



Ring of the Rise



October 2015

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

A few weeks ago, 2FlySue and I toured New England to see the change of colors in the foliage. It was our first time visiting those states and we had a great time eating lobster, fly fishing the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire, touring Acadia National Park and eating whoopee pies. One morning, we went out on a lobster boat out of Portland, Maine. We hauled up the lobster traps, re-baited them and sent them back down. We were lucky enough to catch a few and had them for the lunch upon our return to the docks. I carried the lobsters, one in each hand to the next door restaurant. They cooked them up and served them with all the standard sides: corn on the cob, potatoes, chowder, onion rings and slaw. Great lunch, nothing like fresh lobster.

2Fly out fished me on the Androscoggin River. We did a float trip with a local guide and it gave us a different view of the foliage while we tossed flies. It was mostly nymphing with a little dry fly action at the end. We caught rainbows and the scenery was just beautiful.

The past few years of draught conditions has caused many problems with our waters. Along with that, it has also caused many scheduling problems for our Club. We had to cancel outings and change our meetings schedule. In the coming weeks, the Board of the Club will be scheduling activities for 2016 in view of the pending El Nino situation. We will take a stronger look at tailwaters and the big blue pond. Guy Jeans has offered to lead another outing on the lower Kern and on the Salt. The Buhler Bros have also offered to lead outings to the Lower Owens and on the Salt. I hope to have many fun and exciting outings next year.

On November 7th, SSFFC will be the hosting club for the SWCFFF Inter-Club Tourney. It appears we will be fielding 2 or 3 teams as defending champions. This is more of a fun event vs. a true competition per se. I've gotten to know many people from the other clubs and it will be great to see them again. Casting for Recovery is also fielding a team again this year and SSFFC will be assisting them, as many of them are true beginners. Just the same as last year, I will be assisting them again this year. I have a prediction for this year's event, the scores will be much higher and many trout will be caught. The best of luck to the SSFFC teams!

On November 6th Friday night, we will be holding our Kids Academy Poker night. This is the big fund raiser for our Kids Academy. We will be playing Texas Hold'em at Ewings with the social hour starting at 6:00 pm and the cards fly at 7:00 pm. Buy-in is only \$25 and you can buy in as many times you want until the start of the Final Table. I hope everyone

can attend this worthy event. Every year this event is tons of fun with many people going all in and many surprise hands. Fun times for a great cause.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

Lower Kern (Lake Isabella Dam to Democrat) Not good for trout but excellent for bass fly fishing. Water temperature 60 degrees.

Lower Kern (Democrat to Kern Canyon Entrance) Fantastic fly fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass at this time.

Lower Kern (Kern Canyon Entrance to Oildale) Fantastic fly fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass at this time. Water Temperature 70 degrees.

South Fork of the Kern This fork of the Kern River is too low to fish this season.

Tributaries of the North Fork Kern River The small streams that feed the north fork Kern River are very low and not fishing them is recommended to protect the fishery.

Lake Isabella The lake is very low, but the fly fishing is excellent. Largemouth bass fishing is ok and ok for Carp on a fly.

Upper Kern (20 mile section) The fishing in this section is ok at this time. Water temperatures in this section are fluctuating between 48 and 54 degrees in this section. Major BWO and Midge hatches around 8am to 10am.

Upper Kern (4 mile - Wild Trout Section) The wild trout in the 4 mile section are doing very good and there's lots of them. Fish are averaging from 10 to 14 inches with an occasional bigger fish. Special fishing regulations apply to this section of the Kern. No bait fishing is allowed and no barbs on your hooks. Water temps are cooler here at 50-60 degrees. Fly Fishing is excellent!

Upper Kern (Forks of the Kern) Special fishing regulations apply to this section of the Kern. No bait fishing is allowed and no barbs on your hooks. All fish caught over 10 inches

must be released. Only 2 fish 10 inches or smaller can be kept in this section. Water temperature 50-55 degrees.



As a reminder, the fishing reports are available in video format on Facebook and can be accessed via the forum under the heading "Kern River Fly Fishing Reports - Daily Video and Kern Fly Fishing Reports."

Guy



Conservation Report: by *Tim Michaels*

No report submitted this month.

Tim

Outings Report: by *Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)*

No report submitted this month.

Chris

Rod Building: by *Pete Emmel (Pete)*

No report submitted this month.

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 & Activities: by *Chiaki Harami (haramic)*

There will be no scheduled General Meeting in November. The next meeting will be the Inter-Club Tournament on November 7th.

The Southwest Council of FFF Inter-Club Tournament will be held on Nov. 7th and SSFFC is the hosting Club. This will be the 6th annual and we've won the Tourney 4 out of the 5 years. We usually enter two teams but we'll see how many members are interested in competing. SSFFC membership is a requirement of participating on the teams.

The basic rules of the Tourney are: catch & release, take picture of your catch, use fly fishing equipment, you can use up to 3 flies at one time any distance apart, barbless hooks, flies must be fully dressed, indicators & split shots are OK to use. Fair hooked fish is in front of rear gill plate. Snagged or foul hooked fish does not count. There will be two fishing sessions, 2 hours in the morning & 2 hours in the afternoon, and you will be assigned a Beat in each session. Meet at the Fly Shop at 8 am for check in.

New this year is a section on the Lower Kern, fishing from float tubes for bass. There will be an Awards Banquet at Ewings starting at 6:00 pm. with a cost of \$31.00.

Each Team consists of 5 members. The 2 highest scores from last year's teams will be the team Captain for this year. If there is enough interest we will fill a 3rd team.

This event is tons of fun and you get to meet members from other clubs.

Chiaki

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

More Stuff!!!

So, I just got this year's fishing vacation all paid for and Wifey, the Greatest, showed me my updated bank statement. Good news, much better than I thought. My wild spending spree in Idaho and Montana has left me with a few dollars for seed. Maybe a little extra. Time for some more stuff!!!

Lately, I've been thinking of buying a new Galvan Torque 6wt. I have a nice 6wt. reel, but it just doesn't look as cool as a brand new Torque, especially with a Rio line that is olive with a yellow running section. Put some bright orange backing on that baby, and we're in business. I really don't like that Rio line, but who cares, it looks really good!!



Galvan Torque, Fish not included!!

I don't know, I have plenty of reels. I have backups for the backups. You know, Winston came out with a new line of rods a couple years ago and I don't have the entire series yet. Winston makes awesome fly rods; I don't care what those silly Sage people say. They are nice and green, and light up emerald in the sun. Too cool for school, know what I mean??

Wow, it always feels good to hold a brand new fly rod in your hands, imagining all the big Browns or little Brookies as the case may be, that you are no doubt going to catch on this baby. Ohhh, just the thought of a new rod is going to keep me awake tonight!!!



Brand new Winston 5wt. Bring your own beer!!!

Man, those fly rods are expensive. I've just now got myself to the point that the second job I have to work to keep fishing is kind of part time. It sure is nice to have a little time now and then to, you know, fish.

My vest is getting old. Well-worn is a good description for it. It even has some dirt on it. I was in a shop not long ago and saw the new Simms Guide Vests. Now those are trick looking. Simms orange with the gray trim, I could see myself stylin' in that. That would be look so good the fishes would jump in my net just to get a closer look at that awesome vest!!! A new vest doesn't cost close to a new rod. I could have one on the way with a five minute phone call, or a trip to Kernville. This is sounding better by the minute. But, I just lost some weight. I hope it never finds me again, but

somehow think it will, anyway, my old faithful vest just now fits really well. Plus, there are a lot of miles, stories and adventures in that old vest. I could buy a new one, but I just don't see myself actually wearing it as long as my faithful friend still functions.



Faithful Simms Vest, complete with a little fish goo!!!

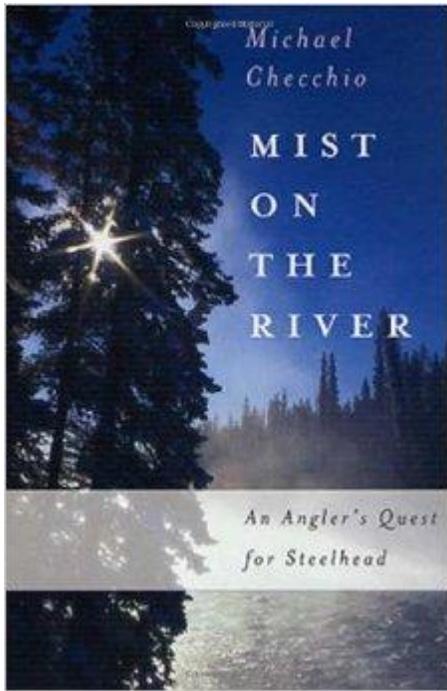
There are so many options in this sport if you want to buy something. Just about anything you can think is available for sale. Some pricey, some affordable, some so cheap they are a waste of money.

There are also many places to find the proper and necessary stuff. Fly shops, I always try and find stuff in a local shop every time I go fishing. Online, if you can't find it in a fly shop you walk into, I guarantee you can find a shop on the internet that has 2, or 7, however many you want, they are just a credit card number away. We can't forget EBay. I have spent many a happy hour searching and finding that amazing deal on something I really needed or a back up to something I have, that I really need. I've got some great deals and saved much money on EBay, it's just the other ten items I found that I didn't know I needed until I saw it there, that cost me a fortune.

It may be time to rethink the stuff thing. I mean my wife moved me, and my stuff, into our own room. She even got me a TV to lower the chance that me, and my stuff, start spilling back out into the house. She doesn't really mind my treasures being around; she just gets tired of show and tell, especially when I finally figure out how some piece of stuff I just got works. I don't blame her for that. Maybe I have gone a little too far over the edge. I have stuff I don't use or really don't even know where it is. Yes, I should go on a buying sabbatical. Learn new ways to continue enjoying fishing that don't involve a major investment every time I go out or come home. There has to be a more frugal way to do this and I'm turning over a new leaf. I will go on a stuff diet. Yep, no more stuff until I wear my old stuff out..... Wait, I just got an Email, Marriott's is having a big blow out sale!!! Got to go!!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen



Mist on the River
An Angler's Quest for Steelhead

By Michael Checchio
St Martin's Press, New York City, NY Published 2001
211 pages

With less than a decade of fly fishing behind me, my inkling of fishing for steelhead was triggered by a post of the forum. Of course, I didn't have a clue as to why the enthusiasm, even though the fish were bigger than anything I ever landed (or lost). *Mist on the River* by Michael Checchio is an excellent book to find the missing information.

The first question that usually comes to mind when an unknown river is named, such as the Umpqua, Ristigouche, Eel, or Babine – is where are those rivers located. Checchio lives in San Francisco and has traveled the West Coast of US and Canada in search of steelhead. In his writing, individual rivers are named as well as the larger drainages that the rivers are located in. In describing his travels and the steelhead fisheries, comments are made about worldwide locations so a broad understanding of steelhead fishing can begin. It is not likely I will travel to many of the locations, but I can appreciate the folks that travel.

Steelhead are a part of a much larger group of migratory fish. In describing the seasonal timing of steelhead migration, more information is given about what else travels in the rivers and when. In addition, the naming of the other fish is explained, Kings, Coho, Dog Salmon, etc. as well as some comments on the life cycle and appeal to an angler. (I am beginning to understand some of the lingo and stories).

Other topics of interest that are presented directly or indirectly are what are the general options for lodging while

fishing certain areas (becomes more interesting in remote locations), what can impact the day to day fishing, and how to fish for them. The current conditions and prognosis for future fishing is described in anecdotal ways, usually in conversations with local anglers or from comments by scientists who are studying changes. Finally, occasional references are given to other authors and books that have been written for the area. (I ended up ordering two more books online before I finished this one).

Checchio's background was a newspaper journalist, so he presents information clearly and with enough detail to make the writing interesting. If your desire was to become a wandering steelhead addict on the west coast, a framework for your travels and seasonal migrations would easily come from the information in this book. But, for most folks, I still think there may be a day job that has to be considered.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



Moto Caddis

By "2 Fly" Sue Kusumoto

After seeing reports from several shops and publications touting the fish catching ability of the hot new "Moto Caddis," I thought it was time to feature and expose it to the masses. At first glance this caddis looks a little bit like some parent patterns, but it has enough original spice to make it stand alone.

The Moto Caddis is designed in the modern Euro and Czech Nymphing style being heavily weighted with a thin profile. An Ice Dub abdomen and buggy thorax dubbing make this a nice eye catcher for the fish, but the unique feature is the Krystal Flash ribbing adding another hue and type of lifelike reflection. The original uses flash only for the rib, but I like to add some wire too for added durability.

The Moto Caddis is a very versatile fly fishing well in most waters from freestone to spring creeks. You can fish the Moto as a dropper or point fly in your nymph system and it also fishes extremely well in riffles suspended by a large dry fly like a Stimulator or your favorite hopper.

Tie some up, throw'em in your box and go fishin'!

Materials:

Hook: 2x short caddis 12-20

Bead: Gold (largest that fits/ tungsten optional)

Wire: Non lead or Tungsten

Thread: 6/0 Black

Rib: Chartreuse Krystal Flash (gold wire optional)

Abdomen: Peacock Ice Dub

Thorax: Black Haretron or buggy nymph dub substitute

Tying Instructions:



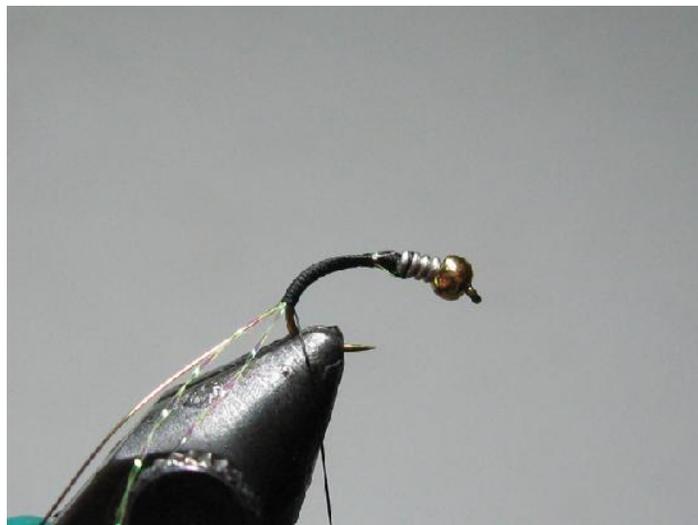
1. Debarb hook add bead and insert into vise.



2. Add seven to eight wraps of wire (as shown in last month's Frenchie tutorial) and tuck into bead hole. Add thread and create thread dam.



3. Attach two to three strands of flash with the wire if desired.



4. Wrap back toward the bend of the hook keeping the wire and flash atop the shank. Wrap half way down the bend.



5. Add a small amount of Ice Dub to the thread by adding a few fibers at a time and twisting in the same direction repeatedly between your thumb and first two fingers.



6. Wrap the “dubbing rope” forward one wrap in front of the last until you reach the wire. Cover the rear half of the wire but leave some space for the thorax.



7. If using only flash, twist flash into a rope and prepare to wrap forward. If using wire and flash, wrap flash around the wire prior to wrapping forward. Add super glue or Zap a Gap if desired.



8. Wrap the ribbing forward in six to seven evenly spaced wraps. Secure at thorax and remove excess. Stroke back Ice Dub.



9. Create a short dubbing rope of black dubbing (add a touch of Black Ice Dub if you feel dangerous) and wrap forward while stroking fibers back. Add three half hitches or whip finish. Add securing adhesive of choice to final thread wraps if desired.

Rob

Even though the Kern River is pretty during the rest of the year, it really puts on its finest show in the Fall!

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



Earlier this month I was fortunate to be involved in the FFF Southwest Council Fly Fishing Faire in Bishop. Rob and I were asked to do a tying class and right away thought this would be great. Do a class for a few hours and have plenty of time to fish and get in some pinochle with the parents. Then we volunteered to also do some tying demos and that cut into fishing and pinochle time.

Still got some fishing time, stuck a few at Crowley and the card game didn't go as well parents got the best of us this time. With little time on the water the weekend was still fantastic because of the Faire.

This was my first time at the Faire and won't be my last. Such a wealth of knowledge you could spend a month taking classes from masters and still not cover it all. Besides a couple of grumpy looking old guys, it was smiles all around.

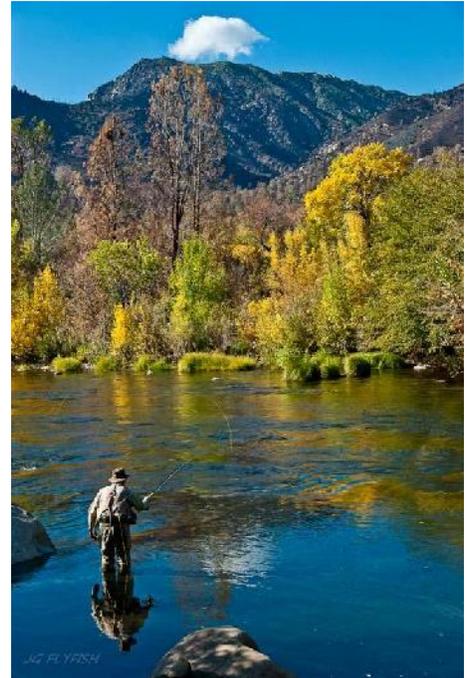
The best part for me was quite a few kids were involved. Kids were giving tying classes to other kids as well as kids casting. It was nice to see so many involved with the Faire. Rob and I meet a 15 year old kid named Ben in our tying class. Ben got turned on to fly fishing not through his family, but through the Boy Scouts. Ben already has the bug and is a good tier on his way to being an excellent tier and fisher.

Support your local clubs of all kinds. We need to get kids hooked on positive activities and away from other troubles. I'm already looking forward to next year's Faire.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

It's happened so many times, but here we are once again knee deep in the Fall. Not only evidenced by the falling temperatures and the changing colors, we can also tell because we are right upon the Poker Night benefiting the Kids Academy & the Inter-Club Tournament.



Whether out on the Kern or any other "fishy" body of water, my hope for all of you is that you get to spend some fly flickin' time out there this Fall and enjoy all the season has to offer to all of your senses!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2015

ELECTED POSITIONS

OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
President	Chiaki Harami	haramic@aol.com	818-968-6872
Vice President	Allen Bell	fly_addict@hotmail.com	760-382-2266
Treasurer	Pete Emmel	p_emmel5@hotmail.com	805-461-0968
Secretary	Keith Pengilley	kpengilley@earthlink.net	626-286-4536
Conservation Chair	Tim Michaels	tim.michaels980@gmail.com	
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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
Newsletter Editor	Gary Silveira	gfsilveira@charter.net	805-238-6619
Membership Chair	Keith Pengilley	kpengilley@earthlink.net	626-286-4536
Education Chair	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
Fly Tying	Rob Buhler	clouserfreak@hotmail.com	949-842-2133
Tips & Techniques	Ryan Buhler	slumpbuster@live.com	949-240-7748
Raffles Coordinator	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
Librarian	Ants Uiga	mrmarsha@sbcglobal.net	949-466-6404
Tournament Committee Chair	Chiaki Harami	haramic@aol.com	818-968-6872
Rod Building	Pete Emmel	p_emmel5@hotmail.com	805-461-0968
IT Director	Mark Sweat	markesweat@yahoo.com	760-274-5012
Public Relations Co-Director	Kimberly Jeans	Kim@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
Public Relations Co-Director	Sergio Martinez	Skaguy04@gmail.com	



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