



Ring of the Rise

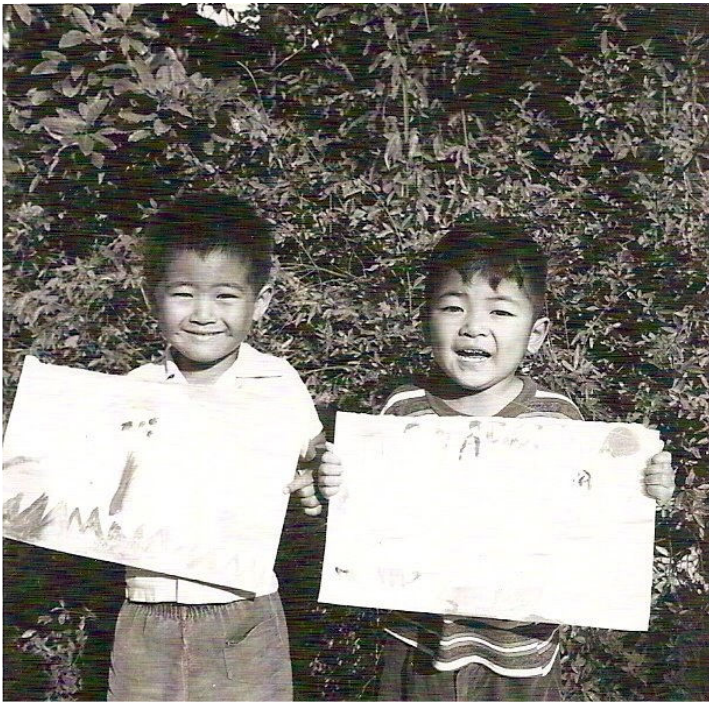
May 2014

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We are delaying the June meeting one week from the 14th to 21st. The primary reason is due to Father's Day falling on the 15th. We will do the same next year for the May meeting because of Mother's Day. Randy arranges guest speakers for our Club and the change of meeting date caused him, a little grief. I know, most of you are saying that will do him some good. However, after making numerous phone calls, he was able to secure a very interesting guest speaker. I've known this speaker for over 55 years. We probably met when I was 3 years old. I can't remember the year, but it seems I've known him my whole life. Here's a picture of us probably 3 or 4 years after we met.



I'm the funny looking kid on the left with the traditional rice bowl haircut. The good looking kid on the right is my world famous cousin, Zino, our June speaker. He's the one responsible for getting me into fly fishing and took me on my first visit to the Kern. We booked a day with Guy and that's what brought me to writing these monthly newsletters.

Zino has fished waters that most of us have only dreamed of fishing: New Zealand, Belize, River Spey, Christmas Island, etc. One of his favorite methods of fly fishing is sight casting too difficult to catch fish. He has become an expert on Bonefish on the flats, having spoken at our Club and Marriott's on Oahu Bonefish. He goes there only 3 or 4 times a year. I know, poor guy.

On June 21st, Zino will be presenting fishing for Carp in the LA River and at Lake Henshaw. He will cover everything you ever wanted to know about catching carp in the LA River: top spots, flies to use, etc. For Lake Henshaw, you'll find out about the hopper fishing for carp. That's right, top water action for carp. Zino has placed in the top 3 every year at the Lake Henshaw Carp Throwdown. I hope everyone will be able to attend.

Our May speaker, Bill Hammons was outstanding, presenting the California Heritage Challenge. He brought his two certificates and detailed hand-out maps. He confirmed I caught my California Golden Trout in its home water qualifying it for the challenge. I'm at four, with only two to go. My thanks go to Bill for his professional presentation. He covered everything.

With summer fast approaching, 2FlySue and I have planned a week-long trip to Maui. I can't wait to go snorkeling, eating the local food and relaxing. There's going to be 11 of us, so it should be a fun time. Zino told me about a local guide for Bonefish. I've booked him for a morning of fun. I've never fly fished in Hawaii, so this should be an interesting outing. I'll report on my Maui adventures next month.

I've got some very big news, but I'm sworn to secrecy for a few weeks or maybe it might be a few months. For me, it belongs in the top 5 events in my life. But please remember, my profession is as a bean counter - accountant. Hardly the life of any party. To give you an idea of my life, one of the other top 5 events was when I passed the CPA exam. It's all relative, so take this with a grain of salt.

As always, we have an outstanding board of directors, always working very hard for the Club. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact me. I'm always open to make our Club the best in the country. Please be safe in your summer travels.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

Hello everybody, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 05-21-14.

20 Mile Section (Kernville to the Johnsondale Bridge)

The upper river has dropped in CFS and is now around 650 CFS. Upper river conditions are prime for fishing as the

water is clearing and looking good. Water temps are in that 55-60 range and fish are active. We haven't seen any top water dry fly action this week, but we are getting fish on small size 18 to medium sizes nymphs in sizes 14-12.

Remember to catch and release those trophy fish so somebody else has a chance to enjoy those big fish. 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 Fishing getting better! **Catch and Release barbless hooks only!!** The flows are about 700cfs and water temps are cooler at 55 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 and showing 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 good. Carp were in and now they're out.

Lower Kern The lower Kern is fishing good! Small Baetis patterns are working. Water temps down on the lower are about 5 degrees warmer than the upper. The water is at a good flow as of today at 350 cfs between Borel and Democrat.

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)

No report submitted this month.

Shane

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

Our May creek outing was rescheduled for the last weekend in May due to low interest. This one should be a ton of fun. Check out the forum for details. We're meeting at the shop at 8am on 5/31 to explore some of the Kern tribs.

Prepare yourselves for a "basstastic" time at Tejon Ranch for our June outing. We're looking at June 21 for a day of catching loads of good sized bass on a private pond. There are rod fees of \$125 in order to fish the lake. However, we'll have the entire pond to kick around in our boats catching bass on top water and subsurface. If you've never seen a bass hit a popper skipping along the surface, you've been missing out. I'm still working out the exact details with Russ from the Frazier Mountain Fly Fishing Company, so be sure to check the forum for specific details, and to sign up. We're limited to 10-15 people for this outing, so sign up now. If you're not on the forum, you can email me at chamberlain.c@gmail.com for more info or to sign up.

Also, in June, Rob Buehler is coordinating a surf outing for the last weekend (he is also taking suggestions for other weekends). Be sure to check out his post on the forum for more information on that one.

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

As there have been no requested discussion topics, as well as numerous personal obligations recently, Pete requested a "dust off" of a past article. This gem comes from the archives and was originally posted in the July 2011 issue.



Spiral Wraps

As with everything in fly fishing, there are several ways to skin the proverbial cat. This is just how I do it.

I will lay down my main wrap first. You can either tie in your trim wrap thread before you finish the main wrap or tie it in separately. *Personal opinion here:* I prefer to tie in my trim thread separately. Something about seeing the tag end under the main wraps bugs me, especially if color preserver

is not used. I prefer to leave the thread on the spool. You need tension to get a good tight wrap. Loose wraps tend to move around too much. Again, this is just my warped personal opinion.

So, you have your trim thread all tied in and ready to go. *Big secret to Spiral Wraps: "JUST DO IT!!!!"* Fancy formulas or exact measurements are not necessary. Don't make them harder than they are. Eyeball them. When you are wrapping allow the blank to move forward (or backwards) as you turn the blank. Yea.. yea.. I know, this goes against everything you ever learned in rod building. You know, keep those wraps nice and packed.

Now, here is a little tip that may help you keep what's left of your sanity: The wraps will probably not be completely uniform or they might have some waves in them. Don't worry, you may not have to redo it them. Using the edge of a bodkin or your burnishing tool, rest it against the side of the thread and turn the blank. Slight pressure on the thread will straighten it without the necessity of re-wrapping the whole thing. If you try to straighten one little section, you will get waves. Just trust me on this.

To get good symmetrical wraps, try to get the spiral started on the same spot on the blank. In other words, if the wrap on one side of the guide, or signature wrap, starts at 12 o'clock start the other one at 12 o'clock. Then have the wraps both finish at the same point.

Spiral Wraps can be in spiral where they are going the same direction or in opposite directions. I have not found where it really matters. Most Bamboo rods spiral in opposite directions, while Fiberglass seems to flow in the same direction. Again it isn't set in stone. That's why they call it "Custom Rod Building."

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)

As noted in the President's Message, the next General Meeting will be Saturday, June 21st at 7:00 PM at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce building. There will be a

board meeting at 6:00 PM prior to the general meeting and all directors and chairpersons are encouraged to attend.

This meetings presenter will be Zino Nakasuji, Chiaki's cousin, who will be sharing his adventures of **"Fishing for Carp in the LA River and at Lake Henshaw."**



Zino Nakasuji started angling in the early '60's with his family on the local piers and jetties for an assortment of salt water fish, from white croaker to bonito. As he grew into his teenage years, so did his passion for fishing and he started to become a regular on the local open party boats, and eventually, the multi-day boats down to Mexican waters.

Zino landed his first trout on an Adams with a combination spin/fly rod while backpacking on the John Muir Trail during a summer vacation from college, and still remembers that first golden hybrid trout like it happened yesterday. It wasn't until 1992, on a vacation to Colorado with his wife, that he got revaccinated with the fly fishing bug. He hooked and lost a large Frying Pan River brown on a rented fly rod after getting some advice from the Frying Pan Anglers Fly Shop in Basalt. He still fishes with conventional tackle, but will always go with the long rod if the targeted fish will take a fly.

Ever since his friend, Peter Koga, showed him pictures of some stout Oahu bonefish (o'io) in 2004, he has fly fished for them every time he and his wife visit Hawaii. Peter steered him to Oahu guide, Oliver Owens on that first foray into Oahu bone fishing. Guiding with Oliver has been a great learning experience that has eventually led Zino to fish Oahu on his own. He still fishes with Oliver and welcomes his expertise and extraordinary fish stalking abilities. Other locations Zino has fished for bonefish are Andros Island, Belize, Yucatan Mexico, and just recently Christmas Island.





MAMMOTH LAKES TO HOST ANNUAL FLY FISHING FAIRE

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. – The annual Southwest Council IFF Fly Fishing Faire – Sept. 19-21 – may look like just a dot on the horizon, but it's getting closer every day. With Connie Bullock of the Santa Clarita Casting Club at the helm and charting a course, a full slate of fly-fishing fun is filling the event calendar.

Headquartered at Cerro Coso Community College, 101 College Parkway, Fly Fishing Faire activity venues range up and down the mountain from Hot Creek to Lake Crowley and beyond ... a virtual sunup to sundown potpourri of the sport.

Faire hours are Fri., 9-5; Sat., 9-5; and Sun., 9-3.

Admission is \$15 adult with ages 16-years and younger free; \$20 per family. Eastern Sierra resident admission is \$10. A single admission is good for all Faire days. Some workshops and seminars are included in the admission; other classes will have separate registration, materials or participation fees.

Fly Fishing Faire registration opens July 13 for club members with classes and seminars on a first-come-first served basis.

About 100 International Federation of Fly Fishers volunteers plus local professional guides will conduct hands-on education sessions ranging from beginning fly-tying and fly-casting classes, conservation seminars, entomology, techniques, rod building, area tours, just for women outings to on-the-river activities.

"With 90% of the fish caught by 10% of all anglers, the educational elements of the Faire will level the playing field," said Bullock. "Fishing without catching is just standing in the water and shivering ... our classes and seminars will teach you to tie flies that bring fish to the net," she added.

Tenkara USA will provide hands-on seminars and on-stream classes to introduce anglers to that form of fly-fishing.

The Saturday night dinner and fund raising auction is slated for the Mammoth Event Center, 452 Old Mammoth Road in

the shopping center on the second floor above Mammoth Sporting Goods.

Bullock promises "thousands of dollars" in raffle and auction prizes – primarily fly-fishing tackle, guide trips, clothing and artwork. Proceeds from the raffle will be utilized for local IFFF projects including fly-fishing with Boy Scouts, conservation and education including Trout-in-the-Classroom; and Project Healing Waters with wounded veterans in cooperation with VA Hospitals.

"This is a great event to bring a relative, co-worker or neighbor who always wanted to learn to fly-fish, but never had the time," said Southwest Council president Michael Schweit. "In a few classroom hours they will get all the basics without you needing to do anything ... except maybe lend them a rod and reel," he continued.

Registration and event information will be available 24/7 after July 13 at (818) 200 1499 or visit southwestcouncilfff.org/faire

Chiaki

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

MENTOR

A couple weeks ago, I taught a Mentoring class. I've done quite a few of these over the years and always enjoy teaching them. For some reason, this time, I started thinking of a mentor of mine. This man has seen the best and worst of me and if he ever thought less of me because of the times he witnessed my rough edges, I never knew it.

Years ago, I had some time off of work at the holidays. I was kind of bored and looking for something to do for a week or two. Many years before that, I had tried fly fishing and just couldn't figure it out. I had tied a few flies and enjoyed that, so I decided to tie some Parachute Adams flies. I knew Chuck Newmeyer had a fly shop in town, The High Sierra Fly Fisher. I stopped in to say hi and see if I could get the materials. Of course Chuck had the stuff I needed. As we talked, Chuck managed to explain in detail how to tie this fly, what to do and not do. I happily took my stuff home in the cool little brown bag that I still have a drawer full of. After a week of tying and retying, I thought I had a pretty nice fly, so off to Chuck's I went. Chuck smiled that smile, held my work up in the light so he could really admire it. "That's quite a fly; I think it will certainly catch fish." I still have a couple of those. They really aren't what I'd call 'nice'. I'd walk away thinking I'd tied a masterpiece, excited to tie a bunch more.

A few months and several patterns later, Chuck showed me a kit fly rod he had. Reasonably priced, man, that thing looked cool!! My main question, "Chuck, do you really catch

fish on these kinds of rods?" Chuck smiled that smile and assured me that you certainly can catch fish on a fly rod, if used properly." So, after my rod was properly rigged, tippet and flies (by now, I realize I need flies that actually look like flies) in hand, I happily took my new rod and another little brown bag full of treasures home. I did manage to catch fish on this new rod. I really caught more than that. What I really caught was a passion to fly fish. At least once a week, I'd stop by Chuck's fly shop with more questions than I suspect he wanted to answer. I always went home with another little brown bag full of treasures, happily planning next weekend's adventures.



Chuck showing us how on the Lower Owens!!

I ended up fishing with Chuck a few times, not nearly as much as I should have. We would find time for an adventure now and then. I enjoyed these trips. I could ask all the questions I wanted. No matter how badly I fished, I always walked away thinking I was getting good at this fly fishing thing. I could ask Chuck how my casting was doing. I was always doing quite nicely.

"I don't know Chuck, that cast only went 10 feet."

"Well, Allen, maybe the fish is only 8 feet away. Looks good to me."



Two Hot Creek Legends, Chuck and Mas

Among the adventures I have had were the days at Chuck's cabin on Hot Creek Ranch. I will never forget watching

Chuck fish, the ease and grace in which he handled a fly rod, something I still struggle to copy. I really don't like fishing Hot Creek. For whatever reason, I just never fell in love with that water. I did enjoy spending a weekend on the Ranch though. Fishing, talking, eating, whatever we did, was very enjoyable.

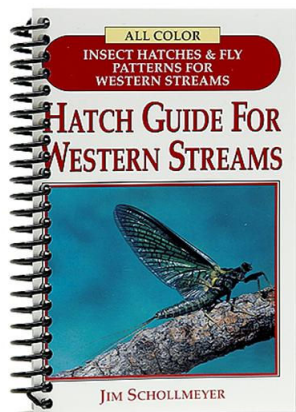
What Chuck loves to do and does best though, is teach. Chuck has a gentle way of passing on the skills necessary. It doesn't have to be a prescheduled class either. I like to participate in the Troutfest at the Kernville Hatchery. Chuck and Lew usually would also take part. I was in charge of hooking a fish for the kids, handing them the rod and letting them catch the fish. We had a long line the whole time, so we explained that we didn't have time to spend an extended period with each child. The goal here is get as many children on a fish as possible. Try telling Chuck he can't teach an 8 year old how to cast a fly rod, manipulate the fly just right, set the hook and land their fish. I so enjoyed watching, wishing I had the patience and expertise to do that.



Chuck and Lew, the Heart of the Aguabonita Fly Fishers

So as I look back on this great ride I have experienced fly fishing, I wonder where I would be had people like Chuck Newmeyer not taken me under their wing and nurtured the emerging passion for the sport I now have. I mean really, there is a reason they call me the Addict!! I'm not sure I would have or could have made it through the rough stretches beginning this sport contain. There were several times I was ready to give up. A trip to Chucks and one of those little brown bags always made me feel like I was really a good fisher, even if deep down I knew I wasn't. Chuck had a way of curing my bad habits while making me feel good about them at the same time. I'm guessing that I'm not the only person that could write an almost exact story as this. I wonder how different I would be both in fishing and life had Chuck not made the time for me. I do know that I am a better fisher because of Chuck. I'm also a better person. We had a discussion about what to say when people asked how I was doing on the water. This big lesson was 'counting fish is the surest way to ruin a good day of fishing'. Chuck's advice was to say, I'm having a nice day or I'm doing quite nicely. And you know what, because of Chuck, I am, "Doing quite nicely!!"

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies, *Allen*



Hatch Guide for Western Streams

By Jim Schollmeyer

Published 1997 Frank Amato Publishers, Portland, OR
196 pages

Where is Dr. Spock from the Starship Enterprise when I could use his assistance? As you may recall, Dr. Spock could transfer the information from one mind to another. Well, for a dramatic improvement in my fishing, I would gladly have the information from this book transferred into my memory. Since Dr Spock did not respond, I am forced to work at the transfer slowly by reading the book and reading it again.

The author presents information about hatches and the flies that represent them in clear format with color photos of insects and flies. For various life forms (larvae, nymph, adult, spinner, etc.), the corresponding flies to represent these insects are shown. I wish my mind were as clearly organized when I am on the water. Shucks, I also wish my fly box covered all the options also. In addition to that, the instructions for tying the flies are included. If that is enough, there are general reminders on different presentation techniques that are useful to present the flies.

The book contains 196 pages of great information. The book is small enough to fit into the pocket of any fly-fishing shirt. Since the hatch guide covers the insects of western streams, the information to be filled in are the times of the year for various hatches. Would you rather read a hatch chart on a computer, or head to the water and see what the trout are looking at?

Ok! I am with you. Off to the stream I go. Happy fishing and learning.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado



MOHAIR/MINI/KRYSTAL LEECH

Considering the dire situation of fresh water supply in the state of California this summer, we will focus on some stillwater and saltwater flies over the next several months.

Legend has Jack Shaw designing his first "blood leech" in 1965 using a burgundy dyed wool yarn for Kamloops area lake fishing. Both tail and body were constructed from the same small rope of wool yarn with the fibers extending out from the core. Later in the 1970's, Jack began using a Canadian Brown Mohair consisting of several different colors in the fibers. This change in materials dramatically increased his strike ratio and legend began.

Sometime in the 1980's, Mike Andreasen brought some of Jack's leeches back to the states and began tying them with marabou tails. The fly increased in popularity in western states and was soon being tied in many different colors.

In the early 1990's Randall Kaufmann started marketing his "Mini Leech." The pattern is virtually the same as the Andreasen leech, but Randall uses 200R or natural bend hooks and tied them in smaller 10-14 sizes. He also used Angora fibers instead of yarn, mixing in Krystal Flash or SLF fibers using a dubbing loop. Tom Loe of Sierra Drifters calls the same pattern the Krystal Leech, tying them on a straight shank hook and mixing in Ice Dub with the Angora goat fibers to add flash and color variations.

These leeches will catch fish in nearly any lake setting in the world. On Lake Crowley in the Sierra's they are a very important part of the trout's diet, often fishing well outside of chironomid hatches and really excelling in the fall. If you are trolling these patterns from a float tube or stripping from a boat or bank, then a beadhead or weighted thorax should be used to create the undulating motion of the natural. When you are using in a Stillwater nymphing situation, a weightless leech can be very productive.

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

Materials:

Hook: 10-14 2-3x long streamer, natural bend, 2x nymph, or steelhead

Thread: color to match or black

Tail: Marabou and Krystal Flash

Body: Angora goat and Ice Dub

Tying Instructions:



1. Debarb hook and insert into vise. Attach the thread at the 80% mark, wrap a smooth underbody to the hook bend and back.



2. Select a small clump of marabou. Choose the webby fibers near the base of the stem on blood quills or use plumes. Pull the fibers to near a 90 degree angle to align the tips and remove or cut from the stem, keeping the tips relatively even. Only a small amount is necessary.



3. Measure the tail to about one full shank length with your thread hand. Transfer marabou to your material hand and trim at the tie in area.



4. Tie in marabou at the 80% mark with a couple of thread wraps.



5. Wrap back to the hook bend keeping the marabou atop the hook shank.



6. Move thread back to the 80% mark and tie in 4-6 strands of Krystal Flash.



7. After securing the flash, separate into two equal portions and align onto opposite sides of the shank. Wrap thread back to the bend keeping the flash on the sides of the shank (If this is too difficult tie in one side at a time).



8. To create a dubbing loop, remove some excess thread from your bobbin and double over about three to four inches of thread making a loop of thread below the shank. Attach a loop tool to the bottom of the loop. (The loop shown is too small and the tool too close to the shank for photo purposes. Also the rear thread is too close to the tail and should be moved forward slightly before starting your loop.)



9. Move bobbin thread back over the loop thread to bring together the top of the loop creating what now looks more like a triangle than a loop.



10. Move bobbin thread to just behind the eye.



11. For those of you that have fallen over the deep end of fly tying, I strongly recommend a dubbing blender. In nature, no creature is made up of one single color, so blending dubbing colors can, at times, give you an advantage over single hue dubbings...plus it's fun! If you don't have a mixer, don't worry. You can hand blend the dubbing or simply use one color. The blender picture is an inexpensive kitchen style found at a low end department store. (Fine dubbings like Superfine don't blend as well as more coarse dubbings.)



12. Dubbing mix: 3 parts Ice Dub, 1 part Fiery Brown Angora, 1 part Purple Angora, 5 parts black Angora (if you don't have Ice Dub you may sub cut Krystal Flash)



13. Blended dubbing ready to use after less than 5 seconds in the blender.



14. To add dubbing to our loop, add a small amount at the top of the loop and more toward the bottom for this pattern. To help the dubbing stay in the loop as you add more, moisten thread or add a small amount of dubbing wax to the thread.



15. Pull down on the loop tool to tighten your loop, then spin tool in one direction to “lock” fibers into the thread. Tighten loop until just before thread begins doubling over onto itself. Take a small piece of Velcro or a dubbing brush and brush out fibers, extending them from the dubbing rope. (This picture does not show a brushed out rope.)



16. Wrap dubbing rope forward, stroking fibers back after each turn to flow the fibers toward the rear and not trap down. When you reach the bobbin thread, tie off and trim excess.



17. Create a thread head and half hitch or whip finish.



18. Purple, Red Beadhead, Claret, and Black leeches.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

No report submitted this month.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

The message is short & sweet. While we all have our own personal reasons for belonging to the SSFFC, we all share one thing in common; that being we all appreciate this amazing sport of fly fishing. I hope everyone gets a chance to wet a line at this wonderful time of the year!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-2014

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