



CFFU NEWSLETTER

“Dedicated to Education,
Conservation and the Art of Fly
Fishing” Established 1962.

November 2019

Monthly Newsletter

Mary Ellen Mueller, Editor

December General Meeting Dec 3

The December CFFU General Meeting Presentation will feature our own Members trips, videos and stories from their various travels throughout the year. These are often the best we see all year with tips about many places we might not have seen. A great way to finish off the year!

International Sportsmen's Exposition

CFFU will be back at the annual International Sportsmen's Exposition (ISE) event at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Dates for the upcoming show: January 16-19, 2020 (Thursday through Sunday). As always, we're asking for your help and participation as a volunteer to make this a successful recruiting drive. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the general meeting for volunteers to help staff the CFFU booth. We will provide a mandatory training session prior to the event. We are limiting volunteers to 3 people per shift this year related to the quantity of 1-day passes available from ISE. **There are still a few spots available.** Rich Wilson is the contact person for CFFU booth [e-mail: wilsonre7@yahoo.com phone (916) 364-7545]. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

December 7- Mentor Outing led for our new Members and anyone who wants to help coach. Contact Jim Walker or Rich Kendall.

Free Kids Fishing Day

Saturday, December 14; 8 am to Noon at the Auburn Regional Park

3770 Richardson Dr. Ages 15 and Under.
Call Gary Flanagan to volunteer. 916-223-4240

Christmas Get Together at Keine's on December 12

Our Tech Thursday will actually be our Holiday Party. This is a White Elephant gift exchange. Some really great gifts with people given a chance to “steal” a gift already given if your gift was “stolen”. Bring something “fish” related and see what you might go home with. It is great fun and we thank Kiene's and Tim Au-Young for making the shop available to us.

Recent Events

Trips

Lower Sacramento Float Trip

A few Members went fishing on the Lower Sac in late October just missing the deadline for hero shots in the October newsletter. The fishing and Guides were excellent and the weather could not have been more perfect. We met at The Fly Shop in Redding at 8 am and I and my fishing partner Mel Welborn got back to our vehicle around 6pm in the dark. Needless to say, it was hard to quit with the fishing and scenery being so wonderful.



Mel Welborn with a Rainbow



Beautiful Rainbow trout caught by Rob Scafe's friend on the Lower Sac November 15!

Rogue River



Betty and Keith Pfeifer took a 2-day Rogue River trip. Between the two of them they caught 13 steelhead (6-9 lbs) and two coastal

cutthroat. Not too bad! The guide in Betty's pic is Jim Andras.

Thailand



George Lazar submitted his photos from Thailand. He fished with Mr. Khonchumnitipat on his farm in Thailand. He has two ponds full of Tilapia. There is a grill next to one of the ponds that we loaded up with fish. And then it was fish and beer for the rest of the afternoon, with a nice Green Papaya Salad thrown in. He ate bananas, papaya and coconut fresh off the trees.

Alaska



Andy Penn in Alaska

Yeti Cooler Drawing

Pink Yeti Cooler Raffle for Casting for Recovery- Laurie Banks

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, members of CFFU wanted to find a way to help support the Northern California Casting for Recovery program. For those of you unfamiliar with CfR, here is some information from their website.



CfR provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer at no cost to the participants. They teach fly casting and fishing. For women who have had surgery or radiation as part of their breast cancer treatment, the gentle motion of fly casting can be good physical therapy for increasing mobility in the arm and upper body. CfR's retreats offer opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

This is such a worthy cause, and as fly fishers, one that we can easily connect with. To help raise money we raffled a Pink Yeti cooler, hat and 20 oz. pink tumbler. October's General meeting was opened by Rozaida ONeill a CfR past participant. She shared her personal experience and relayed how important the program was to her. Her talk was emotional and heartfelt. CFFU members came through and bought raffle tickets for the cooler. **Members generously opened their wallets and together we raised \$775. 100% of all proceeds will go to CfR.**

During November's General Meeting we drew raffle tickets for the cooler and Tim Au Young was our lucky winner! Tim told me his wife, Heidi, was thrilled to get the cooler. I asked him to write a couple sentences to add to this article. Those of you who know Tim, understand that it is *impossible for him to write only a couple sentences*. I'm sharing his delightful email below.

Breast Cancer Awareness Limited Edition Cooler



Hello Everyone.

First, I would like to THANK the Board of Directors for providing the vivid PINK Yeti Cooler, Tumbler, and Hat at the California Fly Fishers Unlimited, CFFU, monthly General Meeting for November. Second, I would like to share a quick story via a riddle: What does a happy marriage, CFFU, and a bad day all have in common?

ANSWER: A PINK YETI cooler, tumbler, and hat!

As the fortunate and good luck winner of all 3 said above items, I went home hesitant to share that I spent \$20 for raffle tickets - bad news. I drove home trying to think (spin) the outcome of my fortune. As I arrived home, my wife, Heidi, had a very bad day at work.

I thought I might brighten her day by sharing that I had won a Yeti pink tumbler and hat, with my \$20. Well, as a coffee-holic (she makes a double cappuccino for her, and a single for me daily as we head off to work), when I shared first that I won a raffle prize, and it was a Yeti Tumbler, she perked up readily! With 2 ears up and a broad smile, she says, "Too bad you didn't win a YETI Cooler!" I had to chuckle as I said, "follow me", as we walked into the garage.....

Heidi softly yells, "Hallelujah! Mother YETI!"

So, there you are, the answer to the riddle.

Thank you CFFU BOD once again for providing some fun, luck, and good karma to the Au-Young household!

Tim and Heidi Au-Young

Annual Dinner and Fundraiser

Hello Everyone,

Save the date!!! CFFU's Annual Dinner and Fundraiser will be held Sunday, March 15th, at the California Auto Museum, 2200 Front Street, Sacramento. This is our main **fundraiser** and we'd like everyone to join us for the terrific food, great raffle and auction

items, and wonderful camaraderie! Everyone is welcome: club members, family members, friends, co-workers, or neighbors... anyone who's interested in having a wonderful time, winning great prizes, and supporting a great cause.

You can buy your dinner and raffle tickets at the January, February or March meeting, but the sooner the better! You can also buy dinner tickets from our website with your credit card or PayPal account starting January 1st. Tickets are \$45. Proceeds from the dinner support our Fish in the Classroom program, local conservation and restoration efforts, the Bittner Scholarship winner, as well as our terrific monthly and Tech Thursday speakers.

You can help benefit our fundraiser by donating something you own or made, putting together a gift basket, bringing a case of beer or wine, or giving a cash donation. Please bring your donations to the December, January, or February general meeting or mail them to Laurie Banks 2443 Fair Oaks Blvd #209, Sacramento, CA 95825. You can also call me to arrange a pick-up. I will print donation forms and bring them to the General Meetings or you can find them on our website. These can be used to request a donation from a business. For more information visit our website <http://www.cffu.org/annual-dinner.html>

We hope everyone will join us for this special night out. Your annual dinner committee is working hard to plan a truly memorable evening for you and your guests

Laurie Banks

(916) 709-1309

Pyramid Lake

by Ken Giesser

As an angler, I've long been drawn to the magic and mystery of Pyramid Lake, Nevada and its prehistoric Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

With seemingly serene sandy beaches and clear alkaline water, Pyramid quickly turns into the Pacific Ocean when the winds roar and white caps wash ashore, blurring the line between sky and sea. Therein lies the challenge for the fly fisher...the elements, always the elements.

The fishing itself can be mysteriously frustrating or magically satisfying and I never know which, till I get there and fish. Bringing one to hand and marveling at its beauty is always a thrill and I treasure each and every one I catch. They're a special fish from a special place!

NOTE: You can view Ken's video slideshow on line at:

<https://peterneumannmusic.wistia.com/medias/bx7s041inz>



Lucky Charms

by Ken Giesser and Matthew Barlow

As you journey forward on the path to becoming a competent fly fisher, you will end up acquiring a variety of skills along the way, including casting, reading water, fly selection and presentation, just to mention a few. I'm a fly fisher myself and if I had to rate one singular skill as being the most important one to learn, I would go with luck. Yes, Luck! I consider luck to be a skillset because it is attainable, at least to some degree, if you pay attention to the rules. By the way, luck is in no way innate to the human spirit the way hope is, and they are not the same thing. Hope can sometimes be seen holding hands with "lady luck", but luck is fickle, and breakups are common between the two. There are rules and procedures to follow if you want to go out with "lady luck" and see her on a regular basis. It starts with a firm handshake that eventually leads to an all-out embrace. You have to believe in luck the way you used to believe in Santa Claus. He still exists, but you broke the rules when you stopped accepting him as real. You may hope for luck but that won't cut it. You have to accept and agree to the terms of luck in order to become "lucky". Now that I think of it, I might be taking a chance even writing about this, but my legs are crossed, fingers crossed, and I just honestly feel that luck has never been given the proper respect it deserves. Remember, I rank luck as Number One!

Any baseball player who has enjoyed at least a modicum of success at the professional level understands the rules of luck. If a batter fails seven out of every ten plate appearances, he

will probably enter the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York as a lifetime .300 hitter. He understands what it takes to be "lucky" once in a while. He doesn't tempt fate and plays by the rules of luck for that particular sport. A case could be made, it's a sport based on failure rate. Likewise, a "lucky" fly fisher knows the score and realizes success doesn't come with every cast. A case could also be made that fly fishing is a sport based on failure rate.

My grandson Matthew and I have come up with a few do's and don'ts regarding the rules of luck as they pertain to fly fishing. I'm quite sure most fly fishers, at one time or another, have entertained notions about the nature of luck in our sport, and some of us have carelessly brushed it all off as folly. I'm here to tell you, start paying attention! It won't mean you are a bad person if you don't, but it could mean you won't be very "lucky". Embrace luck for what it is, Number One! Period! I slip up a lot of times myself but when I am "unlucky" at least I know the reason why. I wasn't paying attention when I should have been.

Papa's Rules

by Ken Giesser

- Bananas are always a No! No! Don't bring them in the boat or anywhere else near to where you're fishing.
- Always wear a "lucky" hat. To break in a lucky hat, go somewhere easy. If your inaugural trip with said hat has the smell of skunk on it, don't press the issue. Burn it immediately!

- While on a fishing trip, be sure and eat at the same restaurants and sleep in the same rooms if they're "lucky". Write the room numbers down and request them when booking.

- After dining in a fine Chinese restaurant, be sure and open your fortune cookie and read it. It doesn't really matter what it says, but if you don't honor it by opening it up and reading, well.....?

- Have generous and tolerant thoughts in your head leading up to a fishing trip. Practice being nice around the house. Remember, you can't fish while mad. You should be hospitable and welcoming to the fish.

- Try to eliminate sinful behavior in your life, especially leading up to the trip.

- Be thankful and try to take in the sights and sounds of a trip. Remember, it isn't all about the fishing.

- Have confidence in your fly! If you do that, the pattern won't really matter.

- If you see a shooting star, you must have a wish at the ready for that instant. Don't miss your chance. This is an important one!

- If you normally use 6 turns on your clinch knot, then you better not stop at 5!

- If you're fishing Pyramid Lake in Nevada, always have the Beach Boys in your head. I actually strip flies to the rhythm and cadence of "Surfer Girl". Lahontans like to play in the surf and I'm always asking them the question... "Do you love me? Do you surfer girl?" And you know what? Sometimes they show love back, as long as they know I'm

only in it for a chance to tickle their bellies and let 'em go. Don't ever fall for that stupid notion "Fish fear me." In the grand scheme of things, that one is on the wrong side of the ledger. Word gets around you know!

- Flip Pallot says to "rub a fish on the snout before releasing it and it won't remember anything that just happened to it." The next time you're fishing a stream full of "highly educated fish" and you see an "expert" land one, check and see if he rubs the snout before releasing. If he doesn't... you'll know who to blame for making it hard on the rest of us!

Matthew's Rules

by Matthew Barlow

- One of the utmost important rules every fly fisher should always abide by is learning how to hold your mouth just right. Now don't kid yourself, this may sound fairly basic, but this skill takes an abundant amount of time, practice, and study to make sure you've got your jaw angle just right. So, if you need to brush up on this, just look into the ol' mirror and practice. In time, you will develop good muscle memory.

- Another highly valuable rule is to always, and when I say always, I mean treat this like church on Sunday (you may not want to go but you know you should), keep the morning routine the same! This includes eating at the same restaurant (preferably the same dish), getting your coffee at the same joint and doing your morning bowel movement in the same bathroom. This is one of those "if it isn't broke don't fix it" type of

deals. Once those gears are engaged don't down shift or you might stall out!

- Never have your camera ready! Yep, you read that right. Never! So go ahead and throw out all the nonsense about being organized that your grade schoolteachers pounded into you, because it isn't worth a darn in the luck-filled sport of fishing.

- Always wear your "lucky" waders no matter what, even if you've been blessed by the fishing gods and have experienced a full-on fly-fishing baptism. That, by the way, would make you eligible to win the prestigious "Wet Fly Award" and how many times in your life have you actually won an award? See? When it finally becomes necessary to part with a pair of lucky waders, always act subtle about it and show respect. While breaking in a new set, be sure to not wear a lot of other brand-new stuff at the same time!

- Every good fly fisher has at least one shirt, that by almost any standard would be considered offensive. It's the one shirt you can smell from a mile away, but if it helped you catch the big one, how could you ever wash it? It's been blessed, man!

- And finally, we all have that one car to take us from honey hole to honey hole, through pouring rain or blanketing snow. Whether it be your lucky beater or newly purchased fishing car (anxiously waiting to be broken in), treat it with the respect it deserves. Our old beater is a 2010 Honda CRV and I'm here to tell you, if we have to drive around Ennis, Montana with a donut tire on one axle, that's the car for us! Furthermore, while on

the trip we occasionally treat our beater to an old-fashioned flea dip at the local car wash. It doesn't cost very much, and she seems to like it. I think it makes her feel better and run better. Hey, we shower most days ourselves, so why not try and keep things in harmony? It does seem funny though, that the beater likes to be cleaned once in a while and my fishing shirt likes to stay dirty. Go figure.

Anyway, these are just a few of the rules that Papa and I follow in order to invite luck into our fishing experience. We're not in any way against improving our fishing skills, but it's just that we consider luck to be one of those skills. You probably have a few rules of your own. Pay attention to them. Watch what you're doing and how you're behaving. It makes a difference! After all... wouldn't you rather be lucky than unlucky?

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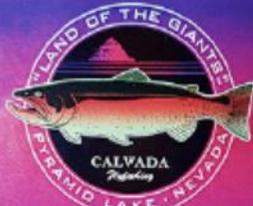


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