



Ring of the Rise

November 2014

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We were successful in defending our title as SWC IFFF Inter-Club Tourney Champs. We would like to thank the winning team of Chris Chamberlain (Team Captain), Craig Root, Ants Uiga, Don Rogers and Ryan Spanel. Ryan also won the Individual top award by placing first in his morning and afternoon sessions. Excellent job and well done guys.

We had 14 teams participating, representing 10 Clubs. Casting For Recovery had a team of Survivors. I had the privilege of assisting one of them for the day. Adelle had never fly fished before and we had a great time on the water. She was able to cast a dry dropper 35 feet with no problem. When I told her to stop at 10, that's exactly what she did. She's a person that appreciates every day of life and everything in life, a great philosophy. I hope we get to spend more time on the water, together.

In addition to our new Board members; Allen Bell, VP and Tim Michaels, Conservation Chair, there are four newly created positions. Mark Sweat is our new IT Director. He is reviewing and re-engineering: our Club website, Facebook and PayPal accounts. Keith Pengilley, our Club Secretary has also taken on the Membership Chair responsibilities. Kimberly (no wet wading boots in the Shop) Jeans is our new Public Relations Director. Sergio Martinez will be working with Kimberly, with a Hispanic focus. They are really excited to take on their new responsibilities and I expect great things from this highly talented group.

As we move to the end of the year, it's time to Vote for the Fly Fisher Of The year. We will hold the Award dinner at the January meeting. Please vote for the person you believe has contributed the most to our fly fishing community. Send me an email with your vote: haramic@aol.com

It's been a great year for the Club: winning the McKenzie Cup and the SWC Inter-Club Tourney. We are a very unique Club with a membership that is spread from San Diego to Carson City. Please remember to thank the Board members and directors for all their hard work. They spend countless hours for your benefit. I feel honored and blessed to work with a great group of people. They are all good friends of mine with a caring heart for their fellow fly fishers.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

This is a fly fishing report for the Kern River Drainage's of the Southern Sierra. This report was written on Sunday, 11-23-14 at 9:45 am.

Upper Kern River 4 mile Special Regulations Wild Trout Section (4 miles north of the Johnsondale Bridge)

This section is fishing excellent with the current BWO hatch occurring at 1pm. If you fish up above this bridge remember to pinch your barbs down and that bait fishing are not allowed in this section. DFW Wardens have issued multiple tickets to anglers fishing with bait and barbed hooks in the last 2 weeks. A few poachers have been caught fishing in this section without fishing licenses as well.
Open Year-Round - Catch and Release only!

Upper Kern River 20 Mile Section (Kern River Fly Shop to the Johnsondale Bridge)

This section of the upper Kern is also fishing well for some anglers and not so great for others. Anglers chasing stocked fish aren't doing well. Fly anglers fly fishing for wild trout in this section are doing good depending on the level of the angler. Time invested on this section of the upper Kern will pay off for the anglers that fish this section regularly. Water temperatures are fluctuating between 50 and 55 degrees and this depends on the area of the 20 mile section you fish. There is a BWO hatch in certain sections about a size 22. The wild trout in this section are very selective and are focusing on 24 BWO emergers. The hatch varies depending on which section you fish. If you find them hatching it can be epic. A go-to-fly right now is a WD40 22-24 or a BWO nymph 24-26. There is an abundance of wild rainbows in this section and catching them can be very technical. Rainbows are also focusing on midges in sizes 22-26. Stealth, presentation and fly selection will be a major part of your success when it comes to catching these wild rainbows in the 20 mile section. River flows in this section are perfect for wading, but don't be fooled by the lower flows, the upper Kern will still knock you down if you're not careful.

Open Year-Round!

Lower Kern (Isabella Dam to Democrat)

Fishing good for LM Bass , Fishing slow for Smallmouth Bass, Fishing not ok for trout.

Lower Kern (Democrat to Canyon mouth)

This section is fishing well for Largemouth Bass and okay for Smallmouth Bass. A few trout are being caught in this section.

Lower Kern (Rancheria Road to Oildale)

This section is fishing well for Largemouth Bass.

Lake Isabella

The puddle (kidding) is fishing, believe it or not, very well for all species that are caught in the lake. The crappie are back in the shallows again.

Southfork of the Kern

Leave this place alone. The water is very low. The season closes for this section November 15th 2014.

Tributaries (small creeks of the Southern Sierra)

These areas are offering horrible fishing because of the low flows. Season close for these creeks is November 15th 2014

As a reminder, the fishing reports are available in video format on Facebook and can be accessed via the forum under the heading "Kern River Fly Fishing Reports - Daily Video and Kern Fly Fishing Reports."

Guy



Conservation Report: by Tim Michaels

No report submitted this month.

Tim

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

No report submitted this month.

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

No report submitted this month.

Pete

Also, remember that SSFFC club members receive a 15% discount at Acid Rod. When you make your next rod building purchases please make sure to give Mark Griffin (Mark Griffin) a call at Acid Rod @ 909-394-7486 or stop by his shop at 910 N. Cataract Ave, San Dimas, CA and let him or Colleen know you're a member of SSFFC. - Gary

Check out the following link to see what Mark has to offer –

<http://www.acidrod.com/>



Club Meeting & Activities: by Chiaki Harami (haramic)

Noted last month, and as is tradition, there will be no December meeting due to the holidays; therefore the next general meeting will be the Fly Fisher of The Year banquet in January 2015. Please think of the individuals that need to be nominated. Nominations and elections will be held in December so please send President Chiaki an email with your vote to haramic@aol.com.

Please make sure to keep yourself up to date on the forum.

Chiaki

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

I Almost Know Where My Feet Are!!

A couple weeks ago, I was fishing with a really nice lady. We had to move from one spot to another. To get where we wanted to go, we had to cross a riffle with some pocket water in the middle. There was a slick spot in a water column that was giving my new friend some trouble. As I held out my arm to offer a little support, she made her way through the swift water and into the nice small pockets that we could walk in more easily. Secure in our footing and reasonably sure to make shore without another unplanned swimming session, I told Linda that she had done that quite nicely, and was wading much better. She looked at me with this big grin and beamed, "I'm so glad for the hiking I've been doing. Now, I almost know where my feet are." WHAT?? Let's rewind here!! You don't know where your feet are? How is that possible?

We had fished for a while earlier; Linda had never fished moving water or waded before. She was pretty outdoorsy so fly fishing came easily. I so enjoy watching the learning curve of a new fly fisher. It didn't take that long to figure out how to keep the flies out of the trees, "No worries, I need to practice my knots anyway." Figuring out how to move the flies before they leave the pool and cascade over the rocks came easily, and besides, I have way too many flies, I need to get rid of a few.

After she took a header into the only deep spot near us, she felt clumsy because she had fallen. "Linda, did you leave your phone in FlyRunner like we talked about? Forget anything else; you have less than thirty seconds to get your phone out of your pocket!!" Phone saved, dignity restored, we had the "Falling in the water is part of the sport, doesn't the nice cold water feel good on a warm day" conversation. It took a little longer to convince her that we all laugh at each other when we fall into the water. Until we start to float away. Then fly fishing etiquette requires that we at least make an effort to save the fly rod!!

Actually, Linda has a great deal of natural talent to fish. Some people can get fish to take a fly and some can't. Without a doubt, Linda can. We could only really fish one small pool. Linda and I saw four fish flash on her flies and she felt two more. I think the funniest moment of the day, for me anyway, was when I saw a fish flying around in the pool. I asked Linda where her indicator was. She had lost sight of it, but there was something flashy swimming around where we were fishing. Yep, Linda, that is a fish on your flies, maybe we could set the hook or something now. I love stuff like this and what the beginners never seem to realize is that we think this is funny because no matter how experienced we get, we all still do the same thing from time to time. Kind of like we are laughing at ourselves while it is happening to someone else.

My new friend Linda is recovering from breast cancer. Her *Casting For Recovery* team was competing in the IFFF, Southwest Council Inter-Club Tourney. I had been asked to fish with her, which I was honored to do. As Linda navigated the foreign surfaces she had never tried to walk on before, after one particularly difficult stretch, she explained to me that the chemotherapy caused her brain to not know where her feet were. I just couldn't stop thinking of the courage it must have taken to put up the fight she had just been through. How much bravery does it take to join a hiking group when you can barely walk because you absolutely refuse to give up or give in? I know I don't have that kind of courage or strength. As we crossed yet one more trouble spot, Linda stopped and was just looking around. I was worried and asked if anything was wrong? Linda's reply was something I hope I never forget. "Do you see where we are? Look at the fall leaves....and the water is so clear and cold. Do you realize what we are doing? We are actually fly fishing!!!" Our moment there, together in one of my favorite places on this planet, had to come to a quick end as I reminded Linda that "there is no crying in fly fishing." There really is, fly fishing has helped me through some of the most difficult times of my life....Also, some of the happiest.

I hate to admit it, but I often get too wrapped up in what I am doing to enjoy where I am and why I am there. I learned

much from Linda that day. The one big lesson, for me, was; take the time to enjoy where you are and what you are doing. Never forget that every day is a blessing. Linda, I couldn't have said that better and I will never forget it either.



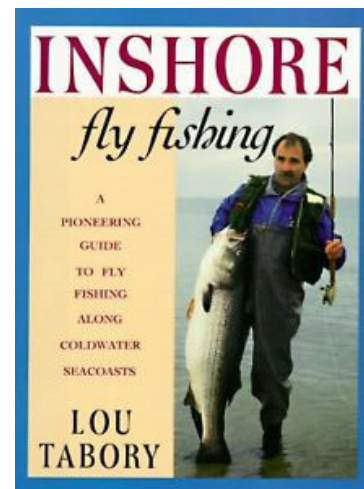
Linda the fly fishing machine!!



Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Inshore Fly Fishing

A Pioneering Guide to Fly Fishing
Along Coldwater Seacoasts

By Lou Tabory

Published 1992 by Lyons and Burford Publishers, New York
312 pages

I started reading this excellent book earlier this year. The book presents an impressive amount of information about the critical steps to observe when fly fishing near ocean shores and tidal waters. Although I have fished a few times in ocean waters, I have never fly-fished and have not searched for fish holding structure. In addition, I don't currently have the book in hand. Can I provide a reasonable review under those circumstances? I don't know – you tell me.

Presentation wise, the book got my attention when it immediately began with why fish feed along the shore and how do I determine if the fish are feeding at the time I am fishing. If the fish are not located where I am, where can I go to find the fish? To my surprise, I learned many of the better times to fish are after dark. After covering some basic safety concerns with heading into water or onto breakwaters after dark, Tabory gives information about what the fly line feels like as you cast into good fishing zones or outside of that zone. (I wish I could give some personal feedback, but I can't).

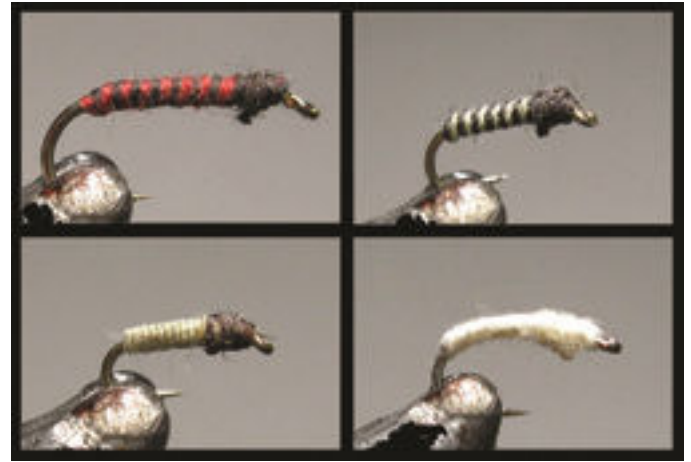
Living close enough and watching the ocean on a daily basis enhanced my experience with oceans, waves, and beach behavior. The ocean surf environment changes dramatically. After one memorable winter storm, I remember 2-3 feet of sand had shifted and rocks were exposed. If I were fishing, I would now be casting to see what other structure may be hidden underwater. Tabory would have guided me to make the same observations.

Fishing a new area requires trial and error to understand the conditions leading up to more catching. While exploring is good, returning to a good area and understanding how the feeding conditions change on a daily, weekly, or seasonal basis is even better. Tabory will provide the details, not my memory.

The fly fishing setup for inshore fishing is different than the Kern River. The presentation on rips, tides, breakwaters, and other structure makes it easier to understand the fly line and leader rigging since the fishing objective can be understood. Finally, if there still are some mysteries, the expertise of the club members can be tapped, generally through the forum or personal contacts. I don't know if the West Coast has a run of striped bass like the east coast, but those with experience will know.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



Floss and Thread Midges

By Andy Kim and Don Holbrook

In hopes of a serious increase in snow and rain, we will move away from the last several months of saltwater and lake patterns, and just in time for winter midge fishing on the Kern and your favorite tailwaters. These aren't your fathers thread midges either. Both Don Holbrook and Andy Kim have separately, but simultaneously taken midge imitations to a new level.

After some research, I'm not sure which of these great tyer/fishers developed their flies first, but I don't think that it matters since we can all now benefit from their creative insight. Pennsylvania fly fishers Don Holbrook and Ed Koch's "Midge Magic" was released in 2001 and reviewed in a following issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine. This same issue features an article on San Juan River guide Andy Kim's legendary thread midges, focusing on the "Yong Blood". The ties are extremely similar and both use Coats and Clark sewing thread on the small sizes.

Holbrook uses "DMC Embroidery Floss" on flies from size 18-24 due to its amazingly diverse selection of shades and colors.



Since the DMC is a six strand floss, it is important to separate into single strands before tying. Using two different colors from the wide selection allows you to closely mimic the subtle banding found on most midge species and specifically the variations found in your favorite waters. On smaller sizes 24-28, the floss is too thick and Holbrook substitutes C&C sewing thread, the same thread that Kim uses on his San Juan midges.

Appearing to be a case of a “mutually rising” tying revolution from opposite sides of the country, we can now better match the midge larvae, pupa, emergers and even adults locally.

Materials:

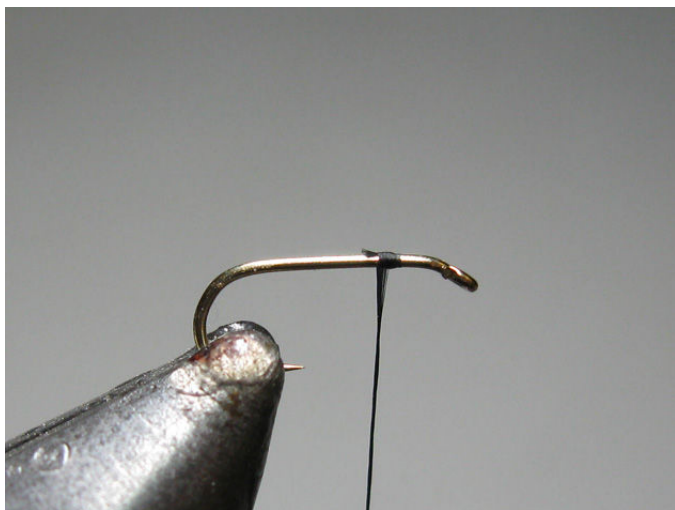
Hook: Dry fly 18-24

Thread: 8/0 or smaller to match

Abdomen: DMC Floss or Coats and Clark thread

Thorax: DMC, C & C, or thread

Tying Instructions:



1. Before inserting hook into vise, de-barb hook or smash barb. Attach thread at the 80% mark. When using the DMC floss, separate the 6 strands and select one for tie in.



2. Attach to the shank by taking a couple of gathering wraps with the floss on top of the shank. If using two colors attach both at the same time.



3. Wrap thread towards the bend keeping the body slim and even. Twist UTC threads counter clockwise to flatten and decrease bulk. Wrap thread forward to 80% mark.



4. To keep a tight segmentation when wrapping the floss forward twist floss strand(s) clockwise to tighten up the floss (rope), then wrap forward to

thread area. Tie down floss at this point, but don't trim excess.



5. Add a half hitch or two and trim thread and one of the floss colors if using two. We will trim the terra cotta and keep the black brown for the thorax.



6. Wrap remaining floss from the hook eye back to the abdomen and forward (add or decrease wraps to create the size of thorax wanted). Then add three half hitch knots to secure and add bulk. Finish with the floss hanging down and trim excess. The frayed trim creates the illusion of legs.



7. Size 26 Coats and Clark dark linen with a brown 8/0 Uni Thread underbody and thorax. When wet the darker underbody bleeds through the tight segmentation to reveal subtle ribbing.



8. DMC Floss light beige gray with ecru in size 22. A quality black fly larvae imitation for the Lower Owens.



9. Size 24 Coats and Clark two-tone raisin/safari. Add a short sparse wing of Z-lon or Antron for an emerger and coat with floatant for a dry imitation.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

No report submitted this month.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Well here we are once more at the time of the year I refer to as the "*Magic Season*." Once we start feeling a bit of chill in the evenings, soon followed by the onset of fall and all the beauty that abounds with the changing of the seasons, we start wheeling headlong into the holidays. Or for me, the *Magic Season*.

By now we've all probably started dealing with the down side of the season. You know.... all the fun chores like raking up the piles of leaves and making sure the firewood pile is adequate for the coming winter. Maybe it's doing some weatherproofing on the house that just didn't quite get done when it was hot and with no rain on the horizon. Those chores can be postponed a bit but once the *Magic Season* gets close it all becomes much more pressing.

I guess if we were all as determined and resourceful as the animals, birds and fish that thrive in the environment we love to immerse ourselves in to ply our sport, we may start our fall/winter preparations earlier. And I am confident many of you are much better about early preparations than a lot of us. Either way, I know that eventually we all get done what we have to. Or at least hire out those chores that "must" get done. After all we need to be able to focus on the *Magic Season*!

If you are reading this little story I am quite confident that you did indeed survive the first major *Magic* event of the season. That's right, you took Thanksgiving head on! If you're like most Americans you ate way too much. Something on the order of 3000 calories according to one article I read.

Now here's the really interesting tidbit I found in my research. Apparently, when your stomach is empty, it releases a hormone called ghrelin. This hormone then does a dance with a neurotransmitter and turns on the desire to eat. After eating, another hormone called leptin is released and turns off the desire to eat, making the body feel full.

It all sounds pretty simple, and logic would dictate that if all these hormones and neurotransmitters are following the caller in their gastrointestinal square dance, what happens every year on the fourth Thursday of November? *Magic* is what happens!

According to the research I read it all stems from our past. Well maybe not "our" past but certainly our ancestors past. Apparently in times gone by, energy rich foods with lots of fat and sugar were hard to come by. Essential to survival, they became programmed as foods that were extremely desirable. While it is now easy to get high calorie meals, the ancient desire remains. The report states that continual intake overrides the regulatory system of afore mentioned hormones and this ancient quirk makes it hard for people to stop eating those types of meals.

Maybe down deep we are much closer to those "animals, birds and fish" I mentioned earlier..... or maybe we just like

a great excuse to over indulge. Either way, *Magic* in my book!

And the best part of this season is that the *Magic* doesn't end with Thanksgiving. Right after we wake up from the obligatory post-Thanksgiving meal nap and get enough energy and room to button up our pants, we are looking straight at Christmas. *Magic*!

The real *Magic* of Christmas is how it changes so many of us. How many of us, or those around us, seem to kick it up a notch with regard to offering goodwill to those we meet? It's one thing that can always be counted on. Even in crowded stores, on crowded sidewalks or in dealing with those we come into contact with daily, this time of year everyone, for the most part, just seems more pleasant and caring toward others (unless, of course, you just picked up that last item off the shelf that they just MUST HAVE!). And the closer we get to the 25th of December, the more hospitable people tend to get. Heck, we are even able to put on a smile and spend time with those relatives we see only during the holidays.... for a reason! But typically we are able to rely on the *Magic* of the season to make our time together pleasant and enjoyable. Or maybe it's the alcohol that is typically flowing.... Humm. But that's another story and I digress.

What it all comes down to, for me at least, is that we are now in that time of the year that, if we are lucky, we have the opportunity to not only reflect back to those times of our lives when we were young and everything was, dare I say it.... *Magical*, but also to use those feelings of joy and goodwill to make the season better for our loved ones and those around us.

Here's to wishing all of you a joyful Holiday Season full of cheer, goodwill and most importantly *Magic*!

Tight Lines, Gary



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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Individual memberships available at www.fedflyfishers.org

Use Club Affiliation code 99792

