



Sespe Fly Fishers

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.sespeflyfishers.org>

June 2020, Volume 46 Issue 6



Zoom Online Meeting for May



Jimmy Cheers
June 17, 7PM
Sespe Fly Fishers' Club
Meeting is Online
Details inside!



Click Image to read latest
Southwest Council Newsletter

President's Message 6-5-20

Well, last month's Zoom meeting went pretty well, we had over 40 people attend a very good program on the great northern California rivers. So we are doing to do it again! This month **Jimmy Cheers** of the **Orvis company** will teach us the tactics he uses to catch big brown trout on the "**SoHo**", his home water in **North Eastern Tennessee**. This is a beautiful place. I love Tennessee. It is a terrific place to go fishing. Even if you're not planning a trip to the Holston the tactics involved are universal. I guarantee that you will learn something very worthwhile from Jimmy.

The Online auction worked out pretty well thanks to Cece Rubin and Bob and Frances Smith. Bob took the photos, Cece put them up for everyone to see and Frances had the crazy job of keeping track of the bids. We made about half of our operating costs for the year which is, considering the state of the economy, way better than nothing. We still have lots of auctions items for future sales, so keep an eye out for more upcoming deals.

This darn virus has still got us all guessing about what the future looks like. For now, our regular casting and fly tying programs as well as the meetings are still on hold. We will keep you informed as things change.

Speaking of change, did you know Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Arizona are mostly open for fishing and recreation? At this writing, the whole state of Montana has 54 people with Covid-19. Way better than here! So lets go fishing! **We have openings for our annual trip to the Big Horn**. Still the best place to get that 20-inch trout on a size 20 fly. And airfare has never been cheaper. Trip dates are **July 28-31**. Contact [Steve Schalla](#) for more information. Hope you can join us!

Go fishing every chance you get!

Earl



2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE*

June 17 | Jimmy Cheers

“Big Browns on the South Holsten”

July 15 | Chris Leonard

“The Magnificent Eastern Sierra”

August 19 | TBD

Sept 19 | Annual BBQ

Oct 21 | Maury Hatch

“Fishing the Delta”

Nov 18 | Gary Bulla

“Fishing the Amazon”

December 16 | Annual Holiday Party

***Speakers and programs subject to change without notice.**

Check the newsletter or website for changes.



ZOOM

JIMMY CHEERS

"BIG BROWNS ON THE HOLSTON"

to join email:
president@sespeflyfishers.org



WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17 AT 6:30PM

THE TROPHY BROWN TROUT OF THE SOUTH HOLSTON

With Jimmy Cheers

Our June program, *Southern Tailwaters and Tactics*, takes us to waters never covered by the California speaker circuit. If you think of the South as "bass only" territory, you will be pleasantly surprised to find trophy brown trout in the country music state. Located in North Eastern Tennessee, The SoHo (as the locals call it) is the best kept secret not just East of the Mississippi, but the whole world. With summer hatches as thick as a snow-storm, wild native browns rise to size 20 dry flies. These trophy fish will also chase streamers. We will be in good hands with our guide for the evening, Jimmy Cheers.

Jimmy is a native of the Southern Appalachian Mountains where he rapidly developed a passion for fly fishing early in life. He grew up learning to fish on the banks of the famed South Holston River. Foggy mornings were spent wading with his father, followed by afternoons in a drift boat chasing mayfly hatches with his grandfather.

After high school, Jimmy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics from Liberty University. While he was in college, Jimmy began his guiding career with a small fly shop, reeling in trout from the mountain streams of central Virginia and landing Small Mouth Bass on the James River. Shortly after graduation Jimmy accepted a position with the Orvis Company as an outfitter and before long transitioned into the repair programs working with customers, dealers, and endorsed partners across the globe.

The industry insight and resources at Orvis prepared Jimmy for a deeper career in fly fishing. In 2015, Jimmy returned to his home in Bristol to begin sharing the waters

he cherished and a sport he had made a life around by becoming a full-time fly-fishing guide in Tennessee.



ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:

Sespe Flyfishers President Earl Arnold will send out an email with a **Zoom link** before the meeting. **Click on the link** from your computer when it's time for the meeting. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting through the link, there will also be a call-in number in the email which you can dial from a smartphone. Your audio will be muted so that the speaker can present without interruption, until question time.

Jimmy now guides out of Mountain Sports Ltd, which his family founded in 1981. For Jimmy Cheers, fly fishing has been a cornerstone since childhood and has led him all over the world in pursuit of one more cast. In addition to fly fishing, Jimmy is an avid dog trainer and wing shooter. When he is not on the water, he can surely be found with his two Yellow Labradors- Beau and Cash.

Jimmy has a lifetime of experience on the waters around Bristol, particularly the SoHo. He is a third generation Cheers that has spent a good majority of his time floating the South Holston and Watauga searching for wild browns and big rain-bows. In other words, Jimmy grew up on the local waters and he knows the river better than most of the big brown trout living in the SoHo! After college he continued his career as a fly fisherman by working for the Orvis Company for over 5 years, which allowed him to travel and fish rivers all over the US. In 2016 Jimmy decided it was time to take his passion for fly fishing and turn it into a career on the water. To expand his skill base, Jimmy attended the Western Rivers Guide School in Victor Idaho to become a full-time guide based out of Mountain Sports Ltd. (276)-494-1929

For more info visit: <https://mtnsportsltd.com/flyfishing>



Online Auction Report

Going, Going, Gone!!

According to club President Earl Arnold, the first ever online auction was a big success! The auction generated **over \$5000** towards the annual operating costs of running the club, most of it during the auction, and some from special order items and post auction sales.

There was solid bidding on the the condo in Yosemite and the vacation home in Loreto, Baja, MX. And quite a number of people were eager to get private fly tying lessons from Earl. The Thomas and Thomas rod and reel attracted several buyers as did some of the other rods. And for a while there was a small battle between a few people wanting to fish the Green River.

Special thanks to Cece Rubin for setting up the auction on our website and to Frances Smith, who spearheads the auction, and managed the bidding emails. Given the success of the auction, and the relative ease of handling it online, we may see some additional items up for bid in the coming months.



SFF Casting Pond Committee Grows

As mentioned in the May Newsletter, the Sespe Fly Fishers Board of Directors has established a committee to explore the feasibility of building a Casting Pond in Ventura County. Someone brought to my attention that there are actually 5 casting ponds located throughout the State of California, as opposed to the 3 I mentioned last month. The nearest one to Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties is in Pasadena.

A Casting Pond in Ventura County would allow Sespe Fly Fishers and other Fly Fishing clubs in the region, like Santa Barbara Fly Fishers, Santa Clarita, and Conejo Valley Fly Fishers to hold casting clinics, tournaments, outdoor conservation and education classes, programs for at-risk youth, for Veterans, and so much more.

Candice Meneghin, Assistant to Supervisor Linda Parks, performing administrative, analytical and public relations work; with a focus on District 2's water and environmental policies has agreed to join the committee.

Some may remember Candice from her work with California Trout. She is also active on the board of Friends of the Santa Clara



River and other environmental groups and the Sespe Fly Fishers.

The next step for the Casting Pond committee is to draw up an initial proposal that can be submitted to Supervisors in Ventura County, and to land trust organizations in order to secure support for the effort.

Thomas Hall, a former contractor, has also offered to assist with the construction phase of the project when we reach that point, joining Club President Earl Arnold, who is also a former contractor.

Please contact me if you would like to join the Casting Pond Committee. We are looking for people who would like to support the project with their ideas,

volunteer efforts and/or contacts.

By Karen Hall

Email: karencolehall@gmail.com

FISHING REPORT - EXPLORING LEE'S FERRY, AZ

Written by Karen Hall with input from Earl Arnold

Near a Navajo Reservation and just below Glenn Canyon Dam, Lee's Ferry in Arizona is a magical place. Before you even get to the Colorado River there are the stunning Vermillion Cliffs that embrace the wide plains dotted with red rock piles and hoodoos. In the azure blue sky giant Condors from a nearby Condor nesting area, glide and circle on air swells, bringing to mind ancient lost civilizations and the strange creatures who once inhabited this rugged landscape.

Arizona had partially lifted COVID restrictions so we were able to visit Cliff Dwellers Lodge, owned by Wendy and Terry Gunn. Social distancing was in effect, so waiters and guides wore masks, but at least there was table seating (widely spaced) in their restaurant. Some tables were placed outside.

We had booked three days of guided fishing through the Cliff Dwellers Lodge through their onsite guide service and fly shop, wanting to see how different guides approached the waters and fishing.

We met up with our friends Earl Arnold, and his wife Ann. This was Ann and Earl's sixth annual trip to Lee's Ferry. They usu-



ally go for their wedding anniversary in April.

that the water flow from the dam was being managed so as not to blow out the insect hatch so we had high hopes when we hit the water on Monday of our trip.

And we weren't disappointed! I caught a 21.5" inch trout after a just a few hook-ups involving "long distance releases" It was a thrill bringing that one in, especially after several months of quarantine and no fishing!

My husband, Tom, focused on his casting until his rod unexpectedly broke. But even then his casting was solid. He borrowed my spare, a slow action fiberglass 4wt and quickly got back in the game. He also tried a faster 6wt rod our guide had rigged. Both worked in different settings. He probably hooked 45, and landed 36 fish from 14" to 18" in our 3 days on the river. We both caught some from the boat while drifting, and we while wading.

Boats (with motors) are needed because the steep canyon walls make access a challenge along much of the river.

That said, there are plenty of places to anchor the boat and walk and wade. It is normal to do at least some wading every day.

Most of the fishing was done with strike



ally go for their wedding anniversary in April.

This year the Cliff Dwellers Lodge didn't open until May. The weather was perfect and the fish were fat and hungry. The River had been closed for a while, and we learned upon arrival

indicators and dropper midges, as the water was cold, (around 48 degrees) and the fish were down low. The droppers, with split shot, were effective, but hard to cast and I untangled my share of 'wind knots.



But by the third day we were both managing those long, complex leaders much better.

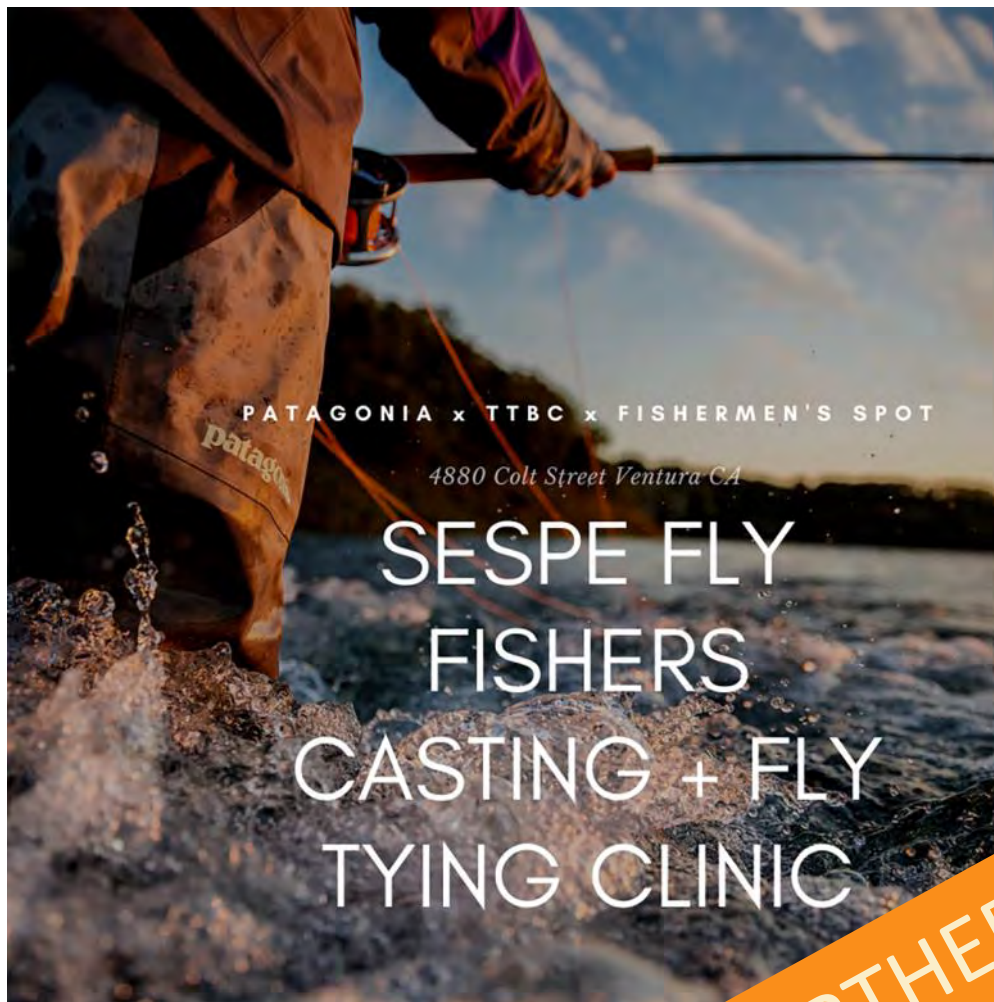
The guides, Chris, Scott & Kevin were all good, though for different reasons. Earl and Ann Arnold book their favorite guide, Natalie every year and they catch a lot of fish!

One day we tried using stimulators to replace our indicators which worked very well, and were a lot easier to cast.

When not casting and catching trout, we enjoyed cruising through the canyons. There are plenty of birds to watch including ducks, herons, osprey and hawks. We noticed several beavers swimming in the early morning, and there is a beautiful herd of wild horses who live in the canyon.

Fishing this tail water in the Grand Canyon is a unique experience. It should be on everybody's bucket list. The scenery alone is worth the trip, but the fishing is great as well. Cliff Dweller's Lodge with guide service, has everything you need. **Watch for notice of a club outing to Lee's Ferry in 2021.**





Sespe Fly Fishers Casting & Fly Tying Clinic

Join us **Sunday, March 29th** at **Topa Topa Beer Company**, Colt St., Ventura HQ Taproom alongside Patagonia and Fishermen's Spot for a casting clinic and fly tying workshop hosted by **Sespe Fly Fishers**. **Snack.**

There will be two clinics: one from **12-2pm**, and another from **2-4pm**. Please sign up at the TTBC website. Registration is \$10 per class - space is limited so please sign up early.

Topa Topa Beer Company is providing chili for free to all attendees, and \$5 pints are available for attendees.

A portion of proceeds will benefit Sespe Fly Fishers. This is a great chance to help support a local fly fishing organization, a rad local fly fishing shop, and a fellow 1% for the Planet member.

First Clinic: 12pm - 2pm

Second Clinic: 2pm - 4pm

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://www.topatopa.beer/shop/sespeflyfishing>

SESPE FF OUTING SCHEDULE 2020

All outings are subject to change

Look for confirmation contacts in the detailed descriptions (scroll down)

New trips may be added throughout the year - visit our sespeflyfishers.com to check for updates



**SANTA BARBARA
& SESPE FLY
FISHERS**

Coming back soon!

**LEADER:
JOSEPH
NARKEVITZ
CARPINTERIA, CA**

**2ND SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH**



MF Tule and Kern River trip | June 26-28

Dates: June 26-28 **FULL/WAITLIST ONLY**

Fish the MF Tule River and Clicks Creek. Creek fishing at it's finest. On the Tule, we will hook into Rainbows, Browns, and Brookies. On Clicks Creek , we will hook into Little Kern Goldens.

Lodging: Stay at the Schalla cabin. Limit of 6.

Costs: No cost for lodging. Share in the food costs.

Outing Leader | Steve Schalla, Stevenojai@aol.com, (805) 264-1950

Let's Go Fishing! —If you are a member of Sespe Fly Fishers and have an idea for an outing, or you'd like to host an outing, please contact **SFF Outings Chair Steve Schalla**. As noted above you can reach him at: stevenojai@aol.com, 805-264-1950

Outings Continued on page 8...

OUTINGS 2020 - It's a GREAT TIME to visit MONTANA!

Bighorn River | MONTANA | July 28 to 31

Dates: July 28 to 31 **STILL HAS OPENINGS—Please join us!**

- **Lodging:** 3 NTS at Big Horn Anglers, Riverbend Cabin and two days of guiding, all meals included.

Large cabin located on a bluff above the Bighorn river about one mile outside of Fort Smith Montana with 40+ acres of private land and a 1/4 mile of Bighorn River frontage. Cabin is 2000 square feet with 3 bedrooms and two full bathrooms. There are 6 beds in each cabin and blowup mattresses can be provided upon request. Furnace, fireplace and air conditioning! The kitchen has all stainless steel appliances, concrete countertops, wine rack, herbs and spices for cooking, pots, pans, dishes, silverware....all the amenities that a gourmet kitchen

should have, not to mention a priceless view of the Bighorn River. The living area has extremely comfortable leather furniture, reading lamps, fireplace, and a 50 inch plasma television with surround sound, DVD player, and satellite TV. And again, the extraordinary view of the Bighorn River! Cabin also has grills on the wrap around porch, wifi internet access and pets are welcome.

Costs: \$995/person—Covers Lodging, Guide Service, and Meals



Outing Leader | Steve Schalla, Stevenojai@aol.com, (805) 264-1950

Kings River trip (Yucca Point) | September 18-20

Dates: Sept 18-20 **TRIP HAS OPEN**

- Backpack trip to the Kings River at Yucca Point. Just one night of camping, two days of fishing. Catch some big Kings River Rainbows.
- Costs: None
-

Outing Leader | Steve Schalla, Stevenojai@aol.com, (805) 264-1950



Hole in the Ground (Kern River) Trip | October 5-9

Dates: Oct 5-9 **SOME SPOTS LEFT!**

- A pack trip on horseback to Hole in the Ground, Kern River. A 7 hour ride from Golden Trout Pack Station. 5 days, 4 nights. We share in the food and cooking. Camp Kitchen will be provided. Will be hooking into Kern River Rainbows and some Browns. Meet up at the Schalla cabin prior to departure from Pack Station.
- Costs: About \$700 plus tips to the wranglers.

Outing Leader | Steve Schalla, Stevenojai@aol.com, (805) 264-1950

Fishing is fun, even at a Safe Distance!

Eric Kramer offered a Rock Cod fishing trip in the 2019 Sespe Fly Fishers Auction and the winner's enjoyed some fine fishing this year.

It's wasn't fly fishing, but quarantined couples, Bill & Joyce Blackstone, and Earl and Ann Arnold were both eager to get out and fish. Each couple went on a different day.

And even wearing masks most of the time, Earl and Ann caught their limit of Red Snapper on Monday, May 11.

Bill and Joyce Blackstone had similar luck on Sunday May 10th.





FIRST SATURDAY CASTING

CASTING THE FLY ROD | AN INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

SFF First Saturday Casting in April will be on April 4th

Nearly always the first Saturday of the month!

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, in East Ventura (near the 101 and 101 Rd).

As usual, this is open to everyone interested in learning and becoming a better fly fisher. Bring your friends, buddies, family and of course your mother (if you can get her to come out cast you). Please help spread the word!

If you haven't tried it yet, here is your chance to learn the new FFI "Casting Skills Challenge". And what's in it for me you ask? Well, it's not only a chance to become a better caster and fisher as a result of mastering the skill challenges, and you can earn a certificate for each level you pass and recognition from Fly Fishers International. There are three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Learn all about the Casting Skills Challenge at: www.flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center/Casting.

Bring your friends and family to come on out! There will be an introductory class on fly fishing and casting for others in the area who are interested in learning about our great sport so please pass the word and let people know of our outings. Invite them to join us.

If you have any suggestions as to how we might make our "First Saturday" outings better, in any way, please don't hesitate to share your ideas. We really want to know what you would like to review. If you have any questions give Bob Smith a call at 805-647-3522

Fly Tying 2020

This month, FLY TYING class for April is **CANCELLED!**

Rest of year: April 23 CANCELLED, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22.

Meet us at Eric's Tackle on Thompson, 6-8 PM WHEN WE RETURN!

Eric's Tackle has made a huge improvement on the tying space in his shop, so join us there and Dennis will again wow us with his latest and greatest! Next date is March 26 at 6:00pm.



Online Education With FFI

Have you got a bit of downtime? Over the past few months, we have all had to adjust to the COVID-19 crisis and find new ways to stay connected and cope with all the coronavirus sequestration.

With this in mind, Fly Fishers International has designed a series of webinars called **FFI Online** that will bring the FFI to you. These informative webinars will be held live and cover a variety of topics from fly tying to fly casting. We all miss being out in nature, fishing and probably even more seeing our fishing friends, but in the meantime this is a wonderful way to stay connected to the fly fishing community. We hope you will join us!

FFI Ambassador Jeff Currier's recent "Global Fish Quest" drew record numbers of watchers. He discussed trips to Anaa Atoll, where some of the most sought-after saltwater species for anglers to catch on fly.

Dr. Paul Weiss is speaking about the **Fierce Fish of the Amazon Wednesday, June 10th at 5PM PDT**. Dr. Reiss' scientific work has led to the discovery of previously unknown aspects of the life cycles of Amazon fishes. He has published a series of peer-reviewed scientific papers on the subject. Join Dr. Reiss to learn what it's like to fly fish one of the most famous rivers in the world with Paul Reiss. Sponsored by FFI Women Connect.

For more information about the Zoom webinars go to:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>

If you miss a webinar, don't worry they will be recorded for later viewing but remember to check back regularly for upcoming events. Some recordings are only up for a limited time.



Check our outings page for the Big Horn Trip! It is a wonderful chance to join fellow club members as they explore the natural splendor of MONTANA and enjoy some fantastic fishing!



*"This is an organization
making a difference every day."*

Dep Sec Sloan Gih... Department of Veterans Affairs

MEET SCHEDULE:

at the Ventura Vet Center on the 2nd

THURSDAY of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 PM.

...program serving disabled veterans in Ventura area. Join us!

Please contact me if you would like more information about
donating or helping with our program.

HEALING WATERS UPDATE:

**We got our fly rod kits so the next two months we will be building
rods at the Dudley House!**

Earl Arnold | Program Lead

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Ventura

earl.arnold@projecthealingwaters.org



The Fly Shop

www.theflyshop.com



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL



WE GET BIT
ERIC'S TACKLE SHOP

2127 East Thompson Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001
Phone: (805) 648-5665

Our Hours:
Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sat - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun - Closed



fishermen's
spot

Your Trusted Flyfishing Outfitter for over 40 years
FLY FISHING GEAR AND TRAVEL SERVICE - VAN NUYS, CA





Hosted Fly Fishing Trips for the Best of Baja & Mothership Trips for Peacock Bass in Brazil





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT | Earl Arnold | 805- 701-1239

VICE PRESIDENT | Chris May | 805-984-1267

SECRETARY | Gary Bulla | 805-933-1367

TREASURER | Michael Bowden | 805-499-5024

DIRECTORS:

Chris Moore | 805-625-4611

Bob Gallagher | 805-647-0762

Steve Schalla | 805-264-1950

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

. **Auction** | Jeff Herford 658-0829

. **Casting Coordinator** | Bob Smith 805-647-3522

. **Conservation** | Randy Nelson | 805-794-0869

. **FFI Rep.** | Chris Moore | 805-625-4611

. **Fly Tying** | Dennis McCarty |

. **Membership** | Chris & Frances May | 805-984-1267

. **Newsletter** | **Casting Pond** | Karen Hall | 805-798-0469

. **Outings** | Steve Schalla | 805-264-1950

. **Programs** | Gary Bulla | 805-933-1367

. **Project Healing Waters** | Earl Arnold | 805-701-1239

. **Raffles** | Terry O'Shea | 805-850-5518

. **Refreshments** | Jeff Hereford | 805-658-0829

. **Trout in the Classroom** | Eric Kramer | 805-984-7202

. **Web Site** | Steve Schalla | 805-264-1950 and Cece Rubin | 818-618-6118

RENEW OR JOIN SESPE FLY FISHERS ONLINE OR USE THIS FORM!

Sespe Flyfishers Membership Renewal

Dear Flyfisher,

Welcome new members and renewing members alike! Your membership dues enable the Sespe Flyfishers to continue to provide quality programs, outings, seminars, and to participate in conservation efforts.

Please complete this application and return it along with your membership dues today to the following address or **Renew on line at** SespeFlyFishers.org

Sespe Flyfishers
P.O. Box 5127
Ventura, CA 93005

Your support is appreciated.

NAME: _____

Please include names of Family Members that may participate in club functions:

Family Member: _____

Family Member: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please indicate if you are a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual Family Membership Dues (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)

Residence	Age	Membership
Ventura & S.B. Counties	16 and over	\$40
Other Locations	16 and over	\$20
Any	Under 16	\$20

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

Voluntary contribution to the Sespe Flyfishers Conservation Fund

\$ _____

Voluntary contribution to "Trout in the Classroom"

\$ _____

Voluntary contribution to Ty Stork Memorial Fund

\$ _____

Grand Total

\$ _____

If you have any questions, please contact Chris or Fran May at 984-1267 or chrismay5@msn.com