

# Ring of the Rise

# February 2015

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We had a great February meeting and the rod building class was held the same day. We had three members in the rod building class, so they received a lot of instruction and attention. Freddie Ramirez and Jessica Stickland were our speakers, representing Trout Unlimited. Freddie has started a TU chapter in Fresno and is seeking satellite chapters in the surrounding areas. The satellite chapter would not have the regular fees as a regular Chapter. TU has done a lot of good work and I like Freddie's approach with the satellite chapter. We've a Board discussion on this, but it will be up to each member if they choose to join TU.

The 2015 Rendezvous is just around the corner on April 18. It's been a few years since we've been at Mountain and River Adventure, but we're going back. We're having our Catch and Release Partner Tournament and river clean up contest in the morning, followed by the casting contest. We are taking donations for the raffle again this year. Donated items should be near new and definitely not broken. There's going to be a few nice rods in either a raffle or some type of auction. A \$450 Yeti cooler has been donated and we are holding a separate raffle for it at the Vous. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The funds raised from the Yeti raffle will be earmarked for the Kids Academy. The cooler is making the rounds at various Shows. We had it on display at our booth at the Bakersfield Sportsmen and RV show and it will also be on display at the Fred Hall Fishing Show in Long Beach. The funds raised will supplement the Kids Academy Poker Night held in November. Freddie Ramirez and his gang will be catering the BBQ dinner again this year. He does make some good grub!!! The Stoneflys with Guy Jeans will be providing the entertainment. And of course, we'll be playing "Heads or Tails."

The Rendezvous is our big fund raiser and membership drive of the year. Please come and participate in the festivities. The funds raised from this event are used to fuel the Club's many activities: guest speakers, casting, fly tying, rod building classes, monthly outings, conservation projects, newsletters, Kids Academy and special Club projects.

At our March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, we will be having a very special guest speaker. Joel Stewart of the Bagdad School of Fly Fishing. This has got to be one of the most exciting meeting we've had. I heard the stories of Joel and I'm really pleased he's coming to SSFFC to give his special presentation. During the day, Mark Allen will be holding his Direct Contact Nymphing Class. There was so much demand for this class; he's holding a morning and afternoon class. Many of the members on the SSFFC interclub tourney Team use this

method and we've won the trophy 4 out of the 5 years. Mark is a great instructor and he's also a Certified Casting Instructor though the IFFF. Take his class and tryout for the SSFFC team!

It looks like another tough drought year. I'm glad we're having the Rendezvous on April 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone is able to get some time on the water and gets the feel of the tug. I've been chasing carp and looking forward to patrolling for beans on the beach.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

This is a fly fishing report for the Kern River Drainage's of the Southern Sierra. This report was written on Monday, 3-17-15 at 8:20 am.

<u>Upper Kern River 4 mile Special Regulations Wild Trout</u> <u>Section</u> (4 miles north of the Johnsondale Bridge)

Water temps "37 degrees up here" are making the fishing tough. If you fish up above this bridge remember to pinch your barbs down in this section. DFW Wardens have issued multiple tickets to anglers fishing with bait and barbed hooks in the last 2 weeks. A few poachers have been caught fishing in this section without fishing licenses as well. **Open Year-Round - Catch and Release only!** 

<u>Upper Kern River 20 Mile Section</u> (Kern River Fly Shop to the Johnsondale Bridge)

The upper Kern 20 mile section is also fishing ok for some anglers and not so great for others. Anglers chasing stocked fish aren't doing well. Fly anglers fly fishing for wild trout in this section are doing ok depending on the level of the angler. Time invested on this section of the upper Kern will pay off for the anglers that fish this section regularly. Water temperatures are fluctuating between 40-50 degrees and this depends on the area of the 20 mile section you fish. There is a BWO hatch in certain sections about a size 22. The wild trout in this section are very selective and are focusing on 24 BWO emergers. The hatch varies depending on which section you fish. If you find them hatching it can be epic. A go-to-fly right now is a WD40 22-24 or a BWO nymph 24-26. There is an abundance of wild rainbows in this section and catching them can be very technical.

Rainbows are also focusing on midges in sizes 22-26. Stealth, presentation and fly selection will be a major part of your success when it comes to catching these wild rainbows in the 20 mile section. River flows in this section are perfect for wading, but don't be fooled by the lower flows, the upper Kern will still knock you down if you're not careful. **Open Year-Round!** 

**Lower Kern** (Isabella Dam to Democrat)

Fishing for trout has picked up on this section of the Kern. Crappie, Largemouth and Smallmouth have slowed down but some fly anglers are doing pretty good for bass.

**Lower Kern** (Democrat to Canyon mouth)

Fishing is slow for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, a few trout being caught in this section.

**Lower Kern** (Rancheria Road to Oildale)

Fishing is ok for Largemouth Bass.

#### Lake Isabella

Lake Isabella is fishing well with the recent stocking of rainbows around the lake.

#### Southfork of the Kern

Season closed.

**Tributaries** (small creeks of the Southern Sierra)

Season closed.

Guy



**Conservation Report:** by Tim Michaels

No report submitted this month.

Tim

#### Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

The following is a list of our 2015 outings.

March 7-8 - Bishop April - Rendezvous May 2 - Kern Creeks June 27 - Surf July 18 - Kings Canyon August 15-16 - High Sierra (Mineral King, or East Side depending on flows) September 26-27 - Forks October - 17-18 East Side lakes (Walker, Crowley)

Chris

#### Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

December 5-6 - American in Sacramento

No report submitted this month.

November - Tournament

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)

Our next General Meeting will be held Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting will held at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, starting at 7:00 pm, with guest speaker Commander Joel Stewart. Commander Stewart's presentation will be on the "Bagdad School of Fly Fishing."

For those of you that have not heard of Commander Stewart, he is the founder of the "The Baghdad Anglers Club" and author of the book, "A Fly Rod In My Sea Bag: Fishing Adventures in Baghdad During Operation Iraqi Freedom 2005-2011."

The following is a description of the book from the Whitefish Press;



On May 1st, 2005, a Montana fly angler-turned-sailor arrived in the desert nation of Iraq as part of a coalition of forces working to bring peace to a war-torn countryside. A naval officer assigned to the Multi-National Corps Iraq, Joel Stewart found himself based in Camp Victory on the grounds of Iragi dictator Saddam Hussein's former Al Faw Palace. With numerous man-made lakes stocked by the former dictator with a variety of sport fish, in the down hours from a stressful job in a war zone, Commander Stewart did what any good fisherman would do -- he went fishing. With the foresight to have packed a fly rod in his sea bag, in a desert oasis built by a brutal dictator, Stewart began an odyssey unparalleled in the history of fishing. As he discovered the strange fish inhabiting the lakes in the Camp Victory compound, he began to share his catches with friends via the internet. Others, fascinated by Commander Stewart's catches, began to join him, and soon he was teaching numerous others how to fly fish. Thus, the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing was born, an angling club that remained in existence for the remainder of the time American troops were in Iraq.

From the many tales of fish caught and released and hooked and lost, to the struggles of finding fishing equipment and how numerous individuals and companies stepped up to the plate, to the growth of the Baghdad Angler's Club, the story of fly fishing in Iraq will fascinate fishermen and non-anglers alike.

## 2015 Rendezvous

The 2015 Rendezvous, our 10<sup>th</sup> annual, will be Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and held back at our original location:

Mountain and River Adventures Campgrounds 15775 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA 93238

http://www.mtnriver.com/campground.htm

Here are the details:

#### **TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE:**

\$25, dinner and entertainment are included. A current membership is required. One year membership fee is \$25 for an individual membership; \$35 for family membership. Go to http://ssffclub.org/rendezvous/ for Membership and Tournament application and payment. The maximum number of participants is 79 and we expect to fill all 79 spots. The application deadline is April 13, 2015, so a headcount can be obtained.

Check in: 7:30 to 8:30 AM at Kern River Fly Shop

Announcements: 8:30 AM

**Fishing:** Start fishing at 8:45 AM until 2:00 PM Sharp Return check in: 2:00 to 2:30 PM at Mountain & River

Adventure.

Misc.: Casting Contest, raffle ticket sales and social: 3:00

PM to 5:00 PM

Dinner, entertainment and awards: 5:00 PM - ?

#### **Tournament Rules:**

Areas to be fished are from the Johnsondale Bridge to the bridge in Kernville, this area maybe expanded based upon the number of participants. Fly Fishing equipment and barbless hooks only, Catch and Release, Maximum three flies at one time No flotation devices. Return with a bag of trash that you picked up from your location (we will supply the bags). All fishing will be done in pairs to verify catch (Please find a participating partner, if you can't, the tourney committee will do its best to assign a partner.) No minimum length for qualifying fish, round down to the nearest inch.

\*Trophy, prizes for biggest trout, most accumulated inches of trout, biggest Pike Minnow.

\*We will also have a Kids Division and Dry Fly only. .

\*Prizes for best and worst dressed participant. (You have to wear it all day until you return @ check in)

\*Prize for most trash collected

#### **DINNER, FESTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT ONLY:**

\$15 FEE, for those who aren't able to participate in the Tourney, but want to attend the dinner, entertainment and to support the SSFFC. SSFFC membership is not a requirement for this portion of the event. We have many items for the raffle from a Guide Trip from Kern River Fly Shop to books, hats, flies, discount coupons for Fly Fishing products and MORE! We will also hold a silent auction. Dinner and Entertainment registration and payment go to: http://ssffclub.org/rendezvous/

Payment Deadline: April 13, 2015

#### **ENTERTAINMENT:**

Guy Jeans and Stoneflys. \$5 if you only want to come for the entertainment. Payment at: http://ssffclub.org/rendezvous/

Purchase raffle tickets at a special pricing before April 13, 2015 @ http://ssffclub.org/rendezvous/

For questions or more information, please email me at haramic@aol.com

The following flyers were sent by the Pasadena Casting Club, providing opportunities to hone your fly fishing skills. If you have the opportunity and the desire to attend one or all of these courses, make sure to contact them ASAP to ensure you can get a spot on their roster.







The following flyers were sent by the Southwest Council FFF, providing opportunities to its members.



Hopefully some of our club members will be able to take advantage of these opportunities being offered.

Chiaki

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

#### **BACK TO BASICS**

Last fall, Mark and I went back to the Beaverhead for our week of fishing bliss. We both love the "Beav." It is difficult enough to make fishing a challenge, but you can still catch plenty of fish. We usually do the same things, fish whatever it takes all morning and catch enough fish to be happy for the day, then go up near the dam into the long, calm stretches of river that have many, many fish sipping Blue Wing Olives.... Really big fish sipping Blue Wings! Anyone that has done anything like this knows; big fish are hard to catch. Big fish on dry flies are more difficult. Big fish sipping dry flies in almost calm water can be next to impossible, which until it became dark, these pretty much were. Every day, there we were, cast, drift, clean the moss off and repeat. Now and then we caught a fish and most of these were worth the wait.



Typical Rainbow, Browns could be much bigger!!

One evening we decided to go all the way up to the water just below the dam. This is supposedly the 'miracle mile' of this river, always much too crowded for us to bother with. While up there, we ran into a nice older man with a really nice old Winston bamboo rod. It was well used, for sure. As we talked, I asked how long he had been fishing dries. He replied that he had been all day, but he was taking long breaks because the fishing was just too easy to be fun. WHAT??? So, as fishermen do, we continued the conversation. He told us that he just tied on a #20 Parachute Adams and then replaced it when the fish chew it down to the hook. He started laughing, "You don't really even need a perfect drift, anything close will do."

We had a good laugh; I had probably fished 20 or 30 different flies trying to find something these fish would take. I tried every Blue wing pattern I own, of which there are plenty. Everything in my dry box... Except, a #20 Parachute Adams. I had one. I just for whatever reason didn't think to try it. Later, I tied on the one I had and caught a few fish right off the bat, then in my happy daze, threw the darned thing into a tree. Fishing changed quickly, for the worse. Needless to say, my tying station at Poindexter Cabin was fully involved tying those flies. I still have some, if you are nice to me, you may get a Montana tied fly that really works, at least on the Beaverhead.



My orange "StimuRaider"

After we got home, I started thinking about my tying. It is pretty normal for me to get a pattern and add my own touch. The Stimulators I like to use started as a pretty easy fly to tie. After I got done with it and handed a few out for my friends to try, Mark called me. "This fly is nothing like what you started with. I am renaming it. From now on, this fly is called The StimuRaider." Nice fly, everyone likes it. Catches fish in a big way and will float a pair of big bead head flies and a BB weight. I use it a lot, when I have one. I tend to give many of these away.

I did the same thing with my para Blue Wings. Those nice easy to tie parachute dry flies worked great, but I think I can make them a little better. After several versions, all good flies, all more complicated to tie than the last, I ended up with this nice looking fly.



My "True Blue"

I wanted to make a Blue Wing that looked exactly like a Blue Wing on the water. Mission accomplished, the only problem was that it was too close. I couldn't find it in a hatch. The other problem was that the fish couldn't seem to find it either. I caught a few on it. I sent a few to world famous fly tester Ellen D. She said it worked; I'll just have to take her word for it.

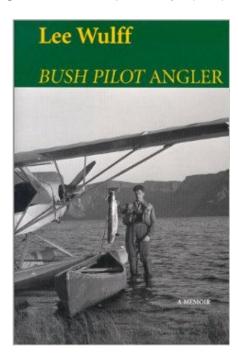
I remember the days when I first started fly fishing. This all started because I saw a Parachute Adams in a book and wanted to learn to tie flies. I bought the stuff and off I went.

Amazing that here I am, back to the first and most basic fly I have ever used. The best part is that recently, this fly worked great during a hatch on the Lower Owens. I've caught fish on it pretty much everywhere I fish dry flies. Old school and reliable. I now wonder why I ever thought I had to change from something that works. I'll still tie the Blue Wings I like, with the biots, stripped peacock herl, tinsel covered thread, multiple layered ridiculously thin wire. I like to tie these flies and they all catch fish. All the other flies I have made much too complicated, I will keep them also. I just like them. One thing is for sure, I will have a bunch of Adams flies. All those other flies will look really cool in my fly box, but I like to catch fish. I will be using my good old Parachute Adams. Maybe one tied in a really groovy spot in Montana!!

Blue Skies and Fish Flies....

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



**Bush Pilot Angler** 

A Memoir

By Lee Wulff

Down East Book, Camden, Maine Published 2000

228 pages

Lee Wulff was an entertaining writer, as well as a notable fisherman, guide, conservationist and entertainer among many other roles. The memoir covers roughly a decade from 1947 to 1957 when Wulff was exploring and setting up fishing camps in Newfoundland and Labrador. The delightful

writing is supported with photographs and maps of the regions.

The memoir describes many aspects of setting up and operating fishing camps on the Atlantic Salmon rivers of eastern Canada. The initial flight to the camps was completed in a J3 Piper Cub with floats. At the time, pilots were not supported by communications and information about changing weather. The local knowledge about changes in cloud cover, wind direction and the similar information was the basis for arriving safely from one location to another. By using the float plane, Wulff was able to locate streams were salmon were located and deliver the "sports" to fishing camps at the site. Prior to the introduction of the float plane, boats were used for the same purpose, but with much greater time to complete the tasks and greater vulnerability to weather during the slower passages.

The detail of the guided fish camps was entertaining. The recruitment of local residents provided staffing for cooking and camp setups, as well as guiding while catching the salmon. The sizes and quantities of the fishery resource was phenomenal during the initial years, but conservation was necessary to maintain the fishery. The conflicts between the agencies (that manage the resource) and desire to serve local economic needs was described. Unfortunately, the management ideas that were identified in the early years of fishing were not implemented until decades later. An opportunity was lost to maintain the fishing stock. The same lessons can be applied to any management decision about fisheries today, with hopes that good decisions are made sooner and for long term benefits.

In general, the book has a lot to offer. For the casual reader, the observations and memoir is entertaining. The topics range from fatherly pride while Lee Wulff's son learns to fly and operate as a bush pilot, to tales of the hospitality that makes operating easier with the local residents (whiskey stash in the floats). Of course, in addition to supporting the guided fishing camps, the float plane offered a great resource to local residents when it was time to travel reliably to meet medical and community needs. For the conservationist, the book shows how quickly a resource can be mismanaged or destroyed. For the aspiring bush pilot, the lessons in flying safely (and surviving) are essential.

Finally, the period pictures and description of interactions with military and government agencies provide more entertainment.

The book provides an easy, well-written and entertaining read. Enjoy! I certainly did.

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

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



#### F-C SAND SHRIMP VARIANT

With longer days and warmer weather ahead (do we ever have cold weather?), I think that it is time for a surf fly pattern, especially considering the increased interest in our coastal fisheries. Feather Craft is based in Missouri, but is ahead of the game with all things fly fishing and has a great pattern called the F-C Sand Shrimp.

Now, we don't necessarily have a huge population of these sand shrimp, but the general characteristics of this fly make it a winner in both the local surf and bays/harbors. Its colors are close enough to the brown/rust jetty crabs and the local shrimp population that it has become a favorite fly of mine in short order. I drop the size down to standard 6 and 8 saltwater hooks (the original is size 4) and often substitute calf tail for the original arctic fox for durability, although it loses quite a bit of movement when making this adjustment. Another adjustment that I have made is to eliminate the dumbbell eyes in favor of a more natural presentation when fishing in the turbulent surf.

I will often fish the weighted and un-weighted versions in tandem, with the lighter, smaller fly at lines end and the heavier as a dropper, or even with the smaller shrimp tied off of the hook bend of the weighted version. This tandem setup is very effective at catching surf perch and will also give you the opportunity at bonus catches like halibut, croaker and corbina.

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

#### Materials:

Hook: 4-8 Mustad 34007 or equivalent Thread: Fl. Fire Orange UTC 70 0r 140 Tail: Orange Calf Tail or Arctic Fox

Flash: 4-6 strands Orange or Pearl Krystal Flash Body: Small-Medium "Pearl Chenille" in Root Beer

Underwing(optional): Bronze Flashabou

Wing: Rusty Brown or Root Beer Calf Tail or Arctic Fox

#### **Tying Instructions:**



1. Debarb hook prior to inserting into vise. Attach thread at the 80% mark.



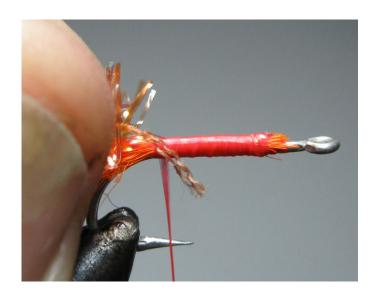
2. Select an appropriate amount of fur and prepare for tie in by pulling hair at a 90 degree angle from the hide or tail and trim at the hide. I then transfer hands by grasping the hair at its base with the scissor hand. Remove undersized hairs by holding the group by the tips and pulling out the shorter hairs. Measure length on the hook to about ¾ to a full shank length.



 Now transfer fibers to your material hand and trim butts at appropriate spot to prepare for tie in. Attach tail to the top of the shank with a few securing wraps.



4. While holding hairs above the shank with your material hand, wrap a smooth underbody to the bend of the hook. Thread is shown at tie in area. (Do Not Wrap Forward As Shown!) Keep thread at bend for next step.



5. Peel some fibers from the end of a length of chenille and Prepare to attach the "core" to the shank.



6. Attach the core to the shank and wrap forward stopping at the 85-90% mark.



7. Wrap forward the chenille, stroking the fibers back after every turn to prevent fibers from being trapped. Trim excess.



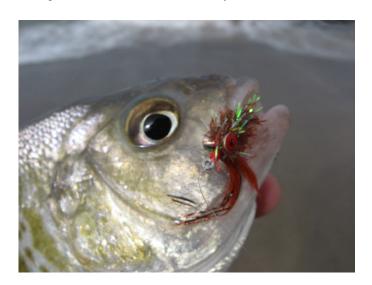
8. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the wing color. Measure wing from 3/4 to one full length of total fly.



9. Create a smooth thread head and add three half hitch knots or whip finish. Coat with strong adhesive of choice. I've been using "Hard as Nails" lately.



Weighted version with dumbbell eyes and arctic fox fur.



Barred Surf Perch



Barred Surf Perch



Spotfin Croaker

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



### SIMMS Solarflex™ Sunglove

I wish I would be talking about how to protect yourself from the brutal winter we were having while fishing. Instead I will recommend one more piece of sun protection.

Rob recently bought a pair of Simms new Solarflex™ sungloves. He had tried other brands before but never liked them enough to buy a pair. He didn't like how tight they felt around the fingers and they were uncomfortable right away let alone hours later after fishing all day. When he tried on the Simms gloves they felt like they weren't even there. They have a tag to grab and easily come off and on. Several different sizes are available to fit most hands. Once again Simms didn't invent the sun gloves but they sure made them better. Please keep in mind to protect yourself from getting sunburned when you are on the water.



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

The word "challenge" and fly fishing just seem to go handin-hand. For most fly fishers, the initial challenge of getting all that fly line, leader, tippet and fly to shoot out straight ahead of us, instead of landing in a big pile a handful of feet in front of our rod tip, seemed to be an unobtainable goal. But the goal was the challenge. And once we were able to make an acceptable cast, at least most of the time, the next challenge was to get the dry fly that was tied to the end of all those connected lines to land lightly on the water. Although this generally took a lot longer than just getting that initial cast figured out, each and every one of us does challenge ourselves to do just that. Furthermore, depending on how much time each of us get to be out on the water or practicing our casting, getting that sweet cast consistently can be a lifetime challenge. Oh how I jealously watch those casters that seem to make a beautiful cast look so effortless!

Beyond getting the basic Overhead Cast down, this sport challenges us in so many other ways. We quickly find out that the joy we earned in making the line and fly go generally where we wanted it to go was sidelined when we had to throw in mends to somewhat keep it in that area. Additionally, due to situations beyond our control we also have to learn techniques such as the Roll Cast, Reach Cast, Sidearm Cast, Curve Cast, Steeple Cast, Single Hauling, Double Hauling, Upstream Mends, Downstream Mends, etc.. The list goes on and on, and so does the challenge.

Whew, those were a lot of challenges weren't they? Well I guess "a lot" is not quite accurate when you think about all the other variables and challenges that go into this fly fishing sport. Things like choosing the right fly for the conditions, reading the water, safely wading, detecting the strike, setting the hook, playing the fish then successfully landing it. The longer we are in the sport, the easier most of these skills become, but I for one have never spent a day fly fishing that I didn't feel challenged in some to all of the aspects noted above. But then again, that's what makes me want to get out on the water. And I would dare to guess, that most of you reading this right now could say the same. After all, who doesn't like a challenge?

Tight Lines, Gary



## **SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB**

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2015**

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Librarian	Ants Uiga	mrmarsha@sbcglobal.net	949-466-6404
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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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Use Club Affiliation code 99792

