



# Ring of the Rise

February 2011

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

## President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Spring is right around the corner and a new fishing season will be here soon. With the above average snow pack and more to come it should be a good year for our rivers and streams. I've been at the bench doing some tying to replenish my fly boxes and prepare for a lot of days on the water this year. Anything smaller than a #18 I'm going to have to buy though... the eyes aren't what they used to be, even with a magnifier.

The first weekend of Feb. Gary and Lacey Silveira (*Copper Dropper*), Steve Dobbins (*Techguy*) and I made a trip to Bishop and fished the Lower Owens for 3 days. It's been several years since I've been there and I sure don't remember it being so overgrown with reeds and of course the fencing along Chalk Bluffs Rd. is new. On Gary's second cast he nailed a pretty 13" brown with his new bamboo rod. We hoped this was a sign we were really going to get into them but it was slow Friday.

Saturday morning Rob Buhler (*clouserfreak*) and his brother Ryan (*Ryan*) met us and took us to one of their special places on the Lower. Fish were rising as we geared up and put on our game faces to intimidate them. The winds came up with a vengeance as it often does there, and casting was a challenge. We all got fish but it was tough, at least for me. Ryan and Rob have this section of the river dialed in and they did quite well. Sunday they went to Hot Creek and brought several big fish to net while Steve and I headed home. Gary and Lacey fished for a bit Sunday morning and also got into fish... guess we should have stayed.

It was a fun filled weekend with good friends; clear skies and snow covered Sierras as a back drop...it couldn't have been much better.

We had a good meeting last Saturday night with folks from other clubs in attendance which was very nice. The Deep Creek Fly Fishers had their Kern outing and a few came to spend the evening with us. Gary Applebee from the Deep Creek club left a \$50.00 donation to be used for the Kids' Academy. I thought this was quite a gesture for someone visiting to be so generous. I guess that just goes to show the true character of people who love fly fishing.

Amy Kileen, president of the Kern River Fly Fishers in Bakersfield, attended our meeting and it was nice to talk with her on common interests. We are hoping our clubs can work together more in the future and make an impact on the river.

Our speaker was David Wratchford from the Fishermans' Spot in Van Nuys. He loves chasing stripers and gave an informative and entertaining presentation. He also donated a ½ day guided trip for our raffle that evening and is also donating a full day trip to be auctioned off at the Rendezvous....another display of generosity from a fellow fly fisherman.

Don't forget to let us know if you will be attending the Fly Fisherman of the Year dinner March 12<sup>th</sup>. We always have a fun evening, fish Saturday, have dinner with friends and fish Sunday morning before going home....sounds like a good weekend. Hope to see you all there.

In closing don't you think MapQuest should start with step #5? I'm pretty sure I can get out of my own neighborhood...

Have a good one everyone.

## River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

This is a fly fishing report for the week of 2-20-11 written on Sunday 2-20-11.

**The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern** – Big fish are being caught! The upper river is at 755 cfs as of today and looks beautiful and clear. The recent high water really cleared and cleaned the river very well. There are lots of rocks and gravel bars everywhere. The river looks very healthy. Very fishable! Fishing has been good on the upper. The fish that are being caught are from the powerhouse down to the lake. Best fishing is from 2pm to 4pm. BWO hatch around 2:30pm.

**The 4 mile wild trout section – Open year round.** Upper river looks very good as of today at 800 cfs. Fishing is a little tough up here. **Catch and Release barbless hooks only!!**

**Lake Isabella** – DFG just stocked the lake. This is the place to be fishing now. Trout fishing has turned on in the lake. Big boils are being seen everywhere along the sandy shorelines. Trout are feeding on the surface near North Fork Marina and Paradise Cove. Big trout stocking is planned this week in the lake.

**Lower Kern** – The lower river is not fishing great. Trout are taking small BWO emergers around 1:30 pm. BWO hatch

size 18-20 @ 1:30pm. The lower river is 1000 cfs (above average cubic feet per second for fishing) and the fishing is not great. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is poor above Erskine Creek. Rainbows are turning on and hitting the surface. Hwy 178 open.

#### **Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern** – Closed

#### **South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North** – Closed



#### **Conservation Report:** by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

*Since it can be very difficult to come up with a new conservation issue to write about on a monthly basis, Shane has opted to give periodic "Tips" or "How To" information in its place. This is the first such report and very informative indeed. Enjoy the report, I know I have.... Gary*

### **The Davy Knot**

Looking for knot that is strong and can be tied quickly? Here it is! The Davy knot has been used by fly fishing teams in international competitions and is quickly becoming very popular with recreational fly flickers.

The story behind the knot is that Davy Wotton, one of the coaches in the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships and long time competitor for the Welsh National Fly Fishing Team, through trial and error invented a knot that allowed him to attach a fly in seconds - a critical requirement when competing.

The Davy Knot, unlike other knots used to attach flies, does not require the tippet to be pulled down on the knot to burn and weaken the mono and which results in a very high break strength, almost 100%. The knot is so simple to tie that it sometimes seems difficult but once you figure it out and use it you will not use another one.

#### **Tying Instructions:**

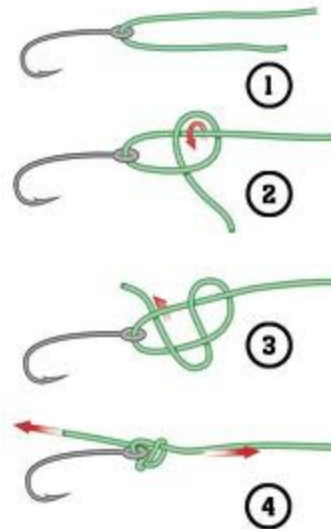
1. Take your fly and pass your tippet through the bottom of the eyelet. Turn the fly upside down so the hook point is turned up or on the top.

2. With the fly extended to the left, pull or extend about three or four inches of tippet through the eye.

3. Take your tag piece of mono and pass over the top of the main leader (away from you) and draw it back through, making a loop.

4. Take the tippet and pass it under, then over the top of the bottom leg of the loop. If you have been successful, the tag end will point directly toward you.

5. To secure the knot, bite the tag piece and pull the leader end taut, causing the knot to close. If you have tied the Davy knot properly, the knot is firmly fastened and will not slip.



#### **Outings Report:** by Cris Miller (Dances with Bears)

#### **The First Annual West Fork (SG River) Kids Academy – March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

This outing has a conservation twist as it will be geared around supporting the West Fork Conservancy First Annual Kids Academy. This is for kids aged 9 to 16.

We will follow the format of the SSFFC Kids academy, but here are some details around the Kids Academy itself:

1. Everyone together at 9am at the San Gabriel Canyon Educational Center across from Rincon Fire station for 'Intro to Fly Fishing' (in between OHV and EF Bridge).

2. Then split into 4 groups and rotate between the Fly Tying, Casting, Entomology, and Knot Tying stations.

3. Everyone together again for Conservation/Leave No Trace.

4. Brief Presentation on the San Gabriel River, outlining effective ways to fish the SGR.

5. Lunch potluck and clean-up of the Educational Center.
6. Hit the WF San Gabriel for fishing with the kids.
7. Campout Saturday night at Glen Camp.
8. Sunday we will wake up in beautiful Glen Camp and can explore the surrounding waters.

Thanks to the many SSFFC volunteers who have offered to help out with this event. I'm sure it's going to be great and will be a great start for this newest generation to our amazing sport.

### **Heritage Adventure Outing – March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

The mighty San Gabriel's are calling! The newly designated Heritage waters should be prime for some great top water action to kill the winter nymphing blues.

This will be a backpacking outing a distance of approximately 4 to 6 miles. The hike is not difficult but does have some ups and downs. A possibility of adventuring to the headwaters on a day hike from our camp on Saturday will lead us to some amazingly beautiful fish.

These waters qualify for the Coastal Rainbow in the DFG Heritage program so bring your camera!

The plan is to go in Friday night and come out Sunday so we have all day Saturday back there.

Come along guys, you'll not believe the crystal clear water in this fine gem of a river.

### **San Diego Area Ocean Outing – April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

We're still working on a possible ocean outing in the San Diego area (TBD). Depending on who is interested we can give this a family spin or just keep it a regular outing.

We also have a very special mentor on this trip who is highly respected and is the heart of this outing ... his mysterious identity will be revealed once the trip is finalized and a Gear article comes out ... in hopes that you unruly detail oriented types don't bombard him with endless questions.

### **Pyramid Lake, Nevada Outing – April 31<sup>st</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>**

This is a lake outing with some amazing fishing and should be a great time for it. This will also tie into our April presentation by Ernie Gulley who will be speaking about the lake and its fishing tactics. Remember, this lake is the home of native Lahontan Cutthroats that reach amazing size (the lake record is 41 pounds).



From what I've gathered we will fish from shore (possibly on ladders), but pontoons and tubes are welcome.

I've had the pleasure of hanging out with *Driftboatric* and *Wink* at the last outing and both of them had put this one in my ear in the past month or so...

PM me for details, I believe some are actually flying and renting a car, so that is an option that several could potentially go in on together (car rental from airport at least).

I've not yet determined accommodation availability but I'd imagine we'll get motels for this one... open to suggestions (however wild they may be).

I'm sure you won't want to miss this one, so don't.

Cris

*Make sure to respond to Cris' outings posts in the Forum to show your interest in attending these amazing outings he is planning for us. – Gary*

**Rod Building:** by Pete Emmel (Pete)

### **2011 Rod building Class**

Well, we wrapped another SSFFC rod building class on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. Get it? Wrapped as in guides....oh never mind, its rod builder humor.

Anyway, there were seven students in the class. I say students, but I really should say participants. There was nothing student about them. Both Chiaki and I were very impressed with the skill level of the class. Chiaki's laid back teaching style immediately put the class at ease and we went to town building rods. You can read Chiaki's post class write up in the Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club section of the Forum. Also check out some of the class rods under the Rod Building Section. None of the rods look like first time builds.

By the time the class was over, the participants had located the spine, installed the reel seat, reamed and installed the handle and had several (if not all) of the guides wrapped in place. There was a lot more information shared during class, but if we told you all the details we would have to kill you.

All in all, it was a great class and I am thankful for the opportunity to help a great instructor, Chiaki, with the class. If you are interested in taking a rod building class, please PM me and I will put you on the list. Once we have enough participants, the SSFFC will host another class.

As a tie in to this class, don't forget the 2011 SSFFC Rendezvous Rod Swap. Details of the swap are pinned in the Rod Building section of the Forum. There is nothing that says you have to be a "Master" builder with 100 builds under your belt. Shoot, its all about good fun and pushing yourself to another level of rod building. To quote Nike "JUST DO IT." Jump in with both feet. And yes..... you will probably see monthly reminders until the Rendezvous.

Pete

*Here are some photos of the class;*





*Now doesn't that make you want to participate in the next class? Make sure to PM Pete (Pete) and let him know of your interest. - Gary*

*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:** by Bill Darbee (Bill)

The next general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, however; since this will be the annual Fly Fisher of the Year dinner we will not be meeting at the Chamber of Commerce building. We will instead be meeting at El Jacalito's at 6:00 PM. This is a highly anticipated event every year so please plan on attending.

The April general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce building. There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM prior to the general meeting and all directors and chairpersons are encouraged to attend.

This meetings presenter will be Ernie Gulley. The topic -

### **Fly Fishing Lake Pyramid, Nevada**



Ernie Gulley has spent most of his life in southern California. He started fishing with his father from the time he could walk. At age seven he moved to New Orleans, LA and learned how to fish Lake Ponchatrain for speckled trout and other salt water species.

Ernie returned to southern California with a passion and love affair for fishing. He started fishing the stillwaters of the High Sierra's including Crowley Lake and Bridgeport Reservoir. He also fished many lakes in Utah, Idaho and Nevada. During this time he fished exclusively with "Noodle Sticks" which are (IFGA) rated two pound class ultra light rods. His hunt for big fish on light lines had begun.

In 1998 Ernie became intrigued with fly fishing and purchased his first fly rod. He fell in love with fly fishing and has never looked back. In 2006 he joined the Deep Creek Fly Fishers Club in Riverside. He has become one of the principal instructors in fly tying and classes on "Stillwater Tactics."

In 2007 he won the "Double Hall in the Fall" tournament at Crowley Lake, individual and team division. In 2008 and 2009 he placed second in the "Stillwater Classic" in the team category. In 2008 he joined the "High Desert Fly Fishers" and has made presentations on "Crowley Lake Stillwater Midging Tactics" and "Fishing Lake Pyramid, Nevada."

Ernie is a hard core stillwater fisherman and is always eager to share his knowledge an expertise with others.

### *Ernie says of his presentation;*

"Fly Fishing Lake Pyramid, NV" I start the presentation with some history of the lake, statistics and more specific history of the fish in the lake. Move forward with how the Paiute Indians have done such a fantastic job in recreating this fishery and sustaining the great fishing we have there year after year.

I cover the weather that you will encounter at this lake which can be very brutal most of the time. I cover the best places to fish on the lake breaking it down from month to month movements of the fish. How and where to find them and how to attack these fish by fishing from ladders. I bring in a custom ladder that I fish from and also a simple ladder you

can buy from any Home Depot and customize it to show you how to make it a better fly fishing platform.

I cover tactics on shooting head applications to reach the fish and also cover indicator fishing tactics that has just taken off the last few years. I break down leader set ups that we have used over the years and the flies we use. I cover ladder tactics and how to land fish from your ladder and how to set up your ladder before and after you get into the water. I cover the specific rods we use and what weights and lengths of rods will better fit you for shooting head and indicator fishing applications.

Of course, along the way there are plenty of BIG FISH pictures with fish up to 15lbs that I like to call fish pics if I may! In my humble opinion, Lake Pyramid is one of the best opportunities to catch a trout up to 20lbs in the Western United States in a stillwater.

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**Library Report:** by Ryan Spanel (Flynn Ryan)

*There will be no Library Report this month.*

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**Fly of the Month:** by Pete Emmel (Pete)

*There will be no Fly of the Month Report this month.*

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**Message from the Editor:** by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Well here we find ourselves once again in the early days of a new year. As always at this time of the season, we all have hopes and dreams of the “maybes” that could be in our future.

*Maybe* we will be fortunate to spend more days on the water this year than last. *Maybe* we will get that new rod and reel we’ve been hoping for, but for reasons out of our control didn’t seem to make its way under the Christmas tree this year. *Maybe* we will be able to proudly hoist one of the trophies at the Rendezvous this year.

Those are all great maybes, but since most of us fly fisher types are perpetual optimists then maybe, just maybe, one of our casts this year will produce that trophy of a lifetime.

With that thought in mind, and feeling a bit like the Town Crier of old, standing here with my bell in hand, I say “Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye…… It’s the first of the year and big fish are starting to get caught!”

Yep, this is the time to make sure you get up to the river and flick your fly at those hogs that are starting to make their presence known. They are moving up from the lake and are just waiting to give those anglers who have the good fortune to hook into them, a trill to remember for a lifetime.

If you have any doubts, just start following the posts on the Forum.

I can also personally attest to the presence of these beasts haunting the Kern. Although I was not fortunate enough or more specifically not skilled enough at the time to get a hook into one of them, I was present when a fisherman very well known to all of us did indeed bring on of these beauties to hand.

Lacey and I were just starting on our fly fishing journey at this very same time of year in 2007 and we were fortunate enough to be spending an afternoon of fishing with Guy, Bill and Jerry Hunter (*Converted*). We were spread out in a rather open stretch of river when Bill yelled out he had a fish on. And boy did he! After a battle pitting brawn against know how and technique (I’m not sure which was displaying what exactly) we were all rewarded with the amazing view of a great fish brought to hand.



Although this photo has been seen by many, there’s something so very special about being there to share in the experience and witness the event. From the first cries of “Fish on!” to the proud Kodak moment we have displayed here. It was the first hog I had seen on the Kern and the memories of this moment have always stuck with me. I owe a debt of gratitude to both Bill and the fish.

Now when I’m out fishing the Kern, especially at this time of year, one thing that keeps going through my mind on every cast is *maybe*, just *maybe*……

Tight Lines, Gary



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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Use Club Affiliation code 99792

