



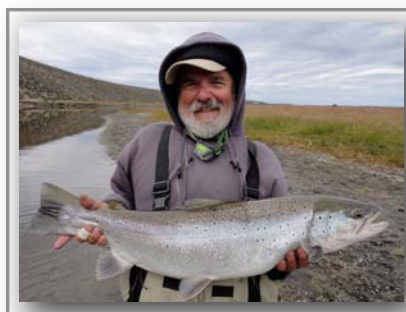
Mel & Neil's Big Trout, Exotic Location and Low Cost Adventure

with Mel and Neil Light

Most fly fishers dream of an exciting and fulfilling fishing trip that they can design themselves, prepare for and then spend a month or so experiencing. It'd be like a dream of the ultimate fly fishing adventure totally under their control. What fun, right?

But how many people do this? Well, at this month's meeting you're going to meet two who have done this, and more than once.

Mel and Neil Light are true fly fishing fanatics. In fact Mel, a member and past-president of Wilderness Fly Fishers, even writes a column that appears in his club's newsletter, *Mending the Line*, called just that, "The Fishing Fanatic." And Mel's older brother, Neil, is considered by many to be even more of a fanatic about our sport than Mel.



Neil with Sea-run Brown.



Mel with Resident Brown.

continued on page 2

November 2015 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November, 17th
Wet Flies: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Program: 8:00 PM
Place: [Olympic Collection, 11301 Olympic Boulevard, LA](#)
Cost: **\$37.00** per person
Parking: \$3.50 underground – Free on the street.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459
OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 9

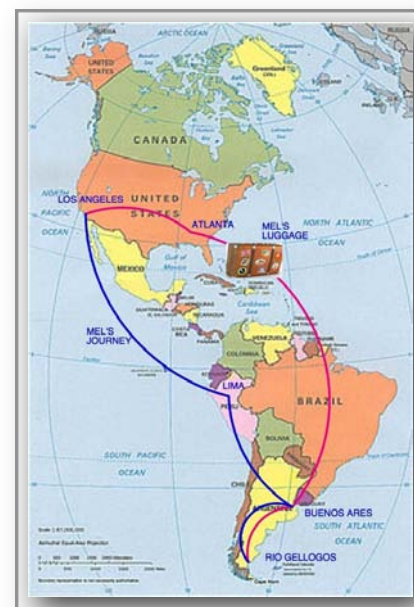
INSIDE

Mel & Neil's Big Trout, Adventure	1-4
Coming Events	5
Holiday Party & Conservation Super Raffle	6-8
Meeting Reservations & Directions / Map	9
Calendar	10

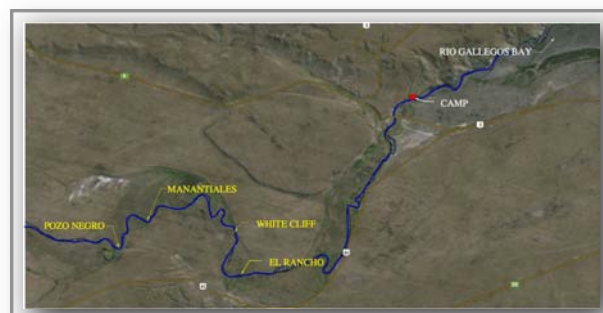
M&N's Big Trout Adventure

Last year, they researched, planned, then conducted even more research, constantly adjusting their plans, and then they took off for the bottom of Argentina and South America. They packed all their own gear and camping equipment, bought their own plane tickets, hoped to get into a campsite they learned about, also hoped they would be able to find transportation once they got there and boarded their flights, each brother leaving from a different city, which was an adventure in itself. (Mel lives in L.A. and flew from LAX, Neil lives in Santa Rosa and flew from San Francisco.) Their trip lasted a month! And, luckily for us, they shot a good amount of video and lots of pictures.

They had funny experiences, joyous fishing, and some unforeseen problems that were overcome. They have not only great stories to tell, but also enjoyable, humorous and illuminating video to show us. (After Neil's return home he bought editing software, contracted with a high school student to tutor him on editing, and, through his young tutor and trial and error, became a good editor.) During their adventure, they learned a lot, and luckily for us, we will as well, but without having to live through the difficulties they did. And if you want to see what it is like to catch huge sea-run brown trout, along with big resident brown trout in an amazing river and spring creek at the bottom of Patagonia, all the while traveling around on their own, camping out, going to local grocery stores, cooking most of their own meals, meeting locals, learning the customs and drinking the Argentinian ubiquitous drink that is as popular there as coffee is here (in Argentina it is known to all as "Mate"), don't miss this presentation.



Mel's Itinerary



Lower River Map



Campground w: River



Mel Tying in Tent



Camp Kitchen

M&N's Big Trout Adventure

Mel, Neil and their sister were born in Minnesota, but when they were all toddlers, the family moved to California, settling in Santa Rosa. It was there that the Light brothers became enraptured with fishing. Their parents weren't fishers, but Neil believes a genetic "bug" must have been passed to them from their grandfather who was a fisherman in Minnesota. In their teens, they both became absolute fishing fanatics.

Mel attended Santa Rosa Junior College before entering the Army, where he served as a 1st Lieutenant in Special Forces in Vietnam. After the Army, Mel settled in SoCal, attended Santa Monica Junior College and started his own landscape contracting company. He backpacked and explored many of the streams in the Sierra and has since fished most of the rivers all around the western states in the U.S. . . . and that means almost **all** the rivers. For example, last year Mel fished more than 90 days, with his specialty being dry fly fishing using tiny flies. In fact, of the most recent 25 fish Mel caught this year, he got them all on flies size 24 or smaller. He is a creative fly tier, creating many new patterns.



Driving Across Estancia



Mug of Mate & Bombilla



Argentine BBQ



Lower River



Mel Cooking
continued on page 4

M&N's Big Trout Adventure

Neil is a woodworking artisan specializing in cabinetry and custom furniture who spends three to six months every year fishing around the globe. He loves to chase trout and steelhead in the U.S. northwest, Canada and Russia, along with saltwater species (tarpon, bonefish and snook) in Florida, South America and Christmas Island in the Pacific. Neil also attended Santa Rosa Junior College and later earned a B.A. degree from Chico State University. He, as well as Mel, is an innovative fly tier and has invented new patterns, including what has become known as “The California Neil.”

These two siblings will be giving a presentation you will enjoy and learn from.



Mel Pointing to Penguins-Road Sign.



Mel in Wind



Rental Car Loaded w: Gear



Fly Boxes



Board of Directors

President	Peter Haight
Vice President	OPEN
Secretary	Celia Carroll
Treasurers	Tom Rasmussen
	Art Antolick
Programs	Jeffrey Pill
Membership	Marcia Breskin
Dinner Reservations	Michie Hirooka
Monthly Raffle	John Dalton
Database Manager	Marcia Breskin
Super Auction	OPEN
Super Raffle	OPEN
Hotline	John Dalton
Casting	Jim Solomon
Holiday Party	Therese Funk
Conservation	OPEN
Fly Tying	Mel Light
Trout in the Classroom	Celia Carroll
Outings	Larry Carroll
	Clay Dodder
Webpage	Larry Carroll
Newsletter	Jeffrey Pill
	Michie Hirooka
	Marcia Breskin
	Clay Dodder
	OPEN
Southwest Council-FFF Representative	

©Mending the Line is published monthly except in August & December by the Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica, California. Submit inquiries regarding articles for publication to Wilderness Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 3358, Santa Monica, California 90408-3358. All articles should be emailed in RTF or MS Word format to:

Wildernessflyfishers@gmail.com

To join WFF, Visit our website
www.wildernessflyfishers.org

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting


The monthly Board Meeting, held the Tuesday one week before the monthly dinner meeting, will be held at 400 Bonhill Road Los Angeles, Ca 90049. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 P.M. All members are welcome. New members are especially encouraged to attend. Come and see how your club runs and you might pick up some fishing tips, too.

COMING EVENTS

For more information go to the WFF website [CALENDAR](#)

Holiday Party &
Conservation Super Raffle

Sat. Dec. 5

Monthly Raffle Items	Value
Temple Fork BVK 8 Wt. 9' 4 pc Fly Rod 	\$290
Okuma Cedros 8/9 Wt. Fly Reel 	\$190
Climax Saltwater Intermediate Rocket WF9I Fly Line 	\$45
Gear Keeper Zinger with Fly Patch 	\$20
Bob Veverka: "Innovative Saltwater Flies" 	\$50

Holiday Party & Raffle - 2015 Edition

Wilderness Fly Fishers is getting ready for its annual Holiday Party and Raffle, the 2015 edition, that will take place for the *seventh* consecutive year at the lovely home of members Trays Funk and Jimmy McAndrews in Pacific Palisades. This event is the highlight of the WFF year and we thank Trays and Jimmy for hosting this very special gala.

The date is Saturday, December 5th. The festivities start about 6 pm and the address is 15865 Asilomar Blvd, Pacific Palisades, 90272. The food and drinks are magnificent, the décor and home are warm and lovely and our hosts are the best in the world. This year, rather than pile a complete dinner on top of amazing and plentiful hors d'oeuvres, we've asked Trays to schedule just a variety of what are termed "heavy" hors d'oeuvres that will more than satisfy everyone's taste buds, appetites and caloric intake. (And such offerings keep the evening's festivities in a casual and relaxed mood.) The food will be spectacular, with our usual array and variety of wine, beer and soft drinks available. Anyone willing to contribute a bottle of great wine to our event will be most appreciated.

This is also when we have the drawing for the WFF Holiday Conservation Super Raffle, which always has valuable gifts of great two-for-one fly fishing trips, valuable equipment and gear, along with fantastic bottles of wine and Marcia Breskin's overflowing gift basket. See the list of these prizes following this article. Be sure to buy your tickets at our November meeting, or on-line. They're as always, one ticket for \$25, or five for \$100. The party itself is once again very reasonably priced at \$40 per person.

And last, this event is also when the winner of the 2015 Gary Lafontaine Service Award is announced and awarded. Need we say this is an evening you don't want to miss, so we'll see you on December 5th.

A few photos from last years party.



*Jeff presents thank you gift to
Trays & Jimmy*



John Kingsley, Reece Lewis, Ernie & Shannon Gulley



*Paul Parminter, Trays Funk,
Jimmy McAndrews & Celia
Carroll*



Tom Rasmussen & Natalie Brecher



*Mel Messinger, Jane Dalton
& Mary Jo Dalton*

continued on page 7

2015 HOLIDAY CONSERVATION SUPER RAFFLE PRIZES

1. **TAYLOR FLADGATE VINTAGE PORT, 1975.** Approximate Value: \$150 Donated by Jerry Pierce.
2. **FONSECA'S FINEST VINTAGE PORT, 1977.** Approximate Value: \$250 Donated by Jerry Pierce.
3. 2 Bottle Set 1- **VOSNE-ROMANEE, COLLECTION DR BARTOLETT, BURGUNDY, 1953** Value \$475 & 1 - **CHATEAU NEUF DU PAPE, RHONE 1970** Value \$129 Donated by Mary Davis
4. 2 Bottle Set 1- **VOSNE-ROMANEE, COLLECTION DR BARTOLETT, BURGUNDY, 1953** Value \$475 & 1 - **CHATEAU LA TOUR DU HAUT-MOULIN, BORDEAU, 1969** Value \$50.00 Donated by Mary Davis
5. **ST. CROIX LEGEND ELITE 7 wt., 9 ft., 4 pc. FLY ROD** Value \$450 It has slim-profile ferrules and premium, high modulus, high-strain SCV graphite blanks. Add in SCVI graphite in the lower portion of the rod for added power and reduced weight along with FRS (Fortified Resin System) for strength and durability and it is every bit as functional as it is beautiful.



6. **GALVAN SPOKE 5 wt. FLY REEL, Green** Retail Value: \$410 Galvan reels are very highly regarded by professional fly fishers as well as consumers, solidly constructed and beautiful to look at and hold in your hand. (And Galvan has always been a friend and supporter of WFF.) This reel is lightweight, with a two-toned spool, green interior spoke with a solid black frame. (Shown in blue from web site.)



7. **FISHPOND DELTA SLINGPAK, Cutthroat Green** Retail Value: \$150 Fishpond Cyclepond fabric, external water resistant zippers, sling strap comparable over left or right shoulder, cord loops, integrated guide net slot, detachable interior nylon pouch, 6 zippered pockets. (See above.)

8. **STEELHEAD - TROUT NETSTAFF**, Retail Value: \$200 Three-in-one fishing tool: net fish up to 20 lbs., wading staff, and retrieval hook. Net hoop is 12 inches wide by 16 inches long with a deep bag and the wading staff is 54 inches and comes with a retrieval hook to retrieve flies and lures from trees and brush. Net deploys easily and has two netting positions, regular and an extended reach position. Includes one Geardock Kit, used to attach staff to vest.



continued on page 8

2015 HOLIDAY CONSERVATION SUPER RAFFLE PRIZES

9. ECHO SHADOW II 3 wt., 10 ft., 4 pc. FLY ROD Retail Value: \$250 **plus Echo Shadow II Competition Kit** Retail Value: \$75 Light long rod designed for all nymphing situations, including European-style, indicator, high sticking and wet fly.

The Competition Kit includes two 6" extensions that add extra reach, either 6" or 12", a screw-in fighting butt and counterweight washers that fine-tune balance.



10. THE BLUE WINGED OLIVE "MILL CREEK RETREAT", Livingston, Montana Gift certificate offers one week (at 50% off) for up to four guests at the Blue Winged Olive "Mill Creek Retreat" cabin located in Mill Creek Canyon on the eastern edge of Montana's famous Paradise Valley. This cabin has a fully outfitted kitchen and eating area. Located in the heart of Montana's fly fishing country close to Chico Hot Springs, Yellowstone River, Yellowstone National Park. The Gardener River is close by as well as Slough Creek, the Lamar River, and the Madison River. Value at half price is between \$450 and \$625 depending on season. Lodging taxes, damage deposit, guide fees, rod fees on private waters, etc., will be the responsibility of the certificate holder. A cleaning/damage deposit of \$250 will be required and will be returned within two weeks of your departure less any fees. Dogs are accepted with a \$50 additional fee and are limited to two. Certificate to be used by December 31, 2016.



11. BASKET OF CULINARY GOODIES FOR THE FLYFISHER Created and donated by Marcia Breskin. Value of the individual items – over \$200, value after work and care to create this basket – priceless. Basket includes:

Very nice bottle of wine

Set of four wine glasses etched with a fly

Ceramic mug with brown trout

Book of fish and seafood recipes

Glass cutting board with Arctic grayling painting

License plate frame "Gone Flyfishing"

12. MONTANA FLY FISHERS, FORT SMITH, MONTANA Three days fishing and four nights lodging for two anglers. Two for the price of one. Includes meals. Fish the world famous Big Horn River at one of our club's favorite destinations. This is a great dry fly and nymphing river where you will fish for good-sized rainbows and browns. All meals are home cooked and delicious. Does not include tips for guides and household staff. Expires December 31, 2016. Winner pays \$1390; Value \$2780.



Print & Mail Coupons

If you prefer not to use our website, mail in a coupon with your check.



Wilderness Fly Fishers Membership Application

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues: Starting January 1, 2015

New prices

- ☐ \$40 Single - Regular
- ☐ \$60 Single - Golden Trout
- ☐ \$50 Family - Regular
- ☐ \$70 Family - Golden Trout

_____ TOTAL enclosed

Mail Check With This Form To:

**Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica , CA 90408-3358**

Monthly Meeting Reservations

Please make your dinner [reservations online](#) or send in this coupon.

Your check must be in the club mailbox by the Wednesday, the week before the meeting.

Names _____

_____ Dinner(s) x \$37 per person

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to W.F.F.

Mail to:

**Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358**

Join us online, Visit our website www.wildernessflyfishers.org



November & December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30 Hot Creek Ranch	31 Hot Creek Ranch
1 Hot Creek Ranch	2 Hot Creek Ranch	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 WFF Board Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 WFF Monthly Meeting Mel & Neil's Big Trout Adventure	18	19	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles for January	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 WFF Fly Tying
29	30	1	2	3	4	5 WFF Holiday Party & Conservation Super Raffle
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

