



Ring of the Rise

May 2013



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We just had another very successful Kids Academy. Shane did an outstanding job organizing the event with help from our caring members. The 16 graduating students had courses in: entomology, conservation, fly tying, knots, casting and actual catching. There were miles of smiles as each graduate earned their new fly fishing outfit consisting of a new fly rod, reel and fly line. The kids were also given sun glasses and fly boxes for their newly tied flies. Many kids caught their first trout on their own flies they tied earlier in the day. These kids have a solid fly fishing foundation to build on, for many years to come. They are the future of our fantastic sport and will protect our natural resources.

Let's not forget all the people that made this event possible: Shane, all the volunteers, the poker night participants, people who bought raffle tickets at the Rendezvous and the year after year donations from people collecting and recycling cans. This is one of the Clubs most important projects. Congratulations to Shane for another job well done.

2FlySue and I have just returned from the long Memorial Day weekend at Mammoth. In my younger days, skiing took the spotlight on this weekend. Hangman's Hollow, race camp with Christin Cooper, \$32 lift tickets and skiing straight through from open to close, trying to get it down to a \$1 per run, fun times. We did a lot of hiking and some fishing. We ventured up Little Lakes Valley on Saturday. The last time I hiked this area was some 40 years ago, going over Mono Pass to Lake Edison, leaving from the westside. The scenery has not changed; it's still spectacular and each lake, very beautiful. Our first stop was at Heart Lake. We fished the inlet on the opposite side, catching a few brookies and rainbows. We made it as far as the 5th lake – Long Lake before we decided to head back. We did not see a single piece of trash and everyone we met on the trail was very friendly.

On Sunday, the plan was to see the Devils Postpile area and fish the San Joaquin. We were able to drive down and arrived at Reds Meadow Resort Mulehouse Café for breakfast when they opened at 7:00 am. The only problem was the cook was an hour late, showing up at 8:00 am. Also, the café cash register was not working. We had to pay across the way at the General Store. Us big city folks found humor in this situation and just went with the flow. We hiked to Rainbow Falls and fished along the way as we hiked towards Devils Postpile. We found a great dry fly run-pool and 2Fly was able to catch 3 trout on her very own. I was very proud of her. It was getting a little late and we still had the hike to Devils Postpile. I started to gather things and

pack up my rod. 2Fly looked over at me in between her casts and angrily asked "WHAT are you doing?" She was having too much fun catching trout on the dry and didn't want to leave. We laughed out loud and I said "That's my girl."

We eventually make it to Devils Postpile and while standing at the top of the columns, I hear a female voice "See, I told you that's Chiaki". I turn around and see a long time Club member Gene Eagle and his fiancé. It's a small world. They were traveling through Yosemite and were also staying in Mammoth.

Even with my sore hiking muscles, this Memorial Day weekend was fun and relaxing. It gave me the time to reflect on the purpose of the day: remembering the men and women who gave their all while serving our Country. We need to thank them all.



Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

Hello everybody, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 5-14-13 written on Tuesday 5-14-13.

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern The river is fishing excellent...water temps are starting at 60 degrees (in town) in the morning warming up to 65 by afternoon and air temps are pushing 90 degrees today. We are now starting to see Yellow Sallies hatching in the 20 mile section as well as a few Golden Stones. Black Caddis are hatching and returning to the water in the early morning and evenings.

Recommended Nymphs: Tungsten Yellow Sallie 16, Caddis Larva 18 - 20 and Kern Emerger Yellow 12 - 18.

Recommended Dry Flies: RL Stimulator size 8, Orange and Yellow Stimulator 12 - 18 and H & L Variant 12 - 18.

Recommended Streamers: Buggers - Olive and Black, Egg Sucking Leech - Black.

Flows in the 20 mile section are at 750 cfs. The flows are lower between Kr3 and Fairview.

This week on guided trips by me, Brandon, Dano and Joe have produced some steady top water action. There hasn't been much of a hatch, but the fish are eating dry flies anyway. When fishing the 20 mile stretch, fish the pocket water and shallow water areas. There are lots of wild fish to report in the 20 mile section. The 20 mile section of the upper Kern is very healthy. Dry/Dropper rigs are doing the trick. If you're a dry fly fisherman, now is the time for fishing top water on the upper Kern in the 20 mile section.

Other go to flies are Hares Ear nymphs of various colors. Great attractors right now are the Tungsten Teddie, BH Pink Kern Emergers, Chartreuse Copper Johns and BH Prince'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!!!!

The 4 Mile Wild Trout Section Open year round. The fishing above the bridge is excellent. Catch and Release barbless hooks only!! Flows are at 800cfs.

Lake Isabella Trout fishing is slow and 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 Paradise Cove and the main dam, Crappie excellent, Bass fly fishing is good in about 10ft of water, Carp fly fishing is excellent.

Lower Kern From Isabella Dam down to Democrat the fishing is ok. The lower river is 500+ cfs. Great flies to use down on the lower are Hares Ear size 12 - 18, Tungsten Yellow Sallie Nymphs size 14, Psycho Princes pink sizes 12 - 16, Copper Johns size 18 and WD40 18 - 20. Early morning hatches have been reported. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is ok in Section 1.

Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern Open

South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North Open

Guy



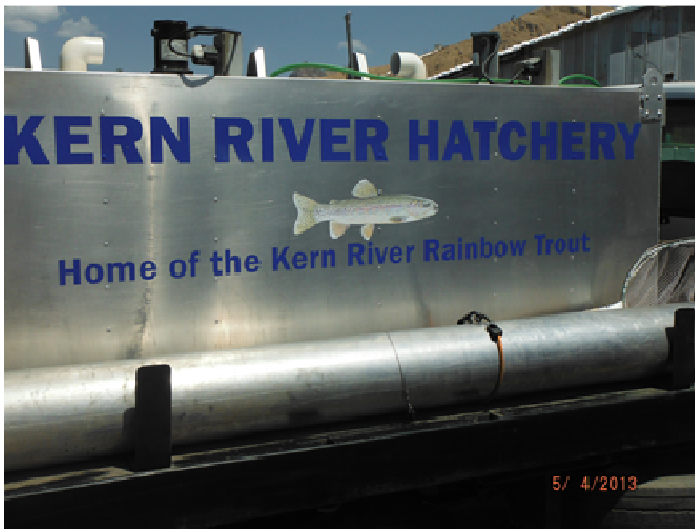
Conservation Report: by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

HATCHERY UPDATE

The wells at the hatchery are nearly complete. We're waiting on Edison to complete the installation of new power poles and for the SSFF grant for the backup generator system to be approved by the Kern Community Foundation and Edison Committee at June's KCF meeting. Hopefully, the entire project, including brood stock, will be up and running by the end of September, but having the well system in place, entirely, before September is the current goal.



Hatchery Well Head



Shane

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

No report this month.

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)



NEW FIBERGLASS

Sorry there's no "How to" write up this month. I thought I would share some of my insight on the new generation of Fiberglass blanks. Why? Well in the last few years there have been extreme technological advances in the area of Fiberglass rods. No longer can they be called engine hoists, tomato stakes, 2"x4"s, slower than Molasses in the winter, noodles, or as sensitive as a flag pole. As technology made it possible for Graphite rods to become lighter and more sensitive it also extended to Fiberglass.

With the advent of S-glass and S2 glass, the rods became lighter, much more sensitive and accurate. Now you have a new technology in a line of blanks out of New Zealand called Epic Fast Glass. For those of you who have cast a Honey colored Lamiglass, remember what a noodle it is?

Well, the new era Fiberglass blanks don't have that noodle action.

So why am I talking about Fiberglass blanks in the rod building section of the newsletter? Because I want you be open to building on something different than Graphite. Sure you could build a Bamboo rod, but building one from scratch will take you about 60-80 hours. And that doesn't include gearing up for all the planning, cooking and gluing of the Bamboo.

Don't believe me about the new era of Fiberglass? Try casting one. Better yet, fish one. Now, all this is coming from a confirmed Bamboo junkie, so try them out for yourself. But, I am willing to bet you will be more than pleasantly surprised. Not only are today's Fiberglass rods very sensitive and great casters, they are tough..... very tough. With Fiberglass you don't have to worry about the blank being a wimp that will eventually break if it gets bruised by a bead head or take a smack on a rock.

There are several, what I'll call, new era Fiberglass manufacturers that put out great blanks. Give Epic Fast Glass, Steffen Brothers, Mike McFarland (not sure if Mike still sells blanks), Kubuto, or Blue Halo a look. Not only are modern Fiberglass rods great casters and sensitive, they are a real bargain. Not near as expensive as your high dollar Graphite rods.

Now, do they cast as fast as "fast action" graphite? No, but they aren't designed to. Although, that being said, the Epic Fast Glass is a very fast Fiberglass blank. As with any rod they have their niche. Would I use one for the central coast surf? Probably not. With the high winds we get on the coast a fast action Graphite might be the best bet to punch the line through the wind. Dry fly action? You bet. Swinging nymphs / Streamers? Yep.

All in all, new era Fiberglass is just another way to feed the rod building addiction.

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*)

SSFFC Open House

On our next Club meeting date, June 8th, we will be holding an Open House from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce. Various Board members will be there to answer any questions you may have of the Club. We will have the list of Club outings, future speakers, conservation projects, all the rod building components for the rod building class, hot and cold beverages and desserts.

Find out what's the latest and greatest about the Kern River Rainbow Project, what other projects are coming up soon, do members actually have fun on our Club outings? What weight rod will I build in the rod building class, what tools will I receive, when and where is the Rendezvous, when can I try out for the Inter-Club team, etc.

We are having a Club Mentoring Day on Saturday, stick around for the Open House, hang out, get your questions answered, have a beverage and dessert.

June 8th Mentoring Day!!

Hello all, just a quick reminder that I will be having a '*Raider Mentoring Day*' on June 8th. My good friend, Joe 'Tech' Martin will be helping out, lending his great expertise to pass on some of his fly fishing skills.

We will meet at 'The Cracked Egg', in the Kernville Square, upstream of the coffee house, at 7:30. You must be an SSFFC member before the event. We will cover all the basics of fly fishing; gear, rigging, casting and reading water. I will have a short streamside presentation, then we will fish the rest of the day. I will also be tying flies at the 'Open House' meeting that night. So, I hope to see you all at the meeting and feel free to sign up for a fun day of fishing.

Raider

Lahontan Project

SSFFC has scheduled a weekend outing, August 17th and 18th to assist in the Lahontan Project. The target area is Silver Creek in the West Walker River watershed near Bridgeport. A base camp will be established at the headwaters of Silver Creek and a team of 4-5 people will assist the CDFW with electro-fishing. The goal of this multi-year event is to eradicate the non-native brook trout so the stream can sustain a currently imperiled population of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Upon completion, Silver Creek will be opened to angling.

This is a great opportunity to help the Californian Lahontan Cutthroat recover in Silver Creek. Working will be done in the mornings, leaving the afternoon to fly fish. The base camp will be available for camping and there are hotels in

Bridgeport. This event will be a joint outing with the Carson City Fly Fishers Club. They placed 2nd in the Inter-Club Tourney last year. Please email haramic@aol.com if you wish to sign up or have any questions.



SWCFFF - HELP WANTED

The Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers (SWCFFF) is in need of someone to coordinate some of our events. One of the purposes of the Council is to increase outreach to the general public. Some of these events include the Fred Hall Show in both Long Beach and Del Mar, Sport Chalet, Fly Fishing Film Tour and others that come our way throughout the year. The job would be to keep track of these events, decide how many and what type of volunteers are needed for each one and generally be the liaison between the Council and these groups.

If you are the type to help us create a movement towards more fly anglers in SoCal and Southern Nevada, we want you.

This description makes it sound like a full time job. In reality, would only take a few hours each month. For more information, contact **Michael Schweit (818) 601 9702 or president@southwestcouncilfff.org**. Please join us in this quest to show everyone we have the greatest sport around.

2013 SSFFC PHW/ CFR Raffle

Well, it's that time again. Start saving your pennies. Time for a raffle to help out two charities right in our backyard. We are going to do the same type of raffle as last year, but with a different twist. The two charities will be the Southern California Project Healing Waters and Casting For Recovery. But this year, if you win the grand prize, you will get to pick out the Epic Fast Glass fiberglass blank of your choice, as in weight, color and length and "*Renaissance Rods*" (that's me) will build it to your specifications. Along with the rod you will get a "*Renaissance Rods*" rod tube and rod sock. Like last year, Greg Madrigal of "*Sierra Nets*" will create a custom net and our own Gary and Lacey Silveira,

proprietors of “*Western Vision Lanyards*” are donating a custom lanyard made to match your rod.

Keep an eye out for additional details as the club finalizes all the details. And yes, you will be able to pay for tickets via the club’s PayPal.

As noted in the earlier article, “*Epic Fast Glass*” fiberglass rods/blanks are new fiberglass rods that are made with S2 fiberglass. The big difference between them and other glass rods is that the glass fibers are aligned, making them very accurate. Not to mention extremely strong and sensitive. Not to mention very fast for a fiberglass rod.

Pete

Chiaki

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

ANOTHER BORING DAY

It’s early on a beautiful Saturday morning. I’m in my Escape, driving to the Kern.....again. For whatever reason, I’ve been fishing the Kern a lot lately. The flows are low this year, nonexistent in some of the places I really want to be. So, off to the Kern I go.

Just another boring day. Sometimes I think I may fish too much. I get on a long string of weekends fishing and they seem to blend together. It’s definitely better than sitting at home. Really, if I was at home, wifey may get the idea that I should work in my badly neglected yard or something. Given a choice, fishing will always beat working. Besides, I can find flowers anywhere!!



Not many flowers this year, but enough!!

So, as I pull into the parking spot near the place I want to start fishing, I notice the songbirds are just waking up, singing me songs unmatched by any other type of music. I can smell that wet, sweet smell of forest in the morning. Even the Ravens waking up in the trees look cool to me today. Not too bad, I’m off to a good start.

As I finish rigging up and pray, I hear a covey of quail talking. Some are up the hill from me. Some are on the other side of the road. I’ve parked right in the middle of a covey and they are moving and regrouping. They are talking constantly and now and then one flushes, but they don’t fly far. They seem to know I am not a danger to them. I see them almost all the way to the river, until they finally all take flight to rejoin their friends and family across the road. Wow, this day is shaping up very nicely. Maybe the fish will cooperate too!

Finally, I get to the river. The water is flowing nicely and crystal clear. It still has its winter look, clear and emerald. I love the Kern when it is like this.



The beautiful Kern and my new friend!!

I fished that slot and caught 3 or 4 fish before the Mallard finally decided to mosey along. I don’t know what it is about fly fishing. When you are in the water, the wildlife seems to sometimes just accept you as part of the river. That’s fine with me. I caught several nice fish and quite a few smaller ones. I didn’t care about the size, I love them all!!



Typical fish for this morning

So I fished along, before I knew it, morning became midday. Time for a burger at Riverkern store.

After lunch, I decided I’d caught plenty of fish in the morning, time to fish dry flies the rest of the afternoon. I really enjoy this. Actually, I’ve been doing something I rarely do, fishing just one fly at a time. I started out doing this recently trying out some new prototypes I’m working on. It works ok, but there is something I really enjoy about finding the fly that is ‘just right’. I love these times when I really don’t care about catching. It just relaxes me to fish. I’ve

been taking the time to enjoy the exquisite feel and power of my Winston's. Realizing the symmetry of a perfectly timed cast and presentation. How my fly dances at one with the water on a perfect drift. My peace and happy time was interrupted by the fish of the day. A nice wild Rainbow moved about 6 feet to my fly, in no real hurry and calmly ate the bug he was so sure would be very tasty. Sorry dude, wrong bug!!



Beautiful wild Kern Rainbow

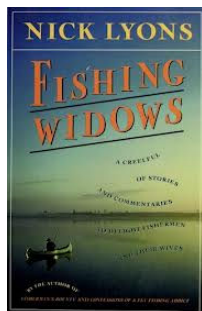
So as it always happens, afternoon started turning late and windy. I could have put my nymphs back on, but didn't really see the point. Why bother when there is a nice cold Highway 395 waiting at the truck.

When I left home, much earlier than I really wanted to get out of bed, I had been thinking of not going. I was getting tired of the same spots, kind of bored with fishing in general. Lately, I've been thinking of how I felt that morning. I ended up having a great day, full of beauty and wonder. We are living through some crazy times. Often, I just can't figure out why some people do the things they do. Maybe they should come with me. I could show them that there are things that we see and ignore every day that make life pleasant and well worth living. I could show them another boring day.....

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Fishing Widows
By Nick Lyons

Published 1974 Crown Publishing, Inc., New York

Based on Rob's Buhler's comment, "I like everything written by Nick Lyons", I would have no problem convincing Rob to read this book. For all I know, Rob may have already read this book. For Rob and all those that follow Rob's suggestions, the book review can end here. (Go to the next book review).

For those that may care for more information, the book review continues. Nick Lyons has a strong literary background and his involvement with fly-fishing is a bonus for those readers of fly fishing books.

Fishing Widows has fifteen separate stories between the covers. Many were reprints from magazine articles. At first read, it is not easy to tell if the stories are fiction or non-fiction. If non-fiction, it seems the name would have been changed to protect the foolish. In the end, it doesn't make any difference since the stories do a great job in describing different aspects of fly-fishing. The topics are selected well and presented even better so that it takes little time reader to remember comparable events.

For those fly fishers with an appreciation for the history of bamboo fly rods, *The Legacy* story will make you cringe and hope for a better ending. Sorry, there is no magic revelation at the end of this one.

The term "fishing widows" described wives of husbands that are devoted (addicted) to fly-fishing. In addition, "Fishing Widows: a Tale" describes a widow fly fisher who is not practicing catch and release.

The stories are great. I concur with Rob. Pick up the book, read it, and let us know your opinion.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



BALLOON CADDIS
By Roman Moser

Our latest fly selection comes from the world famous fly fisher Roman Moser whose home water is the River Traun, located in Austria. Roman has many legendary patterns credited to his name and this month we will look at one of the most widely used, the Balloon Caddis.

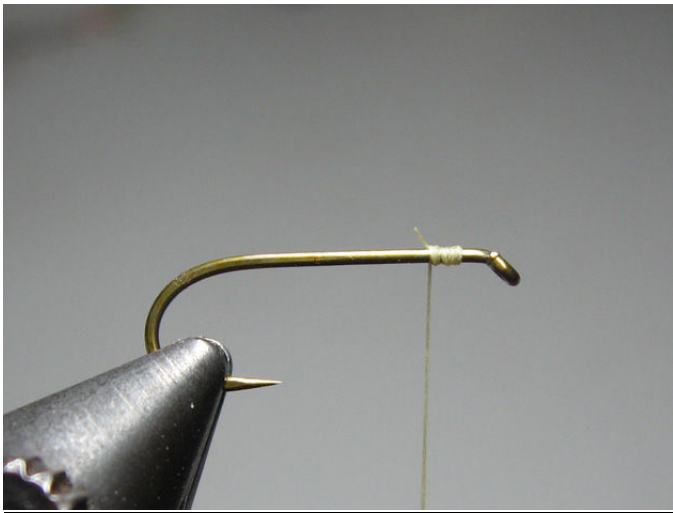
Caddis flies are extremely prolific on the River Traun and Roman has devised this fly to mimic the emerging state of the pupa. The wingcase is designed to represent the air bubble in the pupa that helps raise them to the surface and release them from the nymphal shuck. He demands that yellow is the key trigger in this instance, but you may adjust according to your tastes and studies.

The fly is designed to be fished with an upstream retrieve in broken water, representing the ascending pupa that often scurry against the current for several yards just under the water's surface prior to reaching the meniscus and completely breaking free from their casing (shuck). Don't be afraid to try in other situations and presentations though, I have heard reports of this being a great attractor fly, bringing fish to the surface when no hatches are present. Tie a few up and give them a try on the Kern or other great caddis waters this summer.

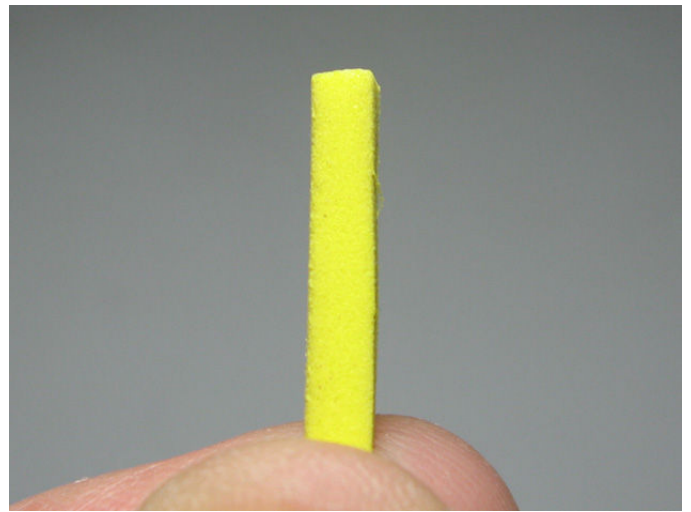
Materials:

Hook: 10-14, 2-3x long dry or nymph
Thread: Primrose Yellow
Abdomen: Ice Dub or substitute
Wing: Elk or Deer hair
Thorax: Same as abdomen, but two shades darker
Wingcase: Yellow Foam

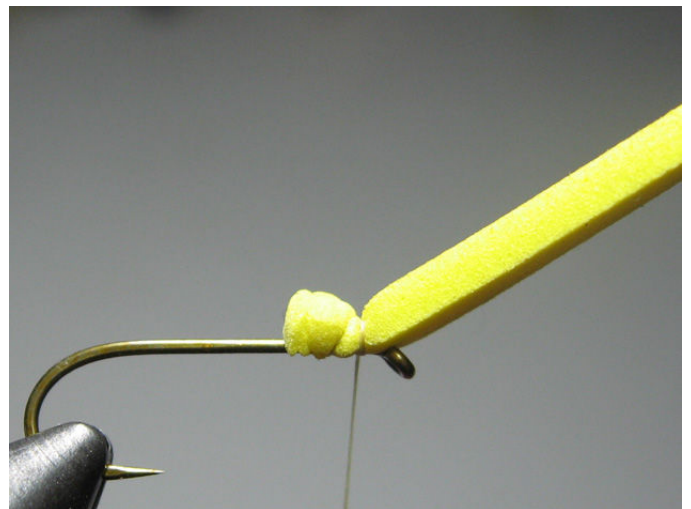
Tying Instructions:



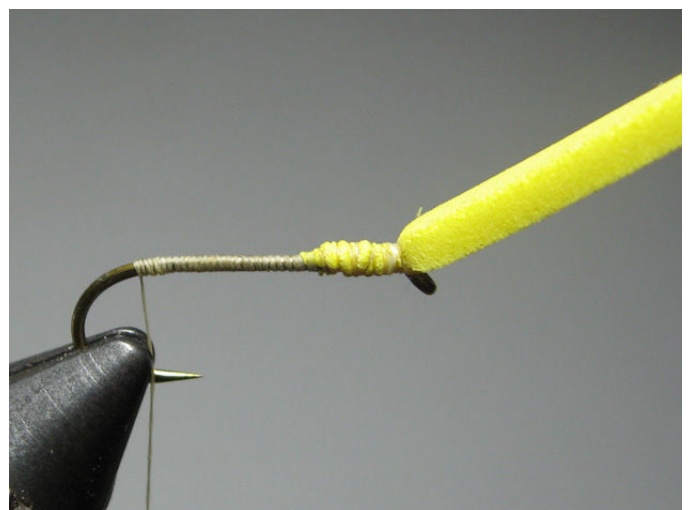
1. Remove or smash barb on the hook and insert into vise. Attach thread slightly behind the eye of the hook.



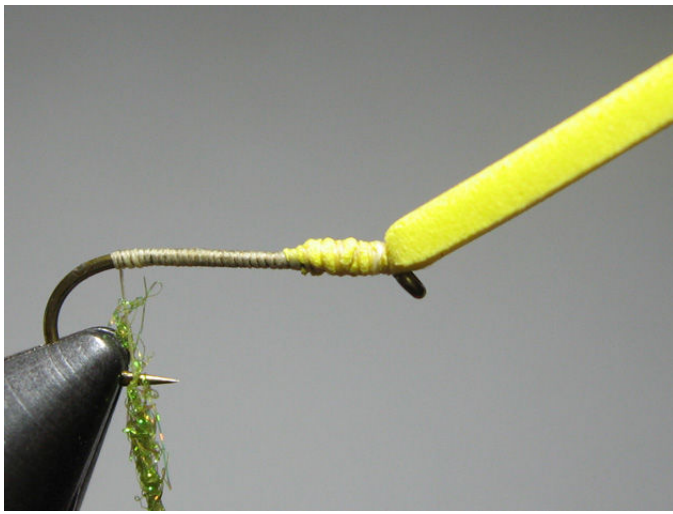
2. Prepare a 2mm strip of foam about 1/8" wide for hook sizes 10-14. For 16-18 hooks use 1mm foam and cut a thinner strip.



3. Wrap a smooth thread foundation from the 80% mark to the hook eye and attach the foam strip extending forward over the eye.



4. Tie foam down tightly to shank and wrap a smooth thread body back to above the barb area or bend.



5. Apply (dub) Ice Dub to thread creating a dubbing rope to form the body. Slide the dubbing up the thread to eliminate extra wraps before forming the body.



6. Wrap dubbing forward, creating a slightly tapered abdomen stopping at the 70% mark on the shank.



7. Prepare about 20 deer or elk hair fibers for tie in by removing the under fur and aligning tips in a hair

stacker. Measure wing to just beyond the end of the hook.



8. Carefully transfer hair to material hand and tie in at front of abdomen. I go a little against tradition here by tying in with two relatively loose thread wraps being careful not to flare the intended downwing. Move thread forward increasing the pressure on the thread and biting the thread into the hair, flaring only the butts.



9. Trim and tightly wrap down butt ends of hair. Wrap back to the tie in area being careful not to over tighten and flare the downwing profile.

Rob



10. Dub a thorax with a darker shade than the abdomen by wrapping forward to the eye and returning to the rear of the thorax.



11. Pull foam back over thorax and tie down with two solid wraps.



12. Trim tag end of foam and apply three half hitch knots at the rear of the thorax. If wanted, add one or two drops of head cement to secure knot.

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

No report this month.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Well the graduations are taking place or are planned in the very near future. That can only mean summertime fishing is just around the corner.

Whether or not you are a fan of the higher temperatures that come this time of year, or not, the reality of fishing smaller water is one we must face. Especially in the light of our well below average snow pack this winter. The official word being that the snow pack is only 52% of the norm and the past January through March have been the driest on record, going back to 1895!

All that said, I for one am looking forward to once again being able to wet wade and change up the tactics a bit to go after the warmer, skinnier water trout.

We all have our favorite techniques, but the ones that I'm looking forward to employing are;

- Fishing the faster, cool, oxygenated water of riffles and pockets, or by going into the deeper pools.
- Fish predominately in the morning and evening, leaving the least productive mid-day to the fish.
- Being extra stealthy due to the low clear water.

Who knows, maybe these techniques will help my catch rate or maybe they will just give me something to focus on. Either way, by employing them it will mean that I am out on the water, enjoying the environment and trying to outsmart a trout!

I hope you all get a chance to employ your own summertime fishing skills.

Tight Lines, Gary



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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