



# Ring of the Rise

May 2017

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

I have to apologize again for postponing the Rendezvous which was supposed to happen on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The weather and high flows were the cause of the postponement. I would like to announce that September 23<sup>rd</sup> as the new date for the Rendezvous. Hopefully, the Kern River should be back to its normal flows by then and we should be experiencing nice fall weather. Fall is the best time to fish the Kern. The Forks Outing which was scheduled for this Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> weekend will be rescheduled.

SSFFC will no longer be hosting the SWC Interclub Tourney which normally happens on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in November. SWC has created a new Interclub Tourney fishing Mission Bay in San Diego on June 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in participating, please email me and I'll send you the details. So far the Buhler Bros. will be representing SSFFC in this new Tourney. Please wish them luck.

Now, SSFFC will be hosting a completely new event in conjunction with our Rendezvous - The California Fly Fishing Open Tournament. This Tourney will be open to all fly fishing organizations, including SWC and the Northern California Council. We will be inviting fly equipment manufacturers to participate in the Tourney and have a booth so that you can demo their equipment. There will be more announcements in the near future, but please save the date of September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

2017 has been huge rainfall year. Because of this rain, it has delayed the construction at the Kernville Hatchery. It may be completed by the end of this summer. Probably the most exciting part of our Kids Academy is the kids catching trout at the hatchery. Since there won't be any trout at the Hatchery on our originally scheduled Kids Academy date of May 6<sup>th</sup>, will have to reschedule it to a date later this year. Everyone knows how badly we needed the rain, but it sure has caused havoc on our schedule.

At the request of one of our members Celine Bayla, SSFFC will be holding its first Women's Day Class on June 24<sup>th</sup>. This class will be taught by mostly women. The class will involve all the regular segments of fly fishing but from a women's perspective. We have also managed to have Simms bring their full line of women's apparel. The only requirement for this class is just a current SSFFC membership, no cost for the class. If you're interested in this class please email me at [haramic@aol.com](mailto:haramic@aol.com). There is a 60 women limit for this class and I think it will sell out. Meet at the Fly Shop for check-in at 8:30 am June 24<sup>th</sup>. There will

be an optional Whitewater raffling trip on Sunday for \$32 on Class II & III water.

On the same day, June 24<sup>th</sup>, for the men, Randy Skidgel will be heading a carp outing on Lake Isabella. Randy is the Club's top fly fisher for carp. Meet at the Fly Shop at 8:30 am.

For the evening of June 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Club meeting at the Kernville Chamber starting at 7:00 pm. The guest presenter will be one of the Women's Day Class instructors, Kesley Gallagher. Kesley has 4 world fly fishing records with another one pending. She will present her Salt Water Adventures and talk about her world records. We will be serving the world's best cake at the meeting.

As you can see there's a lot happening with SSFFC. Come up on June 24 and make it a SSFFC weekend.

*Chiaki*

## River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

### Upper Kern River

The Upper Kern River is definitely running strong at approximately 6,000 CFS. The upper Kern River is blown out. The small tributaries of the Upper Kern are open and fishable.

### Lake Isabella

Recent stocking in Lake Isabella of 5 to 10 pound trout has produced some nice fish this week. These are leftovers from the Lake Isabella Fishing Derby. Look for these fish to be heading into the north and south forks of the Kern real soon.

With the Upper and Lower Kern pushing the limits with record breaking flows, we are fortunate enough to have an alternative location to fish: Lake Isabella. With the massive influx of water, which we have not had in the lake since May of 2007, these conditions are bound to create a healthy habitat and grounds for the fish to become extremely active. At the present time, here you will come across trout, bass, crappie and even carp, which are a challenge to land on the fly!

## Forks of the Kern

With the current flows and forecasted run off, it is going to be a couple of months before we can even access the Forks. In the meantime and after April 30th, try hitting up some of the smaller streams, creeks and tributaries running into the main Kern River.

*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



## **Club Meeting & Activities:** by Chiaki Harami (haramic)

As previously mentioned, our next regular Club meeting will be Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kernville Chamber starting at 7:00 pm. The guest presenter will be Kesley Gallagher, one of the Women's Day Class instructors. Kesley has 4 world fly fishing records with another one pending. She will present her Salt Water Adventures and talk about her world records.

Here are a few pictures of Kesley in action.....





## **Adventures, Great and Small**

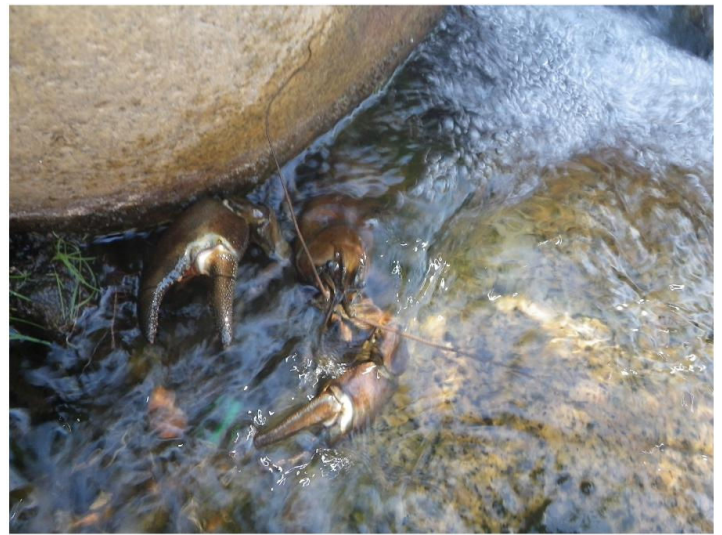
Adventures come in all types and sizes. Some adventures are big, some not so big. Some include big things, some little.



*Dustin and a Musky*

Adventures that include the big things seem to be the most popular. If you don't believe me, check out the East Walker when word gets out that the bite is on and that water is fishing well. People like to catch big fish, that's OK, I also enjoy the amazing strength of a really big fish. There is really nothing like the feeling of chasing rare fish and finally getting one landed.

The only feeling that surpasses the sheer joy of feeling and seeing a real trophy fish in your net is the indescribable feeling you have reviving and carefully releasing that magnificent trophy. Watching the fish of a lifetime swim away to continue its life is as good as it gets. Certainly, a day of fishing for Musky with my good friend Dustin qualified as a great adventure. Cast after cast, watching my 'Goldfish fly' swim back each time. I still get the shakes when I remember seeing that huge fish following my goldfish. My heart still sinks when I see it sink back to the depths. What a day, Thanks Dustin and John.



*Kern Crawdad*

Sometimes, the object of our passion, are smaller fish in a loved place. Some days, it doesn't even take a fish to keep a smile on my face. This guy was in a cool little spot between some rocks. I noticed him as I was fishing one of my favorite places on the Kern. No doubt about it, this is one tough hombre. The Kern River was the beginning of my fly fishing addiction and will always hold a spot in my heart. Adventures don't always have to be about the fish. There is no problem just enjoying being in your favorite places. The wonder of a loved spot never grows old.



*Mark and Ellen, Starting an Owyhee Adventure*

Sometimes the adventures do include big fish; certainly the Owyhee more than qualifies as a bona fide big fish water. When halfway through a trip, you go into the shop that helped you plan the outing to say thanks and restock; they ask if you've 'caught anything big yet'. You reply with great excitement, "Yes, we all have landed multiple 28" fish." "Ya, but have you caught anything BIG yet?" That type exchange will always make you think. This fishing adventure was highlighted by afternoon, into night, amazing dry fly fishing. Tiny PMD's and big Mahoganies. I still don't understand why the fishes much preferred the smaller PMD's, they surely were some picky fish. Any small film of moss made the fly unusable. Many midnight and very early AM tying sessions were involved on this adventure.





*Owyhee Brown*

Adventures don't necessarily include going anywhere. I had one of the most frustrating and rewarding adventures of my life building a fly rod.



*Hope!!*

I have documented here the misfortunes and amazingly rewarding experience of Building Hope. I see no real need to relive that in detail. That said, an adventure is an adventure. Anything worth doing contains trials and difficulties. This is true in fishing and in any pursuit of life. Hope was no exception, truly, I could have used much less character building, but in the end, God used me and my trials to bless someone in need of uplifting. That was the best adventure I could have experienced, one I will never forget.



*The Beaverhead*

The Beaverhead was the adventure during which I really fell in love with Montana. I had no idea that God, in His infinite wisdom, could put so many big, really big, fish in one place. Not only that, we rented a house for our time there. It was on a farm, bringing back so many wonderful childhood memories.

Dillon is a really cool place and the Beav' is absolutely one of my favorite places on the planet. Throwing those Zonkers in the rain and watching the huge Brown Trout attack them was beyond anything I had ever experienced. Funny thing, when I got home, my wife asked what all those little scars were on my face were. I laughed as I looked into the mirror. They were little hook marks from those streamers suddenly exiting the fish and entering me. Cover your eyes and look out for your ears!! The Beaverhead, truly a great adventure.



*Mark enjoying another beautiful fall day on the Beaverhead*

From the Kern to the Clark Fork to the Yellowstone, I've been so blessed to have experienced so many adventures. I am so thankful to those that have accompanied me on so many memorable trips, especially Mark. That dude is a trooper for sure. Dealing with me for all these years is no easy task.

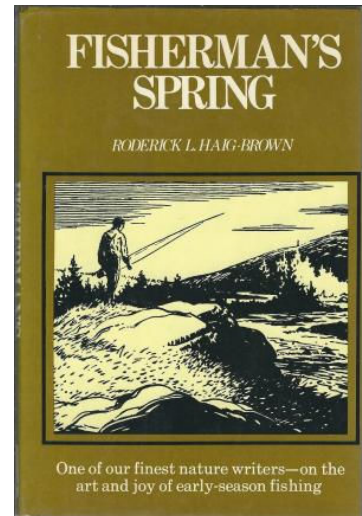
These are some of the big trips and adventures of my fishing life. There are many other smaller ones. That day on the Kern, enjoying the company of an angry crawfish, he mellowed out as he figured out I wasn't going to hurt him. That was almost a fishless day, but just seeing the Kern with water again, cold clear perfect flows, made the trip an adventure as I visited all my favorite places just to say hello. Sometimes the quick easy adventures are the best.

Really, there are no small adventures. They are all big, certainly they all should be considered big. Thinking of something as a small adventure somehow causes the action involved to be diminished. That is never true as far as I'm concerned. I want to never take anything I do for granted. My desire is to live life to the fullest every day, every trip, every cast. I hope yours is also, because someday the trips will end and all that is left will be the memories, memories of Adventures, Great and Small.....

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

*Allen*

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



### Fisherman's Spring By Roderick L. Haig-Brown

Illustrated by Louis Darling  
Crown Publishers, Inc, New York, NY  
Published 1951 and 1975  
222 pages

Roderick L. Haig-Brown was a writer first and a fly fisherman second. Although Roderick was born in England, his passion for fishing (as shown in his writing) was based on his life on the Campbell River in British Columbia. The Campbell River has migratory salmon and steelhead, while the lakes in the region contain trout and landlocked versions of the migratory fish. Fishing opportunities are open throughout the calendar year. The illustrations by Louis Darling provide a wonderful complement to the writing.

This book provides 33 essays on subjects that relate directly or indirectly to fly fishing. I never had the opportunity to meet the author in person, but each essay provides a tale as if the author was my neighbor and I happened to stop by for a chat. The topics are well informed and increase your fishing knowledge by listening to them. Even though many topics are based on experiences that were written in 1950's, the topics seem as pertinent today, especially the essays on flies, fly lines, and the new fly rod.

One topic, "When is a Rainbow..." covers the biologist's task of distinguishing the differences between rainbow and steelhead. On a most simple level, a rainbow trout does not migrate to salt water while a steelhead does and returns to spawn in the same fresh water. In addition, there is the scale count along the lateral line that shows some differences. However, there appear to be additional behavior factors that contradict the simple migrating and non-migrating differences. Some steelhead head to sea, return and spawn, and then repeat the sequence, while others do not. The author's takes the reader through a series of contradictions that leave the reader as confused as the biologists of the era. If it seems confusing, you are



correct, it is. As a separate note, I do not know if the advent of DNA testing currently used has clarified any of the confusion.

Another top, "Fishing and the Common Man", discusses daily fishing bag limits. The fishing in the United States and Canada is generally open to all anglers, as opposed to British or European fishing where the rivers (and fish) are privately owned and regulated. The daily fishing limits are set by politicians and wildlife governing agencies to protect the right of the common man to catch and keep fish. While the daily limits do much to support the concept of the rights of the common man, the limits are counter-productive to maintaining a healthy fish community. Haig-Brown, who considers himself a sport fisherman, would limit the take to a few fish in an effort to maintain large stocks of fish that maintain the overall fishery numbers. Considering these ideas were proposed in the 1950's (and based on observations from decades prior), the idea is still highly relevant but not practiced on a general basis.

Haig-Brown has written another excellent book, with topics that are entertaining, informative and in many cases, as relevant now as they were in the 1950's. A writer first, that used his skill for long term enjoyment.

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

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



## HARVESTER MIDGE

By Russ Doughty

I saw this one in a catalog that stated, "Our top fish catcher on Midwest tailwaters!" Hmmm, that sounds intriguing I thought, and took a closer look. The original flies were tied on 2x short shanks in size 14 with a very short wrap of thread on the shank, wire rib and a 3/32 tungsten bead. The end appearance is that of a size 18-20 fly, but tied on the stronger and much wider gape hook and heavier weighted bead to help it get down to the fish.

Russ tied this fly in only one color (rusty brown with black rib), with a change of the bead due to light conditions, using the black bead in low light and the copper in brighter conditions. With the ridiculous supply of colors in threads, beads, and wires today the color options on this one are seemingly endless.

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

### Materials:

Hook: Tiemco 2499 (original pattern) or 2488 or equivalent size 14-18

Bead: Tungsten 3/32 on size 14

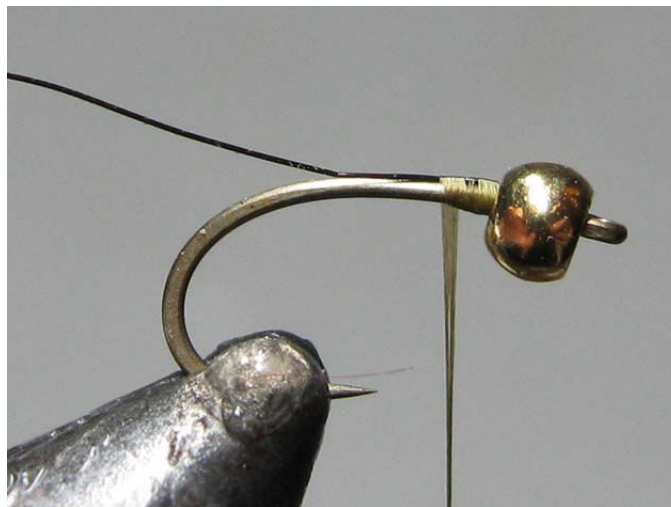
Thread: Olive UTC 70 denier

Rib: Black Ultra Wire x-small

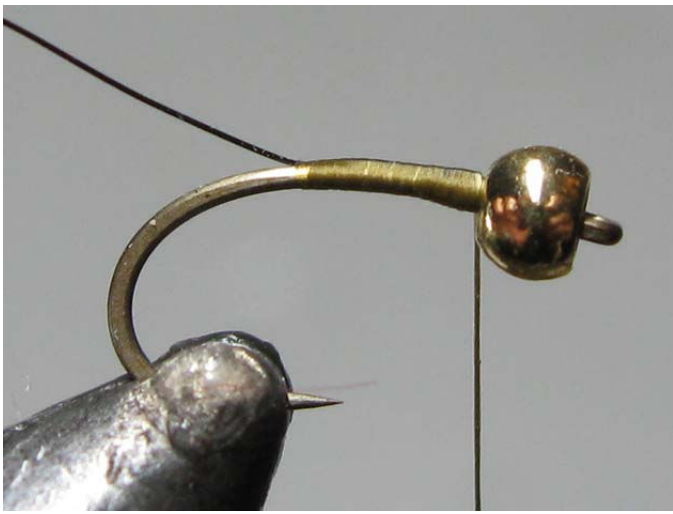
### Tying Instructions:



1. Debarb hook, attach bead, insert hook into vise and attach thread behind the bead.



2. Twist thread counter clockwise to help thread lie flat. Attach wire rib with a couple of thread wraps.



3. Wrap thread toward the rear of the hook while holding the wire atop the shank. Wrap only halfway down the shank. Then wrap thread back up the shank evenly to behind the bead.



4. Wrap the wire forward in 4-5 evenly spaced wraps creating a nice segmented affect. Trim or twist off excess wire.



5. Add 2-3 half hitch knots or whip finish and trim excess. This is the finished original version.



6. I like to add some CA glue (super/zap-a-gap) for durability and sheen.



*Rob*

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

No report submitted this month.

*Ryan*

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

Just hoping everyone is well and getting time on the water!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016-2017

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Outings Chair	Chris Chamberlain	chamberlain.c@gmail.com	661-619-6397
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Use Club Affiliation code 99792

