



# Ring of the Rise

April 2012

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

## President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter and this newsletter finds everyone gearing up and looking forward to a new fishing season. We've had a few late storms with rain and snow in the mountains, so hopefully this will help our water situation this year. The snowpack is up to 55 percent in the Sierras but we could still use more.

Our next meeting will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> and our speaker will be Ernie Gulley. He will be doing a presentation on tactics for fishing Crowley. There are huge fish to be caught in that water and it should be a very informative and interesting evening. Hope to see you all there.

I finally had an opportunity to get out of town for a few days with Steve (*Techguy*) and Gary (*CopperDropper*). They picked me up Tuesday morning and we were off to the East side towing Steve's new 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. Thirty five feet of luxury on wheels....what a way to "rough it". Once we arrived the task of setting up camp was left to Steve while we watched him as he pushed buttons on his hand held remote to level the trailer, drop the awnings and slide out the bedroom, living room and kitchen. He didn't even break a sweat!! Inside there were flat screen TVs, a DVD player, a gas fireplace and a shower larger than the one in my house. And oh yes, two leather recliners. I could tell this was to be a rustic, bare boned camping trip.

We had five days to fish, relax, laugh and eat like kings. Steve was quite the cook. Home made lasagna the first night and a huge breakfast the next morning. This wasn't going to be a Jenny Craig week!! Bill Jr. came up Wednesday morning and showed us how to catch fish and bar-b-qued steaks that evening.

The weather cooperated for the most part and everyone caught some beautifully colored wild brown trout in the wild trout section. We fished the Upper Owens on Friday and Steve hooked into a big fish right away only to have it come unbuttoned after a few minutes of bendo action. We thought this was a sign of good things to come but after about an hour the wind came up with a vengeance and forced us to drop back down to the Lower Owens.

We finished off the day on the Lower with some nice fish to hand and went back to camp. Friday night Gary treated us to a shrimp boil, Cajun style, what a feast....jumbo shrimp, kielbasa, potatoes and ear corn. We didn't move for quite a while after stuffing ourselves. It truly was a great trip with

good friends, good food and good fishing, what more could you ask for?



It looks like the flows on the Kern are coming up a bit with the recent rains but some big fish are still being brought to net. Hopefully I can get up there and hook into a few of those in the very near future.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Bill*

## River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everyone, this is a [fly fishing report](#) for the week of 4-8-12 written on Sunday 4-8-12.

**The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern** Water temps are currently between 48-55 degrees on the upper river. An inconsistent hatch of March Browns size 14 are hatching from around 12 pm to 7:30 pm along with a slight hatch of Black Flies "Diptera - Simuliidae. Rainbows are taking the larvae. An olive midge in size 22 or a WD40 in size 18-22 will get the job done. Best fishing is in the middle of the day when water temps get to 50 degrees and the bugs start coming off. Stimulators are working well in the later afternoon. Fishing in the 20 mile section is excellent!

Other go to flies are emerging BWO mayflies size 20-24 sprout or Rene Harrop's Emerging CDC BWO. Good

nymphs are smaller tungsten yellow sallies and flashback type nymphs. Great attractors right now are BH Red Kern Emergers and Chartreuse Copper Johns and BH Prince 16, Tungsten Teddy's size 10.

Remember to catch and release those trophy fish so somebody else has a chance to enjoy those big fish too. Somebody else has probably caught and released that fish so you could catch it. Pretty Cool!!!

I hope everyone checks out the new Video Report at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kern-River-Fly-Shop/190314409181>

Upper flows are at 540 cfs = You can wade.

**The 4 mile Wild Trout Section** Open year round. The fishing above the bridge is good. **Catch and Release barbless hooks only!!**

**Lake Isabella** Trout fishing is excellent near Camp Nine and Paradise Cove and fishing various streamers with a floating line or sink tip is getting the job done. Rainbows are looking up and taking midges on the surface with some great top water action, Crappie slow, Bass fly fishing is slow, Carp fly fishing is slow.

**Lower Kern** The lower river is fishing ok. Water temps are currently 5 degrees warmer than the upper at 50 degrees. The lower river is 500+cfs. Great flies to use down on the lower are Guides Choice Hares Ear size 12, Tungsten Yellow Sallie Nymphs size 14, Tungsten Teddy Pink size 10, Psycho Princes (pink) sizes 12-16, Copper Johns size 18 and WD40's size 18-20. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is slow.

**Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern** Closed

**South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North** Closed

*Guy*



**Conservation Report:** by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

## **TROUT FEST 2012**

Trout Fest, April 28, is a local event which reaches deep into the Kern River Valley Community. We will have a booth again this year. It's the most fun four hours you could imagine. The reward of sharing our sport with kids and their parents is a blast. We'll have a casting contest, tying station, and a pond will be stocked to let kids catch fish. It's also a great way to share our conservation view point when we release caught fish back into the pond!

Cast it forward,

*Shane*



Here is the letter sent to us from DFG requesting our assistance.

*Hello Southern Sierra Fly Fishers,*

*It's Trout Fest time again! DFG is looking for volunteers to help with Trout Fest at Kern River Hatchery, April 28th, 2012 from 10am to 3pm. Specifically, we hope to enlist the help of your organization, if available, to assist with teaching kids to fly cast and tie flies.*

*Trout Fest is a DFG sponsored event that teaches kids and their parents the joys of fishing and responsible angling. We are in our 13th year at Kern River Hatchery in Kernville; thanks much in part to the support of the community and local fly fishing groups through the years.*

*We will be holding a volunteer meeting Monday, March 19 @ 6 p.m. at the Rod and Gun Club, 631 E. Evans Rd. in Wofford Heights. Those interested in participating aren't required to attend, but perhaps we might see you there.*

*If you are interested, think any of your membership might be interested or know of other clubs and organizations or individuals that might like to help teach fly fishing and tying*

and the OTHER kind of fishing, please let me know or have them contact me.

We also need folks to man the kids fishing pools, run a cleaning station, work the raffle table, river maze or demonstrate dissection among a number of volunteer opportunities.

Many thanks,  
Jana

Jana Rae Leiran  
Department of Fish and Game  
Hatchery Interpretive Services Coordinator  
1234 E Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
916 539-6644

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**Outings Report:** by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

No report this month.

Chris

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**Rod Building:** by Pete Emmel (Pete)

**Reel Seat Options**

So you want to build your own custom rod or have one built. Great decision, but how do you decide on what type of reel seat to get? You have Wedding Band (also referred to as Sliding Ring), Uplocking, and Downlocking. So when to use what reel seat where? A lot of it comes down to personal preference. After all it is "custom" rod building, but, there is some common sense involved.

So let's cover the various seat types and their traditional uses:



**Wedding Band:** As mentioned above, they are sometimes called Sliding Ring or Rings. This seat utilizes a sliding ring(s) to secure the reel in place. No thread, glue, screws, smoke or mirrors, just the ring(s). The reason for the (s) is that some Wedding Band seats use two rings to secure the

reel in place. With the two ring seats, the reel can be placed on different areas of the seat. The single ring utilizes a Butt cap on the end of the rod for one reel foot. Wedding Band applications are for lighter weight rods in the 00 to 3 weight class.



**Uplocking Seat:** Just as the names implies, these seats secure the reel by screwing the locking ring up toward the handle. Usually there is a stationary ring with a spot to secure the reel by the handle. Then you have the sliding rind with a locking nut or two behind it. Uplocking seat applications can go from 00 up to 10 weights. They seem well suited for the 3 to 6 weight range.



**Downlocking:** Basically the opposite of an Uplocking seat. You screw the lock nut toward the butt end of the seat. The advantage of Downlocking comes into play with your heavier weight rods, especially the bigger Bamboo rods. Since the reel is moved back toward the butt of the rod the weight is also moved back. These seats can help move the balance point of the rod back, making it more comfortable to cast. Personally I like them on 7 weights and up long rods.

We aren't even going to discuss the various types of inserts and hardware materials. That is a topic for another day. Or better yet, something for you to research as you or your builder shop for components.

Again, it all comes down to what your personal preferences are.

Pete

Also, remember that SSFFC club members receive a 15% discount at Acid Rod. When you make your next rod building purchases please make sure to give Mark Griffin (Mark Griffin) a call at Acid Rod @ 909-394-7486 or stop by his shop at 910 N. Cataract Ave, San Dimas, CA and let him or Colleen know you're a member of SSFFC. - Gary

**Club Meeting:** by Bill Darbee (Bill)

The next General Meeting will be Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce building. There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM prior to the general meeting and all directors and chairpersons are encouraged to attend.

The presenter for the meeting will be Ernie Gulley. You may remember Ernie from last year when he gave a presentation on fishing Pyramid Lake. Ernie's says his presentation this time, "**Crowley Lake Fishing Tactics**" will focus on the following;



*The name Crowley Lake speaks for itself. For the last couple of decades this stillwater has consistently been one of the best stillwater fisheries in the West. A lake that has revolutionized the way we look at indicator fishing for trout.*

- *I cover the best places to fish on the lake depending on the months you are fishing by showing a map of the lake.*
- *The migrating patterns of the fish from opening day to the closer.*
- *How to get to the fish using water craft, boats, tubes, pontoons etc. and how to fish out of each one effectively.*
- *How to anchor your craft and make a solid platform to fish from. This is the most important rule to learn when indicator fishing.*
- *Once you find the fish how to attack them by using three simple rules that will make you better than 90% of the fisherman on the lake.*
- *Many, many pictures of fly patterns that have worked over the years and today!*
- *Leader setups for both regular indicator fishing and deepwater indicator fishing as deep as 20 feet of water.*
- *Also, just because you are indicator fishing doesn't mean you have to always fish a midge. We fish perch patterns, leach patterns, damsel nymph patterns and stillwater worms under an indicator very successfully. Not only do these tactics work well at Crowley but can be taken anywhere in the*

*world that has stillwaters and good midge populations and will successfully and consistently catch trout.*

- *Also eye candy of some very large fish that I have caught and released this year and last!*

Along with the presentation I give out two dozen of my hand tied flies I use a Crowley. Each dozen is in a nice display box so you can use them for your raffle. I also give out a handout that explains everything you will need to fish Crowley and four different leader set ups that you can use for midging and stripping.



**Ernie's Bio:**

Ernie Gulley has spent most of his life in southern California. He started fishing with his father from the time he could walk. At age seven he moved to New Orleans, LA. and learned how to fish Lake Ponchatrain for speckled trout and other salt water species. He returned to southern California with a passion and love affair for fishing. Ernie started fishing the stillwaters of the High Sierra's including Crowley Lake and Bridgeport reservoir. He also fished many lakes in Utah, Idaho and Nevada. During this time he fished exclusively with "Noodle Sticks" which are (IFGA) rated two pound class ultra light rods. His hunt for big fish on light lines had begun.

In 1998 Ernie became intrigued with fly fishing and purchased his first fly rod. He fell in love with fly fishing and has never looked back. In 2006 he joined the Deep Creek Fly Fishers Club in Riverside. He has become one of the principal instructors in fly tying and classes on "Stillwater Tactics". In 2007 Ernie won the "Double Hall in the Fall" tournament at Crowley Lake. In 2008 and 2009 he placed second in the "Stillwater Classic" in the team category. In 2008 he joined the "High Desert Fly Fishers" and has made presentations on "Crowley Lake Stillwater Midging Tactics" and "Fishing Lake Pyramid" Nevada. He is also President and Vice President of the Hi-Desert Fly Fishers.

Ernie is a hard core stillwater fisherman and he is always eager to share his knowledge and expertise with others.

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Although we currently have no speaker scheduled for the May General Meeting, we already have a great presentation scheduled for the June 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

Our speaker is someone who is known very well by many of our club members.....



Fred Ramirez (*woolybuggerfred*) of Central Sierra Fly Fishing Adventures will be presenting “**The Valley of the Three Kings.**” This presentation will focus on the three sections of the Kings River. The Park section (aka South Fork of the Kings), the Upper section (Special Management section) and the Lower section that everyone fishes. Fred will share his intimate knowledge of the river system as well as speaking about some of the conservation work that is taking place on the lower river.

More information about the presentation and Fred’s bio will be presented in the May newsletter.



### **SWCFFF Plans Massive Fly Fishing Faire**

Most fly-fishing shows are held in convention centers or hotels. When the clubs of the Southwest Council FFF planned their first Fly Fishing Faire, they took it to the very heart of California’s fly-fishing country: Mammoth.

“Slated for Sept. 13-16, The Fly Fishing Faire will be a potpourri of the sport with clinics, workshops, casting, fly-tying, vendor displays and every aspect of the sport aimed at conventional anglers who want to ‘convert’, casual anglers, fly-fishing fanatics and weekend visitors to the Mammoth area,” said Chiaki Harami. Adult admission is \$10 with children and teens age 16 and under free. One

admission is good for all Faire days. Hours are Thurs., 2-5; Fri., 8-5; Sat.; 8-5; and Sun., 9-3.

Headquartered at Cerro Coso Community College, 101 College Parkway in Mammoth, volunteers – including local fly-fishing guides – will conduct workshops both at the college venue and on nearby waters. A preliminary list of workshop opportunities include programs on Hot Creek, the upper and lower Owens River, Saltwater Fly Fishing, Lake Crowley, Pyramid Lake, Walker River Basin, Merced River, Yosemite waters, small stream tactics, fly-fishing for bass in the lower Owens, wildlife photography, history and Sierra sightseeing.

“If you have a neighbor, work colleague or brother-in-law who has been ‘bugging’ you to teach him to fly-fish, this is a great opportunity. There will be classes and workshops for every level – bare novice to intermediate to someone who just needs a little touch-up on technique,” said Harami.

Many of the best fly-tiers in California will conduct hands-on workshops demonstrating productive Eastern Sierra patterns.

Among the vendors will be fly-fishing shops expected to have end-of-the-year specials on close-out 2012 merchandise.

The Council promises a “major” door prize with everyone attending eligible. There will also be a silent auction and various other product give-aways from event sponsors.

Club members who wish to volunteer by tying flies, selling tickets, conducting a workshop or in any other capacity, contact Southwest Council President Michael Schweit at [msangler@earthlink.net](mailto:msangler@earthlink.net); (818) 757 3474.

For a list of programs, presenters, fly-tiers and events, visit the Faire website at <http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/faire>.

*Bill*

**Tippets from the Fly Addict:** by Allen Bell (*Raider*)

### **Inside the Mind of an Addict**

This month, we take a trip deep inside the mind of the Addict, maybe too deep for some, but still, it should be an interesting trip.

Journal entry, 3-5-12- 8:45am – Man am I tired. I took a fall on the Kern and my back is all jacked up. I twisted the heck out of my ankle this morning on my run; my hands are in bad shape. I’m a mess. I also have packages to get shipped off and my fly boxes are really low on flies I need. I think I will just stay home and take care of myself and get some of

this stuff done. Yep, that's the plan, stay home and relax and get back together.

Journal entry, 3-7-12- 12:45pm - Just returned from the back cracker, feeling better!! Someone came in the shop and mentioned there should be really nice weather this weekend. Maybe I should check Weather Underground. No, weather doesn't matter to me, I'm staying home to take care of myself and my 'to do' list.

Journal entry, 3-8-12 - 1:45am - Awake in the middle of the night thinking of Caddis. This is the time of year that the Caddis should be going off on the LowO. I wonder????? Maybe I should think of taking a trip, just for a day to see what's going on. Maybe I should check the weather. You know who lives in the LowO....



Journal entry, 3-9-12 - 6:45am - Checked Weather Underground, 73 degrees, cloudy day. Hmm... I'm thinking about dry fly action on the LowO. Maybe just for a day. But, you know, I saw Skwalas last weekend on the Kern. Nice warm weather may just get them going. If there is anything I like better than Caddis, its Stoneflies, especially big adult stoneflies. But, I'm not going fishing, I'm staying home.

Journal entry, 3-9-12 - 11:45am - You know, I'm feeling a lot better than I was earlier in the week. Maybe just a quick trip to the Kern. I'll go home and pack the felt boots and head to the Kern just for a few hours then come home and get my stuff done. That's the plan. Yep, we know who lives in the Kern.



Journal entry, 3-9-12 - 7:00pm - Packed and ready to go to the Kern, when I'm starting to think about Caddis again. OK, take out the felts and pack the Cleanstreams. I'll head up to the LowO just for the day..... You know, gas is

expensive and that's a long drive, maybe I'll pack a change of clothes just in case I decide to stay.

Journal entry, 3-10-12 - 10:45am - Here I am standing in the LowO, just released a nearly 16" Brown. Caddis are starting to roll off. The fish are on a Caddis Pupa pattern I tied in a big way and starting to hammer the adult caddis. Glad I came, this is great.



Journal entry, 3-10-12- 5:30pm - Heading in, called wifey. I thought of staying, but fishing wasn't that great after the Caddis stopped. I don't think I want to spend the money to stay overnight just for 3 hrs of good fishing. I think I'll just drive home. Leaving PVC now.

Journal entry, 3-10-12 - 5:50pm - Just got the last room at The Elms, off to find some food and get settled in for the night. I wish I'd brought my travel tying kit, I really need some Caddis adults.

Journal entry, 3-12-12 - 7:00am - First on the water, stopped at one of my favorite hatch pools. Blue Wings and midges right off the bat. Better yet, there are fish rising to eat them. Happy day!!!!

Journal entry, 3-11-12 - 1:30pm - Caddis everywhere!!!! I've fished many pools and found rising fish in all of them. Midges and Caddis...WOOO HOOOO!!! I'm really glad I decided to stay, best dry fly fishing I've had in a few years. Getting late, got to be home before 6:00 to BBQ for the kids. I have to make sure I don't fish late. Really good fishing though!!!!





Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York 1979  
272 pages

The Masters on the Nymph continued the series of books written by experts on nymphs (in this case). Each of the 18 chapters is written by a different author. While a single chapter of 8 - 25 pages seems short, the format forces the authors to get to the critical points in the topic. The chapters cover the bugs themselves, as well as the evolution of fly tying to represent them.

Numerous chapters describe patterns and how to tie them. At the end of each chapter, the authors list their 4 favorite nymphs and the tying recipe. Many of the flies are shown by photograph, but my preference is for the illustrated examples by Dave Whitlock. I am impressed by the way an illustration can enhance the information in a way that a photograph cannot.

The illustrations enhance the descriptions of nymphing techniques since underwater actions can be displayed as well as above water. Most of the significant action happens underwater, with fly fishers movements trying to guide those actions.

As expected, topics like reading the water, and tackle and gear are described. I like Lefty Kreh's suggestion to use a downward motion to set a hook on a tight line drift and thus offer less disturbance to the overall drift if the set is not successful.

The fly tying, nymph descriptions, and applications in streams, rivers, and lakes are presented in 7 chapters. In addition, scuds, sow bugs and shrimp get their own chapter (tying instructions are included).

I suggest this book find a place in your fly fishing library as a good step toward improved techniques as well as keeping you busy at your fly bench. The authors cover western as well as eastern conditions. A review of the applicable section would always be fruitful before heading to a different body of water or area.

As far as enhancing your knowledge of fish behavior, several authors suggest the use of a stomach pump to find out what is on the trout's daily menu. This information was as useful in the late '70's as well as it is now.

Journal entry, 3-11-12 - 2:50pm - Fished too late, running for the truck. If I value my freedom to fish, I have to be home by 5:45 at the latest. Oh, look at that pool, fish rising in a big way. Got to stop and catch a couple more. Panic time; catch 3 or 4, running for the truck again. Got to get my gear off and on the road.

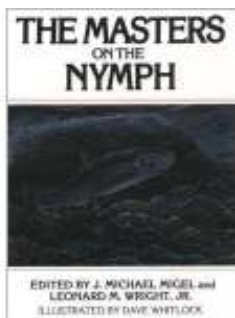
Journal entry, 3-11-12 - 3:18pm - Called wifey, I'm on 395, should be home in 2 1/2 hrs.

Journal entry, 3-12-12 - 8:45am - Man, my back is all jacked up from casting all weekend. I hurt my hamstring running to the truck. That was worth it though; I made it home just in time. No one seemed to mind me at Sunday Dinner in my fishing clothes. Still, I am worn out and I didn't get anything on my list done. I just need some rest and a little down time and next weekend will be the time to really recharge and be ready for the coming fishing season. (Fishing season??? Every day is fishing season to the Addict) Yep, no fishing for me this weekend, I'm definitely staying home.....for sure, believe it. Not going fishing next weekend, that's final!!!! Unless.....

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

*Allen*

**Library Report:** by Ants Uiga (Ants)

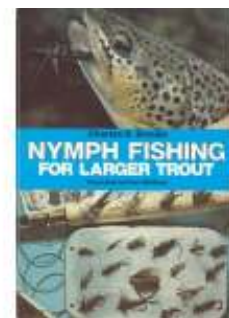


### The Masters on the Nymph

Edited by J. Michael Migel and Leonard M. Wright, JR.

Illustrated by Dave Whitlock

Nick Lyons Books



### Nymph Fishing for Larger Trout

By Charles E. Brooks

Illustrated by Dave Whitlock

Published by Crown Publishers, New York 1976  
184 pages

Nymph Fishing for Larger Trout is a great companion book to Masters on the Nymph. While the Masters book gives a broad coverage, Brooks expands the information on a few subjects. The notable expansion gives information on nymphing techniques. Brooks describes the information from the earliest nymphing on the chalk rivers of England to his preferred method that he refined for conditions around the Yellowstone rivers.

The techniques are described in 84 pages and include the following methods: Skues (UK), Hewitt, Sawyer (UK), Leisenring Lift, Rising-to-the-Surface, Upstream, Continuous Drift, Life Nymph, Pot Shooting, Brooks Method, and leftover methods. The nice part of the techniques is the correlation to river conditions and nymph species (and behavior).

The other aspect of the book covers nymph identification and the flies that imitate them. These two topics are areas that I could stand much improvement. The section on nymphs and flies are again nicely illustrated by Dave Whitlock.

My biggest aha moment came when Brooks suggested the Leisenring Lift be used to target individual fish rather than an afterthought during a drift. In the past, the rise was usually an indicator that fish were present, but I was missing the strikes or simply using poor technique. With the thought of targeting a specific fish, I applied it to a ten-foot hole I was fishing. I began lifting about 3-feet before the strike area and I coaxed the fish to within two feet of the surface.

Those incidents of applied knowledge put a big smile on my face!

*Ants*

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**Fly of the Month:** by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



**HENRY'S FORK or LAWSON'S YELLOW SALLY**

My favorite dry fly for the Yellow Sally (Isoperla) hatch is undoubtedly the Yellow Stimulator, but there are times when the effectiveness of even this fabled fly falls short.

The Stimulator is fabulous in broken, fast, choppy water, but can lack in attention getting on the soft and smooth waters of the numerous spring creeks in the west and the long slicks and runs found on the Kern.

Mike Lawson designed the fly for the finicky fish found in Idaho's Henry's Fork. Any fly designed for the Henry's Fork has to be able to deceive some fussy trout. The Henry's Fork Sally has no body hackle therefore it rides in the surface film more closely representing a natural adult on the water. Try fishing a dry-dry setup with a Yellow Stimulator followed by a Henry's Fork Sally on waters that have multiple personalities like the Kern with a run, pocket water, riffle, run type of freestone river formation and fish a Henry's Fork Sally followed by a light nymph (Bird's Nest or the Yellow Sally Nymph's in the Kern River Fly Shop) on your spring creeks and tailwaters. The best attribute is that they are easy to tie and catch lots of fish!

**Materials:**

Hook: Dry Fly 14-16 (2x long optional)  
Thread: Yellow  
Butt: Red/ Fluorescent Orange Antron mix (optional, not on original)  
Abdomen: Yellow Antron 50%, Sulphur Superfine 25%, Light Olive Superfine 25% mix (original calls for Sulphur dubbing)  
Underwing: Pearl Krystal Flash (optional, not on original)  
Wing: Fine Light Colored Deer or Elk  
Thorax: Same as Abdomen  
Legs: Three turns of Blue Dun Hackle trimmed top and bottom

**Tying Instructions:**



1. Remove barb from hook before inserting into vise. Attach thread at the 75% mark and advance to the bend of the hook.





2. Mix equal amounts of red and fluorescent orange Antron and dub a small amount to the bend of the hook. This represents an egg sac, which often adds another trigger to picky trout. This step may be omitted. It is not in the original pattern.



3. Blend Antron and Superfine colors and dub the body. Do not dub too sparsely like a mayfly. Even a small stonefly has a more robust body to length ratio than a mayfly of similar length. Dub into the thorax area to provide tie in support for the wing bringing the thread back to the 60% to 65% mark to prepare for wing tie in. If desired, tie in Krystal flash at this point using the Fold-in-Method for yet more attraction and impressionism.



4. Prepare your hair wing by trimming a small amount and removing the short fibers and fuzz from the base. Stack the hair, evening the tips and measure the tips to just at or beyond the bend of the hook. I like to trim the butts prior to tie in and wrap a couple of tight wraps moving forward to secure the tips of

the butts, then wrapping back to the wing base with less tension allowing the wing to lie flat over the body instead of flaring high like an Elk Hair Caddis or Stimulator.



5. Attach the hackle at the front of the wing with the cupped side of the hackle facing forward.

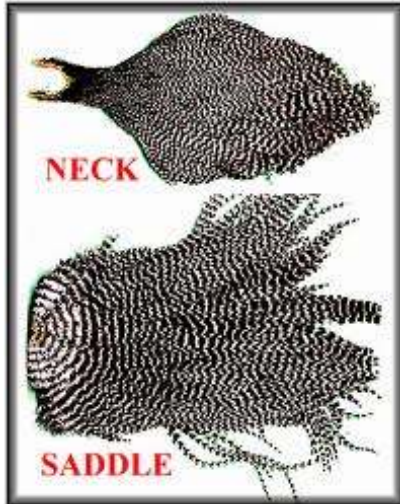


6. Complete the thorax by adding necessary dubbing and leaving thread at the 95% mark.
7. Wind the hackle through the thorax three times with equally spaced wraps. Tie off the hackle, trim the excess and add three half hitch knots or whip finish. Add a drop or two of head cement if desired for security.
8. Trim the top and bottom of the hackle to create the legs.



Rob

**Tips & Techniques:** by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



### Choosing Hackle

When you first start to buy hackle it can be overwhelming with all the choices, but it doesn't have to be that way. Here are a few guidelines to help you get what hackle you need.

The first choice you face is rooster or hen. Rooster is the hackle that is used for dry flies mainly. Hen hackle is used mostly for streamers and nymphs. The basic difference between the two is stiffness and the amount of webbing. Good rooster hackle has stiff dense barbs which help with floatation and give a lifelike imprint on the water. Hen hackle is soft and webby giving a nice lifelike movement underwater.

The second choice you face is neck (cape) or saddle hackle. If you are planning to tie flies in different sizes a neck is an excellent choice. A quality neck will have varying size hackle from 24 to 2. Most saddle will have fewer sizes to choose from but will have longer feathers. There are some outstanding micro saddles available that have long, small feathers that are a joy the tie with. Also they have the 100 packs that are already pre-sized saddle hackle that are priced less than a whole saddle.

Good colors to start are grizzly, dun and brown. Hen is a perfect choice for nymph's legs and collars, soft hackles and streamers. It moves seductively in the water and is easy to work with. A neck in grizzly, brown and black will last a longtime and will cover almost all your needs. Streamers like the Lefty Deceiver, Matukas and many more use hen for the hackle. Just like rooster, the hen neck will have more sizes and the saddle longer feathers.

These hackles aren't cheap but the good ones are worth the money. They truly are a pleasure to use and last some years for most tiers. Start collecting them one at a time and soon you will have every hackle need covered.

Keep in mind these are only guidelines if you use something else and it catches fish keep using it and then tell the rest of us what it is.

*Ryan*

**Message from the Editor:** by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Yep, another spring season is upon us. The days are getting longer and the daytime temperatures will start to rise steadily. Although we are still getting those April showers that promise to bring May flowers, for most of us, what we are really concentrating on is the "new fishing season" and all the promise that brings.

While conducting our daily work I know that many of us, me included, often daydream about what this year's fishing season will bring. The standard wonderings usually center around whether I will actually get more fishing days this year, and when I do get out, will my catch rate be higher than in years past. Then there's always the thoughts about what the water situation will be this year and what impacts the lacking snow pack will have on the season. Whoa... enough of the negativity, back to the positives and the thoughts of possibly exploring new waters and all the possibilities that brings. Maybe after hearing Freddie's presentation on the Kings in June I'll need to get over that way and see what that river is all about.

As we shake off the cold of winter we also know that our favorite quarry is doing the same. This is the time that the bug factory is starting to ramp up and will soon be into full swing. The fish will be into full swing too. Soon they will be looking for the larger offerings and spending more time "looking up" as Shane likes to point out.

Yep, spring is a great time of the year with so much change and promise for the coming season. And as we spend some time around the house with the annual spring cleaning, we can't afford to forget our other priorities..... that our equipment needs a bit of spring cleaning too. It's time to make sure the lines are cleaned and the reels are in top shape. How about those waders? Maybe they're good to go or maybe it's time to visit Guy at the shop for a new pair. Then there's always the need to arrange the fly boxes so you don't need to spend time fumbling around multiple boxes when you should have a fly on the water already.

Sounds like I'd better get busy with my spring cleaning!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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