



Ring of the Rise

March 2012

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Hello everyone... it seems like I just wrote an article for our newsletter a few days ago and a new month is already here. The old saying, "time waits for no man," certainly holds true. I feel like the fellow who said he was on a scotch and soda diet and already lost 2 days. The whole month slipped past me somehow.

I wanted to say thank you to all who came to the Fly Fisherman of the Year dinner. I had a wonderful time and wasn't roasted too bad at all. I really got off light! It was a nice evening and glad that Bill Jr. and my granddaughter Ali were able to make it. Chiaki did a good job as the emcee and from this point forward can do the honors, he'll love that! Just a little something extra for him to do. I am still a little shell shocked though as I had no idea I was even being considered for FFOTY as we have so many deserving individuals in our club. It's an honor and I thank you all very much. As I said at the dinner, being in law enforcement for 30 years can make a person have a cynical outlook on life and people in general if you are not careful. We dealt with people and saw things that you cannot imagine. Because of that, most police officers associate with other officers who can relate to one another. After retiring I heard about this club from Guy and joined. It was the best thing I ever did! We have folks from all walks of life who have a common interest and love for fly fishing and are just fantastic people. I have made many, many good friends in the club and enjoy being around all of you. This is truly a unique club.

I hear the Bishop outing was another success with a lot of members showing up and enjoying the weekend. Chiaki said there was a good turnout for the pizza feed sponsored by the club. I wish I could have made that one, but I have 3 grandsons playing baseball and a granddaughter playing softball for Bakersfield High School varsity team and I felt I needed to be here and support them. Two of the boys are on the same team which helps a little but the other is on a travel team. My 17 year old granddaughter, Katie, has been playing varsity softball since she was a freshman and is a terrific player and fantastic at the bat... she went 4 for 4 Saturday. The boys are also really good players and they are a joy to watch. There is just a lot of running to different fields to catch all the games but it is certainly worth it and makes for a fun weekend. When I was working part time at the shop I was always working weekends and didn't have the opportunity to be there for them so am now trying to make up for lost time. I'll get to one of these outings yet and join all of you for some fun fishing. Thanks Chris for once again spearheading another adventure.

I also want to thank Allen Bell, (Raider), for sending in an article for our newsletter. Allen will be a regular contributor and we look forward to his participation. Allen has been with our club for several years and is also the vice president of the Aguabonitas Fly Fishers. If any of you would like to write an article for the newsletter please do so. It can be about anything to do with fly fishing, whether it be how you started, a favorite trip, your go to fly, a dream trip you want to make or a story about fly fishing.

We've had some strange weather, at least here in the valley and in Kernville. Last week it was in the 70's and this week back down in the 50's. There has been very little rain and the snowpack is at 30 percent. This could really have an adverse effect on our waters. Hopefully we will get some late storms and build our snowpack to something near normal. I know a few years ago we were in the same situation and had very low flows on the Kern. By the end of summer the water temperatures were in the 70 degree range and it was very stressful on the trout. A lot of folks just didn't fish in those conditions to give the fish a better chance for survival. Let's pray we get some more rain and snow so we don't experience those water levels and high temps again.

Until next time, mend, mend, mend and watch your drag!
Take care everyone.

Bill



River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everyone, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 2-28-12 written on Tuesday 2-28-12.

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 - 3pm along with a slight hatch of Black Flies "Diptera - Simuliidae." Rainbows are 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 40 degrees. A slight Caddis hatch

is happening as well in the warmer afternoons. Fish are very selective and drifting your flies well will get you some takes. Fishing on the upper river is slow/fair/good!

Other go to flies are emerging BWO mayflies like a 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 Robo PT's size 20 and Copper Johns size 22.

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 392 cfs = You can wade.

"Fish the seam in the stream" - "Foam is home"

"Drag is a drag" - "Grid the trib"

"Fish like the Heron"

The 4 mile wild trout section Open year round. The fishing above the bridge is slow/fair **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 45 degrees. The lower river is 414+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 sizes 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)



KERN RIVER RAINBOW PROJECT

The state and county attorneys finally have a signed lease agreement for the Kernville Planting Base facility which will allow the CDFG to lease the land, drill the necessary wells, and turn the grounds into an actual hatchery. Great news!

This has been 27 years in the making. The plan is to raise Native Kern River Rainbow strains and restore them as much as possible to their native basin. As we speak, the DFG is checking into the proper permits for taking KRR from the headwaters of the Kern, working with the well driller, and looking for help from the clubs whom call the Kern home, the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, Kern River Fly Fishers, and the Aquabonita Fly Fishers. Plus, any other organization whom support native trout. Biologists from UC Davis are writing the Hatchery Management plan from a grant written last October and in April hopefully the grant request by the SSFFC will be approved for the wellheads and partial electrical. Look out for more info on how we can help in the future!

Background on the Project

The *Upper Kern Fisheries Enhancement Fund* was established with a principal of \$2.5M deposited by Southern California Edison as part of the 4e provision in their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the KR3 (Kernville) hydroelectric plant. Distribution of interest from the fund is used to implement the Upper Kern Basin (North Fork Kern above Lake Isabella) Fisheries Management Plan. The primary focus of that plan is the restoration and enhancement of the Kern River Rainbow Trout. The Little Kern Golden Trout is also within the Upper Kern, but is managed under a separate recovery plan. Golden Trout Creek was at one time in the South Fork Kern Basin and has California Golden Trout. California Golden Trout are managed under a separate conservation strategy for that sub species.

The Upper Kern Basin Fisheries Management Plan is currently undergoing review with the intent to update the document as a conservation strategy for Kern River Rainbow Trout. As updates to that process are available they will be posted in this forum. The intent of the trust fund and the conservation strategy for the Kern River Rainbow trout are to provide the resources and guidance.

Shane

Outings Report: by *Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)*

Our February outing to the Lower Owens was a smash hit. Saturday started early with some breakfast with about 15 club members all fueling up for a long day of fishing. Personally, I hit a stretch of the Lower O with Bill, Ryan, Joe, Sean, Dave and Emily. Bill and I explored (and when I say explored, I mean it) a section of river that looked like it had less foot traffic than many of the other sections. I had a lot of success with size 18 Robo PTs, which was exciting for me because they were the first fish I had ever caught on a fly I had tied. Most people were able to land some fish, and in our group, Bill landed the longest.

Saturday night was amazing. SSFFC took over the large banquet room at the Pizza Factory, where the club bought pizza for the more than 30 members who came to the outing. There were a few other clubs having dinner at the same place, and we had more people representing SSFFC there than all the other clubs combined. Much pizza was eaten, many pitchers of beer (and soda) were emptied, and everyone really seemed to have a great time. We really had an amazing showing at this outing, and I think it's one that should become an annual tradition.

Sunday, a few of us fished Hot Creek, and strangely maybe because of the weather, the crowds were pretty thin. By the time we got there around noon (we were keeping gentlemen's hours), the wind was howling, and everyone else was gone by about three. We had a blast tossing streamers to fish. I hooked several very large fish by casting around a rock in the middle of the river. Every time the fish would run, my leader would rub on the rock and *snap*, fish gone. I also had another first at HC, I hooked and landed several fish on midges that I had designed and tied myself.

This trip was amazing, and hopefully, we'll have even more people up there next year. For March, we are doing our Golf 'n Fish outing in Kernville. Tee time is 9am Saturday, March 10 at the K-Ville golf course. After, we'll be fishing the Kern behind the golf course. With the warmer winter we've had, big fish should be starting to run up river out of the lake.

I'm still looking into options for April, and in May, start thinking about bass!

Chris

Rod Building: by *Pete Emmel (Pete)*

Generic Guide Prep, Part 2

Last month it was all about prepping the guide feet. Well, this month we are going to look at the little details that can, and do get overlooked.

- **Equal Foot Length –**

Not all guides are created equal. The old axiom can hold true with guides "Buy cheap, get cheap." Check the length of the guide feet. On cheap guides it isn't unusual to see one foot longer than the other. Unequal feet equal unequal wrap lengths. File the feet equal and then prep as mentioned above.

- **Guide Width –**
On the small diameter of the tip section, the guide can be wider than the blank. You might actually have to file/grind the width to get a better fit.
- **Burnt Ends –**
Guides are mass produced and on cheap guides it often shows. When the feet are ground the high heat generated can discolor the feet. Not a big deal if you are using a No Color Preserver needed thread or color preserver. For those of you who like the translucent look, you need to sand/file off the discoloration.
- **Black Guides –**
You are using black hardware on your build. That's fine until you prep the guide feet then "bam"... silver ends on the guide. Never fear. A black marker or a touch of black paint will fix that. Color them for the same reason in the burnt ends discussion. The difference in color can be seen thru any wraps without NCP thread or no color preserver.

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)*

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.



The next General Meeting will be Saturday, April 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 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.

Bill

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

Mr. Creative

The other day, I got an interesting phone call from my good friend Randy. "DUDE!!!!!! That fly you gave me is awesome!!!!!! Do you have a website where I can buy some?" "No, no website and you can't buy them. I will tie you a few and get them in the mail as soon as I can get to it."

Last time on the Lower Kings, I had come home and come up with a little Blue Wing Emerger that I thought would work there. I got a good look at a few of the bugs and kind of had an idea what I wanted to do. The fish were not eating all the duns on the water. They were eating the emerger just in or under the meniscus. They were really small and had very fine bodies. I tied a few up and next time I saw Randy, gave him my last one (these things work in a lot of places). Randy had called after taking 18 and 24 ½" Rainbows on the fly I had given him.



My little BWO Emerger, still with no name

This isn't the first time I have given flies away for friends to try and had a good reaction. The first was my PT, modeled after Kaufmanns' PT. This one, like many of my flies is modeled after some other fly. Mike Sloan ties a fly called the Mighty Mite. I bought a few and it was OK, I made a few changes and it worked much better, turning into a go to fly for all water. I don't know how many times on Hot Creek I have shown someone the hot fly only to be told the fish here won't take a fly that big....OK!!



My "Gilled PT"



The infamous "Raidey Mite"

My friends, after being given the Mighty Mite and looking it up to tie it themselves, found that the one online is nothing like mine. Thus, they changed the name to a "Raidey Mite."

I have a thing for Blue Wings. I guess I just like fishing in the winter, when they are out more than in the summer. For whatever reason, I am always tying a new Blue Wing something. My favorite one is a fly I call 'Almost Dun.' It was tied to hang in the film or just under. The original had a CDC wing along with a few wraps of hackle. It floated like a cork...until it was eaten by a trout, which seems to happen often. I have a whole series of this fly, the under the film version is called 'RS Who?' I have one of the RS Who's with a small bead.



"RS Who?"

I guess every fly tyer likes to tie his own pattern or variations. I go to great lengths to have most of the flies in my box be my own. Why go to all the effort? I can easily buy flies that will work. For one thing, I like fishing my own stuff. That's OK, but mostly I tie them to give away. Especially when they are working well. Nothing makes me happier than seeing or hearing that one of my flies really made someone's day. I think the best compliment ever was the morning in Cheryl's, I overheard a guy telling his friends about this fly Randy had given him that was just on fire. He said it had been tied by this 'Raider guy'. After I finished my breakfast, I went over and introduced myself. We went outside and he ended up with a bunch of those flies plus a few others. As we talked, I got the opportunity to let him know that it's" OK that he doesn't believe in God...just remember that God believes in you." I walked away thinking, this is the reason I go to all the effort. The only reason I need.

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies, *Allen*



Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



The Masters On The Dry Fly

By J. Michael Migel

(Stoeger sportsman's library)

Reprint of the 1977 edition published by Lippincott

"An anthology of brilliantly written articles on fishing the dry fly from the world's masters of the sport of fly fishing. Here is some of the best work from the world's most renowned dry-fly experts, assembled in one classic volume. With articles ranging from instruction in reading the water to tying better dry flies, and beautifully illustrated with photographs and Dave Whitlock's incomparable drawings, THE MASTERS ON THE DRY FLY will be a welcome addition to any angler's library". (Quoted from the Dust Jacket)

Contributors include:

Ernest Schwiebert	Nick Lyons
Roderick Haig-Brown	Lefty Kreh
Lee Wulff	Art Flick
Dave Whitlock	Charles K. Fox
Ed Zern	Poul Jorgensen
Carl Richards	Leonard M. Wright, Jr.
Mike Migel	Steve Raymond
Michael Fong	Charles F. Waterman
A.I. Alexander	

In the Foreword to this book, Nick Lyons described how sixteen of the best anglers of the time (1977) were brought together to describe dry fly fishing in their area of expertise. The collection is well written and has been reprinted numerous times. Much of the information is timeless and as useful today as when originally presented. An interesting aspect is that each author is asked to list their favorite fishing waters, the fish that are targeted, the time of the year, and the type and size of dry flies they would use.

To provide information for the prospective reader, I will present information about sections that caught my fancy with this read. A second read of the material would produce different impressions. (The book is full of useful information.) The history of fly fishing was a delight to read. Different versions are typically presented in each publication. After a while, I find it entertaining to see what is highlighted and which is ignored. I don't think I have read two historical accounts that are noticeably similar.

The mystique of dry fly fishing is carried throughout the book and described well. A major appeal of dry fly fishing is the visual connection between seeing a rising trout, the delivery of the dry fly on the surface of the water, and a visual confirmation of the take by the fish. Even though other forms of fly fishing may result in more catches, the authors are correct in describing the special circumstances and feel of using dry flies. Ed Zern provided a wonderful description of his time as a "die hard dry fly purist." Poul Jorgenson describes the development of the dry flies and presents detailed information about dressing (tying) them. Tackle, casts, and gear are also presented. Lake (or still water) fishing is included, as well as larger streams and salt water. Carl Richards (noted for collaboration on the no

hackle flies) describes the importance of knowing hatches since the insect conditions change so quickly that unless you are aware and prepare for the changes, the peak catching opportunities will be lost. Dave Whitlock provides a section on fishing for bass and panfish, as well as providing illustrations throughout the book. Finally, in addition to Whitlock's illustrations, the information is well documented with photographs.

For me, it is a collection of dry fly information that warrants shelf space on the bookshelves of anyone interested in dry fly fishing. It would serve a purpose to refresh your memory when the different conditions (described in the book) arise so that your fishing techniques can adapt. Finally, if you want to hear about breaking tradition on the dry fly home on the Test in England, read the section by Ernest Scweibert.



Concise Handbook of Fly Tying

By Skip Morris

Softcover, 40 pages

Published 1995 by Frank Amato Publishers, Portland, OR 97282

ISBN 1-57188-214-6

Skip Morris's book for rank-amateur fly tiers is another book from Frank Amato Publishers. If you haven't heard my appreciation for Amato Publishers, you will read it here again.

If one has no experience with fly tying, get this book. The book presents details from the tools to use, material description, tying techniques, and oh-yes - explaining those new terms that fly tiers use. Step by step directions are given for tying a Brassie, Woolly Buzzer, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, Adam's dry fly, and a standard bass bug. When those are tied, you begin to feel that you have some knowledge and can produce some useful flies. After that, there are descriptions for 13 other useful flies. If there is confusion on any of the steps, go back to the earlier parts of the book and review the technique.

Ants

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

THE DARBEE CRANE FLY



Typing Instructions:



With a tip of the hat to this year's S.S.F.F.C. Fly Fisher of The Year award winner, Bill Darbee, we feature a fly designed by his legendary uncle Harry Darbee, the Darbee Crane Fly. Often overlooked by fly fishers, especially on the west coast, for its usefulness early in the season, crane flies are usually imitated with spiders and variants having long hackles that work great for skittering and duplicating the appearance of a fluttering crane, but they lack the natural's silhouette.

The following is a short excerpt from Poul Jorgensen's "Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water."

"Harry Darbee, the famous American angler and fly tier from Roscoe, New York, decided there was a need for a more realistic imitation and went to work at his vise trying various materials and manipulations. In the mid 1950's the Darbee Crane Fly was born."

The Darbee Crane Fly is another of Harry's brilliant creations that requires the use of only two feathers for its construction. The parachute hackle makes it well suited for skittering the fly across the water's surface and at rest the silhouette provides a very life like impression with the hackle making "footprints" in the film. The body and wing positioned just above the water's surface complete the picture for the trout. Do not go light on tippet size with these flies; takes can often be explosive from large fish.

With the finished fly held upside-down and well above your head, let go of the fly. Not only will it land properly every time, but it makes the slowest most beautiful descent that you have ever seen.

Materials:

Hook: The recipe given in Poul Jorgensen's book requests size 8 and 10, 4x short dry fly. Your chances of finding a reasonably priced alternative are almost zero. I suggest using an emerger/scud hook 2x short, wide gape in sizes 12-16.

Thread: Yellow 6/0 (I substituted 8/0)

Body: Mallard Flank Wood duck Color

Wing: Dun Rooster (Substitute Grizzly or Ginger if necessary)

1. Remove barb on hook prior to inserting into vise. Attach thread at the 80% mark, wrap back to 50% mark and forward to 80%.



2. Select an appropriate size and shape Mallard Flank feather. The fibers should be approximately the same length on each side and from 1 to 1 and 1/2 inches long in the mid section.



3. Stroke the fibers down on the sides of the feather. Cut away the base leaving a 5/8 to 1 inch (depending on the length of the side fibers) section of stem with fibers on each side and tip still attached.



4. Wet fibers (I dip completely in water) in mid section and stroke them down against the way they normally bend. You need to do this several times until the fibers are crowded down along the stem as much as possible. Hold the stem and fibers firmly in between the index finger and thumb of your material hand with the outside of the feather facing up and the tip of the feather pointing out over the eye, take two turns of thread at the base of the stem and hold fibers in place while pulling the stem over the eye and free of the thread wraps by about 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch depending on feather size. Take a few extra turns of thread to secure feather in place.



5. Divide the long fibers at the rear of the fly and pull out at 90 degree angles from the shank. Moisten fibers again if you need help controlling them. Take a couple of criss-cross wraps and one or two snug wraps under the fibers, but over the shank to secure into spent wing position. Leave thread at the rear of the wing section.



6. Pull the body portion by the tip back over the hook and between the wings holding at a horizontal position while taking 4-5 securing wraps, making sure not to wrap stem. Pull up on the body a little while pressing between the wings to secure a firm connection in the center. Add a drop of head cement to connection if desired.



7. Trim away the tip. Coat and mold body into shape. The 1974 Jorgensen recipe calls for rubber or vinyl cement. Searching for a better modern alternative, I've yet to be satisfied. I'm currently using Tulip Fabric Glue. If you find something better please let me know. Apply lightly, mold into shape and let glue increase in tackiness by drying 5-10 minutes then squeeze body sides together. If tying several at a time repeat steps 1-7 again allowing glue to dry and finishing all flies together afterward.



8. Select an appropriate size dry fly (rooster) hackle. My best hackle for this situation happened to be a Keough dry fly neck, a direct link to Harry Darbee's birds. Harry began raising chickens at the age of 15 and in 1954 gave some of his eggs to Andy Miner. In 1978 Miner's widow gave some eggs to Colorado Quality Hackle and in 1990 Keough purchased CQH. My other two choices were Grizzly Hackle from Umpqua and Whiting, both in the Darbee hackle line (see Tips and Techniques section for full Darbee hackle time-line). Fibers should be as long as the wing. Try to find one where you can start in the middle of the feather so that the stem is not too fat. Strip a few fibers from the base of prepared feather to clear a space for tie in. Move thread in front of the wing and attach feather with the underside facing up (hmmm, I wonder where current master tier Charlie Craven got this idea) along the top of the hook and under the wing. Move thread under the wing and body, but over the hook to the opposite side of the hook shank.



9. Wrap hackle clockwise under the body and wings, but over the hook. Take each succeeding wrap under the last. Two to four wraps is enough. While holding the hackle on your side of the fly and tilting slightly downward with your material hand, wrap thread clockwise under the wrapped hackle and body, but over the hook shank with 2-3 turns. Come

up and under the eye on the last wrap taking a couple of turns behind the eye. Trim hackle as close to the body as possible.



10. Create a neat thread head pulling back hackle with material hand if necessary and whip finish or add three half-hitches. Add head cement liberally to underbody and a drop to the head.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



Hackle ~ The Darbee Connection

When I first started tying my own flies I went to a local fly shop and bought some hackle. There was a good selection of colors to choose from and I figured this was how it had been for years. But the genetic hackle of today is far superior to hackle of just a decade ago. So here is a little time-line of American hackle evolution.

The person most credited for starting the American hackle production is Catskill's fly tier Harry Darbee. He produced the best hackle in his time and his efforts in the 40's and 50's are what much of today's commercial hackle is founded on.

In 1921 Harry, at the age of 15, was raising roosters on a large scale (approximately 100) to stock his fly tying business. By 1930 he was selling both natural and dyed necks to fellow tyers. He specialized in duns and had many

varieties for sale. Blue dun, Bronze dun, Rusty dun, Honey dun and speckled Dun to name just a few.

In the early 50's Minnesota lawyer Andy Miner received a gift of eggs from Darbee and also eggs from Chip Stauffer who raised birds he received from English captain John Evans. Miner, through selective breeding of the two genetic lines, created what Darbee called the finest feather in the world. Although Miner never sold any of his feathers commercially, he did share his eggs. The Darbee/Miner bloodline was shared with Carey Quarles of Colorado Quality Hackle (purchased by Keogh Hackle in 1990), Ted Hebert and Charlie Collins to name a few.

The most important gift of eggs was received by Buck Metz. After receiving his eggs in 1972, Metz became the first major producer of commercial hackle and the first to meet demands on a large scale with predictable colors and quality.

In 1965 Henry Hoffman who loved fly fishing and tying was frustrated by the quality of grizzly hackle available, so he purchased two Barred Plymouth Rock Bantams and began breeding. Hoffman's line is one that has no Darbee connection. In 1973 Ted Hebert bought birds from Miner and in 1997 his line was purchased by Whiting Farms and they sell it as Hebert/Miner dry fly hackle. In 1978 Cary Quarles of Colorado Quality Hackle obtained eggs from Miners widow. In 1990 it was purchased by Keogh Hackle which still today carries the Darbee/Miner line. In 1989 Hoffman shipped 23,000 eggs to Dr. Tom Whiting and his genetic work since then is responsible for the amazing hackle of today. The Darbee/Miner line is represented today by Metz (now owned by Umpqua) and also Keogh hackle and by the Hebert line sold by Whiting Farms.

Next month I will talk about uses for the different hackles.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

One of the real joys of assembling this publication from articles written by all our amazing contributors is that I am able to see the finished product first. After everything is put in its place, photos or graphics are added and formatting is tweaked, the dust starts to settle and a completed publication is left on the computer monitor. And even though this happens month after month, I always get that feeling of amazement and pride in my association with this group of individuals that take the time and provide the efforts they do to make this club what it is..... simply stated, the best fly fishing club around!

In just a quick prevue of this publication we go from humble and thoughtful words of amazement and thanks from our President and Fly Fisher of the Year, Bill Darbee for his well deserved honor and recognition to a River Report from Guy Jeans that lets us all know where to be fishing and what to be throwing. We then take a stroll into the great news from Shane Goslin about the Kern River Rainbow Project and its

much anticipated approval and startup. This is a project that Shane's been working on for years and it's finally coming to fruition. Next we hear about the outstanding Lower Owens Outing that Chris Chamberlain just hosted with about 30 club members in attendance. And just so you don't think he's resting on his laurels, Chris also planned, and is ready to host, a "Golf~n~Fish" outing this weekend. Amazing! Next we get a report from Pete Emmel who keeps sharing his knowledge and skills about rod building. Although he would rather convert everyone to bamboo, he's still generous in sharing what he knows with all the "plastic rod" builders, although I'm sure there's lots of subliminal messages scattered throughout telling us all we need to switch to the boo.

If all that isn't enough for the price of admission, we then get to hear the details about our April meeting presenter, Ernie Gulley who will be sharing his wealth of information about stillwater fishing at Crowley Lake. Next we are provided details and photos from our newest contributor, Allen Bell who shares information about some of his creative and successful ties. Ants Uiga then gives us a rundown and his personal insights on not one, but two books that are available in our library. That should get more than a couple of you interested in checking out some of these titles.

Still not enough?O.K..... Next we are treated to another of Rob Buhler's masterful ties, complete with great photos and detailed tying directions, followed by brother, Ryan Buhler's history lesson on American Hackle development. Both articles in homage to Bill Darbee's uncle, Harry Darbee. All we can do is say thank you to Momma Buhler for raising up these two boys the way she did and sending them our way.

Whew... at the end of all that, if you can't just sit back and say "WOW, what a club!" I just don't know what else anyone can do. I know that I am grateful to all our contributors for everything they do for the benefit of all of us each and every month. From responses I've heard over the years, I know that many of you share the same sentiments. Make sure to give these folks a pat on the back and a quick "thanks" next time you cross paths at the Brewery or on the river.

Yep, as I sit here looking at this completed newsletter and pondering all that took place within this club this past month, and all that is coming up this next month and beyond, I raise my glass to all of you and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this greatest of fly fishing clubs. Cheers SSFFC!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2011-2012

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Director	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040

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