



The Cast

of
THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS
P.O. Box 1568 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Vol. 1

July 1977

No. 1

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542-4276 539-0556

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

When: Wednesday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Northern California Savings & Loan Building
Corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and 3rd Street

Program:

Hal Janssen will show & tell about tying and fishing still water nymphs. Maybe we will learn something about fooling those lake dwelling lunkers. (Bring a fly fishing friend)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

First of all, I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in appointing me President. I will do my best in trying to lead this club toward some positive and realistic objectives.

At our next meeting July 20th, one of the first points of business will be to elect 2 directors from the general membership to join the other directors (officers) in making club decisions. These Board of Directors meetings will be open to all members. I want all of you to feel that you have a say in club business; of course, all major club decisions will be brought to a vote. The purpose of our next board meeting will be to establish some realistic goals for the fiscal year 1977-78.

To help our meetings to be a little more organized, I'm listing a format for them. Understanding this format, please plan your questions/comments for the appropriate time in the meeting.

1. Formal business
 - a. Introduction of guests
 - b. Fishing reports--all members
 - c. Old business
 - d. New business
2. Intermission
3. Entertainment
 - a. Introduction of guest speaker
 - b. Evening program.

Realizing the expense involved in producing a newsletter, etc. please all be thinking about some revenue producing ideas--to be discussed at the next meeting.

I welcome advice or suggestions from any of you at any time...this is your club. Let's make it go!

Tight lines,

BOB

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

This, the first issue of the monthly news letter of the Russian River Fly Fishers, may someday be a collectable, so don't throw it away after you have read it. You may need it also to remind you of meetings. There will also be a different fly pattern each month to add to your bag of tricks to fool the fish.

The primary purpose of this newsletter will be to keep our members advised of club meetings, programs and other activities.

Since the purpose of our club is to promote the enjoyment of fly fishing through the sharing of information on the many aspects of the sport, it is planned to use this newsletter to exchange information on fly tying methods, sources of materials, fly patterns and their successful application, rod design and construction, casting techniques for special situations, stream craft and stream etiquette, stream and lake ecology, etc.

We have arbitrarily chosen a name for this newsletter just to get started, but we are by no means convinced that it is either appropriate or acceptable to our members. We solicit suggestions and would like to have them discussed at our forthcoming meeting and voted for acceptance.

Additionally we need a logo to indentify our letterheads, membership cards etc. and would like all interested members to submit sketches for consideration of all members.

FINANCES:

At our last meeting it was determined that club dues would be \$12.00 a year for an individual, with a family membership at \$18.00/yr.

Please be prepared to pay your dues at the meeting, or mail your check, payable to the Russian River Fly Fishers at P.O. Box 1568, Santa Rosa, California, 95405.

FISH TALES:

This section of our newsletter will be devoted to fishing news, personal announcements, and a description of the construction and use of a fly pattern that has been successful in certain waters and certain conditions. We need suggestions from our members for patterns and tying techniques for this space.

This month's pattern is a New Zealand design that imitates the sculpin that comprises a large part of the prey of the big New Zealand rainbows and browns. It works for large trout here too in large waters.

BLUE DUNS:

Anyone who has fooled around with big browns in quiet waters knows that a certain shade of hackle of a dirty gray seems to be one of the most effective colors; in other words, the blue dun. But good hackles in blue dun are mighty hard to find.

But help is on the way apparently. In the June 1977 issue of Outdoor Life, mention is made of a man, Mr. Robert K. Metz Jr., of Belleville, Pennsylvania who is producing between 5,000 and 10,000 blue Andalusian capes annually. Tackle dealers please note!

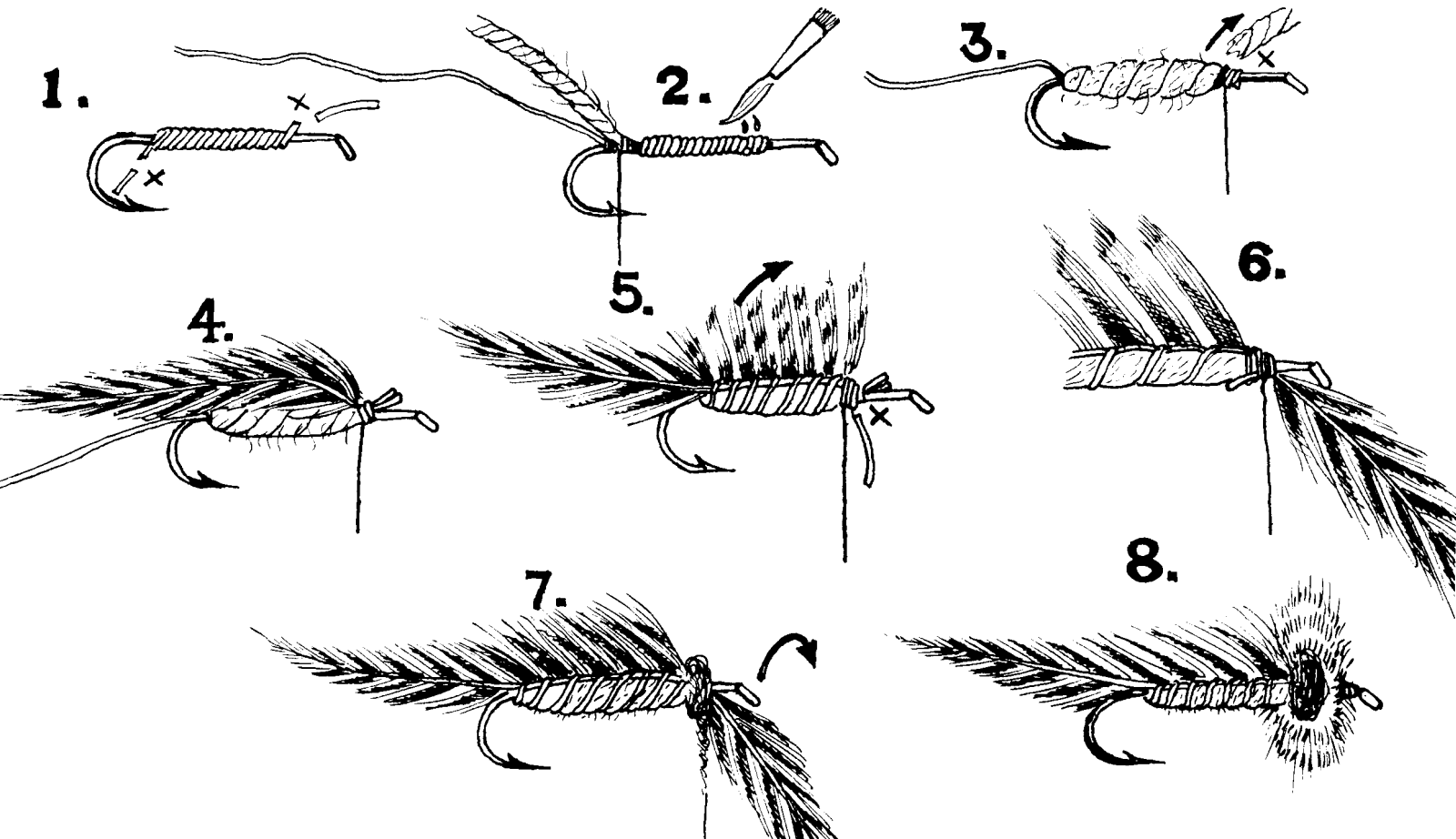
FLY OF THE MONTH
Dave Whitlock's Matuka Spuddler (simplified)

Materials

Hook: Mustad 9672 Size 1/0 thru 10
Weighting: Lead wire sizes .020" to .030"
Thread: N ymo brown or yellow
Body: Pale yellow orlon wool or angora wool yarns
Rib: Gold wire or size 18 oval gold tinsel
Throat: Red orlon wool Tail: none
Wing: Brown or olive dyed grizzly heck hackle Collar: same as wing
Cements: pliobond and head varnish

Instructions x=cut or trim ↗ direction of wrap

1. Weighting: Wrap hook shank evenly with lead from a point opposite the tip of the hook to within 1/4 shank length of the hook's eye. Seal with pliobond and anchor with tying thread, wrapping back to a point directly over the hook barb. Seal with pliobond.
- 2&3 Body & Rib: Attach yarn and rib at hook's bend. Coat all tie downs with pliobond. Wrap wool over shank to form body. Tie off just behind forward lead wrap and trim.
- 4&5 Wings: Form Matuka wing by ribbing body and through wing hackle fibers. Hold hackle wings firmly back away from point of attachment while this is done. Ribbing should bind hackle stems tightly to body. Tie off ribbing just ahead of hackle. With a needle or bodkin pull free any hackle fibers accidentally bound down by Matuka rib.
6. Collar hackle: Tie two hackles, similar to wing hackles with shiny side out, just ahead of forward terminus of wing hackles, to underside of the front of the body. Leave these projecting downward pending addition of the throat.
7. Throat: Dub some hot red orlon wool to the tying thread and make about 5 turns between the wing and the throat hackles to form a ball of wool simulating gills.
8. Collar: Wrap the two collar hackles 8 to 10 turns each (shiny side out) around the hook shank to within 1/8" of the eye. Tie off. Finish and varnish the head with clear varnish.



MR ROBERT SISSON
3607 GREENHILL DR.
SANTA ROSA. CA. 95404

The Cast

of
THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 1568 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
August 1977

Vol.1

No. 2

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542-4276 539-0556
Assistant Editor: Frank Bertaina 542-4242

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

When: Wednesday, August 17, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Northern California Savings & Loan Building
Corner of Santa Rosa Avenue & Third Street

Program: Andre Puyons, one of this country's outstanding fly fishermen will give us the benefit of his experience. He is specially noted for his fly tying, his writings in various angling publications and his angling emporium, "Creative Sports".

He has recently opened an angling lodge in Alaska and his program will cover fly fishing in some of Alaska's virgin waters. This should be a program to help us to know more about where to fish for what in Alaska. Bring a fly fishing friend.

ABOUT OUR MEETING OF JULY 20th:

Attendance at the meeting was most gratifying. Nearly every seat in the room was filled. After introductions all around and some reports of recent fishing experiences by various people, Dick Kennon, of the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishermen explained the functions and some of their current activities. It is largely through their organization that matters of conservation are treated.

Currently an issue of major concern is the excessive harvest of salmon and steelhead in our west coast rivers by indians. As a result of a recent Supreme Court decision the State Fish and Game Departments are unable to enforce the local administrative regulations essential to a proper maintenance of the fisheries.

The tribal councils claim that most of the excessive harvest is being done by "a few renegades". The councils are evidently beginning to get alarmed over the possibility of a disastrous depletion of these valuable fish. With cooperation between interested parties it is hoped that some kind of a workable solution can be found for this vexing problem.

Having outlined the advantages of membership in the Federation of Fly Fishermen those present were canvassed as to their willingness to seek club membership. The concensus was not to seek membership now.

President Bob Wray noted that the existing dues structure of \$12.00 a year for individuals and \$18.00 for family memberships is not adequate to finance the monthly news letter (presently about \$21.00 for 100 copies) and maintain other club activities. Accordingly suggestions for additional sources of revenue were solitited from the floor.

After some discussion it was determined that after the August 17, 1977 meeting all persons who had not paid their dues on or before that date would have to pay an initiation fee of \$10.00 to join the club. Those who wish to receive the newsletter without joining the club may subscribe at the rate of \$5.00 per year.

To provide additional revenue it was agreed that each person over 16 years of age attending meetings would contribute 50¢ at each meeting. This contribution to be kept separate from revenue derived from other moneys--such as moneys from raffles etc.

It is also proposed to hold a raffle at each meeting for items of interest to fly fishers, such as flies, reels, lines and other tackle which might be donated or provided at cost by various members.

For the raffle at the Aug. 17th meeting the prize will be a Sunset Masterline, Chancellor Chalkstream DT5 Floating, donated by Sunset Line & Twine. Raffle tickets will be available at 50¢ each at the meeting, from Hunter Quistgard, raffle chairman.

AN EXPERT TALKS

When Hal Janssen spoke on taking trout in quiet waters it was evident that here was a fisherman who had developed the art to the ultimate.

Besides having an encyclopedic knowledge of the habitat and feeding habits of the fish, Mr. Janssen has investigated extensively those factors involving presentation that so often spell the difference between success and failure.

Some highlights of his program follow:

1. When fishing shallow lake margins among the weed beds long leaders up to 25 ft. are advisable.
2. Lines should be dark in color, not because of underwater visibility but white lines flashing in the sunlight during the cast will scare wary trout in shallow feeding areas. This applies particularly to trout that are feeding near the surface.
3. Janssen prefers a softer action rod than HMG types when using small tippets to minimize breakage from hard strikes by heavy fish.
4. He carries a big selection of nymph patterns to match the various types that prevail in the fishing area. Most big trout are selective.
5. A display of nymph patterns by Janssen made most of us who tie flies mighty envious. We have never seen nymph patterns so beautifully detailed.
6. His slide show demonstrating the steps in tying a caddis nymph pattern made us want to rush home to the vise and start that better nymph pattern that we didn't yet have.
7. And last, but most interesting to Santa Rosans, Janssen reported that there are brown trout in Spring Lake where our fledgeling club is negotiating with the Sonoma County Park & Recreation Department for a fly casting site.

FLY OF THE MONTH

DAVE WHITLOCK'S

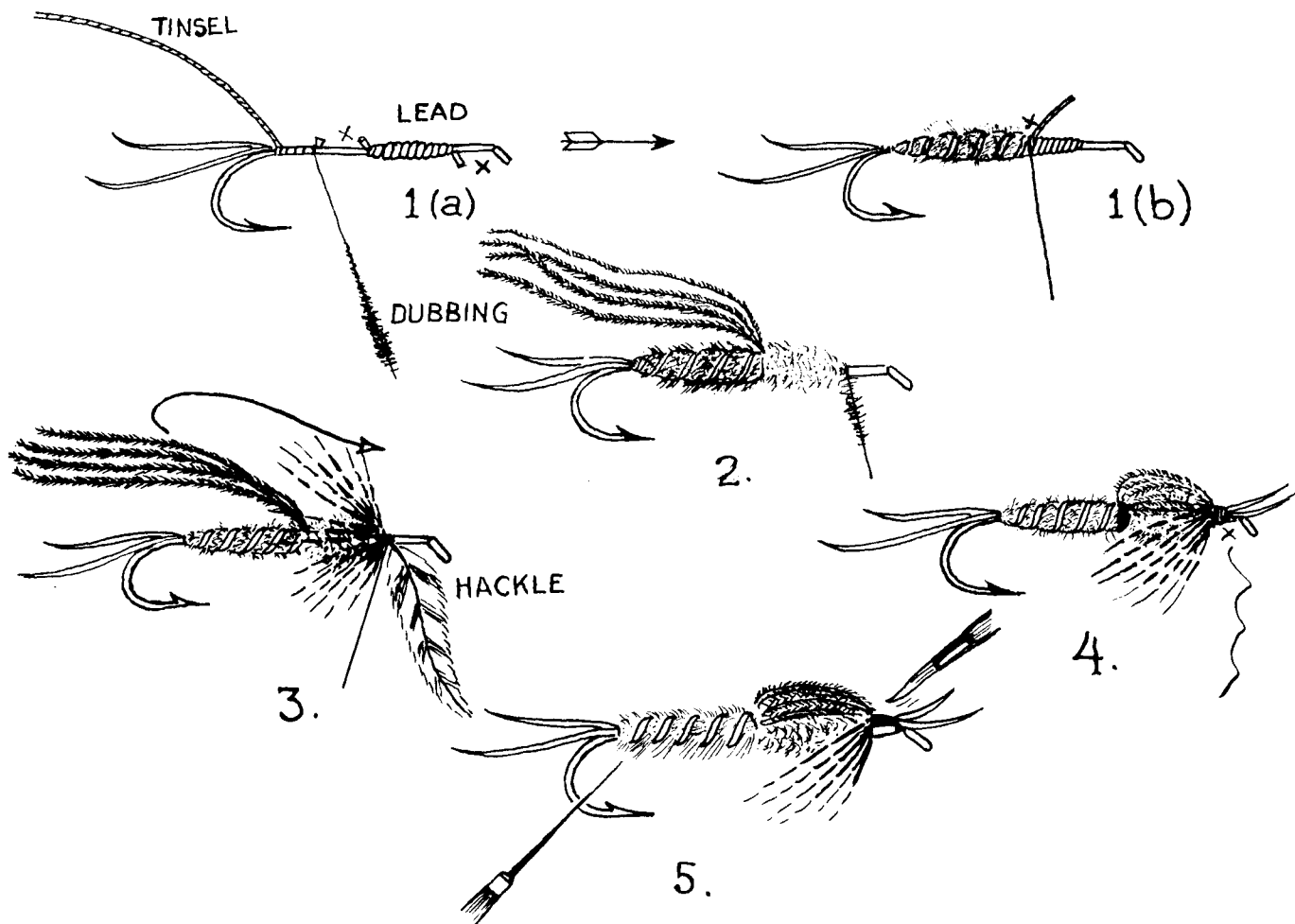
WHIT GREY NYMPH



- Hook: 2' thru 12 TDE 2x strong 3x long - weighted with 8 turns of lead wire
Thread: Yellow Nymo or Herb Howard
Tail: 2 flues from leading edge of natural grey turkey wing quill
Abdomen: Fur blended of $\frac{1}{2}$ muskrat, $\frac{1}{2}$ grey opossum, $\frac{1}{2}$ grey and amber seal
Rib: Oval gold
Thorax: Top: peacock herl Bottom: yellow and light ginger seal fur - $\frac{1}{2}$ each
Hackle: 1 turn of dark grizzly with heavy web
Antenna: same as tail
Head: Yellow thread painted dark grey green on top

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap hook shank with lead wire in thorax region. Attach thread and tie on tail, flaring flues out. Attach oval tinsel near bend of hook. Dub the fur to thorax area and rib with tinsel.
2. Attach peacock herl fibers over lead wraps pointing loose ends toward tail. Dub thorax with yellow fur blend.
3. Apply hackle ahead of thorax and make one or two turns and tie off.
4. Pull herl over thorax and tie down at head to form wing case. Trim ends and build up head to fit taste and attach 2nd pair of turkey flues to sides of head and whip finish head.
5. Top of head is lacquered a dark grey green. Pick out sides of abdomen with dubbing needle. Coat head with varnish.



Bob Stisson
3607 Greenhill Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404





The Cast

of
THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS
P.O. Box 1568 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Vol. 1

SEPT. July 1977

No. 3

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542 4276 539 0556
Assistant Editor: Brank Bertaina 542 4242

DINNER MEETING; NO HOST

When: Wednesday, September 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2400 Midway Drive
Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa

Please notify Lloyd Von Der Mehden 542 8470 on or before
September 17th if you will attend so that the restaurant
will have a proper room reserved.

Program: MIKE FONG, whose writings on trout fishing have
appeared in many outdoor publications will be
our guest speaker.

In addition to the main program it is plan-
ned to show some pictures promptly at 7:00 p.m.
to encourage members to be on time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been very gratifying to see the rapid growth of this club over the past few months. At latest count we have 62 paid members. The pleasing thing is that the majority of recruitment has been through "word of mouth". With the large sportsman population in the Santa Rosa area hopefully the club will continue to grow. We are already starting to bulge out of our present location at Northern California Savings & Loan, so will everyone please keep his eyes and ears open to help find us a larger meeting place.

I would like to give special thanks to Ted Olson for his outstanding schedule of programs. These fine speakers help make our meetings something that I'm sure we all look forward to. Keep up the good work, Ted!

All of our previous speakers have volunteered their services, and there are others who will speak without a fee...however, there are many speakers who charge a relatively nominal fee to cover their expenses. Among them is our next speaker, Mike Fong. To keep up the fine quality of programs I believe we must be willing to pay these fees. If our future raffles are as successful as the last, these can offset these fees as can the donations in the kitty.

On the subject of raffles if anyone can donate prizes for raffles, it would certainly be appreciated. Perhaps flies from local tyers, or rods from local rod builders; anything that would help produce revenue for the club. Our local merchants have been very generous, but this will not continue indefinitely. We the members must be willing to donate also.

Our Spring Lake Committee is making some advances. They are in contact with the Parks and Recreation Department of the County, and have a consultant with the Fenwick Fly Fishing Schools to help design the best layout for casting practice, games, and competition.

It is my recommendation that in the interim we find a nice green grass area on which to practice cast, as grass will not damage fly lines. This subject will be discussed at the next meeting.

See you September 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Cattlemen's.

Tight lines,

Bob

During dinner a raffle will be held. The lucky ticket holder will become the owner of a \$29.00 "Kalama" fishing vest. This vest is designed to be above the wader top so as to stay dry on deep wading.

Fly Fisher member Dr. Frank Norman has a question about the soft hackled fly described by Sylvester Nemas. He would like to know in what manner this fly differs from the other emerging nymph patterns and how it is tied. Anyone who can, please provide this information to the Editor so it can be published in the news letter.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS, SHOULDER PATCHES AND LOGOS.

In response to our appeal for designs for a logo to identify our organization H. Dee Marsden of Marsden Advertising has offered the following design for our consideration.



Unfortunately we can't show color of the design chosen but the fly is a royal coachman and the trout is a rainbow.

The title of course would be modified to show that we are "fishers" rather than merely "casters".

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

First, special thanks to President Bob Wray who took over for yours truly in getting out the August edition of the newsletter while I paid my respects to the steelhead in the Umpqua. Evidently my respects were not very respectable because my conventional offerings were totally, but totally ignored. Meanwhile a newcomer to the Umpqua rose 5 fish on a No. 10 gray hackle dry in the middle of the afternoon. His comment, "Fishing here is not bad, considering the time of day, the evening fishing should be a lot better"!!!

We gave up and went over to the Williamson, where we weren't quite so embarrassed. The Williamson trout were feeding in smorgasbord fashion, a little of this and a little of that, and not very much of any one pattern. Lots of fish in evidence however.

A day's float down the Wood River was somewhat of a disappointment. Most of the section floated, between U.S. Highway 97 and Loosley Road was devoid of good cover, however where the river bends created deep holes or where there were log jams, fair concentrations of pan size rainbows were found.

Meanwhile, here at home good sport can be had for smallmouth bass on the Russian River which is virtually deserted now that Mr. Trowbridge has removed his canoes.

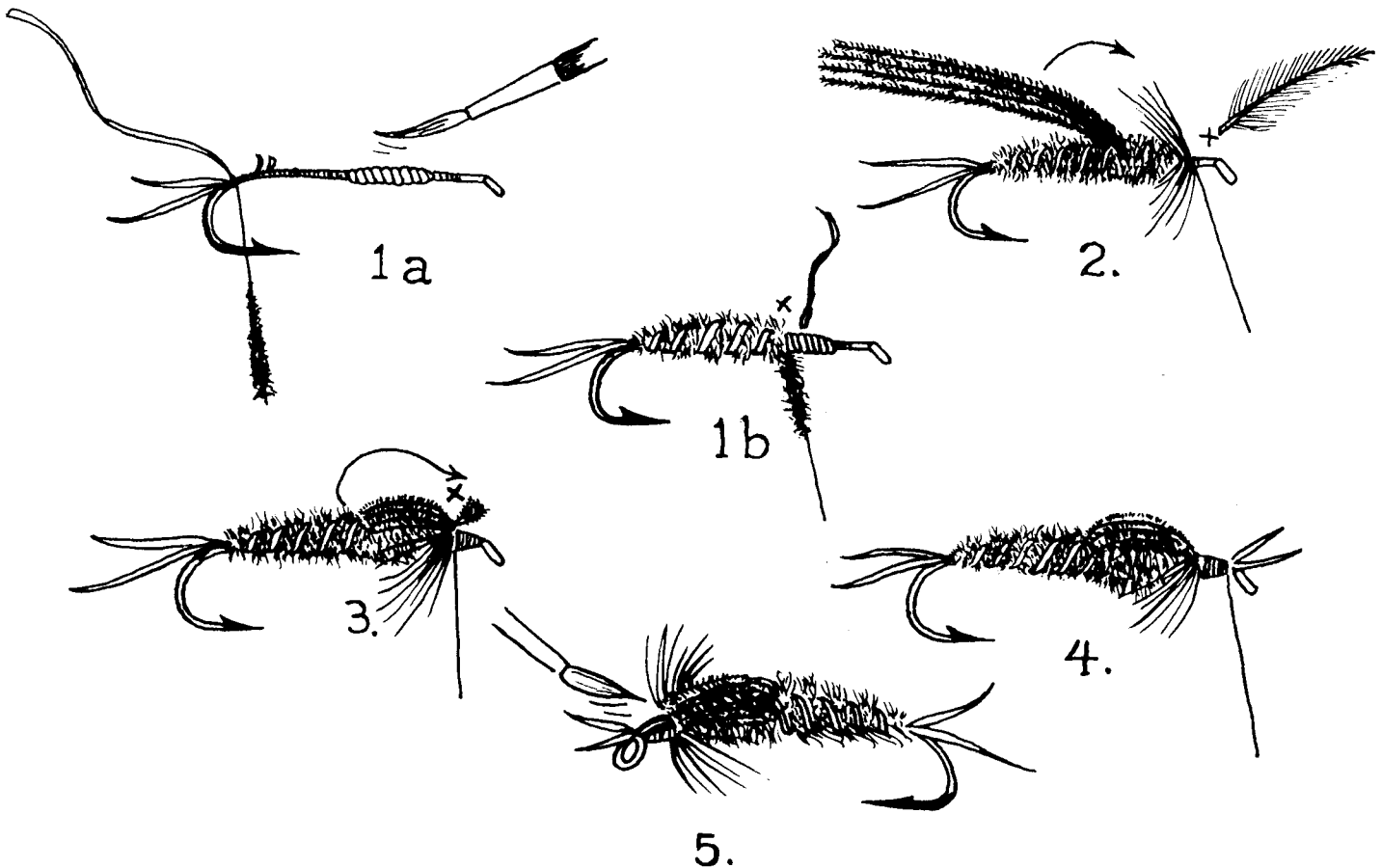
DAVE WHITLOCK'S

WHIT BRONZE NYMPH

- Hook: 2 thru 12 TDE 2x strong 3x long, weight with 8 turns of lead wire
Thread: Copper or orange nymo
Tail: 2 flues of turkey or goose dyed medium seal brown or horse tail hair
Abdomen: Fur blended with $\frac{1}{2}$ dark brown seal, $\frac{1}{8}$ orange seal, $\frac{1}{8}$ amber seal, $\frac{1}{8}$ black seal and $\frac{1}{8}$ natural muskrat.
Rib: Copper flat tensil (I use a chore girl pad)
Thorax: Top: Peacock herl Bottom: Seal fur blended of $\frac{1}{2}$ orange and $\frac{1}{2}$ medium brown
Antenna: Same as tail Head: dark brown and orange
Hackle: Dark Brown


TYING INSTRUCTIONS: \curvearrowright = tie or wrap x = cut or trim

1. Wrap hook with lead wire at thorax region. Attach tying thread and tie on tail, flaring flumes outward. Attach copper tensil at bend and coat shank with thick head cement. Dub the fur on to form abdomen and rib with tensil.
2. Attach peacock herl over top of abdomen, loose ends pointing backwards. Dub thorax with fur and tie hackle ahead of thorax. One or two turns is plenty.
3. Pull herl over the top and bind down at the head forming wing case.
4. Build up head with thread and put on antenna.
5. Lacquer top of head dark brown. Pick out fur along sides of abdomen with dubbing needle.





Bob Sisson
3607 Greenhill Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



The Cast

of
THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 1568 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405
October 1977

Vol. 1

No. 4

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542-4276 539-0556
Assistant Editor: Frank Bertaina 542-4242

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:

When: Wednesday, October 19th 7:00 p.m.

Where: Northern California Savings & Loan Building
Corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Third Street

Program:

Our speaker for the evening will be Dan Blanton of San Jose. Dan is the managing editor of Angler Magazine.

In addition, our own member Bob Nauheim, whose writings have appeared in numerous publications and whose activities in Fishing International are well known, will speak on fly fishing for striped bass in local waters.

For November Ted Olson plans to have Doug Swisher here as our Speaker. For serious fly fishermen this should be a very important occasion. Who among us hasn't had the frustrating experience of casting endlessly over large, feeding trout with nary a touch?

Doug Swisher and Carl Richards seem to have come close to solving that situation as outlined in their recent book, "Selective Trout", Crown Publishers, Inc. 419 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. (Available at Books, Inc. Coddington) (\$5.95)

In addition to the evening appearance, Mr. Swisher plans to give a fishing clinic of approximately 5 hours duration on the day following the November meeting (Nov. 17th) if enough people sign up to attend. The fee will probably be around \$10.00 per person. When one considers the time and money spent on a fishing expedition that could be changed from failure to success by the right know-how, the Swisher clinic could well be the best bargain around.

To get a sampling of member interest in the clinic we include a self addressed post card which we ask you to fill out and mail back to us.

The dinner meeting of September 21 was a complete success, almost. The preliminary film of the life story of a trout, presented by Ted Olson was one of the prettiest and cleverest pieces of nature photography that we have ever seen. The steak dinner was excellent and the presentation by Mike Fong, and his detail and slides of the various phases of the metamorphoses of mayflies and other ephemeridae common to our trout waters was exciting and instructive.

However, owing to a hiatus in communication there were several people who left without paying for their dinners at \$6.00 each. If you are wondering who was supposed to pay for your dinner it was you and you can send your check to our treasurer Hal LaJeunesse at 117 Valley Lakes Drive, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404.

As we have mentioned previously, these news letters are the major expense of our club, and we depend upon raffles to augment our dues. Norm Sutcliffe has donated a wading staff manufactured by his firm for the October raffle. Value \$25.00.

This staff could keep you from getting wet. It also has a hook to pull branches within reach to retrieve mis-cast flies.

NOTICE

We have been sending this newsletter to a number of people who have not paid their dues for membership (\$12.00 individual, \$18.00 family, \$5.00 for the newsletter without membership). This will be the last issue of the newsletter to those whose dues are not paid.

1977--FFF Conclave---from John Agnew

600 delegates and guests convened August 22 for the 1977 Federation of Fly Fishermen Conclave at the Ramada Snow King Lodge in Jackson Hole. The national conclave is the annual event to bring together FFF members for business meetings, informational lectures and seminars, and for the opportunity to meet fly fishermen from across the continent.

The 200 room Ramada couldn't house the entire turnout for the meet. Its lobby was crowded with fly fishermen throughout the four day meeting, and the fly tying demonstrations, the fly plate exhibits, and the displays of the FFF sustaining members lined the walls of the lobby and the 2nd and 3rd floor mezzanines.

The conclave provided a series of lectures by the most accomplished fly fishermen in America, including northern Californians Hal Janssen and Don Blanton. Ernest Schweibert served as Master of Ceremonies for the three banquets. Attendees heard addresses by Lee Wolff, Mel Krieger and Gardner Grant, 1977 FFF President elected to serve a second term. Walnut Creek fly shop owner Andre Puyans was awarded the prestigious Buzz Bussick Award for his accomplishment and innovation in fly tying.

Eating figured in two of the conclave's most memorable evenings. Following the second banquet some 300 FFF's experienced what was described as "one day Flu" by the hotel doctor. The other gastronomic experience was a happier occasion sponsored by Santa Rosa's Fishing International Bob Nauheim who flew directly from Reykjavik, Iceland, with fresh and smoked Atlantic Salmon to play host, with his partner, Frank Bertania, to a cocktail party, the Hors D'Oeuvres which few present had enjoyed before.

Fishing in the Jackson Area was, at best, fair for those who could not afford the time to explore the lesser known waters feeding the larger streams. Further north in Yellowstone and beyond, the fishing was much more productive and many FFF'ers headed that way at the close of the conclave.

The 1978 meeting will return to West Yellowstone after a two year absence. It should be an outstanding event for enthusiastic fly fishermen to plan a vacation around. Now that the Russian River Fly Fishers are affiliated with FFF the 1978 conclave is something to consider.

DAVE WHITLOCKS

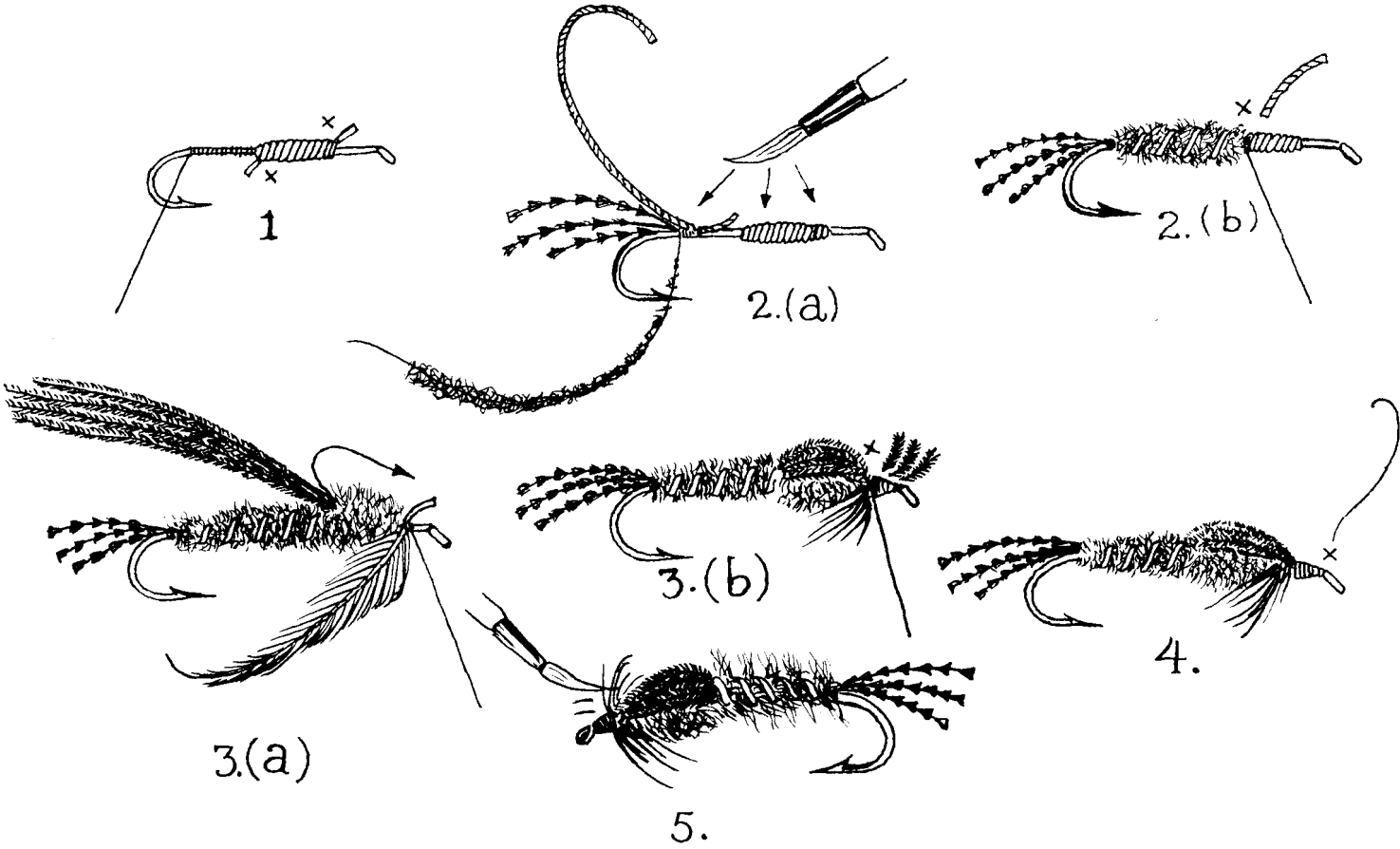
WHIT PEACOCK NYMPH

- Hook: Size 2 thru 12 TDE 1x or 2x strong 3x long
- Thread: Black Nymo or Herb Howard
- Tail: 3 herl from peacock sword feather (metallic blue green)
- Body: Blended fur of $\frac{1}{2}$ black seal, $\frac{1}{2}$ olive seal, $\frac{1}{8}$ green seal, $\frac{1}{8}$ blue seal
- Rib: Oval silver tinsel
- Wing Case: Peacock tail herl (green phase)
- Head: Black
- Hackle: Natural black

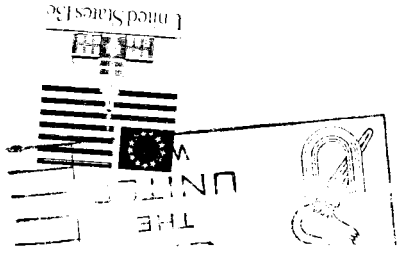
TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap hook shank with 8 to 12 turns of lead wire at thorax area and attach black tying thread behind this wrap.
2. Tie on tail of sword herl, flare them slightly and curving down. Attach tinsel and coat shank with thick head cement or shellac. Dub fur blend to form tapered abdomen and rib with tinsel.
3. Attach peacock herl over top of thorax area with loose ends pointing backwards. Dub thickly fur to form thorax and attach the black hackle just ahead of fur. One or two turns of hackle only to form legs.
4. Pull peacock herl down over top of thorax to form wing case and tie down over head area. Shape head with thread and whip finish.
5. Pick out dubbing a little (to taste) along the abdomen sides with needle. Apply varnish to head.

(On large sizes bend hook shank a little to create a natural curve of nymphs body.)



BOB SISSON
3607 GREENHILL DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95404



The Cast

of
THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P. O. Box 1568 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Vol. 1

November 1977

No. 5

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542-4276 539-0556

Assistant Editor: Liz Wray 526-4968

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

When: Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cafeteria Room, Slater Jr. High School
3500 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa

Program: Doug Swisher, trout fisherman extraordinary, inventor and developer of the "no hackle dry fly". His book, "Selective Trout" by Crown Publishers, is, according to Fly Fisherman Magazine, "the most important book on fly fishing of this decade".

Our club is most fortunate in having a speaker of Mr. Swisher's attainments and special thanks to our very resourceful program chairman Dr. Ted Olson.

ABOUT OUR NEW MEETING PLACE

When it was found possible to have a speaker of Mr. Swisher's caliber, and in view of the rapid growth of our club membership, it was evident that the meeting room at Northern California Savings and Loan would no longer be big enough.

Accordingly your Board of Directors sought and found a more spacious room. (see below) However, there is one absolute requirement: NO SMOKING on the school property. Any infringement of this rule will automatically terminate any future use by our club of Santa Rosa School property. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

THE DOUG SWISHER CLINIC will be held on Thursday evening Nov. 17th at 7:00 p.m. also at the Slater Jr. High School Cafeteria. (Remember!!! NO SMOKING!)
3500 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa

This clinic, for which Mr. Swisher will charge \$10.00 per person, constitutes a post graduate course in flyfishing.

To date we have 24 who have signified their intention to attend the clinic and via the grapevine it seems likely that many more will attend from other clubs outside Santa Rosa.

ABOUT RAFFLES

Although our club finances are reasonably healthy, we have had some extra expense in purchasing membership name tags, renting the school cafeteria, and Mr. Swisher's speaker's fee. Hence we depend upon revenue from our raffles to defray the extra cost of special events, entertainment and the like.

Some good prizes will be available for the raffle of Nov. 16th, among which will be a custom built rod case for transportation of your favorite rods to ensure protection from the airline baggage smashers.

Another fine prize is a quality framed print of a brown trout 23½ x 27¼ by noted wildlife illustrator, Jack Dumas. All members who are able to do so are encouraged to purchase some additional raffle tickets and/or donate to the kitty.

ABOUT OUR BOARD MEETING OF OCT. 27th

NAME TAGS

To ensure that we don't have a repetition of the free loaders who crashed our first dinner meeting, and to control attendance at our regular meetings it was decided to have permanent membership name tags for all paid-up members. Accordingly a nametag design was approved and name tags were ordered. These name tags will be issued to a member on arrival at meetings, and returned to Club custody on leaving. Additional name tags for members' personal use may be purchased for \$2.30 each.

MEMBERSHIP

At the outset of the formation of the Club there was some thought given to the size of the membership. It was concluded that too large a membership in the beginning might impose problems of administration, meeting space, etc. A maximum number of around 100 members was thought to be a reasonable target to start with. Our membership is approaching that number now.

In order to ensure that additional members will be persons who are likely to contribute to the well being of the club, your Board of Directors have determined that future applications shall bear the signatures of TWO sponsoring members along with the membership dues and initiation fee.

The Board will review all new applications before giving approval. Mr. Fred Pedersen is our membership chairman; all applications for membership should be directed to him.

OTHER BUSINESS

A roster of club members will be distributed to all members.

The Club is preparing to incorporate to protect individuals against damage suits.

The majority of club business, political issues, and controversial issues, shall be brought before the Board for consideration. They should not be brought up in general meetings, since the purpose of these meetings is enjoyment of the various aspects of the great sport of fly fishing.

The bulk of Club business will be handled at Board meetings and kept to a minimum during monthly meetings. All members are welcome to attend all Board meetings and may present their items of interest to the Board for consideration.

Raffle returns and kitty money will be used to offset speakers fees, so that we can continue to have the fine programs that we have thus far enjoyed. Raffles benefit you and your Club.

CLUB LIBRARY

Many thanks to Jim Versyp who has graciously donated a large collection of FLY FISHERMAN, SALMON, TROUT, STEELHEADER, THE FLY FISHER and TROUT to the Club.

Jim's contribution begins our Club library. Other members who have books or magazines to donate, please contact Liz Wray, who, for the time being, is our librarian. She will handle borrowings and returns from the Library.

RUSSIAN RIVER STATUS REPORT

The Russian River system with proper management, has the potential to provide great sport, both for small mouth bass in the summer and steelhead in the winter. It is the interest of all members of our Club to be informed concerning what goes on in the river and its tributaries if this fishery is to achieve its great potential.

Editor

Water Quality Control Board Staff has called a special public hearing to be held Nov. 21, 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building, to investigate illegal sewage escape into the Russian River the week of Oct. 31--Nov. 4. The Apr. 7 W.Q.C.B. hearing imposed a cease and desist order against sewage disposal into the river in excess of 1% (winter 1976-7 saw upward of 40% effluent in the river). Temporary earthen dams were ordered installed along the Laguna de Santa Rosa with the stored water to be used for spray irrigation. Sebastopol and Rohnert Park, co-defendants with Santa Rosa at the original hearing, have had minimal problems with their systems.

Early the week of Oct. 31 a breach occurred in the Santa Rosa system creating a channel around the last dam and releasing an unknown but significant quantity of effluent into the river. Repairs were completed Nov. 3. Late afternoon Nov. 4, Sonoma County Water Agency, while attempting to drain a field, broke the lowest dam, flooding the Russian with a sufficient amount of effluent for the State Board of Health to order water companies along the river to cease pumping and to increase chlorine once the effluent had passed downriver, encouraged by the weekend rain. Rain still threatens to cause further breaches in the dams, necessarily constructed to give way under heavy rains. We can only hope there is sufficient rain to dilute the sewage effluent to below the legal 1% limit and that the mouth of the Russian is concurrently opened.

The clean water goals of the W.Q.C.B. certainly parallel our interest in improving and maintaining a quality fishery in the Russian. Since the sewage disposal systems in question are 80-90% federally funded, we should, without undue hardship, be able to meet the standards of the Water Quality Control Board.

Although the drought has threatened many of our major western streams, the Russian, though low, saw cleaner water this summer than it has in 20 years and fishing was good. A number of small mouth, 2-4 pounds and larger, were taken. Cats and bluegill performed as usual and stripers were taken throughout late summer. A school of Kings were reported moving through Northwood in late October, giving some small hope to the return of the King plant 7-8 years ago. Another school of 1 to 1½ foot fish were sighted below Wohler dam late October. We still have fish; we still have a river capable of supporting a fishery; but we have very little time.

Vicki Calkins

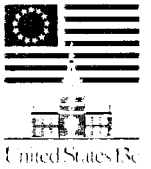
OCTOBER MEETING

For those of you who didn't get to the October meeting, you missed a great film on sailfishing off Panama, featuring John Havlichek, all pro Boston Celtic Basketball player.

Even better was Dave Blanton's presentation on fly fishing for stripers in San Francisco Bay. He really showed where, when and how to get those stripers.

LATE NEWS

Sonoma State College is giving a 6 week course on fly tying, beginning Nov. 2, 1977.



Bob Sisson
3607 Greenhill Dr.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405

The Cast

of

THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 1757 Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

December 1977

Vol. 1

No. 6

Editor: Ben H. Cummings 542-4276 539-6556
Assistant Editor: Liz Wray

DINNER MEETING: NO HOST

When: Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 P.M.

Where: Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2400 Midway Drive
Montgomery Village, Santa Rosa

Please notify Lloyd Von Der Mehden 542-8976 on
or before December 12, so that the restaurant
will have space reserved.

PROGRAM: Dr. Ronald Cordes, Phd. LL.D., West Coast
Editor of the Fly Fisher Magazine, will
speak on fishing for trout in lakes. The
program should be of special interest to
those who get into the highcountry, back-
packers, etc.

ART AUCTION: A framed watercolor painting of Steamboat Creek, a trib-
utary of the north fork of the Umpqua River in Oregon will
be offered for auction. The painting, by B. H. Cummings,
is donated to the RRFF to raise funds to support the Club.
Paintings of this quality and size sell regularly at \$200.
Initial bid starts at \$100. Here is an opportunity to get
a painting of one of the most famous steelhead spawning
streams of Oregon and at the same time help the Club.

DOUG SWISHER: One of RRFF's most-outstanding-ever speakers shared two
evenings with us at our November meeting. Doug Swisher dynamically and
straightforwardly presented his techniques of fly fishing strategy, which
he pointed out are only his own ideas, not necessarily gospel truth!

Despite his modest admission, Doug catches fish, and he
shared slides of those fish, as well as some of his favorite fishing
places. Doug stressed two other most important factors in successful fly-
fishing: pattern and presentation. He showed us his guidelines for hatch
matching (examining naturals for size, shape, and color) and gave in-
sights into tying effective imitations. Doug demonstrated his techniques
for effective fly presentation, showing basic casts and variations, as
well as their application in specific situations.

Doug Swisher is a dynamic man who never stands still, both
when teaching and fishing. Probably one of the most important concepts
he presented concerns personal effort. To him, it seems, more effort
produces more fish and more satisfaction. (For example, don't just stand
there wondering which nymphs are getting ready to hatch--get a net and
find out!) And he practically promised excellent casting for each of us
in return for faithful practice. So let's get with it!

Incidentally, Doug Swisher recommends the following flies to
handle 90% of all fishing situations:

<u>PATTERN</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
<u>No Hackle</u>	slate-tan	12, 14
	grey-yellow	16, 18
	slate-olive	14-20

THE CAST -2-

<u>PATTERN</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>
<u>Spinner</u>	Dun brown hen	12-20
	White wing black	22
	Slate brown emerger	12-20
<u>Wet Fly</u>	Adams	16,18
	Henryville special	16,18
	Goofus fly	18,20
	Cahill	16,18
<u>Matuka</u>	olive, brown, black	2,8,10

NAME TAGS

At long last, RRFF's name tags for members have arrived. They are plastic with the logo laminated in, and have slots for individual names. Mike Tatio generously gave his time to type everyone's names on the inserts. As you will notice, there is a number on the back of the tag. This is to be used for raffle drawings, etc. in the future. Also only one number is given to a family. If you have a family membership and your wife attends meetings but doesn't have a name tag, please let us know.

ONE IMPORTANT THING:

These name tags are the CLUB'S property and need to be returned after every meeting. If you want to purchase another name tag, the cost is \$2.30. (An extra one could be used for your children or on your fishing vest.) Also, we need someone to make a board to keep these name tags on between meetings. Volunteers, please call Bob Wray, 526-4968

THE LASSEN RANGER FLY OF THE MONTH

Back in 1931, shortly after the loop road opened around Mt. Lassen, the little lakes east of the mountain had hardly been fished. One of these lakes of the Cluster Lakes group had been stocked with rainbows sometime around 1920. The lake involved, although generally shallow, had enough deep water that the trout could survive the cold winters. They continued to grow until by 1931 the survivors averaged around 7 lbs.

Our first, somewhat naive effort on these fish was complete failure. Large flies, short leaders and inept presentation spooked every trout in the lake. A second attempt a year later ended in the same result. Then we discovered nymphs and success was ours.

A few days later in a somewhat expansive mood we bragged about our success to a fly-tying park ranger. He offered us a fly of his own design which he claimed was successful when shade was on the water. He proved to be right. Since then we have used this fly in various sizes and on various occasions, and it has caught everything from trout to steelhead to atlantic salmon to smallmouth bass. It is not always successful--but what fly is? We offer it for your consideration.

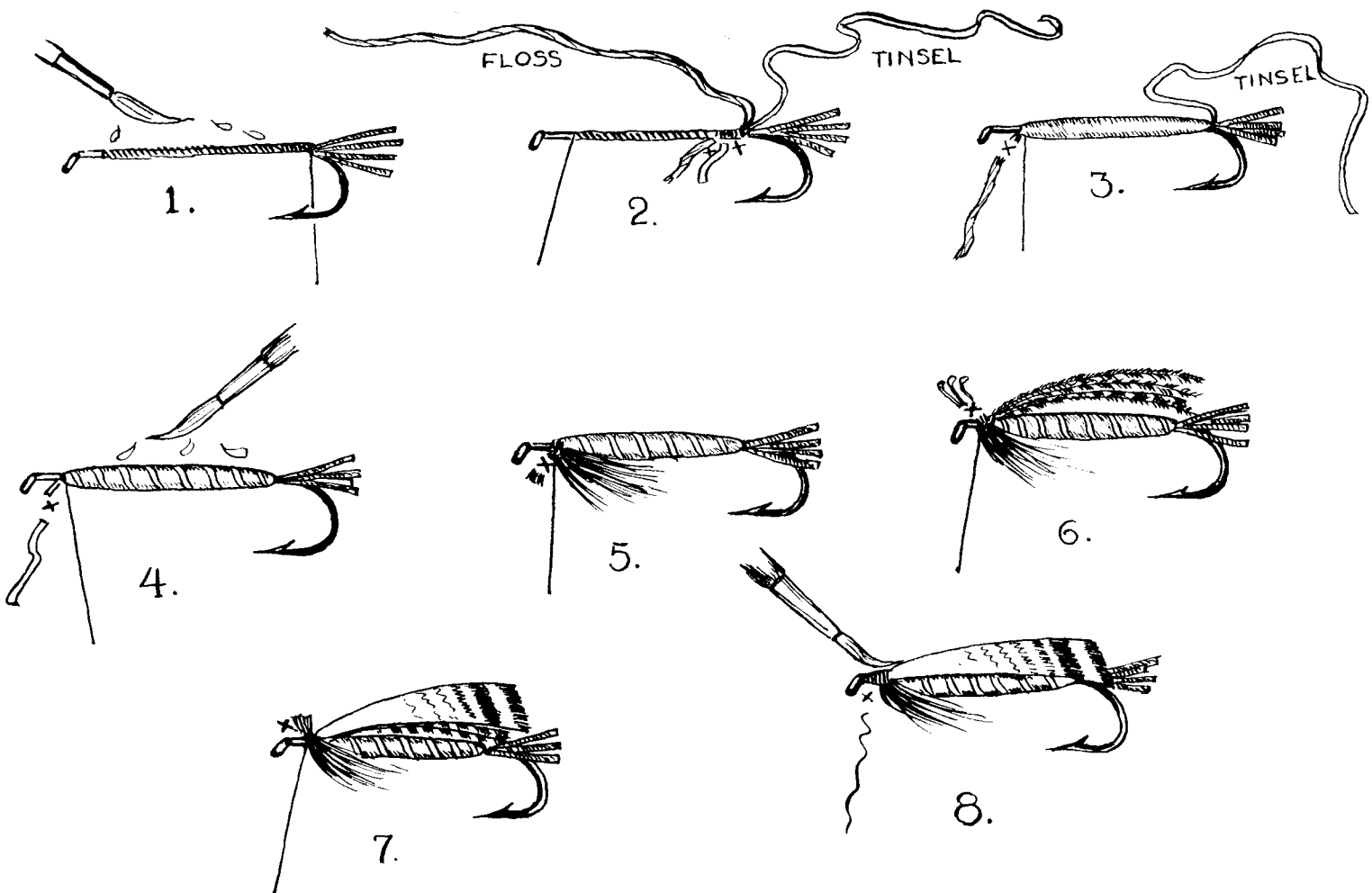
THE LASSEN RANGER

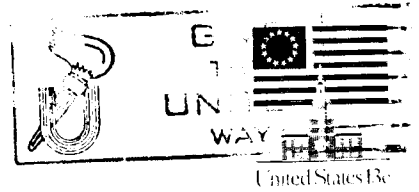
Hook: 2 thru 12 2x strong 3x long. weight optional.
 Thread: Black nymo.
 Tail: 3-6 fibres of bright blue portion of peacock eye.
 Body: Yellow silk floss, Lacquer finish.
 Rib: Silver tinsel flat
 Beard: Dark brown hackle fibres.
 Under Wing: Fibres of peacock sword herl curved downward
 Upper Wing: Barred wood duck flank feather.

TYING PROCESS

1. Attach tying thread near head and wrap back to the bend of the hook, tying in the tail fibres. Coat the hook shank with clear lacquer.
2. Tie in yellow floss enough to build the body (10-16 inches) and a length of flat silver tinsel enough to wrap the body.

- Wrap the tying thread back up to the head.
- Wrap the yellow floss back and forth along the hook shank to build up a rounded body, tapered at both ends. Tie off near the head and clip off surplus floss.
4. Wrap the floss body evenly spaced with the flat silver tinsel and tie off and clip at the front end of the body. Coat the floss and tinsel body with clear lacquer and allow to dry.
5. Tie in a bundle of brown hackle stripped from hackle feathers under the front end of the body to form the beard.
6. Tie in a bundle of 6-8 fibres stripped from peacock sword herl to the top of the hook near the front of the body so that all fibres curve downward.
7. Tie in two matched sections of barred flank wood duck feathers to form the top wings. Tie off with whip finish.
8. Coat the head with black head lacquer





Bob Asson
3607 Greenhill ~~Dr.~~ Dr.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404