



# Ring of the Rise

March 2014

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

The very first Rendezvous was held in 2006. On April 5<sup>th</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive Rendezvous will be held at Frandy's Campground. The years have rolled along, as they always do. The "Vous" is the Club biggest fundraiser of the year as well as our biggest membership drive. I'm really looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. There are some new names I've seen on the registration which are recognizable in the Southern California Fly fishing community. There's going to be some excellent talent in the Tourney portion of the Vous.

The Saturday morning check-in for the C&R Partner Tourney will be at the Fly Shop. This will give everyone the opportunity to pick-up any last minute fly fishing supplies. Coffee will be available. Water conditions should be vastly improved over last year's October Vous. The Fly Fishing reports show a steady improvement week to week in the number of trout caught.

Trash bags will be handled out to the Tourney participants, so they can do their part in removing unsightly trash. There will be a prize for the most collected amount of trash. I'm always amazed by what people find in the river.

The Vous Rod Swap is shaping up very nicely. Some custom rod builder will be donating one of their builds to Casting For Recovery, in addition to submitting another build to the regular rod swap. We have some very talented rod builders and they build very clean, beautiful rods.

Freddy, Phil and Tim from the Fresno Fly Club will be catering our Saturday night BBQ dinner. They did an outstanding job last year serving up some delicious Q. I'm looking forward to seeing the Fresno crew again. Guy Jeans and his group, the Stoneflys will be providing the night's entertainment. Last year they had everyone grooving to their fun and exciting tunes.

All the Board members have been working very hard during the past year and have been a tremendous asset on the Vous planning. Please thank them for their countless hours of volunteer work for the Club. I hope to see everyone at the Vous. The Club needs your support and you will have a great time. The Clubs future programs are depended upon your participation at the Vous. Come a catch up with old friends and make new friends. I firmly believe we have the best members in the world.

*Chiaki*

## River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everybody, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 03-26-14 written on Wednesday, 03-26-14.

It's raining in Kernville and snowing up in the high country today. On the water this week along the upper river above Kernville you will find water temps are about 50 degrees in the morning and warming up to 52 degrees by 3:30 pm around Kernville south. You will see a slight hatch of BWO's hatching and possibly a few sippers rising. Salmon flies are starting to emerge in and around Kernville to about Chico Flat. The fish we caught this weekend were on a size 16 Parachute Adams as well as a size 22 WD40. The upper river is a little off color so using attractor nymphs like Lightning Bugs and Tungsten Teddy's in sizes 10 and 12 are hooking fish. The best fishing is around 4pm as the water temps warm up to 50 - 52 degrees and a hatch of BWO's comes off. We still haven't seen the March Browns this week, but they should show any day now.

Other go to flies are Hares Ear nymph's of various colors. Great attractors right now are Tungsten Teddy size 12, BH Pink Kern Emergers, Chartreuse Copper Johns and BH Prince nymph's size 18.

Remember to catch and release those trophy fish so somebody else has a chance to enjoy those big fish too. Somebody else has probably caught and released that fish so you could catch it. Pretty Cool!

Upper flows are at 201 cfs.

**The 4 mile wild trout section** Open year round. Water is clear up here and the fishing is getting better. **Catch and Release barbless hooks only!** Flows are at 150cfs. Water temps cooler at 45 degrees up here.

**Lake Isabella** Crappie are in and trout fishing is good. The lake is very low and fishing various streamers with a floating line or sink tip is getting the job done. Rainbows are looking up early in the morning and taking midges on the surface with some great top water action near French Gulch, Paradise Cove and the main dam, Crappie are fishing good in French Gulch and the usual crappie hot spots around the lake. Bass fly fishing is good in about 15ft of water first hour of light, Carp fly fishing is tough.

**Lower Kern** The lower Kern is fishing ok! Small Baetis patterns are the way to go. Water temps down on the lower are about 5 degrees warmer than the upper. The water is at a good flow (272 cfs) as of today between Borel and Democrat.

**Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern** Closed

**South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North** Closed

*Guy*



**Conservation Report:** by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

No report submitted.

*Shane*

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

No report submitted.

*Chris*

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

Many times, as a custom rod builder, I am asked to compare various blanks. If I haven't fished/cast a certain brand I don't feel I can honestly talk on the differences. So with that in mind, I picked up a Blue Halo 7'6", 3 piece, 3 weight Cappuccino colored blank. Blue Halo is head quartered in Utah. This particular rod was built to be a loaner for folks to try out. I believe its first stop will be Utah.

Preliminary Impression:

Right off the bat was the outstanding service. Once I ordered the blank and paid, I received an e-mail in 15

minutes saying that the blank had shipped. No, really, I'm not kidding..... 15 minutes. The blank showed up in the next day or so.

Out of the Box Impression:

I can't really tell if it's supposed to be a sanded or unsanded blank. It wasn't baby's butt smooth nor was it the typical feel of an un-sanded blank like a Steffen Bros. blank. I usually don't wave a blank around like a magic wand until I have the ferrules wrapped. I do put them together and do an easy wave. Doing so with the Blue Halo it immediately reminded me of the feel of the Lamiglass Honey colored blanks. That is to say a slow parabolic taper into the butt.

The Obligatory Pictures:







*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)

## 2014 Rendezvous

The 2014 Rendezvous is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> and is being held at the same location as the 2013 event.

### **Frandy Campground**

(Across the street from the Fly Shop)

**11252 Kernville Road, Kernville, CA 93238**

<http://www.frandy.net/>

You can call the campground for reservations at (888) 372-6399. Please mention you are with Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club as we have reserved the camp spots around Circle Drive, which is located on the upper right hand corner of the following campground map:

<http://www.frandy.net/facilities-map.asp>

Frandy also has RV spots nearby with full hookup. If you want to rent a RV, our Club member Allen Rose with Kern River Vacation Trailers has them:

<http://kernrivervacationtrailers.com/>

The Club has already reserved the following spots for entertainment, BBQ, raffles and awards: 31, 32 & 33.

The event will be the same drill as last year but in APRIL for better fishing. We'll have more lighting for the night time festivities, we'll be eating Freddy's awesome BBQ, listening and dancing to Guy's band the *Stoneflies*, seeing old friends and making new ones!

PM or email Chiaki for more info or donations [haramic@aol.com](mailto:haramic@aol.com).

General Information:

<http://ssffclub.org/>

Online Signup:

<http://ssffclub.org/rendezvous/>

We hope everyone gets an opportunity to take part in this wonderful event that is much looked forward to each year!

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### **Raider Mentoring Day**

This class will be held on Saturday, May 10th. We will meet for breakfast at the Broken Egg at 7:00 am. This is an on stream fishing class. There will be a short stream side class room presentation, followed by a day of fishing with Raider's crack Mentoring staff.

The class will be divided into groups, each group specializing in a type of fly fishing. Mark Sweat (*one2fish*) is going to teach nymph fishing. Allen Bell (*Raider*) will mainly be teaching dry fly fishing. As a special treat, Randy Skidgel (*Randy*) is going to be conducting a swing mentoring day.

Students will be limited to 3 per Mentor. The nymphing and dry fly portions of the program are mainly for newer fly fishers while the swing program would probably be for more advanced fly fishers. Mark and Allen will meet at River Kern Store for lunch and switch groups. Randy may or may not be able to make this, depending on where he is fishing. If members of his class want to move through the group, or the regular class members want to try swing fishing, I'm sure that can be worked out.

Another great thing is being offered by the club is the Mentoring staff will be staying in the 'Big Room' at Kern Lodge. So, plan to stay the night, hang out with the Mentoring staff and have a hard core fly fishing weekend!

SSFFC membership is required to participate in this event. If you are not currently a member, you can join through the club website.

To get on the list, send Raider a PM or email him at: [Fly\\_Addict@hotmail.com](mailto:Fly_Addict@hotmail.com). These events tend to fill up quickly, so if you are interested, sign up soon. Also, if something comes up and you can't attend, let Raider know as soon as possible so your spot can be filled. There is usually a waiting list for this outstanding program.

*Chiaki*

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

### **Something Special**

I knew a wise man once. He always had something to teach me. One of the things he considered a necessity of life was to always have something special to look forward to. A vacation, a fishing trip, anything as long as it is something you really want to do. I believe in that. I have been known to start planning next year's fishing vacation as we drive home from this year's great adventure. A while back, I received a note from a great friend. She wanted to know about coming to Ridgecrest to meet the guys in the Aguabonita Flyfishers she had been corresponding with for various projects over the years. This definitely is going to be something special to look forward to.

So, as is my way, time to start planning!! I figured after the banquet, we could go on a normal Mark and Allen fishing trip. Great plan, except for the place we normally eat. Not that great. Well, then there is the place we stay. Our normal place isn't going to work, got to get a nicer place to stay. I thought about where we fish, may need to find a better spot for that, something special is going to happen and I want everything to be perfect.

Getting a better room was easy, the Creekside is great. Food not so much easier, Bishop is Bishop. Fishing was the hard one. Normally, the "Low O" is great, but it was a little slow the weekend before. Mark and I thought it over and decided on Stocker Heaven! Great idea, Ellen loves fishing dry flies and streamers, this is a great place to do both.

So, the plan is made, the big day is finally here, Ellen is sitting in my living room. All is good, except for Ellen's missing luggage. Mark and I will forge ahead and Teri and Ellen will follow as soon as the missing baggage finds its way to Ridgecrest from wherever it was sent to.



*Ellen happily meeting the residents of Stocker Heaven!*

Teri and Ellen showed up in time to check out the end of a nice day on the Low O. The next morning, off to Stocker Heaven, after a stop at a Bishop landmark, Jacks Diner. We had a wonderful time at Stocker Heaven, as usual. The day was beautiful, the company the best, the fish cooperating in a big way. You can always count on Stocker Heaven!

A trip to Cal is not complete without showing Ellen Chuck's kiosk at Hot Creek. That is really a cool spot. After showing our guest around, time for more fishing. We could catch the last of a nice Blue Wing hatch on the Lower O if we hurry.

We did hurry and we did catch a nice hatch. Ending a great fishing trip with dry flies is my favorite thing to do. As we fished away the perfect day, Ellen caught a fish here and there, laughing and just enjoying the time we had together. The shadows started to grow long and we had a long drive home, time to go. Ellen's one request of the trip, one more cast!! Ellen made her last cast count too. A nice Brown trout ended our trip with one of those feelings you can only get fishing. Really a special day!



*The look after the last fish, truly a classic moment!*

So we made it home, Teri waiting to get a nice dinner going. We have a tradition at my house. Sunday night dinner. We make a nice fire outside and get the grill going. Teri, I and the kids or whoever is around, sit and enjoy a few drinks while we cook a nice meal. Ellen knows about this because we send pictures to the special people in our lives to include them in our happy times. We are excited to finally have Ellen here and she is excited to be here. So we sit by the roaring fire, happily remembering the weekend we have just enjoyed, as well as the adventures we have shared in the



previous years. We talk of dogs and fish, places and people. All the things that make our lives the wonderful existences they are. I can't think of anything that could have made this weekend more special.



Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

*Allen*



Dave Hughes wrote *Wet Flies*. As I read some sections for a second time, I kept wondering why didn't I remember this earlier - it certainly helps my fishing and understanding of fly tying history and fishing techniques. The review and presentation of techniques by Leisenring, Hidy, Rosborough, and Nemes helped me realize my current fly fishing (technique) rut.

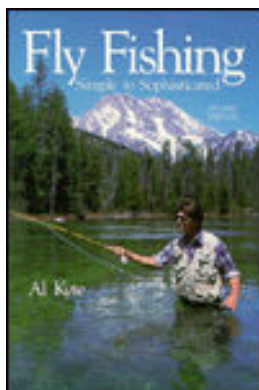
**Fly Fishing Book Review:** by Ants Uiga (Ants)

### **Re-Readers Choice**

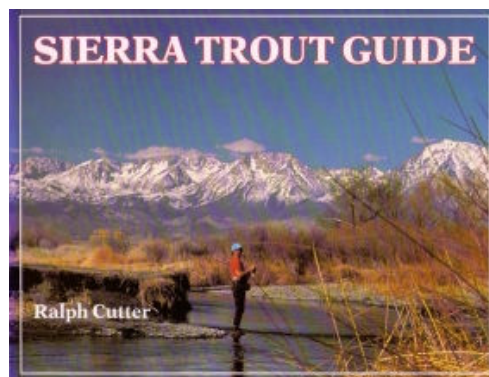
This month's review is no review at all. It is merely a suggestion to re-read some of your favorite books.

Recently, I found myself spending more time re-reading some of my favorite fly fishing books. In case others have forgotten that most books contain more information, I offer the suggestion.

Three books have occupied my fly fishing recently.



Al Kyte wrote *Fly Fishing, Simple to Sophisticated*. Kyte has written a simple gem of a book on technique. Yes, there are suggestions on flies, but the various differences in 10 fishing situations is the important part for me. The subtle differences that catch are described. How important are the differences? Simply, the difference between catching fish or not.



Ralph Cutter's *Sierra Trout Guide* never ceases to surprise me with information that did not 'stick' from the earlier reads. Fly selection and correlation to natural trout food is an area where I look for as much improvement as possible. Cutter presents nice descriptions of the typical Sierra trout food and the flies that represent the meal. The description of trout species was a nice complement to my search for Heritage Trout information. Finally, one section planted a bug in my search for an unnamed lake that contains the brood stock for an out of state cutthroat. All great reading.

Those are some of the treats that came out for me in rereading some great books. Hope your results are equally enjoyable.

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

## Tying Instructions:

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



### PRINCE NYMPH

Finalizing our three part series of popular modern nymphs is the California born Prince Nymph. When Randall Kaufmann ordered a sample Prince or Forked Tail from Buzz's Fly Shop in Visalia in 1965, the description read, *"Outstanding in bringing the King's River rainbows to the net. Oddly the size 4 is the most consistent producer. It's quite sparse and perhaps the larger hook helps it get deeper where the lunkers hit."*

Created by California tyer Doug Prince, the Prince was revolutionary in design, utilizing a biot forked tail and "wings". Doug was one of the early pioneers of biot tyers and influenced many tyers of his generation. In most cases representing a stonefly or hellgrammite larva, the Prince just catches fish. Its plump body of peacock herl combined with the forked tail and white attractor wings make it nearly irresistible to freestone trout. Originally available in sizes 4 - 10 it is now widely used down to size 18 and as most great flies do, has spawned several variations including the CDC Beadhead Prince (a personal favorite) and more recently Mike Mercer's Psycho Prince.

### Materials:

Hook: 2x long nymph, 1x long nymph or natural bend (4-18)

Thread: Black

Tail: Brown goose or turkey biot

Rib: Flat gold tinsel or gold wire

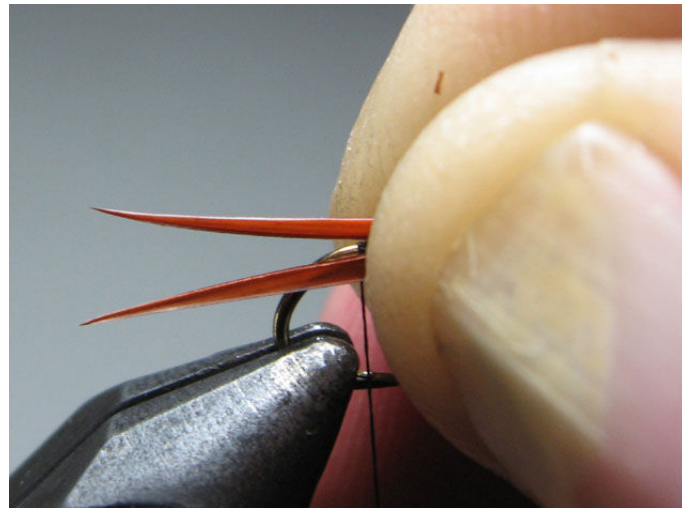
Abdomen: Peacock herl

Legs: Brown or furnace rooster neck tied full

Wings: White goose or turkey biot

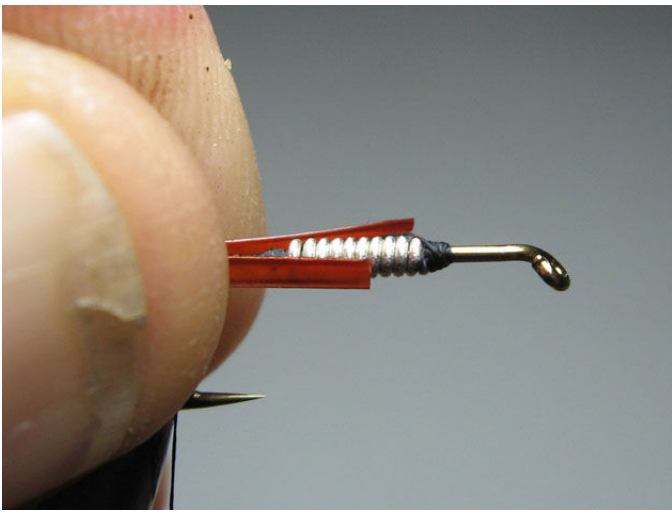


1. Debarb hook and insert into vise. Wind on about 10 wraps of weighted wire (I'm using lead free) to the front/middle portion of the shank. A general rule for wire is to select about the same size diameter or slightly larger than the hook shank. Attach thread in front of wire creating a thread dam and then move thread behind the wire and build another dam securing wire into place. Wrap thread back to above the barb area to prepare for tail tie in.



2. Select two biots and, with your material hand, place back to back and level tips with the shiny, convex size facing one another. Measure for tie in (about 1/2 to 1 full hook length, the original was tied with longer tails) and hold in place for tie in.





3. Now switch hands grasping the biots and the rear of the shank with your material, index and thumb covering the tie in area.



4. Take two wraps of thread going "up and between" your fingers sliding thread into place without removing tension on the biots. Slide thread up and between your thumb and closest biot, then pull straight up. Now tuck thread between index finger and other biot, slide thread down, but don't apply full tension. Repeat and finish by slowly increasing thread tension with thumbs tightly holding biots in place. If too difficult, tie in one biot at a time.



5. Wrap thread up to the wire securing the tail in place. Trim excess.



6. Attach gold wire or tinsel wrapping back to tail area.



7. Select from a peacock tail feather 2 - 4 herls from below the eye. Align tips and trim the top 1/4" (this area is very brittle). Tie in tips with a few thread wraps.



8. Create a thin dubbing rope, then dub and thread wrap a neatly tapered body leaving plenty of space at the hook eye.



9. Wrap peacock forward, tie off and trim excess.



10. Wrap wire/tinsel forward, tie off and trim excess.



11. Select a hackle (low grade rooster neck is best) that is 1 and ½ to 2 times the width of the hook gape. Prepare by removing barbs from the lower ¼" of the stem. Tie in with the shiny side of the hackle facing forward.



12. Wrap hackle forward with 3 - 4 turns, keeping each wrap directly in front of the previous. Sweep fibers back on each wrap with material hand if necessary. Tie off with only two wraps. Trim excess.





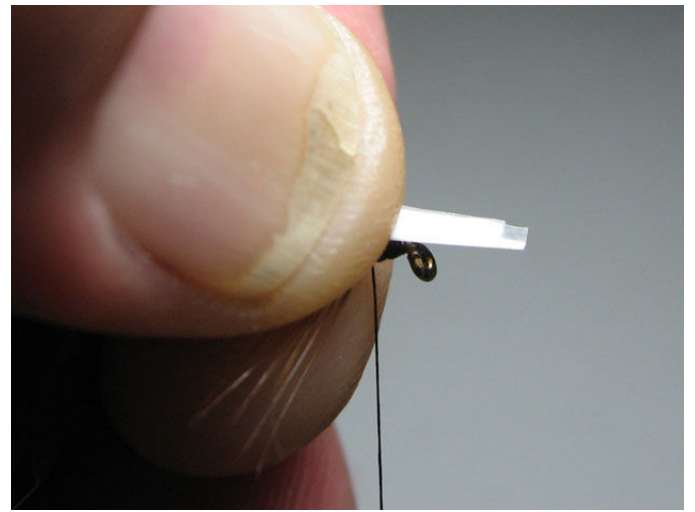
13. Stroke all fibers back with material hand to allow easier access for angling the hackle back.



14. Wrap thread toward the tail while holding fibers back. Hackle should be at about a 25 - 40 degree angle and the tips should generally reach to the hook point.



15. Select two white biots and align in the thread hand with concave side pointing up and away from the fly (original was tied in this style, but many modern tyers invert the biots). Arrange in a V pattern and measure for tie in. Tips on the original Prince reach to about the hook end.



16. Now switch biots to material hand, sweeping back hackle fibers and grasping biots near the hook eye.



17. Take a few thread wraps, trim excess and create a neat thread head. Whip finish or add three half hitches.



18. Top view.



19. CDC Beadhead Prince with tinsel rib.

*Rob*

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



### Choices..... To Pump or Not To Pump

When you start to fly fish you are faced with many choices. Do I fish dries, nymphs or streamers? If you fish dries, do you match the hatch or fish attractors? Do you fish for only those that you can see rising? With nymphs do you use an indicator or not? The longer you fish the more choices you are faced with. Eventually you will come to entomology.

More choices again are to be made when you start to learn about the insects and other foods that fish eat. Some fishers just learn a few names so they know what flies to buy. Others learn just enough so they can tie some useful patterns. Others go so far as to collect bugs to study more closely at home. If you choose to collect samples for further study there are still more choices to be made.

Collecting samples comes down to two more choices. Collecting samples from the water or from the fish. I'm going to choice to talk about collecting samples from the fish. If

you choose take samples from the fish you can pump its stomach or kill the fish and cut open its stomach to view what's inside. If you choose to go this far I think the first choice is the way to go.

Pumps that are sold in the stores work really well. Follow the directions on the package and it is fairly easy to obtain a sample. One thing to keep in mind is you don't have to stick the pump all the way into the fish's stomach. Just into the throat is far enough to get a good sample. I only try and pump a fish once to get a sample. If nothing gets sucked into the pump the first time I don't try again on the same fish.

Once you have obtained a sample you can not only observe what the fish are eating but also the size, color and amount of food the fish are eating. It's useful not only on the water but also back at the vise. Again it is personal choice on how far you want to go. If you choose to pump follow the directions and handle the fish with care. It seems a little intrusive but so does sticking a hook in the fishes face. You can learn a ton by seeing what the fish are consuming. An example of this is on the Lower Owens. You can pump a fish any time of year and you find cased caddis in the sample. No matter what the major food source is at the time (mayflies, midges, etc.). I know any time I fish the Lower Owens a cased caddis is a good fly to start with.

Remember it is all about enjoying the ride. Have fun on the water.

*Ryan*

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

With the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Rendezvous right around the corner, the fishing picking up, another blank for you rod builders to spin thread on, a reminder of some great reads, another ever popular mentoring day coming up, as well as a tremendous step-by-step tying demonstration of a highly successful fly pattern, and a way to check on what the fish you may catch with that fly are actually eating, the "down and dirty" message from this editor is simply..... With all the SSFFC is offering, It's time for all things fly fishing, so get out and enjoy!

Tight Lines, *Gary*





# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2012-2013

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