



... featured presentation
for the October Meeting

BAMBOO ROD BUILDING THE ST. CLAIR WAY

Presented by Mike St. Clair

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!



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"St. Clair Bamboo Flyrod"

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Goodies for the
October Club Meeting
— Chuck Newmyer —

Goodies for the
November Club Meeting
— Carl Zellner —

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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, always gravitating back to the Kern for their annual trip—plus several in between.



"Mike at a Trade Show demonstrating his bamboo rod-building craft"

Mike's primary occupation, for the last 35 years, has been as an illustrator and design artist, so designing and decorating bamboo rods from scratch is not a major leap for him. He has done work for Disney, SCE, numerous advertising agencies, and is currently the art director for a major hardware manufacturer. He and the people in his department are responsible for packaging, advertising and marketing materials that are distributed through every major hardware chain in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

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, however, I started to discover the 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.

"I hooked up with Bill Carter, back in Massachusetts, several years ago. He offered me an old form and some splitting tools he was going to toss out. I 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 returning 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 working relationship with Bill to supply him with a few blanks, Mike eventually formed a partnership

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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 handcrafted rod imparts.

"People are amazed at the feel", he explains. "There's just something about bamboo that makes it cast itself. And, 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, West Coast Custom Rod and Tackle, 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 or visit the web site: www.schflyrods.com. You can send him an e-mail to: mike@schflyrods.com.



"The finished beauty of a St. Clair bamboo fly-rod"



The Leader's Line

Hardy Tyson, President

Over the past few years Jim Hoover and I have bragged about the virtues of “Jay’s Worm” (named after Jay Kovar who developed it for fly fishing the high Sierra lakes). It has been fished in many places besides the high Sierra lakes and remains quite successful in other locations. As was pointed out by our guide at Lee’s Ferry, it is kind of an attractor pattern in a wet fly. There are very few wet flies that incorporated aspects of more than one aquatic insect. Jay’s Worm has aspects of a *Tubifex tubifex* worm (the “San Juan Worm” is meant to copy this aquatic worm) and also copies the segmented body of many nymphs. Jay’s original pattern was tied with the “brown/orange flake” “Sili Legs” material. The original also uses a gold wire and bead. I stick with this color scheme; however Jim has tied it in many different bead/body colors and they are also successful. This fly was featured in my simple fly videos that I generated and presented at club meetings when I was vice-president but I never gave a written tying formula; well, here it is:

Hook: TMC 2487 size 14-16
Bead: 3/32” Gold
Thread: Brown
Tail/Thorax: Sili Legs, Brown/Orange Flake

Let me know how it works for you.
Happy Fishing!

><((((('> Hardy <')))))><



TMC 2487 size 14 hook with 3/32” bead



Hook wrapped with brown thread and gold wire tied in at bend



Sili leg tied in at the eye



Sili leg lashed to the hook with the gold wire and whip finished

On the Hook

Oscar Felsen, Weekend Fly-Tying

The next fly-tying session will be Saturday, October 15th from 9:30 AM to Noon at Aquabonita's classroom, 145 B Panamint Street.

We will be working on our "Soft Hackel Basics", hoping to become competent in tying this wet fly.

Partridge & Orange

Hook: Tiemco 3761, size 14 to 20
Thread: Orange 6/0 (140 Denier)
Abdomen: Tying Thread
Ribbing: Fine gold wire
Thorax: Gray Hares's-ear dubbing
Hackle: Gray partridge breast

Hares-Ear Soft Hackle

Hook: Tiemco 3761, size 14 to 18
Thread: Dark gray 6/0 (70 denier)
Tail: Gray Partridge convert fibers
Boby: Gray Hare's-ear dubbing
Ribbing: Fine gold wire
Hackle: Gray Partridge Breast

Stripping for the Cure

The following criteria will be used for the **"PINK FLIES"** that we tie and donate to "Stripping for the Cure" in support of their efforts for the Susan G. Komen foundation, a National breast-cancer group.

Hook size should be in the 14 to 18 size range. Individual flies can be any dry fly, nymph, wet fly or streamer. These flies don't have to be totally pink in color but should have some coloration from the materials or permanent markers.

This is an early notice to those members that are tiers. Try to make it a habit when tying, to do a few for the "CURE". We will have some "STRIPPING for the CURE" tying sessions in the future.



Tip of the Month

Hardy Tyson

Working with Crystal Flash

I have incorporated Jack Dennis' invention of tying crystal flash as an under wing to all my hair down-wing style flies. This feature gives the impression of motion from the fishes perspective as the fly floats through the feeding lies. I had trouble with the crystal flash tangling and not being able to cut constant length pieces to stack in the hair stacker. I solved the problem by bundling the crystal flash and tying zip ties around the bundle. Now the crystal flash is manageable!



Bundled crystal flash ready to be cut and stacked

Tale of the Fly

Hardy Tyson, President

About 10 years ago on a dive trip to Fiji, I took along a stowaway outfit with a few salt-water flies. After the diving was over we took a week to travel around the islands. While waiting for a ferry to another island, I took out the rod and started fishing from the dock. Some of the indigenous Fijian guys saw me, came over and asked to see my rod. They told me they had never seen a fishing rod before. As I started casting I saw a boil of bait fish about 12 feet across moving across the bay coming towards me. I have no idea what predator fish was chasing them. When the boil got close enough for me to reach with my cast, I landed a shrimp pattern in the middle of the boil. It didn't take long to get a strike and I reeled in the fish. One of the indigenous women named Lucy shouted to me don't touch it and came running over took the hem of her sarong grasped the fish and bit his head to kill him. She then told me "That's how we do it in Fiji!" The fish had spines she said were poisonous. I didn't recognize what type of fish it was and didn't understand her name for it. I would have released it, but now that it was dead I fed it to one of the local dogs who was more than happy to eat it. A shrimp pattern is my first choice in salt water that is unfamiliar to me.

"When catching fish...impressionistic flies work better than imitations."

- Hardy Tyson



Hooked on Fly Fishing

Chuck Newmyer, Education

We have two fly-fishing classes scheduled. The first one will be an evening class starting Tuesday, October 18th, and running for 5 sessions through Thursday, October 27th. The second one will be a weekend class on November 5th and 6th.

There will be two weekend fly-tying classes. The first one will be on Saturday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 29th. The second class will be the weekend of November 19th and 20th.

The rod building class has been moved to December 9th, 10th, and 11th. There will be an introductory session on Thursday, November 17th.

Sign up sheets and details on the classes will be available at the general meetings or you can contact Chuck at (760) 375-1126 or hisifly@iwvisp.com.



Tippets from the Fly Addict

Allen Bell, Vice-President

A few days ago, a friend walked up as I had the back of my rig open. Hey, he asked, “What’s with the back packs?” “You know I’m heavily into backpacking”, I answered. “I love backpacking. It’s all that walking I hate!!!” He persisted, “What’s up with the packs?” Well, that is another story, but a good one.

A while back, I called my friend Shane to invite him fishing. You might remember Shane from the Troutfest in Kernville. Anyway, he was busy and mumbled something about hiking a group of scouts into the Golden Trout Wilderness. WHAT?? Yep, he and another adult were hiking a group of 5 or so scouts into the GTW, specifically the Headwater area of the Little Kern River. “Wow, that’s a long way, don’t you think?” “Ya”, he replies, “we are going to cover around 26 miles in 3 days”. Holy cow, that’s not a recreation trip, that’s a death march. Bataan comes to mind. Definitely would have been a death march if I had gone. Just leave me where I stop. Make sure you put the Winston to good use.



So not only are we going on a major hike, we are leaving the trailhead around 10:00pm, hiking at night with a bunch of kids that have never done this before. OK, I trust Shane for sure, he is an expert wilderness operative, working his way through college as a fishery biologist intern for various states, this was just up his alley.



On and on we hiked until we could walk no more and struck camp around 3:00AM—time for rest and wonder. I wonder how many of those kids went to sleep wondering what they had gotten themselves into. As morning broke and the sunrise lit up the Sierras, they knew what they had gotten themselves into, the trip of a lifetime and it had just begun. When they reached the Little Kern, they, of course, stopped to fish and play. Kids will be kids. They decided to go upstream instead going with the norm of what people do. That turned out to be a good choice. Great fishing with many 14 to 15” Little Kern Goldens. Rough hike up to the camping spots here, but well worth the walk. All the kids but one, fished exclusively with fly rods, and after not catching any fish, the one hold out converted and caught his first on a fly.

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Several of the scouts earned their Flyfishing merit badges on this trip. All of them are hopelessly hooked on our groovy sport.



Why would a normally sane adult with an open holiday weekend choose to spend it with a bunch of adolescents that had never done anything like this or even fished before, hiking

through the night because of schedules; walking many extra miles because of inaccurate maps; teaching fishing instead of really just cutting

loose and fishing yourself in one of the most beautiful places on the planet? Ordinary people like me would have serious reservations about a trip like this. But then, Shane is not an ordinary man. That's good for me, I need friends like Shane to hold me accountable and keep me grounded. That's really good for the kids, who need Shane to lead them into the wilderness, and into life.

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,
Allen



News from Stripping for the Cure

Ellen Dailey

The third annual, Stripping for the Cure, was held September 14, 2011 on the South Fork of the Snake River in Swan Valley, Idaho. Sixty-two “pink-clad ladies” received their tote bags, six pink flies, guide and partner assignments the night before at our Kick-Off BBQ held at the Lodge at Palisades Creek.

We also had a raffle and a silent auction which raised over \$5,000 – a nice start! The ladies will now send personal donations in pre-addressed, pre-stamped pink envelopes directly to Komen Foundation – WY.

Awards were given out that evening after Stacy Caesar, past president Komen Foundation – WY, gave a brief talk and answered questions from the ladies. A good time was had by all for a most worthwhile cause.

Thank you again, to Aquabonita’s Ties and Lies group for their generosity and sharing their fly-tying talents – the ladies couldn’t believe THIRTEEN DOZEN FLIES!!

Planning stage for 2012 already underway – we’re looking forward to another great event.

Best,
Ellen Dailey



An Evening with Joan Wulff

Presented by Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers

Saturday October 15, 2011 6:00 pm

\$75 per plate

The Olympic Connection
11301 W. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Joan Wulff is widely acknowledged as just about the world's most famous fly fisher. From 1937 as an 11-year-old caster in Patterson, New Jersey to 1960, she won numerous International and National tournament casting titles. In 1951, she captured the Fisherman's Distance event while vying against an all-male line-up. Joan cast a fly 161-feet in one competition.

Through promotion of catch and release, she has helped sport fishing be accepted as environmentally-sustainable. Both Joan and her late, legendary husband, Lee Wulff, have had a positive impact on fly-fishing. She has written numerous books and columns and been featured in highly successful fly casting videos and DVDs.

This event, beginning with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. where Joan and her husband Teg Rogowski (a retired environmental-specialist attorney) will meet and greet guests, will include a sumptuous sit-down dinner with wine, brief remarks by a few people who know



Joan Wulff

Joan well and then Joan will speak about her life. After her talk, she will do something she has never done before and that is answer any and all questions from the audience, no matter how long this might take.

The evening will be a once-in a lifetime event and even though Joan is 84, she is sharp as ever. This will probably be the last chance to spend such a lovely evening with such a magnificent

lady. You wouldn't want to regret later on not attending this event.

The gathering will be held at The Olympic Collection, 11301 W Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles.

Also, payment is made to the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, so money raised from the dinner will be used to fund *Trout in the Classroom*, casting and fly tying programs and ongoing support for local council activities.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 818-757-3474 or on the website, www.Southwestcouncilfff.org.

News from Federation of Flyfishers

Clubwire Email News Service

FFF Offers 2 for 1 Membership...A Great Deal!

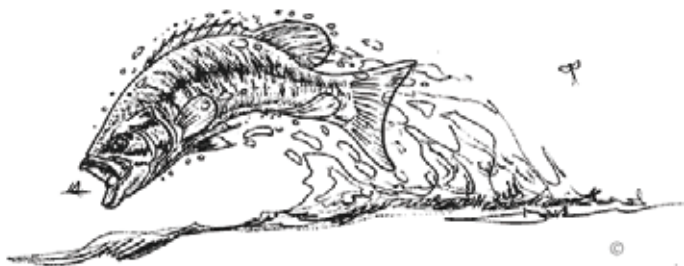
The Federation of Fly Fishers is still offering a free 1-year membership to any member who recruits 2 new members to the organization. The FFF will extend your membership for 1 full year. Bring new members into the FFF to enjoy the benefits of this great organization, including Flyfisher Magazine, E-news, club activities and more!

If you are a Life Member, have we got a deal for you. Just recruit two members & give the 3rd one-year membership to a friend. You can't get a better deal anywhere.

Just click the link below. Fill out the appropriate form and mail it to the FFF Office. The memberships will be processed & your own membership will be extended for 1 full year. The 3rd membership can be given to someone if you are a Life member.

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4498>

For questions: fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org



Up Around The Bend

Allen Bell, Programs

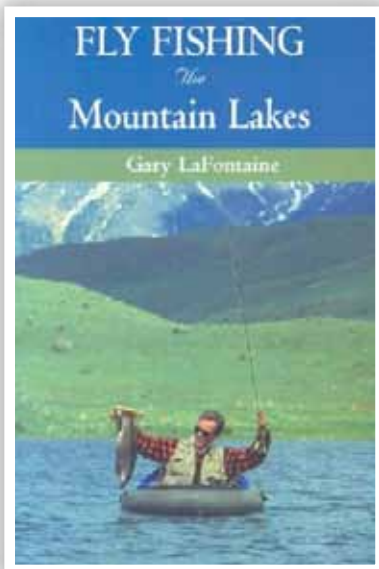
The tentative schedule of general meeting speakers and events is listed below.

November	Jay Crawford & Bob Caldwell Alaska Fishing Trip
December	"Festival"
January	Dave D'Beaupre
February	Boomer Stout Green River
March	Tim Tollett Frontier Anglers, Dillon MT.



Book of the Month

"Silent Auction"



The book of the months for the October meeting silent auction will be "Fly Fishing the Mountain Lakes" by Gary LaFontaine.

In characteristic form, Gary LaFontaine tackles his subject with zeal, packing in loads of equipment, including scuba gear, to do his research. The chapters alternate between stories about sheer fun of fishing mountain lakes and hardcore, how to fishing lessons.

LaFontaine uses his quirky wit and iconoclastic vision to peel back the mysteries of this fishery, including distribution of fish, primary food sources, and feeding patterns. Other chapters cover seasons, weather, fly patterns, and even how to use pack animals to reach your high-altitude destinations.

This book will make you think and make you laugh. You might catch a few more trout on your next mountain lake expedition.

Minimum bid \$9.

Aguabonita Flyfishers Rod & Reel Inventory

RODS:

1.	G. Loomis	7'9"	2wt
2.	Fisher	8'6"	3/4wt
3.	Sage	9'0"	4wt
4.	Fisher	9'0"	6wt
5.	Fisher	8'6"	5/6wt
6.	Fisher	8'0"	6/7wt
7.	Fisher	9'6"	7/8wt
8.	Fisher	9'0"	10wt
9.	Sage	9'0"	5wt
10.	G. Loomis	8'0"	3wt
11.	Winston	8'6"	6wt
12.	Cortland	8'0"	5/6wt
13.	Powell	9'0"	5/6wt
14.	St. Croix	9'0"	6/7wt
15.	St. Croix	9'0"	3wt (NEW)

REELS:

1.	Berkley	DT2F
2.	Cortland	DT3F
3.	Cortland	DT4F
4.	Cortland	DT5F
5.	Cortland	DT6F
6.	Cortland	WF7F
7.	Cortland	WF9F
8.	STH	10 F/S

We also have 3 pairs of wading boots; 2 pairs at size-10 and 1 pair at size-14.

Presently, all rods and reels are located at 145B Panamint Avenue. To check out a rod or reel, call Lew Albright at 375-8725 and he will meet you at the address above. The club requires a nominal fee of \$5.00 to check out a rod or reel. The money will be used for maintenance of the equipment. When you check out a rod or reel, please return the item as soon as possible so other club members may use them too. If you break a rod or reel, let Lew know so that it can be repaired.

Monthly Club Meeting

General membership meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Ridgecrest United Methodist Church (RUMC) Fellowship Hall (639 N. Norma St., Ridgecrest, CA). Everyone is welcome to attend! Our meetings feature a guest speaker presentation, brief club news, refreshments, and a raffle.

Annual Cost for Membership

General membership	\$20.00
Associate membership	\$ 5.00
Youth membership	\$ 5.00
One time initiation fee	\$10.00

Board of Directors Meeting

The board usually meets at 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month to transact the business of the club. The board meetings are open to anyone with agenda items to share. To be placed on the next meeting's agenda, please send items to Bob Smith at rdsmith1@mchsi.com



"Whether I caught fish or not, just the thrill of rolling out that line and watching my fly turn over has been good enough for me. That and the hundreds of treasured memories I have of this wonderful sport."

— Curt Gowdy

Club Officers

President	Hardy Tyson	(760) 375-2175
Vice-President	Allen Bell	(760) 371-1133
Secretary	Bob Smith	(760) 375-7578
Treasurer	Steve Garrison	(760) 375-3192
Director	Joe Rice	(760) 446-4616
Director	Clyde Hazen	(760) 375-9376
Director	David Calvert	(760) 793-8026
Director SWCFFF	Jim Hoover	(760) 371-2149
Banquet Chairman 1	Bob Smith	(760) 375-7578
Banquet Chairman 2	Karl Zellner	(760) 499-6361
Conservation Chairman	Karl Zellner	(760) 499-6361
Education Chairman	Chuck Newmyer	(760) 375-1126
Membership Chairman	Don Winter	(760) 375-7948
Club Equipment	Lew Albright	(760) 375-8725
Club Library	Joe Rice	(760) 446-4616
Weekend Fly-tying	Oscar Felsen	(760) 446-7103
Programs	Allen Bell	(760) 371-1133
Publicity	Gary Davis	(760) 377-3357
Trout in the Classroom	Jay Crawford	(760) 375-8275
Webmaster	Jim Hoover	(760) 371-2149
Youth Coordinator	John Linder	(760) 377-5750
"The Flyline" Editor	Neal Barry	(760) 301-2098

National
Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month **25**
Years

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			● New Moon			1 Yosemite N.P. Created 1890 - SPECIAL - "Ties & Lies" Fly-tying Session 9:30am - Noon
2	3	4 Monthly Club Meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm ● First Quarter	5	6	7	8 Club Outing Warmwater Fishing the Lower Owens R.
9	10 COLUMBUS DAY	11	12 ○ Full Moon	13	14	15 "Ties & Lies" Fly-tying Session 9:30am - Noon
16	17 Deadline for November Newsletter!!!	18	19	20 ● Last Quarter	21 Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Created 1999	22
23 30	24 31	25 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00pm ● New Moon	26	27	28	29

Upcoming Events

👍 **Membership Fly Plate for 2012** — Gary Davis has flies from the following members in his "fly bank"; Albright, Auburn, Baxter, Bell, Crawford, DeKruger, Dixon, M. Garrison, S. Garrison, Gomez, Mason, Mumford, Newmyer, Stein, Svika, Venlet's, Zellner & Ziesler. If you want him to use one of your flies in the next fly plate, please let him know at (760) 377-3357 or gdavis2@hughes.net. You can also donate 1 or 2 of your latest and greatest ties – 16's or larger. If Gary doesn't hear from current, "bank fly fly-tiers," you **WILL NOT** automatically be included in the next fly plate. All members are encouraged to participate. Member flies, or notifications to use "bank flies" are due no later than November 8, 2011.

👍 **Simms Guide Shirts** — The Aguabonita Flyfishers have a great deal on club fishing shirts thanks in part to the generosity of the Simms Company. We will offer Simms Guide Shirts with a club emblem embroidered on them for just \$55.00. Retail for these shirts is \$69.95. Embroidery, shipping and tax would price these shirts at around \$80.00. This is a great deal on a first class fishing shirt that will not only look great, but save you some money too. Shirts will be ordered upon payment to the club. I will be at the October meeting to take your orders.

Thanks,
Allen Bell

The Editor's Spool

Neal Barry

Well, we are officially into the Fall season, the days are getting shorter and the night time temperatures are cooling off. But not to worry, there are still some great flyfishing opportunities coming up! Thankfully, most states have waters that are open all-year round even though their general fishing seasons may have closed.

So, I hope that everyone has a chance to get out there and continue fishing while the weather cooperates.

Thank You and tight lines!!!
Neal

*"The great charm of fly-fishing
is that we are always learning."
— Theodore Gordon*



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The Aguabonita Flyfishers are dedicated to the conservation of fisheries, waters, watersheds, and the enhancement of fly fishing with the participation of its membership through educational outreach programs to local schools and the surrounding community, county, state, and national level projects. The Aguabonita Flyfishers are an equal opportunity club without discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, age, religion or sexual orientation.

The Aguabonita Flyfishers is an affiliated club of the Federation of Flyfishers (FFF) and its affiliate, the Southwest Council of the Federation of Flyfishers (SWCFFF). The Aguabonita Flyfishers is also affiliated with California Trout (CalTrout) and Trout Unlimited (TU).

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FIRST CLASS

*Aguabonita Flyfishers
P.O. Box 2059
Ridgecrest, CA 93556*

Aims and Purposes of the Aguabonita Flyfishers:

- To improve and increase the sport of fly fishing
- To promote and work for the betterment of fishing waters
- To provide assistance to club members to help them become more effective fly fishermen and to promote the fellowship of the membership
- To encourage and assist others to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen
- To encourage and advocate conservation of fisheries, waters, and watersheds

