



Ring of the Rise

September 2016

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

We had an outstanding Club outing to fish the San Joaquin River and Crowley Lake last month. I've written a separate report in the Outing Section of our Newsletter. I hope many more members will consider participating in our Club Outings. They are always a blast and we always have a fun time.

Last month, we held a fund raiser for the Erskine Fire Victims. We were able to raise approx. \$1,000 through our raffle of a Redington fly rod and reel, fly line, box of flies, rubber landing net and a full day guide trip with Guy Jeans. Randy Skidgel was able to find a major sponsor for the prizes and the Club donated an amount to supplement the guide trip from ½ day to a full day. The winner of the raffle was the Pasadena Casting Club. Congratulations to PCC.

This summer is flying by. I didn't get a chance to do much Corbina fishing like last year. The last two days I went, I didn't see one Corbina. My usual beach was barren of Corbina. Last year, I had days where the surf was filled with Beans. They were doing headstands, riding the waves, playing in the skinny water, but catching them has always been a challenge. Two summers ago, I was lucky enough to catch 3, last year, I caught 2. This year, looks like I'm getting the goose egg, zip, zero, nada. However, there appears to be a strong correlation between the amount of time spent in the surf and the number of successful catches. I've spent the fewest number of days chasing Corbina this year. They are predictably unpredictable.

One day I met one of our club members at another beach. He had the most usual setups for Corbina – a 3 fly rigging using 50# leader material. When I first saw it, I thought he was crazy. I've lined countless corbina using 10# line. However, the 3 fly concept was very clever. Almost everyone uses just one fly when fishing for Corbina. Now I usually use two flies while nymphing, why not use 3 for corbina? Many times you'll see a few in the water or your cast may not be exactly on target. 3 flies was a very good solution. The 50# leader just helps the flies to remain separated. I watched him cast the 3 flies and he made it look so easy. Well, the bottom line is: he caught 2 corbina that morning. Catching one is a big accomplishment, two is almost unheard of.

Another Club member, Tim Michaels takes an alternative approach to fishing for corbina. His solution is to use real live sand crabs, while using fly fishing equipment. Now to the true fly fisherman, this is a big no, no. But, I understand his frustrations of not catching corbina on the fly. I truly

believe they are one of the hardest fish to catch on the fly. They are predictably unpredictable.

I hope by the time this Newsletter hits the presses, the Cedar Fire gets contained and put out. I'm worried by the rain runoff from the burnt out areas and how it will affect the Kern River. More importantly, I worry about the lives of our friends and loved ones residing in the Kern River Valley. As I'm writing this newsletter, the fire has burned 22,000 acres and is only 10% contained. They have issued mandatory evacuations around the Kernville area and a precautionary evacuation in Kernville. We also can't forget the people that place their lives on the line fighting this terrible fire. The firemen, the police, forest service and search and rescue. One of our Club's board members, Sergio Martinez belongs to the Kern Valley Search and Rescue. He is out there right now protecting the lives of our club members and other loved ones. Say a prayer and think good thoughts for everyone. This fire is another bad one.

Chiaki

River Report: by Guy Jeans (*Flyguy*)

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

Crowds are gone!!!

No concern as of right now for residents of Kernville as the smoke has cleared from the Cedar fire that seems to be moving northwest. Fly fishers fishing the 20 mile section of the north fork are doing good 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. The forest service has closed camping in the forest service dispersed and maintained campgrounds along the upper Kern 20 mile section so the crowds are gone and the fly fishing is excellent. Temperatures have dropped down into the low 90's and are about 25 degrees cooler in the upper elevations.

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

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 and nymphing are getting the grabs. 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 section is a must for the in-shape backpacker/adventurer/fly-fisher.



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 trips 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

Here are some pictures from the "Lower Kern River Bass Class" last night. They didn't catch any big ones, but had a blast with these on poppers and various bass streamers.



South Fork of the Kern – Open!

Our state fish jewel “Golden Trout” caught by Geoff, on the South Fork Kern River 8-23-16.



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.

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 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 Chiaki Harami (haramic)

The Ying and Yang of Fly Fishing

We had a great San Joaquin – Mammoth outing this past weekend. Since we couldn't get a group campsite, we “settled” for a condo in Mammoth – swimming pool, hot tub, etc. Everyone arrived Friday night and we had a chance to catch up.

Waking up early Saturday morning was easy, since we knew the San Joaquin River was waiting for us. We passed the Mammoth gate in plenty of time to beat the 7:00 am cutoff for vehicles. After a hearty breakfast at the Mule Café at Reds Meadow Resort, we started our hike to the San Joaquin. We fished a very secret section of the river, but I'll give you a clue/riddle. It's the winter, spring, and summer spot on the river. Ok, here's the answer to the clue: We fished between the falls: upper and lower. Everyone caught bunches of trout and we only saw two other fly fishers on the water all day. The trout were all very colorful, wild and feisty. The water was flowing very cool and clear. I batted 500 on the slam. Saturday night we celebrated our fun day with pizza and beer. Everyone told their wild stories of the day. I found out I missed witnessing the non-bikini hatch of the day.

Sunday, we had plans to fish Crowley with the Buhler Bros leading the way. They have Crowley wired. Rob joined Sergio and me in our boat to show us the ropes. Ryan and Savannah were in the other boat, which gave us the opportunity to try different flies and spots. Rob set us up with special slip indicators, a unique leader system and he even has a special trout whistle. We had nice and steady grabs all day. Rob led the way with a couple nice 22” trout, along with 21”, 20”, 19 etc. The pictures speak for themselves. You'll know which were taken on Saturday vs Sunday. This was truly a fun SSFFC weekend with great friends.





Chiaki

Rod Building: *Chiaki Harami (haramic)*

When I first started fly fishing in 2004, the top end rods were \$650 to \$700. Sage had its XP and Winston had its Blx. A lot has changed in the last 12 years. Fly rods have become lighter, more responsive and more accurate. The prices of these rods have continued to increase each year with the introduction of new models. I was shocked to find out we have officially hit the 4 digit mark for a fly rod. G Loomis has introduced a new model: the Asquith – priced at \$1,000. I'll let that sit with you for a minute..... Their heavier wt. rods go up to \$1,200. They are riding on the coat tails of their highly rated, highly acclaimed NRX rod and they were recently bought out by Shimano. I have not test cast this rod, I will but only to feel the dynamics of the rod.

Since Redington became part of the Sage family, I see the popularity of their value line of products increasing. Especially, in view of the G Loomis \$1,000 fly rod. There will always be the very affluent fly fishers buying the highest priced fly rods. However, there seems to be increasing numbers of fly fishers looking for value at various price points. The 3 friends I fished with on my Missouri River trip I wrote about last month, all wore Redington waders. After 12 years in my original waders, I will be getting new Redington waders. But since this is the rod building section of the newsletter, let's discuss rod building as an alternative way of beating the high priced \$1,000 fly rods.

I have built all my fly rods at a substantially lower price than a factory rod. As a general rule, blanks cost 50% of a completed factory rod. Components (reel seat, cork handle, guides, tip top, etc.) need to be purchased and the rod must be built. Components can cost anywhere from \$50 on up. Building a rod can take anywhere from 3 hours to 3 weeks. It all depends on how fancy you want to get. There is also the satisfaction of building your own fly rod. There's a special feeling catching a trout on your own built fly rod using a fly you tied yourself. If there's anyone interested in

taking a rod building class, please email me at: haramic@aol.com

Chiaki

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)*

Sept 17th: Kern Pride Day – Valley Clean-up Day

This is a special day where organizations in the Kern Valley compete against each other and clean up the Kern Valley Area. This event is coordinated by The Thomas Refuse Company with many sponsors, including, BLM, US Forest Service, Keepers of the Kern, etc. Last year there were at least 25 different organizations. I threw out a challenge to the other two local Fly Clubs: Aguabonita Flyfishers and Kern River Fly Fishers. We will meet at the Fly Shop between 7:30 – 8:00 am to receive your trash bags. You pick your own area to collect trash and we meet back at the Group Campgrounds at French Gulch at 11:00-11:30 am. Lunch will be provided at the Group Campgrounds and awards and announcements are made. Trash is tallied by the number of trash bags collected by each group. Of the 3 fly clubs, I believe we came in 3rd. I hope more members can participate because I plan to challenge the other 2 fly clubs again. It's a fun morning and you'll get personal satisfaction from your hard work. If you have any questions or want to participate, please email me at: haramic@aol.com

Sept. 17th 1:30 pm - Fly Tying Class with the Buhler Brothers

Immediately following the festivities of the Kern Pride Day, we'll have a special fly tying class lead by the Buhler Bros at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce. The focus of class will be Lake Crowley flies. However, if you're having any issues tying any fly, the Buhler Bros will be on hand to provide their expert guidance.

The Buhler Bros – Ryan and Rob are excellent instructors and make the class tons of fun. Please email Rob: clouserfreak@hotmail.com if you wish to enroll or have any questions.

Sept. 17th 7:00 pm Meeting with Ernie Gulley, Guest Speaker

After you learn how to tie the Crowley flies with the Buhler Bros, Ernie Gulley will share all his tips and secrets on how to fish still waters in the Sierras. Ernie is one of the expert guides on Lake Crowley and has the experience and knowledge to get his clients into many big trout. We are lucky to have him present to our Club. The meeting will be held at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 18th 8:30 am Spey Casting Class with Randy Skidgel

Meet at the Fly Shop at 8:30 am. Want to learn how to cast a two handed spey rod and feel like a Jedi Master afterwards? Our very own Randy Skidgel will be teaching you the magic of casting the two handed long rod – Spey Casting. Randy has been perfecting this technique for many years and will tell you how effective this method is in catching big trout and many other species. To sign up for this special class, please contact Randy at: mdcitrusrandy@ocsnet.net Space is limited.

October 1 & 2 Outing to Upper Kings River with Freddie Ramirez

We will be fishing and camping in the Cedar Grove area of the upper Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park. The Club has hired Freddie Ramirez to guide us for Saturday Oct. 1st. Many of us will be arriving Friday to set up camp and scout the area. If you have any questions or wish to sign up, please contact me: haramic@aol.com

Fly Fishers. All proceeds to benefit outreach, conservation and education programs throughout Southern California and Southern Nevada.

By registering online, you have a much better chance to secure the workshops and events you don't want to miss! As an added incentive, we are offering an EARLY BIRD SPECIAL—register by 5 p.m. PDT on 9/10/16 and you will receive 5 free raffle tickets to use at the Faire.

WHEN REGISTERING:

You will be asked to first establish your membership by either entering your member number, joining the IFFF, or by declining to join the IFFF. Remember that you will receive a discount on workshops if you join! Once you do that you will be prompted to enter your personal information and select your registrant type. These types are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY:

Individual = 1 adult

Family = Up to 2 adults and 2 children

Note: If additional family members/group would like to sign up for the same items as the primary registrant, select the "Apply Same Response" button at the top of the personal information page.

SHOW INVOLVED:

Show involved Individual = 1 adult must be pre-arranged to provide a workshop, demonstrations, or volunteer onsite

Show involved Individual with family who are not show involved = 1 adult who is show involved who is bringing 1 adult not show involved

Show involved with family show involved = 2 adults show involved can also add children

Please follow the instructions as you go along and if you have any problems call 818.2001499 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

Email: faireinfo@swciff.org

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Chiaki



Fly Fishing Faire 2016

Friday, October 14, 2016 9:00 AM -

Sunday, October 16, 2016 5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

Tri-County Fairgrounds
Sierra St
Bishop, California 93514
United States

Welcome to the only On-The-Water Fly Fishing Faire in the Western States. We have classes to interest and educate anyone from introductory to advanced. You can learn about fly tying, casting and specific on-stream techniques. Brought to you by the Southwest Council, International Federation of

NEED MORE STIMS



Orange StimuRaider

I used to think that my StimuRaiders were durable. I thought they were beyond durable, I thought they were almost indestructible. One day with a bunch of Yellowstone Cutts changed all that. Oh, they, like many other fishes, like this fly. No, they LOVED this fly. I'm not sure what it is, but fish everywhere love this thing. What's not to love, colorful, bushy and buggy, if I was a fish, I'd eat it. The problem is that cool little fire orange collar. See, these Yellowstone Cutts are some toothy critters. Really toothy!!! I'd run off a bunch of fish on a fly, then one bigger fish would catch that awesome looking collar with a tooth or two and the whole thing would come apart.



Yellowstone Cutt, Spawning colors loud and proud!!!

You see, the fish in the Yellowstone River at the opener aren't really the normal fish we catch. The little ones are pretty big. Big fishes have big teeth; they tend to shred your flies. Now, that isn't really a problem on the Yellowstone. These are migratory fish. They have been upstream spawning and are on their way back home in Yellowstone

Lake. You are doing well to catch 3 or 4 a day. The idea is to move around until you find a spot that they like to stop to rest, and hopefully eat.

You can fish nymphs all day and hope a fish has moved in, or you can tie on a couple dry flies and take a nap until a few fish start rising in casting range then try to catch them. I chose the latter. So, I'd sit or lay there and wait, sometimes a long time, sometimes it was almost nonstop action.

These fish can be almost impossible to land if you actually get one hoked. Their predators are mainly airborne. They don't really like to make long runs or shake a lot. They tumble and twist, kind of a thrashing dance in the water. Your tippet, or cable depending on what you consider OX to be, gets wrapped around the fish and when they feel the current on their sides, they bend slightly, just enough to catch every bit of power the water has. This generally pulls the hook right out and bye bye, fishy!!!



Typical Yellowstone Cutthroat

The middle of a fishing trip isn't the best time to find out that the fly the fish really like has unexpectedly turned into a one fish fly. The only saving grace on the Yellowstone was that they were very much hatch tuned. It seemed like the fish moved into the feeding lanes when the bugs started coming off. That was a good thing for my Stims, not so good for the remainder of my fly box. They didn't just shred my Stims, they also shredded plenty of PMD's, Caddis and Green Drakes. Actually the one Drake I had left that didn't end up in Yellowstone Lake as some Cutt's trophy, ended up being bent straight 3 or 4 times. I finally gave up fishing it, now it is a trophy at my house!!!

I will never forget the morning I got to my spot and there was a big pod of fish rising. There were several different insects in the air and it took me a bit to figure out what fly they were eating. My hands were shaking so badly, it was almost impossible to get the fly tied on. I finally figured out they were taking Green Drakes, that was the first fly that made its way to the lake. I did catch a few fish out of that group. One of these fish makes your day. I was starting to think some changes in how I tie my flies are going to be necessary.



Purple Missing Link, Master of the creeks

There are many amazing waters to fish around Cody. They mostly all include a long drive and longer death march. Well, maybe not that bad, but a good hike is usually necessary. It definitely is worth the walk though. The first creek we fished was incredible. We were worried because a guide and client got in there ahead of us. It didn't make a lot of difference in the end. We decided to lie about the fishing; no one is going to believe the truth!! These were all native Yellowstone Cutts, complete with the teeth. Most of the fish we caught were 15 to 17", some bigger, some smaller, a good mix of size.

This is where I found out I need to make changes in how I tie my flies. Those fish LOVED my Stim. They shredded a bunch of them. I ended up having to Zap-A-Gap the collars because they were falling apart so rapidly.

My Missing Links are what these fish really liked though. When I realized I needed to find another fly or have to tie Stims on the road, I tied on a Missing Link. Now the fish are kind of ignoring the Stim and focusing on the Missing Link. Good in some ways, bad in others. They were hammering this fly so hard, they were cutting off the wing and hackles. Also, tying the hackle to the eye of the hook just isn't working. It's no fun trying to thread a hook in a run full of rising fish and have to discard a few because you just can't get the tippet through the eye of the hook.



Typical Creek Yellowstone Cutt



So, after I got home and stopped crying myself to sleep because I'm not in Cody, I decided I need to make some changes in how I tie my flies. The StimuRaider was easy, just a dab of Zap-A-Gap when I tie in the peacock and hackle and a little on the thread when I whip finish the fly.

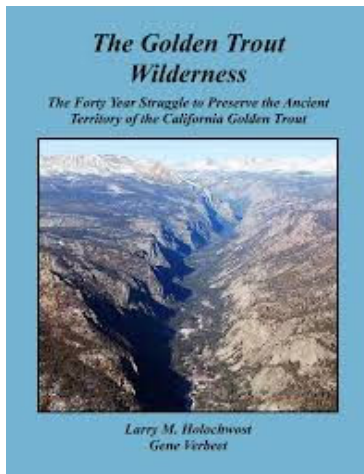
The Missing Links were a bit more difficult. I had to learn to tie the hackle off to the post, not the eye. This took some practice, but after a dozen or so, I figured it out. Also, a quick view of Charlie Cravens video on tying parachute flies gave me another toughening technique. Allow a small drop of Zap-A-Gap or any thin glue, to run down a fiber of hackle into the post. I thought this was crazy until I tried it. The glue runs right down the feather and leaves no noticeable residue. Too cool!!! Now my flies are going to be more up to the challenge of these amazing fish. They better be, because they are definitely going back for another try.



Blue Skies and Fishy Flies!!!

Allen

Fly Fishing Book Review: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



The Golden Trout Wilderness
The Forty Year Struggle to Preserve the Ancient
Territory of the California Golden Trout

By Larry M. Holochwost, Gene Verbeet
Kern River Valley Historical Society, Kernville, CA
Published 2015
Walker Endowment
165 pages

The Walker house, and the written and published contents collected by Ardis and Gayle Walker were donated to the Kern River Valley Historical Society. Two members of the Society, Larry Holochwost and Gene Verbeet organized the materials related to Golden Trout Wilderness. Ardis Walker collected the information and wrote many of the letters that document the efforts in preserving the Golden Trout Wilderness. The book also contains two DVDs with scanned versions of the 318 documents used to produce the book. The second DVD is a 25 minute film depicting the effects of logging practices on the Kern Plateau.

The book is available for purchase at a cost of \$20 from the Historical Society at the museum in Kernville. The general procedure is to show up when the museum is open and pick up a copy. There are no online buying options that I am aware of. Maybe, the fly shop in Kernville will stock a few copies for the convenience when trying to purchase a copy during weekdays when the museum is closed.

The Golden Trout Wilderness exists today due to the efforts of many folks (names are given in the book) as led / inspired by Ardis Walker. When Ardis Walker returned to the Kern River area in 1932, he was inspired to maintain the unspoiled area that became the Golden Trout Wilderness. The earliest document dates back to 1946. The conclusion to the efforts came on 24 February 1978 when President Carter signed the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 when about 1.3 million acres of land in 10 western states was added to the wilderness areas.

It is safe to say the book will never be a best seller. The book documents the continual efforts to change attitudes

and gain support for the wilderness designation. Why were the efforts necessary? The Mt. Whitney Lumber Company (*as an example*) was operating in Johnsondale and was looking for trees to produce lumber. The goal of the United States Forest Service was to manage the resources for the general good of the country. In this case, the general good was interpreted to allow cutting of trees that created jobs and provided lumber for economic growth. Wilderness or natural areas were not recognized to have the same value as those areas do today. In support of this, the Forest Service was allowed to sell off timber based on authority in the local offices. In contrast, if there were a desire to designate a wilderness area, the authority for such a decision was only available at highest levels in Washington, DC.

The elements of a long struggle were in place. The attitude / philosophy of the USFS were that the expertise and knowledge was best represented by their staff and management so outside input was not needed (*but Thank You for offering*). I am not sure the Thank You's were forthcoming.

The tales are long and the details are many. I only offer a glimpse inspire some readers.

A closing comment –

The USFS philosophy and management has created a divide between their decisions and local impacts. Those impacts continue to this day. For those with inspired dedication to impact future decisions, it will be useful to be more fully aware of past history. This book provides a superb view of the history.

AntsYour SSFFC Fishing Book Aficionado

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



Soft Hackle Hare's Ear

This is certainly nothing new, dating back at least five centuries to the writings of Sir Izaak Walton. There is a reason that this and other “soft hackle” flies have stood the test of time.....they’ve always been consistent fish catchers and continue doing just that today.

Contemporary tyers most consistently use partridge, starling, or grouse wing feathers for their soft hackle creations, but other feathers such as pheasant rump on larger flies can be useful too. I prefer buying them in wing sets or whole hides, but partridge and other feathers can also be purchased already removed from the bird in small packages that come with a variety of sizes.

Ryan Buhler recently tied this pattern for a swap on the Kern River Fly Fishing Forum and was said to be a significantly superior producer to other flies in the swap when fished on the Kern deep in the back country by dynamite duo club members Tim and Teena (T&T). Most traditional soft hackles are very sparse, but Ryan tied his with a contemporary hare’s ear body along with the soft hackle.

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

Materials:

Hook: Size 14-22 2305 nymph/terrestrial (shown), 2x long nymph or whatever you have

Bead: Black (optional)

Underwire: Lead free

Thread: Black

Tail: Hare’s mask guard hairs

Rib: Small gold wire (x-small for 18-22)

Abdomen: Hare’s mask under fur

Thorax: Hare’s mask guard hair/under fur mix

Hackle: Partridge (sterling, grouse, Indian hen back are adequate subs)

Tying Instructions:



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



2. Attach 6-8 wraps of non-lead wire. Remove excess by holding one end snugly and spinning or rotating the other end until it breaks. This saves your scissors and provides a clean break leaving the wire coiled against the shank.



3. Slide wire into the opening on the back of the bead. Attach thread at the rear of the wire wraps and build a small thread dam.



4. Remove a small tuft of hair from the forehead area of a hare's mask (*Indian Hen Back* is a suitable substitute). Remove the fluffy under fur and measure the hair to be about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the shank length. Trim the butt length accordingly to tie in at the rear of the wire. Tie in hair at the butts atop the shank and wrap back to mid bend with a curved hook shank (*wrap to the bend only with a straight shank*).



5. Select a piece of wire and tie in at mid bend (*note placement of butt end*). Add a small amount of the fluffy dubbing removed from between the eyes of the hare's mask to the thread or use the cheek hair which is also very fluffy with minimal spiky guard hairs, creating a dubbing rope.



6. Wrap the dubbing rope forward to the rear of the wire wraps.



7. Wrap the wire forward in 6-7 evenly spaced wraps, securing the dubbing. Remove the excess wire.



8. Create a short dubbing rope using a mix of the spiky, long guard hairs and some darker fluffy undercoat

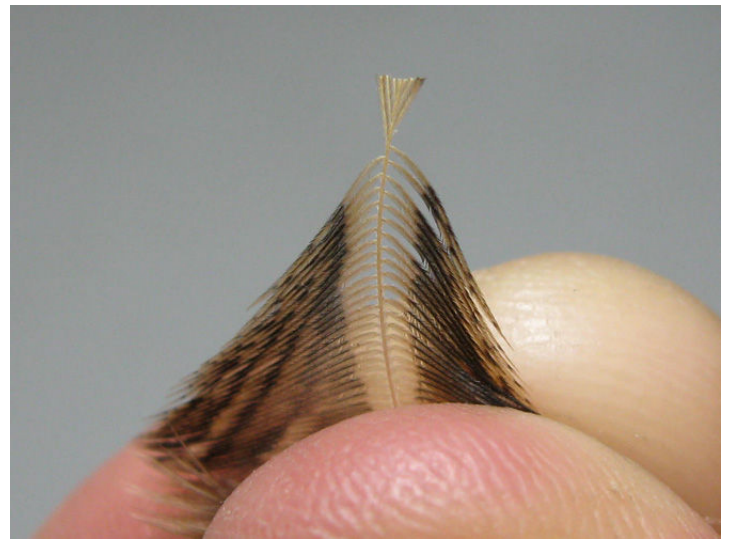
from your hare's mask. Wind your dubbing rope through the thorax to the rear of the bead.



9. Stroke fibers back away from the bead and take a few thread wraps to create a small neck area for the hackle tie in.



10. Prepare your soft hackle feather by holding the top most barbs with your finger tips or hackle pliers and stroke remaining fibers toward the base of the hackle. There are several ways to tie in soft hackles, but we will try this method that uses the thinnest and most supple area of the stem for less bulk at the tie in area.



11. Trim the hackle tip leaving a short section for attaching to the shank.



12. Tie in hackle tip as shown with two thread wraps.



13. Take 1 to 2 and 1/2 turns of hackle, stroking fibers back between each wrap. Don't stress if a couple of barbs

are played in different directions....we can fix this later. Trim excess.



14. Now stroke back all fibers with material hand and take a couple of thread wraps back toward the bend. Half hitch or whip finish and trim thread.

15. Coat thread wraps with head cement or glue of choice.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)



Soft Hackles

I first became interested in soft hackles when I saw an article by Sylvester Nemes on using starling feathers for soft hackles in smaller flies. I bought a starling skin and tied a few on some PT nymphs and had one of my best days on the Kern. I was an instant believer in the magic of soft hackle flies.

When you talk about soft hackle flies most people think of sparsely tied flies fished in the film and these flies work great but a lot of fly fishers miss out by not adding them to their regular nymphs. Rob's tutorial this month shows a

simple Hares Ear pattern with a partridge soft hackle collar added. You can do this with any nymph pattern you regularly fish and also streamer patterns can benefit from this addition. It adds the appearance of legs but more importantly it adds life like movement to your flies. The more life like movement in your flies the more fish you catch.

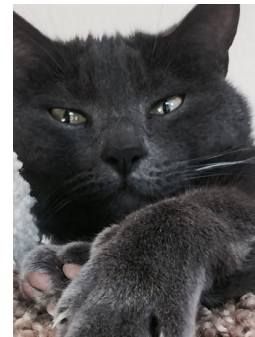
Another bonus you get by using soft hackles on your standard pattern is the different ways you can fish them. Dead drift them like normal then at the end of your drift you can do a Leisenring lift and swing them around like you would a regular soft hackle fly. Before you recast let that fly sit and wiggle in the film for a while. You will often get strikes just letting it swing in the current after your drift. Another added benefit is tying in the round (see Rob's tutorial).

Some of the standard soft hackle materials used are Partridge (*it can be dyed easy and comes in many sizes*). You can buy a bag of partridge feathers or buy a whole skin. If you can buy a whole skin you get a ton of more usable feathers and also more tiny feathers. A bag is cheaper but there is a lot of scrap feathers. Starling feathers are an excellent choice for smaller flies (*size 16 to 28*). Buy it on the skin and you will have feathers for years. CDC is also very useful for soft hackles (*it's also is easy to dye*). It's not as durable as some other feathers but it's magic by far makes up for it. Buy the best quality CDC you can it's well worth it. A CDC prince nymph will take fish almost anywhere. Other feathers will work for soft hackles. Look for ones with nice soft fibers and a skinny flexible quill. Too stiff of quill makes it hard to wrap and also to bulky.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

While reading Ryan's article above regarding the benefits of purchasing a whole partridge skin, I found myself laughing out loud. I have purchased a whole skin in the past, and I still have much of it..... on the skin..... and in a bag.....



Meet Ali..... nuff said!

Tight Lines, *Gary*

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