



Ring of the Rise

November 2012

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Chiaki Harami (*haramic*)

On November 3rd, the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club hosted the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers 3rd Annual Inter-Club Tournament. We had a total of 8 teams representing 6 clubs. The international fly fishing rules FIPS – are followed, meaning no indicators, no split shot, etc. Everyone tries to do their best, but this event is really not a competition. It's about getting together with your team members, it's about getting together with other club members, at the end, you realize it's about strength in numbers.

The morning session starts and you think it's all on you. You need to figure how to fish your beat. At lunch you confer with your teammates about what's the best fly, the most effective fishing method, etc. You have the support of your teammates. At the end of the afternoon session, you ask other club members if they had a good day.

During social hour at the awards banquet, you talk to everyone, thank the controllers for their help; tactfully ask other club members for their secret flies, etc. You start dinner, share bread with other Club members and Guy announces the placing order of the teams.

This year we had a big shuffle in the finishing order and this brings added excitement to the room. Guy announces the 8th place, 7th place and so on. We have a new champion – Deep Creek FF and a new runner up – Carson City FF. This was a very enjoyable event, fun times!

I began to think, 5 people on each of the 8 teams and a controller for each participant. We had a total of 80 people participating in our 3rd Inter-Club Tourney. WOW! There are 25 Clubs in the SWCFFF with some clubs having membership of over 500. The numbers are getting considerably larger and more meaningful.

Due to the trash problem on the Kern, we started a letter writing campaign to the US Forrest Service. It took only one email to the President of the SWCFFF and we have their support and the support of the 25 clubs! That's strength in numbers.

I also believe in Karma, especially good Karma. We, as a Club, have been doing some good stuff; Kids Academy, Kern River Rainbow Project, River signage, Inter-Club Tourney, Vous River clean up, contributing to other Clubs for their projects, etc. I just found out we have some good karma coming our way. The President of the SWCFFF has just informed me that Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club has

just been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the National FFF conservation department for Shane Goslin's hard work on the Forks and Johnsondale Bridge Signs!!!! Shane is one of our Clubs biggest assets. He heads up our Kids Academy, Kern River Rainbow Project and spearheaded the Signs project.

Shane... job well done. We will use the grant funds wisely and roll it over into another important Club project.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

Hello everybody, this is a [fly fishing report](#) for the week of 11-11-12 written on Tuesday 11-11-12.

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern I've been out the last 10 days as well Kern River Fly Shop guides Brandon and Dano. The fishing has been very good in this section. All of us are reporting good fishing with dry dropper rigs. Some fish are eating on the surface and some are taking emergers in the morning around 10am. If you look off the Kernville Bridge around this time and look up river you will see fish taking emergers for about 2 hours. Small nymphs and emergers are getting the job done!

Recommended Nymphs: WD40's 22, Czech Style nymphs, SH BWO, Caddis Larvae.

Recommended Dry Flies Stimulators, Caddis, Humpy's

Recommended Streamers Buggers - Olive and Black, Egg Sucking Leech - Black

Flows in the 20 mile section are great for wading and fishing.

Other go to flies are Hares Ear nymphs of various colors. Great attractors right now are BH Pink Kern Emergers and Chartreuse Copper Johns, BH Prince 16 and Tungsten Teddy's 10.

Upper flows are at 147- cfs = You can wade.

The 4 mile wild trout section The fishing above the

bridge is excellent - water temps cooler. This is the best place right now for fly fishers. **Catch and Release barbless hooks only!! Open year round.**

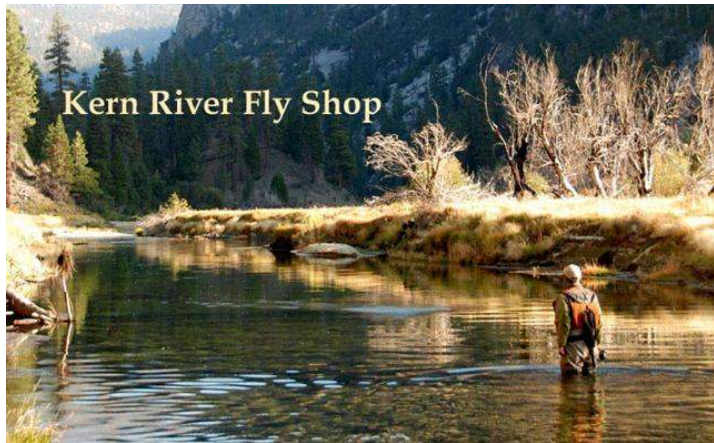
Lake Isabella trout fishing is fair and the lake is very low near Camp Nine and Paradise Cove and fishing various streamers with a floating line or sink tip is getting the job done. Rainbows are looking up early in the morning and taking midges on the surface with some great top water action. Crappie and Bass fly fishing is ok. Carp fly fishing is good near the dam.

Lower Kern The lower river is fishing excellent. The lower river is flowing at 272+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 18-20. Early morning hatches have been reported. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is ok. I'm getting reports that the lower river is fishing well for smallmouth out of the canyon. Fish are rising in the evenings!

Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern Open

South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North Open

Guy



Conservation Report: by *Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)*

New Edison Grant

The SSFFC was awarded another grant from the Edison Fund toward the Kern River Rainbow Project. \$17,000 towards the pumps and electrical needs for the wells at the Kernville Hatchery along with another, not to exceed \$10,000 for unanticipated project costs. Bids are being placed for the wellheads, pumps, and electrical with the SSFF gathering the bids to avoid the costly and timely state government procurement process. Getting closer each year to Kern River Rainbows being returned to the North Fork!

New Biologist

The Sequoia National Forest has a new Forest Fisheries biologist! Nina Hempfill will be starting in Porterville on October 22, 2012. Nina has quite a bit of river restoration and comes from the Bureau of Reclamation and has been working on the Trinity River Restoration Project. The Kernville Office is excited and the Kern will be one of her priorities. At the Edison meeting Steve Andersen was hopeful that she could help finish the revised Upper Kern Fisheries Plan for the Kern River Rainbow in cooperation with the CDFG.

HR 1581 McCarthy Wilderness Bill

The SSFF Board of Directors voted to write a letter in opposition to H.R. 1581, the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011. Introduced by Congressman Kevin McCarthy, this legislation would release approximately 43 million acres of Wilderness Study Areas and Inventoried Roadless Areas recommended by their managing agencies as not suitable for wilderness for use by the public. The Kernville Chamber of Commerce supports the bill but the FFF, Cal Trout, TU, and most Fly Fishing clubs oppose the bill.

Thank You!

Shane

Outings Report: by *Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)*

No report this month.

Chris

Rod Building: by *Pete Emmel (Pete)*

Alcohol Finish

No..... Not that kind of alcohol. We are talking the denatured type of alcohol. What does denatured alcohol have to do with rod building? Well, it's a sneaky way to smooth out your finish and give some extra working time.

Now there are two schools of thought when it comes to adding alcohol to thin your finish. Some folks say the finish was made to be worked just as it comes out of the bottle. If the manufacture wanted the finish to be thin they would do it at the factory. The other school..... Many of us thin varnish or paints prior to use so why not do the same with rod building finish?

Is thinning a "Thou Shalt do" or suffer with inferior finishes? No, some builders get the perfect finish straight out of the bottles. Do I thin every time? No. As with anything else in rod building it comes down to personal preference. It's just another arrow to add to your rod building quiver.

So what are the pros and cons of using denatured alcohol to thin the finish?

Pros:

- Very thin coats can be applied, keeping you finish to a very low profile. No football shaped finishes.
- Extra working time. Depending on the ratio the working time can be extended from roughly 15 to 20 minutes to 30 to 60+ minutes.
- Very smooth and even finish.
- Fewer bubbles.

Cons

- Very thin coats. That usually means extra coats to get everything covered sufficiently.
- Extra working time = extra time for the finish to set up. Again, depending on the ratio it can take several hours on the turner before you can shut it off. Just more opportunity for something to go wrong.
- If you apply it too thick you really need to wick off the excess or you will end up with some strange looking waves in the finish.

What's my ratio? I used to go with 1/3 resin, 1/3 hardener, and 1/3 alcohol. I have now dropped the alcohol down to just a couple of drops. But, I usually mix 1.5 cc of resin and 1.5cc of hardener. Most manufactures recommend at least 3cc of each. *Why the larger batches? There is less chance of getting your ratios off with larger batches.*

When I was going with the 1/3 ratio it took about 10 hours before I felt comfortable shutting off my turner. With adding just a couple of drops, I can usually shut off the turner at about 5 hours.

If you are a speed builder or a "One Coat Joe" don't go with alcohol thinning. The extended time for the finish to set might send you off the deep end of the addiction.

As you mix your finish, start with adding a drop or two. You will notice that the finish will start to thin right away. Then it's just a matter of finding the ratio you are comfortable with. Can you add too much alcohol? I am sure you can. Like everything else it's all about moderation.

NOTE: Acetone can be used as a substitute for Denatured Alcohol. There are issues with Acetone though.

#1 The fumes and brain cells aren't compatible. And if you are like me you don't have the extra cells to waste.

#2 Acetone can affect the rod decal or any writing on the blank.

#3 There is a possibility of the Acetone leaving a weird sheen on the finish. Don't know if was my method, but I never had good luck thinning with Acetone.

Below is an example of an Alcohol thinned finish. But, it also took 4 coats to get the look I wanted.



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

Check out the following link to see what Mark has to offer –

<http://www.acidrod.com/>



Club Meeting: by Chiaki Harami (haramic)

With the holidays coming up there will be no club meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be January 12th at 6:00 pm at a Kernville location to be announced. This meeting will be a celebration for "Fly Fisher of the Year" with voting and details to be announced in the December newsletter. Start thinking of whom you will want to nominate!

Chiaki

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

Owyhee Trippin'

Where's all the water? This wonderful place I have spent every evening happily fishing dries to sippers this past week is gone. I look up at Mark, neither of us say anything. There is nothing we can say. We knew they were going to lower

the flows, cut off the flow, as the water control guy said, but I didn't expect this. As I tried to clear the lump from my throat, Mark said he was "going up to the horseshoe." Mark had a sweet little spot he had found full of fish. Big fish. More big fish in one little place than I have ever seen anywhere. As I wandered around, trying to save the little Browns that had become stranded when their deep moss hiding spot suddenly had no water, I just couldn't bring myself to fish. Mark soon returned, "not much going on up there, let's head downstream." They said that the water would take a day to travel out of the canyon. As we drove down, my mind wandered back to the beginning of this adventure.



Ellen and Mark rigging up to start a great week!!

Mark and I were convinced to fish this river by my, now our, good friend, Ellen Daily. Her favorite river, although to listen to her talk, I think she really likes the S Fork of the Snake better. But that is a different story for another time.

It's nice to see Ellen again. She and Mark have exchanged Emails for some time and we are all happy to be together. What a beautiful river, its massive canyon walls and glacial type turquoise waters. I've never seen quite this type of place. Farm land, flat and rolling, abruptly turning into a volcanic canyon. We are here for Brown trout, big Brown trout. We aren't to be disappointed.

As soon as we started fishing, we started catching. Well hooking in my case. I had two nice fish that went straight into the deep moss and were gone. It didn't take us long to get going. This is just a bigger version of one of my favorite waters, the East Walker. All my EW flies work here. Mark, Ellen and I are soon catching some really nice fish.



Mark with a nice 24" Brown

We fished nymphs all the days and even had Ellen (total dry fly aficionado) fishing under an indicator and having a blast. Who wouldn't have fun catching these huge, strong fish?

The greatest time of the days though, was the evenings. The only thing in the world better than catching these monster Browns is catching them on dry flies. Around 3:00, we would go up to an area near the dam and hang out, fishing until the hatches would start. The first night was a blizzard of Mahoganies and PMD's. It's nice to be able to fish a dry fly you can see. These fish aren't really easy to catch, every fish we have caught has been earned, but they aren't impossible either.



Beautiful fish!!

The rest of the nights, it was just #18 PMD's. Something struck me as funny here. You can't see into the water. It is really stained. Pretty colored, but stained. These fish are VERY color sensitive and tippet shy. We gave up trying to use 4x and used 6x fishing dries. We were cutting the dressing off the flies to get the fish to take. If moss got on the fly, you couldn't keep it from staining the dubbing slightly. The fish would come up and look once, then never again. We tied PMD's every morning and fished until dark every night. Caught many very nice fish!!!



So as Monday turned to Wednesday, which turned to Friday morning I stand here wondering how all this is going to work out for all my newfound trout friends.

We did fish downstream and did really well. As the last day started to end, we decided to give the sippers one last try.

As it got dark, a few fish were back, I assumed my spot, standing in ankle deep water instead of mid-thigh, fishing to

a few smaller (15 to 17") fish. Mark went up to the horseshoe one last time. Not much going on up there, I had seen a few decent fish coming up under the bridge, Mark will give them a try.

I guess it will all work out to the Browns advantage; they spawn in the fall, so the low water will help. It mustn't hurt, there are a lot of big healthy fish in this river, more than any river I have ever heard of.

Anyway, back to Mark and his fish under the bridge. Mark has a real talent for being in the right place at the right time. A lot of this luck comes from his motto, "keep the fly in the water". Mark catches 3 nice fish, the first a 24" Brown, then a 22" Brown and finally a wildly jumping 21" Bow. All of these in 5 casts. We had another of those looks only long time fishing partners can have. Different than the looks we both understood this morning. This was exhausted exhilaration! What a trip, we all caught fish of a lifetime, we all have too many stories to tell. But best of all, we three fishers have the memories that we will never forget, well maybe until next year!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

knowledge is applied in the situations that you will encounter on the water.

It sounds simple. It also sounds like I wish I had a better memory for all the details that are presented. Successful repetition of the skills will make them available for your use when they are needed.

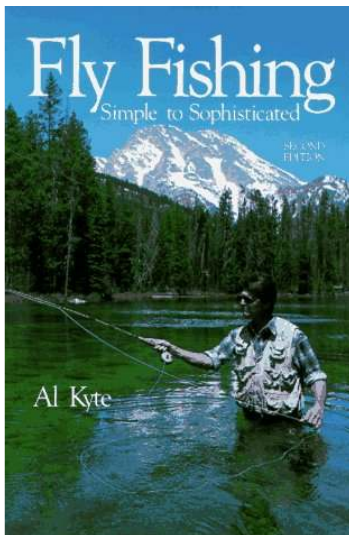
The fishing examples start with simple nymphing and dry fly presentations (separate chapters, of course). The simple situations include short line presentations, and on the water situations where stealth may or may not be important. The effort to present a drag free drift is also easiest in the earliest cases.

With increasing complexity, the progressive fishing situation includes multiple currents, inaccessible fishing lies from a wading viewpoint, and crystal clear water in meadow situations.

Along the way, the techniques that work are highlighted and the actions that put down the fish are also identified. Now, isn't that exactly what you would like to know when you are out on the water with a fly rod in your hand? I certainly would.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly Fishing Book Review: by *Ants Uiga (Ants)*



Fly Fishing, Simple to Sophisticated 2nd Edition
By Al Kyte

Leisure Press, Champaign, Illinois
Published 1987

Al Kyte has written an excellent book that tells you how to fish for trout in various situations. Many other books have covered the basics, but the strength in this book is in the

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



HOT PINK CZECH NYMPH

With the buzz around this years' fly fishing tourney and its International rules, we will feature a fly in the Czech Nymph style. It was created by one of Southern California's local legends, Dean Endress. Dean is known to many on the forum as *Flyjunkie* and is also the creator of one of the Sierra's hottest flies over the last 1/2 dozen years, the Robo P.T.

The key features to a Czech Nymph are a weighted underbody, backing material to help the weight cut through the water and a relatively slim taper, again to reduce resistance. They were designed to get the fly down deep quickly, while imitating the many caddis larva found in the

rough and tumbling freestones of the Czech Republic, not unlike many areas of the Kern.

Deans' creation is probably best referred to as an attractor Czech Nymph. It is a bit of a cross between a Kern Candy and a traditional Czech Nymph. He ties it in a method that he refers to as reverse style. The wire rib is tied in first, followed by dubbing wrapped forward. The shellback is then attached at the head and pulled back over the body and secured by two wraps of wire. The wire is then wrapped forward in evenly spaced wraps and secured at the head. Dean mentions that he learned this method from the legendary English tyer Charles Jardine.

The first recipe is from Dean and the second is the one used for the tutorial...

Materials: (Dean's Version)

HOOK: I tied on a Knapek Shrimp/Czech Hook, but you can use TMC 2487 or 2457, a Daiichi 1130 or Partridge CZF (Czech Nymph Fine Wire) sizes #12 - #16

THREAD: Flo. Pink 70 Ultra Thread or equivalent (Flo. Pink Danville 6/0)

WEIGHT: Flat Lead Tape

RIB: Red UNI Wire, Small or Extra Small

BODY: I used Spirit River's "Lightnin' Dubbing" in Neon Pink, but Ice Dubbing in Flo. Pink or Dazzle Dubbing in Hot Pink will suffice.

SHELL BACK: Hot Pink or Pink Scud back or equivalent

Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 2457

Thread: Pink 6/0

Weight: .025 non-lead Wire

Rib: Small Red Wire

Body: Fl. Pink Ice Dub

Shellback: Pink Hareline Scud Back 1/8"

Tying Instructions:



1. De-barb hook and insert hook into vise. Wrap wire or tape onto hook to create a weighted underbody.



2. Attach thread at rear end of weight and move to about 1/3 of the way down the bend.



3. Attach wire with thread wraps up to the weight and back down to the rib tie in area.



4. Create a dubbing rope. Ice dub does not easily stick to thread so it helps to moisten fingers or apply dubbing wax to the thread prior to dubbing. Don't worry about being too tidy with this one. If there are some scraggly fibers this is ok.



5. Wrap the dubbing rope forward to about two eye lengths behind the eye of the hook. Try not to leave the dubbing too loose. A little is ok; the wire rib will tighten it up when wrapped.



6. Attach scud back material with a single thread wrap.



7. Ease backing into place by gently tugging with the material hand and take a couple more securing

wraps or secure in traditional manner and trim excess.



8. Bring the wire around and under the hook shank while stretching the backing material along the top of the fly with your material hand. I like to lean the backing toward my side of the fly when attaching because it has a tendency to slide over to the other side when wrapping the rib.



9. Take two solid wraps of wire around the backing material and wrap forward through the body with evenly spaced wraps. 6-8 wraps is just about right. Tie off wire at the head.



10. Create a thread head and apply three half hitch knots or whip finish.

Rob

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



Catch and Release

One of the most important things we as flyfishers need to learn is how to properly release the fish we catch. It's one of the great aspects of the sport using barbless hooks and releasing that beautiful trout so someone else can enjoy the act of catching that same fish.

If you spend enough time on the water you end up seeing all kinds of act performed by flyfishers. From some you see on the release that they never touch the fish. They just pop the fly out and away the fish swims. Then there is the other side. I've seen very experienced flyfishers grab a fish with dry hands squeeze the heck out of it while holding it tight against their waders. Then rip half its lip off because they are using barbed hooks, and then chuck it back in the water. Which one sounds like the better way of doing it?

Here are a few tips that will hopefully help to insure a healthy release.

1. Always wet your hands before touching a fish.
2. Use barbless hooks 100% of the time. You don't need barbs to land your fish and if some come unbuttoned before you can net them that's ok. That's the best hands free release possible.

3. Keep the fish in the water, only bringing it out for a quick picture or photo it in the water.
4. On bigger fish that take time to land you need to take time to revive the fish properly. Lately Rob and I have been giving presentations on fishing streamers in the eastern Sierras for trophy trout. One of the main things we stress is to take time to revive these trophies before releasing. If possible face them into the current gently moving them side to side until they let you know there ready to go. I read recently in a Lee Wulff book about a way of reviving big fish. He found that if you gently hold their lower jaw down it opens up their gills. Then he slowly moves them back and forth in the water. This helps pass oxygen over the gills reviving them quicker. I always thought this was not a good way of reviving them. I heard that it suffocates the fish, but since Lee says he does it I figured I would give it a try on some big Crowley trout. It worked wonderfully on these large beasts that were taking a long time to revive.

Any time we hook a fish we are poking a hole in its mouth and putting considerable stress on them during the battle to land them. So the least we as flyfishers can do is insure a proper release. Best is if we don't touch them at all and if we do, make sure our hands are wet. There are some neat tools to help give a quick release check them out at your local fly shop.

Remember.... go barbless and practice catch and release. It does work.

Ryan

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

My message is quite simple this month..... I wish each and every one a blessed Thanksgiving. Hopefully you will be able to share this special day with many family members and special friends.

Although being with family and friends is what we usually look most forward to, please do take time during your Thanksgiving festivities to pause and count your blessings. One of the most important being the freedom of this great country in which we live.

Oh yeah, and don't forget to eat way too much too!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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