



# Ring of the Rise

October 2016



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

September was a busy month for the Club. We had the Kern Pride Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> in the morning with an afternoon fly tying class with the Buhler Bros. That evening we had Crowley Lake guide Ernie Gulley give a very informative Stillwater presentation on fishing Crowley. The next morning Randy Skidgel taught a group of members Spey Casting. We are fortunate to have Randy bring a few of his spey rods and teach an enthusiastic group the magic art of spey casting. There are separate articles following covering each of these events.

In about a month, SSFFC will be hosting the SWC Inter-Club Tourney on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the fly fishing competition amongst other SWC clubs to determine bragging rights for a year. The rules of the competition have become even more relaxed. You are no longer assigned to beats. There will be approximately one mile sections for one competitor from each team to fish. This will allow each competitor to fish the type of water they like and to access the river where they are the most comfortable. So each team will field a member into Section A, one into Section B, etc. Each team will consist of 5 members. Clubs from Carson City down to San Diego participate in this fun tournament. We've had up to 14 teams participating and Casting for Recovery is the defending champions from last year.

Attending the banquet dinner is always exciting as they announce where you ended in the competition and the winners are announced. It's a time to meet members from other clubs and a great overall social gathering. Please let me know if you would like to participate on the SSFFC team by emailing me at [haramic@aol.com](mailto:haramic@aol.com)

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the night before the Inter-Club Tourney, SSFFC holds the Kids Academy Poker night. We play Texas Hold'em Poker and award the top 3 players. This event is our fund raiser for our Kids Academy. Buy-in is only \$25 and since it's a fund raiser, you can buy-in as many times as you wish until the final table starts. Since this is held the night before the Inter-Club Tourney, members from other clubs also participate in this worthy event. This will be held at Ewings with social hour starting at 6:00 pm and cards starting to fly at 7:00 pm. Play all night and help our Kids Academy.

On October 14-16 the SWCFFF Fly Fishing Faire will be held at the Bishop Fair Grounds. There are over 100 classes-presentations from casting, fly tying and misc. Many of the instructors are nationally known experts. The

Vendor Hall alone is worth visiting with many of the equipment manufactures present, along with many artists displaying fly fishing art. Visit their website for additional information:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1826750>

We are in prime time for fishing the Kern River. Now is the time to fish the Kern River with all the summer time crowds gone and water at ideal conditions. See Guy Jeans fishing reports for the latest information. Get out there and do what we love to do.....wet that fly and catch some fish!!!!

*Chiaki*

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

**20-Mile Section of the Kern** (*From Kern River Fly Shop to Johnsondale Bridge*)

Crowds are gone!!!

What a great time to fish! Fly fishers fishing the 20 mile section of the north fork are still doing excellent on late evening hatches of Caddis and various Mayfly imitations. During the day use a big Attractor Dry Fly with a Tungsten nymph below. Flows are down and folks are wading the river and having a good time fishing the pocket water runs and riffles. Best to use a dry/dropper and fish further up on the 20 mile stretch. The higher you go, the cooler the water. Temperatures are dropping down to the low 50s in the evening and mid 80s throughout the day. You will experience temperatures 25 degrees cooler in the upper elevations. Feels like we are getting ready for our Fall fishing season! Very exciting.

**4 Mile Wild Trout Section** (*Above Johnsondale Bridge 4 miles*)

*Special regulations- No BAIT OR BARBS on your hooks.*

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 BH Chartreuse Copper Johns in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, Copper Johns sizes 18-22, Pheasant Tails sizes 16-18, Tungsten Teddy's size 12, Olive WD40's Size 20-22.

You can also swing the Soft Hackle PMD's size 16 and the natural BH Hares Ear size 20.

The biggest Stoneflies in the world reside here and fishing the flies that imitate them can get you some great fights.

The wild trout fly fishing here is world class and the dry fly fishing legendary. This area is a must for the in-shape backpacker/adventurer/fly-fisher.

Here's a secret for more catching more fish at the Forks of the Kern.

Tie on a Rio Suppleflex 9ft 5x leader with about 3 feet of Rio Suppleflex 6x tippet on the end. You can put on a Stalcup's Hopper Tan size 10, Stalcup's Cricket size 12, T-Bug Black size 12 or a T-Bug Hopper size 12. After you tie on one of those flies, pull out a 3 foot piece of Powerflex 7x tippet and tie it to the hook shank with a BWO Pullover size 22 or a Drymerger Baetis size 24 on the end of that. Cast those flies up stream in the pocket water, get a good drag-free drift and keep a stealthy position so they don't see you. This should give you more success. Other great top water flies are the Para X Black size 8, Para X Peacock size 12, Para X Royal size 12, Para X Orange size 12, Para X Yellow size 6 and the Black Stimulator size 12-14.



### **South Fork of the Kern**

The South Fork of the Kern River is a special fishery and is home to our states freshwater fish, the Golden Trout. It is

also home to the predatory non-native Brown trout who considers the small golden trout a tasty treat.

A great fly to use on the South Fork of the Kern is the Parachute Adams size 22. Please use barbless hooks on these waters.

### **Lower Kern** *(Below Lake Isabella) fishing excellent!*

Major Caddis hatch around 7 pm. 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 excellent for bass right now. Use big flies like White Jawbreakers, poppers or various bass flies to get into these fish. Guy Jeans' guided fly fishing for bass clinics have become very popular and he does them weekly. Great fly rod to use on the lower Kern for bass is a 9 foot 6wt or 7wt Redington Vapen Black, Redington Behemoth 7/8 Reel and a Rio Small Mouth Bass Fly Line.

### **Tributaries of the Southern Sierra** - Open!

The small creeks are great for Tenkara fly fishing.



### **Lake Isabella**

Lake Isabella is not fishing well with the warmer temps and algae bloom. Stay out of this water till lake water temperatures drop.

As a reminder, the fishing reports are available in video format on Facebook and can be accessed via the shop's website at <http://www.kernriverflyfishing.com/>

*Guy*





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**Conservation Report:** by Tim Michaels

No report submitted this month.

*Tim*

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**Outings Report:** by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)

After enjoying the excellent presentation from Crowley Lake guru Ernie Gulley for the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> in Kernville, it was a “no brainer” to visit Crowley armed with a little more insight to the underwater world of one of California’s grandest fisheries.

My brother Ryan and I thought midweek that we would be the only SSFFC members to attend the unofficial outing, but Sergio Martinez and first time Crowley fisher Ryan Spanel jumped aboard at the last minute. We all met at the Crowley Marina gate early Saturday morning, rented a couple of boats and headed to the North Arm of the lake to join the already gathering boats and tubers in the North Landing area. We anchored up in a spot near the group of anglers and proceeded to have a very slow first hour. A couple of boat moves and fly changes, then we started getting steady takes and bringing fish to the boat. An Albino Baron variation was getting fish early, and then several grey patterns worked well as the midge hatch increased in the late morning.



Ryan Spanel and I were on the same boat and all Ryan wanted for the day was his first cutthroat trout. Late in the morning his wish was granted with a beautiful 16” Lahontan Cutthroat trout. Not long after he was netting his personal best trout, a very clean and healthy 19” brown trout! Not finished with his epic day, he later hooked, netted and bested his one hour old personal best, with a fat and gorgeous 21” cutty!



Of course Ryan and I were armed with our special fish whistles, but mine just wasn’t bringing in the big fish. I lost my lone 20” fish right at the boat before netting. Sergio had his own call, often singing “Baby Come Back” after missing a take and was regularly rewarded quickly afterward with another grab. I may have to try that next time!





It seemed like all had a great day on the water! Sergio headed home to catch the final home Vin Scully game at Dodger Stadium on Sunday. Ryan Spanel left early Sunday morning to get back with family, so Ryan Buhler and I went back to the lake on Sunday morning a bit deeper into the north arm near the Owens River inlet and had a very nice bite through early afternoon with many newly planted stockers and a couple of fish over the 20" mark.



*Rob*

**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)

We had another great fly tying class on the afternoon of Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. The class was taught by the Buhler Bros., Rob and Ryan. The class was in preparation for that night's guest speaker, Ernie Gulley presenting Crowley Lake.

The focus of the fly tying class was still water midges. The class consisted of tyers of various experience levels, from beginners to intermediates, so people worked on basic stuff, midges and other stuff. The Buhler Bros have the knowledge and experience to teach at all the different levels and are able to teach tying techniques on a wide range of flies. Their teaching is so easy to understand and we are fortunate to have them as instructors.

Amy Kileen baked them a blueberry pie, which they shared with the class. It was a pies and flies afternoon.





Ernie Gulley was our guest speaker at our Sept 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. He is probably the top guide for Crowley Lake and stillwater nymphing. Ernie gave an excellent presentation on how to fish Crowley and all his effective techniques. His presentation was very detailed, covering everything from rigging flies, the different areas to fish and when to fish them. I found his information on what to do when you're not catching fish the most useful. He went through his 3 step process in great detail. His updated Power Point presentation gave additional visual aids to his explanations. Overall, this was one of the best presentations on "How to Fish Stillwater".

On Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, our long time member, Randy Skidgel gave beginner Spey casting lessons to an enthusiastic group of Club members. Randy supplied the spey rods and explained how they differ from regular fly rods and fly fines.

The class then set up on a very wide section on the Kern River. Randy taught the group various casting techniques from the single spey, reverse double spey and the snap t. Soon the class looked like Jedi Masters with their saber Spey Rods casting beyond the far bank. Thank you Randy for the great spey casting class!!



*Chiaki*

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

### **Big Things, Little Packages**

Have you ever considered that all awesome fish we catch don't need to be big to be memorable? There is something about fish that LIVE in the water we catch them in. I don't mean they live there for now, I mean they live 'there', as in their parents and grandparents lived there, eating the same bugs and hopefully dry flies that they have just eaten. There are many of those places all around the country, especially the west and even right here, close to home. This fish was caught in a small water near Bishop.



I was on a trip with my friend John Stanberry. The target fish were the big Alpers trout that had recently been stocked in the lakes near Mammoth. John stopped by this place as a side trip and for me; it was the highlight of the weekend.

There is something dear to my heart about the little wild Brookie (There is also something near and dear to my heart about BIG Brookies, but that's a different story for a different day!!)

I sometimes can't sleep thinking of these small wild waters in big wild places. I can't stop thinking of the amazing vistas that hold the wonderful little waters that shelter these treasures within. There are many times I think that there is nothing better than a stream full of these Brookies eagerly attacking a dry fly.

Very little in life is better than that.





*Lower, Lower Owens Jewelry*

Trout aren't the only wild species we can explore for and catch on a fly. A few years ago, a friend and I ventured to a small lake nearby looking for some Bass. We, for some reason, (he didn't mention it) didn't take our float tubes with us. The small pond we were at was surrounded by tulies, except for a couple places. So, undaunted, we tried to find a Bass dumb enough to come to the only place we could get to and be caught. We never did catch one, but there were an abundance of bluegill that appeared with the first fly. These little wonders prove that you don't have to be a trout to display the vivid colors of the rainbow.

I had one of the most enjoyable days of my fishing life catching these spunky little fighters. Don't tell them they are just another little fish. They think they are top of the food chain tough, and they are. They fight and scrap with the best of fishes and the very best part is, one will take a dry, while their buddy takes the nymph. If there is anything better than catching a fish on a dry fly with almost every cast, it is catching two fish at a time with almost every cast!! I don't know how many of these small wonders we caught, I do remember I took the sharp hooky part of the fly off, there being no need to actually stick any more fish and still managed to catch and release a few. They would just hold on until you took the fly out and gently placed them back into the water. That day certainly was a big surprise wrapped in a small package, well, many small packages.



*The only thing better than a Bluegill eating dry flies is two Bluegill eating flies!!*



*Sierra Gold*

We are very fortunate to have nearby, the real Golden treasure of the Sierras. There is no right of spring more enjoyable to me that my annual trek to the home of the Golden's. To me, nothing compares with catching these amazingly colorful fish. For little fish in a small stream, Golden's can be more difficult to catch that many would believe. High water helps, but if you miss that, these are some spooky critters in low clear water. Still, with a little effort and stealth, they happily will attack a dry fly, or maybe a small midge, either is worth the effort.

Catching aside, Golden Trout live in beautiful places. Even if catching is difficult, it warms my heart and rejuvenates my spirit feeling the warm high altitude sun, breathing in the fragrant pines that fill the mountain sides. Maybe you are lucky enough to be fishing near a pile of melting snow, a promise of good fishing all summer.



I know that there is a time and place for everything. Solomon said that "For everything there is a season." That certainly is true. There are times and places where the bigger fish take center stage. There are times and places that the really big fish create memories that we never could or want to forget. I enjoy fishing for all fishes. Certainly, like everyone else, I enjoy catching big fish. I just need to remind myself sometimes that fish don't need to be big to be memorable. Many of the happiest days I have spent fishing have been in the pursuit of these small wild fish. It absolutely is true that, Big Things come in Small Packages!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

*Allen*

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



## Wild Trout

by Michael Carl

An eBook or available in print by demand.

Published by Michael Carl

90 pages

*An eBook, a new reading option for me. See notes at the end for purchase options.*

Michael Carl selected 10 streams from the California list of Wild and Heritage Trout Streams and highlighted the descriptions with his personal photographs. This book is also the first book review where I succumbed to operator error. I was excited to have the book and was excited about seeing which of the streams had been ones I had already fished and which were on my list of places to go to. Well, I guess I was a little too excited since I ignored a large portion of the written material. Afterward, as I was composing my thoughts for the review, my recollection was for nice photography and a comparison to my personal checklist. Oops, a second read gave the book the attention it deserved.

The Wild and Heritage Trout program of the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife is an excellent program that strives to preserve trout in a setting where the fish are self-sustaining populations and open to a higher degree of angling pleasure than most of the put and take waters. In addition, the areas surrounding the streams are generally more of a wilderness type setting. Good for the fish and good for the angler.

The history of most water is significant to the DFW designation and relevant details are present by Michael Carl. For example, the Cantara railroad spill on the Upper Sacramento River had a significant effect on the fisheries, but has recovered well and in part due to the wild trout program (and lack of hatchery fish stocking). All the streams have their history and the author presents enough to give a feel for the area.

Michael Carl is also an enthusiastic and accomplished photographer. Scenes from the streams give an idea of what to expect. Detailed photographs show some of the significant bugs (that are fish food) and likely flies to use.

The book is not a complete guide to the streams. The book should do a fine job of entertaining the reader in a comfortable chair and more likely to have the angler think about planning and seeing the streams in person. I look forward to more visits with a fly rod in hand.

The eBook is available from three sources. Amazon sells a print on demand copy at \$53.99 (the cost of custom book printing). Apple iTunes has an iBook version that can be purchased at \$3.99. The final source is Google Play where



a PDF version can be purchased for \$3.82 and read on Web or desktop with Adobe Reader.

As a traditional book reader, I enjoyed the electronic version. I am far from being a digital convert, however.

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

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



### **Tying and Buying Tips for Bucktails**

Last month at the SSFFC tying class in Kernville some of us brushed up our techniques on the Clouser Minnow. What we found out is that there are different types/grades of bucktail and that taking a closer look prior to purchase or requesting specific features when placing online or phone orders can really make a difference in how the material ties in and fishes.

Many bucktails on the market have very straight and stiff hairs. While some tyers may prefer this hair for specific patterns, the Clouser Minnow is much more effective with soft and “wavy” hairs, in my opinion.



Take a look at two completely different bucktails: straight fibers on the left and wavy to the right.



In this picture I have cleaned and prepared 30 bucktail fibers for tie in. You can see that they lie very straight and let very little light penetrate through the clump.





Here you can see the same amount of 30 wavy fibers. This bunch creates the illusion of a larger silhouette by using less material and also allows light penetration (translucency) that is common to most baitfish. With these wavy fibers you use less material to create the same profile which saves not only money, but also makes the tie in easier with less bulk on the shank.



You can see with this finished Clouser that the wing is nicely formed with the wavy fibers and has a nice sense of translucency.

Next time that you are purchasing bucktail, take a closer look or make a special request if purchasing online and I think you will be much happier with the results at your vise and in the water.

*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)*

Let's see..... fewer crowds on the river, Kids Academy Poker Night and the Inter-Club Tourney, yep the fall season is officially here! It's time to get out and enjoy everything the season has to offer.

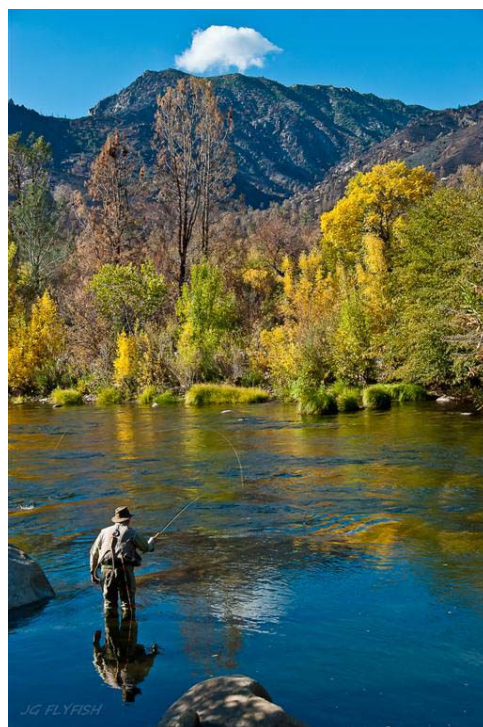
With the onset of fall, the days will get cooler, as will the water, and the fish will be feeding later into the day. Gone will be those concerns of fishing just in the morning or late in the afternoon. Less crowds, which translates to the possibility of having an amazing stretch of water all to yourself, and longer fishing periods.... yes please!

As we get later into the season, for me at least, it gets so much better. I really enjoy the changing of the colors in the trees along the river. It's like Mother Nature wants to throw you a bone before the winter seeps in. The drive up the river gets more spectacular with the vibrant colors and the whole environment seems to get more peaceful and quieter. You park the car, get into your gear, select your flies and step into the river. The whole process being overseen by the remarkable scenery all around you.

As fly fishing is such an introspective sport, it seems that fall is the perfect season for the fly fisher. The heat and activity of the summer, and the crowds it brings to the river, are gone. Things seem to "get back to normal." The pace of life changes and gives the angler an opportunity to take a breath and to reflect back on what the past year has had to offer. Could there be any more perfect place to do that than standing in a river, hearing the sounds of the moving water, with all the colors of the season surrounding you? Add to that a slight breeze rustling those golden, orange and red leaves. Perfect. To my way of thinking there is nothing better and no place I would rather be.

Whether or not fall is your personal favorite season, I hope you are able to spend time on the river and enjoy what this season has to offer.

Tight Lines, *Gary*



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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Use Club Affiliation code 99792

