



Ring of the Rise

February 2012

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Hello everyone. I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to the new fishing season coming up soon. It's a good time to tie some flies and get those fly boxes stocked up again. Don't forget to check out your gear, especially leaders and tippet. There's nothing more frustrating than hooking into a huge fish and lose it because of an old leader or tippet failing.

We had a nice turn out for our January meeting. During the day Chiaki and Pete, our master rod builders, hosted the first rod building class of the year. Everyone who participated enjoyed the experience of building their own rod from the ground up and learning the art. Several other members fished the lake during the day as the trout were active in the coves. The fish were in close enough that it was possible to cast from the shore. Quite a few fish were brought in and released.

Our speaker that evening was Craig Nielson from Shasta Trout and he had a very interesting presentation on fishing the many rivers close to Shasta. The meeting was interrupted briefly when "Sasquatch" came bursting through the door, stared at Guy and ambled out the back door. Apparently Guys' sighting of the hairy creature earlier in the month wasn't just his imagination and Sasquatch was letting the rest of us know that he exists. You've all heard the expression, "you could have heard a pin drop," well when Big Foot came through you couldn't have heard a cannon going off in the room over the laughter and clapping. It was quite the surprise.



We discussed several items at the Board Meeting. One of the things on the agenda was the possibility of increasing our membership dues. We have a fantastic group of folks in our club and because of your generosity and participation in our fund raisers we are financially solvent and the Board voted to keep our dues at the present rate. We have the lowest dues of most clubs and are able to give you the biggest bang for your buck. So, thank all of you for everything you do.

The Board also wants to form a committee to assist with the Rendezvous preparations and also one for the Inter-Club Tournament. This would greatly reduce the amount of work and time with the additional help. We will need a few volunteers for each one and once the chairmen for these committees are announced we will put out the call for help.

Rob and Ryan Buhler (*clouserfreak & ryan*) have offered to instruct our fly tying classes. They are both excellent tiers and are regular contributors to our newsletter. They will be doing a beginners class as well as an intermediate class. Hopefully we can get the beginners class scheduled in May in conjunction with our regular meeting. Once we confirm this we will post the time and location on the forum. Classes are usually limited to 8 people so keep your eyes open for the announcement. Their assistance with the tying will take a little pressure off Pete who is busy with his job, as well as his business of building custom bamboo rods and also instructing our rod building classes. I'm sure he could use a little break. We thank Rob and Ryan for volunteering their time and knowledge. Oh yeah, as well as being great tiers they catch fish too...big fish!

Chris Chamberlain has been busy planning outings for the club. The February outing will be on the Owens River and is sure to be a good one. Looks like there is a pot luck dinner in the works and the club is donating some funds towards the food bill. For March Chris has a "golf and fish day" planned, play golf in the morning and fish in the afternoon. This will be in Kernville and should be a lot of fun.

It's going to be a great year for the club and all our members. Take care everyone.

Bill

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everyone, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 2-2-12 written on Thursday 2-2-12.

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern

Water temps are currently between 39-45 degrees on the upper river. An inconsistent hatch of BWO's size 20-24 is hatching from around 12pm to 3pm along with a slight hatch of Black Flies "Diptera - Simuliidae. Rainbows are taking the adults but mostly taking the larvae. An olive midge in size 24-26 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 45 degrees. Fish are very selective and drifting your flies well will get you some takes.

Fishing on the upper river is slow! Other go to flies are emerging BWO mayflies like a size 20-24 sprout or Rene Harrop's emerging CDC BWO. Small Parachute Adams sizes 20-22. Good nymphs are smaller Tungsten Yellow Sallies and flashback type nymphs. Great attractors right now are Robo PT's and Copper Johns.

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!!!

Upper flows are at 525 cfs = You can wade and drift!!!!

"Fish the seam in the stream" - "Foam is home" - "Drag is a drag"

The 4 mile wild trout section Open year round The fishing above the bridge is very slow. **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 Evening hatches are coming off and fish are looking up. The lower river is fishing ok. Water temps are currently 10 degrees warmer than the upper at 50 degrees. The lower river is 372+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 and Copper Johns size 18 WD40 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)

Changes in state personnel are happening in the Kern River Valley. Only having one biologist for so much water is going to be a stretch. These items are from the last Edison meeting.

1. **Christy McGuire Retirement:** Christy McGuire, local CDFG fisheries biologist announced that she plans to retire. Her position here in the Kern River Valley will likely not be replaced. The position will likely be filled by the existing fisheries biologist at Three Rivers.
2. **Tom Stenson, CDFG Warden Lt. Retirement:** Tom Stenson announced he will be retiring shortly and introduced his replacement, Doug Barnhart. Additional wardens are in training. CDFG expects to bring the warden staffing up to the full complement of 7 wardens for this unit.
3. **Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund:** The committee discussed the name of the fund and committee. The fund and committee were previously known as the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Trust. The term "Trust" has specific legal definitions that do not fit the fund or committee. The committee, by unanimous vote, changed the name to the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund (dropping "Trust" from the name).
4. **Kern River Rainbow Conservation Assessment and Strategy:** Work on updating the Upper Kern River Basin Fisheries Management Plan and converting it to a conservation strategy for the Kern River Rainbow is ongoing. Christy McGuire and Stan Stephens (retired CDFG) are continuing to meet and update the plan.

Other news: Good and Bad. One of these days we'll have KRR in the entire river again.

1. By unanimous vote the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Trust Committee recommends:

The University of California Regents request for \$89,045 for the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan for Kern River Rainbow Trout is **approved in full** to be billed on a reimbursable basis quarterly. Opportunities for matching grants will be explored to reduce costs to the Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Trust.

2. The Southern Sierra Fly Fishers request for \$17,128 for backup water pumps for the Kernville Hatchery be **deferred to the April 2012 public meeting** pending completion of the well drilling.



Shane

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

January Outing – Trinity River Steelhead

January is a tough month for people to try to make an outing. Most people have spent all their discretionary cash on Christmas gifts, and are reluctant to take even more vacation days so soon after the holidays. Because of this, we had a low turnout for the January Steelhead outing to the Trinity. Having said that, three of us still had an amazing time on some amazing water.

XBill and I left Bako close to midnight; fueled by dreams of 30" of steel, nicotine and caffeine we drove straight through the night and arrived in Lewiston (after a couple stops) at about 9am. We fished straight through to dark without much more than a couple grabs. Despite the lack of fish catching, and having been awake for 30+ hours, we hit the hotel room that night still full of excitement for the next three days.

On day two, we broke out the pontoons and floated a section of the river we had floated last year. Bill managed to land two steelies, and I still hadn't lost the smell of steelhead skunk that had followed me from last year.

I woke up on day three with a terrible migraine, so I decided to take a walk in the woods to clear my head, and instead, managed to clear the contents of my stomach. I'm pretty sure I had a case of carbon-monoxide poisoning from the faulty heater in our hotel room. Unwilling to be deterred, we loaded up and met up with a dude we had met the day before and who would be floating with us. As we were airing up the pontoons, Bill noticed a leak coming from his boat, but after fooling around with it, the leak stopped and we thought we were in the clear – 'thought' is the key word here.

We floated a lower section of river that was beautiful. It was full of nice riffles flowing into deep slots and perfectly fine

bend pools. The guy we were with hooked a big fish, and lost him after being taken to school. All the stories of these fish being mean and nasty are true.

The float was amazing and perfect, except the leak in Bill's pontoon was getting worse. We decided it would be best just for me to tow his boat and have Bill hitch a ride with the other guy. Turns out, the other guy wasn't such a good boat driver, and Bill had had enough after the first rapid nearly flipped him into the water.

We finally made it back to the hotel after our truck nearly overheated, and found Joe waiting for us in the parking lot. After many beers, and much revelry, we took a stab at fixing the leaking pontoon. We were hopeful when we went to sleep that we had used enough Aquaseal and duct tape to fix the matter, but we awoke to a flat tube. We decided to scrap the idea of one last float and just waded a spot where I had seen a guide and his sports hook three fish the day before.

They say that steelhead are the fish of a thousand casts, and for me, it seems, they are more like the fish of four-thousand casts. I left the Trinity again without catching a fish...well, unless you count suckers, but who counts suckers? I won't be dismayed, though; next year, we will be back. Make sure you save a little extra Christmas dough, and go ahead and take a couple days of vacation January 2013, because this is an outing that should not be missed.

Upcoming Outings

February 24-26, we will be fishing the Lower Owens river. We've got quite a crowd coming on this one, so it should be a lot of fun. Some of us will be braving the cold and camping near the river, while others, let's say, less hardy, will be staying in motels in Bishop. Everyone had a great time last year, and this year promises to be just as good. The club has offered to pitch in for some food on Saturday night, so we should have a lot of fun this year.

Our March outing will be a two-day affair in Kernville, March 10 & 11. We're starting Saturday morning with a round of golf and finishing up by fishing the section of river behind the golf course (and possibly retrieving some errant drives). The club will provide some sort of food for dinner.

On Sunday, we are hosting a fly-tying marathon. Tyers will be assigned a pattern to tie. Each participant will have three hours to tie as many flies as possible. The winner will receive a small portion of all flies tied, and the rest will be donated to Casting for Recovery.

You can get updated details at the Forum thread;

"Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club – "SSFFC March Outing – Golf n Fish"

<http://www.kernriverflyfishing.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1326996984/0>

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)



Generic Guide Prep, Part 1

This month it's all about preparation. As in prepping the feet on your snake or single foot guides for that killer look on your wraps.

It doesn't seem to matter how much money you spend on guides, it seems that there is always some foot prep involved. But, spending the extra money for Snake Brand or H&H guides will reduce prep time.

Just like a good looking paint job on a car, good looking wraps require prep work. On guides that involves either using a flat file, Dremel® or sandpaper. There are several areas you need to look at and usually dress up.

- **End of the foot.** You need to file a smooth angle on the top of the foot. This will create a smooth ramp for the thread to go up. Otherwise you can get the dreaded Black Plague of rod building: Gaps in the wraps.
- **Bottom of the guide.** I am not sure how they make the guides, but it appears it involves a cutting tool. Those leave burrs and usually you will find one on the bottom of the foot. So what you say? Nobody can see it. True....but if left there eventually, with all the flex in the rod, it will wear a groove in the blank creating a weak spot. Weak spots lead to eventual failures. Use your flat file or sandpaper on a flat surface to remove the burr.
- **Top of the guide.** Check out the top of the guide foot. 10 to 1 there is a sharp edge on the edges of the guide. That needs to be removed. Nothing like getting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through a cool wrap and have your thread get cut from a sharp edge. Round the edges on top of the guide some.

Good rule of thumb is: If your fingernail catches anywhere on the guide, it's a good bet your thread will also.

Next month we will finish up "Generic Guide Prep" with some other guide prep tidbits.

Pete



ROD BUILDING – BEYOND BASICS

Date: Saturday, February 11th

Time: 9:30 am

Place: Kernville Chamber of Commerce

Cost: \$ 5.00 to help pay for room rental. SSFFC membership is required.

So you have the basic rod building skills down without any problems. You know how to put on the reel seat, cork handle and wrap guides.

Next step..... BEYOND BASICS.

Learn: different wraps – alternating, trim wraps, single turn metallic, spiral, two turn hitch, Forhan locking, etc. Feather inlays, build your own cork handle, alignment dots, vendors, websites, charts, etc.

This will be an informal learn/teach session. We have a bunch of great rod builders. Last year's Vous' rod swap really displayed the in-house talent we have in the Club. I am going to ask Pete to show me how he does his two turn hitch wrap. I'll teach what little I know. It will be a show and tell, ask and receive, group participation session.

Everyone should bring their own wrapping jig, thread (regular and metallic), tools, feathers, etc. This should be a fun class and everyone should learn something.

Please RSVP by posting a response to the Forum thread;

“Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club – Rod Building Class: Beyond Basics”

<http://www.kernriverflyfishing.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1328061149>

We will conclude the class when everyone knows everything. Actually, you can leave anytime but please remember to attend the FFOTY dinner at El Jacalitos honoring our President Bill Darbee. Social hour starts at 5:00 pm.

Chiaki

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 Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Fly Fisher of the Year



We wish to thank everyone who voted and let the membership know that during our last meeting it was announced that our President, Bill Darbee received the most votes and will be this year's SSFFC Fly Fisher of the Year.

The Award Dinner is scheduled to take place on the date of our regularly scheduled February meeting, Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at El Jacalito Grill. Social hour will be at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. with the award presentation following.

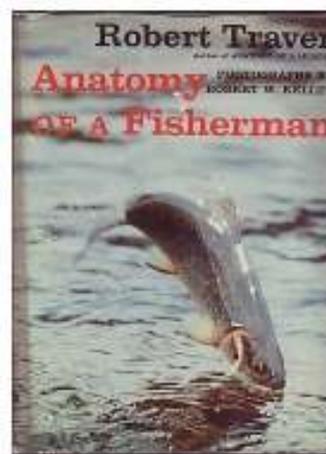
Please plan on attending and help us show Bill just how much we appreciate all he has done throughout the years for this amazing club!

There will be no March General Meeting; instead we will be having the "Golf n Fish" event as noted in the Outings section above. It doesn't matter if you are a pro or duffer, this will be one you won't want to miss.

Remember, on Sunday the day after the Golf n Fish, there will be a Fly Tying Marathon, so bring your tying kits and do your part in support of Casting for Recovery.

Gary

Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Anatomy of a Fisherman

By Robert Traver, Robert W. Kelley (photographer)

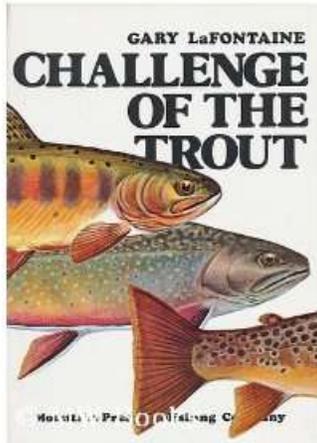
Hardcover, 117 pages
Published 1964 McGraw-Hill Book Company (First Edition)
Library of Congress Number 63-6427

On a page entitled Testament of a Fisherman, Robert Traver writes "I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly: because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there...."

Robert Traver was a judge in Michigan who placed fly fishing at a greater value than sitting a bench in a courtroom. Robert W. Kelley was a Life magazine photographer. Together they produced a book about the feeling of fly fishing. To many fishermen, fly fishing captures a special place in their souls (the hearts are probably bypassed for convenience). Parts of the writing describe essential nature of fly fishing, but I will let the reader decide

which of the literary passages have the strongest impact. On the other hand, other of Traver's literary writings are well written with the tongue firmly planted in both cheeks (at once).

The overall presentation deserves to be read. The reader won't find any secret fishing tips. The writing may help the reader to discover the fly fishing soul contained within. Entertainment is guaranteed – much more the guarantee that you will catch fish each time you wet a line.



Challenge of the Trout

By Gary LaFontaine

Hardcover, 243 pages
Published 1976 by Mountain Press Publishing Company,
Missoula, MT 59801
ISBN 0-87842-058-4

Gary LaFontaine was a reader before he entered school, started fly fishing at age 9, published his first fishing article at age 16, and published his first book – Challenge of the Trout - at age 28. This book was a delightful read for me since it told about fly fishing in a larger setting. The approach was helpful to me since I am just learning to catch fish with a fly rod. The rest of this review will be derived from Gary LaFontaine's own words from an interview in 2001.

Why do you think so much writing, particularly outdoor writing, incorporates fly fishing over other outdoor activities?

There's only one sport that has more books written about it than fly fishing, and that's chess. It's the same reason for both sports. It's a mental game. It's the challenge of trying to catch fish.

Which is also the name of your first book, Challenge of the Trout. I've heard you say that after you wrote that book, you were dissatisfied.

Not dissatisfied. I was growing as a writer. That book was an incomplete effort. Every book I've written since then I wouldn't change drastically. I might expand them, but I wouldn't make changes in them because they are pretty well complete as far as my writing style. *Challenge of the Trout* was a young writer still trying to find his voice, and I would have to change it drastically. There was only one printing of *Challenge of the Trout*. It was a very large one, 23,000 copies, but I would never allow it to come back into print.

What would you change about Challenge of the Trout?

It was just overwritten; the writing style was overblown. Like my other books, I tried to blend storytelling with how-to, but I didn't do it very well. The rest of the books do it well; that one did not. *Caddisflies* does not blend storytelling with how-to. It's all how-to. It's a very dense book because there is so much how-to in it. But *Trout Flies*, *Fly Fishing the Mountain Lakes*, and *The Dry Fly: New Angles*, they all blend how-to with storytelling.

How do you focus on the words you're going to use? Do you try to make every word fit, or do you look at each sentence or paragraph?

Since my first book, my writing has smoothed down nicely. *Challenge of the Trout* used too many words. You learn as a writer that you need enough words to tell the story. In *Challenge of the Trout*, I was trying to make an impression; I used too many words. Later on I learned to tell the story, to make an effect, not to make an impression. There's a difference. In *Fly Fishing the Mountain Lakes*, I got better and better at it, and I probably hit that peak where I could really tell a story and still convey information all in one book. I got across everything I wanted to get across.

I think as writers we often go to the areas of greatest need. Right away I focused on caddisflies because that was the greatest gap I saw in fly fishing knowledge. We have many books on mayflies. I didn't see a great need concerning stoneflies because they weren't as important. The great hole in American fly fishing literature was caddisflies; very little had been done. There was even some question as to whether or not it could be done. It was so complicated. If ever a topic stretched my mind to the fullest, it was caddisflies.

How did you attack such a complicated topic?

If there is one thing that epitomizes my work, it is the inclusion of original research. I think this makes my books unique. Once you do that original research out in the field, then you're not just repeating stuff everyone else has done. *Caddisflies* took nearly ten years of research, and the writing took a year and a half.

Many of your contemporary fly fishing writers often remark that you don't mind being controversial, you don't mind going at odds with convention in fly fishing, and you force people to defend their own ideas.

I don't try to be controversial. When you do original research, you automatically end up being controversial, whether you want to be or not. You find out that things are different because you are finding new things. When you're finding things that are correct, it doesn't matter what anybody else said. You're applying the scientific method, and the scientific method is right. They can have all the opinions they want in the world, but unless they can back it up with science, it doesn't matter what they think or write.

How did you utilize the scientific method in your work?

We were the only ones to apply the scientific method and the only ones who did the scuba work. The thing to remember is that *Caddisflies* is a ground breaking work not just in fly fishing, but also concerning entomology. We sent all of our samples to Dr. Oliver Flint at the Smithsonian, and they expanded the range of many caddisfly species. For example, the caddisfly *Hydropsyche vexe*, found in the mid-west, spread six hundred miles to the west where it had never been found before. For awhile they thought it was a new species found on the Henry's Fork. It turns out to be a major, major hatch on the Henry's Fork.

What advice would you give those who think they want to pursue fly fishing as a hobby?

Tell them to take up golf instead. What I did was set my priorities. When I was small I had to bicycle a long way to fish. After that experience, I made it a priority to live within walking distance of fly fishing water. It didn't have to be the greatest water in the world. No matter where I lived, even in Hawaii when I went out there to be a surf bum for a year, I lived next to a canal. I could fly fish and catch strange things. One time, I caught a rather large bone fish that had come up into the canal. I made a vow I was going to live within walking distance of fly fishing water. I always kept that vow. So my advice is, if you really want to be a fly fisher, set it as a priority in your life and then make your choices accordingly. Now, that's tough because that means job choices, choices in a spouse, choices on where to live—everything becomes secondary to fly fishing. But it made me an incredibly happy life, and it can make an incredibly happy life for others. If fishing just becomes a weekend hobby that you do a few times a year, then fine. But I always find people who are happiest in life are people who are passionate about their hobbies. The people who are not happy don't have a form of recreation that is important to them. Therefore, I would say, if you want to think about being a fly fisherman, set your life priorities towards making fly fishing a very high priority in your life.

What is the greatest innovation you've seen in your years of participating with fly fishing?

Antron. He discovered Antron, and that revolutionized fly tying. I was looking for something to imitate the sparkling air that I'd seen in caddisflies. I was in touch with Dupont. Dupont came to me when Antron was

discovered. They had been sending me new synthetics as they came off the line. They sent me the first Antron that was developed. Antron is a kind of nylon that has three flat sides to it, and I knew it was perfect right away. We started the Antron revolution. Now you see Antron in all sorts of patterns.

Ants

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



GRIFFITH'S GNAT/ CLUSTER MIDGE

With the Lower Owens outing approaching quickly, we are going to feature a fly that is very successful during minor midge hatches on this river. Several Sierra guides use and recommend this pattern during such periods and it is no wonder why. This Fly Rocks!! It is durable, easy to tie and catches plenty of fish. It's hard to ask for any more out of a fly.

In small sizes it represents emerging midges and in sizes 12-18 it can represent "clustering" midges that are smaller than this fly individually, but can be represented by a larger fly when they unite. After hatching, male midges tend to gather together around females on the water's surface making a multiple midge raft. These rafts of midges are often referred to as "clusters."

Developed by Trout Unlimited founder, George Griffith, this fly is a great addition to any box. Rene Harrop added a CDC wing and dubbed the new fly the "Cluster Midge".

Materials:

Hook: Dry fly 12-24
Thread: Black
Abdomen: Peacock Herl
Rib: Gold or Copper Wire X-Small
Hackle: Grizzly
Wing: White CDC

Tying Instructions:



1. Debarb hook prior to inserting into vise. Attach thread at 80% mark for Cluster Midge, 90% mark for Griffith's Gnat.



2. Select an amount of peacock herl appropriate to the hook size. Larger hooks may need several strands wrapped together and small hooks may call for just one thin herl. Attach herl and wire at 80% mark and wrap toward the bend, holding materials up with your material hand as you wrap, keeping materials neatly on top of the hook shank. Stop the thread at the hook bend.



3. Wrap thread forward to the 80% mark. Wrap herl forward to thread position and tie down. Trim excess.



4. Select a rooster (dry fly) grizzly hackle appropriate to size (barbs 1 to 1 and 1/2 times the hook gape). Trim off 1/16th inch of fibers at the base of a uniform hackle and tie in at the 80% mark.



5. Palmer (wrap evenly spaced) hackle to the rear of the hook. 6-7 turns is usually about right. "Tie" off hackle at the rear of the hook with two turns of the wire rib.



6. Wrap wire forward through hackle and body with evenly spaced wraps as with the hackle in step 5, stopping at the 80% mark. Try not to wrap down the hackle fibers as you go. Wiggling the rib side to side while wrapping may help if you are having any problems. Trim hackle at the rear of the hook and twist off or trim excess wire. For Griffith's Gnat form neat thread head and whip finish.



7. For Cluster Midge select a white CDC feather and stroke fibers toward the tip. Trim or strip fibers that don't evenly reach the top. Measure wing to cover most or all of the body and tie in at the 80% mark.



8. Trim excess CDC, wrap a neat thread head and whip finish or add three half hitch knots. Add a drop of head cement for security.

Rob

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



THE MONOMASTER™

Every once in a while a gadget comes along that is actually worth the money. Most gadgets aren't worth half what you spend on them, don't deliver any of the promises made by advertisements but we still buy them.

It's not just fisherman who love their gadgets. My Dad has purchased enough golf gadgets over his life to fill a good sized storage unit. But the one gadget everyone who fishes needs no matter how they fish is the MONOMASTER™ by Grasshopper Products. The MONOMASTER™ is about three inches long and easily attaches to your tippet spool holder or your vest. It has a slit on the side and you put your excess tippet or leader material in it and spin the handle and it quickly gets grabbed and rolled up inside. When it gets full you pull it easily apart and cut the mono off to be recycled. Snap it back together and your ready to go.

Guy showed Rob and me this gadget about a year and a half ago. Mine has been filled and emptied so many times I've lost count. No more vest pockets crammed full of old tippet. It also makes it easier to pick up mono you see while on the water. This is one gadget everyone fishing needs.

Ryan

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

As I sit at my computer putting the final touches on the newsletter I am thrilled to see a bit of rain starting to fall. It has been such a fleeting occurrence this year that each time we get a bit of precipitation it seems appropriate to get excited about it. The weather is the topic of discussion at most gatherings, especially in a "late winter" year such as we now find ourselves in. Everyone you talk to seems to share the same sentiment of "We sure need it" and "Hopefully we'll get a good amount of rain this time."

At its base level it is obviously vital to our very existence and required for human survival, but it is also critical for nourishing the soul of a fisherman. It's that act of nature that continues to supply the environment that we long to immerse ourselves in. The life sustaining snowpack and subsequent melt off is what will keep the river healthy and all of us fishing this next season. We long to hear reports of good snowfall in the high Sierras. We need to hear that!

Yes it is great to see that rain falling outside, we sure need it!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011

ELECTED POSITIONS			
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Secretary	Keith Penguilley	kpengilley@earthlink.net	626-286-4536
Conservation Chair	Shane Goslin	sgoslin@planetebay.net	661-428-5109
Outings Chair	Chris Chamberlain	chamberlain.c@gmail.com	661-619-6397
Director	Gary Silveira	gfsilveira@charter.net	805-238-6619
Director	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
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