

Ring of the Rise

October 2011



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Another Rendezvous is history. It sure seems like they're coming closer and closer together but, as they say, time flies. We had a fantastic turn-out with 71 folks fishing and 140 for dinner.

The weather was perfect but unfortunately the river was muddied from the thunderstorms in the high country. This made for some difficult fishing conditions, but it didn't dampen the spirits of all those who attended and fish were caught and released. Congratulations to the winners. Brad Weich (*BradW*) had the biggest fish of the day with an 18" rainbow and Tessa Kopp (*Coach Scott's daughter*) won the kids division with a nice 16" rainbow. Keith Penguilley won the dry fly category with 3 trout and Joe Martin (*Tech*) brought the most fish to net with 13 trout and 4 suckers. Of course, the "*Best Dressed*" award went to Randy Skidgel (*Randy*) hands down....again. Fun times!

We had a lot of good food and entertainment in the evening with the band and John Taylor (*TK863*) demonstrated his amazing abilities on the bag pipes. It's too bad there was a problem with the lights as it got dark. By the time the situation was rectified a lot of people had drifted off to their camp sites and motels. I know several folks couldn't get sites at Mountain River Adventures and had to camp elsewhere. We may be looking at another location for next year so we can all be in one place as we have in years past.

We had many new members attending for the first time, and we hope you all enjoyed the weekend and had the opportunity to meet and put faces with the forum names. Next year we will have name tags to make that a bit easier although our members are some of the most outgoing people I know and make you feel comfortable as soon you arrive. I certainly enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones and wish we could all get together more than once a year.

We owe Chiaki a huge thank you and a pat on the back for once again coordinating this event and a thank you to all who helped through the weekend. The biggest thank you has to go out to all of you, our members. Your generosity is unsurpassed. The money raised from the raffle and auction insures financing for the Kids Academy and speakers for the coming year.

Once again the big item to go in the auction was the Woodwards' cabin in Montana. The guys who went last year had a great time on some beautiful water. Thanks guys for

donating a week in your little bit of paradise again. Liam (*Liam*) and Allen Bell (*Raider*) also raised a tidy sum with their pre-Rendezvous fly auction.

This Saturday is the try outs for the second SSFFC team for entry in the Inter-Club Tournament to be held in November. We are expecting rain this week but hopefully it won't affect the river too much. Guy will be our speaker Saturday evening. Those of you going on the Forks outing will find this to be a timely presentation.

Again, thank you all for your generosity and support. See you Saturday!

 $\mathcal{B}ill$

River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

This is a fly fishing report for the week of 9-21-11 written on Wednesday 9-21-11

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern The upper river has been fishing very well the last 5 days. We are seeing a very late golden stonefly emergence this year.

Rainbows and browns are taking various golden stonefly dry flies in sizes 10-16 early in the morning and late into the evening. You can fish bigger dry flies all day even if there isn't a hatch and the rainbows will still smack it.

Other go to flies are emerging BWO mayflies like a size 18-22 sprout or Rene Harrop's emerging CDC BWO. Small Parachute Adams sizes 18-20 and 12-16 Stimis' are getting the job done as well. Good nymphs are smaller tungsten yellow sallies and flashback type nymphs.

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 387 cfs = You can wade!!!!!

<u>The 4 mile wild trout section</u> Open year round. The fishing above the bridge is getting good! <u>Catch and</u> Release - barbless hooks only!!

<u>Lake Isabella</u> Carp is back on and the fishing is getting good around the north fork mouth.

<u>Lower Kern</u> Evening hatches are coming off and fish are looking up. The lower river is fishing well. The lower river is 1492+cfs (above average <u>cubic feet</u> per <u>second</u> for fishing) and the fishing is ok. Be very careful wading/fishing the lower. The small mouth fishing is good.

Tributaries of the North and South Fork Kern Open

South Fork of the Kern from Rockhouse North Open

Guy



Conservation Report: by Shane Goslin (fishinXJ)

Kern River Rainbow Project

I turned in a grant request to the Kern Fisheries Enhancement Trust, aka Edison Trust, for the wellheads, pumps, piping and electrical for the new wells. We're already holding the money for the five new wells so we can help the DFG move quickly once the land lease agreement is approved. Hopefully the new grant gets approved at October's Trust meeting and another piece of the puzzle will fall into place.

For the wells, the usual boondoggle and paralyzed government story. The county and state attorneys finally agreed to the lease language, signed it, and sent it to the Board of Supervisors for what was thought to be an easy approval. Thought wrong! Supervisor McQuiston's office sent the contract back for recommended revisions. We all know what that means.....months or years of lawyers haggling over a word in the contract. Stay tuned.......



Kern Plateau Grazing Meeting

Only one person responded (with a well written letter) to my request for input to pass along to Tim Bartley for the Forest Service meeting about expiring cattle grazing allotments. I have to assume that most club members do not see the cattle grazing allotments as a problem, so I won't write a club letter. We can affect changes and management practices but only if, as a club, we really care and get involved.

Thanks,

Shane

Outings Report: by Cris Miller (Dances with Bears)

Forks Outing - October 15th & 16th

This is a heritage adventure outing! Last year it was definitely one of the greatest backpacking trips we took, and for many reasons it's one of my favorites.

They have some decent campsites with some semipermanent cooking facilities so it is also a great place to do a potluck and go all out in the dinner sector! Nothing beats a great dinner after a day of catching some KRR's.

Currently the participant roster is up to 26 participants and this is truly looking like the trip of the year!

You can follow the forum post at; http://www.kernriverflyfishing.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1313639210

Cris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)



ROD BUILDING CONTEST!!!!!

FYI: There is finally a "Casting for Recovery" (CFR) chapter in Southern California. It is about 1 month old and working on getting off the ground. For those of you unfamiliar with CFR, it is a non-profit organization that takes breast cancer survivors on fly fishing retreats. Something to take their

minds off the ordeals they have been going through. The cool thing about having a southern California chapter is that any donations we make to CFR stay with that chapter.

Sooooooo its time for a rod building donation/contest for a worthy cause. Just like the 2011 Rod Swap, we are going to make it a fun contest. Something to push our skills to another level. We will build rods for CFR and then they will be judged on craftsmanship. Again, we're not looking for the most expensive components, but the best craftsmanship. And just like the swap, I will donate a custom machined reel seat and insert. Nickel silver for first place and Aluminum for second place.

With all the great builders in the club, the goal is to see at least 10 rods go to CFR, at a minimum. Knowing all the classes the SSFFC has provided I know we have plenty of builders to supply a good quantity of quality rods.

These rods are for fledgling fly fishers, so there are some rod parameters. Build 4 or 5 weight rods in the 8'- 9' range. Please supply a nice rod tube for the rod. These ladies deserve a class setup.

Due Date: January 1st 2012

Delivery Site: TBD. Need to find a willing judge. Plus they will need to ship the rods to the Southern Calif. chapter of CFR.

Build Parameters: 4-5 weight, 8'- 9'. Preferable 4 piece rods, with rod tube.

Judging criteria (at a minimum):

- Wraps packed with no gaps.
- Guide feet prepped properly.
- · Guides aligned.
- No epoxy slathered all over the handle or seat.
- Flex Coat (or equivalent) smooth with straight lines.

The criteria are basically what you should expect from a custom rod. Why judge the rods? It's just a way to push each other to product the best rods we can. But, don't let the "judging" keep you from building a rod; it's all in good fun and for such a worthy cause.

On a side note: A while back I was in the local fabric shop, picking up pink thread. While checking out, the sales lady looked at me with a raised eye brow. I told her I was building a fly rod for Casting for Recovery. She was a breast cancer survivor and said she was so sick of the pink. She thought she would scream if somebody handed her another pink gift. So I decided to tone down the pink on any rods I build for CFR. This rod will have a dash of pink on it somewhere. But, that's just me and that was just one survivor's opinion.

Please help me save face. I made a bold statement that the SSFFC rod builders would probably jump at the chance to support such a worthy cause.

Pete



Basic Rod Building Class

Date: Saturday, January 14th, 2012

Duration: Most of the day with a lunch break. Stay as long

as you want.

Location: Kernville Chamber of Commerce

Number of students: 8

Cost: TBD, need to see if materials costs have gone up (approx. \$125 to \$130).

What you get: A complete rod kit and the tools required to build a basic rod. Class rod is a 9', 3 piece, 5 weight. You will also receive a rod wrapper, drying motor, scissors, burnishing tool, china marker masking tape and guide finish with syringes, cups and brushes. In other words; YOU GET IT ALL!

Class content: By the end of the day you will have the basic knowledge to build a rod from scratch. Including seat and handle installation, guide prep, guide alignment, and the ability to start, wrap, and complete guide wraps.

Contact: PM me if you would like to be included in the class.

These classes are a hoot and worth every cent. It would cost quite a bit more if you bought everything separately. Trust me, I have forgotten something so there will be updates.

Pete

(There are currently 6, possibly 8 students already signed up for this class so make sure to follow the forum link "2012 Rod Building Class" in the Southern Sierra Fly Fishing section. – Gary)

Rod Building ~ Beyond the Basics

Due to interest, the SSFFC has decided to offer a rod building class called "Beyond the Basics". This will be a day of learning and sharing some different techniques to personalize your builds. The entire core topics have not been set in stone, but here are some areas we would like to cover:

Wraps: Alternating, two turn trim wraps, spiral, possibly fade wraps.

Handles: How to construct a custom handle. How to make a handle lathe from a portable drill. Checkerboard grips.

Feather inlays/ swelled butts: Just what it says.

Bull session: After everything is covered just sit around discussing various techniques we use to personalize the builds.

Supplies: Since this a not a newbie class, everybody should have supplies to build rods. It would be a good thing to bring your wrapping jig, thread and tools. Depending on who does the feather inlay section, we will probably have some feathers to mess around with for the inlays. Bring a blank, old or new to work with.

Where: Kernville Chamber of Commerce

When: Feb 11th, 2012. Same date as the FOTY dinner.

Time: Approximately 9:00 AM to.... until we finish up, run out of topics, or the fish are biting.

Number of participants: Probably 8 to 10. It depends on the interest.

If you have any other topics you would like covered, or would like to attend, shoot me a PM.

Pete & 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: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

The October general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, October 8th 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.

Guy Jeans will be wowing the attendees with his Kern Basin presentation: South Fork, North Fork, Lake Isabella, Lower and GTW, 3 heritage trout.

If you are planning on participating in the Forks Outing on October 15th & 16th, you really should attend this meeting to see Guy's presentation. His insight into how to fish this water could make the difference between a good fishing experience and epic experience!

Inter-Club Team Tryouts

As a reminder, don't forget that the same day as the regular club meeting, Saturday, October 8th, we will be holding the SSFFC Tournament Team Trials.

Those that have signed up to try out or to assist as Controllers need to meet at the Fly Shop at 8:00 am.

At the time of this mailing we are still in need of additional Controllers who will be assigned to a specific competitor with the responsibility of accurately measuring the competitors' trout, recording those findings on the competitors' scorecard and monitoring the competitors' compliance with the Tryout Rules.

SWCFFF SECOND ANNUAL INTER-CLUB FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT

Don't forget about the SWCFFF Second Annual Inter-Club Fly Fishing Tournament. As the winning club last year we get the honor of hosting it on our home waters again.

This year's event will be held on Saturday November 5th. This is a big event and as such, we will need many club members to assist as Controllers. If you are able to assist please call the Kern River Fly Shop at (760) 376-2040 to get your name on the list.

Additionally, if you're able to make it up that weekend, don't forget about the annual Poker Tournament that will be held at Ewing's Restaurant on Friday, November 4th. Dealers are provided for this fun filled Texas Hold'em Tournament.

The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the cards will fly at 7:00 pm. Please call the Kern River Fly Shop at (760) 376-2040 to hold a spot and register for the poker tournament

Prizes include;

- 1st Place Custom Sage TXL 1 wt built by Chiaki.
- 2nd Place Fly Box stuffed with flies by SSFFC members.
- 3rd Place ½ Day Guide Trip with Guy Jeans

This Poker Tournament is the kick off to start funding our Fifth Annual Kids Academy. The Rendezvous fly donation raffle went crazy but we need to raise more. Last year we had a limit of twelve kids but we couldn't say no and we ended up with seventeen graduates. Donations fully funded the school which costs around \$100 a student. Let's do it again!

An Evening with Joan Wulff

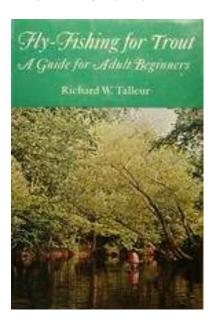
** CANCELLED **

The Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers is sorry to announce that due to recent health issues, Joan will not be able to travel for this event. They are hoping to re-schedule for next year.

I know we all send our best wishes to Joan for a complete and speedy recovery!

 $\mathcal{B}ill$

Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Fly-fishing for trout; A Guide for Adult Beginners By Richard W. Talleur

Hardcover, 260 pages Published January 28th 1974 by Winchester Press (first published 1974)



Fly fishing is a complicated sport. Talleur seems to do one of the better jobs of presenting the pieces of the sport so it makes sense. Some may view fly fishing as mysticism - and subsequently write their books that way. This book is not one of those. It is a great reference book to keep on the shelf and seems to offer more insight with each reading. Find it as a used book, enjoy it, lend it out to your friends who are learning, and hope to get it back.

The book starts with the basic fly fishing casts and then provides refinement to the casts that catch fish (i.e. mending). The next section discusses the author's Siamese triplet – rod, reel, and line. While at the time of the book, the

available materials were bamboo and fiberglass, the description of rod dynamics is still relevant. In setting up a rod, reel and line setup, the point of rod balance is typically desired at the point where the cork grip meets the shaft. The author has a preference for a tip-heavy feel, so he shows a balance point that is several inches away from the grip.

The section on equipment is dated (by some 3-4 decades), but even though the photo of the wading chains may be relevant in a museum, it is easy to see some gear has not changed much. The book continues with a section on leaders that includes knotted leaders since tapered leaders were uncommon at the time. The section on knot tying is still relevant as demonstration on how to tie some flies. The approach to match your flies to the stream entomology is always relevant as well as tactics on where the fish may be lying in the stream and how to present the fly in each the remaining circumstance. Finally, section conservation and fishing ethics is as relevant today as when the book was published.

If anyone has suggestions for books or visual materials to include in the library and review, please let me know. Please add a brief note to help me understand your suggestion, such as, as I found the descriptions easy to read, or I like the presentation of steps.

Thanks,

Ants

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



TANGERINE DREAM

Featured this month is another fantastic fish catching fly from Sierra legend Ralph Cutter. The Tangerine Dream is tied specifically to represent the giant *Dicosmoecus*, October Caddis.

It is already early October, but there is still plenty time to tie up a few and head to the Kern for some fast and fun fishing. This year's hatch may be delayed due to the weather/water conditions and great fishing can be found during and shortly after the main hatch when fish have been accustomed to seeing and eating the *Dicosmoecus* pupa. This is a fairly easy tie, so we will throw in a *twist* and use a dubbing loop to form a nice and thick, buggy body.

Materials:

Hook: 200 or streamer #6

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Orange and Cream Rabbit, Orange Antron (original recipe) Orange Opossum, Creamy Grey Rabbit, Orange Ice

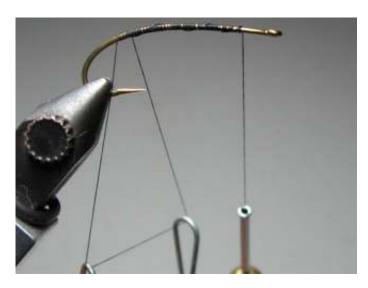
Dub (as usual, use what you have and like)

Hackle: Brown Mottled Hen Saddle

Tying Instructions:



Don't forget to file or pinch barb prior to setting in vise. Attach thread at two eye lengths behind the hook eye and wrap a thread base to a point just above the hook barb area.



Create a dubbing loop by pulling extra thread from the bobbin and wrapping excess thread around two fingers or a dubbing tool (I make mine out of paper clips and a drop of solder), then bring the return thread back near the staring

thread on the hook shank and make a couple of securing wraps. Move thread to the front of the fly and out of the way.



Select equal parts Orange and Cream Rabbit and a little Orange Antron. I used equal parts Orange Australian Possum and Creamy Grey Rabbit with a splash of Orange Ice Dub to create a sparkling, buggy, cream-amber.



Coat one thread with dubbing wax or moisten if you don't have wax to allow dubbing to stick temporarily. Apply a liberal amount of dubbing to prepared thread.



Close loop and twist thread until dubbing has formed a tight rope. Be careful not to over tighten and break thread.



Wrap dubbing rope forward to one eye length behind the hook eye and trim excess if necessary. Stroke dubbing fibers back to prepare for hackle tie in.



Select a Hen Saddle feather large enough so that the hackle tips will reach at least the hook point after tie in. I like to use a couple wraps of the marabou type feathers at the base of the stem before finishing with a couple of the standard hackle. Strip excess hackle from bottom of stem and tie in at the head of the fly.



Take three to four turns at the head of the fly while stroking fibers back with your material hand, keeping each wrap in front of the last. Tie off and trim excess.



Sweep hackle toward the rear of the hook with your material hand and take a few wraps toward the rear of the hook to secure. Add three half hitch knots or whip finish and apply head cement for security.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)

Fly Tying Materials 101

When I first started tying I found a vise that clamped to a table for 10 dollars at my local Sport Chalet. They had a small supply of materials. Most of the basic stuff... hooks, thread, dubbing and some assorted feathers and furs. At first I thought all materials where the same. Each package looked the same as the other, but over the years I slowly learned that they aren't.

With each new material I tied with I would learn more and more. I slowly learned what to look for when buying my tying supplies. Hopefully this article will help speed up someone's ability to chose the best materials.

I'll start with hooks, which aren't all the same. Unfortunately all I have experience with is Tiemco and a few Mustad saltwater hooks. I've never had a problem with either of them and I can find them almost anywhere and in the size and style I use most often. If you can recommend another brand please let me know.

When it comes to thread there are a few brands that you can find everywhere. Uni-thread, UTC and Danville are the most popular. The good thing about thread is it's always the same. Find one brand you like and every time you buy it you know it's the same. I mostly use Uni-thread in size 6/0

and 8/0 in the standard colors of black, brown, grey, olive and yellow. You can slowly collect them over time.

UTC and Danville are both excellent products but for some reason I find myself using Uni-thread most often. One main difference with UTC and Danville from Uni-thread is they lay flatter when you want that effect. All three have small and large diameter threads for any size fly you want to tie.

Dubbing is the primary material in most flies. Both nymph and dry fly dubbing comes from two basic sources.... natural and synthetic, mostly nylon. Dubbing is relatively inexpensive and that makes it easy to collect.

Rabbit, goat, squirrel and muskrat are popular natural dubbing. They come in a rainbow of dyed colors and can be easily stored in plastic compartment boxes with a hole drilled in the back.

Synthetic dubbing comes in every color, texture and sparkle a tyer could desire. All of them are fantastic. Antron is useful in all colors for nymphs and dries. It's easy to work with and blends well with other materials. Antron adds a nice sparkle to natural dubbing and that makes it easy to customize your dubbing. Ice dub, SLF, and other synthetics gives a tyer endless possibilities at the vise. Haretron is a mix of rabbit and antron and is a great dubbing for nymphs. You can buy it premixed or blend your own in a coffee grinder. Poly dubbing and Superfine are both waterproof and an excellent choice for dry flies.

When tying with natural materials, not all products at the shop are equal. CDC for example, you can purchase a bag of it for around 2 dollars. There will be some good feathers in there but not many. A bag of premium CDC feathers will cost around 3 dollars but will have 50% more usable feathers. Some peacock feathers are denser and longer than others. The same is true with peasant tails. Some have longer fibers and the ends aren't worn down.

With all feathers, if you have a choice always look at each pack for qualities you want. Goose and turkey biots aren't all the same length. Some are longer which are easier to tie with. Go through a few bags and look for longest and cleanest biots. When buying matching pairs of duck quill feathers look carefully at each feather for any wear and tear of the fibers.

When purchasing hackle buy the best you can afford. Quality hackle is a pleasure to tie with. If you are buying a whole cape take the time and look at it carefully. Not all capes will have a good number of size 18 to 24 feathers. Some will have more in that range than others. A good dry fly hackle will have feathers with stiff and dense fibers. A good way to start tying is to buy a good quality grizzly rooster neck. It will have an abundance of all hackle sizes.

When purchasing hairs to tie with, look at more than one package and find the best available. Look at the tips to see if they are unbroken and straight. Stay away from packs of hair that are bent or curved unnaturally. Also look for packs with longer fibers.

Elk is longer and larger in diameter and stiffer than deer. It's great for stimulators, elk hair caddis, tails, hairwings and overbodies.

Deer hair is softer and shorter than elk. Perfect for spinning or upright flared wings.

Moose is great for tails and overbodies. Look for packs that are long and straight.

Bucktails are excellent for streamers. Check each tail for fullness and texture of the hair. Look for crinkly fibers and long length.

I could go on and on. There are a ton of materials you can possibly use in fly tying. One thing to remember is that synthetic materials are always the same, natural materials are not. Take your time when selecting your materials and get the best you can. Have fun collecting supplies for your tying addiction and have fun tying.

Ryan

Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

Yep, I can go on and on about how wonderful the Fall is on our Kern River, but I thought I would be most respectful by just posting a couple pictures from the last Inter-Club Tournament. Tight Lines, Gary





SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

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