



Ring of the Rise

July 2015

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

The current California draught has caused many serious problems throughout the State. Our Club has rescheduled outings due to the draught and the lack of water. We couldn't schedule some of our regular outings, which we held year after year. The Club has looked into different, non-traditional waters and one very interesting outing has popped out. A trip to the Lower Kern for smallmouth bass on July 26th. Guy has been taking clients to this spot and they have been having a great time. Guy actually came up with this outing and he will be heading it up, providing guiding services. He will also have bass flies for sale, in case members are in need. Personal floatation devices are highly recommended as the banks are steep and it drops off quickly. Lunch will be provided by the Club.

In conjunction with this outing, our next meeting will be held on July 25th featuring Tim and Teena Michaels and myself presenting fly fishing the salt. Catalina, Southern California beaches, fly fishing equipment and flies will be discussed. Tim & Teena (T&T) have spent many weekends at Catalina catching yellowtail, bonito, calico bass and many others. I've done a "few" days on the beach sand, catching more than my age in perch and posting 3 beans last year. I'll bring the 2 flies I used last year to get this done.

September 19th is Kern Valley Pride Day. Southern Sierra will be competing in the annual trash collection river cleanup competition with a special challenge going out to the Kern River Fly Fishers (Bakersfield) and Aguabonita Fly Fishers (Ridgecrest). We need help from all the members to help clean our beloved Kern River (and to beat those other 2 clubs). The contest is based upon the weight of the trash collected, with weigh in at French Gulch starting at 11:30 am. Many organizations participate in this worthy event and there are actually prizes given to the winners. The real winners are the Kern River and Lake Isabella.

Our Kernville Fish Hatchery is in need of our help. The State provides the trout fingerlings, but there aren't enough funds to feed them. There will be fund raisers for trout food happening over Labor Day weekend, including a performance by Guy Jeans and his Stoneflies. I hope all the members come out to support our Hatchery and to listen to fun music. A trophy trout program is also in the works and requires additional funding. It's going to be a difficult summer, so both of these programs will give the Kern River a kick start it deserves this fall.

If we have more than 8 members interested in participating, tryouts for the Inter-Club Tourney will happen early this fall.

We will be defending Champs and I have high hopes to 3-repeat.

I hope everyone is having a fun summer. It looks like I'm taking a road trip to San Francisco this month and a New England trip this fall to see the leaves change colors.

We will be dark in August with no meeting scheduled. This will give our VP, Allen Bell a well-deserved rest from the club's monthly planning.

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 Tuesday 7-16-2015.

Upper Kern (20 mile section)

River flows are excellent for wading at this time. Water temperatures in this section are fluctuating between 60 and 70 degrees. If you fish in this section, fish at first light till 10am for the best action.

Upper Kern (4 mile-Wild Trout Section)

Special fishing regulations apply in this section of the Kern. No bait fishing is allowed and no barbs on your hooks. Water temps are cooler here!

Upper Kern (Forks of the Kern)

Special fishing regulations apply in 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.**

Lower Kern (Lake Isabella Dam to Democrat)

Not good for trout, but excellent for bass fly fishing.

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.

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 for largemouth bass and epic for Carp on a fly.

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 (tim980)

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)

Our next General Meeting will be held Saturday, July 25th. The meeting will be held at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, starting at 7:00 pm, with guest speakers being Tim Michaels (tim980) & his girlfriend Teena as well as Nick Blixt (Communications Director SWCFFF) and President Chiaki.

The presenters will be discussing the many opportunities of fly fishing the salt. During the last week, Tim Michaels has been one of the hottest Corbina catching machines. He & Teena have been fishing many of the So Cal beaches with great success. While Nick has been putting in time to become a Certified Casting Instructor, he still has time to hit many of the South Bay beaches. Come to the meeting and learn their secrets to catching fish in the surf.



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

**THE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL
FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS**

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Summer 2015

June – September 2015 / Silver and Slinkard Creeks, CA

Volunteers are needed this coming summer for a landmark conservation project in the Eastern Sierras. Take part in the restoration of Silver and Slinkard Creeks as habitat is returned to the region's majestic native fish, the Lahontan cutthroat trout. This project will occur from late June through September.

Volunteers will work in conjunction with paid interns to clear brush around both waterways, as well as assist in the removal of the invasive brook trout. Experience with hand and power tools will be particularly valuable. Participants will be asked to arrive on a Thursday and contribute through the weekend.

The project is a joint effort of a consortium of the region's fly fishing and conservation groups, including the Southwest Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Cal Trout, Trout Unlimited, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Please join us in this daunting yet rewarding undertaking, and in the process learn more about this coveted species and habitat.

For more information, contact Jack Marshall at conservation@goldenstateflycasters.org or

805-966-7773.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FLY FISHING FAIRE 2015

October 16 - 18, 2015 / Bishop, CA

The 2015 Southwest Council Fly Fishing Faire will take place October 16-18 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop, CA. The new venue offers a tremendous increase in space for vendor displays, classes, entertainment, and food.

While the schedule remains fluid, an exciting array of seminars, events, and classes for beginner and experienced anglers alike will run throughout the weekend. Take in a high-country trout adventure, learn the basics of European Style Nymphing and Tenkara, or become acquainted with the IFFF's new fly tying award program, among many other activities. As always, certified instructors will offer casting classes, and world-renowned tiers will once again hold a series of fly tying programs.

For those family members in attendance who do not fish, a variety of classes will be offered on quilting, pastel painting, and gardening for drought-tolerant plants.

Programs - ADDITIONS TO BE MADE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

Fly Tying with:

- Steven Fernandez
- Phil Therrien
- Naomi Okamoto
- Earl Arnold
- Bud Heintz

Fly Casting with:

- Dok Arvanites
- Mike McClay
- Tim Lawson
- John VanDerhoof
- Mark Allen

Seminars/Speakers/Classes:

- Ed Berg – Fishing Slovenia
- Peter Pumphrey – Hidden Fly Fishing Opportunities in the Eastern Sierra
- Dok Arvanites and Tim Lawson – Introduction to the IFFF Certification Program
- Ed Swanson's Petroglyphs Class and Tour
- Bill Hammon's and the California Heritage Trout Challenge
- Jason Koop's class on IFFF Fly Tying Skills Bronze Award Program
- Chiaki Harami's all day rod building for beginners
- Freddie Ramirez on Fishing Tenkara
- Gary Gunsolley teaching European Style Nymphing
- Alex Cady's Warm Water Fishing in the Lower Owens
- Chris Leonard's high country adventure
- Maria Rivas' class and outing on Reading Trout Water for Beginners
- Leigh Ann Swanson's Knots and Rigs for Women as well as a Casting Class
- Aquabonita's free demonstrations of 'Kasting for Kids'
- Jill Field-Duerr – Angling Fine Art
- Damian Ross – Angling Ceramic Artist
- Ed Pounds – Boy Scout Program
- Santa Lucia and Deep Creek Fly Fishers Beginning Fly Fishing classes

Non-Fly Fishing Events:

- Quilting Class
- Art/Pastel Painting class
- Gardening Class on drought tolerant plants

Online registration opens August 16th. Cost of admission is \$15. For more information and class registration, visit <http://southwestcouncilfff.org/> or call 818-200-1499.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
2015 FLY FISHING FAIRE
BISHOP
 Tri-County Fairground
 October 16 - 18
SOUTHWEST COUNCIL IFFF
 In conjunction with Inyo National Forest

Something for everyone, all anglers and fly tiers.
 Classes available for beginners through advanced.
 The classes for beginners, the equipment will be provided.
 Many on-stream workshops available.
 Learn from the pros how to cast, tie and catch!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

Date: October 16 - 18
Location: Bishop Tri-County Fairground
Hours: Friday and Saturday: 9-5 Sunday: 9-3

Entrance fee: \$15.00 for all three days, \$20.00 for families up to four members. Eastern Sierra residents get \$5.00 discounted admission.

Online registration opens August 16

For more information and registration for classes:
southwestcouncilfff.org or Call 818/200/1499

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)

Memories of the 4th

As I sit here thinking of the happy life I live, realizing how much I owe to so many, I just can't help remembering the 4th of July events as I have grown and aged.

I grew up in rural Illinois. My Great Grandparents lived about 50 miles south. I grew up around fairly poor people that made their living with their backs. I worked in my Great Grandma's truck garden from the time I was around 4 years old. By the time I was 7, I was hoeing strawberries with my Great Uncle Herb for five cents a row. Big money!! Everyone worked, but there were times when everyone played, these people knew how to work, they also knew how to play.

My first 4th memory is at my Grandad Carpenter's farm. Everyone was there, around 30 people in all. Grandad would sneak me into his truck, my Mom yelling after us, "Dad, don't give that boy any candy!!" Grandad would remove the cigar long enough to laugh "Ok Sis!!" Our first stop would be at the little store up the road for more cigars and for me, free reign in the candy aisle. I remember getting a big 'Chicostik.' We would make our way to Mattoon, stopping at every truck farmer on the way to sample the melons, my job, and get a couple of the biggest ones. When we got to Mattoon, we went to the ice house and had the two or three tubs in the back of the truck filled up. After all the food and laughter, we would enjoy the melons. Grandad made a great presentation of cutting them into giant wedges. After being warned by Mom I just needed a small piece, Grandad would cut a melon into four pieces and give me the biggest one. At five years old, I really needed help carrying it around and I don't think I ever finished it before I couldn't carry it anymore and it hit the ground. My daughter knows all about a big wedge of watermelon. We did it every year and she sent me a picture of her with a huge piece this 4th. Let the good times roll!!!

Time passes and life changes. My Grandma Pearl died a few years after that. Grandad Clarence moved to Indiana and remarried. They would come for the 4th every year. Grandad loved to fish and I knew every good spot in the county. This was a good mix. We would go and fish all day, bringing home Bullhead catfish and Bluegills for a fish fry tomorrow.

Independence Day is hot dogs and hamburgers. It still is at my house. After dinner, we would sit and laugh and shoot off fireworks, real ones. I guess I was around 11 or 12 years old. Can you imagine turning your eleven year old loose with a bag full of Black Cats, Cherry Bombs and bottle rockets? At least we had good role models. Grandad would sit there with his cigar lighting and throwing firecrackers. Every now and then, he would toss one under Grandma Yettive's chair. She would freak out, "Now Carp, STOP THAT!!!" He would laugh and 5 minutes later, throw another one under there. All in good fun!!

Many years pass, I now have a family and my own traditions, we mainly did the same things I had always done, except with less firepower, much less. Anyway, I don't think I would survive throwing a firecracker under my wife's lawn chair. We ate, enjoyed life, and then would go out into the desert to watch what we could of the fireworks. One year, there was a group of very inebriated people just across the dirt road. They had this cannon, one of those that you loaded a cartridge and shot it. Very powerful and loud. Wifey wasn't impressed, but I was kind of ok, it's the 4th after all. I went over and nicely asked them to at least move a little, my wife was uncomfortable with it so close to my daughter. They were cool for a while, but somehow drunkenly shot the thing right at us. Ok, that was enough, I'm pretty mellow and willing to let a good time have a little space, but this was a bit much. I was convinced a butt kicking was in order here. By the time they figured out they were in real trouble, my wife convinced me ice cream was better and we just disappeared into the night. Funny thing, the next year, they were right there with us. When they

noticed who we were, the cannon moved far away and shut down early. Nice respectable folks.

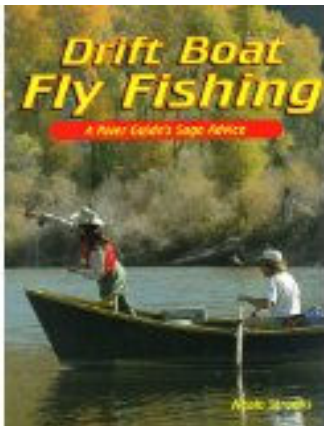
I guess my favorite times on the 4th were the campouts. We were invited to camp out at McGee RV Park and Campground with a few friends. The first year, 47 people showed up. I took groups at a time out on Lake Crowley, trolling in my boat. I let them keep a few fish every day, and we had fresh fish every morning when we got in. The best year was the year it rained. It didn't rain all the time, just when we tried to cook or anything that required being outside. The first morning as I was out fishing, my wife and friends put a twenty foot tarp up in the trees in the center campsite. Everyone stayed in that little spot. One of my favorite pictures is of my wife in my emergency poncho, holding an umbrella over the grill as I cooked meat for everyone in camp.

As I think of these things, I go back to the reason we celebrate. This holiday isn't about hot dogs, camping or firecrackers. It's about a group of men that signed a document that resulted in a death sentence for them. It's about a group of people that started the most exceptional country ever on the face of the earth. That's why we are celebrating. Now, where's the cooler with that giant watermelon??.....

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Drift Boat Fly Fishing **A River Guide's Sage Advice**

By Neale Streeks
Illustrations by Richard Bunse
Frank Amato Publications, Portland, Oregon Published
1995
112 pages

With a blind eye, it can be said fly fishing is a relatively inexpensive sport since the money is spent over a period of years and a big ticket item is not a typical expense. However, when one hires a guide and a drift boat and adds some travel expenses, the "ka-ching" factor comes into play. Since a day of drifting and guiding does not have a tangible product, such as a boat or rod or reel, an approach to getting the best results from the service becomes important. The book, written by a guide, describes the steps to get the best value for your money so you are catching fish, learning, and enjoying the time, rather than spending time on other activities that keep from the desired goal.

A number of activities associated with drift boat fly fishing are unique, so being aware of the differences can allow you to adapt to a different fishing condition.

The drift boat is a moving platform and moves with respect to people balance, placement of weight and river actions. There are easy ways to get onboard (nautical term) that avoid the unpleasant effort of slipping, falling, getting wet, or getting injured. Drift boats are inherently more stable than most oar powered boats, but they move laterally, and up and down as you climb in or out of them. Check with the guide as to the graceful way to proceed and don't get caught with one leg on a fixed location (the shore) and another leg on a moving object (the drift boat). Depending on the type of water and fishing opportunities, there may be many options to climb in or out during a single day.

Once you are in the boat, keep your weight balanced near the centerline and use the casting chocks to stabilize yourself from boat movements based on rowing or current actions. Keeping steady helps the guide / oarsman do his job of keeping you near prime fishing areas.

As a minimum, there will be two people on board (guide and you), but many boats are large enough to accommodate a second fly fisher (and cut down individual costs). Normally, when fishing outside of a boat, you can position yourself away from other people. In the drift boat, you may have three people within 6-8 feet of each other and lines and flies are flying. This can be hazardous to your health as well as the other boat occupants. Drifting and nymphing has a lesser hazard as long as the flies are in the water and coordination is ongoing between anglers and the oarsman. When fishing dries, or casting streamers, the need to coordinate casting angles, backcasts, and timing of casts becomes critical. Talking with each other to coordinate the actions is the simple solution that works. In addition, make sure all slack is removed and a high back cast is used to avoid other boat occupants – they will appreciate it as much as you.

A drift boat usually has a fly deck to hold the stripped fly line. However, one is usually all that is built, so a stripping container is a preventative measure to avoid tangles and

spend more time with the fly in the water. There is a strong likelihood that every item that can detain the stripped fly line will do that (repeats come easily).

It may be apparent at this time that drift boat fly fishing is a coordinated effort to make thing works smoothly. The oarsman will set the pace and inform about the casting options. Be assured that there will be an abundance of fishing lies to cast toward and no one should seem like they received less than a fair share.

Then, there is the additional coordination with other anglers that may be wading or standing on the banks. Oh yes, it is likely you may not be the only one floating, so tips on maintaining harmony are given.

The book covers these topics and many more. A small investment in time (to read the book and review what happens in the boat and on the water) can do a lot to make the drifting day a pleasant memory.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



Crystal Woolly Bugger

While the Woolly Bugger has its origins in the older British pattern, the Palmer, most attribute the origins of this fly to Russell Blessing of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in the early 1970's. Barry Beck promoted the fly and it has become one of the most popular streamer flies of our time. Jack Dennis has suggested that the Woolly Bugger origins are actually a U.S. Western derivation of the Woolly Worm pattern created by Don Martinez in the 1940's. A group of fly fishermen using Martinez' Woolly Worms substituted the Red Hackle tail with Red Marabou, calling the fly "Big Red" or Henry's Lake Leech. In 1967, Russell Blessing added a Black Marabou tail to a Black hackled Olive chenille Woolly Worm. He used the fly for smallmouth bass, suspecting that it imitated a hellgrammite known as Dobsonfly larvae. Barry Beck encountered Russell on the Little Lehigh River in Pennsylvania and found that the fly was extremely successful. Beck wrote an article on Blessing's Woolly

Bugger in 1984 and the fly became one of America's most popular patterns. According to Blessing, the Woolly Bugger was inspired by another pattern known as the Blossum Fly and his daughter, Judy, came up with the name "Woolly Bugger."

The fly is fished as a streamer and probably imitates either baitfish or leeches. It can be used for stonefly and damselfly nymph imitations. Woolly Buggers can be tied in many colors: Brown, Black, Olive, Purple, Red, with various combinations. Dave Whitlock has suggested three main colors useful for deep-water or limited visibility situations:

- **Black** is your best all-around color for these conditions as it develops a good silhouette even under nighttime conditions.
- **White** works when there is any light available since it reflects the most.
- **Yellow-Chartreuse** is the last to lose its color-value in deep waters.

A very simple fly to tie, it is generally one of the first to learn. It can be weighted for stillwater purposes and trolled or stripped with a slight pulsating action. When used for baitfish imitations, the fly should be tied with a full marabou tail. On damsel and stonefly imitations, you can snip off half of the tail fibers. A few strands of Krystal Flash in the tail adds some reflectivity to the fly. Variations of the pattern use different types of beadheads for the head. The body is often modified utilizing Crystal Chenille, Lite Brite, Peacock Herl, and Estaz Chenille. Rubberlegs can be added for additional action. Basically, the fly allows a multitude of different materials.

What makes the fly defined as a bugger is (usually) a Marabou Tail with a body that has a palmered hackle wrapping it. Sometimes, this can get confusing, but remember the adage, "If it looks like a bugger, then it probably is." (*Intro excerpted from Steven Schalla's "Fly Fishing the Sierra" website*)

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

Materials:

Hook: size 2-14, 3x long streamer

Bead: size to match (3/16 for size 8 hook pictured)

Thread: 6/0 or 140 denier color to match

Tail: Marabou

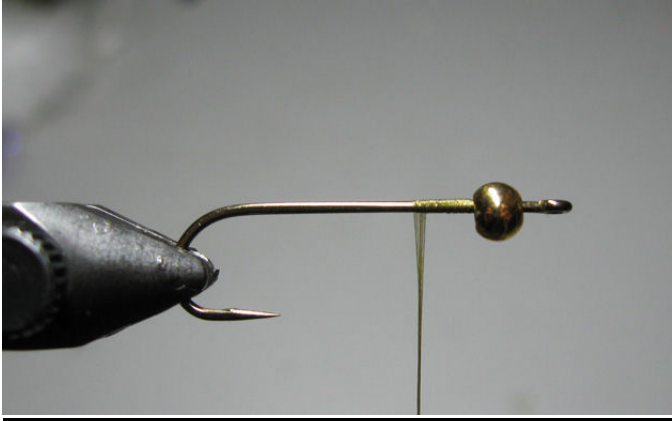
Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash

Abdomen: Pearl Chenille in Olive(med)

Rib: Gold wire

Hackle: Grizzly (Whiting Bugger Pack)

Tying Instructions:



1. Remove barb from hook, add bead and insert into vise. Attach thread behind the bead head.



2. Select a small clump of marabou (if it has thin stringy ends the pluck with fingers until ends are fluffier and close to equal length). Measure marabou for the tail to extend ½- 1 full shank length beyond the bend of the hook (full shank length shown). Attach marabou with a few thread wraps.



3. Trim excess (if necessary) and wrap back to the hook bend keeping the marabou along the top of the hook.



4. Select several strands of Krystal flash and tie in at the bend. Tie the butts down as you wrap towards the bead. Trim excess.



5. Attach a chenille rope and wire behind the bead and wrap back to the bend again.



6. Bring thread back to behind the bead and wrap chenille forward. Tie off behind bead and trim excess.



7. Select an appropriate sized wet fly hackle (no more than two times the hook gape). Prepare hackle by removing barbs on the bottom 1/4". Tie in hackle behind the bead. Whiting Bugger Packs are ideal with clean hackle for many different sizes.



8. Palmer (evenly spaced wraps) hackle through the body back to the bend of the hook. Tie off with the wire rib by holding hackle with your material hand and wrapping the wire around the hackle at the bend twice.



9. Now wrap the wire rib through the body with evenly spaced wraps. Avoid trapping the hackle by wiggling the rib back and forth as you wrap. Fill in gap behind bead with thread wraps (I over did this a bit but the fish won't know.:)) Add three half hitches or whip finish.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Over the last month I had two different experiences that have started to change how I fish and what I bring with me to fish. The first was in Dana Harbor and I flipped my kayak over. Luckily I was in the harbor and didn't get hurt. As I watch all my stuff sink out of sight (camera, two fly boxes, etc.) I thought "why do I have all this with me?" The second was on the Kern. I went to get my fully stocked nymph box out and found it not so full. What I noticed was the flies left in the box were all fancy and hard to tie nymphs. All the simple ones were fished out. That's when I decided I needed to simplify my fishing and what I take with me.

So now I am going through all my gear and flies and deciding what is really needed and what can be left at home or in the car. With gear I already keep it pretty simple but flies are another story. I'm starting with my nymph box and stocking it with flies that I catch fish on and are simple to tie (hares ears, pheasant tails, etc.). I will continue it on to my other boxes. My streamer box is going to be full of woolly buggers and simple Clousers (see Rob's tutorial).

My day to day life is pretty simple right now and I do like it that way (drama sucks). Now I'm working on getting my fishing to be that way. We humans tend to over think every little thing we do or have done. So try and keep things simple and see how it works for you.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

While putting this issue together, a common theme throughout was certainly easy to follow. From Guy's fishing report and details about this month's smallmouth outing on the lower, to Allen's reminiscences of 4th of July celebrations past and present, Rob's posting of a basic fly pattern and Ryan's thoughts on going light and keeping things simple, yep there's no doubt it, we are certainly in the throes of summer!

I hope everyone gets to enjoy this special time of year. While it may not necessarily be out on your favorite trout water, there are certainly other warmer water opportunities inland and on the coast. The most important thing is simply getting out there and flicking a fly!

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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