

The Cast

The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 9

FEBRUARY 1984

NO. 2

FEBRUARY MEETING OFFERS TONIC FOR THOSE MID- WINTER FISHING BLUES

Despite steelhead fishing (which we've been granted this Winter), it's that time of year when many of us begin staring vacantly into space; wonder if Opening Day will ever arrive. It's a time when we get itchy for the sight of trout water.

Knowing this, our Program Chairman, Bob Nauheim, has come up with just the right tonic to help chase those mid-winter fishing blues.

Bob has dug into his secret treasure trove and as a balm for our souls, will offer a film guaranteed to ease that hunger for the sight of fishing waters and the fish that inhabit them.

This gem is: "Fishing Wonders of Alaska".

What's your pleasure? Rainbow trout? You got 'em . . . the kind we dream about!

FEBRUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 15

7:30 PM

MADRONE SCHOOL

4550 Rinconada St.
(off Mission St.,
near Hwy 12)

A meeting of the Board of Directors will precede the regular meeting at 5:30 PM. All RRF members are welcome to attend.

Big, feisty, tackle-bustin' brutes. How about Dolly Vardens? You betcha . . . and they come in King Size in that fabled wonderland.

And speaking of Kings -- you'll see salmon a-plenty, mostly in the jumbo, family-economy size. And, you'll see them where they rightly belong -- at the end of a fly line. And if the Kings don't

(cont'd pg 2)

RESTORATION CONFERENCE DRAWS LAWMAKERS AND 40 ORGANIZATIONS

A U.S. Congressman and a State Assemblyman joined some 250 people concerned with fisheries restoration for the 2nd annual Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Conference in Eureka.

Between 35 and 40 organizations interested in restoring salmon and steelhead habitat and populations were represented at the Conference held earlier this month.

In attendance were Representative Doug Bosco and Assemblyman Dan Hauser, both active in fisheries preservation and restoration. Rep. Bosco, while a state assemblyman, together with state senator Barry Keene, established a salmon and steelhead restoration fund out of revenues from geothermal projects.

Hauser declared he

(cont'd pg 2)

TONIC FOR FISHING BLUES (from pg 1)

happen to feel like playing that day, well, shucks, there are other brands that want to be photographed as they leap and careen about, threatening the fisherman with cardiac arrest.

And, finally, you get that sail-finned exotic grayling that smells like thyme but is anything but a sissy at the business end of a fly line.

You want more? Bob will give it to in his running narrative, along with some of the world's most spectacular scenery.

Besides, or in addition to, Bob's super Alaska show, you'll be brought up to date on what's happening in your club.

And, you'll get another chance to pick up a bounty of tackle and such like in Jonah Freedman's always-exciting and ever-re-

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RESTORATION CONFERENCE (from pg 1)

will carry on restoration work and will attempt to lock the Bosco-Keene funds permanently into the state budget. This would assure a yearly allocation that didn't have to be fought for each session.

It was also announced at the Conference that Keene intends to seek \$10 million a year for fisheries restoration. #



warding raffle. You just might win something . . . after all, somebody always does. Could be you, you know.

When and where does all this happen? Funny you should ask.

This Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the Madrone School, beginning at 7:30 PM. Your seat has been reserved. Come, enjoy and kick away those mid-winter blues. #

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since February is a short month, this will be a short message. First of all, I'd like to join in offering thanks to the Gods who have favored us with the first really decent steelhead fishing in several seasons.

It's true that I haven't been out there hauling them in . . . certainly not as much as I'd like to. But from reports I've been getting from fellow RRFF-ers, it's been a pretty good season so far. And, if the Gods continue to smile on us, the fishing should hold up right through to the end of the runs.

And, who knows -- I might tie into that biggie yet . . . maybe even land it! I can dream, can't I? After all, isn't the dream of THE big one what keeps us going? Best of all, our "home" river, the Russian has been and continues to be in fine shape and

(cont'd next pg)



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - - - -

(from page 2)
producing, along with
our neighboring Gualala,
Garcia and other rivers.

At our last club meeting, Liz Wray reported on the status of the RRFF Casting Pool Project, following a meeting of the Committee, which she chairs. Just about all of the details and construction plans have been completed and groundbreaking is tentatively set for May. Due to the necessity of altering original plans because of ground composition, contours, etc., the cost of construction probably will be higher than originally estimated. Also, it is necessary to go into concrete for the pool rather than asphalt as had been planned.

To meet the anticipated higher cost of the project the Committee is renewing efforts to raise additional funds. In addition to seeking individual and corporate donations, another project benefit

FISHING LICENSE PRICE CUT AND NUMBER OF STAMPS IS REDUCED

If you haven't yet bought your 1984 fishing license, you'll be happy to hear that the price of a general-purpose license has been cut to \$13. That allows you to fish for everything but striped bass. A striper stamp costs \$3.50 and is good until Dec. 31, 1985.

The resident ocean fishing license is priced at \$7.50 and allows you to fish for salmon and steelhead, but not for stripers. There is a 50¢ fee to the issuing agent.

Another change is in the elimination of individual stamps for trout, etc. Your general purpose license covers

event is being considered. More on that as plans develop. And, the Committee will welcome suggestions or leads for tax-free donations. #

everything but the exceptions noted.

The Fish & Game Department sells 2.4 million fishing licenses a year, bringing in revenues of some \$29 million. According to acting F&G Director Don Carper, the new regulations will increase revenues by 2.5%.

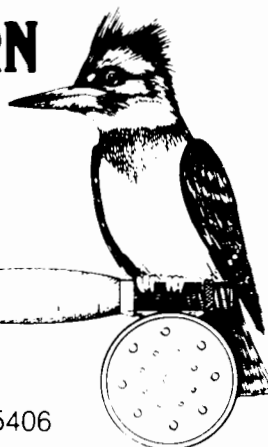
At the same time, Carper said, it will also "reduce paperwork and confusion associated with a number of licenses, stamps and permits, and decrease printing, storage and handling costs". Which presumably means more cash in hand for F&G.

The hope of fishermen is that at least some of the increased revenue and savings will go into intelligent fisheries management rather than into reserves or Certificates of Deposit. #

Epic

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ENOS BRADNER 1893-1984

Enos Bradner, one of the Northwest's best-known anglers, died on Feb. 12 in Seattle at the age of 90.

Bradner was for many years outdoor editor for the Seattle Times. He was author of Northwest Angling, published in 1950. It was one of the first and most widely read books dealing exclusively with sport fishing in that part of the country, though he had fished extensively throughout the USA, Alaska and the tropics.

An avid flyfisher, he developed a number of fly patterns, particularly for steelhead and salmon. Probably the best-known and still effective of his patterns is the Brad's Brat.

Bradner was one of the founders of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, in 1939, and served as its first president. He was an early, strong supporter of the Federation of Fly Fishers. In recognition of his services, FFF presented him with its most illustrious award, the Lapis Lazuli.

Bradner began fishing at the age of 8 and his fishing developed into a passion that never dimmed throughout his long and innovative life. He was a pioneer and anglers of today are the richer for it. #

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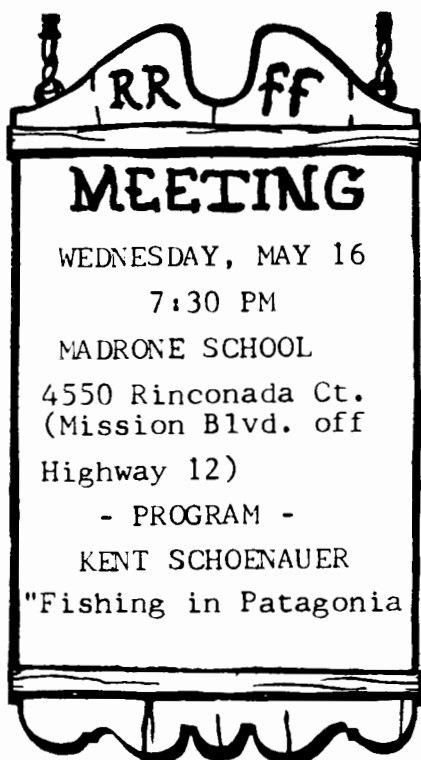
NO. 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The heading says "President's Message" . . . what it should read, of course, is "Acting President". Blame it on the Editor.

In any case, I'd like to share some of what's been going on in your club. In addition to losing our President, Eric Elliott, who had to move to San Diego, we've also lost two Directors. Richard Ham-bright and Ken Wilson (Vice President) have resigned from the Board for pressing business and personal reasons. Unfortunately, earning a living is still a high-ranking priority for most of us.

Luckily, we've been able to recruit two extremely able and dedicated members to fill in till the July elections. Both are long-



time RRFF members and both have contributed mightily to the club since its founding. Grant King and Bob Sisson will be valuable additions to the Board and we welcome them.

A number of members have been wondering what's happening with

the club's Casting Pool Project. Basically, we've run into two related problems: engineering and financial. They're related because the nature of the pool site has forced changes in the original plans. Although alternative systems have been examined, the engineering reality is that the only feasible pool is a reinforced concrete one. Climatic and ground composition conditions rule out plastic or fiberglass, both of which have been looked at.

That's the engineering part. Which leads to the financial part. Cost estimates put the price of reinforced concrete, along with other construction necessities, at about \$140,000. At present, we have just under \$40,000 in the till.

The Board of Directors has decided that if the project is going to be carried out,

(cont'd on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(from page 1)

it should be done right. . . . something that will hold up for years and be something the club can be proud of. Because what we're building is not just for RRFF, but for the whole community. In fact, I look on it as a club contribution to the community . . . particularly its young people.

That being the case, it seems right and proper to invite the community to join us in helping move the project toward completion . . . not only with funds, but with in-kind assistance, such as materials, equipment, labor and anything else needed.

We're already indebted to Jim Mitchell, who luckily happens to be a club member, for an enormous amount of engineering help.

Grant King, who has taken on the job of spearheading the fund campaign, is convinced that the money is out there from individuals, corporations and institutions. All we've got to do, says King, is go after it. He's ready to do just that, and welcomes any help

in the way of leads to fund sources, as well as in making calls on potential contributors. King can be reached at 542-4432. Call him.

Your Board of Directors is confident that RRFF can accomplish its objective of building the finest casting pool and clubhouse to be found in any community.

And where better than in Santa Rosa!

Charlie

--Charlie Schelter



KEENE BILL AIMED AT RESTORING STATE FISHERIES

A three-pronged Bill aimed at restoring the State's fisheries to their former glory has been introduced in the California Legislature by Senator Barry Keene.

The Bill, according to Sen Keene, would do

three things:

1. Enact a new state fish restoration policy. For the first time, state policy would be to restore and, where feasible, enhance our fishery resources. Responsible state agencies would be required to develop detailed plans for carrying out this policy, and to report their progress to the Legislature and public periodically.

2. Provide \$5 million every year for restoration of fish habitat. The \$5 million would be redirected from water project construction funds.

3. Require the California Water Commission to ask the federal government to correct the damage to fish that has been caused by federal dams and other federal water projects.

"Economic sense and simple fairness require us to restore our fishery resources," Keene said. "Given two or three decades of restoration work, I believe we can begin to
(cont'd next page)

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RRFF FLIES IN MUSEUM

(from page 3)

gether wanted to include West Coast steelhead and salmon flies. A long-time friend, Joe Pizarro, he knew, now lived in the Santa Rosa area and was a member of RRFF. The result was an assignment that was easy to fulfill . . . round up a collection of flies, along with names of originators and histories, as a contribution of the Russian River Fly Fishers.

The assignment was easy because Grant King was at hand to furnish both the flies and their histories. Which he did, graciously and ungrudgingly. And so, the card read: "West Coast steelhead and salmon flies. Contributed by the Russian River Fly Fishers, Santa Rosa, CA. Tied by Grant King".

Needless to say, RRFF is grateful to said Mr. King. #

REMEMBER THE INDIAN VALLEY OUTING: RRFF's BIGGEST, FUN-FILLED EVENT OF THE YEAR, OR AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT ONE! MAY 18-19-20!

Fly-rodding for bass, blue-gills, crappie and red-eared sunfish -- battlers all on a fly rod. And, fun and fellowship with your fellow-RRFF-ers. They could be the most memorable 3 days of the year.

Rendezvous and camp area are north shore of the reservoir. Call Schelter (544-1010) for info.

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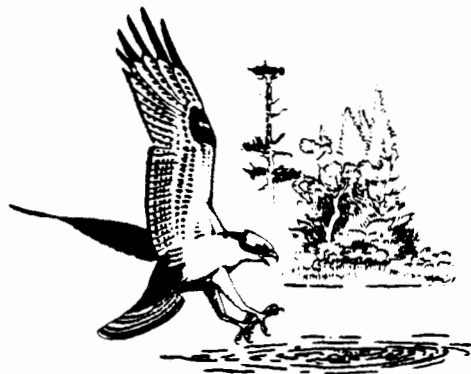
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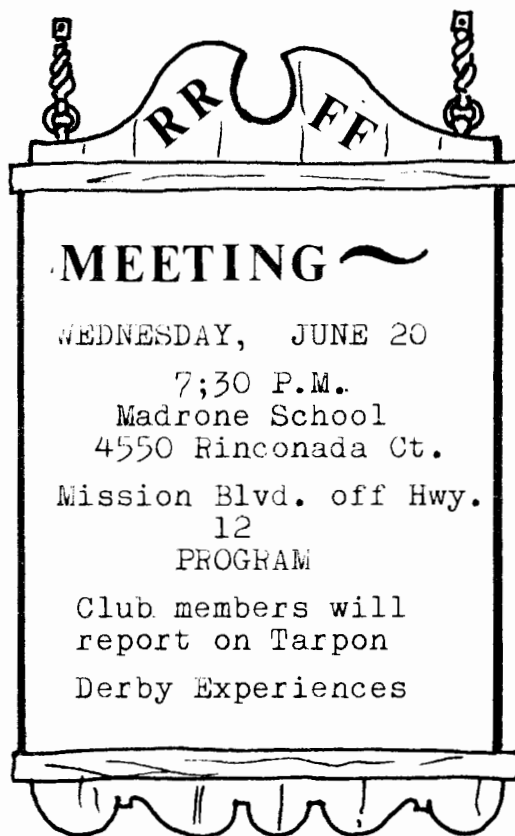
NO. 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Soon you will have a new "elected" president to send you his greetings each month.

While I am here I would like to remind the membership that there is a RRFF account at the local blood bank. Donations in the club name will always be available to members with a need.

A project I would like to see started is access sharing by and for club members. Some of us have access to waters and might welcome use by other club members. I would be pleased to offer Russian River access a little above Austin Creek. Please contact board members with any



access or suggestions to implement this.

SUNDAY - JUNE 26th - 2:00 PM

June outing will be our annual picnic, held this year at the new casting pool site in Galvan Park at Yulupa and Bennett Valley Road. Food is pot-luck so bring a dish and barbeque fare. Club will provide beer, soft drinks, and charcoal. Charlie Schelter

SOME NOTES ON THE INDIAN VALLEY OUTING OF MAY 18-20

This writer visited Indian Valley two weekends in succession and found some interesting changes from the previous year.

1. Two years of high water levels in the lake have killed most of the oak trees that used to shade the camping flats.
2. As the lake level changes fish change their feeding areas. For example, on the weekend of May 12,13 water covered some of the grassy flats at the upper end of the lake east of the bridge, to a depth of about 3 feet. Many school bass were foraging on the flat. By the week end of May 19,20 the water level had dropped about 18". The bass had abandoned the flat and moved into a deeper side channel choked with brush and fallen trees. They rose well there to weedless popping bugs, whereas during the previous week, when they were in the open water. They were extremely wary and hard to catch in daylight but took a muddler minnow well after sunset.
3. Bartlett Creek, which enters the lake at its north end has a very interesting evening rise of large trout that come up from the lake and move

into the stream to feed upon the numerous flies and nymphs that hatch in the creek.

This happy situation probably prevails only while water temperatures in the creek are suitable for trout.

From comments by some of the members it appears that bass fishing was less successful this year than last. This may have been a temporary condition, because many bass were observed in the estuary of Bartlett creek during the weekend of May 12,13.

CASTING POOL PROJECT - A NOTE OF CORRECTION

In your cast issue of May 1984, a statement was made that "the only feasible pool is a reinforced concrete one" due to climatic and ground conditions at the site.

The situation prevailing is such that the expansion-contraction properties of the adobe type soil at the site would require either of two alternatives.

1. A heavily reinforced concrete basin resting upon an 18 inch layer of compacted subsoil of properties not subject to swelling and shrinking. This subsoil would have to be brought in from some source at this time unknown.

This alternative would cost something in the \$120,000 - \$140,000 range.

2. A second alternative, using a plastic liner on the bottom of the pool, bedded on a gravel base with sand topping and surrounded by a reinforced concrete rim wall and an asphalt concrete walkway could be built for about \$40,000.

Plastic liners have been used in numerous constructions of this type with success and there is reason to believe it would be successful in our casting pool.

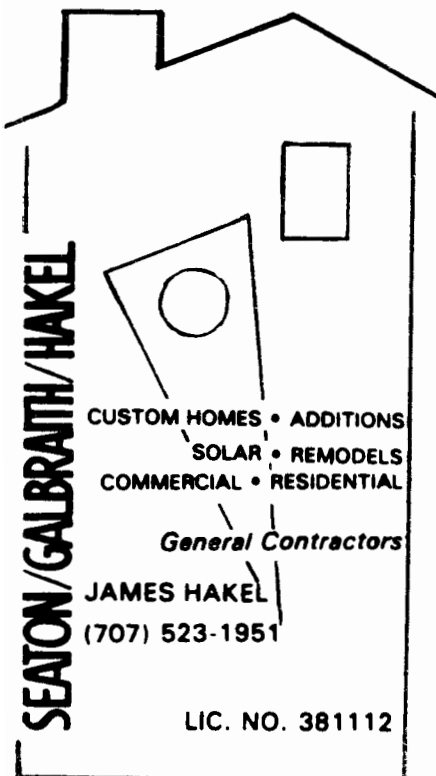
The advantage of the plastic liner is that its cost is within range of available funds and would solve the problems of unstable soil at minimum cost.

The disadvantage is that its service life would be about 20 years whereas a properly built concrete pool might be expected to last indefinitely with minimum maintenance.

These alternatives have not been presented to the Recreation and Parks Department of Santa Rosa pending their further consideration by our membership.

Comments by interested members should be directed to our secretary,--Russian River Fly Fishers, Inc. P.O. box 2673, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405.

Ben H. Cummings, Member Pool Construction Comm.



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THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AT MADRONE SCHOOL AT 6:30 P.M.
(prior to the regular meeting June 20, th.)

A FATAL ACCIDENT - AND A GREAT LOSS

Most of us read in the local news a report of an accident near Jenner, where Mrs. Pizarro's automobile ran off the road and tumbled down the cliff near Blind Beach. Mrs. Pizarro was killed in the fall.

This was a distressing blow to us all who knew and liked the Pizarros. We feel particularly the loss of Joe's friendly company and of his excellent service to our club in producing our monthly newsletter.

We have taken the liberty of publishing Joe's letter to Charlie Schelter wherein Joe explains his reasons for returning to Vermont to be near his family. We can understand and sympathize with his feelings. We hope that someday he might return to Sonoma County and be with us again.

P. O. Box 264
Proctorsville, VT 05153

Charlie:

Just a note to let you know where I am and to apologize for having left without getting in touch. The move was rather hurried, as you may expect. My son said he would accept no nonsense or excuses -- he told me to pack a bag and I was going back to Vermont with him. He made arrangements to have my house looked after, got in touch with the phone company, PG&E, etc. and had all utilities suspended -- called the airline, made a reservation for me on his flight and almost before I knew it, we were on our way to the San Francisco airport.

Actually, Charlie, I didn't argue the case because I did want to get away, at least for a while. I am staying with my son and probably will be here most likely through this summer. After that -- I'm not sure. There's a good possibility I will remain in Vermont permanently. Except for a daughter in Los Angeles, all my family and old friends are in the East and they're all urging that I move back here. We'll see.

Meantime, best of luck to you and RRRF. I'm sorry I left you in a hole with The Cast. But I'm sure you'll find someone who is perfectly capable of taking over and doing a good job -- probably better than I did. Say howdy to the guys at your next meeting; give my best to Liz next time you see her and tight lines.

With highest regards,

Joe Pizarro



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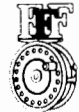
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ANOTHER CRAWFISH IMITATION ... THE PEACOCK AND PHEASANT CRAWFISH

by Rich Ellerby

Materials: Mustad 79580 in #6,8, or 10

Body-brown or tan yarn

Eyes-burned 15# mono

Claws- see below

Head- peacock herl

Legs, Body, Tail-Pheasant tail

Steps: 1. Weight hook with lead wire, tie on yarn at hook eye, and run to hook bend.

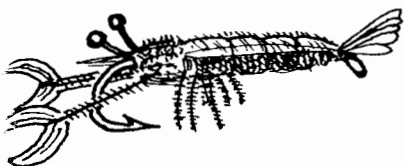
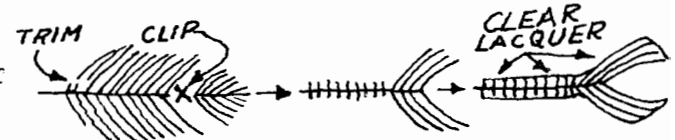
2. Tie eyes at 45° angle, clip off excess and wrap head with one strand of peacock herl.

3. To make claws, use pheasant or chukkar flank feather. Tie in claws behind head and beneath body.

4. Take three 1/3" sections of pheasant tail, tying one each for right and left legs, saving excess for back abd tail.

5. Tie on third section on top, flatten three on the back and tie in segments with thread.

6. Soak back and tail with clear cement and flatten and trim tail as it dries.



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Outing

OUR ANNUAL RUSSIAN RIVER FISHING TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JULY 22 - 9:00 AM

Canoes - Prams - Rowboats - Rafts -

LAUNCH AT MONTE RICO ACCESS - Take-out at Duncan's Mills

• Fishing for Bass - Largemouth • Smallmouth • Stripers •

This will be a great get-together for all of us .. A great FAMILY FUN DAY ..

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OUTING CHAIRMAN, CHARLIE SCHELTER - 539-0200

HELP WANTED

YOU CAN HELP THE CLUB BY WRITING A BRIEF ARTICLE OR STORY FOR THE GAST. Perhaps something of interest to fill up as much space as this request takes. Other club members are interested in your ideas and experiences that pertain to our common interest in fishing, ecology, travel, etc.

Write up a few words and send it in, or call Joan at 584-7500 . If you have a favorite fly pattern, that would be beneficial, too.

Share what you have. It's a good way to make more friends.



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\$1.25 a month - that's what KRRP membership costs. Didn't someone invite you to a meeting? And then you signed up? Why not ask a friend to a meeting? Don't be selfish. It's a good deed as well as a good deal.

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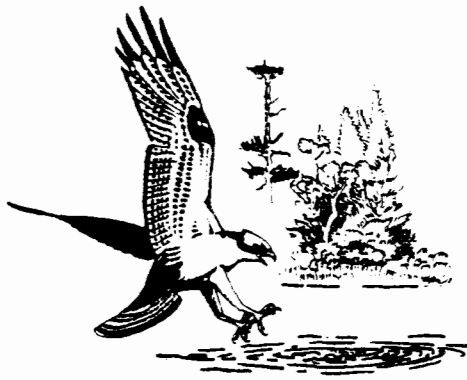
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

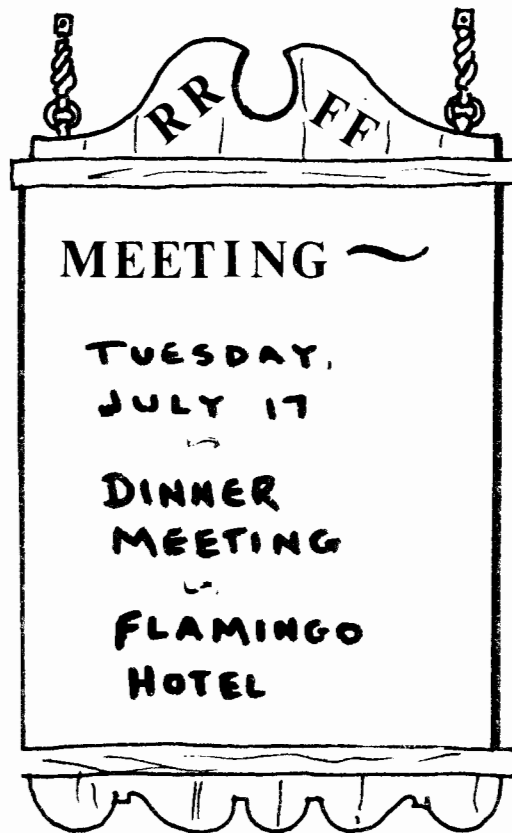
CHARLIE'S LAST ONE !

My emergency tenure is ending. Happily, we have elected a great new Board and President, and Yancey will pen the succeeding missives.

I'm pleased to have been able to serve the R R F F in my bumbling manner during this period, and very gratefully welcome my elected successor.

Let's all give Yancey Forest-Knowles, his able VP Bob Moratto, and the other new Board members every support.

- Charlie Schelter



DUES DUE

Annual membership dues are due. Don't make us dun you. \$15, and we won't bug you again 'til next summer. Line up that money and get it to us. That are you waiting for?

ELECTION

These are the officers elected at June meeting.

They are the 5% who will do 95% of the work.

Please give them as much cooperation and help as you can ~

President:
Yancey Forest-Knowles

Vice President:
Bob Moratto

Board of Directors:
Chuck Baker
Joe Banovich
Grant King
Karla Madsen
George Marcillac
Warren Brown
Bob Nauheim
Charlie Schelter
Bob Sisson
Joan Murphy

The Board meets once a month, usually for an hour or two. ALL members are welcome to come to Board meetings.

There
will NOT be
a Board meeting
this month ...

See you at the Dinner



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DINNER : 7:30 pm

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FFF CONCLAVE
NEXT MONTH



West Yellowstone,
Montana

If you like to fish, to
talk about fishing, to
relax among like-minded
people, then this is the
trip you should not put
off until next year. Do
it this year. It's fun!

The Conclave opens on
August 14. If you wish to
go, Grant King or Karla at
Western Angler should be
able to give you names of
motels, etc.



For those of us who
attended the Conclave
last year, fishing was
tops, except when it
rained! The motels &
hotels are plain or
fancy, as you choose.

The town is comfortable,
and Yellowstone Park's
west entrance is right
there.

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Estate

JOAN MURPHY

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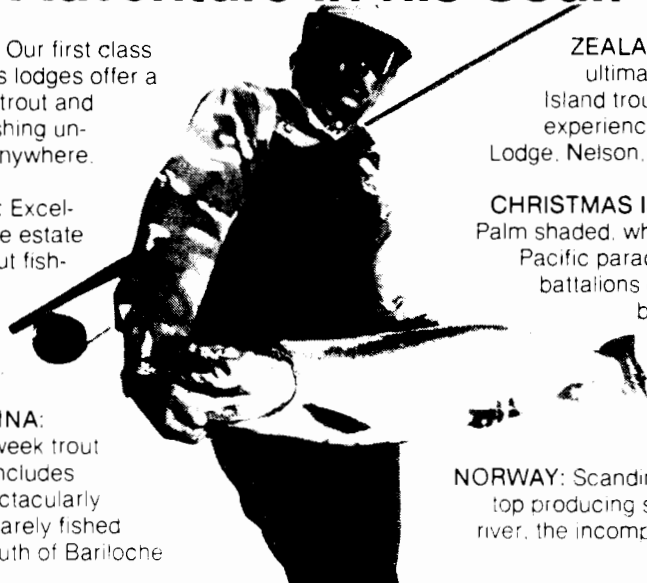
FRANCE: Excel-
lent private estate
brown trout fish-
ing with a
special
European
ambiance.

ARGENTINA:
This two week trout
odyssey includes
some spectacularly
new and rarely fished
waters south of Bariloche

**NEW
ZEALAND:** The
ultimate South
Island trout fishing
experience: Cedar
Lodge, Nelson, TeAnau.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND:
Palm shaded, white sand
Pacific paradise with
battalions of tailing
bonefish!

NORWAY: Scandinavia's
top producing salmon
river, the incomparable
Guala.

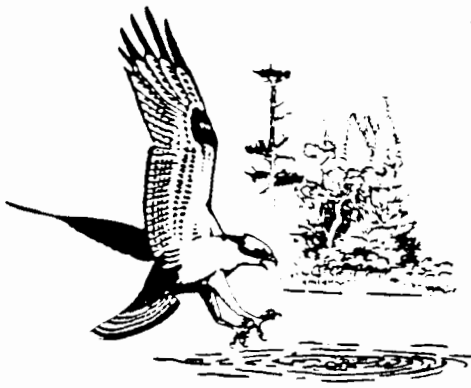


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The Cast

The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 9

NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1984

Our President, Yancey Forest-Knowles, is at the FFF Conclave in West Yellowstone, Montana. He will have a full report on his summer fishing trips plus news items from the Conclave. Watch for this in our September issue.



Short Cast

This is a short edition of The Cast this month.

We will be back to our usual 4-page format next edition (September)..

No August Meeting for Board of Directors.

No August meeting for general membership.

BUT we do have a nice outing scheduled. See below.



OUTING

AFTERNOON PICNIC

"RACKRABBIT" Campground
near boat ramp, Spring Lake

SUNDAY

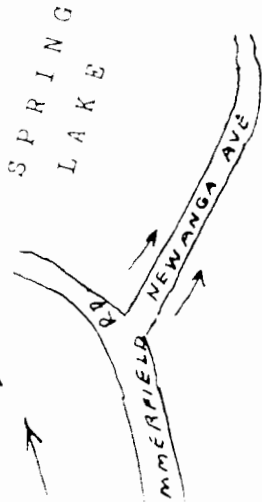
AUGUST

26

3:00 p.m.

WE WILL FURNISH THE CHARCOAL - You bring your own hamburgers or hot dogs (or chicken or whatever you like) and bring your own drinks. If you can, bring along some of that special potato salad (or your specialty) to share. Families have fun at our picnics. Friends are welcome, too. Evening fishing is usually pretty good here, so don't forget the rod & reel & flies or lures for bass! Kids had a great time here last summer. It's good, clean fun!

Questions? Call Charlie Hoffman - 541-1110



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Meeting

We usually meet on the first
Wednesday of each month, so
you can set that evening
aside for our raffle, slide
show or presentation and just
catching up on fly fishing news
and seeing friends.

SEPTEMBER 12 - 7:30

that's our next meeting.
Plan to be there.

Good program is planned.

Archuleta

Bill Archuleta made the MOST
beautiful fly reel, completely
hand finished, and he donated it
to the club. It was auctioned at
our last meeting. Auctioneer Bob
Moratto had lots of fun pushing
Grant King's bid up and up - Grant,
like Bill, is another giver.

Bill has served as Treasurer for
four years. Who else would think
of making another gift after giving
so much already? We appreciate
you, Bill.

Photos of the reel and Bill, in
next issue.

Board Sept. 12 -

The Board of Directors will
meet earlier than usual at
6:00 pm - before the regular
meeting at Madrone Inn #1.
There is a full agenda, so
don't be late because you
stopped to eat. PIZZA will
be served!

DON'T FORGET SUNDAY OUTING

AUGUST 26 at 3:00 PM

Spring Lake, Jackrabbit Campground

New Members

We welcome James & Helen BATES, George MARCILLAC, Bill & Ellen GADDIS,
Fred & June LAWRIE, Ruben & Betty ALLEN, Ted HARD, Lloyd BOWMAN,
Bill & Lynn FROWBRIDGE, Cliff & Valerie BUTCHER, David LOSK, Russ AGNEW,
Leonard NORDEN, David GRAHAM, Leon PIMENTAL, Bill & Clare CLARKE,
Grant BEYER, Tony LANDEN, Pat & Susan KENNEDY, Richard & Joyce ON,
Matt WALKER, Annie BYSTOLI, Scott HAMILTON, Bill HANSEN, Steve LEWIS,
John HASKO, Keith NORTON, Mark OLSON, Bob ELIOT, George PAYMOND.

All of us are pleased that we attract new members and we are happy to
share the good things about our club with you. Please come to our meetings
and activities and help us to grow.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

Finally, development of a cohesive attitude is a very personal goal. I feel it is critical for our group to become more visibly committed to conservation issues, especially the protection of our fish & their environment.

Mike Seeber has volunteered to be responsible for our coffee & cookie needs at general meetings, for the next year. Mike, this is a very big help! Thanks a million for your contribution of time & energy.

Raffle items are needed! We need items from all of you. Please bring them to general meetings - anything, new or used: flies, books, rods, camping gear, wine - anything! I'm going to bring a dozen flies to the next meeting. What will you bring?

During the week of August 15-18 I represented the RRFF at the FFF Conclave in W. Yellowstone. Many valuable contacts were made, including future speakers. Perhaps the most valuable result was an offer I received from the editor of "The Flyfisher" to include an announcement about our casting pond in hopes that it will result in funding from individuals/organizations/corporations. One of the real highlights for me was to attend the opening of the International Fly Fishing Center, now permanently housed in "West". Make sure to include a visit to the Center when fishing in the area.

On behalf of the RRFF I was pleased to present our annual contribution to the FFF fundraising auction. This year our gift was a mixed case of quality Chateau St. Jean wine. Bob Sisson was responsible for acquiring this valuable gift & we thank you for all your energy, Bob.

You will notice that I wrote an article for this issue of the Cast about a fishing trip which I went on to Wyoming earlier this year. It is hoped that others will also share their experiences in future issues. In fact, we are counting on it! I'm sure that you'll agree that a newsletter with many & varied contributions of articles, instruction tips, humor, advice, etc., will be both informative & entertaining. I will be soliciting your contributions.

All material should be in the editor's hands by the third week of each month. It would be especially helpful for you to type. Simply measure the width of a column in the Cast & type to the same width. Send your contributions to: Joan Murphy, Century 21, 6601 Commerce Blvd., Rohnert Park 94928 - or call Joan at 584-7500 if you have a brief item or "fishing report". Many thanks, Joan, for all your energy & time. This is one of the more demanding jobs & we appreciate it....

... Our September program will feature Ed Schroeder. Ed's presentation will be entitled "The King's River Story". The Kings is another one of those special waters in California which produces well for six months a year. It is well known of, but few people really know "about" it.

Ed is 40 years old, single & lives in Fresno. He has been fly fishing for 25 years, including several years of guiding for Will Godfrey in the West Yellowstone area & the Kaufmann brothers in the Pacific Northwest. He worked for a Fresno newspaper for 15 years prior to becoming manager of the Orvis store in San Francisco.

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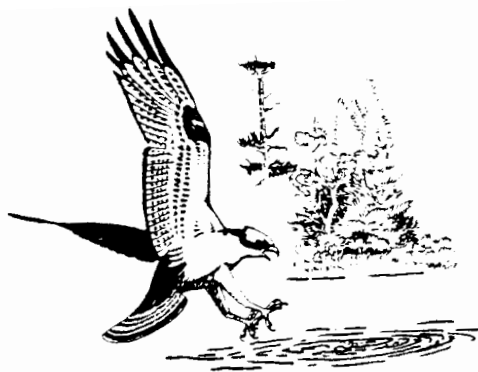
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The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 9

September 1984

NUMBER 9

A..M.E.S.S.A.G.E...F.R.O.M...T.H.E....P.R.E.S.I.D.E.N.T

Our new leadership has been installed & we are beginning our year with high ideals & exciting goals. There are new faces amongst us, but for the most part you will find familiar friends serving you.

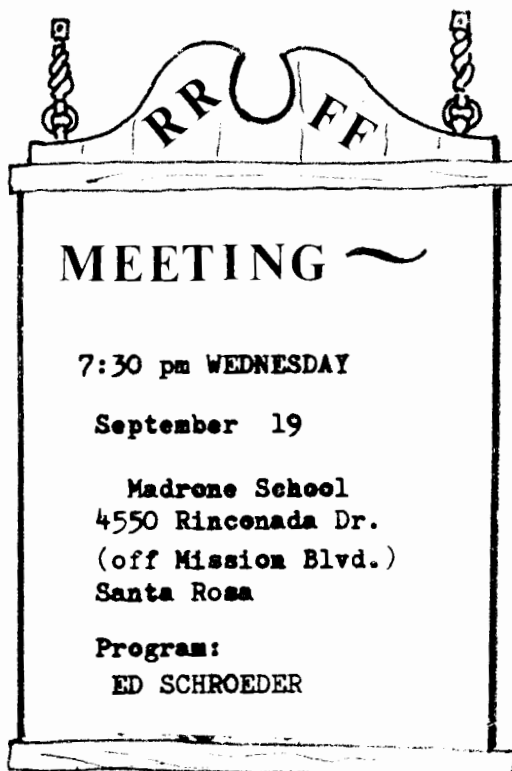
Among our many goals for the coming year the Casting Pond rides high on our priority list. We feel a real responsibility to have the fundraising completed & be casting onto our own pond by the summer of '85.

Membership is another area of high priority. We are anxious to both increase our numbers & to bring old members back into the fold. Let me challenge you all to bring just one new member into the club during the following year. There are many, many community members who would like to be part of our group... Let's extend an invitation.

I intend to bring a guest each month.

We have excellent speakers & programs & I want to continue this tradition. We want to go even further with this idea, however, by establishing a Speakers Bureau. This includes developing closer relations with other clubs to draw upon their resources & members, & they upon ours.

We could be doing more for the youth of our community. Spend an hour at The Western Angler, The Boys' Club, one of our local park lakes or other places where young folks congregate & you'll be amazed at how many want to learn about fly fishing & its related aspects. Yet, at our general meetings there are never more than three or four young men & women. I'm convinced that we have something very special & valuable to offer our youth. As a matter of fact, one of the new Board positions I am anxious to create as part of our reorganization is that of a youth adviser, such as the "Green Wings" of Ducks Unlimited. Acknowledgement of those who contribute time, money & other resources to our cause will be an ongoing process, as will be strong public relations.

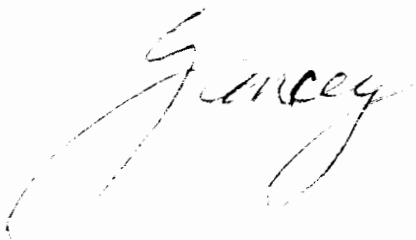


THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

Presently, Ed is the West Coast Factory Representative for both the Orvis Company & the Umpqua Feather Merchants. Don't miss Ed's presentation - it's great !

By the way, please feel free to contact me anytime at home with advice, suggestions, or concerns - 544-6047.

Thank you for your support,

YANCEY'S Fishing Trip to Wyoming

Flowing out of the base of the mighty Wind River Mountains in northwestern Wyoming, the upper New Fork River offers classic brown trout float fishing at its best.

When Jack Dennis joined us as our guest speaker for the December dinner meeting, I took the opportunity to pick his brains about the New Fork, a river that one gains access to only through Jack's shop in Jackson Hole. A few weeks & many phone calls later, seven days on various Wyoming waters was confirmed for the 20th-26th of July for myself and fishing friends Bob Quigely, Rick Piscitello & Ken Johns.

We spent 3 glorious days floating the New Fork in 2 boats with master guides Robbi & Elaine Garrett. Robbi & Elaine have been guiding on the New Fork for 12 years & were, without question, the finest & most professional guides I have ever fished with. The Garretts, by the way, will be living in Dillon, Montana, next year where they will be concentrating on local waters, especially their favorite, the Beaverhead. Robbi will also be putting his 20 years of rod building expertise to work by joining the Winston Rod Company staff at Twin Bridges.

The upper New Fork is beautiful beyond description. It starts out as rather small, crystal clear, a winding meadow stream with undecut banks, long glides & deep pools at the bends. The banks are lined with willows & as the river receives additional inflows large cottonwoods join their smaller brethren. The buzzing nemesis of all waters, the mosquito, was present in force, but only on shore ; we stopped as seldom as possible.

The fish were as Jack described, most in the 1 - 3 lb. range with a preponderance of 2-2½ lb., 18 - 20 inch brightly colored & highly acrobatic browns. Jack's personal largest was 7 lbs. Ours was 4 lbs. Two days after we left Jack photographed Robbi landing a beautiful 5 lb. fish as part of a film to be presented at the '84 Conclave. We also caught brooks & rainbows to 18 inches as bonus fish. Each angler landed about 30 fish daily, so there was never a dull moment .

OUTING: SUNDAY, SEPT. 30th - 2:00 PM

At Bridgehaven on the Russian River

Pick up maps at the meeting. Striped bass and Silver salmon a good possibility.

Questions? Call Charley Schelter.

Home: 539-0200

Work: 544-1010

Century 21

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Selling ?

call Joan
Murphy

584-7500

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continued from page 3 -

Equipment included 6 & 7 wt. graphite & bamboo rods throwing weight forward floating lines. 9 - 12 foot leaders tested out to 6 lb. tippets to turn over the fairly large flies : sized 4 - 10 brown Yuk Bugs (a variation of the famous Montana Grindle Bug), grey Kiwi Muddlers, white Muddlers & black Leeches. We also fished # 12 dry grey Wulffs to match the mid-day Mayfly hatches, but with only fair success.

An incredibly violent storm blew away our plans to fish both The Wind & Green Rivers & we had to retreat to the Henry's Fork of The Snake in Idaho for 2 days. The fishing was grand with rainbows up to 22 inches, but we were anxious to return to the very special treat awaiting us for our last day in Wyoming.

Jack had done the impossible; he had arranged for us to fish the State Senator's private ranch just out of Jackson Hole. The ranch is so private that it doesn't even have a name, not do the FOUR spring creeks within its boundaries. The fish were mostly Snake River

Cutthroat & were surprisingly difficult to catch. Only 2 other anglers had fished the creeks this year, unbelievable as that sounds ! Just how well did we do on these buccolic waters? Well, Bob Moratto lent me his new Orvis 4 wt. Spring Creek rod and it now has a rather pronounced set in it! Sorry, Bob!

Jack Dennis did a spectacular job in making ALL arrangements for our memorable trip. Should you be interested in information on logistics, expenses or want Jack's phone number just call me - 542-6047.

Best wishes & tight lines,

Yancey Forest-Knowles

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING : Wednesday, Sept. 19 -
6: 00 p.m. (before the general
meeting) - MADRONE SCHOOL,
4550 Rinconada Drive, Santa Rosa.
Pizza will be served.

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Colorado's Newest FISHING THE NEW SAN JUAN



About 70 miles southeast of Durango, Colorado, the Los Pinos, Piedra, San Juan and Navajo rivers spill off the southwest flank of the San Juan Mountains and blend their waters in the newly created Navajo Reservoir.

The stream emerging from the base of the dam is cold and clear and reported to have become one of the best trout streams in the lower 48 states.

Since my planned itinerary would take me to that vicinity I decided to risk the cost of a one-day fishing license (\$8.50) to check out the rumor. I'm very glad I did!

The stream below the dam has a flow about the same as the Klamath above Wietchpek in mid-summer. It meanders through a narrow valley shaded by large cottonwoods. Access to the river is good from the north shore for a distance of perhaps 5 miles downstream from the dam.

About a mile downstream from the dam a fine cottonwood grove on the north bank provides a shady camping site. It is equipped with portable toilets but no potable water.

When I first approached the river on the afternoon of July 24, there were no fish rising. Several anglers were dunking various baits with little apparent success. Then a small thunderstorm blew up with a few splatters of rain and the river came alive with a hatch of little blue wing olives (flavilinea coloradensis?).

I switched from a sinking line and nymphs to a floater with a size 16 approximate imitation and had immediate action, but couldn't seem to hold the fish.

After four good fish on and off, inspection of the hook showed no point!

A new fly brought to hand four rainbows in succession in about one hour's fishing. All were strong fighters in the heavy current and ran from 14" to 16" in prime condition.

The only place that I fished was a run about 3 to 4 feet deep, about 1/2 mile long and close to 150 feet wide. The current was strong but wadeable. The bottom consisted of coarse gravel and cobblestones with a few large boulders scattered in various places.

A dense growth of weed in the quiet eddies gave ideal habitat for the various ephemeroidea that support the fishery.

The fishery has attracted the usual commercial activity which centers about 5 miles downstream from the dam where a bridge crosses the river. Tackle, fishing guides, boats and boating facilities are all there if needed.

- Ben Cummings



DEADLINE for articles to appear in The Cast :
The last Monday of the previous month.
• Column width : 2 1/2 "
• Typed copy appreciated

DONATION

As we reported, Bill Archuleta made fail by hand a deluxe fly reel and he gave it to us "US". That is you and me ...

The value is about \$400. Quite a gift!

The reel was auctioned at our August dinner.

The highest bidder

- aah, you guessed-- Grant King!

This is the kind of thing that our club President is talking about in his pleas for participation.



The reel is held here by Bill's son, Grant.

Maybe you can't make or buy a reel to donate. How about a donation of your business product or service? That's a way we could raise needed money for OUR Casting Pool.

.....



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UPDATE ON CASTING POOL FROM VICE-PRESIDENT ROBERT MORATTO

Several meetings and discussions have been held since the summer, concerning the construction of the Casting Pond in Galvin Park. As yet we do not have an exact estimate of the cost. We intend to ask for donations from private, corporate and government sources. Grant King agreed to be in charge of Major Donors and we expect him to be successful. We now have slightly in excess of \$40,000.

We also expect to ask for, and receive, contributions of labor and material. Many members are offering their services. I intend to call upon Ben Cummings who has been an excellent advisor for us on this project, and also upon people like Jim Mitchell, engineer, and also Jim Hakel, our contractor member. And I intend to seek the assistance of a professional plastic- liner installer as an advisor.

We are considering another banquet & auction similar to the one we had last year. To help generate enthusiasm for funds, we intend to develop a prospectus for presentation to the various groups, and to get a sufficient amount of publicity to make the public aware of what our plans are. More on this next issue.

OUTING - Oct. 28

Sunday- October 28

2: 00 pm - meet at

Heatherglen Circle --

We'll walk up to

LAKE ILSANJO in

Annadel Park

for some BLACK BASS

FISHING - see map →

If you have any questions
call Charlie Schelter

Office: 544-1010

Home: 539-0200

Not very many of you
showed up at our Sept.
OUTING at Bridgehaven...

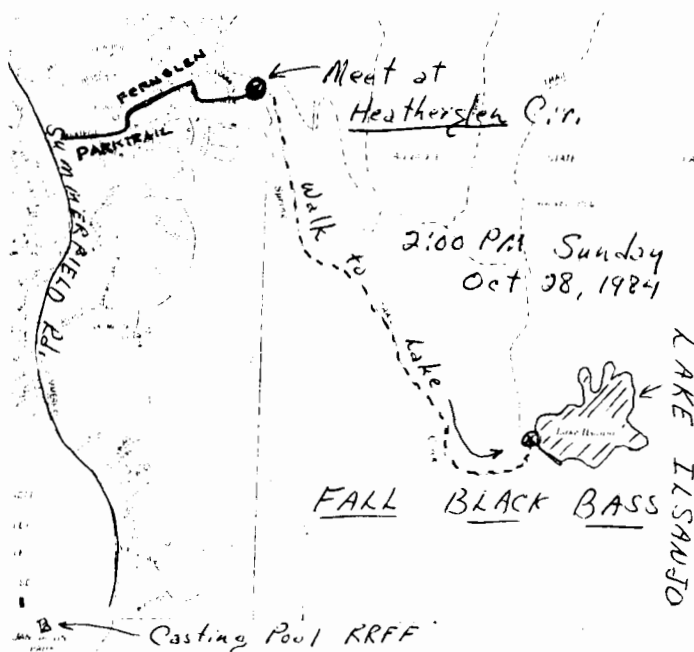
It was cool and fun and
some other fisherfolk
there actually caught
fish (on worms, mostly).

We didn't try that hard.

A pleasant day and a
good fishing spot to keep
in mind for other days.

Try to come to Lake Ilsanjo.

It will be a nice walk and
probably good fishing, too.

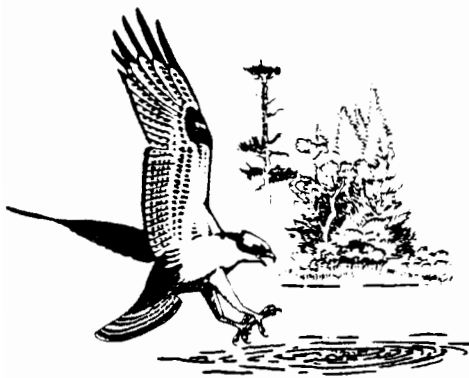


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The Cast

The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 9

October 1984

NUMBER 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

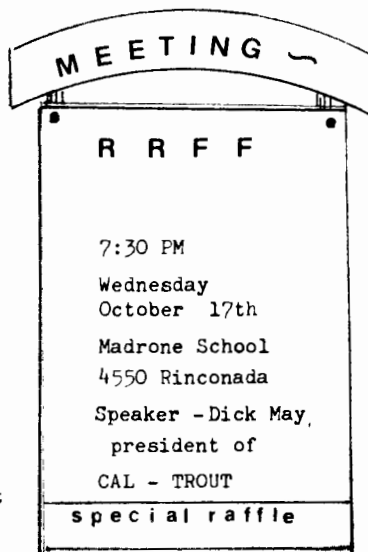
Having now experienced both chairing a Board of Directors meeting and a general membership meeting, I am able to now fully understand and appreciate the energy and time put forth by our prior Board members, as well as the many other club members who have contributed so much. Allow me to thank you !

Those of us in leadership positions are well aware of our responsibilities and are anxious to fulfill them. Are we ALL aware, however, that each of us has a very real individual responsibility and perhaps the most important one ? As members we all should make a strong effort to:

- 1) Attend meetings
- 2) Support our functions (dinners, fundraisers, raffles, etc.) .

Please allow me to play big brother for a few lines. Our September meeting was well planned, we had an excellent program and an exciting raffle, yet only 28 members were in attendance. To say the least, it was disheartening. With 200 active members, some simple arithmetic shows that only 15% of those members joined us for the meeting. May I personally, and in the name of the club, ask you to please join us for our October meeting. We really need to feel a sense of your involvement and commitment. Thank you !!!

The Board approved a new budget for 84-85 . There are two areas of critical importance if we are to see our income meet our expenses : 1) At least 50 new members will need to be brought in and 2) Raffles must be exciting enough to encourage strong participation. In response to the first issue, each of us needs to bring only one new member into the club during the year and we will have exceeded our goal by 300 % .



In regards to the raffle, we feel that we have taken a giant step forward making it something to look forward to; we have purchased many, many first class prizes. Those who were present for September raffle were more than happy with the prizes, especially with the Grand Prize, a Caddis Float Tube !

Speaking of the raffle, the Cast will be announcing the forthcoming Grand Prize prior to each meeting in the future. October's raffle will feature a Hardy Princess reel, a welcome addition to anyone's tackle. It has also been decided that the number and dollar amount of prizes at each meeting will be commensurate with the number of members present. In other words, the more members present, the more prizes will be set out. With all this mention of prizes, let me again ask you for contributions to the raffles : wine, sporting goods, art pieces -- anything.

Anything we don't have to buy will be appreciated. Finally, we need someone who is dynamic, entertaining and willing to help to become our new Raffle Chairman. Believe it or not, it's really an easy, even FUN job. I really look forward to conducting the raffles each month, but find myself spread too thin with other club business. Besides, I don't fit all the job descriptions as listed above. Please contact me if you are interested.

It's nice to see that others are now submitting articles for The Cast. I'm sure that there are many of you who have been on trips which would be interesting to the rest of us. Please share your experiences through The Cast. Again, submit your articles to our editor: Joan Murphy, Century 21, 6601 Commerce Blvd., Rohnert Park 94928 - or call Joan at 584-7500.

The Board dealt with many issues at its September meeting: 1) We decided to go ahead full steam with the previously considered plastic-lined Casting Pool. We have looked into this type of pool with the eyes of many technical experts and feel that we will, indeed, be getting our value for the money spent. The pool will be in the ground during the summer of '85 ! With accumulated (see page 3)

Board :
Oct 17
6:00
Pizza !

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October meeting : Raffle
GRAND PRIZE : Hardy Princess Reel !

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

interest we now have \$40,000 in our casting pool fund. Bob Moratto, serving as Director of the Casting Pool, and Grant King, as Director of Major Donors, have already met and outlined an intensive approach to raising the additional \$40,000 necessary to complete the project. I'm sure we can all look forward to another of Bob's incredible dinner fund-raisers. This one will be in March and Bob promises it to be an event combining both class and hilarity.

Through the efforts of Bob Sisson, we were almost offered the opportunity to be involved in a major rescue operation of the many stranded fish in Spring Lake. As it turned out, though, the risk of even one fish carrying the rapidly growing dangerous Hydrilla weed entering Lake Ralphine (the proposed new home) during the planned rescue operation was just too great and our offer was turned down by the Department of Fish & Game.

We were approached by a committee from the Harvest Fair (Oct. 5, 6, 7) to participate in a casting and tying demonstration during the Fair's three day run. We accepted the offer in hopes that we could, in presenting our organization to the 60,000 visitors, attract new members. Chuck Baker will be chairing our efforts. Your energy is appreciated, Chuck. It sounds like a lot of fun!

Our October program will feature DICK MAY, the President of California Trout, Inc. Dick's presentation will be "A Tour of Northern California's CAL TROUT Projects". Besides

sharing information on the already existing projects, Dick will also be telling us about projects in the works and those still under consideration.

As the Founder of both California's TROUT UNLIMITED and CAL TROUT, INC. Dick May probably knows more about and has more influence on the politics of the future of fishing in this state than any other person.

The evening will provide the excellent opportunity to pose any and all questions to Dick concerning specific waters in California. You'll not want to miss this informative evening.

You'll want to reserve the evening of Thursday, Dec. 6 for our winter dinner meeting at the Flamingo Hotel. More will follow on this, but suffice it to say that we will have an excellent speaker and an exciting raffle.

Again, please feel free to contact me at home with your advice, suggestions or concerns - 542-6047

Thank you for your support.

Screaming reels and
empty creels,

Yancey



p.s.

I recently became aware of the fact that the RRTF Club has an account at the Sonoma County Blood Bank. Our most recent donor was Chuck Baker, bringing our total fund up to 20 pints. Thank you, Chuck.

EDITOR'S UPDATE

Channel 50 newscast says that Spring Lake drainage into Lake Ralphine (which is and has been a normal flow into Ralphine) may have carried a bit of that nasty Hydrilla weed into Ralphine... The solution? A pesticide (unnamed) is to be used on Oct. 4 all along the Lake Ralphine shoreline. According to this newscast, this pesticide is harmless to fish.

We will soon see.

Hope they are right.

The County & DFG moved very fast to drain Spring Lake- maybe in this emergency they felt they had to ... or did they fear some public protest and calls for less extreme measures would result in public hearings and controversy?

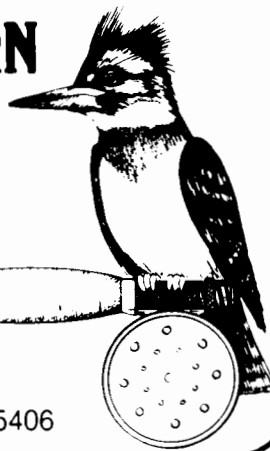
We have lost a great recreational facility and decent fishing water.

--- keep an eye on Lake Ralphine now..

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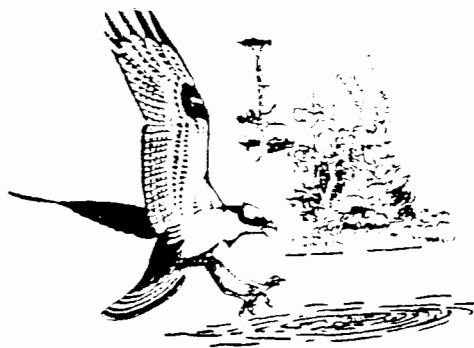
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The Cast

The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 9

NOVEMBER 1984

Number 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is a month of significant change for California sportsmen. With winter rains, river mouths are opened, making passage possible for the first dependable runs of large steelhead and salmon. At the same time, we see the regular trout season drawing to a close. For those who have never tried it, consider the Fall River for its fine streamer & miniscule dry fly fishing for large rainbows and migrating browns. Late season angling can be amongst the most rewarding. Duck and goose hunters are visibly absent from jobs and homes too, for they know that November winds bring the year's finest waterfowling. With the temperature changes, leaves of deciduous trees turn crimson, amber and yellow and then fall to the damp ground leaving the silhouette of empty branches as stark contrast to dark skies. Summer equipment is oiled and packed neatly away until the spring ritual causes its retrieval. Winter equipment is brought out and checked for its operability. Winter clothing is adorned and trips are planned. Interesting though, is the phenomena that binds us all together to this time of change, this time of movement -- the stirring among us all to go afield, whether it be field or stream, it affects us all!

November's meeting will take place on WEDNESDAY, THE 14th - one week earlier than usual to allow for the Thanksgiving holiday. It should prove to be one of the year's best! Bob Quigley, world renowned, innovative fly tyer and fishing outfitter will be conducting a two-part program:

- 1) FROM 6:00 to 7:15 Bob will be tying and answering your questions about spring creek flies.
- 2) FROM 7:30 to 9:30 he will present his excellent show on WESTERN SPRING CREEK FISHING...

The fly tying session will provide the excellent opportunity to see a real master tie and to have your technical questions answered. The slide presentation promises to whet the appetite of even the most ardent fly fisher. Bob is probably more knowledgeable about the Fall River fishing than any other person. His knowledge of entomology and the techniques necessary to be successful on this sophisticated spring creek is truly impressive. Bob is the type of flyfisher who can take fish with regularity when others are drawing blanks, and he will be imparting this invaluable information to us. All of the flies Bob ties during the tying session will be donated to the RREF to be auctioned as a fly plate during our March fundraiser. Bob has also generously donated a Fall River Fishing School certificate to be auctioned in March. You owe it to yourself not to miss Bob's exciting and informative program!

MEMBERSHIP: There are many potential new members throughout our community and we are anxious to have them join our ranks. Please, bring a guest. If you have not paid your renewal fee please think of doing so soon. We really count on your payment to help meet the club's expenses.

DINNER MEETING
FLAMINGO
HOTEL
Dec. 6
Thursday

NEW YORK
STEAK!

THE CAST: You'll find another article by yours truly in this issue of The Cast. I'm sure you're getting bored with my experiences by now, so do submit your articles. I know that many of you have had exciting and unique fishing trips that we would all enjoy reading about. You can cover a long-distance or local fishing adventure - trips, tips on the places, equipment, flies, lures, and all that. Call our editor (Joan Murphy - 584-7500) for any help or advice about getting the story in a future issue.

RAFFLES: The winner of October's Grand Prize (a Hardy Princess reel) was Bill Archuleta. How's that for irony? And to top that, the week prior Bill had won a new 3-wheel Honda ATC motorcycle! What's your secret, Bill? November's Grand Prize will be another HARDY REEL - this time the PRINCE model, my personal favorite. In addition, many other valuable prizes will be given away. We've really improved our raffles and I think you'll be both surprised and pleased. We are still requesting donations. Please bring a bottle of wine, a dozen flies or other useful raffle item.

DIRECTORY: We are aware that our membership directory needs to be updated. We will be contacting all members by phone to verify or correct current addresses & phone numbers.

Enjoy November and all its magic,

Yancey

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

William T. Plummer, Don Ling,
Paul von Hartmann, Bob Clark,
Mark Anderson, Robert McFarland,
Wendy Wheeler, Rhonda Kufadakes.

COME TO MEETINGS AND DINNERS
Bring a guest ...

MEETING ~

NOV. 14

6:00 fly tying

Bob Quigley ★

7:30 slide show

Raffle - HARDY Reel

TAKE HWY. 12 to Mission,
turn on Mission, go about
5 blocks. Turn right onto
RINCONADA - The Madrone
School is right there...
Plenty of parking, too.

We'll start right on
time. SEE YOU HERE!

BOARD MEETS
TUES 7 pm
NOV 13 -
PIZZA

OUTING
SAT. Nov 17
see page 4

THE SOUTHFORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER

The Southfork of the Snake River in Southwestern Idaho had always held a fascination for me. I had fished much of the Snake through the length of Grand Teton Nat'l. Park in Wyoming for its thick Golden Cutthroats, and had fished the Northfork's famed Box Canyon and Railroad Ranch for their large, sophisticated rainbows. But, somehow, I always found myself driving past the Snake's beautiful and inviting Southfork.

This was the year that I was to fish the Southfork, however, for my wife, Gael, and I had received an invitation to stay with friends who own a large ranch fronting on the Southfork.

I had read several articles and spoken with "locals" over the years who had raved about the premier brown trout fishing which occurred each fall as large mature fish moved up the Southfork from the main Snake near Idaho Falls. More recently, the summer cutthroat fishing was being touted as worthy of serious angling. I was hooked! My wife and I arrived during the first week in August anxious to start fishing.

The first thing I learned was that the Southfork is not a river to be waded; it is simply too large and too swift. Besides, most of the access is private! Rather, the Southfork is a floater's paradise.

The Southfork begins as an Idaho tailwater fishery below the Pataasdes Reservoir, the dividing line between Idaho & Wyoming (and the southern entrance to the Tetons)... Large brown very large browns live in that tailwater but one must fish deeper than I am interested in fishing in order to reach them.

After wading the ranch water for two days and fishing mostly small humpys for free rising cutthroats, we decided to spend several days float fishing.

Each day for 3 days, we would explore different 10-mile sections, looking to find a section worthy of concentrating on sometime in the future.

The first day's float took us through the upper stretch, a section which we found to hold only medium sized cutts. True, they rose with predictable regularity, but their size was predictable also, and that takes away the element of surprise. The runs were long and straight and there was little significant holding water.

The second day found us floating the middle section, a section of unbelievable beauty and charm. As the day before, we started with dry deer hair humpys, but as the runs became deeper and the cutbanks reached further into the cliffs the water suggested streamers - big streamers. I quickly switched to a heavier weight graphite II and on my first cast with a #4 white muddler, a thick 18" cutt rushed out from underneath the bank and all but ripped my rod from my unsuspecting hands.

That was the start of a memorable day! My host was fishing a 4-weight graphite rod and chose to continue fishing dry rather than switching to a heavier more wind-resistant streamer. He took fish all day. But fish for fish, they were smaller than the 16" - 20" cutts which at intervals slammed the white muddler.

Toward evening we pulled into the long awaited Fall Creek backwater. It was truly stunning with its wide water-fall dropping vertically almost 60' to the calm water below. We reached the waterfall by rowing 100 yards up the backwater and sat in its cool misting spray enjoying its soothing beauty.

Our guide had been trying in vain to prepare for the possibility of taking what he described as a "humungous trout fish" from this bonus water. But we weren't, in all honesty, prepared for what we saw next. It was one of those wonderful moments when nothing was being said, but the same thoughts were being shared by all. No one recalled what made us all turn around at the same moment, but we were all suddenly compelled to turn around in unison and look back towards the main river. We were shocked back into reality by the sight of the forewarned "humungous" cutts feeding heavily in the eddyline separating the backwater from the main river. It was grand, such large trout clearing the water time and time again. They reminded me more of trained porpoises leaping in playful antics at an amusement park than wild trout in a wilderness setting.

With adrenalin pumping, we worked with fumbling fingers to tie on new tippets and #12 bucktail caddis flies to represent the large caddis skittering across the quickly darkening surface. I was filled with the sense of satisfaction that we all seek on every fishing trip, that sense of fulfillment when the purpose of our trip presents itself in stark reality.

My cast would have to be a long one. Rhythm and strength worked together perfectly and the line shot out with the necessary distance and precision. Within moments, one of the large fish breached the surface and I struck. The response was like tying my line to the bumper of a vehicle powered by a large V-8: pure strength! I knew that the fight would focus on trying to keep the fish out of the main river, to keep him in his "home pool". Luckily, after the first few runs the fish went deep, giving me the opportunity to gain lost line.

I failed to notice it earlier, but my partner was also hooked up. Being less vociferous than myself, he simply grinned as he expertly fought his fish. The fish beds were on our side and we both slid our fish in within moments of each other. As if cast from the same die, our two fish both measured 22" - and were within an ounce of each other in weight: 4 lb. 7 oz. - and 4 lb. 8 oz.

As quickly as we returned the fish to the water and replaced our flies, we worked line back out and were into two others from the same "pod". These fish were not subtly sipping miniscule dries like classic spring creek trout, but were thrashing the water recklessly like southsea billfish. We were beginning to think we had died and gone to heaven! One more fish followed the cycle of capture & release before the hatch stopped as suddenly as it had started. My partner and I were anxious to probe the depths of the large pool with the large streamers, but our guide wisely suggested that we move back into the river as there was but a half hour of daylight left and we still had two miles to our takeout at the southern terminus of the Swan Valley. We reluctantly resigned ourselves to the need to move on, but did so with the knowledge that the next day's float would take us deep into the gorge section of the Southfork.

The gorge section, because of its lack of takeouts, receives less pressure than the upper river. It is also even more pristine because of its remoteness. As it turned out, my partner needed to return to unexpected ranch duties, leaving me to fish the gorge alone. I worked hard all day throwing the large white muddlers I so strongly favor, and caught many respectable fish, but none to compare to the Fall River backwater fish from the day before.

After five straight days of fishing, my wife found it surprisingly easy to convince me to take a day off. The rest was well deserved. Besides, I still had two weeks left to fish western Montana and central Idaho.

Fishing, by anyone's standards, had been good. We had landed well over 100 fish a day between us while floating, with five fish topping 4 lbs. The fish had ranged, on the average, from 12" to 16", with several 16" to 18" and had eagerly come to flies, both dries and streamers. Even after all this fine fishing, however, our guide spoke only of the fall runs of large browns and the tremendous action they provided. As far as he was concerned, this was the true appeal of the Southfork. For me, the recurring dream is to return to the Fall River backwater with enough daylight to work that monstrous pool with thoroughness and composure!

If you are interested in a September or October float for large browns which, according to locals, abandon all caution - or wish to try something new while in the "Park" area, contact Southfork Expeditions, in Swan Valley, Idaho. These folks are anxious to promote the supreme summer fishing for cutthroats, but are really turned on to the fall brown trout run, and will work hard to put you into the "bucket"!

- YANCEY

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DINNER MEETING
Dec. 6

Thursday

FLAMINGO
HOTEL

NEW YORK
STEAK!



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

As editor, I have been putting lots of my energy and interest in trying to make this monthly publication arouse the energy and the interest of the club members. I know our president, and our vice president, spend time and effort to do a good job for all of us. So do the Directors -- all of them are actively engaged on a day to day basis in making phone calls, writing letters, doing research - in behalf of this club.

Dick May, CAL TROUT President, made an excellent and interesting presentation for the 25 or 30 members who showed up. Where were you?

Yancey asks: "Do we need to do something different?"

I know you are tired after a day's work. We all are, yet we perk up when we're interested.. The same faithful few are in attendance each month. Are the members bored with the programs or with the raffles? Are the programs too long? Do the meetings end too late? Shall we start at 7:00 and end promptly at 9:00 ?? Are you uncomfortable meeting at the school?

We'll never know if you don't tell us!

And you can't tell us if you don't show up, can you?

Come on, folks, this IS your club.

COME TO THE MEETING
Wednesday evening
November 14.

- Joan

Mail to RRFF
P.O. Box 2673
Santa Rosa 95405

Dec. 6- Dinner

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Tell Me

TELL ME A STORY

I'd like you to share with me your favorite fishing spot, or just tell me about a good time you had fishing. Since we have not yet been discovered by Merv Griffin or United Press Syndicate, I think it can safely be said that your revelations will only be known to your fellow RFFF club members. And some of them will toss this issue away and forget about it.

Here's what I need to know:

Location - How do I get there from here? Where is it? Does this palace of finny beauties have a name? State it!

Map - A simple diagram showing the way to this water from the highway or road. Tell me the name of that lumber yard on the corner where I turn left, unless it's the only one in that county. I need help.

Terrain - Just how rough is it? If you went in a Jeep with 4-wheel drive, am I going to roll my sedan off the "road"? How far do I have to hike uphill from where I "parked"? Sandy or slippery rocks? I think I care about this 'cause I tend to fall a lot on slippery & slidly wet gravel.

How Far - This great and very special place.. Is it a 5-hour drive or do I have to take the Ohio Turnpike to get there? If I do, is it worth the trip (or were you visiting your mother-in-law in Akron anyway?) - Facts, not hype, please!

En Route - If this is more than a few hours' drive is there a motel you may be able to recommend that's better than sleeping in the car? I'm not fussy, just a city girl at heart.

Water - Ok, now I'm there. Is this a mild stream or raging river? Clear or muddy? Slow or fast. Be nice. Give me a clue!

Warning - Is it safe to wade? Can I fish from shore without falling in? Are there "a few" snakes in those reeds? Do 1,000 bats suddenly show up at sundown? I just don't like surprises!

Fish - Oh, yes, fish. Are there any? Wild or stocked? Trout or bass or what. I'M NOSY. A real pain. Humor me. Mention this little item.

Camping - Can I pitch a tent or sleep in my van? Or will I be arrested if I try to? Is there a State Camp-ground just 2 miles up the road which you did not think I'd care for? Tell me about it anyway. I'm eccentric.

Supplies - Do I pack a LOAD of grub in and then find out there's a general store & tackle shop just past that lumber yard on the highway? Or is this spot remote and what I don't pack in I do without?

Trees - Barren? I tend to freckle & burn if I can't find some shade. Woods? A forest? (Bears, too?) Slip this data in on page one or two so I can rev up and feel adventurous - or send someone else.

Climate - Do I need my long johns at sunset in June? Is it dry & hot? Coolish and maybe it rains a LOT? Oh, yeah, it snowed in May there one year. I'm a clothes nut & like to have enough garments with me.

Kids - Some folks have these and even take them fishing! Is this place "great" or is it just "OK" or maybe it's "forget it" as far as kids are concerned. A hint won't do. Be blunt.

Boat - Outboard or canoe, float tube or what? Or will the fish give me a ride downstream? I'd like to be ready!

Tackle - If these fish are real fat, I'M going to be sore about it if my tackle is too light. What did you use? Flies? Worms? What size hooks and what weight - line & EVERYTHING. Tell all. Editors can edit but can't read minds (yet)..

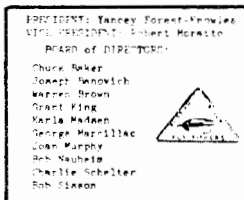
Why - What is it that makes this spot special to you? I'll probably feel it, too if it's that special. Try to explain it to me. Be brief. No Pulitzers here.

Season - Don't send me NOW if this is best in Spring and a real dud the rest of the year. I know, I'M too sensitive.

See, I'm not looking for literary prose. Just a few plain words for real people.. that's you, aint it? Start writin' -- Better include your name & phone number. Just in case.

- Thanks, *Joan*

send to 6601 Commerce
Rohnert Park 94928
Murphy.



APOLOGY
We apologize to our advertisers. We ran out of space. We'll try a new ad set-up in January. Please call Tancey or Joan for information.

S.F. BAY MODEL Tour

NOV 17 1:30
SATURDAY Sausalito

Charlie Schelter has planned a very different kind of OUTING for November... (too cold to go fishing?) .. It's a TOUR!

We are going to Sausalito to see the living model of San Francisco BAY... It is a true to scale model of our bay, with real flowing water. It shows the tides moving into, and out of, the bays and inlets. This exhibition is famous world-wide, and it is so close to home! Let's go NOW - why wait?

We will meet at the AAA parking lot at 1500 Farmer's Lane, Santa Rosa (corner of Bennett Valley Road) at about noon (12:00 - 12:15) so we can arrive in Sausalito for the 1:30 program called "Bay Bouillabaisse" (that's the famous S. F. Chowder)... There will be a marine biologist who will acquaint us briefly with the history and diversity of this great resource. Sounds like it would be an afternoon you'd get a lot out of. (So would your kids, I bet) -

If you prefer to meet there, the BAY MODEL is located at 2100 Bridgeway (at Harbor Drive) in Sausalito. Show begins at 1:30

CLUB OUTING

DINNER
FLAMINGO
HOTEL
Dec. 6
Thursday

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