



Ring of the Rise

January 2012



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Wow, where in the world did 2011 go?? The Board of the SSFFC wishes everyone a happy, healthy New Year with lots of leisure time to get out on the water and fish.

The hustle and bustle of the holidays are behind us once again. We already took the Christmas tree down as well as the outside decorations. Everything is packed away until next year. We are very fortunate that Tricia, our daughter, and Bill Jr. both live almost around the corner from us so our house is full of grandkids on all the holidays. There is always an over abundance of food and, as usual, I over indulged with the eating. We baked a huge ham, Bill Jr. brought a 15 lb. deep fried turkey and our daughter brought a 20 lb. bird that she does deep pit style in the oven overnight. Even with all the kids and a few friends everyone went home with a lot of leftovers. I think I like getting into the leftovers more than the main meal. I probably should start some kind of exercise regimen to shed the extra pounds I somehow started packing on right after Thanksgiving. Ahh, I think a few extra trips walking and wading the Kern may be the ticket. I'll have to run that by Patty.

In last month's newsletter I said the women's team placed 7th in the Interclub Tournament. I stand corrected. The ladies actually came in 6th and "Team B" placed 7th.

Sorry ladies and congratulations again. Not a bad showing at all for the first time out. I will have to say of the three teams the SSFFC fielded, "Team B" looked pretty sharp with those tie dyed shirts Randy Skidgel did for them. What can you say, the man know how to dress to impress.

Our first rod building class will take place on Jan. 14th, and our first meeting of 2012 will be that same evening. The class generated a lot of interest and we had a waiting list in the wings. We will have another one for those of you who missed out, probably in March. The rod building class has turned out some really talented builders. Some have been posting their latest projects on the forum and they are works of beauty. We will also be scheduling fly tying classes in the near future, both a beginner's class as well as one with more advanced techniques. We are very fortunate to have folks with these talents in our midst and that they are so willing to share their expertise.

Hopefully this year we can get the Kern River Rainbow Project off the ground by making the upgrades to the Kernville Planting Base. We received the \$120,000 grant in

Feb. 2010 and there has been one delay after another to gain final approval for the improvements. There were concerns that new wells would have an adverse effect on the water supply to Camp Owens. Then the land lease/swap between the county and the state was back and forth with the attorneys of both sides and finally approved. It was sent to the Kern County Board of Supervisors and they sent it back for some wording revisions. It seems ridiculous to drag this out for almost two years when it is so beneficial to the county and the state and not costing them a dime. Just have to love the way politics plays out.

Be sure and get your vote in as soon as possible for your choice of Fly Fisherman of the Year. The date is fast approaching. You can either e-mail or PM Chiaki.

Also, don't forget to purchase your 2012 fishing license...better yet remind me to get mine!! Happy New Year everyone, I hope to see and fish with a lot of you this year.

Bill



River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everyone, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 1-3-12 written on Tuesday 1-3-12.

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern With the warmer weather the upper 20 mile section is fishing ok. Water temps are currently between 41-46 degrees on the upper river.

An inconsistent hatch of BWO's size 18-24 are hatching from around 12pm - 3pm along with a very significant hatch of Black Flies, "Diptera - Simuliidae. Rainbows are taking the adults as well as 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 332 cfs = You can wade!!!!

Remember; "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 Bass fly fishing is slow, trout good, crappie ok, carp slow.

Lower Kern Evening hatches are coming off and fish are looking up. The lower river is fishing well. 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. 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)

No report this month.

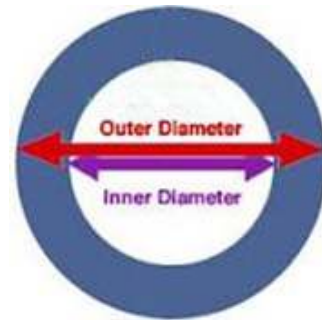
Shane

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

No report this month.

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)



Big Blank OD & a Small Reel Seat ID

So you want to install an exotic wood insert, with a .375" diameter hole on your 7 weight fiberglass blank. That's great, but even if you drill out the insert as large as you can, it's a good bet it will never fit over your blank OD. So now what? Hopefully the following pictures and procedure will shed some light on a quick and easy fix.



- 1) Measure the overall length of you reel seat, with it assembled, from the butt cap to where it will contact the blank.



- 2) Next, you have to cut off the assembled seat length from the butt end of your blank.



- 3) Now you have to make an insert that you can turn down to accept the seat insert. Best material to use is a wooden dowel that is either the same diameter as the ID of the blank or slightly oversize. Put a slight taper so it will slide into the blank a few inches. Three inches into the blank would be great, but there is no hard and fast rule. Next, you want to turn the diameter of the dowel down until the reel seat insert will slide over the dowel. See *note below on turning the dowel down.*



- 4) Dry assemble everything to ensure that everything fits snug. Not so snug that the parts fitting up will act like squeegee and remove all the epoxy off as the parts are assembled. During the dry fit up check to ensure the blank is the proper length with the seat installed.



- 5) Once everything is checked and double checked, you can epoxy the dowel into the blank and then epoxy the seat as usual.

Note: To shape the dowel, you can either use a knife, sandpaper, and plenty of elbow grease. Or..... you can use a drill press, fabricate a jig and use a handheld drill and file to turn the dowel to the proper dimensions. Better yet, con a buddy into turning one on their lathe.

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 Bill Darbee (Bill)

Due to the Holidays, there will be no general meeting for the months of December.

The January general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, January 14th 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 Craig Nielsen, owner/operator of Shasta Trout. Craig's presentation will be **"Seasons on the Klamath,"** a multimedia presentation surveying successful techniques, tactics and tips refined on the Klamath River, fishing for its spring trout and fall and

winter steelhead. "Seasons on the Klamath" is designed for novice and seasoned anglers alike with concepts offered in a light and spirited informative manner. Audience participation is encouraged and expected. Craig uses humor and down to earth descriptions to demystify successful strategies and tactics that will both increase your catch as well as your enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing.



Fly Fisher of the Year



The SSFFC Fly Fisher of the Year 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.

The selection criteria to consider for you nomination follow. Please submit your nomination as soon as possible so we have ample time to have the plaque engraved. **You can either e-mail or PM Chiaki with your choice.**

SSFFC Fly Fisher of the Year Selection Criteria:

A. Must be an SSFFC member.

B. Can be an amateur or professional. (This is a difficult area. What an amateur does out of sheer love and enjoyment, a professional must do to make a living. Nevertheless, it is often the professional who, through their skills, offers more to the advancement of the art. Therefore, it will be necessary to make some judgment on intent. Obviously, if the primary intent is to teach and share knowledge, it should merit serious consideration.)

C. Areas for judgment are:

1. Has demonstrated the ability to locate and catch fish for either themselves and/or for others.
2. Has made a substantial contribution to our biological knowledge of the quarry and the habitat and/or food chain on which it depends.
3. Has made a significant contribution to the preservation and enhancement of those fisheries resources utilized in fly-fishing.
4. Participation in the SSFFC is not a prerequisite, but any such activity as benefits the Club should be highly regarded.

5. Is a proven fly-fishing innovator in the equipment used or techniques developed. "Equipment may include rods, reels, lines, leaders, clothing, wading gear, fly patterns, fly tying equipment, etc. etc. "Techniques" may include new methods of using the equipment such as new methods of fly presentation etc. etc., and willingly shares that information with others.

6. Has devoted his energy to youth education activities to help the next generation get started in fly-fishing endeavors.

7. Is a proven teacher or instructor in the art and sport of fly-fishing and/or fly tying and/or rod building.

8. Has promoted the sport through distinguishable effort to draw more people into fly-fishing and/or enhance the knowledge and ability of the fly fisher.

9. Has demonstrated the personality and character traits that are becoming to the sport of fly fishing.

10. Is conservation minded and sets examples in conservation for others.

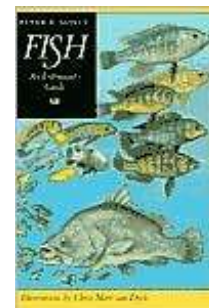
11. Achievements and contributions should promote the advancement of fly fishing and qualification should be superior to other candidates.

So there you have the nomination criteria. Now it's time for you to do your part and make your nomination. I know we have many deserving members within our ranks so who will it be this year?



Bill

Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Fish: An Enthusiast's Guide

By Peter B. Moyle

Hardback, 272 pages
Published January 1993 by University of California Press

Engagingly written, with both learning and humor, *Fish* bridges the gap between purely pictorial books and scholarly texts, and provides a succinct summary of fish biology and conservation for students and fish enthusiasts. This book was recommended and read following a recommendation by *fishinXJ*. I was glad I followed the suggestion.

Many fish books read by fly fishers are very specific to trout. This book will expand the viewpoint to a worldwide view of fish. Will reading this book help you fish on the Kern River? The answer is very likely. Will reading this book give a better understanding regardless of where you fish? Most definitely! In addition, if your fly-fishing is for fish other than trout (of which there options galore), this book provides a framework of understanding fish behavior. The book is not a particularly fast read since the information is broadly based with lots of useful specific information.

Three of the chapters cover fish in general, both from the inside and outside, as well as fish behavior. The next two chapters cover diversity and ecology. Eight chapters cover fish habitat from Trout Streams to Tropical Reefs. The last two chapters wrap up with Conservation and Resources for the Aquatic Naturalist. In the end of each chapter, suggestions are made for field activities to enhance your understanding of fish and their environment. One suggestion is to check stomach content of native trout in comparison to stocked trout to understand differences in feeding.

Considering the worldwide opportunities to fish, trout streams are generally limited. Trout stream availability around the Kern River Valley and surrounding mountains is notably in abundance. Will you find a trout stream in Iowa or Alabama? Not as easily, but this book presents a framework describing fish in numerous waters and give clues as to where a traveling fly rod can be put to use.

The management of a stream (or lake) to enhance production of trout is discussed with some of the actions that have been carried out at various locations and the intended and unintended consequences. There are no clear-cut guidelines that guarantee enhancement of one species of fish over another. However, a larger understanding about all the fish species in an area and their behavior may provide a realistic (as opposed to optimistic) view of possible success when changes are proposed. For example, fish inventory changes are described under conditions in which uncontrolled factors such as precipitation (stream flow) and temperature occurred.

For someone willing to adopt an open-minded approach to dynamics of fish populations, this book gives plenty of information about the factors that change fish populations. The subsequent observations can be more useful. The understanding of fish is far from being simple. However, as more information is observed and gathered, the understanding of fish will increase.

Ants

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



THE MARY RAMBO

Peacock quills have been utilized in fly tying for centuries, but I'm speculating due to the modern availability of a myriad of dubbing materials they have fallen a bit out of favor. The modern tyer is certainly suffering if neglecting this versatile and life-like material that can be used for bodies on mayfly nymphs, duns and spinners as well as midges. Bleaching and coloring (see Tips and Techniques section) can add another wonderful aspect to this natural material making it easy to vary your shades to match the hatch on your favorite waters.



This month's pattern is the creation of two members of the English fly fishing squad: the late Andrew Ramsden and Simon Robinson. The secret of this pattern may lie in its simplicity. The natural segmentation and slim profile of the bleached quill present no threat to hungry fish, similar to that of spiders and wet flies, in that they don't sound any alarms or whistles.

Materials:

Hook: Nymph 1x long 14-22
Bead: Gold, Copper, or Glass to size
Thread: 8/0 or smaller, Black or to match dyed quill
Tail: 3-6 Coq De Leon fibers (mallard or pheasant tail substitute)
Wingcase or thorax cover: Pearl Mylar
Thorax: Peacock Ice Dub

Tying Instructions:



1. File or smash barb (see *fishinXJ's* "darn" post in the fly tying section of the Kern River Forum) before sliding bead onto hook and inserting into vise. Attach thread at the rear of the bead or at the 66% area on the hook shank.



4. Wrap thread forward creating to the 75% mark creating a smooth underbody.



2. Select 3-6 fibers for the tail and measure to $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank. Tie in tailing materials wrapping a smooth underbody toward the rear of the hook, stopping at the bend.



5. Fold quill over the body exposing the segmented side and wrap toward the front of the hook in even wraps (use hackle pliers if necessary or hold quill against the shank with material hand after each wrap). Tie off quill at the thorax and trim excess material. For added durability and natural sheen coat with head cement, super glue, or Sally Hansen's 30 Second Top Coat.



3. Select and soak in warm water for a couple of minutes your bleached peacock quills (see Tips and Techniques). One side of the quill has a distinct segmentation with a black leading edge. Tie in quill with two wraps of thread so that when the quill is pulled over onto itself the leading black edge is wrapped on the outside and is facing the rear of the fly. The bland, uniform side of the quill should be facing you now.



6. Attach Mylar strip about half of the hook gape wide on top of the shank, in the middle of the thorax area. Wrap thread toward the rear of the thorax.



7. Dub a small amount of Peacock Ice Dub onto thread. Wrap dubbing forward to bead, creating a thorax.



8. Pull Mylar wingcase over thorax dubbing and tie down at the rear of the bead. Trim excess and whip finish or add three half hitches and head cement.



9. Finished fly "top view"



10. Quill Body Spinner



11. Quill Gordon (mayfly)



12. Quill Buzzer (midge)

Rob



Stripping and Coloring Peacock Quills

Stripped or bleached peacock quills make beautiful segmented bodies on Mayfly duns and spinners. Midge patterns are nicely suited for the slender profile that a peacock quill provides (see *the fly of the month tutorial*). They are simple to bleach and accept waterproof markers easily. Prismacolor and Chartpak are two quality waterproof markers available in a rainbow of colors.

You can buy quills pre-bleached, but for us who like to do it yourself there is a simple recipe that takes a few minutes to strip a whole peacock eye.

Start with an old Tupperware container or pan, two cups warm water and a half cup of bleach. Mix the bleach and water then add the peacock eye. Agitate the eye in the solution and within minutes the furls will come off the quill. Once all the furls are gone rinse in cold running water for five minutes.

The bleach dries the quills out some so after rinsing, add two cups warm water with a palm full of hair conditioner and soak the quills for a few minutes. The conditioner helps add some moisture and oils back to the quills, which will make tying with them more pleasurable. Rinse in cold water and dry on newspaper.

Once dry, the quills will accept the markers for coloring. Let the color dry before tying and remember to soak your quills in warm water before tying. You will get less breaks and splits.

I read about this method in Sylvester Nemes book, "Spinners." He said he got it from an A.K. Best article in the March 1991 issue of "Rod and Reel."

I hope this helps add some more fun to your tying.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Well here we go once again.... a headlong charge into the unknowns that a new year brings! There aren't many things that we know for sure, but a few that come to mind are;

- Super Bowl #46 WILL be held at Lucas Oil Stadium,
- The Queen WILL be celebrating her 60th year at the head of the table (hopefully anyway),
- There WILL be a February 29th this year,
- It WILL be 100 years since RMS TITANIC sank,
- There WILL be Summer Olympics in London
- There WILL be a World Expo in South Korea (unless Kim Jong Un goes sideways!)
- There WILL be a US Presidential Election.....

The more important things to me are the unknown's. Some of the top questions running through my mind are;

- IS the economy going to rebound like we've all been hoping and praying for?
- ARE we finally going to get some weather and start some kind of a measurable snow pack in the Sierras?
- AM I going to really spend more time on the water like I tell myself I will do every year?
- When I do get out and do some fly flicking, WILL I catch one of those fish that give you memories for a lifetime?
- CAN the State & Kern County finally pull it all together and get on with the Kern River Rainbow Project?, and.....
- WHO will be the SSFFC Fly Fisher of the Year?

I think that's about all the worrying that I can do regarding what's going to happen to our place in the universe in the time it will take to make a lap around the sun. Well except for.....

- HOW smart were those Mayan's anyway?

That's all way too much to worry about. I hope you all get to do as much fishing as you want, or have time for, or.....

Tight Lines, Gary



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