



Ring of the Rise

November 2016



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We are looking ahead and are in the process of putting together the 2017 Club calendar. We had some fun outings in 2016 and they need to be repeated. Our Lower Owens outing has always been very successful. We plan to have the Club sponsored Pizza dinner on Saturday night followed immediately by bowling at the Back Alley Bowl and Grill in Bishop. The bowling was a fun activity earlier this year and it was a hoot. I didn't know Tim, Teena and Analiza were such good bowlers.

The Mammoth trip was another fun outing, which we will repeat next year. This year we couldn't get a group campground down in the San Joaquin, so we stayed in Mammoth in condos. It worked out well. Fishing was very good on the San Joaquin River, catch feisty small wild trout. The Buhler Bros led us on Sunday on Crowley and the fishing was epic with many trout over 20". We won't change a thing on this outing.

We used to have a backpack trip above the Johnsondale Bridge a few years ago and club members had a great time. We are going to have an outing above the Bridge with Guy Jeans next year. We will make it backpack or day trip optional. Guy will provide his expert service to Club members on this outing. It's been a while since I spent a full day fishing above the bridge and this year, the fishing was excellent. This should be a very good outing with Guy's assistance.

We will have a surf outing next year, most likely at Carpinteria. This will most likely be a morning outing, since the casting/fishing becomes difficult in the afternoons. I'm also looking into surf fishing in the areas a little farther north. We also hope to get some of the expert salt water speakers at our club meeting.

A member is working on getting on an outing on some private waters for the Club. This outing would be very special and I hope it can be worked out.

We plan to have a rod building class early next year depending upon the interest level. Pete Emmel and I have taught over 120 Club members and we may have run out of students. Next year, we will also hold a casting class for beginners.

If anyone has a suggestion for: outings, topic for a guest speaker or any classes, please let me know. Please email your suggestion to haramic@aol.com

Our Club will be hosting the Federation of Fly Fishers Southwest Council Inter-Club Tournament. We have a strong team consisting of veteran fly fishers; many have been on the winning teams in prior years. However, this tournament is mostly about having fun and less about competition. Casting for Recovery is also fielding a team this year and they are the returning Champions. Most of these women have never fly fished before, so members of our Club will be providing them assistance. I wish Team SSFFC the best of luck.

We are also working on better club communications with the members and general public. Mark Sweat, our IT person and department, is looking at and testing various software programs geared towards clubs. I hope through better communications, we can increase participation and bring the programs you require.

Again, if there are any suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

20-Mile Section of the Kern (From Kern River Fly Shop to Johnsondale Bridge) Open Year round!

Temperatures are dropping down to the low 50s in the evening and mid 60s throughout the day. Those folks only focused on hatchery planted fish aren't doing well. Fly fishers matching the natural aquatic insects and focusing on wild trout in the 20 mile section are doing well. Rubber Leg Stimulator size 6-16, Parachute X Orange size 10, Streambank Hopper Size 10 and Tungsten Yellow Sallie size 10-18, Tungsten Psycho May size 16-20 droppers are doing well.

4 mile Wild Trout Section (Above Johnsondale Bridge 4 miles) Special regulations - No BAIT OR BARBS on your hooks. Open Year round! Catch and Release only

This section of the Kern is very popular with folks who want to have a wild trout experience. There are special regulations here and bait or barbed hooks are prohibited. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks are allowed. Many tickets are issued here to anglers who disregard the fishing regulations. The DFW does not stock the North Fork

of the Kern River north of the bridge for 50 miles and those 50 miles are managed as a wild trout fishery. The fly fishing is excellent here because of these regulations. Check your regulations before fishing here!

Water temperatures are usually 5 to 10 degrees cooler here and the fish are very wary to your presence. A stealthy approach is needed to catch these fish. Fishing is excellent as of today. Dry dropper techniques are getting the grabs as the days get shorter and the water cooler. Use an orange or yellow Stimulator in sizes 6 and 8 for the top fly and a Red Kern Emerger in sizes 18, 16 and 12 as the dropper. You can also use Copper Johns sizes 18-22, Pheasant Tails sizes 16- 18, Tungsten Teddys size 12, Olive WD40's Size 20-22. You can also swing the natural BH Hares Ear size 20.

Lower Kern (Below lake Isabella) fishing excellent – Open Year round!

A bass fly angler's paradise! The lower Kern winds its way down the Kern River canyon from the Lake Isabella Dam to Oildale, approximately 80 river miles. This section has trout, bass, crappie and other species to catch on a fly. This section is fishing moderate to ok with the current cooling of water temps. Use big flies like White Jawbreakers, poppers or various bass flies to get into these fish.

World Class "Forks of the Kern" Fly Fishing – Closed until last Saturday in April.

South Fork of the Kern – Closed.

Tributaries of the Southern Sierra – Closed.

Lake Isabella- Open

Lake Isabella is not fishing well.

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)

No report submitted this month.

Chiaki

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

The Beldar Conehead



The one, The only, THE Beldar Conehead, from the Planet Remulak!!

Greetings Earthlinks!! This summer, I took the best ever trip. (They are all the best ever until the next one!!)

We went to Cody and fished the Yellowstone, among other amazing waters. Mark has a friend in Cody, Scott Sweebe that guides. He took us on a fishing adventure to the Yellowstone for opening day on the river. We were into fish from the early part of the trip. That is when I learned how difficult these fish are to land. I did land a couple of the smaller ones and was pretty much on the happy side of life.

Fishing slowed so Scott and I went downstream to another spot he knew of and we fished there. He started telling me about this streamer he ties, the Beldar Conehead. I just couldn't help laughing. Being an old fan of Saturday Night Live, I knew exactly who Beldar and the Coneheads were. He pulled out this kind of ugly battered streamer. "Looks like hell, but it sure catches fish!!" I decided to just do what the guide wanted me to do and bypass the normal discussion on why I hate fishing streamers and never catch anything on them.

Scott is cheerful and just may be the funniest human being I have ever fished with. He goes into this explanation of how to cast this thing. This fly is mostly tungsten and a little fluff. It seems like it weighs a pound when you try to cast it. "Just lightly flip your wrist when you feel the weight on the back cast. You try to cast this thing it only gets bad, then worse." OK, I think I can do that. I really wasn't worried; there are many fly rods and flies I am totally unable to cast. This will just be one more on the list. So, I tried Scott's method, kind of. I was just getting the hang of it (not really) when Scott took the rod, moved upstream. "Hey, let's move up here where I don't think there are any fish to show you how to do this." Guess what happened??



Super Guide Scott with a nice and unexpected Yellowstone Cutt.

Watching Scott land a fish where there weren't any got me going. I was all in on the Beldar Conehead. I grabbed the rod, went back to where the fish were, and the first cast performed the Sweebe Flick perfectly. As I stripped it in, Scott is cheering me on. "Strip that thing FAST!! Got ta get 'em excited!!" First cast came in, no takers....except for the HUGE fish that followed it in and was waiting, looking for it where I had pulled it back to recast. Scott yelled to me "He

wants to eat the damn thing, put it back over there." Ok, I swung it back and guess what, that fish inhaled the fly. I don't think I have ever seen anything like that. Oh, well, no one ever accused Cutthroats of being smart.



First of many Yellowstone Cutts that LOVE the Beldar Conehead!

As I fished this heavy streamer, I gradually began to learn to just flick that thing out there. The faster the snap of your wrist and the less muscle applied, the farther it shot out there. I was actually appearing to be somewhat competent at casting a fly rod. Frightening thought!! It became evident that these fish liked to follow the fly and hammer it when it got to the shallows and slowed or stopped. I found out that they like to hammer it whenever it stops after being stripped rapidly.



Another beautiful Beldar lover!! I hope to catch its parental unit!!!

So as we fished along, I was becoming a real believer in Beldar and his Conehead. I was wondering just how well this fly would work. It didn't take that long to find out. The next fish may have been my best of the trip. Beautiful colors and big....Really Big!!! Whether this streamer really came from the Planet Remulak or not, these Yellowstone Cutts certainly enjoyed consuming mass quantities' of it!!!



Holy Cow!!!! This fish must be from... 'France'??

I usually try to smile when I take a picture with a fish. When I saw this one, I kind of freaked out, when I actually held it and felt the weight and power of this amazing creature, I just couldn't think to pose. I was in awe. What a feeling when I let that fish's tail slide out of my hand and watched him slowly make his way back home. Every time I think of this moment, I'm taken back to Yellowstone and my friends and fishes. I do love that place!!!

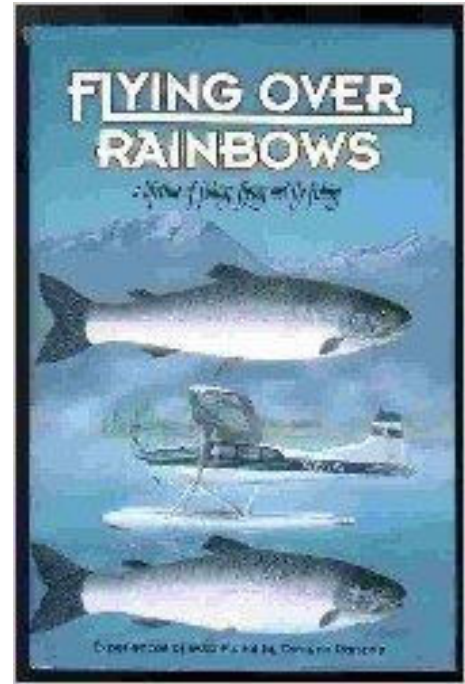


Beldar Conehead, Cali style!!

So after I got home and started thinking of fishing again, I wanted to tie my own Beldar fly. I added a soft hackle to the head, but I may go back to the original version. I'm not sure why I changed it in the first place. Either I thought it had it originally, or I just did like I normally do and added something I like. I've had some success on this fly, nothing like in Cody. I'll keep at it. A memory like this is worth whatever it takes to keep it fresh and alive. The truth is, every time I tie a Beldar Conehead, I can hear Scott apologizing for catching a fish where there aren't any. That's ok, Scott, can we go to another place where there aren't any fish??? Maybe Remulak...I mean 'France'!! Blue Skies and Fishy Flies.....

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Flying Over Rainbows

A Lifetime of fishing, flying, and fly fishing

Experiences of Buzz Fiorini by Dwayne Parsons

Keokee Co. Publishing, Inc., Sandpoint, ID

Published 1999

128 pages

The dust jacket of the book shows the Experiences of Buzz Fiorini by Dwayne Parsons. I am not entirely clear as to what this means as far as authorship, but the stories and character that comes from reading the book is Buzz Fiorini.

Buzz Fiorini was quite a character and enthusiastic about fly fishing and flying. From the book, it seems obvious that Buzz was enthusiastic about one-ups-manship. In the early 1940's when Buzz moved to Seattle, he embraced fishing and fly tying. As his fishing and fly tying improved (together it seemed), the interest in other fishermen to have the same flies that caught the large fish lead Fiorini to start a fly tying business. In the same time frame, an interest in flying resulted in a pilot's license and the opportunity to find new waters to fish in WA thanks to the capabilities of a float plane. In addition to acquiring Fiorini's flies, other fishermen were interested being on the water and learning, so a guiding service was started. The guiding started in 1946 when Boeing was on strike.

The fishing in the waters around Seattle was good, but thanks to a client who was looking for something 'really different', Fiorini headed to Canada. To the native population living in the coastal part of British Columbia, the fishing and the environment was well known, but to the outsider, the Skeena River drainage was a fishermen's dream come true. The fish were large and plentiful. The rivers were large enough to land a float plane. Clients were willing to pay for the exclusive privilege. Among the well paid business executives of the time (who knows, probably the same today), the bragging rights to fish in these

exclusive areas with spectacular results lead Fiorini to have enough clients to operate a successful guiding service with no advertising cost. The business development / marketing portion of Boeing heard of Fiorini's success (most likely he told them) and his new title became Tour Director. The Tour director would fly the Boeing clients to portions of the river where the local guides would provide fishing services. This arrangement was a unique situation that continued with the concurrence of Canadian officials until someone voiced a concern. The regulations were adopted that non-Canadians could still fly in, but the privilege of 'touring' was taken away. The touring allowed the spotting of the trophy fish, so things were changing.

Several other factors were slowly coming into play to change this exclusive fishing arrangement. Roads (think dirt logging) were slowly being constructed so access would not be limited to float planes. John Fennelly was so impressed with the area, and wrote a book about the Skeena River drainage. Much to Fiorini's chagrin, the information about the superb fishing was spreading and, as expected, the fishermen came. Well, the good old boy's arrangement was due to come to an end at some point in time, or at least transform itself. One of the arrangements was to have a luxury yacht, in this case owned by John Wayne, to serve as the base camp (no need to sleep in a tent), and use the float plane to fly to locations where the fish had been spotted. In recent times I have seen advertisements for similar (pricey) arrangements in Patagonia, but I didn't realize the practice dated back to the 50's.

Fiorini showed little hesitation to list his famous clients (they have since passed) so the tales show the gossip page view of a lifestyle that was practiced by a select few. The impact of fishing on the migratory fish was appreciated by Fiorini and he was adamant about catch and release techniques to maintain the stocks of fish. With his long involvement in fly fishing, Fiorini was involved with many of the equipment designs and flies that are part of the current fishing culture. The story was Fiorini's to tell, so his preference was for tales and pictures with folks like John Wayne and Bing Crosby.

For those with an interest in the Skeena River drainage or how fishing has changed due to greater number of anglers on the water, this book complements other books that cover the same area. It was entertaining and Buzz's personality comes roaring through.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



C.J. Bug
By Charles Jardine

Freshly inspired by the visit of Charles Jardine to last month's Southwest Council of the International Federation of Fly Fisher's Faire in Bishop, we will tie up one of Charles' own creations. Now, Charles can provide inspiration in many ways. He is extremely energetic and passionate about the sport of fly fishing for any age, let alone for his advanced years. Charles inspires others (including his English Youth Fly Fishing Team) to be better stewards of the waters we fish, to make longer, more precise casts, to tie more attractive flies, but it was his devotion to the future of not only fisher's in the world, but to the future of human beings and their personal development and exposure to nature and the Maker through fishing that was most inspiring.

Charles made a personal request of all those in attendance to take some time out for others, especially the youth of the world. Try to set some of your own personal time on the water aside for the next generation or those in need, whether it's your child, niece/nephew, a neighborhood friend, a church acquaintance, a veteran, etc. I find it strange that many people I know do not take their children fishing with them, even on occasion. It only takes a small amount of your time and effort to entertain a youth on the water and believe it or not, most of them don't even need to fish the whole time. Just taking them outside is the first step to building a strong foundation of enjoying and respecting nature and more often than not your time spent will be much more rewarding, in the moment and in the future, by taking a youth with you. You may even end up with a fishing partner that out fishes you on a regular basis.

So, back to Charles' Bug..... This is a general purpose fly with enough of an overall representation of many freestone mayfly and caddis nymphs that it is great addition to any freestone fisher's box.

Tie some up throw'em in your box.....and take someone fishing!!!!



My niece Savannah with her dad on the South Fork of the Kern when she was only 2 years old. Savannah first joined us for fishing hikes when she was just 6 months. She always enjoyed touching (petting) the fish with her finger when she was younger before we released them. :)



Savannah, with her buddy Django, on the South Fork of the Kern River. Just hanging out enjoying nature!!



Savannah at 11 sticking a double on the Lower Owens (smile says it all)!!!



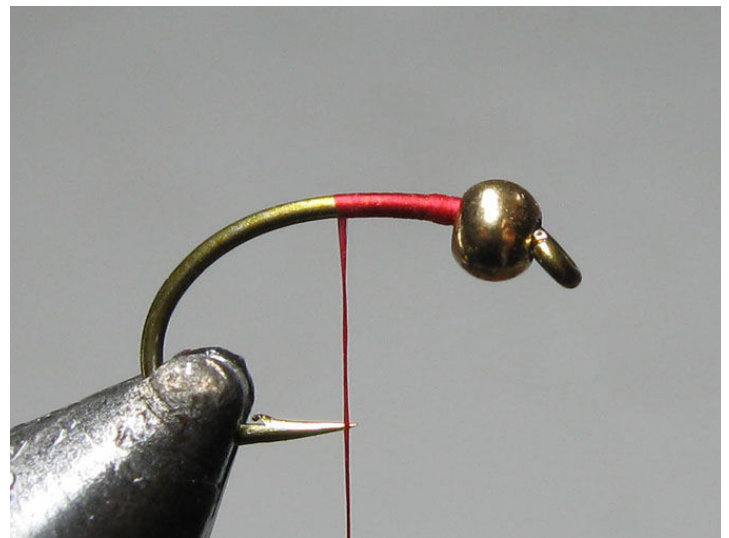
...and Savannah again this last summer at 17 years, out fishing dad on Lake Crowley.:)

Tutorial excerpts are taken directly from "Flies, Ties, and Techniques" by Charles Jardine. Any italicized print is added for clarity.

Materials:

Hook: Curved grub (*caddis*) light wire 10-16 threaded with a brass or tungsten bead
Thread: Red 8/0 or 70 denier
Tail: None
Rib: Copper wire (fine/small)
Back: Medium pearl Mylar (2-4 *strands of Flashabou will work*)
Body: Hare's mask well mixed with some strands of orange and amber fur or Antron (90% natural, 10% color)
Thorax: Red thread and a small collar of peacock Ice Dub

Tying Instructions:



1. *Debarb hook and insert into vise.* Thread the hook with a suitable bead and then wind a layer of touching thread turns along the shank.



2. Tie in the CDC at the bead area and then work in the rib, followed by the pearl Mylar. Ensure that the Mylar is situated on the top of the shank and maintains this position throughout the initial stages.



3. Carry the thread all the way around the hook bend and begin the dubbing rope in the now "approved" and familiar fashion.



4. Dub the body up to the thoracic area and then bring the Mylar back over the fly. The back tends to slide one way or another, but try to situate exactly in the center.



5. This job will be made a great deal easier when you start winding the wire rib. Keep the turns even and fairly open. Aim to place five or six turns along the shank. Make sure your winding pressure does not take the Mylar to the far side of the hook.



8. The finished fly should look like this-a little!

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

No report submitted this month.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

During the "Thanksgiving Season" it's easy to reflect on all that we have in regards to family, friends and opportunities in life. We are reminded of it even more so when we come together to share a day of feasting, overindulging and football. God I love Thanksgiving!

Another thing that I think we need to be mindful of and thankful for is our opportunity to share this amazing sport of fly fishing, especially because we all share the stunning fishery that is the Kern River. We as a club are so very fortunate to have this wonderful river as our home waters. And although we typically want stretches of the river to ourselves while we enjoy our sport, most of us are also happy to spend time on the water with the many friends we have gained through our participation in the SSFFC and those that are eager to learn about this amazing sport. As described by Rob Buhler in his article about the C.J. Bug, it is vitally important to share our sport with the next generation. We all remember and are thankful to those that taught us!

Here's to wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and hoping that many of us will be able to share a stretch of the Kern sometime soon!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



6. Trim excess wire, and now merely wind the CDC; it will look fluffy and funny and ungainly, but don't worry. It's what it looks like in the water that counts.



7. Form a small thorax in front of the hackle with the thread wraps, followed by a small amount-maybe two or three turns-of Ice Dub.



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