



# Ring of the Rise

June 2012

Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

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

Summer is here....already!! I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend with lots of good food and friends. Hopefully next year all our troops will be home and out of harm's way. Everything we enjoy is because of their sacrifices. If you see a member of the military be sure and thank them for their service.

Last month Rob and Ryan Buhler (*clouserfreak and ryan*) conducted the first fly tying class of the year, and I want to thank them for stepping up and taking on the task. A few members had to drop out at the last minute so we didn't have a full class this time. We will be offering a class again in July so watch for the announcement. The Buhler brothers had a full day as they were also our guest speakers that evening. This was their first time doing a presentation but they sounded like veterans. We saw some beautiful huge trout they have caught over the years and learned their secret for big fish. I'm sure they will share that with an article in the newsletter in the near future. Rob donated a few of his hot patterns to the raffle also. Really nice streamers he uses for big fish but that is not the whole story on how they do it. Thanks again guys.

We will be having elections for Board Members in August so it is time to think of candidates for positions. I will be stepping down as President and I want to give sufficient notice so members have time to come up with nominations. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as President yet after 5 years I feel it is time for new blood to keep our club moving forward.

Our membership has increased dramatically over the last 5 years but I can't take any credit for that. Our Board members deserve the kudos. The annual Rendezvous was the brain child of Chiaki and that was when our numbers grew. Poker Night, our fund raiser for the Kids Academy, also belongs in Chiaki's column. Shane works very hard spearheading the Kids Academy, staying current with conservation issues, the Kern River Rainbow Project and stays abreast of our efforts improving the hatchery. Chiaki is constantly contacting quality folks in the fly fishing arena to do presentations for the club. Steve has the task of keeping an accurate accounting of our funds and expenditures. Gary in addition to being a Director publishes a fantastic newsletter each month. Keith is always at the meetings and keeps records of our minutes for future reference. Chris stays busy putting together some terrific outings for members to enjoy since he took the reins. Guy is always there and gives us discounts on all merchandise we

purchase for the raffles each month. The appointed positions also donate countless hours. Fly tying is done by the Buhler brothers and they also contribute articles for each newsletter. Pete heads up the rod building classes and Ants is our librarian. It has been a pleasure working with all of you as well as with past members of the Board and I thank you one and all for everything you have done for our club. You made my job easy.

Steve Dobbins, our treasurer, will also be vacating his position this year. His work has become more demanding and he feels he doesn't have sufficient time to tend to our finances properly. We have many people who could fill these positions so between now and August we will be asking for nominations for Board Members. We will have more information after we appoint a nominating committee so you can contact them.

Our Kids Academy is Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and we have 14 youngsters signed up and lots of volunteers to help with the various stations. This is the best thing the club does each year as it ensures the next generation will carry on the tradition. It teaches them the values of catch and release fishing and respect for the environment. This is the first one I've been able to attend and I am really looking forward to it. It promises to be a fun day.

That's all for now folks, hope to see you at June's meeting.



Bill

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

Hello everyone, this is a fly fishing report for the week of 6-2-12 written on Saturday 6-2-12.

**The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern** The upper river is fishing as good as it gets. Water temps are pushing 62 degrees and the flows are around 600 cfs. The river is clear and you can wade, but be very careful and use a wading staff if you have it. There are some big fish being caught up and down the 20 mile section along with some Chinook Salmon that have moved in from the lake. I have been seeing some top water action on various dry flies like Stimulators, H&L Variants and Fuzzy Wuzzy's. Some fish are taking Yellow Sallies and Caddis dry flies as well. Some great nymphing action with smaller nymphs in sizes 18-20 like BWO nymphs, Tungsten Yellow Sallies and various golden stonefly nymphs in sizes 10-14. Most fish have been taken on the swing. Streamers are ok but most fish seem to be focusing on dry flies and nymphs.

Other go to flies are emerging BWO mayflies like a size 20-24 Sprout or Rene Harrop's emerging CDC BWO. Good nymphs are Tungsten Yellow Sallies and flashback type nymphs. Great attractors right now are BH Red Kern Emergers and Chartreuse Copper Johns and BH Prince size 16, Tungsten Teddy's size 10.

Remember to catch and release those trophy fish so somebody else has a chance to enjoy those big fish too. Somebody else has probably caught and released that fish so you could catch it. Pretty Cool!!!

Upper flows are at 600 cfs and dropping = You can wade.

"Fish the seam in the stream"

"Foam is home"

"Drag is a drag"

"Grid the trib"

"Fish like the Heron"

**The 4 mile wild trout section** Open year round. The fishing above the bridge is getting good. **Catch and Release ~ barbless hooks only!!**

**Lake Isabella trout fishing is excellent** near Camp Nine and Paradise Cove and fishing various streamers with a floating line or sink tip is getting the job done. Rainbows are looking up and taking midges on the surface with some great top water action, Crappie bite is excellent, Bass fly fishing is ok, Carp fly fishing is excellent.

**Lower Kern** The lower river is fishing well. The lower river is 1200+cfs. Great flies to use down on the lower are Guides Choice Hares Ear size 12, Tungsten Yellow Sallie Nymphs size 14, Tungsten Teddy Pink size 10, Psycho Princes pink sizes 12-16, Copper Johns size 18 and WD40 18-20. Early morning hatches have been reported. Be very

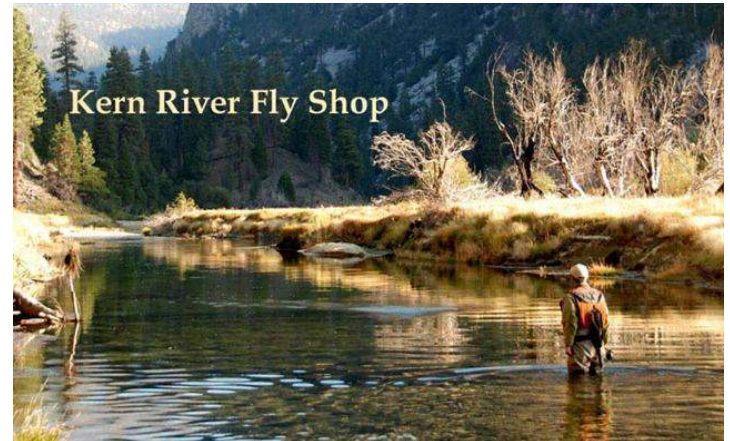
careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is slow.

**Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern** Open

**South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North** Open

Remember to release those wild fish or just try catch and release. Releasing a fish is good for the fishery and lets somebody else have a chance to enjoy that fish too!

*Guy*



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

**Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club  
Kids Academy V  
Saturday - June 9th, 2012 10AM**

The SSFF has reserved a group of campsites at Rivernook Campground, 14001 Sierra Way, Kernville (760) 376-2705, for Friday and Saturday night. There will also be a potluck dinner Saturday night so make sure to check out the Forum thread **"SSFF Kids Academy V June 9th 2012"** to get the latest details and list what you'll be bringing to the potluck.

Additionally, the regular club meeting and presentation by Freddie Ramirez of Central Sierra Fly Fishing Adventures who will be presenting **"The Valley of the Three Kings"** about fishing the Kings River, will be conducting this presentation around the camp fire.

We currently have 14 kids signed up between 9-17 years old. They will learn knot tying, basic fly tying, casting, entomology, and conservation. To have your child participate, you need to be a member of the SSFFC. Annual membership is \$25 - individual or \$35 - family.

Conservation will include proper C&R techniques, the history of our State fish the California Golden Trout, and Leave No Trace.



We currently have 19 volunteers signed up to help out, but if you are interested make sure to contact Shane via PM, email, or phone.

sgoslin@planetebay.net / Cell = 661-428-5109

*Shane*

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**Outings Report:** by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

No report this month.

Check out Chris' posts on the forum for the upcoming outings;

**June – Backpacking in the Kern Area**

**July – Hextravaganza! at Butt Lake (Northern California)**

**August – Backpacking in Sequoia NP.**

*Chris*

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



**Invisible Wraps**

Invisible Wraps!!!! Whoa spooky, sounds like a sequel to the Invisible Man but, it's not. How do you get invisible or clear wraps? Well, it's not as hard as it sounds. There is a super-secret formula that needs to be mixed together. Pray tell what is that mixture? Well, it's white thread wraps and the finish. That's it. Simple yes? No, not really.

Not all white threads are created equal. You will need to experiment with the different white threads. Some will not go completely clear, they will get cloudy. Others will turn an odd shade of blue. You never know until you give the different white threads a try.

I have had success with the natural fiber threads, especially silk thread. It goes completely clear when finish is applied.

As I mentioned before, experiment first, preferably on the section that will be hidden by the handle.

Nylon and Polyester threads haven't been as kind. Just because they didn't work out for me doesn't mean they won't work out for you.

One thing: PREP THOSE GUIDES!!!! Clear wraps mean everything is exposed for all the world to see and I do mean everything. Work your finish under the wraps by the guide feet. Even little air bubbles show up. Start at the foot end of the guide and work the air bubbles out as you move toward the guide loop.



**~ Super Raffle ~**  
**Casting for Recovery & Project Healing Waters**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED ~ PayPal Enabled!**

The "Super Raffle" deadline has been extended to **June 9<sup>th</sup>** due to Shane setting up a PayPal link through the club which makes getting in on this extraordinary raffle a breeze. To purchase tickets through PayPal simply login via paypal.com, select "Send Money" and follow the prompts. Tickets are \$ 10.00 each and all the proceeds benefit both the newly formed Southern California Chapter of "Casting for Recovery" and the Southwest Region of "Project Healing Waters.

What does the raffle consist of? How about a custom landing net courtesy of Sierra Nets ([www.sierra-nets.com](http://www.sierra-nets.com)), a color coordinated custom lanyard made to match by our own Gary Silveira ([www.WesternVisionsLanyards.com](http://www.WesternVisionsLanyards.com)) a bamboo rod, tube and rod sock donated by Renaissance Rods ([www.renaissanceflyrods.com](http://www.renaissanceflyrods.com)) and a DT4 silk fly line in straw color donated by Stuart Tod of Cadno Silk Lines ([www.cadnosilklines.com](http://www.cadnosilklines.com)) from England. All if this for only \$10.00 a ticket which goes directly to helping out two great charities, plus have a shot at winning the ultimate dream package for any fly fisherperson. It is a win-win situation.

If you don't want to do the PayPal thing you can always send a check made out to the SSFFC to;

SSFFC c/o Pete Emmel  
7775 Yesal Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422

If you are thinking about sending in a check please note that the drawing will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> via random number generator, so contact Pete first.



You can get all the details and additional pictures of the package at:

<http://www.renaissanceflyrods.com/1/post/2012/04/cfrphw-super-raffle.html>

Don't wait until the last minute to buy tickets. You know if you put it off, you'll forget and lose out.

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### Casting for Recovery Rod Donation

As for the Casting for Recovery rod donation, we wanted at least ten rods and have four at the moment. Remember that donation? Since CFR doesn't have any retreats scheduled for 2012, those of you who committed to building a rod have a bit of a reprieve on the deadline. That doesn't mean you can wait until next year to finish the rod, it just means you have a bit more time.

*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/>



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**Club Meeting:** by Bill Darbee (Bill)

The next General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Kids Academy on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM around the campfire at the Rivernook Campground, 14001 Sierra Way, Kernville.

Our speaker is easily recognized by many of our club members.....



Fred Ramirez (*woolybuggerfred*) of Central Sierra Fly Fishing Adventures will be presenting "**The Valley of the Three Kings.**" This presentation will focus on the three sections of the Kings River. The Park section (aka South Fork of the Kings), the Upper section (Special Management section) and the Lower section that everyone fishes. Fred will share his intimate knowledge of the river system as well as speaking about some of the conservation work that is taking place on the lower river.

You can check out Fred's website at;

[www.centralsierraflyfishingadventures.com](http://www.centralsierraflyfishingadventures.com)

Or you can call him at; (559) 859-FISH

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The July General Meeting will be held at will be Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the **Kernville Odd Fellows Hall, 50 Tobias Street, Kernville**. There will be a board meeting at 6:00 PM prior to the general meeting and all directors and chairpersons are encouraged to attend.

Our presenters are our very own Rob & Ryan Buhler (*clouserfreak and ryan*); both well known for their expertise in fly tying and fish catching! Their presentation will be;

### BACKPACKING THE GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS

How does fly fishing for 20" Kern River Rainbows just outside of Sequoia National Park, deep inside the Sierra Nevada range, nearly twenty miles from the closest road sound to you? Prepare yourself for the adventure of a lifetime! Get tips for physical preparation and food/gear options. Discuss backcountry trail and campsite safety and etiquette needs. Did we mention sight fishing for 20" Kern Rainbows in their native setting? Review tackle and fly options along with strategies for successful fishing.

Backpack to one of the world's finest trout waters deep inside the remote Kern Canyon ensuring lasting memories and a connection with self, nature, and God too often overlooked in today's society.





Rob & Ryan will also be teaching a beginning to intermediate fly tying class during the day at this same location. More information on this class will follow and will be listed on the Forum.

The August General Meeting will be Saturday, August 11<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.

The presenter will be Bill Lowe of Bill Lowe's Guide Service, Fair Oaks, CA. Bill's presentation will be on Spey Casting.

Bill is FFF Certified in both Single-hand and Two-Handed Casting, and Sage Schools Casting Instructor. He is also the Lead Spey Instructor at the Leland Sonoma Ranch.

For anyone that hasn't had the opportunity to speak with or spend time fishing with Bill this will be a real treat indeed. Bill's easy going yet energetic style is truly a joy to be around. He speaks clearly in a manner that everyone can understand, giving great detail while making the whole experience fun.

On Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Bill will be presenting an "on the water" Spey Clinic from 9:00 – 3:00. The cost of the clinic is \$150.00 per attendee and is limited to 5 – 10 participants. Bill will teach the switch cast, snap-T and double-spey from either the river-right or river-left direction. He will also have on hand Sage's complete line of Spey Rods in both the Traditional and European tapers (line-weights 6 through 9) so you can try them and decide which best fits your style.

Further details will be posted on the Forum and more information about Bill will follow next month.

There will be no September Meeting due to the Rendezvous being held. Due to the below noted SWCFFF Fly Fishing Faire, the Rendezvous has been moved to Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held on the Upper Kern, as usual, but the location has not yet been finalized. The full details will be posted on the Forum as soon as they become available.



## **SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFF SCHEDULES MASSIVE MAMMOTH FLY FISHING FAIRE**

Plans for the Southwest Council FFF's 24 local club Fly Fishing Faire in Mammoth are coming together.

"Slated for Sept. 13-16, The Fly Fishing Faire will be a potpourri of the sport with clinics, workshops, films, casting, fly-tying, vendor displays and every aspect of the sport aimed at conventional anglers who want to 'convert', casual anglers, fly-fishing fanatics and weekend visitors to the Mammoth area," said Chiaki Harami.

Adult admission is \$10 with children and teens age 16 and under free. One admission is good for all Faire days. Some workshops and seminars are included in the Faire admission; other classes will have separate registration fees. Hours are Thursday, 2-5; Friday, 8-5; Saturday, 8-5; and Sunday, 9-3.

The Faire will be headquartered at Cerro Coso Community College, 101 College Parkway in Mammoth.

"We scheduled the event to coincide with the end-of-summer Eastern Sierra caddis hatch, the start of fall colors, the beginning of school and much less traffic," said Harami.

Featured film presentation will be The International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4), 13 short and feature length films – about two hours – produced by professional and amateur filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing.

Fly-fishing film topics scheduled range from steelhead in Northern British Columbia to chasing multiple species in Costa Rica.

Programs, classes or seminars will include:

- On-stream line mending workshops by Guy Jeans, Kern River Fly Shop, Kernville;
- Hot Creek and where to fish in the Eastern Sierra by Kevin Peterson, manager, Hot Creek Ranch;
- Basic to Advanced Fly-Tying, Steve Fernandez, Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, San Fernando Valley;

- Tying Extended Body Flies, Naomi Okamoto, Pasadena Casting Club;
- Fishing Lake Crowley from the shore, Ernie Gulley, Deep Creek Fly Fishers;
- Rush Creek/Silver Lake float-tubing, Streamborn Fly Fishers;
- All day rod building class, Chiaki Harami, Southern Sierra Fly Fishers;
- Building custom leaders and how to fish them (on-stream instruction) on Hot Creek, Mas Okui, Sierra Pacific Flyfishers;
- Beginning Digital Photography workshops, Michael Miller, professional photographer, California State University, Northridge and Pasadena Casting Club.

Professional fly-fishing guides and instructors for the Faire will come from the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide Assn.; Ken's Sporting Goods, Bridgeport; and the Trout Fly Troutfitter, Mammoth Lakes.

There will also be golf, spa sessions and other activities for the entire family.

According to Fernandez, who is coordinating the tying, "Many of the best fly-tiers in California will conduct hands-on workshops demonstrating productive Eastern Sierra patterns."

Among the vendors will be fly-fishing shops expected to have end-of-the-year specials on close-out 2012 merchandise as well as an advance peek at holiday gifts.

For advance registration and a list of programs, fly-fishing films, presenters, fly-tiers and events, visit the Faire website at [www.regonline.com/flyfishingfaire](http://www.regonline.com/flyfishingfaire)

*Bill*

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

### **When the Addict Needs Help**

I went to work with a hangover last Monday. It was the second time this month. I'm starting to feel bad about the habits that are causing me to feel so bad on a work day. I called my good friend, Shane (*fishinXJ*) to talk and maybe get some guidance to put me back on the right track. He did his best to encourage me and assured me that there are caring people out there that can help me. I just need to decide I need help.

After some thought, I did call those people and they did have some good advice and encouragement. Their suggestions were pretty basic, but I'm not sure I can follow their plan. I just don't think I can stop fishing and take a mid-

day nap or not stay out there until night falls on the East Walker.

I've been wiped out because I've been going up to Bridgeport every weekend, fishing dark to dark and getting almost no rest on the weekends. You didn't think I was talking about something else did you?



First fish of a great month!!!

Spring is in the air!!! April turns to May and that means flow increase on the East Walker and it's time for Brown trout.....Big Brown Trout!!!

I really love the EW. It has become my home away from home in early summer. This year has been better than most, mainly due to the people involved. The first trip of the year was with Mark, fishing buddy extraordinaire. Fishing was kind of tough, but we both managed to catch plenty of fish, mainly due to Mark's motto, "Keep the fly in the water." Good advice Mark!!

That trip, we met a nice young Marine soon to be leaving for Afghanistan. He was having trouble matching a difficult EW hatch. I did my best to help him catch a few, which I did; I even went above and beyond the call and just caught all the rising fish myself. For educational purposes only you know. Hey, I'm an addict you know how it goes!!!

The next evening I did figure out the hatch, believe it or not, ANTS!!! Yep, # 20 ant I tie just for the EW.



20/20 fish taken on my EW ant

I later went up alone. I like to do this at least once a year. Just selfish, I guess. Sometimes it is good to have some time to just be alone with my thoughts.....and a bunch of REALLY BIG Brown Trout!!! I don't know why, I fish better when I'm alone. Maybe I concentrate more on what I'm



doing. For sure the great food Mark brings is a distraction. I just know that I really enjoy fishing alone sometimes.

Fishing was the best I've had in a long time. The water had warmed to 58 degrees and fish were willing and in shallow water. I had quite a few fish between 18 and 20", with 4 fish over 20 in that number. Nothing super big, but many, many fish caught and most of them very nice sized. All in all, two great weekends fishing one of my favorite rivers.



Another 20+ Brown



And another.... This is becoming a habit I can live with!!!

So, as you can see, it is going to be very difficult to 'cure' my addiction. I just can't help it. I am totally and hopelessly addicted to Brown Trout, especially big ones.

Come to think of it, I'm pretty fond of Rainbow Trout also. Brookies and Goldens are really cool too. I've also been known to fish for Carp, Bass, Crappie and Bluegill. Come to think of it, I like to fish for pretty much anything that swims. Mainly though, Trout are my passion. The beauty of the places they live.....the incredible colors God gave them to wear.

Nothing feeds my heart and calms my soul like cold water flowing past my legs. Through all the times of my life, both

good and difficult, fly fishing has been there to help me celebrate life and sooth the bruises it causes from time to time. If all I have to pay for the joy and exhilaration I receive from my passion is a fishing hangover now and then, I can live with that.

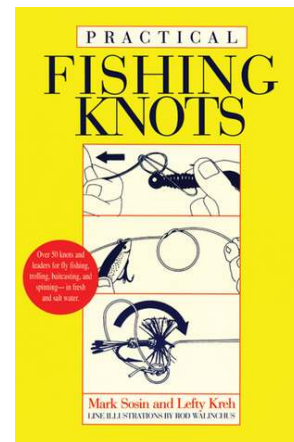
Blue Skies and Fishy Flies,

*Allen*

### Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)

If you are like me, most of the time you head to the water with a fly rod most of your actions are a repeat of prior outings. Consistency has its benefits, but improvement requires changes. Otherwise, find a rut that you enjoy.

My method to improve is to take three small books with me in my fly-fishing backpack. These are simple books with lots of information that can improve my fishing day. The books could be something you peruse at breakfast or lunch, or simply when you are taking a break. I don't refer to them as much as I should, but every time that I do, I always say to myself that I should review these books more often.



### Practical Fishing Knots

By Lefty Kreh, Mark Sosin

This completely new book, graced with new illustrations and thoroughly updated to include new materials and knots, is a must for all fishermen who want the clearest, most accessible guide available. "Every fisherman should acquire a copy". -- Fishing World

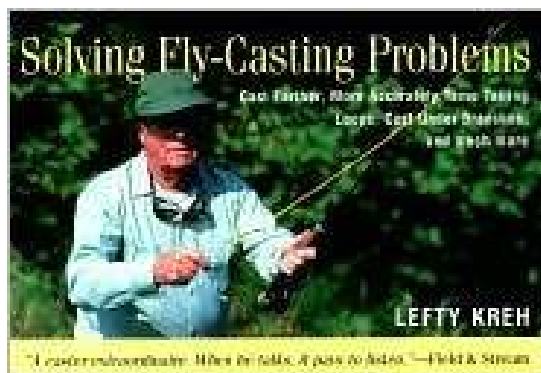
Published September 1st 1991 by Lyons Press, Guilford, CT (first published 1972)

Paperback, 144 pages ISBN 1558211020

Did you ever wonder if you changed the way you tied your dry fly from an improved clinch knot to Palomar knot or a Turle knot how that would change your fishing? The question applies to other knots that make the fly delivery possible. Is there another knot that is faster, easier to tie with cold hands, or easier to tie under low light conditions?

Finally, are you prepared to hook up larger fish such as carp and bass? The knots that have worked OK for trout may not be up to the task for the larger fish.

You won't know until you try. There may be a pleasant surprise awaiting you.



### **Solving Fly-Casting Problems**

by Lefty Kreh

Casting a fly line is truly an art. In this book, Lefty shows how to get more distance, avoid tangles, and cast under difficult conditions. He begins with the fundamentals, then goes on to diagnose and eliminate a variety of casting problems, including how to:

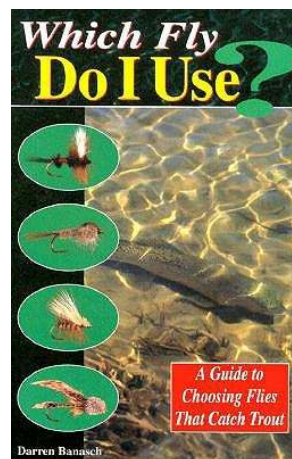
- tame tailing loops
- cast in windy conditions
- change the direction of a cast quickly and accurately
- get wet flies deeper and faster with a tuck cast
- avoid trees and bushes behind the angler
- reach under low-lying branches -- and more.

(This said it well enough that I am copying it from the book cover)

Published October 1st 2000 by The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT (first published September 2000)  
Paperback, 96 pages ISBN 1585740349

Let's face it -- the problem most of have is that we don't know enough about casting to be versatile in matching an appropriate cast to the situation. The problem may be a lack of technique or trying to apply a technique that is not the best for the situation. Lefty Kreh presents a number of useful techniques that will enhance your options.

Again, this is one of those books (*when reviewed regularly*) will help to remind of other casting options or remind you that options are available to help your fishing. For example, one of my questions posed on the forum was how to get more distance in my roll cast. Surprisingly, Lefty Kreh's solution was not offered as means to improve. Kreh's solution was to use a weak roll cast to get the line off the water and continue the forward cast when the line is just hitting the water in front of you. Full details are available in the book.



### **Which Fly Do I Use?**

**A Guide to Choosing Flies that Catch Trout**

by Darren Banasch

With thousands upon thousands of fly patterns in existence, the question of which to use is a good one. It is impossible for the avid fly-fisher to know all the patterns and which to use in various waters, let alone the casual or beginning fly-fisher. Despite the wide variety of available fly patterns, it is possible to choose a selection of appropriate flies that are proven producers on all three water types in which trout are found -- streams, rivers, and lakes.

Published May 1st 2000 by Frank Amato Publications, Portland, OR  
Paperback, 48 pages ISBN 1571882022

The author, Darren Banasch, lives in Alberta, Canada. Although he has fished in many locations in his 30-years of fishing, his travels may not have included the Kern River Valley. Based on this deduction, I can reasonably assume that is why the Kern Emerger is not listed. I concede the oversight on his part, but do my small part to correct his error.

For my trilogy of reminder books, this one completes the list. I find I regularly move farther away from the center of useful fishing information. Something catches my attention, I try the fly, and I have been diverted from the range of flies that regularly catch fish. The author nicely describes the flies and the food that may imitate or their value as an attractor pattern. For comparison to the **Sierra Trout** book by Ralph Cutter, many of the recommended flies are in common.

I find it useful to review the general flies that work when it comes times to tie some more, or stock up my fly box. It is also good to have a neutral source when you are out on the water and stuck in a mindset that is convinced the fly you tied on should work, but the fish are giving you another opinion.

I hope you enjoyed these backpack suggestions. If you have some you would like to add, let me know and I will be glad to get the information into a later newsletter.

*Ants*



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



## **FUR STRIP CLOUSER**

June's already here! It must be time for streamers with the high water runoff conditions on all of our favorite streams and rivers. Well, not so much this year, but that doesn't mean that you can't chase some larger fish with your favorite streamer patterns.

For large trout, the streamer pattern that I most often fish with is the Fur Strip Clouser. Rabbit fur strips are a killer and proven addition to most any streamer pattern. The strips move enticingly, with the individual fibers reacting to every nuance of the current. Use magnum strips for larger fresh and saltwater baitfish patterns. For smaller sizes use zonker strips made from rabbit, mink, or pine squirrel. Barred strips or a marker can add another attractive dimension to your fly. Bob Clouser ties them in a wide range of hook sizes to catch everything from big pike, muskies, and bass to stripers, snook, and steelhead.

A quote from Bob's book *Clouser Flies* reads, "*It is deadly for trout in sizes 4 to 8.*" Using longer 3x streamer hooks I have found this to be quite true for the similarly sized 6's and 10's. I like to substitute squirrel tail for the traditional deer hair in these smaller trout hook sizes. This is something that Bob suggests trying with his original Clouser pattern when fishing for trout. Calf or kip tail is another good substitute if more bulk is needed on a short fly.

Tie some up any color you like and go after that big one that you lost last year! You know right where he is and now you have just the right weapon.

### **Materials:**

Hook: 3x streamer

Thread: 6/0 (white for light flies, black for dark)

Eyes: Red Real Eyes Plus 5/32-1/4 (anything can be substituted as long as the weight is enough to turn the hook over)

Tail: Rabbit Strip (1 and 3/4" for #6, 1 and 1/4" for #10)

Belly: Grey Squirrel Tail

Gills/Throat: Red Holographic Flashabou

Flash: Olive and Pearl or Olive and Gold Flashabou, Krystal Flash, Angel Hair

Back: Olive Squirrel Tail

### **Tying Instructions:**



1. Cut fur strip hide to length. Cut a slit in the middle of the skin about 3/8" to 1/2" from the open end of the strip, with the hair fibers facing away, to insert the hook through.



2. Remove or file barb on hook and slide fur strip onto hook the hook with the skin facing the hook eye. Insert the hook into the vise, pulling the fur to the back and out of the way. Attach the thread at about the 70% mark and build up a thread bump. Attach the eyes behind the bump with crisscross wraps and over the hook, under the eyes clockwise wraps.



3. Move thread to the hook bend and invert hook in vise or rotate vise. Fur should be facing up towards the hook point. Slide strip end up to the rear of the eyes and prepare the area at the bend for tie in. Clear fibers away for clean tie in. Moisten fibers if necessary. Tie in fur strip at the hook bend with several tightening and several securing wraps.



4. Move thread forward to behind the eyes. Attach the end of the fur strip here, stroking fibers toward the rear of the hook.



5. Move thread in front of eyes and invert hook or rotate vise again. Cut a small bunch of grey squirrel tail by pulling fibers at a 90% angle from the tail and trimming at the base to keep tips even. Remove short fibers by holding longer fibers by the tips and softly stroking out unwanted materials. Measure tips to cover the hide and trim the base of the fibers to length. Tie in with several wraps in front of the eye, and then bring thread behind the eyes for several more wraps being careful not to over tighten at the rear causing fibers to flare wildly.



6. Attach two pieces of Red Holographic Flashabou or any red flash material and move thread in front of the eyes. Wrap gills with flash material and tie off in front of the eyes.





7. Invert hook or rotate vise once again. Select several strands of Flashabou, Angel Hair, and or Krystal Flash. Attach flash using the fold-in method doubling over fibers, creating extra flash and bulk in the mid-section, or tie in conventionally. Trim Flashabou and Angel Hair at or just past fur strip fibers. Trim Krystal Flash at the end of the squirrel tail if using. Krystal Flash inhibits the fluid movements of the rabbit fur.



8. Prepare a small bunch of olive (darker colors always on top of fly) squirrel tail the same as step #5. Measure tips to be even with belly tips. Trim base to length and attach in front of eyes.



9. For an extra attractor add some flash material wrapped to the head. Coat with 5 or 30-minute epoxy. The five-minute is good for a fly or two. A rotator is need for the 30-minute epoxies, but you can coat many flies at once.



*Rob*

**Tips & Techniques:** by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

### **Something Different**

Everybody gets stuck doing the same thing over and over day after day. Fly fishers are no exception. We tend to fish the same waters going as far as to visit the same runs and pools we have caught fish from before. Most of us fish the same flies and technique each outing. Now is the time to break out of that pattern and try something different.

A great way to get out of this rut is to fish some new water. I did this last year when I started to fish some of the bays and harbors in Southern California. It turned out to be a fantastic experience and has become a favorite thing to do whenever I can. Even when visiting the same water you can try and fish a new spot while you are there.

Another great thing to do is learn a new technique. If you usually fish dries try a streamer or nymph for a while or vice versa.

You can try learning different casts and presentations. A few club members have been spey casting lately and it looks like a blast. There is a spey casting presentation and class coming in August and I'm hoping to make it up for that one.

So go try something new. It might be new water or a new technique, maybe a float tube or kayak just try something different. For myself I'm going to try and get my article for the newsletter to Gary on time, which will be something new for me. Remember you can't catch fish unless your flies in the water.

*Ryan*

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

The most amazing thing about Ryan's article "Something Different" is that it mirrors what I had planned on writing my message about.

Just like Ryan said, most of us fly fishers do get into a rhythm with our fishing and we continually go back to the same tried and true locations and techniques that have proven successful for us in the past, and most likely will continue working for us in the future. Although there is some truth to the old adage "If it isn't broke, don't fix it," there is also something to be said about "spreading your wings."

I know that at least for me, part of going back to the river that I know best and using the techniques that have panned out in the past is a way of "getting the most bang out of my fly fishing buck." I think that for most of us, the time we are able to get away from work or general responsibilities of life is precious and sometimes hard to get. We really feel the need to capitalize on the time we have with this wonderful sport called fly fishing. And like most fishermen, a vast majority of us probably spend most of our fly fishing time allotment fishing the closest waters we can.

The reason this topic was on my mind is because my wife (Lacey) and I were able to spend three days this past week fishing two Northern California waters which took us away from our "normal" fly fishing venues and offered us the opportunity to try something we hadn't experienced for a few years and also try something entirely new.

While we had fished the Lower Sacramento River a few years ago, we did manage to mix that location up a bit by fishing a different stretch than we had fished before. We drifted the section from Balls Ferry to Jelly's Ferry. The weather was hot (100+) for both days, but the fishing was hot too. We had 50+ landed fish on both days with plenty of misses and LDR's thrown in to boot. We even had some outstanding dry fly fishing on both days. What a treat!



The second river we fished was the Lower American out of Rancho Cordova. This was a first time on this river and we chose to fish for shad with Bill Lowe. This was way different than any fly fishing we had done before and boy are we glad we tried it. We quickly learned new techniques of casting a full sink line and "yo-yoing" the line to entice a strike. We learned our part and the shad kept us busy after that doing what they do best.



And what can I say about the American Shad? Awesome fighting fish that everyone needs to try. It's a fight that never ends. Simply a blast to catch!

Yep, for Lacey and I, while most of the trip was somewhat familiar, the differences really opened up new fly fishing opportunities and knowledge that we will certainly capitalize on in the future.

I hope everyone gets a chance this season to try something new!

Tight Lines, *Gary*



# SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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