

Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 6, Issue 12

December 14, 2010

Club Officers

President: Paul Sinclair
Vice President: Ernie Gulley
Secretary: Craig Bullock
Treasurer: Larry Longueira
FFF/PHW: Wayne Campbell

Outings: Paul Sinclair
Safety: Steve Roach
Fly of the Month: Robert Gomez

Website: Chris Hynes
Newsletter: Gary Applebee

Send Articles to: glapplebee@gmail.com



President's Message

What a great showing at the last meeting, thank you to all those who attended. David D'Beaupre was outstanding and really had some good techniques that I hope we can use when we fish the Sierras. Thank you to Carol Atchinson with Friends of the River.

As for the vote, I know things seemed informal, the new president, vice president, and officers, will do an outstanding job in 2011. As everyone knows, Ernie Gulley has been a guest speaker for several clubs and he has contacts through out Nevada and California. Ernie will bring some good stuff to the table and I hope that everyone will support him wholeheartedly. Randy Kelly will work on the logistics and has an excellent management background, Randy will be a great contact for the Boy Scouts, and PHW. My goal is to remain as involved, as much as I can, and support Ernie, Randy, Larry, Craig, and Robert Gomez.

I would like to express a special thanks to Gary Applebee and Chris Hynes. Gary and Chris are the gears that turn the machine for this club and without their diligence

General Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday; Dec. 14, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: County Fire Station

Address: 19235 Yucca Loma Rd.
Apple Valley

Website: www.hidesertflyfishers.com

Hi-Desert Flyfishers



HD Club Discount Locations

Arizona Flyfishers: www.azflyfishing.net

Sierra Trading Post: www.sierratradingpost.com

Flymen Fishing: www.flymenfishingcompany.com

Sierra Stream:
www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com

Sierra Trout Magnet: Dave D'beaupre, owner
(760) 873-0010 10%
www.sierratroutmagnet.com

it out for us and there was no room to maneuver. On Nov. 5, we had a board meeting and decided to move on ... I am sorry that I wasted so much time on this topic. I do still believe we should support the Federation of Fly Fishers and I hope that those that can afford the FFF dues will continue your membership.

This is my last article as the President...we (HDFP) have a great thing here! We have established our little club in the High Desert for over 5 years. I want to express a special thanks to my friends that started this club, Thank you, to all of you who have become new friends.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

and hard work we (HDFP) would really be at a loss.

Tight Lines!

As for the Federation of Fly Fishers, we made an important decision on November 9th, 2010, not only for the club, but also for the future of the our club. The decision to be an Affiliate club not a Charter club, will ultimately require all of us to make decisions and act upon those decisions, we all voted on. We need to keep in mind that the Federation has provided a lot of benefits to us as a Charter club.

Paul Sinclair

I believe that HDFP membership will grow without the pressure to join the FFF. I have always believed in growing this great sport and sharing it with others without under currents. I thought that Phil Greenlee would also see things as I do; however it was clear that the FFF is in the same boat in this poor economy. I thought, my idea that we (HDFP) include a flat dues membership of \$25+\$25=\$50.00 annual dues. With the club paying the FFF dues would have struck a home run, however this seemed to fall on deaf ears, especially with Michael Schweit, President of the South West Council of the Federation Fly Fishers. Michael Schweit basically said "no". On Oct. 15, Phil Greenlee spelled

This is a message from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Use your iPhone to help your watershed!

Creek Watch is an application that enables you to help monitor the health of your local watershed. Whenever you pass by a waterway, spend a few seconds using the Creek Watch application to snap a picture and report how much water and trash you see. Creek Watch aggregates the data and shares it to help watershed groups and agencies track pollution and manage water resources.

Available now in the iTunes App Store: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/creek-watch/id398420434?mt=8>

See the live map at: <http://creekwatch.org>

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Fly of the Month

Since there were a lot of new faces at the last meeting and I'm not sure how many are tying yet I decided to head back to a classic, the hare's ear nymph. For a beginner this is a great fly. Even though it seems like a basic fly, when you look at many stream fisherman's fly boxes you will find some variation of a hare's ear. The key is making yours look a little different. Subtle differences both in dubbing, wing case and bead color will increase your chances of a strike.

I like tying this fly, mainly because it's easy, it imitates many insects, and you can vary its size and look quiet easily with very common materials.

Materials: TMC 5262 size 18, .015 lead, 2.3mm black bead, small copper wire, Prismatic Pliable Pear Sheet Back, hares mask, hares ear dubbing with lots of guard hair mixed with flash.

Start off by mounting the bead and lead just enough to form the base of a thorax. Add some super glue and secure with thread wraps forming a taper at the end.

Between the eyes works good for me. Remove fluff and make it a tail approximately the size of the hook shank. (some people like short tails, others like longer tails)



Dub a nice thin noodle to about the thorax and wind the copper wire the opposite way and secure. Cut a thin strip of the prismatic sheet for the wing case. Darken with a black sharpie and tie in.



Add copper wire and snip off some hair of the mask.

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Add some dubbing for the thorax, making this area slightly bigger than the abdomen you just dubbed. Make sure it has lots of guard hair.



Fold over wing case and secure. You can add a small amount of dubbing to hide thread wraps behind the bead. Whip finish, and brush out thorax.

Finished Fly. (Remember all colors will darken when wet.)

The Hi Desert Fly Fishers had a fly tying class for the Boy Scouts on Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 PM. It was to be held at the Fire Station and there were about 10-12 scouts going to attending. Since this event happened after the newsletter deadline, Randy Kelley will have the details at the our next monthly meeting on Dec. 14th. Randy can answer any questions you have about this event and future events that we will hold for the Boy Scouts.

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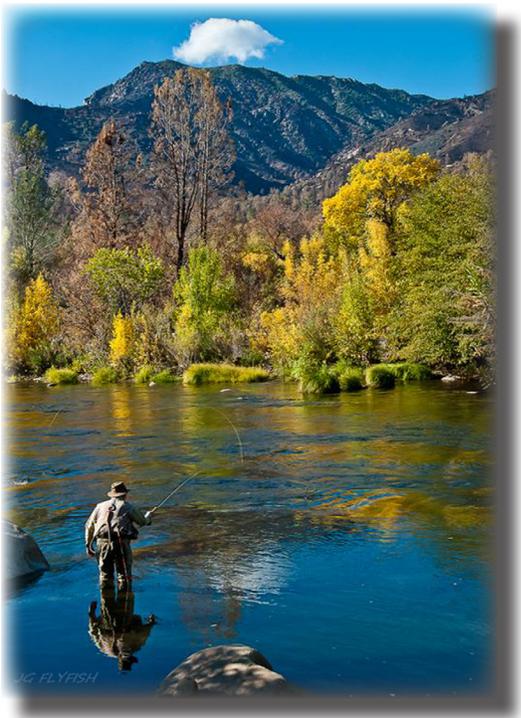


SWCFFF NEWS

FIRST ANNUAL SWCFFF INTER-CLUB FISHING TOURNAMENT

By Marshall Bissett, SWC Casting Director

Competition was keen as six teams from the South West Council of the FFF battled for the winner's plaque in the first annual SWCFFF Inter-Club Fishing Tournament held at Kernville on the Kern River. The five person teams representing Clubs from Fresno to San Diego laid to rest any concerns that competition might be the downfall of fly fishing. It is said that the rules will set you free, and there was no shortage of rules to ensure fairness on a river that can change from gentle, shallow runs to raging rapids within the seventy five yard length of an assigned beat. The beats could not be closed to the public, adding an extra variable to this challenging event.



Kern River in the Fall

Following a modified version of French International rules, Guy Jeans and his team did a superb job of organizing the twenty mile stretch of river above Kernville into "beats" monitored by a controller who measured the fish (in centimeters, of course) and checked that contestants were barbless, free from split shot, indicators and flies attached directly to other flies. Each angler was assigned a two hour morning and afternoon session on two separate beats. Beats were drawn at random from three general areas in the twenty mile stretch above Kernville: the first campground, Thunderbird and Hospital Flats. A break for lunch gave teams a chance to compare notes and techniques before the afternoon session. Organizer and owner of Kern River Fly Fisher, Guy Jeans stressed, "The rules are designed to make everyone a better fly fisherman - the idea is to make everyone think about new techniques to meet the changing conditions." These included Czech nymphing, modified hopper/dropper combos and dry fly single and dual rigs. In a pre competition meeting with the team captains, Guy suggested that anglers divide their beat into zones and to fish slowly and thoroughly, despite the two hour deadline. At the same time he added, "Two hours go by really fast."



Studying the Beat Before Fishing

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The organizers must have ordered clear, sunny skies with light breezes and water flows that averaged around 350 to 400 cfs. While not producing any major hatches, the conditions called for short sleeves and sunscreen. Even the dreaded Kern afternoon chill did not dampen spirits. Those of us who tested the water temperature using the full body immersion technique were pleasantly surprised to escape hypothermia.

The weekend kicked off with a friendly poker game in the back room of Ewings restaurant, funds benefiting the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers. The bluffing, beer and stories flowed well into the evening giving the die-hard card players a slight handicap on the stream the following morning. Ewings was again the site of the awards dinner, an excellent steak and chicken buffet. Guy and Southwest Council President Michael Schweit thanked the teams and clubs for their participation and announced the results. Not surprisingly, the local favorites, Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, won by a slight margin over Fresno Fly Fishers, and the individual winner with 4 fish landed in each session was Liam Haselhorst. A fellow Club member was heard to remark, "Liam could catch fish in a sidewalk puddle." The winners were presented with a plaque that will be circulated for the next ten years.



Liam Haselhorst and Chris Miller with the Plaque

The winning team also nominates the location for the following year's event. This can be any local river, stream, lake or beach. Other participating teams were Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, Deep Creek Fly Fishers, Golden State Fly Casters, Fly Fishers for Conservation (Fresno) and Fly Fishers of Orange County. Santa Barbara supplied two controllers without fielding a team - thanks Lou and Mark for a great effort!



Southern Sierra Fly Fishers team

Congratulations are also in order to Guy, Joe, the staff of the fly shop, Southern Sierra's Bill Darbee and Chia-ki Harami and the thirty controllers who sat in enforced silence while the contestants fished their beats. The smiles and hilarity at the awards banquet told the story of just how much the teams enjoyed getting together for this friendly competition. There is no doubt that a new annual special event has been created. Many of us took the chance to stay overnight and fish the Kern the following day. With the pressure of competition safely behind us, Sierra Pacific, my home team, was able to catch large trout and even a smallmouth bass while planning our strategy for 2011. On that subject we are sworn to the strictest secrecy.

Article and Photos from the SWCFFF newsletter.

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FLYBUY 2011

Great Buys on New and Used Tackle Benefit the SouthWest Council Federation of Fly Fishers

Saturday, February 5, 2011
Long Beach Casting Club
4901 East 7th Street
Long Beach, CA 90804

\$10 includes BBQ'd burgers and hot dogs
RSVP for leader class and food
818.757.3474 or secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org

FLY TYING - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Learn from award winning fly tiers. Bill Blackstone, Wayne Luallen, John Van Derhoof, Mark Kirchner, Dean Endress, Maria Rivas, Peter Koga, Lee Baerman, Naomi Okamoto and others will demonstrate their famous patterns and techniques! Event will feature THREE renowned Buzsek Award winners. One-of-a-kind auction for flies SWC clubs have donated.

Hot Creek- Guru Mas Okui teaches tying his fresh-water leaders. \$100 for the leader kit with enough material to create bunches of leaders. Also, on-the-pond instruction from Master Mas on how to cast and fish these long leaders. Limited to the first 10 people. 10 a.m.-noon. RSVP by January 22, 2011

GARAGE SALE - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Contribute items for a fly-fishing garage sale. Rods, reels, lines, clothes, vests or accessories. Anything not sold will be donated to Project Healing Waters or as needed by the SWC member clubs. Items must be in working order and have a value of at least \$10. This not a swap meet – it is a HUGE YARD SALE. A great opportunity to dispose of extras, duplicates and unwanted gifts. Give items to your SWCFFF representative or contact us directly.

CASTING - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Take a quick lesson and receive pointers from Certified Federation Instructors.

\$1 per minute (15 minutes minimum). Casting analyzed by our Certified instructors. Single-handed, Spey, double-haul. Lessons from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. See how you do in The Danish Casting Games!

SILENT AUCTIONS - 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Select and special items on the tables all day. Each auction conducted for 90 minutes; come anytime!

LIVE AUCTION - 1:30-2:30

Fly plates, special flies, private casting lessons and some special gear.

Do you want to be more connected to the SWCFFF? Find out more about this organization you have been paying dues to and your local South West Council. You can go to: <http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org> to see the Events and Announcements of what the SWCFFF has coming up.

Stay Connected with the SWCFFF

This is an e-mail you can sign up for and get that talks about what the clubs of the South West Council and Project Healing Waters has done and is going to do in the coming months. You have to sign up for this to get it as an e-mail. You will get all the important stuff that the SWCFFF sends out. If at anytime you want to quit receiving it you can always unsubscribe to it. Get connected and find out what your South West Council.

Volunteer Help Needed

The shows are coming to Southern California in the beginning of 2011. The South West Council is looking for volunteers. The shows will be in Long Beach (March), Del Mar (March) and Pasadena (February). Ask John Rose how you can get involved with helping out in the SWCFFF booth.

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Fall Sierras Trip Keith Kern

For the past 23 years my brother in law and I have gone to the Sierras for our fall fishing trip. I pulled the trailer up to Shady Rest Campground. It's one of the only campgrounds still open this time of the year. There's no problem getting a camp spot. We stay in a nice campsite near the bathroom at the front of the campground. The back half of the campground is closed. The 2nd night a couple bears came to visit. They sniffed around the trailer then headed for the dumpster. We found out that they check the dumpster every night because the latch has a problem and if it's not closed properly, it can be opened. Well guess what, it's a lucky night for the bears, the latch was not closed. So we listen to the bears bang the lid and rummage around. I swear they have a system. The lid can't be held up and crawled into at the same time. So, one had to hold up the lid while the other went in. They came back by on their way out.

We like to fish Crowley Lake for the bigger fish that are moving up to the north end of the lake. The first thing that we see is that the lake level is low, really lower than we like. Our favorite spot on the lake to fish is Leighton Springs/Alligator Point on the east side of the lake. The lake is dry over half way out to the point, not good. The days that we fished there, the guide boats were anchored beyond the point. No one was catching many fish. The fish were not in the bay. We slow trolled the entire area to no avail. The guide boats left and went across the lake to Six Bays. They fished there for about an hour, then moved to Green Banks, then they came back to Alligator Point. We watched this same routine the four times we fished there. The only action was in the middle of the lake, where fish were cruising.

We had planned to drive up to Reno to fish Pyramid Lake. We stayed in Sparks, got up the next morning and headed to Pyramid. I had done some research, talked to Ernie, and had an idea of what we should be doing. When we got there, the weather was sunny, light breeze

from the northeast, and absolutely great weather, which is not good from everything I was told. My friend Joe had pulled in Saturday evening and was meeting us Monday morning. He had moved his trailer to Warrior Beach and that's where we met him. I had just pulled up to his trailer, when I saw him in the water. He turned to wave at me and his rod went bendo and the first fish of an epic day was beginning. I had bought a brand new net to land my first Pyramid fish. Well, Joe beat me to it. I threw him the net and a beautiful 20" cutthroat was the first fish to make it in.



I asked Joe what fly he was using and he yelled "punk perch". We suited up and in we went. We spaced ourselves about 30' apart and waded out about knee deep. The water was crystal clear and you could see the sandy bottom. My third cast hit pay dirt. The line went taught and then the reel started screaming. The first thing these fish would do is head to deep water at breakneck speed. You apply some pressure, they give a little and make another run. You'd get them close to you, they see you, and off they go again. My first Pyramid fish was a 21" beauty. I couldn't believe this was happening. Over the course of the day, between the three of us, we landed around 35 fish. I caught fish on four different flies. The best producing fly for me was my black matuka that I tie. My biggest fish was 24". Every fish was 2 - 3 reel

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screaming runs. Joe hooked something that we never saw. The fish headed for the middle of the lake. Joe's reel was screaming all the way into the backing, then nothing. When Joe reeled in, the hook on his fly was bent straight! My brother in law Phil got a beautiful 26" fish the 2nd day.



I tried float tubing, but soon realized that the tube spooked the fish out to deeper water. The way to fish was to wade fish. With only three of us fishing, the fish weren't spooked too much. We didn't move in the water at all while fishing. We had a few fish swim right in front us. I've heard that the fish will swim behind you. I caught two fish behind me, as I was the last one on the right side. Flies that caught fish were: #14 Punk Perch, #8 Black Matuka, #10 Black Bottom Bouncer (my fly) and a fly I bought at Crosby's store (olive crystal body, orange tail, olive marabou overwing.)

What a fantastic fishery. I'm definitely going back!

Friends of the River

Dear All,

A BIG Thank You!

Thank you for all of your help, support, and valuable input in bringing our San Gabriel Mountains Forever effort to protect important wilderness additions and life-sustaining wild and scenic rivers in the eastern San Gabriel Mountains ever closer to reality. We were hoping for 2010, but with the election et all ... Here's a toast to 2011!

As 2010 draws to a close, I'll be leaving for new 'wild' adventures (some of you may be hearing from me again ;-)) and I'm leaving you in the wonderful hands of Jim Blomquist, consultant to FOR, and a most knowledgeable expert in all things Wild - Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Rest assured, he has your contact info, and now I'd like to give you his:

Jim Blomquist
(323) 344-0625 (h)
(323) 404-3236 (c)
Jim@JimBlomquist.org

If you have any questions, you can always contact me as of tomorrow at:

Carolin H. Atchison
(818) 505-9051
carolinhaase@earthlink.net

Thank you again for everything you do to preserve our precious natural resources here in LA County and beyond!

Wishing you all the Happiest of Holidays and a Wonderful 2011,

Carolin Atchison

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Each Month I look at different fishing blogs. Some have interesting articles to share and raise interesting subjects to think about. As I see ones of interest I'll put them in the Hi Desert newsletter. If you see any articles that you find interesting while you are on the internet, send them to me, Gary Applebee at glapplebee@gmail.com. We need to have the author and give them credit and what web site you seen it on. As you can see the first one is from the orvisnews.com blog and the second is from the fieldandstream.com/blogs.

Read Between the Lines

Phil Monahan

Phil Monahan has guided fly fishers in Alaska and Montana and was the editor of *American Angler* magazine for almost 10 years. From the orvisnews.com blog

A couple of years ago, Eric Rickstad and I made plans to go to Montana in late April for the Orvis Western Guide Rendezvous. As soon as our travel plans were finalized, Eric started talking about a river I'd barely heard of. "We gotta hit the [REDACTED] River," he said. "I've heard lots of whispering about some big browns there in spring and fall, but I've never had the chance to fish it." When I mentioned that I hadn't heard any such rumors, Eric just said, "Exactly," and smiled knowingly. The possibility that there was an "undiscovered" river anywhere in Montana seemed far-fetched, but I figured it was worth humoring him.

Once we were on the ground in Bozeman, we started asking around to see if anyone else felt the same way about the [REDACTED]. "I gotta tell you, I sometimes have a hard time catching fish out of that river," one guide told us. Another simply said, "I wouldn't take clients there." But whereas I heard these as refutations of the rumors, Eric saw things differently. "You notice that nobody is saying there are no fish there? Or that the fish

are all small?" he argued. "Sounds to me like they're trying to hide something." I was starting to think he was delusional.

The weather for our first three days of fishing—which we spent on some of the region's famous waters—ranged from brutal (20 degrees and snowing) to simply unfortunate (bright sun and 30-knot winds), but we did pretty well. Blue-winged olives were hatching, and we caught a few really nice trout. So when our last day to fish rolled around and Eric said, "Let's go to the [REDACTED]," I thought long and hard about blowing it off and doing some work in my hotel room instead. Why end our trip by getting skunked on a river we'd been warned about? But then I came to my senses: I was in Montana, for God's sake. There was no sense in wasting a day by sitting inside.

On the way to the river, we stopped in at a fly shop to pick up some streamers. The guy behind the counter looked surprised when we told him where we were going. "You heard anything about the [REDACTED] recently?" he yelled to his coworker in the back room. A face appeared in the doorway, and the guy from the back scoped us out. "Nope," he said, and went back to what he'd been doing. Eric looked at me, smiled, and nodded. I rolled my eyes.

A late-model El Camino was parked beside the river when we pulled in. "See?" Eric said. "That's a local, not a tourist. This is gonna be good." Heavy cloud cover and slightly off-color water made for perfect streamer conditions, but I wasn't expecting much success. We rigged up and decided to work upstream.

On my third cast, a fish hammered my fly as it swung at the end of the drift—it was a decent brown, perhaps 14 inches. "Okay," I said to Eric. "There are some fish here." Over the next three hours, we found fish in almost every pool. Most were in the 17- to 18-inch range, but a couple were beauties that went over 20. It was

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the best fishing of the entire trip, and it was hard for us to tear ourselves away when we had to leave to make it back for a big dinner. As we stowed the gear in the trunk, I told Eric I'd never doubt him again. He agreed that it would be a wise decision on my part.

So the next time you ask about a river you've heard whisperings about, listen very closely to how people respond; they might be telling you more than they intend to. Read between the lines and pay attention to what they don't say. You may find that the river that few people will recommend is the one you really want to fish.

Deeter: Does Your Reel Matter?

Kirk Deeter is an author and writes for the: www.field-andstream.com/blogs/fishing/

I've found that fly fishers fall into two camps: Those who think a reel is nothing more than an ornament that holds line, and those who think a high-performance disc drag is essential to effective fishing.

Where do you stand? I'm not sure myself.

On the one hand, I have a really hard time dropping hundreds of dollars for a spool, no matter how sexy it looks. On the other hand, having done the "motorcycle reel test" I definitely see the performance advantages some reels offer over others.

Does that translate to catching fish vs. not catching fish? Depends on where you are. In saltwater, I think the reel is as important or more important than the rod itself. But I'm not sure I'd say the same for trout fishing.

Decoration... utility... form... function?

What "reely" matters?

Conservation

The San Bernardino Forest Service has asked the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC) to help eradicate bullfrogs on Deep Creek. This will take place just above the Silverwood Lake spillway on Deep Creek. These bullfrogs are an invasive species that were introduced and harm the fisheries. In the past they have used bb guns and frog gigs to remove the bullfrogs. Removing the bullfrog eggs and tadpoles also were ways the Forest Service has had good results in the past.

They are forming a plan on how they will do this now and when they will train volunteers to do this. As I get more information on when this project will take place and how the Forest Service is going to train volunteers to remove the bullfrogs I will let the Hi Desert Fly Fishers know how to get involved. This project will be an ongoing project since usually one time eradication doesn't work.

If you want to get involved contact Gary Applebee at the next meeting. And we will get a list of Hi Desert Fly Fishers that want to get involved in volunteering.

Hot Creek Kiosk

The Aquabonita Fly Fishers has been trying to raise funds for an interpretive kiosk on Hot Creek. The old one is so damaged from old age and the sun's UV rays that you can't read the signs anymore. The signs need replaced and the new art work put up. They have joined up with Caltrout to raise funds to replace the signs with new ones that have been designed. They need between six to eight thousand dollars to pay for the artwork on signs. You can donate money to the Aquabonita Fly Fishers at: aguabonita.home.mchsi.com or go to either the SWCFFF web site or Caltrout to contribute. If you fish Hot Creek this is a way for you to help out with that fisheries.

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*MEETING ON TUESDAY:
December 14th*

Hi Desert Fly Fishers
SUPPORTERS:

Sierra Trading Post:
www.sierratradingpost.com

Arizona Flyfishing (AZ):
www.azflyfishing.net

Flymen Fishing Co.:
www.flymenfishingcompany.com

SierraStream:
www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com

The Sierra Trout Magnet:
www.sierratroutmagnet.com

