



Reading the Water

February 2004

MEETING

Monday

February 16

Welcome: 6:00 P
Program: 7:30 P

Tony's Jacal
Restaurant

621 Valley Ave.
Solana Beach

(Map—Back Page)

Features—

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| President's message | 2 |
| Pete Gray to MC Raffle | 3 |
| Membership renewal time | 4 |
| Casting workshop with Kaul | 4 |
| Mike Kaul profile | 5 |
| Tom Loe | 5 |
| New Year's resolutions | 6 |
| Meeting details | 8 |

February Program—Steve Bonner on Steelhead Fishing

Note the special location and time for this dinner meeting in the sidebar at left—See p. 8 for details.

OUR PROGRAM THIS month is most timely. Many dream about trying their hand at steelhead fishing, but find ways to avoid giving it a go because of the mystery that persistently surrounds the sport.

Discussions of steelhead fishing generally dwell on it supposedly being a low percentage sport—“*you're good to get one fish for the trip!*”—in weather only a duck could love. Even the name—*stealheading*—can be intimidating.

For all of us wantabe or already frustrated steelhead fly fishers, Steve Bonner will be presenting a program of the *practical* aspects of *successful* steelhead fishing.

Steve was born and raised in Southern Oregon, where he has lived for 42 years.

During that time he has spent many hours on the rivers and streams of the area, and been fortunate enough to be able to share knowledge of the things he has learned over the years.

Steve is a fly fishing guide, and a fly tying and fly fishing instructor at his local community college. His out-

standing programs are, in part, the result of his love of teaching, and personal philosophy that 90 percent of guiding is teaching.

His program will include techniques that will result in a better chance for multiple hookups in a day, how to rig up for steelhead, and a

demonstration of flies to tie or buy.

Steve's program focuses on Southern Oregon, and will include a discussion of the steelhead fishing seasons in that region. As GSF has a number of avid steelhead fishermen that ply the Trinity and other fabled Northern California steelhead waters, this program promises to bring out a lot of practical, how-to pointers and discussion—*this is a program not to be missed!* †



President's message

THE HOT TOPIC for the next two months is, of course, the **Annual Raffle** in March, and none other than **Pete Gray**, of *Let's Talk Hook-up* and *Outdoor Adventure Radio*, and his co-host **Dave Ezratty**, are going to MC the event!!!

In addition to lots of terrific prizes—including rods, reels, float tubes, flies, videos, prints, magazine subscriptions...you name it—we are going to have **two Super Raffles**.

Super Raffle I will be for a choice of two 2-for-1 trips to Saltery Lake Lodge, each having a value of about \$2,000.

Super Raffle II is still being put together, but it will also consist of a choice of 2-for-1 trips to two or three lodges, each having a value on the order of \$4,000. In short, there will be something for everyone's budget.

As in the past, we have had a number of vendors, manufacturers and individuals make a number of very generous gifts to the raffle. However, in spite of the DOW pushing 11,000, companies are finding it harder (impossible?) than ever to support fundraisers, such as our raffle. This makes it all the more important for our members to participate in making the raffle every bit as successful as last year.

There is a saying in fund raising that *people don't give to causes, people give to people*—this is where you come in. If each member were responsible for bringing in just *one* donation, that would account for roughly 75 raffle items alone!

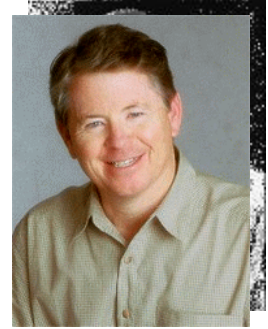
So that's the challenge: Every member

contribute at least one item to the raffle. It's easy...just ask your favorite restaurant, book store, guide, lodge, fly shop, clothing store...you get the idea...to contribute to our conservation raffle. Also, *everyone* has used, but not abused, books, equipment, gadgets, whatever, that they will never use again—rather than have it sit around collecting dust, donate it to our worthwhile cause, let someone else use it, and take the tax write off. More on the raffle on p. 3.

Last, but certainly not least, BUY LOTS OF RAFFLE TICKETS—which will be available by the end of January.

It was nice to see such a great turn out at the January meeting. Although Stan Bradshaw's presentation was a bit more comprehensive than most wanted to absorb in an evening, I'm sure we all went away with a greater appreciation of the importance of otherwise obscure little tributaries, and what goes into the restoration of streams. It's easy to take the efforts of TU and others for granted, but Stan's talk drives home what exactly is involved in making these projects happen. We should all be thankful for committed groups like TU.

Speaking of TU, after a number of years of false starts, it appears a San Diego chapter is about to get off the ground. The local chapter was apparently incorporated in 2001, but has languished for the past three years. As there are obvious potential synergies between GSF and TU, we support the efforts of the group to get the local chapter up and running. †



Patrick Case, President

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2nd Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction—March 22nd

PETE GRAY, of *Let's Talk Hook-up and Outdoor Adventure Radio* (MIGHTY 1090AM), and his co-host **Dave Ezratty**, to **MC Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction**, March 22nd.

Pete—who admits to really getting into fly fishing of late—says “we are trying to make *Outdoor Adventure Radio* more and more about fly fishing and we could cer-



tainly us the help from your club.” We are willing to do everything we can, Pete, and thank you for your support of the GSF annual raffle!

The Raffle is *the* fundraiser of the year for GSF, and it is important to not only the conservation issues we support, but operation of the club.

As last year, we are assembling a lot of great prizes—including rods, reels, float tubes, flies, videos, books, GSF logo shirts and caps, an O'Keefe photography print, magazine subscriptions, and gadgets. The quality of prizes coming in promise the raffle is going to be every bit as exciting and successful as last year!

Last year we introduced the Super Raffle for a number of high-end trips. This year we will have *two* Super Raffles. **Super Raffle I** will be for a choice of

two 2-for-1 trips to **Saltery Lake Lodge**. One trip is for the week of July 18-24, 2004, and the other trip is for the week of August 15-21. Both trips have a value of about \$2,000!

Super Raffle II is still being put together, but is expected to include 2-for-1 trips to **Bristol Bay Adventures** (Alaska), **Raspberry Island Remote Camps** (Alaska), and **Jim Repine's Futaleufu Lodge** (Chile).

The format will be the same as last year. The Raffle will be a combination of raffle draw-

ings and a silent auction. The silent auction will be for items of a specialized nature—items not everyone may want or can take advantage of.

The Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction is, of course, open to *everyone*. And there is no limit on the number of prizes you may win in the raffle, silent auction, or Super Raffle. The more tickets you buy, the greater your chances of winning!!!

Raffle tickets will be coming your way for purchase soon, so please return them with your donation as soon as possible. You can bring raffle prizes to the meeting, or call Helen Condict (858-523-1017) or another Board member to make other arrangements.

We look forward to a fun evening with Pete and Dave, and the chance to take home some great prizes! ↓

“The Raffle is the fundraiser of the year; and is important to not only the conservation issues we support, but operation of the club.”

From left, Pete Gray, Surfer Rob Machado and Dave Ezratty

Membership renewal time

RENEWED YOUR membership yet? The new year is here, and your dues for 2004 should be in.

This past year we saw an extraordinary line-up of speakers and activities. The speakers included the unforgettable Mel Krieger, Ed Engle, Charles Jardine, Brian O'Keefe, Gary Graham, and many others.

We're proud of the fact that there is not a fly fishing club in the country that had a better schedule of speakers! *And* we have a slate of top-notch speakers scheduled for the remainder of 2004! It is going to be another great year!

We also sponsored a number of well

attended casting clinics by some of the most notable casting professionals in the world, including some of those mentioned above, and sponsored our first trip. *A number of trips are already planned for 2004.*

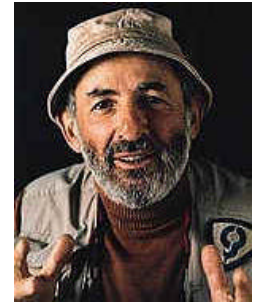
Improvements we are making for 2004 include permanently moving the meetings to a *new* restaurant, which will allow for more

room, a relaxed atmosphere, and a chance to have dinner and

enjoy your favorite beverage during the program. You will also notice a more real-time website.

If you haven't yet sent in your renewal, please do so at your earliest opportunity.

!



Support GSF, renew your membership today!

Mid-winter casting workshop

GSF is hosting a 3-hour fly casting workshop with FFF Certified Instructor, **Mike Kaul**.

The workshop will be on Sunday, February 22, 1pm-4pm, at Skyline School, Solana Beach. The cost is \$30 for GSF members, and \$40 for non-members. Students must bring their own rod, reel and line to the class.

In addition to being a FFF Certified Instructor, Mike is a renown Wyoming

guide. As such, Mike will cover specialty casts for situations encountered in the real world.

The program will also include ways to overcome problems which plague many casters, as well as instruction on the elements of the basic overhead cast.

Class size will be limited to allow plenty of time for Mike to work with individuals. To sign-up, e-mail Pat Case at red20hook@aol.com. !

Member profile—Mike Kaul

Mike Kaul is a familiar face to many of us, but for those anglers who don't know him yet, he is a veteran Wyoming angler guide, casting instructor (FFF certified casting instructor), and *life-long* Wyoming resident.

Mike's fly fishing school, JMK Enterprises, is based out of the scenic northwestern, mountain town of Pinedale, located 80 miles south of famous Jackson Hole Wyoming. You can learn more about his fishing schools at:

www.flyfishingwyomingwinds.com

The view from Mike home is the famous Wind River Range, with its series of high country lakes, and the incredible fisheries of the Upper Green River, the source of the tailwaters at Navajo Dam in Utah, where Golden State Flycasters fish during their upcoming outing this June 7-11.

In addition to fishing, Mike still finds spare time to write for the local newspaper and an online fishing magazine, www.fishingwyoming.com.

Mike's background is diverse. He started the ROTC here in San Diego, and went on to work for General Dynamics, before operating and owning several other businesses in Carlsbad.

Mike and his wife, Jamie, spend most of their winters in Carlsbad, enjoying the beach, golfing, and everything the sunshine has to offer... not to say that January skiing with three feet of powder in the Tetons of Jackson Hole or Pinedale is so bad either.

While the Kauls are here, Mike offers a Saturday series of fly fishing classes through *San Dieguito Education Department* in Encinitas (760-753-7073), starting January 17, 24 and March 6 and 13; and classes in Carlsbad with the *Carlsbad Recreational Department*, starting February 21, 28, and March 27 and April 3 with fishing in the Carlsbad Laguna. †

Helen Condict



Mike Kaul



Helen Condict is also a freelance writer and GSF's PR person

Tom Loe fishing tips—catch and release

Many times anglers with good intentions release fish improperly and I witness this frequently. Time and time again I watch as the fish is mishandled and its fate doomed by improper release methods.

Please, Please, keep the fish in the water as much as possible when practicing

catch and release. There is a great tool out called a Ketchum Release, Orvis product, sold at better shops, get one! These babies work very well when removing small flies.

Avoid netting or handling the fish if at all possible. If you must handle the fish please do your best to moisten your

Fly fisher's New Years resolutions

Hanging a new 2004 calendar on the wall prompts many of us to start thinking about restructuring our lives again...more exercise, better diet, increased financial security, be a better person, self-actualize and promote peace on earth.

This year I decided to give up on pursuing the noble goals, and concentrate on the frivolous, to see if I would have better luck maintaining my resolve.

Here are my *fly fishing* resolutions for 2004:

1. *Look Behind Before Making the Cast*—I will always look behind me before making my first cast to the water to avoid hooking my fishing partner in the ear, and get the \$3 fly to a feeding trout rather than hanging up in the big pine tree behind me.

2. *No More Match The Hatch Intimidation*—I am going to learn more about ento-

mology. I am tired of being intimidated by match the hatch aficionados, guides and fly shop personnel who extol the virtues of all insect forms great and small. I want to know the who, what, when, and where of fish palates.

3. *No More Tailing My Loop*—I will never tail my loop again. Progressive

applications of power or acceleration to the stop are phrases I will keep in the forefront of my mind when executing the casting stroke. I will learn to lengthen my stroke and time my pause to form a good narrow loop without tailing it.



4. *Managing My Wrist*—I am going to concentrate on managing my wrist this year, using the wrist to initiate the power move is good, but I will not let the wrist rotate open beyond 45 degrees during the rest of the power stroke.

5. *Drift, Not Dip*—I am going to drift, not dip the rod at the end of the rearward power-stroke. Moving the rod horizontally to the rear (at the conclusion of the rearward stop) helps smooth the line flow and increases the stroke length for a better forward cast. Dipping the rod moves it down vertically behind me, causing the line to drop, which sets up a poor forward cast.

6. *Slack Management*—I am going to manage my slack better this year by keeping unneeded line on the reel to: Help me keep from stepping on it; avoiding tangling in the bushes; over-throwing the target; and try to prevent slack from occurring in the line, during the casting stroke. This may require developing a new relationship with my line hand.



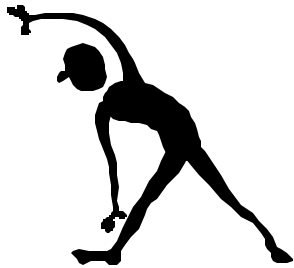
“No More Match The Hatch Intimidation —I am going to learn more about entomology”

7. *Relaxing My Rod Grip*—The key to letting the rod do the work, is to feel it loading and unloading to develop good timing for pauses. By concentrating on pulling with the forefinger on the back cast, and pushing with the thumb on the forward cast, will help you develop a relaxed grip.

8. *Double Duty on the Double-Haul*—Timing the haul—making sure the line-hand returns to a position near the rod hand at the end of the haul are *critical* elements to master. Practice, practice! I will get out the yardstick and yarn, keep them in a *conspicuous* place in the house, and do some pantomime drills for several minutes each week.

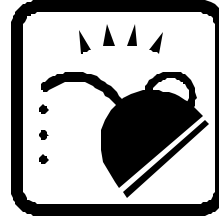


9. *Fishing Fitness*—I am going to try to treat my body better during the fishing trip by: Warming up and stretching...a good idea before any 9-hour marathon fly fishing day. Remembering to take, and drink, a full water bottle; And by applying sunblock first, rather than waiting to feel the burn on my nose and ears at the end of the day.



10. *Adding Life to Equipment*—I will start the season by cleaning and polishing all fly lines... wiping the line with a clean cloth (after each use) to keep it zipping through the guides, adding longevity to it's life. Lubricating the reels,

and wiping them down after each use should keep them from seizing up, and breaking off that big fish.



I will need to do some practicing to develop the *muscle memory* required to improve my casting, do some homework on articles written in "Fishing Wyoming," get serious about reading some of those bug books, and make some special efforts to develop better personal fly fishing habits. This resolution list looks overwhelming again this year, but I bet I do a better job on them because I am focused on an area I enjoy most... fly-fishing! †

Mike Kaul

Mike, a FFF Certified Casting Instructor, and his wife, Jamie, divide their time between Carlsbad and Pinedale, Wyoming.

GSF is presenting a 3-hour casting workshop by Mike, February 22—see the e-flier. Please send comments and questions to Mike at [wyadventur@aol.com](mailto:wypadventur@aol.com).

Mike Kaul's Casting Corner appears in "Fishing Wyoming" an internet magazine published in Pinedale, Wyoming. Log on to: www.fishingwyoming.com for more information.

February meeting goes Mexican!

When:	Monday, February 16th
Where:	Tony's Jacal
Address:	621 Valley Ave, Solana Beach (see map on page 8)
Time:	Wet Flies, 6 p: Program, 7:30 P
Cost:	\$15 of meal (booze extra)
Menu:	Choice of two from the following: Taco (turkey or beef), Taquitos (2) (turkey or beef), Flautas (2) (turkey or beef), Tamale (turkey or pork), Enchilada (turkey, beef, or cheese), Chile Relleno, and Tostada (bean); including rice and beans.



Loe, from p. 5

hands first. Make sure those barbs are filed or smashed totally. This really insures a smooth release. You can get them out of your ear, appendages, hat, etc. faster and with far less associated pain as a bonus.

It is understandable when you finally fool "Troutzilla" you want a photo.

Have your camera ready so as to limit the amount of time the fish

is forced to pose. Hold your breath after running 3 minutes without taking a gulp of air and see how you feel. Use this as a meter when admiring a fish.

Please take time to revive the fish fully and release it in soft water so it may regain strength. This may take several minutes on larger fish. Hold the fish upright and lightly near the tail section, work it back and forth slowly, head into the current if present, until it kicks away.

Avoid holding the fish near the mid-section or head/gill plate area. Internal damage will kill the fish later. Keep your hands moist and at all costs do not scrape the protective slime off the fish, this prevents fungus and infections of the fishes skin.

When releasing from a tube or boat and it becomes necessary to net a fish, please use soft material, nylon or rubber net bags really help. Keep

the fish submerged when removing the hook. A great website to check out is <http://sierranetco.com>. We use Joel's nets at Sierra Drifters.

Throwing a fish back does not mean it's a contest to see if you can make the Olympic shot put team. Fish undergo severe trauma when caught, give them the chance to regain power and stability when put back. †

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



Tom Loe



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Advertise in *Reading The Water*

Deliver your message by advertising in *Reading the Water*. As the voice of fly fishing in North San Diego County, *Reading the Water* can provide you a direct hit to this affluent market. Copy must be in JPEG format.

The **annual rates** are as follows...

- Full page.....\$300
 - Half page.....\$200
 - Quarter page.....\$150
- Please call Helen Condict at 858-523-1017 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 2004. Have a guest bedroom? Don't miss 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...your own

fireside chats with the best in the sport. 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 858-523-1017. †



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www.goldenstateflycasters.org

Editor: Patrick Case

Co-editor: Helen Condict



Welcome to the Golden State Flycasters

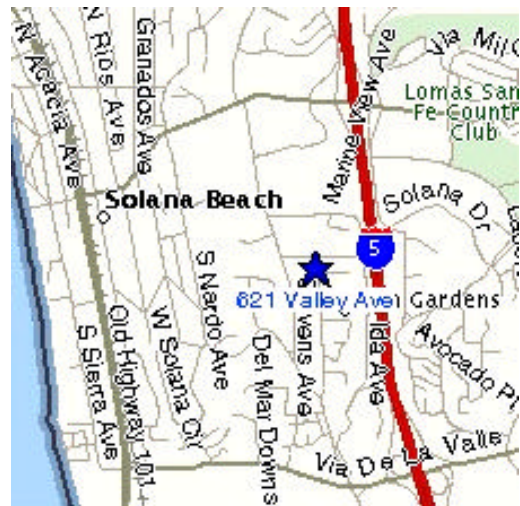
The GSF was formed in 2002 to serve the interests of fly fishers in North San Diego County, South Orange County, and Camp Pendleton.

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 fishing.

Map to meeting location

Tony's Jacal Restaurant
621 Valley Ave., SB



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 about 500 words, submit it in Microsoft Word, and *include photos or relevant*

images. E-mail your submissions to: hrcondict1@yahoo.com.