

Fishing the Kenai and Russian Rivers

by **Karl Zellner**

I fished the Kenai and Russian Rivers near their confluences in June, while on TDY at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, AK. I had an awesome time and was able to make the trip quite affordable by minimalist camping (think backpacking via plane and rental car) and would be willing to share that information. In Anchorage, I got bulky and perishable supplies at Costco, Wal-Mart, REI and Glacier Brew House. I stayed in campgrounds near Cooper Landing on the Kenai Peninsula two weekends in a row.

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I was lucky since my TDY coincided with the peak of the Sockeye AKA Red run. I was able to check on the run progress via the Alaska Fish and Game website, which posts their sonar data on the returning salmon numbers and knew that my trips would be worthwhile.

The 1st weekend I fished with a guide (Mystic Fishing) that Hardy Tyson and I highly recommend on Saturday. We floated the upper Kenai, where I caught a 25-inch Rainbow and two Reds on a 6wt. provided by the guide. I also fished the night before via taking the Russian River Ferry to the area just below the Kenai and Russian River confluence for combat fishing. I had a steep learning curve involving knot tying with 20lb test and setting my drag full tight and lost 4 fish. The Reds were quite acrobatic and I had no doubt where I would be the next three-day weekend.

The next weekend, I fished the Kenai Russian Ferry on Friday and the Russian River the following two days and brought 5 more Reds back to Anchorage. Since I was staying at an Extended Stay Deluxe, I could package and freeze my fillets before packing them in my drainless cooler that I purchased at Costco (must use blue ice), which I secured with sticky back Velcro from Wal-Mart. I saw quite a bit of wildlife including grizzly bear, black bear, mountain goats, and eagles; along with some great scenery, which made the trip even more enjoyable.



The Leader's Line

Hardy Tyson, President

A Sacred Moment

I intrude into her world through trickery.
I've tied the fly with care. I want to give the impression of life. The wing position is right, the hackle is just so... to leave the impression of legs and surface tension.
Just enough Krystal Flash to mimic motion. But it is a trick.

The rise...

She has learned that this food source brings life.

The adrenaline rush, I'm addicted!

I take the line to her...

Don't play her too long, don't pull her too hard. I guide her towards me.

I net and land her.

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"A big post-spawn female Golden Trout!"

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Her rolled-back eye looks at me, out of focus because the air has
a different index of refraction.

I've tricked her. I have intruded into her world. Two worlds have met.

I carefully remove the hook and hold her under water gently moving
her back and forth to let water flow across her gills.

In my hands I feel the life returning to her. It's an awakening.

It is a sacred moment.

She doesn't dart away in a flash like a young fish but slowly sinks, her golden body
blending into the rocky sun-lit shallows to recover. A little wiser.



A moment shared with my best friend.

May we always respect and protect her world so my children and their children can
have a sacred moment too.

><((((('> Hardy <')))))><

Tippets from the Fly Addict

Allen Bell, Vice-President

Well, here we are, it's August and some of our rivers are almost fishable. Now, I like to have a lot of water, but this is getting ridiculous. Not being able to fish every weekend, like I am used to doing, is costing me a fortune. One nice thing, the recession is over at Charlies Flybox in Denver. Nice for them. Not so nice for my fishing account though. So far, I've tied through a new book, finished building a rod I put off for far too long and reorganized all my tying materials. Woopie!!!! What I really want to be doing is fishing.

I have been doing some fishing. I got to go up to Hot Creek Ranch with Chuck. I took my friend Mark. He likes to bring food. Lots of food. I like fishing with Mark. Anyway, if this continues, I may not be invited back. It seems Hot Creek is always prime for Chuck's week, until I started coming. Now we don't fish dry flies at Hot Creek Ranch until Allen's weekend is over. Still, we caught fish on nymphs and had a great time. I just keep feeling like I must be full of water. My friends tell me I'm full of something else.

I also like fishing the South Fork during high

water. That is a beautiful little stream. I have so many good memories of that place from long before I started fly fishing. When you get to the campground, there are plenty of nice fishermen and women who will tell you, in no uncertain terms, that there are no fish in this river any more. They stopped stocking and that's just a darn shame. Here are a few pictures of the fish that aren't in the S. Fork.



Getting ready for another great meal!!!



I'm more than happy to catch a few of these fish

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that don't exist there. I do wish that if the DFG is going to stop stocking a river, they would protect the fish so that more of them wouldn't be there. That said, a short hike can go a long way to provide a fulfilling fishing day.

Run off's last stand means more to me than calm waters to fish. To me, as the raging waters subside, it signals the beginning of a season. My seasons are different than the calendar seasons. My seasons revolve around fishing. I have pre run off, run off, summer and fall. I don't really have winter in my calendar but if I did, I would call it Baetis. Winter is overrated anyway. I really like beginnings. A chance for a fresh start is always welcome. New and different places are fun and exciting, but returning to the old and familiar is always better to me. I always smile when I pull into Kernville, the roots of my fly fishing; familiar places, familiar people. I start the day with a breakfast at Cheryl's, where no matter how long I have been fishing somewhere else, they still remember my name and what I like to eat. Complete with the blueberry pancake instead of toast because I can't make up my mind. Why should I have to. I'm among friends in Kernville, my fly fishing home away from home.

Our lives have become so fluid. People come and go, leaving a little of themselves with you, for better or worse. Usually for the better.



Who could not like this place!!!

The things that are important are the things that don't change easily. A great place for breakfast, a pretty stream that makes you feel comfortably at home, a tailing loop that I think will be with me forever!!!! Welcome to summer!!!!

Blue Skies and Fishy Flies, Allen



Nothing wrong with her, another one of my Kern Homies!!

On the Hook

Oscar Felsen, Weekend Fly-Tying

The next "Ties & Lies" fly-tying session will be Saturday, August 13th from 9:30am to noon at the Aguabonita's classroom, 145B Panamint Street in Ridgecrest.

The suggested pattern will be the "Wascally Rabbit", a streamer originated by Chuck Newmyer for Crowley Lake and the Owens River. In recent years, Chuck has been tying a variation that has been very successful in Alaskan waters. With the outing to Alaska pending, this will be an opportunity for those going to tie the "Wascally Rabbit" or the original for our local waters. In preparation for this tying session, I've listed the materials for both patterns. Fly pattern work sheets will be available at the tying session.

Fly tying sessions are open to all. You don't have to tie the suggested pattern, just come, tie or kibitz. This is also an opportunity for you to have access to the club's library.

For further questions contact:
Oscar Felsen
felsenjo@verizon.net (760) 446-7103

Wascally Rabbit "Original Version"

Hook: 3XL Nymph, Mustad 9672,
TMC 5263
Size: #2 - #10
Thread: Yellow Monocord 3/0
Body: Cream Variant Dubbing;
Sparkle Yarn
Wing: Natural Grey Rabbit Strip;
Olive, Black, etc.
Cheek: Red Poly
Head: Thread
Option: Tied Weighted and With Eyes

Wascally Rabbit "Alaskan Version"

Hook: 3XL Nymph, Mustad 9672,
TMC 5263
Size: #2 - #10
Thread: Yellow Monocord 3/0
Eye: Bead Chain Eyes, Metallic Large
5/32 Flourescent Pink or Dumbell
Lead Eyes, Painted Red with Black
Pupil
Weight: Lead Wire, .020
Underbody: Yarn; Tan or Cream, Yarn
Should Blend with Wing Color
Wing: Rabbit Strip; Shade Grey
Head: Thread

Note: Some materials will be available at the fly-tying session if needed.



A Wascally Rabbit having a bad "Hare" day!!!

Up Around The Bend

Allen Bell, Programs

The tentative schedule of general meeting speakers and events is listed below.

August	Club Picnic
September	To be announced
October	Mike Sinclair Bamboo Rod Building
November	Jay Crawford & Bob Caldwell Alaska Fishing Trip
December	"Festival"
January 2012	Dave D'Beaupre
February 2012	Boomer Stout Green River
March 2012	Tim Tollett Frontier Anglers, Dillon, MT.

In Loving Memory

Mae Osmundsen passed away recently due to internal complications. She was 93 years young. She was a Charter Member, and an active board member in the early years. She was the club secretary 1981 and 1982. In the summers, she spent all summer in Manter Meadow fishing, maintaining trails and giving directions to hikers.

Hooked on Fly Fishing

Chuck Newmyer, Education

We are starting to set up a class schedule for the fall. There are a number of days available to use for Fly-Fishing Classes, Fly-Tying Classes, and a Rod Building Class.

If you have indicated an interest in any of these classes you should have already received notification. (If you think you are already on the "interest list" and didn't receive a notification, let Chuck know).

October 28-30 has been set aside for a Rod Building Class. There will be an introductory session on Wednesday, October 5.

Starting the weekend of September 17, there are a number of weekends and weeknights available for classes. As of now the only dates not available are October 9 to 16. September 16 to 18 may end up being used for a work party at the Hot Creek Kiosk.

There will be sign-up sheets at the club meetings as well as hand outs on class details. To indicate your interest and dates that you are available contact Chuck at (760) 375-1126 or hisifly@iwvisp.com.



Youth Outreach

John Linder, Youth Coordinator

July 18th and 19th saw a “super hatch” of epic proportions take place. This of course wasn’t your normal bug hatch on local trout waters. Instead, it was a hatch of new fly-fishing enthusiasts.

Under the watchful eye of John Linder and several other club members, a Trout Unlimited (TU) “First Cast” program was held. Working with personnel from the Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department onboard the NAWS China Lake Naval Base in Ridgecrest, CA., a classroom was setup at the “Castle X” Youth Center.

Day 1 had 10 students, ages 10 to 14, show up to learn about knot-tying, fly-tying, and fly-casting fundamentals (ad libing from Chuck's famous flip charts).

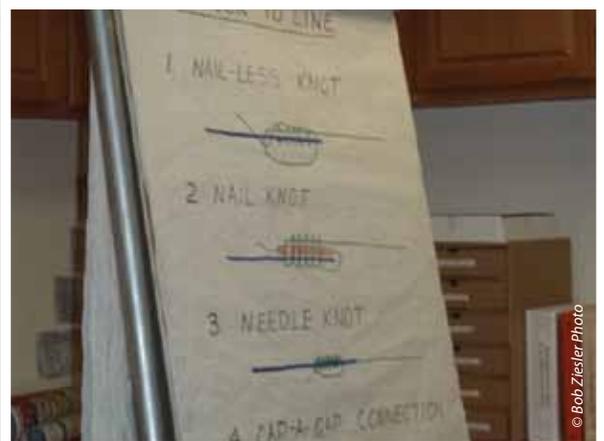
Day 2 included casting practice with Echo practice rods. Then the students learned the proper way to rig a fly rod followed by casting instruction using regular-sized fly rods.

Day 3 took the students on a field trip to the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery for a tour of their facility. Final instruction on aquatic "bugology" took place in an outdoor classroom. The students finished their time with some on-the-water fishing experience at the Independence Creek Sand Trap.

Many thanks to Bob Smith, Chuck Newmyer, and Bob Ziesler for assisting John Linder in this all important event.



Ready to learn about this fly-fishing stuff.



Fishing Knots 101.



Cool, can we tie a Bimini Twist?

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Classroom instruction on fly-casting.



Learning about fly-fishing equipment.



Leaders and tippetts, huh?



Watching the backcast.



What time is it, ten o'clock or two o'clock?



Practice makes perfect!!!

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Getting the Do's and Don'ts.



Quick, how many fingerlings can you count?



Start of the inside tour.



Can fingerlings bite?



Observing the fingerlings



History of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery.

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Bugology Class 101



*I think that's a *Hexagenia limbata**



*I have one of those *Chironomidae**



Fishing the Independence Creek Sand Trap



Fishing the Independence Creek Sand Trap



Anybody looking for fly-tying material?

Kids Free Fishing Day

June 25, 2011

Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery



Stripping For A Cure

“Update” by Ellen Dailey

Thanks to “Flies and Lies” - we have 60 flyboxes filled with **PINK FLIES** for the third annual Stripping for the Cure event on the South Fork of the Snake River in Swan Valley, ID in September. The ladies will be greeted with pink tote bags containing their flyboxes, pink boonie hat (which are selling like crazy!!), pink Komen goodies; and, most importantly, a pink self-addressed, stamped envelope to Komen, WY to send their donation.

Our Raffle and Prize Committees are working to gather items - some are silly, interesting, funny or downright ridiculous.....but, all for a good cause!

Again.....thank you “Flies and Lies” - you’re the best!!



Aguabonita Flyfishers Rod & Reel Inventory

RODS:

1.	G. Loomis	7'9"	2wt
2.	Fisher	8'6"	3/4wt
3.	Sage	9'0"	4wt
4.	Fisher	9'0"	6wt
5.	Fisher	8'6"	5/6wt
6.	Fisher	8'0"	6/7wt
7.	Fisher	9'6"	7/8wt
8.	Fisher	9'0"	10wt
9.	Sage	9'0"	5wt
10.	G. Loomis	8'0"	3wt
11.	Winston	8'6"	6wt
12.	Cortland	8'0"	5/6wt
13.	Powell	9'0"	5/6wt
14.	St. Croix	9'0"	6/7wt
15.	St. Croix	9'0"	3wt (NEW)

REELS:

1.	Berkley	DT2F
2.	Cortland	DT3F
3.	Cortland	DT4F
4.	Cortland	DT5F
5.	Cortland	DT6F
6.	Cortland	WF7F
7.	Cortland	WF9F
8.	STH	10 F/S

We also have 3 pairs of wading boots. 2 pairs at size-10 and 1 pair at size-14.

Presently, all rods and reels are located at 145B Panamint Avenue. To check out a rod or reel, call Lew Albright at 375-8725 and he will meet you at the address above. The club requires a nominal fee of \$5.00 to check out a rod or reel. The money will be used for maintenance of the equipment. When you check out a rod or reel, please return the item as soon as possible so other club members may use them too. If you break a rod or reel, let Lew know so that it can be repaired.

Monthly Club Meeting

General membership meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Ridgecrest United Methodist Church (RUMC) Fellowship Hall (639 N. Norma St., Ridgecrest, CA). Everyone is welcome to attend! Our meetings feature guest speaker presentations, brief club news, refreshments, and a raffle.

Annual Cost for Membership

General membership	\$20.00
Associate membership	\$ 5.00
Youth membership	\$ 5.00
One time initiation fee	\$10.00

Board of Directors Meeting

The board usually meets at 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month to transact the business of the club. The board meetings are open to anyone with agenda items to share. To be placed on the next meeting's agenda, please send items to Bob Smith at rdsmith1@mchsi.com



"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

— Doug Larson, American columnist

Club Officers

President	Hardy Tyson	(760) 375-2175
Vice-President	Allen Bell	(760) 371-1133
Secretary	Bob Smith	(760) 375-7578
Treasurer	Steve Garrison	(760) 375-3192
Director	Joe Rice	(760) 446-4616
Director	Clyde Hazen	(760) 375-9376
Director	David Calvert	(760) 793-8026
Director SWCFFF	Jim Hoover	(760) 371-2149
Banquet Chairman 1	Bob Smith	(760) 375-7578
Banquet Chairman 2	Karl Zellner	(760) 499-6361
Conservation Chairman	Karl Zellner	(760) 499-6361
Education Chairman	Chuck Newmyer	(760) 375-1126
Membership Chairman	Don Winter	(760) 375-7948
Club Equipment	Lew Albright	(760) 375-8725
Club Library	Joe Rice	(760) 446-4616
Weekend Fly-tying	Oscar Felsen	(760) 446-7103
Programs	Allen Bell	(760) 371-1133
Publicity	Gary Davis	(760) 377-3357
Trout in the Classroom	Jay Crawford	(760) 375-8275
Webmaster	Jim Hoover	(760) 371-2149
Youth Coordinator	John Linder	(760) 377-5750
"The Flyline" Editor	Neal Barry	(760) 301-2098

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Club Picnic 6:00pm - 9:00pm SMOKN HOT	3	4	5	6 ● First Quarter
7	8	9 Izaak Walton Born 1593	10	11	12	13 ○ Full Moon "Ties & Lies" Fly Tying Session 9:30am - Noon
14	15 Grand Canyon National Park Created 1919	16	17	18	19 HOT Hot Creek Kiosk Work Party	20 Hot Creek Kiosk Work Party
21 ● Last Quarter Hot Creek Kiosk Work Party	22	23	24	25	26 Deadline for September Newsletter!!!	27
28	29 ● New Moon	30 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00pm	31			
46th Annual Fly-Fishing Fair & Conclave • West Yellowstone, Montana						

Upcoming Events

👍 **Hot Creek Kiosk** – We have scheduled a work party at the Hot Creek Kiosk for August 19 to 21. We will be doing some prep and painting on the Kiosk, strengthening the panel structures, weeding, upgrading the signs out on Hot Creek Road (the ones directing people to the kiosk area), and possibly putting up the new signs.

For the Kiosk Work Party we have the Campbell Cabin for Friday and Saturday nights. We are looking at September 16 - 18 as backup dates.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the August Picnic or you can contact Chuck at (760) 375-1126 or hisifly@iwvisp.com.

👍 **Annual Club Picnic** – The August meeting will be our annual picnic. At the Methodist Church Social Hall (same place where we hold our monthly meetings). This year's picnic will be a pot luck. Bring a favorite salad, main dish, side dish or dessert, your plate and utensils, and enjoy an evening of dining, conversation, and fishing stories. Sodas and water will be provided by the Club.

👍 **Saltery Lake Lodge** – The Saltery Lake Lodge in Kodiak, Alaska, has some openings available for the last week of August and the last week of September. 2 for 1 deal is a special offer to Clubs. If you are interested contact Doyle Hatfield at 1-800-770-5037.

The Editor's Spool

Neal Barry

The club picnic is coming up soon and I hope to see a lot of you there. Besides the great food and desserts, I love the stories that everyone tells. Some of these stories are probably true but some of them, well, I'm not so sure about.

The **American Heritage Dictionary** defines a fish story as: n. Informal. An implausible, boastful story. An untrue declaration. *Informal*: tall tale. *Slang*: whopper. This expression alludes to the tendency of fishermen to exaggerate the size of their catch. [Early 1800s].

Whether true or not-so-true, I love a great story anyhow. So again, I hope to see everyone at our picnic, please bring some stories to share, and don't forget that I like brownies (hint, hint).

So I'll end "The Editor's Spool" with a picture of me and a fish I caught while vacationing at Big Bear Lake last month. This is really a "whopper" in my book. I mean I don't normally catch



fish like this. But I wonder, just how many other fish can I hook off of this story?

Thank You and tight lines!!!
Neal



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The Aguabonita Flyfishers is an affiliated club of the Federation of Flyfishers (FFF) and its affiliate, the Southwest Council of the Federation of Flyfishers (SWCFFF). The Aguabonita Flyfishers is also affiliated with California Trout (CalTrout) and Trout Unlimited (TU).

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FIRST CLASS

Aguabonita Flyfishers
P.O. Box 2059
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

Aims and Purposes of the Aguabonita Flyfishers:

- To improve and increase the sport of fly fishing
- To promote and work for the betterment of fishing waters
- To provide assistance to club members to help them become more effective fly fishermen and to promote the fellowship of the membership
- To encourage and assist others to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen
- To encourage and advocate conservation of fisheries, waters, and watersheds

