

Ring of the Rise

November 2011



Official Periodical of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers Club

Gary Silveira, Newsletter Editor

President's Message: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

This year has just sailed by with a vengeance. It's time for our Poker Night, Inter-Club Tournament and awards dinner already. It will, no doubt, be a fun filled weekend for all. The SSFFC will have three teams participating this year with one team comprised of ladies. We wish them all the best of luck in the competition, but remember the main thing is to have fun and enjoy meeting folks from the other clubs who will be in attendance.

We still need controllers for our teams so if any of you can make it to the Kern that weekend let us know. Even if you are a controller, you should be able to do a little fishing between sessions or after the 4:00 stop time, and of course, you will have a good time at the awards dinner at Ewings. The money raised from the entry fees, once again, will be donated to the SWCFFF to help them with all their worthwhile projects.

Cris Miller had to step down as our Outings Chairman and we certainly will miss him. He put together some real adventure outings for our club members and all who had the opportunity to go on them had wonderful stories to relate. I wish I could have made a few of them just for the food. The Forks trip earlier in September had to be the winner from all the posts and photos. Over 20 people made the trek and brought in enough food for another 20. Tri-tip, filet mignon, smoked salmon, appetizers, homemade pies and all the side dishes. No roughing it with these adventurers!! Cris, we thank you for all your hard work and for bringing the outings to a new level and also for lining up your successor for a smooth transition.

Chris Chamberlain has agreed to step up to the plate and take over the reins as our new Outings Chairman and is very excited about it. Most of you have seen photos and posts of some of the trips Chris has made so you know he will have some great trips organized in the near future. He is very enthusiastic about fly fishing and like his predecessor, enjoys getting off the beaten path and exploring new areas. The Board wants to welcome Chris to his new position and thank him for his involvement with the club.

Chiaki and Chris are going to be working together to line up speakers whose presentations will coincide with some planned outings. It will be beneficial for folks going on an outing to have a speaker who is familiar with that area before venturing out. Nothing like a little inside information from a guide or someone who has some expertise on your destination.

This should be a very good year for the club. We will be expanding our library with new DVDs and books for all to sign out and enjoy. Some outstanding speakers will be coming in and Chris is already polling members for suggestions on outings and the replies are rolling in.

Hopefully the county will cut through the red tape and we can proceed with work on the Kern River Rainbow Project. We have the grant money for upgrading the Kernville Planting Base to a full fledged hatchery with new wells and a generator for backup power. Now we're just waiting for the go ahead. It should be a block buster of a year for us.

Hope to see a good turnout for our Poker Night and Inter-Club Tournament. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

 $\mathcal{B}ill$



River Report: by Guy Jeans (Flyguy)

Hello everyone, this is a <u>fly fishing report</u> for the week of 10-24-11.

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. The dry fly fishing doesn't get any better. Floated the upper river yesterday and had great fishing.

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 Stimi's are getting the job done as well.

Good nymphs are smaller tungsten yellow sallies and flashback type nymphs. Great attractors right now are Kern Kandy, Kern Emerger Yellow and Psycho Princes. 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 = You can wade!!!!!

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

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

Lower Kern 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)

DONATIONS FOR THE SCOUTS



Thumbs Up from Nate for the new backpack and donated camping gear. His grandmother was in tears and said that we had no idea how much of a difference the Scout Troop is making in his life. She thanked the SSFFC and Forum members for making a difference in his life too.

I'd like to personally thank the generosity of the fly fishing community. We have a stack of good gear that will be put to work and donated to Scouts whose families can't afford to gear their kids up. Our next adventure hike is scheduled in December. Happy trails!



Big Nate and Assistant Scout Master Mr. Wilkinson

Shane

Outings Report: by Chris Chamberlain (ChrisC)

Hello Southern Sierra Fly Fishing Club. As it turns out, Cris Miller has stepped down as Outings Chair, and I have signed up to carry the torch. Cris really threw himself headlong into this position, and did an amazing job turning these outings into more than just fishing trips. Cris has managed to give our club one more thing to separate it from every other fly fishing club in the country. Due, in large part, to Cris's hard work, our outings have become something for every club to envy. This was never any more evident, than on our latest outing to the Forks of the Kern.

The October outing to the Forks of the Kern had to have been one of the greatest outings this club has seen. Twenty-five people hiked more than three miles into the Golden Trout Wilderness with visions of Kern River Rainbows and homemade pies leading us down the trail.

The weather was beautiful, the trout were willing, the company was spectacular, and the food was just unbelievable. Saturday night we had a potluck that included grilled tri-tip (thanks to Cris and Brandt's strong legs, and even stronger determination) and roasted veggies. We topped it all off with freshly baked apple and pumpkin pies and cheesecake courtesy of Amy. Everyone agreed they had never had a better meal this far from a trailhead. Everyone caught fish, and a ton of laughs were shared around the campfire. This trip will be an annual event, so

keep the middle of October 2012 and beyond clear on your calendars.

I'm really excited about taking on the task of Outings Chair, and we've already got a lot of cool trips planned for the upcoming year. The inter-club tourney and Kids' Academy poker night are in November, so no outing then. In December, we'll be fishing the lower Kings, so bring your big-boy sticks. Watch the forum for the details.

The first week of January we'll be fishing the Trinity for the annual run of steelhead. Last year, the fish just weren't there, but it was by far the best skunking any of us had ever had. We had an awesome cabin right on the river. We're still working out the exact details for this one, so stay tuned to the forum. I'll also have the details worked out in time for the next newsletter.

As for the rest of the year, I've got some ideas and am still working out the schedule, so if you have any thoughts just let me know.

I hope to broaden the range of outings, so we'll have chances at a variety of fish. This year will be a lot of fun, and I hope to see a lot of participation on these outings. I'll have a full schedule of 2012 outings on the forum in early November.

Chris

Rod Building: by Pete Emmel (Pete)

Since Pete had to take a family trip to the mid-west, there will be no report this month.

I'm sure, however; it would be a safe bet that if he had posted a report it would include details about the "Casting for Recovery – Rod Building Contest" and the rod building classes coming up in January & February, so here's a reminder about the details of those events.



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.

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. – Garv)

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/



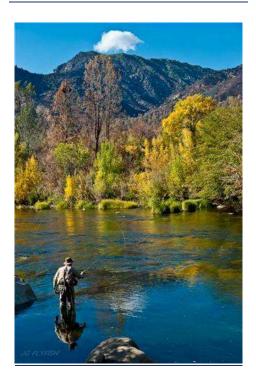
Club Meeting: by Bill Darbee (Bill)

Due to the SWCFFF Inter-Club Tournament taking place this month and the December Holidays, there will be no general meeting for the months of November or December.

The January general meeting of the Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be Saturday, January 14th 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 for the meeting will be Craig Nielsen, owner/operator of Shasta Trout. Craig's presentation will be "Seasons on the Klamath," a multimedia presentation surveying successful techniques, tactics and tips refined on the Klamath River, fishing for its spring trout and fall and winter steelhead. "Seasons on the Klamath" is designed for novice and seasoned anglers alike with concepts offered in a light and spirited informative manner. Audience participation is encouraged and expected. Craig uses humor and down to earth descriptions to demystify successful strategies and tactics that will both increase your catch as well as your enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing.

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 or PM/email Chiaki 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

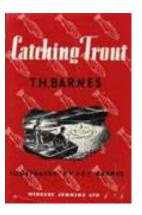
Prizes include:

- 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!

 $\mathcal{B}ill$

Library Report: by Ants Uiga (Ants)



Catching Trout

By T. H. Barnes (illustrated by Joy Barnes)

Published 1944 (2nd printing), Herbert Jenkins Limited, 3 Duke of York Street, St. James's, London, S. W. 1 (111 pages)

Within the SSFFC library, I will categorize this book as one of the historical classics. Not that the book was written by a classic author, but I provides such a perspective on fly-fishing – it can only be considered a classic.

From the Author's Foreword

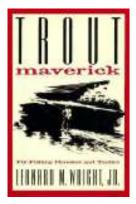
"This book was originally intended for young people only, between the age of ten and sixteen years, but as I have gone on with it, it has become clear that a learner of any age would require to know the elementary facts I have discussed in it. "

Chapter 1 begins "I have written this book because one's family and other grown-ups are so busy, that if they do get a day off they want to go fishing themselves, and have not the time to spend teaching you youngsters what to do."

The topics covered by the author include equipment, casting, wet-fly fishing, dry-fly fishing, striking, playing, netting a trout, habits of trout and general information.

The author does a good job of describing English fly-fishing in the 1940's but there are a few things that he just can't resist talking about. I am sure the 10- to 16-year old will delight in his comments on how he prepares his tackle for travel around the world and his excitement of catching 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound trout in America. (Excuse me Mum, I have to get ready for some around the world fly-fishing — schooling at Eton will have to wait.)

I can almost picture the author, sitting in his den, with a cigar and brandy, waiting for a willing audience. With that perspective, this book is a hoot!



Trout Maverick

Fly-Fishing Heresies and Tactics
By Leonard M. Wright, Jr.
Illustrations by Milton C. Weiler

Published 1996, Lyons and Burford, Publishers, New York New York (224 pages)

Trout Maverick had great appeal to me because Leonard M Wright, Jr. provides great insight into ways that catch fish and provides a historical perspective of what ideas came before and why these have changed. Since I am a big fan of hearing "Why?", this book satisfied my curiosity.

Some of the heresies (at the time of publication), are well-accepted as brilliant fish-taking techniques – such as, fishing a dry fly with a slight upstream twitch; tying floating caddis imitations with hackle-fiber wings; dancing a dropper down-current: and using extra-long fly rods (among many others).

The second chapter is entitled When Trout Feed and Why. I would guess there would be hardly anyone who wouldn't want to read that section. The same applies to the entire book. The chapters are dated from 1970's to the late 1990's.

As a tease, I won't give any hints as to what is written in Chapter 19, World's Greatest Trout Fisherman (1989), but merely to say that none of the ideas are truly new – they were just practiced extremely well.

The black ink pen illustrations by Milton C. Weiler are simply terrific.

The SSFFC library, two books described this month, something short of 150 more to go. What a resource for both information and entertainment!

Ants

Fly of the Month: by Rob Buhler (clouserfreak)



QUIGLEY CRIPPLE BWO

As the temperature drops with the leaves of autumn, we approach the holiday season with hatches coming fewer and further between. Thinking back to late winter, one of the first major hatches of every year is the Baetis or Blue Winged Olive in sizes 12-14, appearing like miniature sailboats on your favorite waters of the west with trout of all sizes rising readily to dun patterns in seams and eddies. Each successive hatch throughout the year of these Baetidae family sailboats brings a smaller version until selective fall fish pick through size 18 to miniscule 24 naturals. This is when you need a proven "code-breaker" in your box. The Quigley Cripple can be simply deadly in the most difficult of situations.

Bob Quigley's Cripple flies represent stillborn mayflies still caught in their shuck during emergence. A forward wing of deer or elk hair extending over the hook eye is a unique feature. With the hackle wrapped behind the forward wing, the goal is to have the rear of the fly break through the surface film with the tail and abdomen representing the nymphal shuck as the mayfly attempts to pull free from its

former self. Selective trout will take these flies freely and with confidence when presented properly due to the fact that they know from their "crippled" appearance that these flies will not quickly depart when approached.

Materials:

Hook: Dry Fly 12-24 Thread: 8/0 Grey

Tail: Ginger or Cream Z-lon or Antron Abdomen: Tan Turkey or Goose Biot

Thorax: Bwo Superfine Wing: Elk or Deer Hair

Hackle: Brown Rooster Neck or Saddle

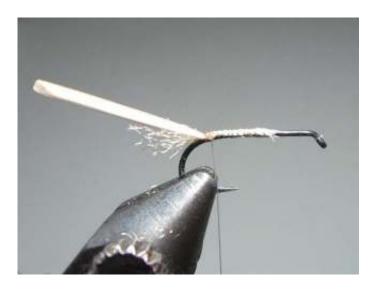
Tying Instructions:



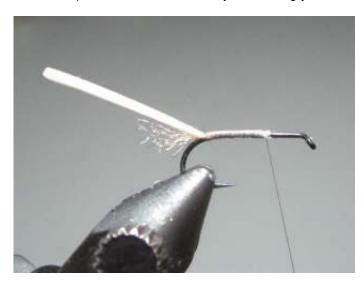
1. Smash or file barb on hook, insert into vise and attach thread at the 60% mark on the shank.



Select a small amount of Z-lon or Antron yarn. Tie
in at the 60% area and wrap back toward the bend
of the hook. Trim tail to 60% of the hook shank.
Trim a few fibers in different lengths along the tail to
create a taper and eliminate a straight, unnatural
cut.



3. Select a tan Turkey or Goose Biot that has the darker stripe on the left side when viewed with the shiny side facing you and the widest part of the blade on the bottom. Soak biot in warm water for a few minutes and trim 1/16" from the tip. Attach the biot by the tip at the bend of the hook with two wraps of thread and the shiny side facing you.



4. Wrap thread forward to the 60% mark, further securing the biot and creating a smooth underbody.



5. Grasp biot with hackle pliers and gently pull forward and over the hook shank turning over the biot and exposing a ridge of fibers on the inside of the darker edge. Wrap biot forward with slightly overlapping wraps creating a segmented body with ridges representing the gills. For more strength and durability you can add a layer of Sally Hansen's 30 Second Top Coat or Quick-Dry Top Coat at this point.



6. Apply Superfine dubbing to thread and wrap a relatively robust thorax.



7. Trim a small clump of Elk or Deer hair from the hide and clean by removing the short fibers and fluff from the base of the clump. Attach the wing with a couple of thread wraps in front of the thorax so that the wing extends 1½ to 2 times the hook gape past the eye. Wrap forward a couple of wraps creating an area for hackle (if tying 18 or smaller lessen or remove hackle space).



Trim butts at an angle at the rear of the thorax and wrap a small thread dam in front of Elk hair wing tips.



 Bringing the thread back over and behind the Elk hair wing, attach a brown hackle with a few fibers removed from the stem and the shiny side facing forward. Wrap back toward the hair butts and then forward to the rear of the wing.



10. Wrap hackle forward(2-3 times for spring creeks or flat water and 4-6 for rougher water) and tie off behind the wing where the thread was left. Trim excess and wrap thread in front of the wing creating a thread head. Apply three half hitches or whip finish and add a drop of head cement for security.

Rob

Tips & Techniques: by Ryan Buhler (ryan)





Helpful Tying Tips

When I first joined the club and started lurking on the forum there were guys like *Nymph Chucker*, *Flyjunkie* and *Midger* that had years of fly fishing experience and loved to share it with the less experienced. They would post helpful tips on everything from tying to drag free drifts. I loved those posts and learned a ton of good information.

One of my favorite posts was by Midger about making your own fleximent and dying materials with Kool-Aid and a few other tips. So here are a few things from that post I can remember.

FLEXIMENT

To make your own fleximent, mix one part Shoe Goo to two parts Toluene. You can find both products at your local Home Depot. It will make a lifetime worth.

HEAD CEMENT & HOOK EYES

To keep your head cement out of the eyes of your flies, keep a hackle feather at your vise and run it through the eye. It will clean all the glue out, leaving the eye clean. Better yet, learn to whip finish or half hitch by hand. A good whip finish doesn't need glue.

DYING WITH KOOL-AID

The best part of his post was about dying materials with Kool-Aid crystals. Many times I've run out some color of feather and just dyed a few feathers instead of having to buy more. I try to buy extra materials in white so I can dye them later as needed. You can easily dye a few grizzle hackles or some marabou olive instead of buying a whole pack. All it takes is a basic understanding of the color wheel and some Kool-Aid crystals.

There are three primary colors; medium red, medium blue, and medium yellow. If you mix equal red and blue you get

purple, blue and yellow makes green, and yellow and red makes orange. If you use all of them together, you get a muddy grey to brown. Add extra red to get browner and blue to get greyer. Here are the colors you get with just straight Kool-Aid.

- Strawberry or Raspberry= deep pink red
- Cherry = deep purplish red
- Grape = deep reddish purple
- Lime = bright grass green
- Lemon = bright yellow
- Orange = bright orange
- Ice blue = pale blue

You can get endless variations buy mixing these colors. The color I make most is olive and varying shades of olive. Mix 7 parts lime to 1 part cherry. Add more cherry and you get brown/olive, less cherry green/olive. With a little experimenting you can get any shade you want.

All materials absorb at different rates so start with a small batch to find the color you like most. Mix the Kool-Aid crystals with warm water in a coffee cup. Drop in your materials and microwave for one minute then remove and check color. The longer you cook it, or let it soak, the darker and fuller your color will be. Using more or less Kool-Aid will also affect your fullness of color.

Experiment with your tying and dying. You can come up with endless colors and designs.



Message from the Editor: by Gary Silveira (CopperDropper)

I don't know about you, but Fall is definitely my favorite time to be in the out of doors. As soon as football season begins and the evenings start to get cooler, my mind starts wandering to all those Fall time activities that have always held such a special place for me.

In years past, most of my attention was turned to deer hunting in the western states. As the season approached I would start thinking more and more about all the seasons past and all those wonderful "road trips" with my hunting buddies. Then it was time to get busy preparing all my equipment... again, and confirming that the rifle is sighted in perfectly... again, and burning up the phone lines going over all the final preparations... again. Yep, the lead up to the actual trip is as much of an emotional and enjoyable part of the whole experience as the trip itself.

Once we arrived at our destination, whether it was Montana, Colorado, Wyoming or Utah, it was time to savor all that nature throws at us that time of year. The trees had turned color and the temperatures were most always brisk. Yes, it was Fall!

After the deer hunting season came duck hunting season. Now the weather was generally much colder, but we could always hope for even colder temperatures and high winds!

Yes, there really is something wrong with duck hunters. Nothing like slogging through the mud in the middle of the night, or paddling your boat through a maze of tulles to get to just that perfect spot. The only illumination in this little piece of heaven is from your headlamp that is piercing the blackness that can only be known on a duck pond.

Once you are at your location, you get to set out your spread of decoys and then settle in for the hour or so wait until shooting time. This is the time to reflect on the blessings you have received to be in your little part of the universe, waiting for the first sounds of winging birds. The dog looks up into the darkness and follows their path like they are connected by an invisible string. Hopefully they'll still be moving through your part of the pond come shooting time......

In more recent years, since turning my attention to fly fishing, Fall for me has been the magical time to turn my attention to the river. I still get the enjoyment of the cooler weather and changing colors that are such an important part of this time of year, but the bonus to be out plying the river with a fly rod in hand now, is the lack of crowds and those hungry fish. The fish that may have been a bit standoffish due to heavy fishing pressure are now putting on the feed bag, getting those reserves that will keep them going through the winter months. Oh how I love the Fall!

Whether you most enjoy taking up rifle, shotgun or fly rod this time of year, take every pleasure in it. Embrace everything this magical time of year has to offer and don't forget that this is also a special time of year to share with family and friends.

On that note, I think I'm going to check my fly fishing gear... again, and tie up some of those Quigley Cripple's... again.....

Have a great Thanksgiving everyone!

Tight Lines, Gary



SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHER CLUB

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010-2011

	ELECTED	POSITIONS	
OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
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Director	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040
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Librarian	Ants Uiga	mrmarsha@sbcglobal.net	949-466-6404
Tournament Committee Chair	Chiaki Harami	haramic@aol.com	818-968-6872
Rod Building	Pete Emmel	p_emmel5@hotmail.com	805-461-0968
Community Relations Officer (Publicity/Membership)	Guy Jeans	guy@kernriverflyfishing.com	760-376-2040



Proud to be a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Individual memberships available at www.fedflyfishers.org

Use Club Affiliation code 99792

