There is certainly more than one way to finance the operation of the club. The model indicated above—membership fees supplemented by fundraising—is typical of this type of organization. An alternative would be to simply cover the annual costs entirely with membership fees (eg, \$100 ea). As always, we welcome your input—redhook20@aol.com.

Patrick Case



Mel Kreiger

“A couple of things are evident, membership fees represent only about 30% of the costs, and we rely heavily on the success of the raffle.”

Green River Trip—May 18 thru 23

The club is “sponsoring” a trip to the Green **May 18 thru 23** (see story in the January issue).

Not including guides, the **total estimated cost is about \$650**. We are go-

ing to limit the party to 12 people.

To sign up or ask questions, call Pat Case @ 619-787-2280, or e-mail him at redhook20@aol.com. You can also sign up at the meetings.



Helen on the Green

Where the rubber meets the road

This is one of occasional articles on conservation issues by Steve Netti, Conservation Chairperson for GSF, and President for So. California, Trout Unlimited California Council

In previous essays we talked about steelhead and native trout in our area. We should probably take some time to talk about conservation efforts and where the “rubber meets the road.”

When we think of conservation, we generally think about rolling up our sleeves and picking up trash, planting willows along a stream bank or doing something physical to fix a problem. Some of us think about writing grants to buy lands for conservancies and to fund large-scale restoration projects. All of these actions are important to conservation and restoration efforts. While these projects help to restore streams, fish populations and other environmental resources, the biggest conservation victories occur far outside the riparian zone.

As this is being written, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton is planning to rule against years of scientific research and allow more than 90% of the Trinity River to be diverted to the Central Valley Project. This will guarantee a complete collapse of the Trinity’s salmonid populations. We already saw the effects of excessive and illegal water diversion last autumn in the Klamath River of which the Trinity is a major tributary.

Secretary Norton is also planning to turn off the spigot feeding the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River. This water di-

version will decimate a former gold medal trout fishery. The Bush administration is doing a good job of focusing American attention on war with Iraq while, behind the scenes, our resources are being given away as if they were corporate welfare.

No amount of sweat equity can restore problems created by these types of actions. The only way to conserve resources under threats like this is to use political and, as a last resort, judicial pressure.

You may ask, “How can I affect politics?” You may be surprised that you have more power in the political arena than you think. Join one or more conservation organizations like California Trout (www.caltrout.org), Trout Unlimited (www.tu.org), the Federation of Fly Fishers (www.fedflyfishers.org) or any of a number of other conservation organizations. If you are conservative conservationist and want to have more of an impact on our Republican representatives consider joining Republicans for Environmental Protection (www.repamerica.org).

Don’t just be a dues paying member. All of these organizations have action alerts and are a good source of information about pending environmental atrocities. Take the opportunity to “become acquainted” with your representatives by writing a letter in support of the conservation issue du jour. Your letter will have 500 times the effect as your vote on Election Day and you don’t have to wait two or more years to be heard.



“...Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton is planning to...allow more than 90% of the Trinity River to be diverted to the Central Valley Project. This will guarantee a complete collapse of the Trinity’s salmonid populations.”

Tom Loe's guide tip of the month—Nymphing

Mid-summer months provide many opportunities for utilizing weighted nymphs. The long daylight hours send fish deep to escape heat and full sun. Hatches occur during a.m. and evening hours commonly and this can make for tough fishing during the "off" periods. Properly weighting your nymph can be paramount to your success during this time.



A good rule of thumb is to set your lower or bottom fly, if you are utilizing a tandem rig, at 1 1/2 times the estimated depth of the water below your strike indicator. Example - water depth 3'. Set depth of indicator to 3' x 1.5=4.5' depending on the velocity or flow rate of the current you are fishing, weight your rig with lead, or non-toxic shot so that the indicator is displaying signs of the weight or lower fly "tickling" or bouncing lightly along the bottom. If you are not periodically bumping the bottom, you may not be deep enough to present a natural appearance of the imitation. Use only enough floatation for your strike indicator to do the job. Smaller is better. Easier to cast and less obvious to "Troutzilla". Dry flies make excellent indicators with small bead head and lightly weighted nymphs. Not to mention, they can get bit!!! Poly yarn type indicators are good for quiet and softer water areas. Foam/rubber core models are easy to adjust depth and provide good floatation with heavier rigs.

When adding weight to a rig... I will describe several methods. You can add

split shot or non-toxic steel shot attached to a small dropper tied to the bottom nymph on a short tippet of smaller diameter. If the shot gets "snagged" or fouled on the bottom, the weighted dropper tippet only, will break (in theory). If you are using a tandem rig, attach the weight(s) between the lower flies. This allows both nymphs to be working near the bottom or strike zone. Space the weights out with a small gap between shot, if more than one, they will cast much better and not weaken the leader as much. If you tie your own flies, use tungsten beads. Lead wrapped and then inserted into the taper of a bead head works great on most sizes down to #18 also.

All this science is for not if we do not execute the most important factor of nymphing... a natural dead drift, with the imitations moving at the same velocity as the water you are angling. Mending of the fly line, a book in its own right is crucial to achieving this easily said but seldom accomplished task.

Keep as little fly line on the water as possible. Raise or lower your rod tip to accomplish this whenever possible.

Watch the strike indicator closely to see if it is dragging across the surface towards you. If it is, you can bet your nymph is acting in a devious manner below the surface and will not fool "Zilla".

I hope some of this will help you achieve a better "drift" this summer.

"A good rule of thumb is to set your lower or bottom fly, if you are utilizing a tandem rig, at 1 1/2 times the estimated depth of the water below your strike indicator."

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

What do you want to do with your life?

The following is a brief profile of Maggie Merriman, who is presenting an entomology class to GSF this month.

Maggie Merriman discovered her passion in life after attending a fly fishing school at the family's favorite ranch in the Gallatin Valley of Montana, at age 30 something: fly fishing, and everything associated with it.

Regarded in the industry as one of the most prominent fly fishing women in the world, Maggie resides in Huntington Beach, CA, in the winter, and West Yellowstone, MT, in the summer. She started fishing at age 10 at family outings to southern Oregon's North Umpqua River. Her parents both deeply encouraged her to try all sports, and their encouragement paid off.

Formally educated as a commercial artist, a graduate of Art Center of Los Angeles, it was not until Maggie's fishing school experience at the 9 Quarter Circle Ranch in Montana, that she would find her following to become a fly fishing professional. She subsequently started Maggie Merriman Fly-Fishing in West Yellowstone, which has been in existence for over 35 years. Maggie worked as a product design consultant for several rod manufacturers and was a product review writer. She promoted the



sport while working for the American Sportsman Club, Jim Rice International Sportsman's Show, and as Fly Fishing School Director of the Marriott shows.

The Fly Fishing Lady of the West, as she is known, is not only a fisher lady, but an entrepreneur, designer, and manufacturer of her own fly fishing products, including the first fly fishing vest

for women, the first padded reel case, and the first shooting head pouch—all under her own name. And she continues to manufacture Spec Socs eyeglass retainers.

Maggie has served on the boards of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, and American Sport Fishing Alliance, and was instrumental in founding the FFF women's

educational program to bring more women to the sport. "It is encouraging to see more and more women entering and participating in the sport," said Maggie. When asked about her favorite fishing spot, she replied, "My favorite fly fishing spot is anywhere the fish are biting!"

Maggie continues to teach the art of fly fishing with her entomology class, sharing decades of secrets and info on how to connect fish with the right bug or hatch. During the winter months, Maggie gives private casting lessons in Orange County.

"...The Fly Fishing Lady of the West, as she is known,..."

Submissions to newsletter

Hey, you frustrated Hemingways and Steinbecks out there...we are looking for articles for Reading the Water. The best are personal stories that are entertaining, or provide information not found elsewhere. Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for a favorite 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 a couple of pages, submit it in Microsoft Word, and *include photos or relevant images.* E-mail your submissions to pcase@enartec.com, or hrconduct@msn.com.

Advertise in Reading The Water

Deliver your message by advertising in *Reading the Water*. As the voice of this new, vibrant flyfishing club, *Reading the Water* 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.



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.org—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224.



Welcome to the Golden State Flycasters

The GSF was formed in 2002 to serve the interests of fly fishers in North San Diego County, South Orange County, and Camp Pendleton.

Mission Statement

Promote national and international amateur fly casting competition; conservation and restoration of fisheries; and knowledge, support, ethics and social relations in the sport and art of fly fishing.

124 Lomas Santa Fe Drive,
#208
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Phone: 858-350-3111

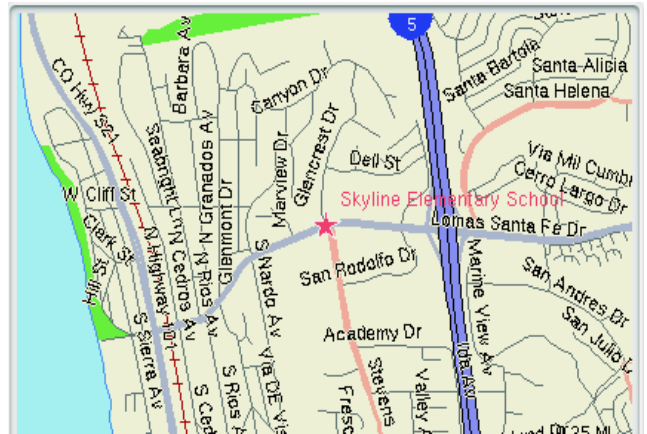
Email: pcase@enartec.com

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www.goldenstateflycasters.org

Map to meeting location

Skyline School Auditorium
606 Lomas Santa Fe Drive



Next month...

And then in April, we will be bringing **Mel Kreiger** to GSF. If there were such people as rock stars in our sport, Mel would be one of them! Mel has not only devoted a lifetime to fly fishing as a profession—including production of videos, author of books and articles, teaching, etc—but he is one of

the funniest men in the sport. *This is a program not to be missed.* So mark and take note of the date...**April 7.**

We also have a terrific line-up of programs for the rest of the year. Always be sure to consult the newsletter for the correct date and time of the program.

