



Ring of the Rise

July 2016



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

I'm on the last day of my fly fishing adventure in and around Craig, MT fishing the Missouri River. For the quantity and quality, the Missouri River has to be one of the best in the lower 48. I'm here with three friends, all of whom are very good fly fishers. One of them, Steve, is a very experienced fly fisher. He worked in Yellowstone National Park in his younger days, one summer fly fishing all the Park's famous waters. He, of course, caught the largest trout on the trip, a very nice and thick 24 inch brown. The average trout is 18 inches on this river. These trout are hard fighting fish and every one of them takes some time to bring in. Two trout took me into my backing. I fished mostly 5X on dries, so I had a fighting chance.

The Missouri River is the longest river in the US at 2,341 miles. Its source is in Three Rivers, MT at the confluence of the Jefferson, Gallatin and Madison Rivers and ends at St. Louis, MO. We flew into Helena and it's a short 40 minute drive to Craig. We fished the sections below Holter Dam for about 30 miles downstream. The "town" of Craig consists of 3 fly shops, 1 restaurant and 1 drinking establishment. The 3 fly shops are located right next to each other and every vehicle in town is towing a drift boat. It is definitely is a fly fishing town.

One of the best things in life is fly fishing one of the big major rivers in Montana for 6 straight days. We had guides for 2 days and we rented drift boats for the other 4 days. I had my first opportunity at rowing a drift. I thought I did pretty well, but my friends said "better keep the day job."

We nymphed early in the mornings and had a PMD hatch going off about 10:30 every day. Some days, we had a caddis hatch as well. The PMD spinners were floating by in the morning and late in the day. Emergers and duns filled the mid-day action. The thinner water or flats area had the nice rainbows rising to dries all day. My most effective fly was a #18 Rusty Spinner.

My three friends knew the river fairly well, having fished this river the three previous years. Steve made all the arrangements: air travel, booking the cabin, hiring the guides, renting the drift boats and scheduling the shuttles. I just came along and enjoyed the fantastic fly fishing.

We had one windy day which made rowing a challenge. But the rest of the days were perfect with slightly overcast skies. Fishing and catching was very good but just being in Montana, casting to rising rainbows with a dry is the best.

Here are a few pics of my better trout on this trip.



I hope everyone has safe travels this summer and enjoys their fly fishing.

Thanks,

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

The Upper Kern 20 mile section is fishing excellent with the diminishing flows this week. The river is clear and flowing around 1000 cfs as of today, Water temperature near Kern River Fly Shop in Kernville is 62 degrees. Water temps near McNally's are 55-60 degrees. The last few days we have seen multiple hatches including PMD's, Craneflies, Caddis and Yellow Sallies. All these bugs are hatching in the 20 mile section sporadically throughout the day. Are the fish looking up? Sometimes! Best bet is to use dry dropper techniques or nymphing under an indicator using the aquatic stage of the insects listed. Czech Nymphing or European Style Nymphing techniques are getting the most grabs.

Who loves to strip streamers? We Do!!! Stripping streamers right now is working very well in those long deep runs.

Some great flies to use in the pockets and seams are the Kern Emergers in sizes 12 and 16. Also use the bead head version of the Kern Emerger with soft hackle in sizes 12 through 18 in various colors.



8 year old Elli Rayne Jeans with a nice fish she caught on Father's Day with her Reddington Classic Trout 3wt.



This is what the 20 mile section of the Kern River looks like right now!

Upper Kern (4 mile Wild Trout Section) is getting better with the decreasing flows. Some great flies to use in this section are the Tungsten Psycho May (olive) and Hydropsyché Czech nymph.

Upper Kern (Forks of the Kern Wild Trout Section) is fishing excellent but crossing the little Kern is tough for backpackers. Make sure you have the H-L Variant and Streambank Hopper in your box when fishing there.

Bass Fly Fishing on the Lower Kern – Epic!

Lower Kern (Lake Isabella Dam to Democrat) The trout fishing is ok but bass fly fishing has picked up with the warmer temperature at 65 degrees. Small-mouth and Large-mouth bass in this section are very active. Recent plants of hatchery trout in this section as well. When fishing down there make sure you have the Ziwi (olive) and Carp Craw (orange).

Lower Kern (Kern Canyon Entrance to Oildale) Bass fishing has picked up with the warmer temperature at 65 degrees.

South Fork of the Kern – Open

Tributaries of the North Fork Kern River – Open

Lake Isabella – The lake is fishing very well for bass while crappie is just ok. Carp are turning on!

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)

The next General Meeting of SSFFC will be held on Saturday July 9th at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce.

Our Guest Speaker will be Al Watson, US Forrest Service. Al will be presenting the recent changes along the Kern River and future projects. This should be a very interesting meeting.



Beginners Rod Building Class

Saturday, July 9th

Cost: \$130.00

9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce

SSFFC Membership is required

The cost of the class covers: Rod building outfit (including rod blank, reel seat, cork handle, guides, tip top and hook keeper), thread, drying motor, wrapping jig, epoxy, finish, brushes, cups, scissors, burnishing tool, white china marker and tape. You'll learn how to wrap a rod in class and keep the rod for your fishing enjoyment.

Contact me if you are interested in attending this class.

Chiaki

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

SPROUTS!

Are we talking about bean sprouts? How about sprouting tomato plants? Heck no, I have had an enlightening experience with our favorite sprout, the famous 'Brooks Sprout'. I have had experiences with this fly before, while fishing with Chuck Newmeyer on Hot Creek Ranch. Every morning there would be Trico hatches. Chuck always had a bunch of flies for sale, remnants of a time long before, that I would happily buy, mainly to help him get rid of his stock. Actually, I didn't like fishing them. They were way too small. I lost most of them trying to get them threaded onto my tippet. If I actually managed to get one on the water, I couldn't see them at all. I did accidentally catch a few fish on them, but not enough to make me think I should make it a 'go to' fly.

Recently, I wanted to fish the LowO for a day and thought some company would be a nice change. I gave Aguabonita legend, Lew Albright a call and the trip was set. Lew truly is a legend, both of the club and the sport. He is a founding member of the Aguabonitas and still manages to do much of the grinding work necessary to keep it all going, for which we all should be very grateful. That's not really why I think Lew is a legend though. Lew can fish. I mean REALLY fish.

I am amazed every time I watch him handle a fly rod. So little effort, so much zing. We were having kind of slow day, a hatch was supposed to start, we found out we missed it by a day. That's the way it usually works. We still tied on dries and went looking for risers. I found a nice group in a bunch of really big Blue Wings. I was stoked!!! That is, until I had gone through my entire fly box with not even a look. I went looking for Lew and took him back to my stubborn little fishes so he could have a whack at them. Lew saw them, smiled that smile and got a nice position, made a perfect cast and promptly started his reign of terror on my stubborn little fishes. After he was done, I asked him what fly he had on. He replied, "Brooks Sprout. Olive, size 20." What?!! Those are midges or tricos. Lew laughed and explained that the fish were in fact eating midges in the middle of all those Blue Wings. "How did you know?" "I just knew, experience, I guess." Wow, who would have thought? Still eating midge emergers two hours after the midges stop emerging. I guess you have to be a Legend to know these things.



Lew landing one of my stubborn little friends!!

So, I tied one on and found some more fishes and guess what, they like my Brooks Sprouts just as well as they liked Lew's. I went home and checked out a few videos on my phone. By the way, aren't these iPhone things wonderful?? What a groovy time we live in. Anyway, the fly didn't look too difficult to tie and I had the materials on hand, so off I went. I love these kind of tying binges. Starting in the morning before work, can't wait to get home and start tying. Weekends off, sitting there with coffee until noon tying, creating new and dreaming of old, my favorite way to spend a lazy Sunday morning. Anyway, now I have a Sprout hatch of my own on my tying bench.



Sprout Hatch, just the beginning!!!

I couldn't tie all those flies and not go see if they work, so I called the Legend again and off we went, like a rocket up 395 with only a quick stop at Shaat's for sustenance before we hit the water. I took Lew to one of my favorite places and hoped for flying bugs and rising fishes. We weren't disappointed. Again, there were plenty of Blue Wings on the water, but no risers. I did catch a few on Blue Wing emergers fished deep, but that isn't why we came. I kept looking and finally found a reliable hatch pool going off. My little Sprouts did their thing in a big way. Don't you love it when the plan comes together and actually, you know, works. We had a great day, not so much in the catching, but just being where we were and it always is such a great time with Lew along.



Could there be a better place to spend a Saturday?

Sometimes I feel like I'm missing out. I try for balance, but I often work too much and fish too little. We need to spend time out in the places we love, with the people we care

about. Whether it's at home tying just the right fly or out on a stream somewhere seeing if it will work. Time spent doing the things we love is always worthwhile. I will keep on tying those little Sprouts. Blue Wings also. Maybe I will throw some 20 Inchers, Tiger Midges and Raideymites in with the bunch. Grab a handful of flies and head for the water. After all, that's what the Legend would do!!!....



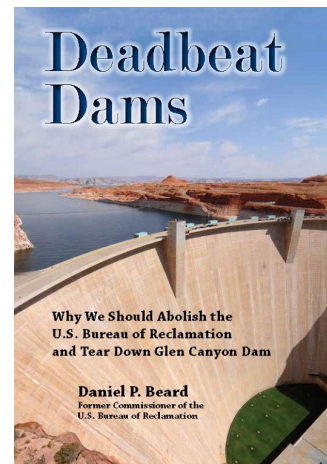
A Legend at work



Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Deadbeat Dams

Why We Should Abolish the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam

by Daniel P. Beard.

Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado Published 2015
143 pages

Daniel P. Beard was a former commissioner of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. In addition, he worked in Congressman George Miller's office and was involved with many government committees that worked on water issues. As Beard states in the book, at one of the water committee hearing, his involvement has allowed him to sit in more chairs at the meeting than most folks could imagine. As a result of this work, Beard has knowledge of information about the Bureau of Reclamation and the prior decisions to build dams that are not readily available to others. Beard has been involved with dam building and water supply projects from many aspects.

Some people may come to the conclusion that Beard has gone off the deep end of responsible thinking and chosen to take a stand with writers like Edward Abby. To me, it seems Beard has simply provided a clear insight into water decisions that has been lacking. The Bureau of Reclamation early actions were based on efforts of Colonel Wesley Powell to provide water to support settlement of the Grand Canyon region after he floated down the Colorado River a couple of times back in the 1860's. At the time, the ownership and settlement of Western lands was contested between competing claims by US, Mexico, and even Russia. The approach to solve the settlement issue was to have people living in the area that represented your country. The economics of building a dam, using the water, and repaying the expense was never the deciding issue when the dam projects were proposed. Over the history of the Bureau of Reclamation and the projects on the major rivers of the west, the economics are still not a deciding factor. According to Beard's perspective, those projects are pork barrel government projects that never receive the scrutiny they deserve. The conclusions were made long before the projects were built, and represent the influence of government leaders rather than rational economic reasoning.

Who can argue with the benefit of a series of (magnificent) concrete dams that control water flows and provide irrigation or other water supply benefits? It turns out a lot of people can argue with the concept, but the elected government leaders are not going to be the ones to be naysayers. Is there a need for subsidized water to grow alfalfa for cattle in Idaho (especially since the same practice can continue without the dam)? Is dam construction the best means to prevent damage from seasonal flooding or would it be more readily accomplished by building restrictions in the flood plain? What are the implications for detrimental impacts to other natural resources such as migratory fish (the salmon and steelhead that are dear to fly fishers)?

With regard to the economics of the water projects, Beard suggests that the local governing agencies make those decisions on the basis of costs, and returns without the benefit of government subsidies that unrealistically lower the cost of the water. If water is priced at the actual cost,

which use would have the highest economic priority? Let the true costs be decided locally, rather than based on political intervention and subsidy.

Does this book have a place in the library or reading shelf of a fly fisher? I think so. It offers a broader view on how fishing resources should be managed. Oh yes, it seems like once a dam project is proposed; it can be resurrected as a benefit by politicians at any time. The Auburn dam is a good example of a project that does not want to stay dead.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



MISSING LINK

By Mike Mercer

I am generally the old skeptic that is questioning the need or popularity of a new fly since so many "new" flies on the market are just a slight variation of a classic standard. Many of these flies are marketed for profit and they fish well, but don't actually fish "better", or fill a specific void. Well, this one is different! Not only does it fill a specific void as a spent caddis, it also fishes extremely well during a baetis (bwo) hatch and it works incredibly well as a prospecting fly, not unlike the great Elk Hair Caddis, E/C Caddis and Stimulator patterns.

Mike was having difficulty during a certain period of the caddis hatches on his home waters and realized that the fish were taking "spent" or post mating caddis. He slimmed the body to provide the correct silhouette, added a spent wing of Z-lon to Ralph Cutter's E/C Caddis and the result, in my opinion, this is one of the best dry flies developed over the last 10-15 years. Try using it before, during and after any caddis or BWO hatches, or even when no fish appear to be rising, you may be surprised at the results! It's great in a two dry fly combo also. Fish two different sizes or pair it with your current favorite caddis or Blue winged pattern.

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

Materials:

Hook: Dry fly 14-20

Thread: Camel 8/0 (olive or olive dun for bwo)

Rib: Pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash

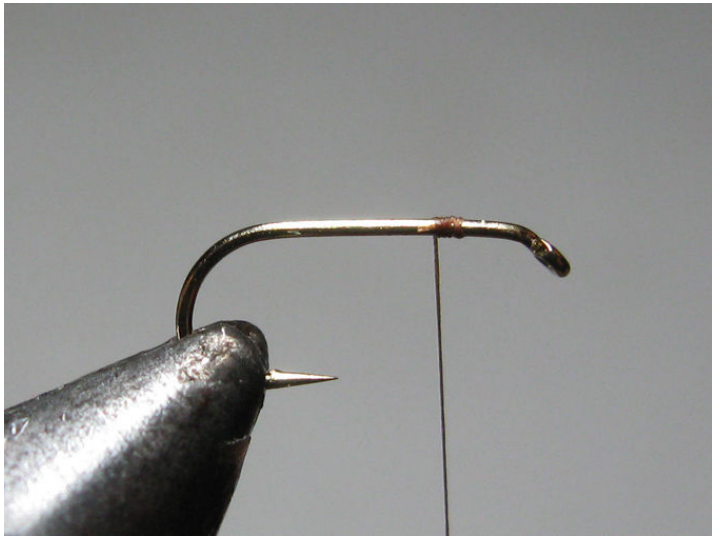
Spent Wing: Dun Z-lon

Thorax: Peacock Ice Dub

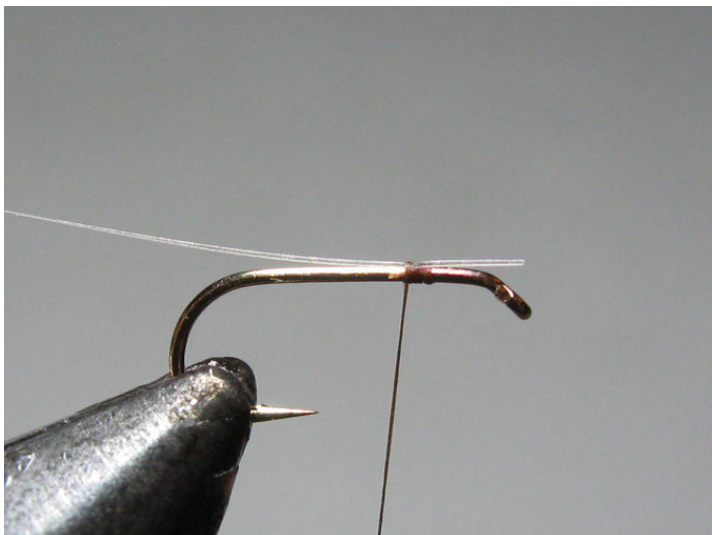
Hackle: Dun

Wing: Elk or Deer Hair

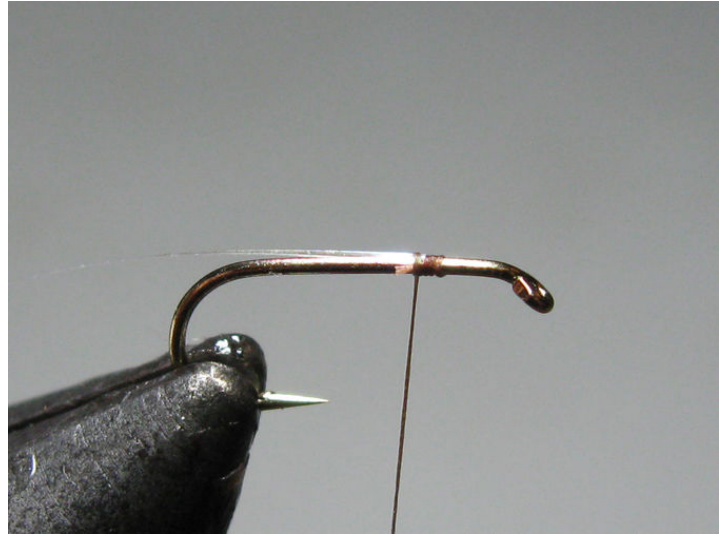
Tying Instructions:



1. Debarb hook, insert into vise and attach thread at the 80% mark.



2. Select 1 strand of pearl Flashabou and attach atop the hook shank with two gathering (relatively loose) wraps. Do not trim excess.



3. Slide/pull Flashabou with your material into place, so there is no excess hanging toward the eye.



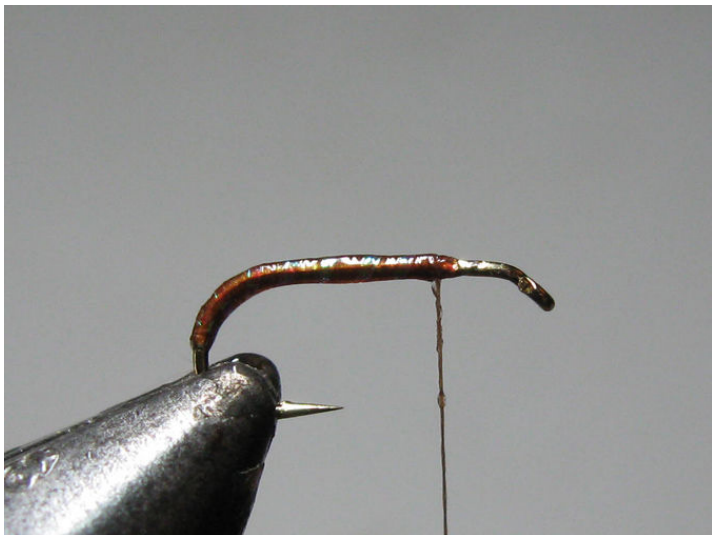
4. Wrap an even thread base to half way down the bend of the hook. Uni-thread doesn't necessarily lie flat, but if you untwist prior to winding there will be less of a rope effect.



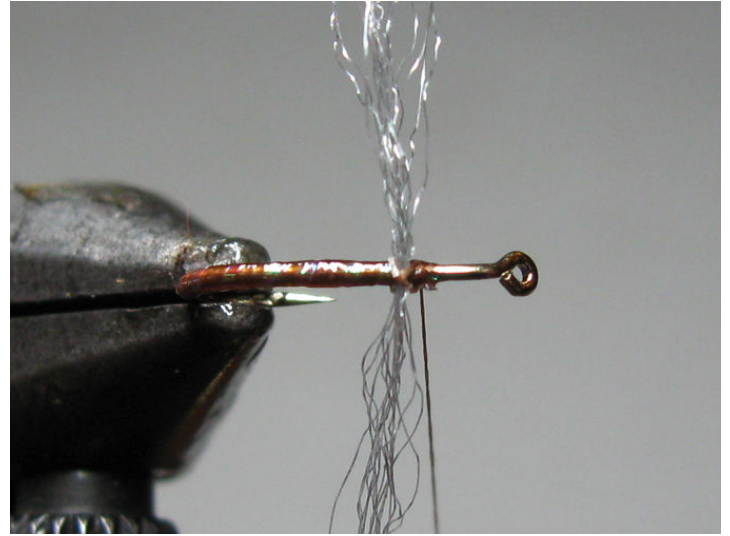
5. Wrap back to 80% mark. Note the smooth, even thread base.



6. Rib the Flashabou through the body with 6-7 evenly spaced wraps. Tie off at 80% mark with two wraps and trim excess.



7. Coat body with a glue of choice. The original was coated with either Softex or Dave's Flexament, but I am using Zap-a-Gap. Any super glue will do.



8. Select a rope of Dun Antron or Z-lon fibers for the spent wing. Maybe even less than that. This is a size 16 and I have maybe 12-14 fibers here. With the wing material angled for tie at the 70-75% mark apply one wrap crossing over from the front to the back of the material. Move thread under the hook and bring up and over the material from back to front, making just one crisscross wrap to align your wing.



9. Stroke back the wing material and take 2-3 securing wraps moving toward the rear of the hook (do not trim excess).



10. Dub a small amount of Peacock Ice Dub onto the thread (always better to start with less and add more later if necessary) creating a thin dubbing rope.



11. Dub a small even thorax leaving space behind the hook eye.



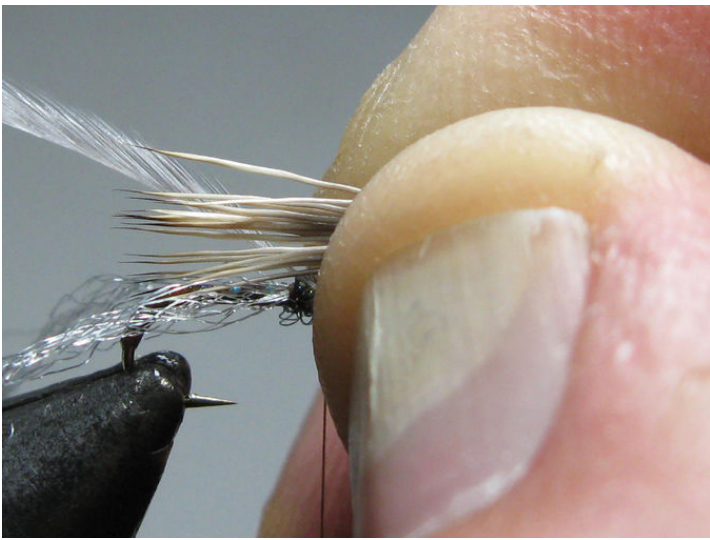
12. Select an appropriate sized dry fly hackle (barbs extending 1 to 1 and ½ times the hook gape) and strip the barbs off of the bottom ¼"-1/3". Tie in hackle on the near side of the hook, in the middle/rear of the thorax with the convex side facing down (Craven style/tie in convex side up for traditional parachute hackle).



13. Dub a "very" small amount of Ice Dub onto thread creating another dubbing rope.



14. Dub over hackle tie in area, filling out the thorax and covering hackle tie in wraps.



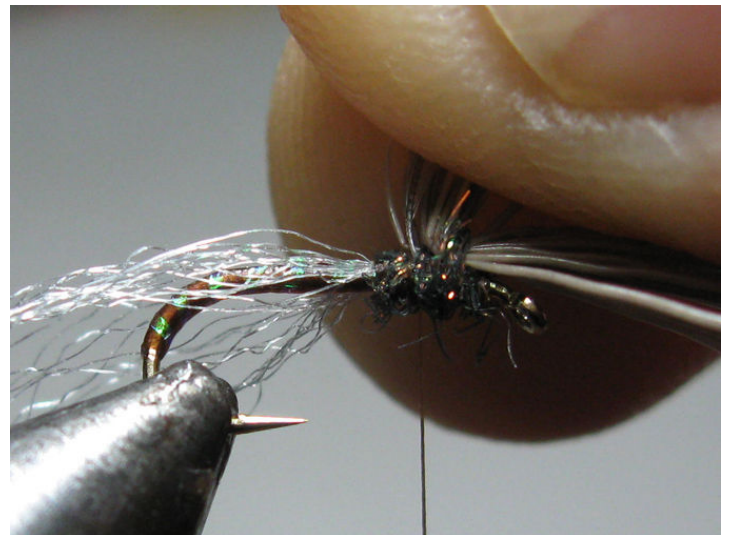
15. Remove a small tuft of elk/deer hair from a hide (even less than that...haha) and clean the fluffy under fur and short fibers out. Stack to even tips and prepare for tie in by measuring the tips to the hook end. This is a size 16 and there are 15 hairs which is on the light side. 15-20 is about right for size 16 and use a little less for each descending hook size.



16. Tie in with two gathering wraps at mid thorax. Note how all hairs are on top of the shank.



17. Press your fingernail firmly against the forward extending hairs, creasing the base and helping to stand upright like a head on an Elk Hair Caddis.



18. Now pull your wing and hackle up and move thread up and over the hook, but behind the hackle and wing. Note the thread on the opposite side of the hook and behind the wing.



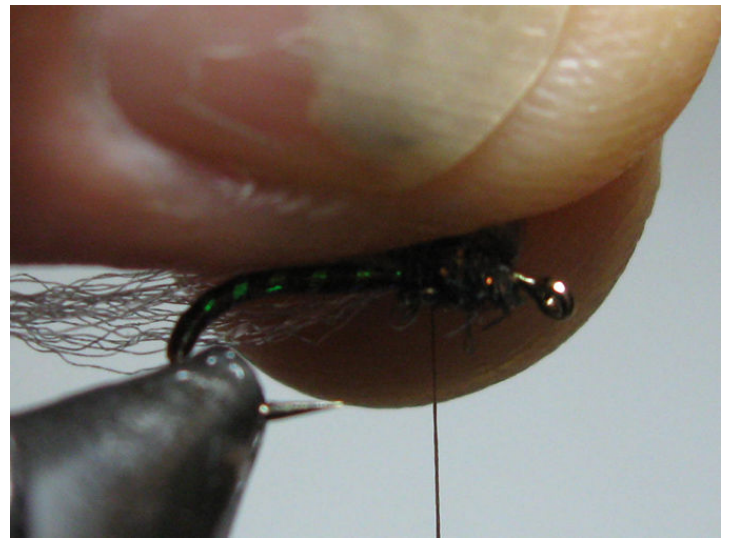
19. Trim the front hairs at about 20-25% the length of the wing. That would be a bit longer than an Elk Hair Caddis, but it will help support the parachute hackle.



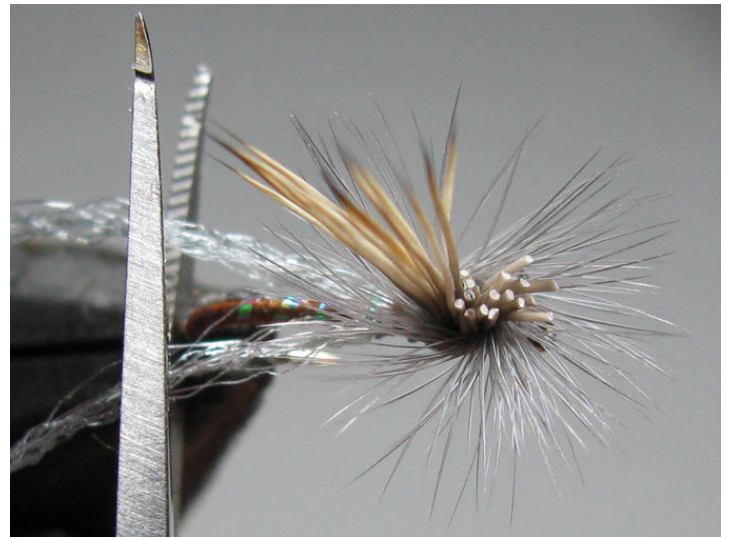
20. Now start wrapping your hackle clockwise around the base of the elk hair. Make sure the hackle is convex side down, as you take that first wrap, if using the Craven style. Wrap over the hook eye, around the hair wing, then over the body and spent wing (pull them down with the excess length to make the hackle wrap easier if necessary), making each succeeding wrap below the last.



21. After three wraps, with the hackle tip on the near side of the hook, pull slow and steady on the hackle, tightening around the wing base. This helps the hackle from sliding off the wing. Continue to keep tension on your hackle with your material hand. Now move your thread up along the far side of the hook, getting below all hackle fibers and move the thread over the hook eye and continue clockwise moving under the wing and trapping the excess hackle at the bottom of the wing. Continue clockwise moving over the spent wings and hook shank, but still under the hackle. Take three of these wraps leaving thread on the opposite side of the hook. Trim excess hackle.



22. Now gather and stroke back all hackle and wing fibers to clear space to bring thread up to behind the eye. Once materials are clear of the thorax area, bring your thread under the thorax and up to just behind the hook eye on the near side of the hook and take a wrap or two to start the thread head. Whip finish or add three half hitch knots to finalize the head. Add glue/cement of choice to thread wraps.



23. Trim spent wings at the end of the hook.



24. Side view



25. Top view

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



HOOKS

Finding affordable hooks for tying is becoming harder and harder to come by. Fortunately the Fly Shop in Redding has their own line of hooks and are discounting them by 30% through the rest of the year. They are trying to introduce them to tyers around the country. Their regular price is fantastic at 2.49 for 25 hooks for most trout flies with 30% off it's only 1.75 for 25 now. They also sell 100 packs at

even more savings. For just more than a year I have been using their 2305's for all my Crowley midges. They are 2x strong to hold up to those beasts in the lake. They carry all the classic hook styles and also have a saltwater hook like the Mustad 3407 plus a jig hook. At these prices it's worth trying some. Once you get a pack and put them through the paces you will be buying more.

Happy tying,

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

How do you celebrate the 4th of July or Independence Day? Do you picnic, barbeque, watch a parade or enjoy fireworks? Maybe you do all of those things. Maybe you have a job that requires it to be just another work day. I know I had a career where holidays off were the exception and not the rule. Whatever the case may be, please take some time to think of the reason for the holiday.

Remember we are celebrating that 56 delegates of the Second Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, a proclamation asserting that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, were now independent states, and thus no longer a part of the British Empire. Just think of the courage and emotions felt by those individuals as they put pen to paper. Think of what that 4th of July in 1776 felt like to them and this fledgling nation they were representing.

I hope all of you get to enjoy this year's Independence Day, which marks the 240th birthday of our great nation. Who knows, maybe you'll have the opportunity to get out and wet a line that day.

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	



Proud to be a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Individual memberships available at www.fedflyfishers.org

Use Club Affiliation code 99792

