

Ring of the Rise

September 2015

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Chiaki Harami (haramic)

SSFFC participated in the Kern Valley Pride Day for the first time. In past years we had a date conflict with our Rendezvous or other fly fishing events occurring on the same day. There were no date conflicts this year. The Pride day is sponsored by Thomas Refuse Service and many Kern Valley organizations participate in this trash collection challenge.

I wanted to hold a fly fishing club challenge amongst the three local fly fishing clubs: SSFFC, Aguabonita FF (Ridgecrest) and Kern River FF (Bakersfield). We had only 3 club members participating, Aguabonita had 4 and Kern River FF had approximately 12. Needless to say, we came in last place. However, with these additional 19 people cleaning up the trash on the 20 mile section of the upper Kern, the river looked much better.

Keith Pengilley and I started collecting trash at Chico Flats. We quickly discovered that trash is usually very close to the parking areas and roadside. It appears these trash criminals do not like to carry their trash too far away from their vehicles. I did take a quick little trip down to the riverside, found a few campers but not trash. The Keepers of the Kern have been doing an excellent job cleaning the undeveloped areas. After 90 minutes of picking up trash, Chico Flats looked much cleaner. You know the clean feeling you have, after taking a nice shower following a hot sweaty day? I had the exact same feeling looking at Chico Flats after our clean up. Funny, Keith felt the same way.

We continued picking up trash above Hospital Flats for another hour and soon it was time to weigh in our trash at French Gulch Campground. Keith and I collected 6 full bags of trash in approximately 3 hours. The sponsors provided lunch and a tie dyed t-shirt for all the participants. We met the other fly clubs at weigh in and compared our totals. Kern River Fly Club won the trash collection challenge, but the real winner was a clean Kern River.

I want to personally thank Aguabonita FF and Kern River Fly Club for their participation in the Kern Valley Pride Day.

SSFFC is hosting the SWC Inter-Club Tournament on November 7th. This will be the 6th annual and we have won it 4 out of the previous 5 years. The tourney is not a real competition, but a chance to meet members from other Clubs and to get together with friends. There are a lot of fun members from other clubs: Deep Creek, Pasadena, Fresno, Carson City, Sierra Pacific and others. This tournament is such a fun time with all the trash talk and teasing. Please let

me know if you are interest in competing on one of the SSFFC teams.

The night before the SWC Tourney, Friday November 6th, we will be holding the Kids Academy Poker Night. This is our fund raising event to finance our kids as they learn how to fly fish. The Kids Academy is one of our most important projects. It will be held at the Kernville Hatchery and approximately 15 kids participate. The date is yet to be determined, but it's always a fun and rewarding event. It helps to ensure the future of our sport, fly fishing. Please come out to the Kids Academy Poker night, have a fun time, win some prizes and fund our kids' school of fly fishing.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

<u>Upper Kern (20 mile section)</u> The fishing in this section is not great at this time. River flows are excellent for wading though. Water temperatures in this section are fluctuating between 58 and 64 degrees. If you fish in this section, fish at first light till 10am for best action. Major BWO and Midge hatches around 8am to 10am.

Upper Kern (4 mile - Wild Trout Section) Even though there is a drought, the flows here are perfect. The wild trout in the 4 mile section are doing very well and there are lots of them. Fish are averaging from 10 to 14 inches with an occasional bigger fish. Special fishing regulations exist in this section of the Kern. No bait fishing is allowed and no barbs on your hooks. Water temps cooler here! Water temperatures are 50-60 degrees. Fly Fishing is excellent!

<u>Upper Kern (Forks of the Kern)</u> Special fishing regulations exist in this section of the Kern. No bait fishing is allowed and no barbs on your hooks. All fish caught over 10 inches must be released. <u>Only 2 fish 10 inches or smaller can be kept in this section.</u> Water temperatures are 50-55 degrees.

<u>Lower Kern (Lake Isabella Dam to Democrat)</u> Not good for trout but <u>excellent for bass fly fishing</u>. Water temperature is 70 degrees.

<u>Lower Kern (Democrat to Kern Canyon Entrance)</u> Fantastic fly fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass at this time.

<u>Lower Kern (Kern Canyon Entrance to Oildale)</u> Fantastic fly fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass at this time. Water Temperature 70 degrees.

<u>South Fork of the Kern</u> This fork of the Kern River is too low to fish this season.

<u>Tributaries of the North Fork Kern River</u> The small streams that feed the north fork Kern river are very low and not fishing them is recommended to protect the fishery.

<u>Lake Isabella</u> The lake is very low, but the fly fishing is excellent for largemouth bass and ok for Carp on a fly.

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. - Garv

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

http://www.acidrod.com/



Club Meeting & Activities: by Chiaki Harami (haramic)

There will be no scheduled General Meeting in October. The next meeting will be the Inter-Club Tournament on November 7th.

The Southwest Council of FFF Inter-Club Tournament will be held on Nov. 7th and SSFFC is the hosting Club. This will be the 6th annual and we've won the Tourney 4 out of the 5 years. We usually enter two teams but we'll see how many members are interested in competing. SSFFC membership is a requirement of participating on the teams.

The basic rules of the Tourney are: catch & release, take picture of your catch, use fly fishing equipment, you can use up to 3 flies at one time any distance apart, barbless hooks, flies must be fully dressed, indicators & split shots are OK to use. Fair hooked fish is in front of rear gill plate. Snagged or foul hooked fish does not count. There will be two fishing sessions, 2 hours in the morning & 2 hours in the afternoon, and you will be assigned a Beat in each session. Meet at the Fly Shop at 8 am for check in.

New this year is a section on the Lower Kern, fishing from float tubes for bass. There will be an Awards Banquet at Ewings starting at 6:00 pm. with a cost of \$31.00.

Each Team consists of 5 members. The 2 highest scores from last year's teams will be the team Captain for this year. If there is enough interest we will fill a 3rd team.

This event is tons of fun and you get to meet members from other clubs. If you're interested in participating, please email me at haramic@aol.com. Depending upon the number of responses, we will probably field another team.

The current team members are:

- 1. Teena Michaels
- 2. Tim Michaels (Tim980)
- 3. Andy (acorad)
- 4. Ants (Ants)
- 5. Ryan S. Team Captain
- 6. Adam (petundra)
- 7. Mark Fulkerson
- 8. Chris (Chris)
- 9. Sergio (skaguy)
- 10. Don Rogers (kernfisher)



The following flyers were sent by the Southwest Council FFF, providing opportunities to its members.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FLY FISHING FAIRE 2015

October 16 - 18, 2015 / Bishop, CA

The 2015 Southwest Council Fly Fishing Faire will take place October 16-18 at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop, CA. The new venue offers a tremendous increase in space for vendor displays, classes, entertainment, and food.

While the schedule remains fluid, an exciting array of seminars, events, and classes for beginner and experienced anglers alike will run throughout the weekend. Take in a high-country trout adventure, learn the basics of European Style Nymphing and Tenkara, or become acquainted with the IFFF's new fly tying award program, among many other activities. As always, certified instructors will offer casting classes, and world-renowned tiers will once again hold a series of fly tying programs.

For those family members in attendance who do not fish, a variety of classes will be offered on quilting, pastel painting, and gardening for drought-tolerant plants.

Programs -

ADDITIONS TO BE MADE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

Fly Tying with:

- Steven Fernandez
- Phil Therrien
- Naomi Okamoto
- Earl Arnold
- Bud Heintz

Fly Casting with:

- Dok Arvanites
- Mike McClay
- Tim Lawson
- John VanDerhoof
- Mark Allen

- Ed Berg Fishing Slovania
- Peter Pumphrey Hidden Fly Fishing Opportunities in the Eastern Sierra
- Dok Arvanites and Tim Lawson Introduction to the IFFF Certification Program
- Ed Swanson's Petroglyphs Class and Tour
- Bill Hammon's and the California Heritage Trout Challenge
- Jason Koop's class on IFFF Fly Tying Skills Bronze Award Program
- Chiaki Harami's all day rod building for beginners
- Freddie Ramirez on Fishing Tenkara
- Gary Gunsolley teaching European Style Nymphing
- Alex Cady's Warm Water Fishing in the Lower Owens
- Chris Leonard's high country adventure
- Maria Rivas' class and outing on Reading Trout Water for Beginners
- Leigh Ann Swanson's Knots and Rigs for Women as well as a Casting Class
- Aquabonita's free demonstrations of 'Kasting for Kids'
- Jill Field-Duerr Angling Fine Art
- Damian Ross Angling Ceramic Artist
- Ed Pounds Boy Scout Program
- Santa Lucia and Deep Creek Fly Fishers Beginning Fly Fishing classes

Non-Fly Fishing Events:

- Quilting Class
- Art/Pastel Painting class
- Gardening Class on drought tolerant plants

Online registration opens August 16th. Cost of admission is \$15. For more information and class registration, visit http://southwestcouncilfff.org/ or call 818-200-1499.



THE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

<u>The 23 Independent Clubs of Southern California and Southern</u>
<u>Nevada</u>

Contact Nicholas Blixt Telephone 413-575-2853

Email nicholasblixt@me.com

GOLDEN TROUT CONSERVATION RECEPTION/EXHIBITION

October 16, 2015 / Bishop, CA

The Southwest Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers will hold a reception and exhibition in celebration of the Golden Trout on Friday, October 16th, as part of the 2015 Fly Fishing Faire. The event will focus on celebrating over a half century of resource agency and volunteer efforts to protect California's official state fish, while highlighting an upcoming opportunity for public engagement on US Forest Service management strategies related to grazing on the Kern Plateau.

The Kern Plateau, the headwaters of the Kern River, is the only native range for the purest of golden trout. One of the biggest challenges in conserving this at-risk species is managing the impacts of livestock grazing, and coupled with the historic drought and a warming climate, these impacts deserve added attention. The Inyo Unit of the Forest Service is currently reviewing the four livestock grazing allotments on the Plateau, so the upcoming public comment period is an important time to advocate for this native species and ensure its survival in our region. Representatives from Trout Unlimited and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will also be on hand to discuss recovery efforts and opportunities to become involved.

The reception will take place at the Bishop Tri County Fairgrounds in the Patio Building. Beer, wine, and food will be served 3 - 6 PM, while the exhibits will remain on display through the remainder of the Faire.

Register online for the Faire at http://www.swc-fff.org/Faire.

Hopefully some of our club members will be able to take advantage of these opportunities being offered.

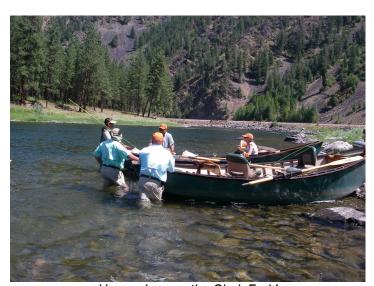
Chiaki

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

Not Again....

Every year, I go on a fishing trip. Every year, I tie a bunch of flies, a big bunch. This year, I decided not to tie a bunch of flies I probably will never use. I remember asking my mentor, Chuck Newmeyer about tying for a trip. Actually, if memory serves, we were at Hot Creek Ranch and Chuck happened to notice the flies I had with me. I told him I had tied a couple or four dozen for the weekend. I wasn't sure what I would need and wanted to have all my bases covered. Chuck explained to me that you never really know what you will need, even on familiar waters. He advised me to maybe tie a few, but since I have my tying kit with me, why not tie what the fish are taking when I get there. That seemed to make sense and I decided to do just that.

The first trip I really tied for was the week on the Clark Fork River in St. Regis, Montana. I didn't know what to tie, so I asked the lodge what I should have. They told me, "You know, the usual. Caddis, PMD's, a few attractors." Ok, way to be specific. So, by the time I got there, I had fifteen dozen in tow, I had it all. I didn't know what kind of Caddis so I looked up the chart in Fontaine's book and tied the entire thing. They said PMD's, but I wasn't sure what size, so I tied all the sizes I thought there were. I didn't know how to do the tails, so I just used bleached elk. I tied Royal Wulff's, Stimulators, Purple Haze, all by the dozen. In the end, it worked out. I guess God took pity on this poor stupid fly tier, because in a rough week of fishing, my flies did ok. At the end, the Montana guides wanted all I had left. That was quite a compliment to me.



Happy days on the Clark Fork!

That was the first of many trips all with way too many flies. Last year, on the Beaverhead, I did my normal thing and took a whole slew of flies. I had been told we were going to see Blue Wings and I wanted to be ready. I'm not sure exactly how many flies I took, including all the little scuds and stuff like that, but take my word for it, I had a lot. I still have plenty of flies, even after sending most of the Beaverhead stuff to the repair guys at Simms and the Winston Holy Land.

One evening, as I was emptying my fly box trying anything to get a fish to take one of my painstakingly tied flies, we ran into a nice older man with a well-used Winston Bamboo fly rod. His problem, he was catching way too many fish. "Just tie on a #20 Adams parachute. You don't even need a particularly good drift. Get it close to the fish." So, with all the flies I had tied, I searched and searched, no #20 Adams. I finally found one, tucked away in a hidden corner. Wow, that thing worked well, that is until the second fish decided I didn't need it anymore and took off with it. Life on the Beav!! Needless to say, I was up at 4:00am the next morning tying Adams Parachutes. I still have a bunch of those too.

This year, I decided things would be different. There's no reason I can't buy flies. Well, except for I usually do buy flies and then I decide I'd rather use my own. Then not only do I have the ones I tied, I also have the ones I bought. No matter, I'm not tying a bunch of flies this year.

So I call Mike Lawson's Henry's Fork Anglers. The fish are taking the usual stuff, PMD's, Blue Wings, but mainly Mahoganies. "Size 18, make sure to tie them very slightly, the bugs on the Henry's Fork are small, really small." Ok, at least now, I'm learning the right questions to ask. So, even though I had promised myself not to go crazy, I still need a few Mahoganies. I started out to tie a few basic parachutes. No worries, those are quick and easy. As I tied them, I wondered if I would need a few Emergers.... couldn't hurt. Those looked so nice, and they were fun to tie, I'll tie a few more of them. Nice flies!!!



My version of a mahogany Emerger

I was happy with my effort so far. I was keeping a nice fly limit going, when I got a call from my friend, Mike Stoner. Mike has a house near the Henry's Fork. I had given him a few of my Stims, he wanted to let me know how well they worked and to make sure I had a bunch to take. Oh no, I'm almost out of StimuRaiders. How can that happen??? So, off I go on another tying binge. The Stims always do it. I cranked out a few more than a couple dozen, then, thought I might as well tie some fresh Blue Wings. The several dozen I have on hand are old. I like new ones better. Anyway, Chris at Lawson's told me my flies needed to be slim; I can tie a few that are slimmer. I like to tie Blue Wings. The only thing I like better than tying Blue Wings is fishing them. I went through the several sizes of Parachutes I like to fish. Better tie a few more Threading Waters. Those are great in still water for sippers. I should have a couple spinners, I don't like the ones you buy, way too much wing. So, by now, you probably have guessed what happened. At last count, I'm just a few over seven dozen. Hey, I tried!!



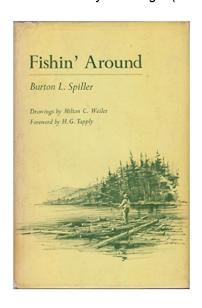
A bunch of flies, some big, some small, some smaller!!

I don't know why I have to tie so many flies for a trip. I'm pretty sure I'll tie a bunch while I'm there. I'll use some of them and I'll give some away. Still, I'll tie more. I think I like to tie flies. While I'm tying, I'm fishing. When I'm tying for a desired location, I get to fish there for a month before I get there. I can plot and scheme how to catch the fish. I can plan how I will put the big sneak on the little fishes. I have time to make the mental list of maps, gear and food. I can process my entire trip before I even go. I think it is a good thing to limit the number of flies you tie before a trip even if you don't really do it. I can't wait to get on the road and start this big adventure. Maybe I need a few Blue Wing Emergers. I have a few hours before I leave, I'd better hurry off and crank out a few!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Fishin' Around

By Burton L. Spiller Drawings by Milton C. Weiler Winchester Press, New York City, New York Published 1974 245 pages

Burton L. Spiller was born in Portland, Maine in 1886 and died in Rochester, New Hampshire in 1973. The earliest story was when Burton had just turned 18, and had school forever behind him and the great wide world in front of him. Well, at least as wide as 30 miles and a horse drawn buggy ride from home. The areas covered were Maine, and Nova Scotia and Quebec in Canada. The illustrations do a great job of adding a visual element to the writing. For me, those illustrations are infrequently found, so when I have a chance, I enjoy every one.

Spiller is an entertaining writer, providing perceptive reviews of fisherman behavior and an excellent chronology of fishing in the 1900's. Pure entertainment! Of course, the fish were one of the characters in the tales, but the antics of other folks and animals made it hard to figure who was the lead character.

Some of the other characters were the parson (although fishing with a parson was not a preferred companion), the 19-year Indian in Quebec, the mysterious fisherman who rowed to the magical spot in the lake where the underwater spring was located, and the animals that added their part to the entertainment.

The author was invited to the interior of Nova Scotia to fish and write about the opportunities for trout and landlocked salmon. The chief warden was invited to be his guide and host for portages. The distance from the put in point to good fishing was about 50 miles. For perspective, the similar good fishing in Maine would require a 50 year travel back in time to match the conditions. Out of curiosity, I located the area in Nova Scotia where they traveled. The author did not state when the trip was made, but when I traveled about 20 miles from the area in the early 1970's, I was surprised to find a pay crank telephone. The coin slots were present, but the operator was summoned by cranking a handle below.

The Kennebago area of Maine was described when it was first initiated as a catch and release (mostly) area for fishermen. The area is continuing the tradition and the fish are available to be caught (good news).

Throughout the tales, common themes for fly fisherman abound. Which is the best fly to use? Where should he go under variable conditions to catch fish? How much persuasion does it take to get a good fishing partner enthused enough to go?

Well, some aspects of fishing haven't changed from enjoying these tales. However, the sizes of the fish from 3-8 pounds for trout and landlocked salmon are rare for the current angler. But, the stories carry the torch for those that were not there.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



FRENCHIE

By Lance Egan

The Frenchie is a ridiculously productive and relatively new pattern that incorporates a bit of tradition with a bit of modern. It is yet another outstanding pattern based on the old classic, the Pheasant Tail Nymph. But Lance has taken it into the 21st century by adding the flashy, synthetic, wonder dubbing Ice Dub and incorporating a tungsten bead for extra weight. The profile remains slim like the PTN and the extra weight of the wire underbody and tungsten bead help it descend quickly, inspired by the rules of international competition fishing that requires fishing without weight (split shot) added to your leader. The Ice Dub comes into play with a flashy attractive thorax highlighted by a different thread color, creating a "hot spot" between the bead and thorax. The many colors of Ice Dub and tying thread make the variations virtually endless. This modern fly takes another step back into tradition being tied "in the round", meaning that it has the same appearance and profile when viewed from any side. The Frenchie is a simple yet very effective attractor pattern that deserves a spot in all trout fishers fly boxes.

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

Materials:

Hook: 1x or 2x long nymph 14-18(the most common sizes are 14-18, but that doesn't mean that a smaller or larger version won't be productive)

Bead: Gold Tungsten

Underbody: non lead wire

Thread: UTC 70 Fl. Fire Orange(sub as you choose)

Wire: Small Gold Ultra Wire

Tail: Coq De Leon(I substituted Teal Flank Feather)

Abdomen: Pheasant Tail

Thorax: UV Pink Ice Dub(sub as you choose)

Hot Spot: Thread

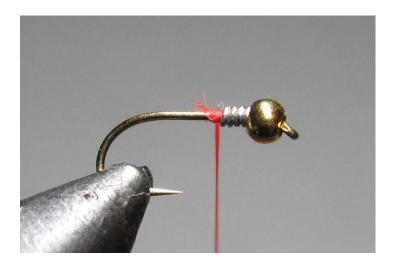
Tying Instructions:



1. Debarb hook, add bead and insert into vise.



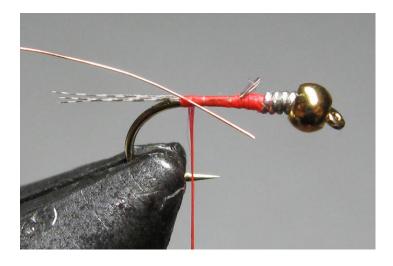
2. Add 7-8 wraps of wire. Hold the center in place while rotating one end until it breaks off. Repeat on other side.



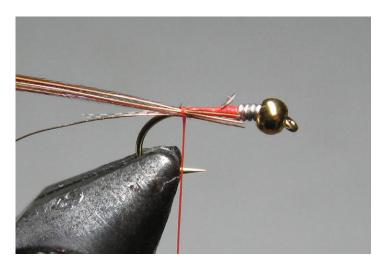
3. Slide wire into bead hole. Attach thread behind wire and build a small thread dam to hold wire in place.



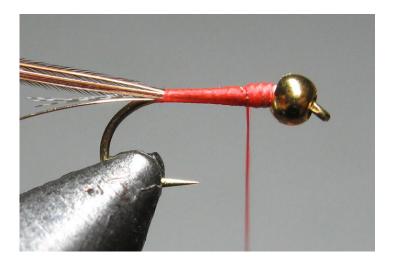
4. Select three fibers of coq De Leon or substitute and even tips. Measure ends to extend ½ to 1 full shank length beyond hook bend. Attach fibers behind the wire and wrap back toward the hook bend keeping materials atop the shank. Trim butts.



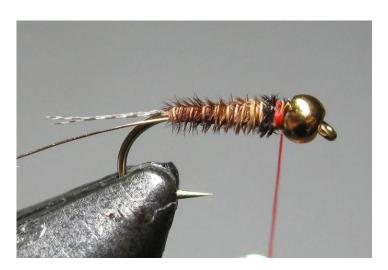
5. Attach wire with one thread wrap. Note placement of the end of the wire to taper body properly.



6. Select three (two if size 18 or smaller) pheasant tail fibers from the center plume. Align and trim just the top 1/8" to 1/4". Attach the tips of the pheasant tail fibers alongside the wire rib. Again, note the placement of the tips to keep a neatly tapered abdomen.



7. Wrap thread forward. Note the nicely tapered abdomen into the thorax area.



8. Keep the pheasant tail fibers even while wrapping forward through abdomen. Tie off at thorax behind bead and trim butts.



9. Wrap wire through abdomen with 6-8 evenly spaced wraps to secure pheasant tail fibers.



10. Add a small amount of Ice Dub to thread and dub thorax area.



11. Create "hot spot" collar with thread between the bead and thorax.



12. Add three half hitch knots or whip finish, trim thread and pick out thorax dubbing. Coat the thread wraps with your favorite head cement or CA glue.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

No report submitted this month.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Although we have seen the same type of news reports far too many times, the latest reported mass shooting by an obviously demented predator from within our society had a slightly different look to it. I don't know if it was just me, but as I was watching the overhead view of the Umpqua Community College and listening to the news reporters filling the airtime with ongoing speculation of what had transpired, based solely on small tidbits of information that had been passed on by escaping students, my attention was pulled to the view of the gorgeous stretch of the South Umpqua River that runs alongside the campus. How could this be that such terror and turmoil could take place right next to a location that most of us would find peace and tranquility in?

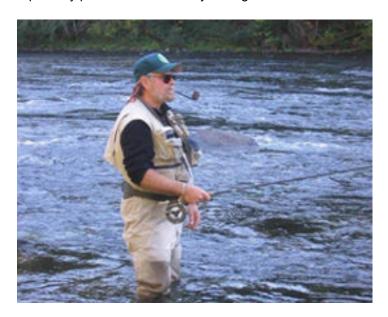
As the unending live reporting of the incident droned on, like most, I was waiting for the inevitable posting of the victim's pictures. We somehow need to see those pictures so we can get the full impact of the tragedy and of the lives cut short so we can offer our own personal thoughts and prayers for them.

When the pictures finally started to unfold across the screen, one of the pictures stood out. I noticed the picture of the teacher, Assistant Professor of English Lawrence Levine. Although the picture was cropped to just a head

shot, it appeared to me that it was a fishing picture. The water in the background, the ball cap, sunglasses and Croakies as well as what looked like possibly a vest, to me this looked like the reported initial victim was a fisherman, possibly a fly fisherman.



As more detailed reports of the victims have emerged I found out that Lawrence Levine was a guy most of us would probably enjoy spending time around. He lived in a cabin on the river, tended bar, taught in the college *and* was a fly fishing guide on the North Umpqua River. Of all the jobs he did, the photo chosen to share with the world was one of him engaging in his chosen sport of which we was reportedly passionate about. Fly fishing.



Like many, if not most to all of you, I have said some prayers for all of those lost so tragically and unexpectedly. They all have their own stories and we would probably find something in every one of them that we could relate to and enjoy sharing with them, but that first victim, he was a fly fisherman.

Tight Lines, Gary



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2014-2015

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Public Relations Co-Director	Kimberly Jeans	Kim@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
Public Relations Co-Director	Sergio Martinez	Skaguy04@gmail.com	



Proud to be a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Individual memberships available at www.fedflyfishers.org

Use Club Affiliation code 99792

