



# Ring of the Rise

*December 2015*

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

Happy New Year's!!! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. It's always the time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the New Year. 2015 was a good year for me. I assisted at the Casting For Recovery retreat for the first time. Meeting the CFR women was awesome and their appreciation of life is inspirational. With a trip to New Orleans, I was able to check off Red Fish on my bucket list and New Hampshire provided another state to catch trout. Acadia National Park was small, yet very beautiful with dramatic views of its coastline and changing colors of its leaves. Yes, I became a "Leaf Peeper" and ate lobster every day. Caught two corbina in 2015, they are such a challenging fish to catch.

I made my New Year's resolution of fishing more days than last year. I'm scheduled to visit Craig, MT and working on a trip to Trout Town USA. I'm also looking forward to a Yosemite trip to fish the Tuolumne Meadows area this spring. It's been a while since I've used my 00 wt. and I'm already looking forward to July and going on Corbina patrol.

With the recent reports of slightly above average snowpack, let's hope this trend continues and we get the El Nino that's predicted. Our fish friends could sure use it. There are lots of river and streams that could use a good flush. It would also help the agricultural industries in California, which many are on the brink of closing their doors due to the long draught. Pray for rain.

We are changing our meeting and outing schedule. Meetings will be every other month starting in January and outings are every other month starting February. The Buhler Brothers will be holding a fly tying class on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> with a presentation on the Lower Owens that night. The fly tying class will be specializing on flies that are effective on the Lower O. The February outing will be to...you guessed it: Lower Owens. We will meet at the Pizza Factory Saturday night and tell each other our fish tales of the day. This outing has always been one of our most popular outings. We've had upwards of 40 people at the Pizza Factory. We will try to follow this format whenever possible. Hopefully, members can attend more Club functions when it's better planned. Last year was very difficult with the draught.

Our Vice President, Allen Bell has put together a solid 2016 calendar of speakers and we're bringing back some of our well attended outings onto the Clubs calendar. One example of this is an outing to the San Joaquin River outside of Mammoth. We did this outing about 7 years ago and everyone had a blast. We camped in the group

campground area, fished the river in one direction and used the shuttle bus to get back to our campground. This will be a mid-summer outing and hopefully the water levels will be just right.

There will also be many informal impromptu outings during the year. Any time I can plan a fishing trip a few weeks in advance, I'll invite anyone that wants to join me.

I hope everyone the best in 2016.

*Chiaki*

## **River Report:** *by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)*

**Upper Kern (20 mile section) Open year round!** The upper Kern 20 mile section was stocked with about 800 pounds of trophy sized fish on November 6th 2015, but the fishing in this section is slow at this time because of the lower water temperatures which are currently between 38 and 42 degrees in this section. If the water temps on the upper Kern get above 45 degrees anytime soon these fish will once again become active for those interested in catching hatchery fish.

**Upper Kern (4 mile-Wild Trout Section) Open Year round!** The wild trout in the 4 mile section are doing very well and there are 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 cold here at about 38 degrees. Fly Fishing is slow!

**Upper Kern (Forks of the Kern)** Special fishing regulations apply to this section of the Kern. **Closed for the season.**

**Lower Kern (Lake Isabella Dam to Democrat)** Bass fishing has slowed way down with the cooler temps. Some fly anglers are doing ok.

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

**Lower Kern (Kern Canyon Entrance to Oildale)** Slow fly fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass at this time. Water temperature 48 degrees.

South Fork of the Kern - Closed for the season.

Tributaries of the North Fork Kern River - Closed for the season.

Lake Isabella - The lake is very low, but the fly fishing is ok for largemouth bass and slow for Carp on a fly. Rainbow trout are deep right now, but big. An 8 pounder was caught recently near the dam.

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)*

Due to severe weather and roadway conditions, our next General Meeting will be held on Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will held at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, starting at 7:00 pm, with guest speakers will be our very own Buhler Brothers, Rob and Ryan. They will be conducting a fly tying class earlier in the day then making a presentation on fishing the Lower Owens River in the evening.

The Buhler Brothers tying class will feature flies for the Lower Owens. Beginning tyers will be tying Olive Wooly Buggers and Griffith's Gnat's and intermediate tyers will be learning techniques for and tying the Poxback Baetis and Parachute BWO's. Rob and Ryan look forward to a full class. Please sign up on the Kern River Fly Fishing Forum or email Rob or Ryan.

After the tying class reviewing flies for the February Lower Owens, the Buhler Brothers (Rob & Ryan) will be hosting a presentation on fishing techniques, flies and areas to fish the Lower Owens effectively. With their parents retired in Bishop, they enjoy fishing the LO regularly, especially during the winter months. The seminar will focus closely on the entomology of the river, reviewing the main aquatic insects and taking a close look at them with many detailed macro photos. As usual, there will be lots of fish pics too! :) Come on up and make a weekend out of it or just a full day and get prepped for the Lower Owens in February!





everyone managed to find a spot. We would all fish together until it became too dark to see. Everyone caught fish and it was a happy time back at the truck. Then, I decided to sneak out of work early during the week. This was a good idea. I ended up with the prime pool, all alone. First finch to the feeder!! What an amazing time of fishing and catching. That was a time I'll never forget.



*Sweet Caddis water!!*



*Chiaki*

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

### **First Finch at the Feeder**

Every morning I do the same things. I usually have some gardening to do, a quick clean up after the dogs and then I feed the birds that share my garden with me. After I'm done outside, I come back into the house and into my bedroom to spend some time with God. As I look out of my window, I always look for the first finch on the feeder. He is always very happy, surrounded by a nice pile of food. It doesn't last, as a hundred or so doves are soon coming for breakfast, too. But, that is later. For now, my happy finch has the best spot all to himself. As I watch my little friend enjoy his peaceful breakfast I always think of the times I have been lucky enough to be the first at the best spot, just before the hatch starts and the fishing is better than good.

The Kern is where I started fishing hatches. There were many others following the evening caddis hatch, it was ok,

After a while, I found the Lower Owens. There are amazing hatches there, but they are well populated with fishers on the weekends. When I started going there, I had no idea how to really fish Blue Wings on water that small. This was definitely a different game. I ran into a nice man that showed me how to fish the runs, how to position myself to maximize my drift. I still was having a difficult time, so, he tied one of his flies on, put me in his spot and said, "wait". After a couple minutes, a bunch of nice Browns started rising. He said, "Put your fly right there", which by some miracle, I did. Whack!!! I caught a really nice Brown and a Blue Wing addict was born. I started making it a point to be there whenever hatches were coming off and I could usually find a spot, but most of the time I just couldn't get into the prime water until after it had been fished pretty hard. Then one glorious day, persistence paid off and I pulled up to a great hatch pool with no one around. Cha Ching!!! I stayed long after I should have left and it was one of those rare days that few people were out fishing and I had the spot and stretch of river to myself all day. I still sometimes feel sorry for all those fishes with sore lips!!!



*LowO Blue Wing Madness*

So, as I fished through the years, I eventually started making trips to distant and exciting waters. One such trip was to the Owyhee. As we fished through the day, we were told to go up by the bridge and look for Mahoganies and PMD's. So, we did. Lucky us, the first day we tried it, we were all alone, just us and about a million PMD's and lots and lots of fishes!!! These were big, smart Browns and Rainbows feeding in calm water, slowly moving along. Good for the fish, not so much for us. Those were some difficult to catch fish. We did manage to catch a few and it was so nice and peaceful there, just us in the cooling evening. Sometimes it's just too much fun being the first finch at the feeder!!!

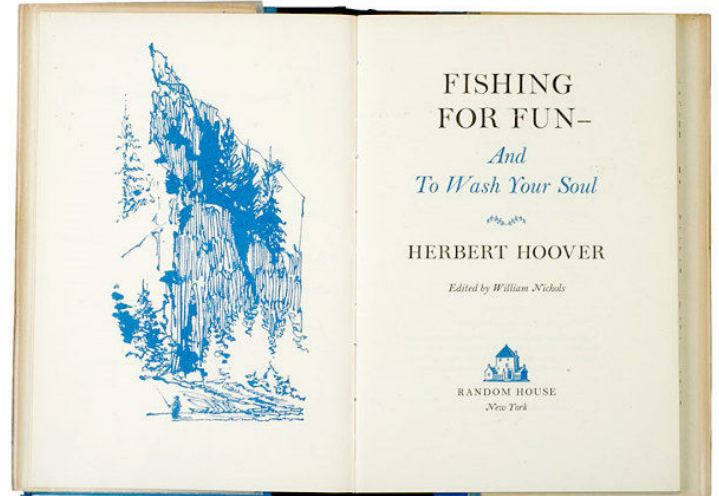


*Evening Browns on the Owyhee!!*

Since then, I have been so fortunate to have the timing and luck to be the first and only at some really great places on some really great rivers. The 'Slick' on the Beaverhead, the 'Back Eddie' on the Green, the 'Fun Farm' on the Henry's Fork. I've also enjoyed great fishing and privacy in many other unknown places. It doesn't have to be a famous river to offer amazing fishing. All it really takes is a pool full of insects maturing to short lived adulthood and a whole bunch of hungry fish to make a special memory. Just me, a Winston rod, a few flies and a lot of fishes. Yep, being the first finch at the feeder can be a groovy thing!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies, *Allen*

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



### **Fishing for Fun - And To Wash Your Soul**

*By Herbert Hoover*

*Edited by William Nichols*

*Drawings by Bill Hofmann*

*Random House, New York City, NY Published 1963*

*86 pages*

Herbert Hoover was the 31<sup>st</sup> U.S. President from 1929 to 1933 (better credentials than most of the authors I have reviewed). Hoover was a notable fly fisherman on the McKenzie River in central Oregon. The resort where Hoover stayed was across the river from the main road and bridges were not apparently constructed at the time. River crossings were accomplished by a cable suspended foot bridge. The bridge is still standing, but in sufficient disrepair that the only safe crossing would be for a squirrel. According to a historical plaque at the Thomson's Swinging Bridge, the catch limit for fish was 75 fish and it would only take a couple of hours to reach the limit. My photograph of the bridge from November 2014 and the historical plaque are included. The Belknap Bridge (built in 1966) is one of two covered bridges that cross the river in comfort (and by vehicle) compared to the Thomson's Swinging Bridge. Of course, why the bridges need to be covered is a good question (it is not like Vermont where snow on the bridges would be a hazard to travelers)?



The Preface is quoted

*"There is no subtle reason for this little book. Over many years in meetings of fishermen, fisherwoman, in public addresses, and in articles for magazines, I have made observations on fishing.*

*Along came a publisher, who said to me: 'These meditations would make a little book of good cheer. And in the daily grind of trying to find out why the Communists get that way, it would be an expedition in relief.' So here they are. I have made no changes in the original texts except for occasional editing and condensation.*

*Herbert Hoover"*

My review will simply consist of a copy of one of the writings; suffice it to say that other ones are equally entertaining.

*"The Expert*

*Where the following story came from I do not know. It may be apocryphal, but it contains a point of interest to all fishermen.*

*I was supposed to be returning after a day's fishing without a single fish when I met a boy who was toting home a beautiful catch.*

*I asked: 'Where did you get them?'*

*He said: 'You walk down the lane marked Private till you come to a sign saying Trespassers will be Prosecuted. Just beyond is a stream marked No Fishing Allowed and there you are'.*

Enjoy!

*Ants* .....Your SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

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



### **Soft Hackle Hare's Ear**

This is certainly nothing new, dating back at least five centuries to the writings of Sir Izaak Walton. There is a reason that this and other "soft hackle" flies have stood the test of time.....they've always been consistent fish catchers and continue doing just that today.

Contemporary tyers most consistently use partridge, starling, or grouse wing feathers for their soft hackle creations, but other feathers such as pheasant rump on larger flies can be useful too. I prefer buying them in wing sets or whole hides, but partridge and other feathers can also be purchased already removed from the bird in small packages that come with a variety of sizes.

Ryan Buhler recently tied this pattern for a swap on the Kern River Fly Fishing Forum and was said to be a significantly superior producer to other flies in the swap, when fished on the Kern deep in the back country by dynamite duo club members Tim and Teena (T&T). Most traditional soft hackles are very sparse, but Ryan tied his with a contemporary hare's ear body along with the soft hackle.

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

## **Materials:**

Hook: Size 14-22 2305 nymph/terrestrial (shown), 2x long nymph or whatever you have

Bead: Black (optional)

Underwire: Lead free

Thread: Black

Tail: Hare's mask guard hairs

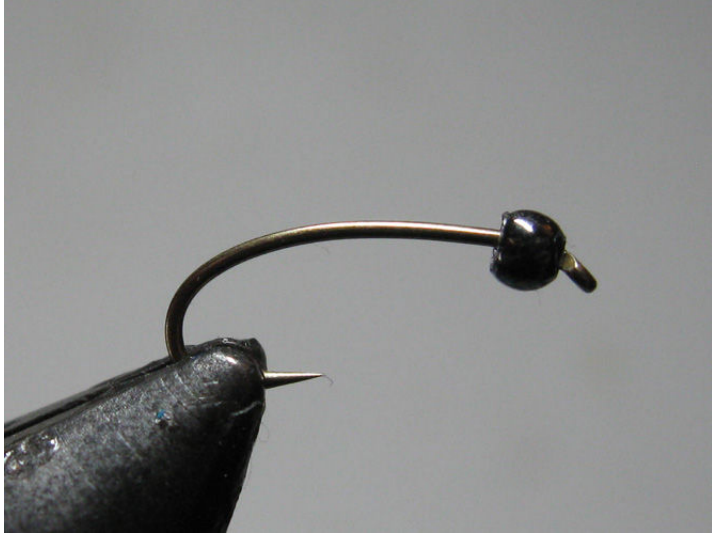
Rib: Small gold wire (x-small for 18-22)

Abdomen: Hare's mask under fur

Thorax: Hare's mask guard hair/under fur mix

Hackle: Partridge (sterling, grouse, Indian hen back are adequate subs)

## **Tying Instructions:**



1. Debarb hook, attach bead and insert into vise.



2. Attach 6-8 wraps of non-lead wire. Remove excess by holding one end snugly and spinning or rotating the other end until it breaks. This saves your scissors and provides a clean break leaving the wire coiled against the shank.



3. Slide wire into the opening on the back of the bead. Attach thread at the rear of the wire wraps and build a small thread dam.



4. Remove a small tuft of hair from the forehead area of a hare's mask (Indian Hen Back is a suitable substitute). Remove the fluffy under fur and measure the hair to be about 1/3 to 1/2 the shank length. Trim the butt length accordingly to tie in at the rear of the wire. Tie in hair at the butts atop the shank and wrap back to mid bend with a curved hook shank (wrap to the bend only with a straight shank).



5. Select a piece of wire and tie in at mid bend (note placement of butt end). Add a small amount of the fluffy dubbing removed from between the eyes of the hare's mask to the thread or use the cheek hair which is also very fluffy with minimal spiky guard hairs, creating a dubbing rope.



6. Wrap the dubbing rope forward to the rear of the wire wraps.



7. Wrap the wire forward in 6-7 evenly spaced wraps, securing the dubbing. Remove the excess wire.



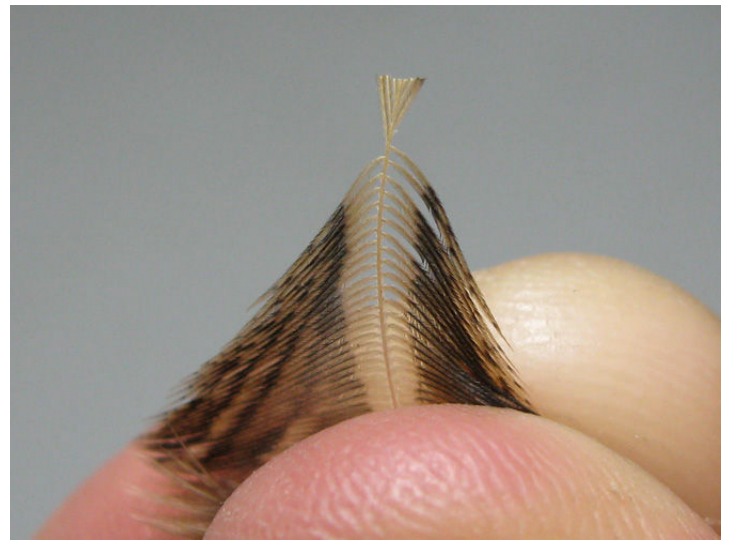
8. Create a short dubbing rope using a mix of the spiky, long guard hairs and some darker fluffy undercoat from your hare's mask. Wind your dubbing rope through the thorax to the rear of the bead.



9. Stroke fibers back away from the bead and take a few thread wraps to create a small neck area for the hackle tie in.



10. Prepare your soft hackle feather by holding the top most barbs with your finger tips or hackle pliers and stroke remaining fibers toward the base of the hackle. There are several ways to tie in soft hackles, but we will try this method that uses the thinnest and most supple area of the stem for less bulk at the tie in area.



11. Trim the hackle tip leaving a short section for attaching to the shank.



12. Tie in hackle tip as shown with two thread wraps.



13. Take 1 to 2 and 1/2 turns of hackle stroking fibers back between each wrap. Don't stress if a couple of

barbs are splayed in different directions....we can fix this later. Trim excess.



14. Now stroke back all fibers with material hand and take a couple of thread wraps back toward the bend. Half hitch or whip finish and trim thread.
15. Coat thread wraps with head cement or glue of choice.

*Rob*

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



### **Soft Hackles**

I first became interested in soft hackles when I saw an article by Sylvester Nemes on using starling feathers for soft hackles in smaller flies. I bought a starling skin and tied a few on some pheasant tail nymphs and had one of my best days on the Kern. I was an instant believer in the magic of soft hackle flies.

When you talk about soft hackle flies most people think of sparsely tied flies fished in the film and these flies work great but a lot of fly fishers miss out by not adding them to their regular nymphs. Rob's tutorial this month shows a simple Hare's Ear pattern with a partridge soft hackle collar added. You can do this with any nymph pattern you regularly fish and also streamer patterns can benefit from this addition. It adds the appearance of legs but more importantly it adds life like movement to your flies. The more life like movement in your flies the more fish you catch.

Another bonus you get by using soft hackles on your standard pattern is the different ways you can fish them. Dead drift them like normal then at the end of your drift you can do a Leisenring Lift and swing them around like you would a regular soft hackle fly. Before you recast, let that fly sit and wiggle in the film for a while. You will often get strikes just letting it swing in the current after your drift. Another added benefit is tying in the round (see Rob's tutorial).

Some of the standard soft hackle materials used are Partridge. It can be dyed easily and comes in many sizes. You can buy a bag of partridge feathers or buy a whole skin. If you can buy a whole skin you get a ton of more usable feathers and also more tiny feathers. A bag is cheaper but there is a lot of scrap feathers. Starling feathers are an excellent choice for smaller flies (size 16 to 28). Buy it on the skin and you will have feathers for years. CDC is also very useful for soft hackles (it also is easy to dye). It's not as durable as some other feathers but its magic by far makes up for it. Buy the best quality CDC you can, it's well worth it. A CDC prince nymph will take fish almost anywhere. Other feathers will work for soft hackles. Look for ones with nice soft fibers and a skinny flexible quill. Too stiff of a quill makes it hard to wrap and also to bulky.

Tie up some soft hackle flies for the Lower Owens outing coming up next month. Hope to see you there.

*Ryan*

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

With the little bit of space available here I thought I would send along the most important thoughts I could.....

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! Oh yeah, I hope you all get a lot of time on the water too!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2015

### ELECTED POSITIONS

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| 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 |

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| 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       | mrmarsa@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 |
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Use Club Affiliation code 99792

