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# WILDERNESS FLY FISHERS JANUARY 17 MEETING

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Pat and a happy  
tenkara angler  
on the Upper  
Owens. Who  
says you can't  
land a big trout  
on a tenkara rod!

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## Pat Jaeger: Tenkara - It Can Improve Your Fly Fishing

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We have all seen a flurry of reports and stories in recent years about a new form of fly fishing called “tenkara.” Well, it is not really new, and once people try it, almost all of them find it not only fun and enjoyable, but very effective and very useful for all fly fishing. People have learned that this ancient style of fly fishing, originated in Japan, helps us understand, and become better at, all aspects of fly fishing. Truly, when you go on the water with one of these long, light, beautifully-balanced tenkara rods, you discover new elements about the sport we love. And yes, there is no reel, but **please** trust us on this – this is not a problem and you will find tenkara wonderful. And trust our guide on this journey, Pat Jaeger, who is a definite “favorite son” of our club as well as a dedicated and trusted keeper of our home waters in the eastern Sierra.

For the last couple years, Pat has become more and more enamored with this form of fly fishing and is turning some clients and previous non-believers into believers. Would we lie? Come to this show and learn something new and exciting. Really.

And, before our formal meeting, we recommend that you try to attend a short explanation and hands-on display of some tenkara equipment that Pat will have with him so that you can actually

play with it in your hands. This will take place during the time that is usually used by presenters to tie flies. Join us, if you can. (See sidebar article about this mini-workshop.)

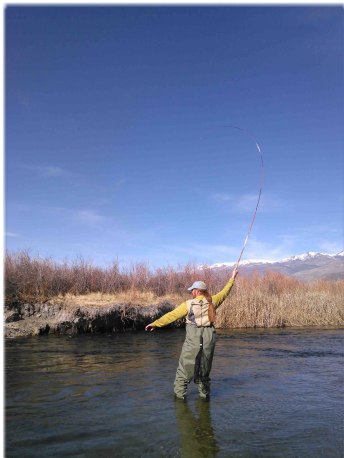
Pat is known to many of our members, but for those who haven't met or seen him before, and as a reminder to those who already love him, let's review what he sent us detailing his background:

*My father passed away when I was six years old, leaving my mother to raise five boys and a four-year-old daughter. She didn't have much time to entertain us, so we had to create our own fun. We had plenty of kids in the neighborhood, a vacant lot and canyons to explore. We didn't get into too much trouble, but if any of you lived then in the San Diego area and were ever missing fruit from your trees, that was probably our fault. Sorry.*

*When I reached my teens, my brothers included me in their fishing adventures. These usually took place on our local lakes, but there were some half-day saltwater trips as well.*

*Soon I become a familiar face on the half-day boats, scrubbing decks on the way home in trade for trips.*

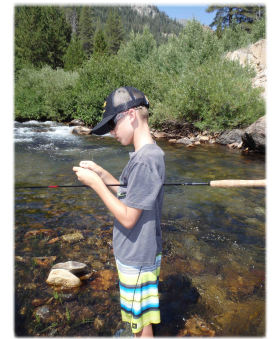
*After graduating high school in 1978 (Crawford High, San Diego), a couple of friends and I, inspired by the Allman Brothers song, decided to move (ramble) north to Mammoth Lakes in search of the mountain life, skiing and females. From the start, I truly felt at home with all of life's simple pleasures at my fingertips, namely unbelievable skiing, good hunting, the camaraderie of crazy kids turning into adults in a small town, but most important: TROUT.*



*I applied whatever fly fishing skills I had to the waters of the eastern Sierra and found the passion that I needed to make fishing my profession. the waters of the eastern Sierra and found the passion that I needed to make fishing my profession. With the help of my friends from the Eastside Guide Service at the Trout Fly, my dream came true. In the spring of 1995, I served an internship with them and traveled to northern California to work under Dick Galland and the guides at the Clearwater House. The summer of '96 was spent working part time up north and as a full-time guide for the Trout Fly. In the spring of 1999, I became a part owner of*

## Pre-Show Workshop

In lieu of fly tying this month, Pat will introduce us to Tenkara USA's rod line-up and shed some light on its applications for our beloved waters of the eastern Sierra. This workshop is not necessary to understand tenkara or Pat's presentation, but it can be helpful. Please arrive early to take part. The workshop begins at 6:00 pm. Scroll down for more info.



## Trout in the Classroom Begins This Month

Scroll down to find out how you can participate in this amazing program.

### Pat's Fly Fishing Achievements

2001-FFF Certified Casting Instructor

Simms Ambassador

"Test Pilot" for Sage Fly Rods

TenkaraUSA Pro Guide

Head Guide for Project Healing Waters (Eastern Sierra)

2013 Master Guide for the Trout Fitter/Trout Fly, Mammoth Lakes

Head Guide for the Silver Lake Fishing Academy

2013 Guided IGFA Grand Slam

2016 Guided IGFA Grand Slam

Owner/Operator of the Eastern Sierra Guide Service

And many, many happy clients!

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EASTERN SIERRA GUIDE SERVICE



*the Trout Fly and that November I married the love of my life, Pamela, after a courtship of five years.*

*After many years working winters for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area as a ski repairman, I gracefully bowed out of this career to seek a full-time career as a fishing guide. (Today my wading boots are wet more than 200 days a year.)*

*In the winter of 2001, I sold my shares of the Trout Fly to one of my partners for a down payment on an "I love Lucy" (1940) fixer-upper house in Bishop, which, to this day, we call home.*

*I feel a first guide trip with a client is just a job interview. A call back for another date means I got the job. I treat each trip individually; I like to ask my clients what their goals and objectives are for the day and do my best to customize the trip to meet these visions, not mine. My goals in life are to raise a family, live and work in a beautiful place, surround myself with really good people and smile when I'm going to work. I am a Dad to our two daughters Maggie and Isabella, a husband to my sweetheart and best friend Pamela and my career is a Fly Fishing Guide.*

*My objective as a guide is to understand the craft in so well that I can simplify the essential fundamentals of the sport. And streamline the learning curve to give the average angler the freedom of fishing later on his or her own. I can also break down the technical aspects of the sport and offer the more advanced anglers a new arrow for their quiver. Every so often I enjoy getting off the beaten path and I sincerely strive for that look in a client's eye when I hit the bull's eye and he or she has had a great and memorable day on the water and even learned some wonderful and useful things for future use. I love seeing that look.*

### More about Pat's Pre-Dinner Tenkara Workshop

A couple years ago I discovered this ancient style of fly fishing that uses a telescoping rod and an attached, fixed length of fly line. My introduction was truly love at first cast. Tenkara is a freakishly intuitive, pure method of fly fishing.

Since the summer of 2014, I have made tenkara fishing available to clients in order to help establish the understanding of fly control, proper body and hand positioning and mouse-trap style hook sets. This feather-like rod has enabled me to bring the most advanced angler back to productive methods of fly control and, from minute one, give entry level anglers the simple freedom to fly fish with confidence.

Our “pre-show workshop” will introduce TenkaraUSA’s rod line-up and shed some light on its applications for our beloved waters of the eastern Sierra. This workshop is not necessary to understand tenkara or my presentation, but it can be helpful. Please try to join me before your evening’s formal agenda.

I promise to “blow some minds,” demystifying simple rod rigging for nymphing and dry fly fishing and reveal my spin on non-traditional rigging styles.

My 20 to 30 minute class will confirm that there is more than one way to trick trout. Tenkara fly-fishing ... truthfully, not fair.

### Trout In The Classroom Begins This Month

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As the rainbow trout begin their winter egg-laying cycle, WFF volunteers and local school teachers are preparing their classroom aquariums to receive eggs from the Fillmore Hatchery! The eggs usually arrive during the last two weeks of January.



As we deliver the eggs to each teacher, we discuss the life cycle of the fish and the special nature of the places they live. Students receive an egg in a plastic cup and place it carefully into their specially chilled aquariums. If we are very lucky, some of the eggs are stimulated by the warmth of the air and begin hatching! After the fish hatch, we offer an entomology and ecology classroom demonstration, with live nymphs and other aquatic creatures.

The students find this fascinating and the children’s wonderment at this new world never fails to excite those of us who work with the teachers and students in the classroom! It’s hands-on science in the best sense of the term!

Hands-on science continues with the release of the fry into local streams, ponds or reservoirs (all with approval of the DFG) at the end of March. WFF volunteers demonstrate fly tying, coach the students in learning to cast a fly, release the fish with students, and oversee a mini-entomology lab in which students catch aquatic insects to examine under a magnifier.

Let me know if you are interested in participating in this rewarding program. I am very happy to have an assistant for classroom visits, as well as volunteers in the field for the fry releases. Especially welcome are the fishing stories and photos our



members share with the students. Fun and laughter in an energized learning environment are guaranteed! My email: [ccarr10186@aol.com](mailto:ccarr10186@aol.com)

Celia Carroll, Trout in the Classroom Coordinator

## Please Make Your Dinner Reservation ASAP

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You can make your reservations on [the Wilderness Fly Fishers' website](#). You can also renew your membership while your there — and maybe even make a donation to help our cash flow as well!

