



# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 10

JANUARY 1985

Number 1

### The President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! As we enter 1985 I am filled with nothing but optimism. The rivers are receiving fresh silvery pods of steelhead on a regular basis and, weather permitting, we can expect very good winter fishing. In fact, friends & acquaintances throughout the state are reporting excellent angling already, especially in the Smith and Eel River drainages.

1985 will also be the year that we cast our first flies into our casting pool. Bob Moratto, Casting Pool Chairperson, and his hardworking committee, headed by Ben Cummings, Jim Hakel & Jim Mitchell, all promise a July poolside presentation. Plans are now being made for a gala April fundraising event to complete our long-awaited pool. Information will be forthcoming, and remember, please, that your participation and support will be necessary to bring our dream to fruition.

Our January meeting will feature one of the world's leading flyfishermen, Hal Janssen. Hal will be conducting an exciting and informative two-part program:

- 1) From 6:00 to 7:15 Hal will be tying and answering your questions about his many famous patterns -
- 2) From 7:30 to 9:00 he will present an excellent & timely show on steelhead & salmon fishing.

As a fly tyer, Hal has been responsible for developing and innovating a number of steelhead fresh & saltwater patterns, including the Pre-Emerger May Fly Nymph, Janssen Striper and the Half-Beak Tidewater Shrimp. Over thirty Janssen patterns are now manufactured and distributed on a world-wide basis.

You owe it to yourself not to miss Hal's exciting and informative program !

Author, lecturer, innovative tyer and guide, Hal has become the recognized authority on stillwater flyfishing in the United States. As a sport fisherman, Hal holds several world records, fourteen Field & Stream awards and has been elected to the Flyfishing Hall of Fame.

#### RAFFLES:

The winners of December's Grand Prizes, a Hardy 7/8 Golden Prince reel and an 8' 5-weight Powell graphite rod were, respectively, Bob Moratto & Terry McNally. Congratulations to you both!

January's Grand Prize, among many, many others, will be a HARDY PERFECT 3 3/8" left-handed reel. The reason that I mention that it is a left-handed wind is that it is the first such model in the Perfect series to be designed for left-handed winders. This in itself makes it a collector's item...(it may be traded for a right-hand wind should you wish, however)... Beyond that unique aspect, the Perfect series will no longer be manufactured and this could be a means of acquiring a reel, long famous for dependability, appearance and feel.

Please bring a bottle of wine, a dozen flies, an old angling book - or any other interesting item - to donate to our raffle.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Please bring a guest ! There are many, many friends and community members who would like to join our organization. Extend an invitation and help us increase our ranks. If we each brought in one new member this year, our numbers could easily reach 400 or more. Now that's impressive !

Screaming reels & empty creels,

Y a n c e y

p.s. See you at the January meeting.

RRFF

**MEETING ~**

**Wednesday**

**Jan. 16**

**Hal Janssen**

**tying 6:00**

**PROGRAM- 7:30**

**steelhead & salmon success!**

**MADRONE SCHOOL**

4550 Rinconada Drive  
Santa Rosa  
Take Hwy. 12 to Mission,  
then a few blocks to  
right turn on Rinconada .

WE MEET ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 pm -unless you are notified otherwise.. Make a note on your new 1985 calendar now for each month .

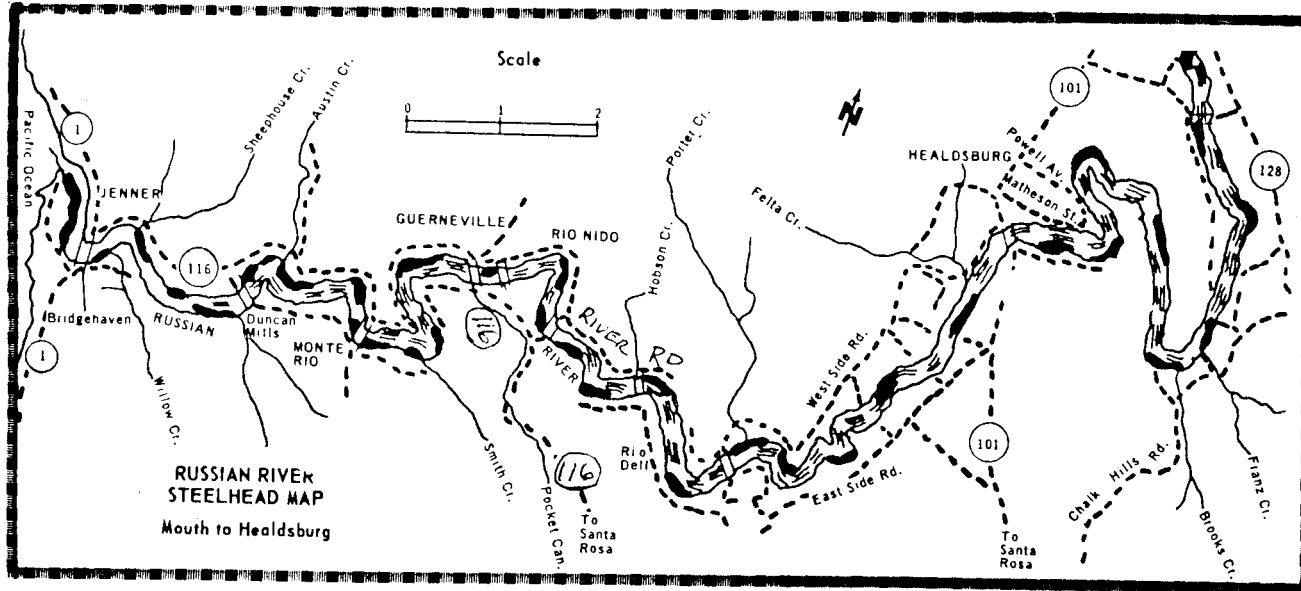
**MAPS** Smith & Russian  
steelies

BOARD

7:00 pm

Tuesday  
January 15

pizza



## Local Fishing

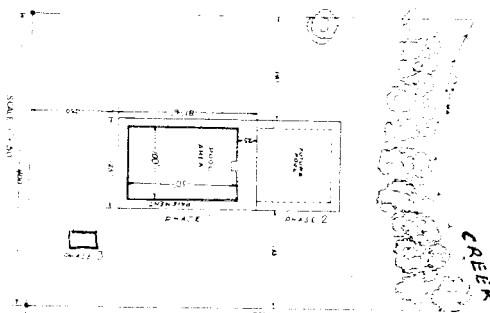


FOR UP TO DATE  
RUSSIAN RIVER  
FISHING INFO,  
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## SANTA ROSA CASTING POOL PROJECT

1985



Pool will be  
100 ft. x  
150 ft.

Clubhouse  
will be our  
project later !

We also hope  
to have a  
second casting  
pool at some  
future time...

One step at a  
time, folks.

Let's get that  
first pool in  
by summer '85 .

## WADING ?

Be extremely cautious if you are  
wading these rivers - or any others ...  
Moving water can be surprisingly  
powerful, and in this season the rivers  
are also very cold. Don't go wading  
alone. Don't wander off from your  
companions. Use your head ! And  
remember, this is for fun ... It is  
great fun, but hardly worth dying for.

Your editor would like to hear from  
you if you had success this winter  
steelhead or salmon fishing.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT :

We wish to extend a special thanks  
and to acknowledge the contribution  
which Grant King made to the Casting  
Pool. Grant recently spoke before the  
San Jose Flyfishers and he donated his  
fee to our fundraising efforts. Many  
thanks, Grant. This is but one example  
of the many hours, materials and funds  
which individuals and businesses are  
contributing to our Casting Pool. Much,  
much more is needed. If you feel you  
can help, in any way, please let us  
know. Believe me, it will make a difference  
and be appreciated by all.



IN COOPERATION  
WITH  
SANTA ROSA  
RECREATION AND PARKS  
DEPARTMENT

EDITOR'S CHOICE - A good book:

THE WAKE OF THE STORM  
by Ewan Clarkson  
(St. Martin's Press)

available at Sonoma County Libraries.



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This map & fishing locations  
were provided by Ben Cummings

Key to numbers on map :

- 1) Perch & clamming
- 2) Gravel banks -  
good bank fishing
- 3) Sandy banks -  
good bank fishing
- 4) Sand Hole
- 5) Dam
- 6) Mill Hole
- 7) Moseley Hole \*
- 8) Piling Hole \*
- 9) Rowdy Hole \*

- 10) Woodruff Hole
- 11) Bailey Hole \*
- 12) Rooney Hole > **FREE  
PUBLIC  
LANDING**
- 13) Henderson Hole
- 14) Henry Hole
- 15) Miller Hole
- 16) Brundeen Hole
- 17) Early Hole
- 18) Walker Hole
- 19) Peacock Hole
- 20) Society Hole
- 21) Bluff Hole
- 22) Zopfi Hole
- 23) Cable Hole
- 24) Douglas Park Hole
- 25) Gravel Hole
- 26) Falls Hole
- 27) Short Hole

\* = better bank fishing  
for steelhead

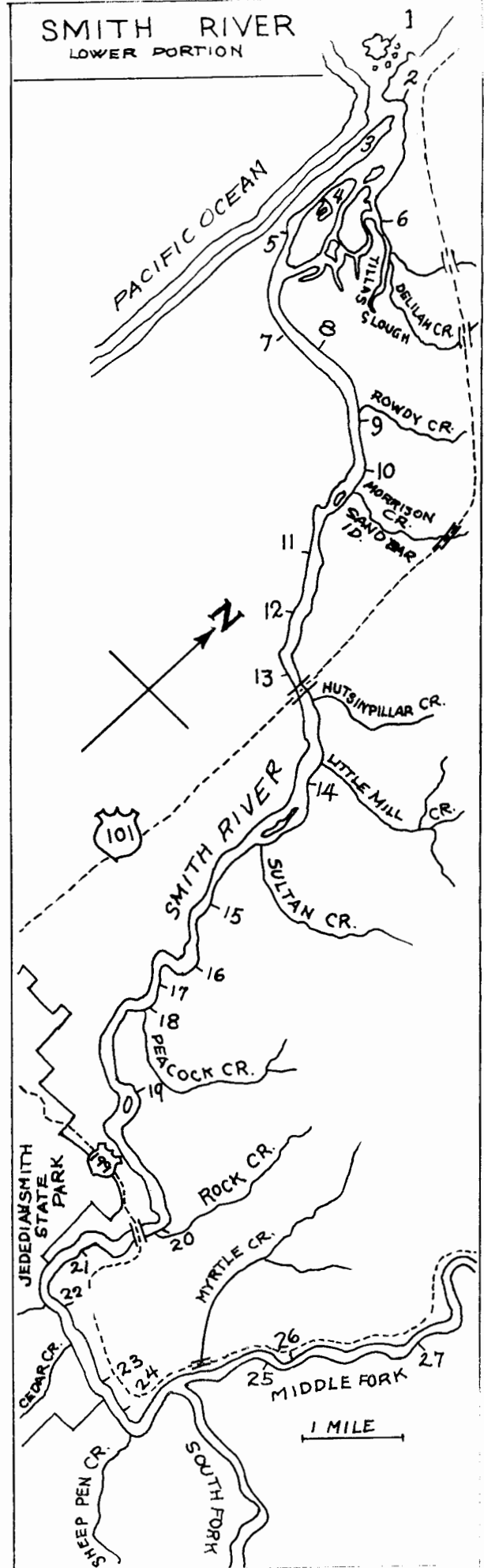
CAMPING AT JEDEDIAH SMITH  
STATE PARK

Boating facilities at Salmon  
Harbor and at Ship-A-Shore  
( # 2 on map) and at Anchor  
Row at river mouth .

- Salmon good thru December -  
- STEELHEAD THRU FEBRUARY -



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### A GREAT FAMILY PLACE TO FISH

by Bill Archuleta

This last summer we went camping with another family to Jackson Meadows Reservoir. This is a High Sierra lake of close to 6021 feet elevation, and is located thirty miles north of Truckee off Highway 89. You will turn left onto "Jackson Meadows Road" about seventeen miles from Truckee. Continue on past Webber Lake to the end of the paved road.

The first campground, which is our favorite, is East Meadows Campground. This is a P.G. & E. operation with indoor toilets & sinks. There are two other campgrounds near, including one "reservations only" for groups. The lake has a roped-off swimming area and a paved boat ramp.

The road turns to dirt and continues around the lake to other lakes such as Bowman, French, Lindsey, Fuller and Spaulding. It then continues through to Highway 20 at Emigrant Gap.

JACKSON MEADOWS Reservoir is fed by the middle fork of the Yuba River and Pass Creek. The mouth of Pass Creek at the lake is a deep gorge, about 75 ft. across and 30 ft. deep. There is good bank fishing for the kids. But be careful, as the banks are VERY steep!

The earth dam drains into a short stretch of the Yuba River before coming to Milton Reservoir. This is a wild trout, catch & release, impoundment. Two fish of 12 inches or less may be taken with artificial lures, single barbless hooks only.

This lake is heavily overgrown with weeds and a pram is desirable. Float tubes are used, but I found it very difficult to maneuver in those thick weeds. Janssen Damsel Fly Nymphs - that's the ticket!

Jackson Meadows Reservoir offers many different types of fishing. We did well by motoring out in my pram to a rocky point across from our camp and drifting back dragging a maribou leech on a full sinking line. I let out the entire 90 feet of line and sat back, letting the prevailing wind do the work. We caught quite a few nice 18" Rainbows and a couple of fat Browns by this method.

The kids did well at the mouth of Pass Creek using lures and eggs. They also enjoyed picking up some very fat 10" Browns on a Hare's Ear nymph further upstream in this creek. When they weren't fishing, the kids enjoyed swimming and playing in the pram when the adults were relaxing in camp.

The country is beautiful, typical of the Sierra, with thunderheads forming in the afternoon - and mild cool mornings. My wife was impressed by the clarity of the water even in the middle of the lake, and by the cleanliness of the campground.

Everyone enjoyed the stay at Jackson Meadows and we will definitely return. If you want to try it, take all the provisions you will need as it is thirty miles to Sierra City to the north, and it is thirty miles from Truckee to the south.



We followed almost all of Ed's suggestions, except one, and we did catch fish... they just weren't very large. The thing we ignored, since we were going fishing you-know-what or high water, was just that: high water. Or maybe I should say, the lack of same. We thought the flow was low when we got there on Friday! You should have seen it the next morning. No, you shouldn't have either. Anyway, the water was low, so the river was certainly not at its best, and all of the lunkers must have been sulking at the bottom of some deep holes because all we saw taken were planters and/or small.

I tied on a Bird's nest nymph for my dad, who because he forgot his waders, was going to be a bank fisherman, and he worked over the planters. (If you're going to eat fish, let them be planters, no?) I was able to find a right nice pocket water riffle which was just filled to the brim with eager, hungry, but small natives, and I played with them off and on for the three days we were there. We tried several places, but we never found a place that produced better than that little patch within the boundary of the camp. These bright, shiny little buggers averaged about 6-7 inches with the largest going about 10-11 inches.

I fished upstream with a either a Bird's nest or Zug-Bug on the tippet and a Yellow-bellied Humpy on the dropper. I know all you experts know this, but I was truly amazed by the vigor with which these little guys were attacking that nymph. For some time I thought those flashes I saw were refusals on the dropper, but I discovered that the flash I was seeing was an attack on the nymph some 2 to 3 feet behind! The moral is to strike at everything you even think is a take, and you'll be pleasantly surprised how much your take-ratio improves. I must have averaged 12 to 15 fish an hour, and if I hit even 80 percent of the strikes I knew about I'd be surprised.

We wish the fish size had been larger, but the run was first class. We're going to do it again when there is water in the river.

### OCTOBER FISHING ON THE KINGS RIVER

Ed Schroeder's guest shot on the virtues of the Kings River couldn't have come at a better time. Both my dad and I needed a fishing trip, the river is about half way from here to Bakerfield where my dad lives, and Ed did say that October was the month for the Kings, didn't he?

The subject of our report is the lower Kings which flows as a controlled irrigation canal from

by Chuck Baker

the base of the dam at Pine Flats reservoir. We camped at a Fresno County campground right at the foot of the dam which was clean and well cared for with lots of area between campsites, nice charcoal braziers, fire pits, potable water and flush toilets. Another camp down the hill, within eye sight of Piedra had similar features. There was also a day use park further down towards Fresno. Fishing access is, of course, available at any of these sites.

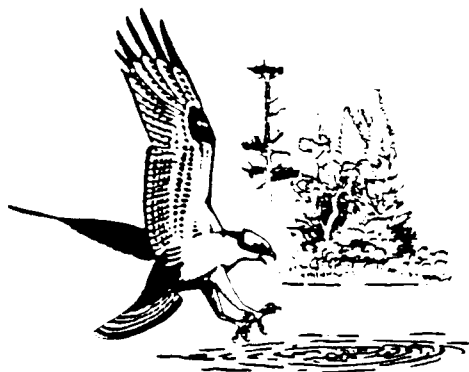
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## The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 10

MARCH 1985

NUMBER 3


### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As March greets us the returned cold weather reminds us that it is still winter in northern California. Perhaps most significant is the fact that enough winter steelhead are still in our rivers to warrant our angling attention. The Russian should continue to give up large fish throughout all of March and even into April. In fact, during last year March was the hot month for several anglers I know. All of our northern rivers are in reasonably good shape and report fine catches. Within the last two weeks friends have landed very nice fish indeed: a 15 pounder from the Mattole, and 18 from the main Eel, a 20 and 22½ from the Smith and a 22 from the Chetco. And at last count, some 600 plus fish have climbed the raceway at the Warm Springs Hatchery. Don't put your rods away yet, there is still plenty of quality angling left for those interested in putting a bend in their rods!

For those who attended our fine presentation on angling collectables during the February meeting, it was a rewarding and rather spectacular event. We owe a great deal of thanks to Art Bond of Wild Wings Gallery for his informative presentation on angling art and to Bob Nauheim for his interesting show of antique angling equipment, especially the ornate salmon gaff previously owned by and inscribed to Prince Albert.

James Adam's introduction to angling books and literature was a highlight; he will have a booth at the International Fishing Expo in San Mateo during March for those who wish to continue that discussion. Thanks also to William and Claire Clark who continue to donate such worthwhile items each month for our raffle. It is that kind of support that makes our club such a success. And on a final note, need it be mentioned who won the Hardy Perfect Reel? You guessed it, our good and VERY LUCKY friend, Bob Moratto!

Our March meeting will feature one of the Yellowstone Park area's premier outfitters, Tom Webb, of Webb's Hackle and Tackle. Tom will be conducting an exciting and informative two-part program: He will lead us through several of the well known, and a few of the lesser known, quality waters in the magical area which encompasses the Park, Madison, Henry's Lake and Railroad Ranch. He will also, in some detail, talk about the technical aspects of fly fishing for trout in lakes.



### MEETING

7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 20th

MADRONE SCHOOL  
4550 Rinconada Drive  
Santa Rosa

Speaker: TOM WEBB  
Yellowstone Area Guide  
Super Raffle

For those of you who would like to meet Tom before the meeting, stop in at his booth at the International Fishing Expo and say hello. I know you'll enjoy getting to know him. I took that opportunity last summer and had a memorable day on the Madison, a river I had been bypassing for many years. Well, Tom rekindled my old interest and because of certain things he shared with me, made the Madison a part of my summer repertory for future years to come.

Tom has guided the Yellowstone area for 15 years, 5 of those years under the tutelage of Bob Jacklin. He has fished extensively throughout North America.

## NEW EDITOR

We wish to welcome back Ben Cummings as the new editor of the CAST. Actually, Ben was the past editor, prior to Joan Murphy's editorship. Joan's commitments have required more of her time and we thank her immensely for the many hours that she gave to our fine newsletter. Best wishes, Joan!

Ben's retirement as curator of the Coddling Museum has allowed him to return to our staff. The CAST needs your help, however, in the way of articles, tips, humor and general angling information. Send your articles to Ben Cummings, Editor, 3340 Miraloma Dr. Santa Rosa, Ca. 95404. Phone 542 4276.

## BOARD MEMBERS

We are all in need of 3 new Board Members. Without a hardworking and involved Board we cannot provide the quality meetings and events which are offered. Each of us should be willing to give a little of our time and energy to the "care and feeding" of our Club. Requirements are that the board members attend a monthly 2 hour board meeting where decisions and planning take place. In preparing for special events, it is expected that committee work also be accomplished. When our board is filled with its full membership the commitment is light and the rewards are many. Recently Russ Lockner agreed to join our staff. His addition will help us to function more efficiently and professionally, and for this we thank you Russ. For those who may be interested, please contact me at either (W) 539-9665, or (H) 542-6047.

## OUTINGS     International Fishing Exposition

Two outings will take place during March. Charlie Shelter will be leading a trip to the International Fishing Expo in San Mateo on Thursday, March 14. This has been a very popular event for 5 years now. For details, Charlie can be reached at either (W) 544 1010, or (H) 539-0200.

## Fishing Expedition to Pyramid Lake

George Marcillac will be leading a group on a joint club trip with the Santa Cruz Flyfishers to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, for its giant cutthroats over the week end of March 22, 23 & 24. Those interested may reach George at either (W) 523-0908 or (H) 579-5128.

## RAFFLE

This month's raffle will again be offering many valuable and worthwhile prizes. The grand prize will be a Fisher Graphite rod, line weight of your choice. Other items will include angling books, leaderkits, tying tools and materials, sunglasses, fly boxes & many other angling goodies. Your contributions of raffle items are appreciated.

## FLY TYING EVENING

February's fly tying session was held on the evening of 27th and was a grand success. Some 20 members were present, all stating that they were anxious for the next event. Professional flytyer and expert instructor, Ron Vaughn generously donated his time and expertise. Ron further stated that he had such a good time that he would be happy to help again. Group and individual instruction is available through Ron. He can be reached at (H) 579-5135.

We intend to host another special event this month on the evening of Wednesday, the 27th of March from 7:00--9:30 p.m. again, at the Law Offices, 2213 Mendocino Avenue, (behind the Exchange Bank). This event will focus on lines, leaders and knots, with instruction provided by the folks at the Western Angler. We've asked them to bring plenty of leader and line materials should you care to build your own leaders or lines and not own what is necessary. There are so many new techniques in leader and line preparation that all of us will be able to learn something new. By all means, however, please bring your tying materials with which to round out the evening.

Many thanks to Ken Wilson for making available the Board room at the Law Offices for our tying room.

## CASTING POOL PROGRAM

The Casting Pool Committee, chaired by Lucky Bob Moratto, continues to work its way through the many requirements of placing the pool in the ground. Primary among these is the forthcoming fund raising event and dinner to be held on Thursday, May 16th at the Luther Burbank Art Center. The format will be similar to that which we used in our 1983 fund raiser, except that

## Casting Pool Program continued:

we intend to introduce several new and exciting types of auction "events"--that is to say, we are working hard to make these events of more variety so that everyone can participate and have fun!

Much more will be forthcoming on this project. Active Committee members are: Bob Moratto, Jack O'Neel, Ken Wilson, Mel Hodapp, Joe Banovich, Tracy Bertaina, Ben Cummings, Bill Laurie, Craig Johnson, Dave Inks, Yancey Forest-Knowles, Liz Wray, Bill Archuleta, John Switzer, Russ Lockner and Dick Dennis. This may appear to be a lot of people, but in actuality we need more help, especially in acquiring quality raffle and auction items. Remember, all donations of items, or cash, are tax deductible! As in 1983, a \$500.00 or larger contribution entitles you to a top quality graphite rod and matching reel, and your name will be placed on a brass plaque at the pool site. Please climb on board and help our efforts! Call Bob Moratto at (W) 527-5211, or (H) 546-9315.

## SANTA ROSA APRIL SPORTS SHOW

There will be an outdoor sports show at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds over the week end of April 26, 27 and 28. The R.R.F.F. will be operating both a booth and the casting pool, which will be located in the main pavilion. This will be a grand opportunity for us to make the public aware of who we are and what we have to offer. It provides the opportunity for us to acquire new members, as well as providing an avenue for people to get started in the world of flyfishing. Some 10,000 visitors are expected to attend this event.

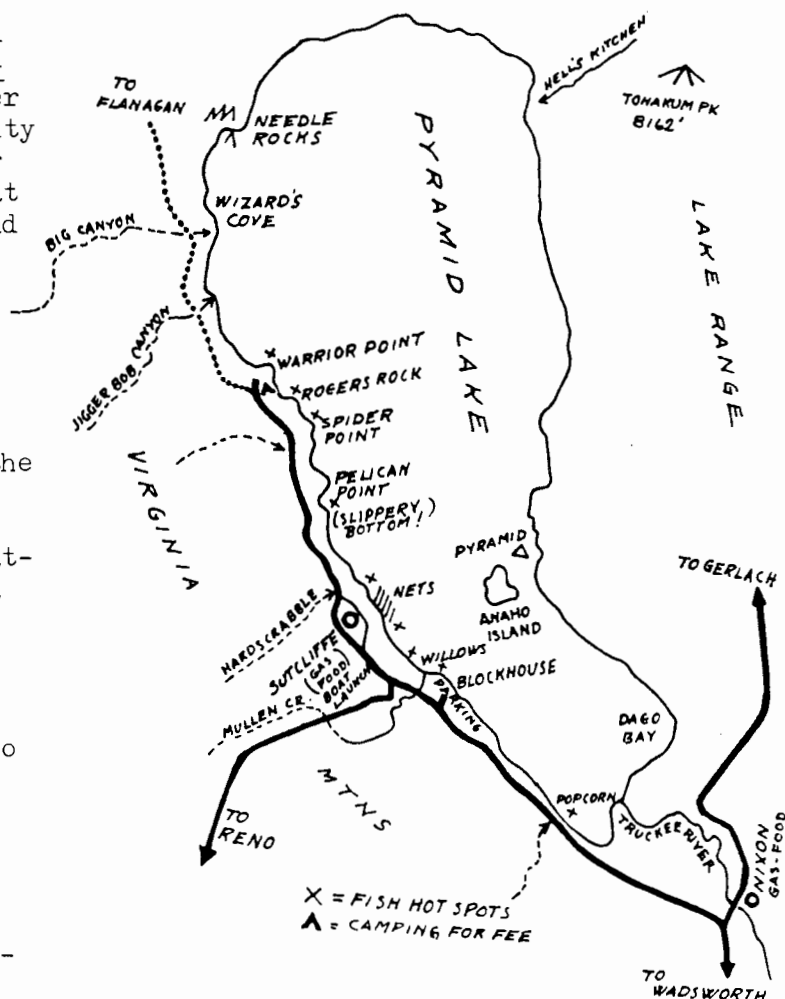
Once again, we will need your participation as teams will be needed to staff the booth and pond. We will need approximately seven 3-person teams which will be offering casting instruction, tying demonstrations and, in general, answer questions regarding our Club and its functions. Remember, without your help, our participation in this event will not take place. We would be losing a valuable opportunity, so please volunteer to be on one of the teams. Take a moment to consider whether or not you have shared some time with the club during the last

year or two.

New members--this would be a great way to become acquainted with your fellow members. You may volunteer by calling The Western Angler, 5424432, or signing up at the March meeting.

We'll see you at the March meeting, and thank you for your continued support.

*Yancey*



## ADVERTISING

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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 10

APRIL 1985

NUMBER 4

### —•PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE•—

The last weekend in April is the opening of trout season, and with it, the annual pilgrimage to beloved waters. The weeks prior to that event witness the ritual of retrieving equipment placed away the previous fall; checking it for operability and completeness and, in all probability, tying needed leaders and a few dozen flies.


I too feel drawn to this ritual, and participate fully in the rites. The whole idea of "opening day" has changed, however, and it is interesting to note that change. Most of us, indeed, probably all of us, were born of a time and experience where there truly was a looked forward to event called "opening day". In fact, it was an event that was anxiously anticipated for months prior, an event that captured the hearts and souls of all trout anglers.

The word "trout" is what is significant to this discussion, for opening day always referred to the opening of trout season. In recent years however, there may be any number of "openings". With modern transportation and equipment, and of course affluence, one may now go on fishing throughout the year. This is well and good, and I for one appreciate the variety of experience which it affords, and I also sense a certain loss of innocence. Gone is the anticipation of something so special that it bordered on a "religious experience". Gone is the sense of fraternity that came with being part of a select group of anglers who communicate through common beliefs and experience. And most of all, gone, my friends, is tradition!

#### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our recent search for new board members resulted in four new people joining our board. They were presented as a slate to the general membership in March and were confirmed unanimously. They are George Caywood, Warren Herlihy, Ron Lindgren and Russ Lockner. Thank you all for your commitment. We are still in need, however, of two positions to be filled. Again, the commitment is quite minimal but very necessary to our club's success. Please call me 542-6047 or let your interest be known at the April meeting.

*Yancey*



### MEETING

7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday  
April 17th

MADRONE SCHOOL  
4550 Rinconada Dr.  
Santa Rosa

Speaker:  
MIKE MCINTYRE on  
Deschutes River Fishing

#### GUEST SPEAKER

Our April meeting will feature Mike McIntyre, owner of Whitewater Angler Floatfishing Adventures. Mike's presentation is entitled "Deschutes Redsides" and promises to be both informative and exciting. In addition, Mike will be tying Deschutes patterns (7:00-7:30 p.m.) prior to his presentation.

The Deschutes River runs cold and clear through high desert country and has long been a tradition among northwest anglers for its famous June Salmonfly hatch and its

(Guest speaker continued)

superb fly fishing for summer run steelhead, starting in mid August.

I have floated and fished the Deschutes on several occasions and it will continue to be part of my summer repertoire, both for its striking beauty and for its quality angling. If you would like to learn specific details about how to fish this enchanting river, make sure and join us for this special evening.

Mike McIntyre was raised in Seattle and has been fly fishing for 40 years. He was an "original angler" on the Stillaguamish River, a famous steelhead stream in the Pacific Northwest.

Mike has been a floatfishing outfitter for the past 8 years throughout California, Oregon and Washington, as well as Alaska. Mike brings the special ability to "teach" to his trips, to beginners as well as experts and his clients are often heard commenting on "what they learned" from Mike, and not merely what they did.

Join us for an evening about Deschutes Redsides with a special person, Mike McIntyre.

---

#### SANTA ROSA SPORT SHOW

As mentioned in the previous Cast and during the March meeting, the RRFF will be participating rather fully in the Sport Show to be held in the main pavillion at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds from Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28.

We will be conducting demonstrations and instructions in casting at the casting pool, as well as have a large booth to both promote fly-fishing in general and our Club specifically. The booth will be decorated with many fishing items and will have on-going fly tying instruction and demonstrations. Our request for participants resulted in 18 people signing up, including yours truly, however, we still need another twelve people to volunteer so that no one's commitment will be over 3 hours. Won't you please join our efforts by either calling the Western Angler, 542-4432, or co-chairmen George Caywood, 538-3179 home or 576-2390

(New board members continued)

As we welcome our new board members we must also say good-bye to one other, Grant King, who has served on the board since July of 1984. Grant, to be sure, will remain active in the club, but must step down from the board due to increasing commitments in other areas. Grant has always been one of our staunchest supporters and we will miss his company and assistance. THANK YOU GRANT.

---

#### RAFFLE

This month's raffle will again be offering many valuable and worthwhile prizes. The grand prize will be a Caddis float tube --The Cadillac of float tubes. Other items include angling books, fly boxes, sun glasses, fur, feathers and tying tools, brass belt buckle, wading staff, line, leaders and many other angling goodies. Your contributions of raffle items are all appreciated, they provide much of the revenue that makes for a successful club.

---

#### OUTINGS

The fishing expedition to Pyramid Lake was a success and all who attended look forward to becoming "regulars" throughout the coming years. Several large fish were landed and more were fought and lost. I was amazed at how easy it was to learn to fish this water and how quick the hook-ups came each time the pods of fish moved through the area fished

---

#### APRIL OUTING

Our April outing will be to participate in and attend the Santa Rosa Sport Show over the weekend of April 26, 27 & 28.

(Santa Rosa Sport show continued)

office, Ron Lindgren 545-8091 or 526-2221.

Remember, this is a wonderful opportunity to gain new memberships, promote our fund raising event for our casting pool, and promote fly fishing in general.

Without your help our participation will not take place

## FLY TYING EVENING

Our evening of fly tying and leader and knot and line building was held on the last Wednesday evening of March and was a grand success. Again, 20 members were present, everyone feeling the evening was worth while. Our good friends and experts: Grant King, Karla Madson and Doug Brutocao from the Western Angler generously donated their time and expertise. Thank you, Grant, Karla and Doug for the many ways in which you support and help our club. You are greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to Ken Wilson for making the lovely Board Room at the Law Offices at 2213 Mendocino Avenue available for our tying evenings.

---

## OTHER

There will not be a general meeting or board meeting during May due to the Casting Pool fund raiser. There will, however, be our annual outing to Indian Valley Reservoir. Charlie Schelter will give details for this at the April General meeting and in the May issue of the Cast. This is a special outing and many members participate each year.

In the March issue of the Cast, it was stated incorrectly that Phil Madsen was the new Raffle Chairman. It should have read that he was the Fund Raising event Raffle Chairman. Sorry, Phil!

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the April 17th meeting.

---

## FLY FISHERS PLEASE NOTE

If our Club can enlist 15 or more members to subscribe to the annual membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers at \$20.00 per year, our Club will get a refund of \$5.00 per member. This offer ends on April 30, 1985, so early application is essential.

There are certain advantages to membership in F.F.F. whose headquarters at West Yellowstone is the center of American fly fishing.

For example, at Conclave, to be held at the center August 12 through 17, Chairman Bud Lilly expects to present educational

## CASTING POOL PROGRAM

The Casting Pool Committee, chaired by Bob Moratto and staffed by people too numerous to mention, continues to work its way through the many requirements of placing the pool in the ground. The Committee meets weekly and a great deal has been accomplished. Of course, the main fund raising event is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 16th at the Burbank Center for the Performing Arts. After dinner, the main focus will be on the grand auction and raffle, offering prizes for everyone--from rods and reels to works of art, to fishing trips to Alaska and other exotic places. Many of the auction and raffle items have already been obtained (and you won't believe how special they are!), but many, many more are needed. Please help us acquire donations or items at cost. They do not have to be fishing items (many cases of fine wine were donated last time, for example). Again, only with a group participation will this event be the success we plan.

Tickets will be coming to you soon and may I suggest that you reserve your seats for your guests and yourself immediately as they will go quickly and be at a premium.

Should you be able to obtain quality items for either the auction or the raffle, or have questions, please contact Bob Moratto 527-5211 or 546-9315.

Remember all donations are tax deductible and there will be special tokens of appreciation for cash donations as follows:

---

(Fly Fishers please note continued)

programs on all aspects of flyfishing, with displays by the Izaak Walton League, the U.S. Forest Service, The national Park Service, plus seminars and classes for the public.

Your membership in the F.F.F. will make these features available to you.

---

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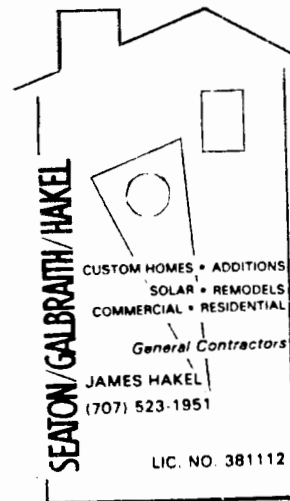


### FOR OPENING DAY

Opening of trout season on the last Saturday in April doesn't mean much to us in the coastal counties. Most of the residual steelhead are spawned out and surviving fish should be given the chance to return to the Pacific for R. & R. The stream trout are too small to be much of a challenge and the Sierra Streams are usually in spate with snow melt.

Our best choices are spring fed streams like Fall River and Lower Hat Creek.

Expect to meet a lot of friends in the meadow below Hat #2 on April 27th.



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P.O. BOX 2673

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

May 25, 1985

TO: RRF Board Members  
FROM: Yancey Forest-Knowles  
SUBJECT: May/June Board Meeting

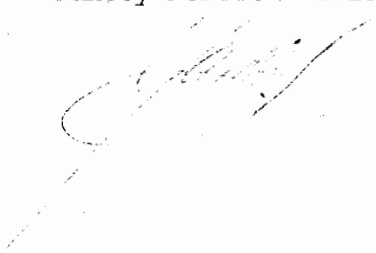
Dear Board Members:

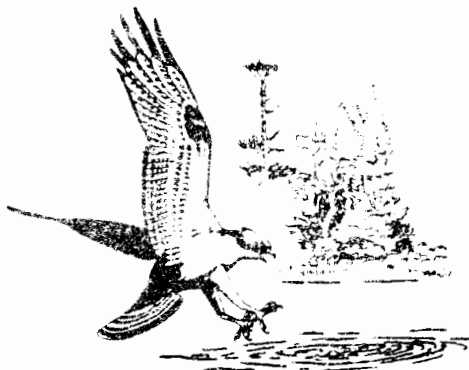
As you were advised, it was necessary to postpone the Board Meeting of May 14 due to time commitments to the Casting Pool Committee.

The May and June Board Meetings will be combined jointly on Tuesday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. at Madrone School. Please make every effort to be there as we have several important issues to discuss, among them: the summer installation of officers dinner, casting pool related items, and the planning of 85/86 goals and projects.

Thanking you for your continued interest and support.

Yancey Forest-Knowles





# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 10

May 1985

Number 5

### ❖ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ❖

The virtues of the Fall River/Hat Creek area have been extolled for many years, and as it seems, it has once again provided quality fly fishing for opening weekend anglers. Several of our Club members returned with success stories to whet the appetites of even the most ardent anglers. Among them, Jim Hakel, along with Craig Johnston, caught several Fall River rainbows up to 20 inches. Bill Archuleta, Mike Seeber, Ron Vaughn and others chose to ply the waters of Hat Creek and Rising River and met with equal success. A call was made to friends today to see if fishing was truly as good as had been reported and the response was a resounding, "Yes!" Furthermore, the word is that we are in the midst of the finest opening period in a decade. It seems that the early spring conditions with below average snow melt have combined to create good water conditions, as well as prolific hatches and willing trout. To add to these excellent circumstances, the better than average conditions are expected to continue for the remainder of May.

#### SANTA ROSA SPORTS SHOW UPDATE

Several Club members who did not go forth during the opening weekend gave of their time to assist with our booth and casting pool at the Santa Rosa Sports Show. We wish to acknowledge and thank all of those who gave so freely of their time. Each gave from 3-30 hours as tyers, casters and club ambassadors: Emil Lewis, George Marcillac, John Switzer, Russ, Vickie and Christina Lockner, Tony Hebner, Charlie Schelter, Henry Von der Mehden, Bill and Clair Clarke, Spencer Bader, Jerry Stemach, Ben and Grace Cummings, Warren and Chris Brown, John and Jason Beiber, Bill Laurie, Bob Elliot, Joe Tucker, George Grijalva, Bob Moratto, Chuck Baker, Dick and Maggie Maddax and yours truly.

Thanks also to Grant King who took time from his busy schedule to give casting instructions to many of the youth in the audience, and also, thanks to our good friend, Jackson Art for his contribution of hand painted club insignia and logo signs. And a special thanks to the three people most responsible for organizing and pulling together all of our efforts: Ron Lengren, Warren Herlihy and George Caywood.

#### CASTING POOL PROGRAM

The Casting Pool and the forthcoming fundraiser are the big news for May. It looks like the ground breaking and fund raising events will be taking place within a few days of each other. You should have your invitations to the May 16 dinner and may it be suggested that you secure your reservations quickly. A great deal of care has gone into organizing the evening to assure your dining and entertainment pleasure. After dinner the main focus will be the grand auction and raffle, offering prizes for everyone--

### RR FF Casting Pool Fund Raiser

THURSDAY EVENING

MAY 16, 1985

Luther Burbank

Center for the Arts

Demonstrations	5:00 pm
Social Hour	6:00 pm
Dinner	7:00 pm

from fishing equipment to angling art, and from fine wine to fishing and hunting adventures around the world. Many of the auction and raffle items have already been donated (and you won't believe how special they are!) but many more are needed. Please help us acquire these items; they all are, as well as the purchase price of your tickets, tax deductible. And remember, all cash donations will be reciprocated with gifts ranging from T shirts for \$25 donations to Hardy Bamboo Rods for \$1,000 donations. Should you be able to obtain quality items for either the auction or the raffle, or have questions, please contact Bob Moratto at 527-5211, or 546-9315.

#### DIRECTORY

The new directory has been printed & mailed. It has been quite an understaking and we owe a great deal of thanks to Karla Madsen and George Marcillac for the tremendous amount of time which they put into this essential project. Should you not receive your copy, please contact either Karla or George and they will see that you get one.

#### OUTINGS

May's outing will be the club's annual weekend at Indian Valley Reservoir, May 18 and 19. The lake contains both trout and bass. This has proven to be the club's best attended outing each year and is ideal for the whole family. Should you care to join us, please contact Charlie Schelter for further information, 544-1010 or 539-0200. A good map was handed out at the last meeting with logistical & other information on it. Charlie has more copies available should you need one.

#### NEW AWARDS

In an attempt to acknowledge special contributions to the club each year, we will be presenting two new awards to the deserving members during the July meeting in the areas of #1. Conservation and #2. Humor. The humorous award will be given under the auspices of "Sir Jedric Limp Hackle". (To submit your nominations in the area of conservation please describe on two pages or less what activity (s) your nominee participated in and why you feel they are deserving of this award) In the area of humor the same process should be followed, giving consideration to any and all outrageously humorous, silly, stupid, mad or generally zany activity (s) for which your nominee should become infamous. Nominations will be voted on by the Board during the June meeting with plaques being presented in July. Conservation is, of course, an issue to which we should, and will, give serious consideration. The award for humor is something that we intend to have a great deal of fun with and hope that you will too. All nominations should be sent to the club's mailing address, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405. It is hoped that these awards will become traditions, something looked forward to annually.

#### BLOOD BANK

Thanks to both Dixon Browder and Peter Rizzo for their recent donations to our club's blood account at the Sonoma County Community Blood Bank. We now have 23 units on hand for any club member or member of their family. We feel this is an especially worthy cause to consider and would like to promote all members to contribute. Remember, this blood is available to you and your family members for any needs.

#### FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

We now have four new memberships in the Federation of Fly Fishers toward our goal of 15. In an attempt to gain new members, the FFF will give either \$5.00 per new member ( not renewals) or a graphite Fenwick/ Fisher/ Cortland rod back to the Clubs of origin for each new group of 15 members enrolled. This means a rebate of \$75.00 cash or a graphite rod for a raffle item to our club. Thus, new FFF memberships fulfills two purposes: it swells the ranks of the FFF and helps us with the necessary monies to bring you quality programs and entertainment. If you would like to become a member in the Federation of Fly Fishers please contact Joan Murphy at 538-7500 or 795-9511 or at the Club meetings.

#### EVENTS - OUR MONTHLY MEETING

April's speaker, Mike McIntyre of Whitewater Anglers, gave an excellent presentation on floating the famous Deschutes River in Oregon. George Marcillac was the lucky winner of the Caddis Float Tube.

June's speaker will be Bob Foster, considered by many to be "The Expert" on Putah Creek. This short introduction is merely to whet your appetite; more on Bob and Putah Creek will be forthcoming in the June CAST.

Speaking of the CAST, Ben is still in need of articles. Please contact him and submit your contributions.

What are your ideas for Club fundraisers? At this point, membership dues and raffle receipts are our only sources of income. We operate pretty much dollar to dollar from year to year. If we could augment our income we could participate in other events or perhaps expand upon or refine what we are already doing. Your Comments appreciated.

We are tentatively planning another fly tying evening during June. Our artist in residence for the evening will be David Inks of World Wide Outfitters. Dave is a renowned and innovative tyer; you will not want to miss the opportunity to receive Dave's instruction. More will follow in the June CAST.

At the most recent count, some 900 steelhead have entered the hatchery at Warm Springs. With the proper water conditions the Russian should continue its comeback with another banner season in 1985/86.

Bob Foster of the Davis Flyfishers (June's speaker) reports that the shad fishing is red hot on the Sacramento, both at the mouth of the American and the Feather. For further information you can call Bob at (916) 758-4069.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you all at the May 16th Casting Pool fundraiser. We will be casting by July!



SOME TRIPS ARE NEVER MEANT TO BE--

All of us remember our fishing trips that were successful, but there is a lot to be learned from failures also.

For many years Maggi and I have gone to "Letts Lake" for Spring trout fishing, and to see the long valley full of wild flowers between Wilbur Springs and Stoneyford.

Always we have had enough success with dry or wet fly fishing from float tubes to make us content. This small, Sierra-like lake, has a pleasant campground and is a lovely spot. As usual we called the department of Fish and Game to see if the lake had been planted. It is usually planted for Easter week. But this year they did not--no reason given. We decided to go anyway and catch the fish left from last year.

Boy, did we get an unpleasant surprise! No fish rising--and the north wind howling down the slopes of the snow covered hills above the lake. Even the few boat fishermen were not doing anything with lures or bait. Last year (at the same time) we caught many fish from our float tubes in a heavy snowstorm--all 12" to 14" brook trout. The fish just went crazy and would hit almost any fly.

Thursday morning there was ice on the drinking water--no sign of fish--and icy winds. We left for Putah Creek where it was warmer--and the fishing better!

Many years ago, before they poisoned the lake to get rid of trash fish, Letts Lake had a lot of native brown trout.

Dick Maddax

Mark Allen disappeared in the surging waters of the North Fork of the American River last Thursday May 2nd and is presumed drowned. We mourn the loss of a fine young man and extend our heartfelt sympathies to his parents.



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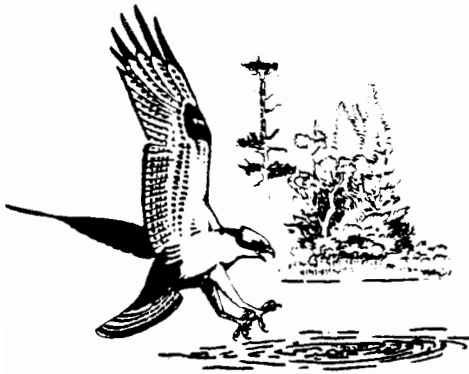
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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 10

June 1985

Number 6

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


June has a special significance for many of our club members; TARPON! Each year at this time tarpon fever strikes Santa Rosa as several Russian River Fly Fishers join other salt water afficionados from around the world converging in Isla Morada, Florida, for the week-long Fishing International Invitational Tarpon Fly Fishing Tournament.

The fever begins to build during April each year when the 12 weight "big guns" are brought out for the much needed casting practice. One needs to master these heavy sticks long before one reaches Florida, and this is not an easy task. Casting a 12 weight line requires strength and stamina, as well as practice. Equally large and specialized are the Double Surgeons knots, Bimini twists, Homer Rhode loops, Spider hitches and 100 lb. shock leaders coupled to size 3/0 Lefty's Deceivers, Whistlers and Stu Apte tarpon flies. One does not prepare for tarpon fishing with the relative ease of fresh water trout fishing; it takes weeks, if not months, to prepare for the trip!

Club member Bill Archuleta's large saltwater tarpon reels, with their superior hand machined qualities and esthetically pleasing finish seem to be the preferred reel this year. I'm sure we all feel a great deal of respect and pride for the way in which Bill's reels have become "state of the art" equipment.

The fever reaches its pitch during the last week in May when most of the anglers succumb early to the urge and rush to Islamorada like bees to nectar for a week's practice prior to the gala event. Many of this year's two member teams are comprised of friends and familiar names to us all: Bob Nauheim, Grant King, Frank Bertaina, Dave Inks, Craig Johnston, Doug Brutacao, Jack O'Neel, Leon Pimentel and Don Sampson.

The pursuit for tarpon on a fly is specialized, yet it is a growing aspect of our sport, as is saltwater angling in general. What makes it especially encouraging, as well as exciting, is the fact that the means is available here, in Santa Rosa, through the expertise and contacts of several of our club members. It is a rare opportunity, indeed, to be involved in the development and further refinement of a relatively new sport and I, for one, am excited over the prospect of joining this unique group of salt water big game anglers.



GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday, June 19th  
7 p.m.  
Madrone School  
4550 Rinconada Dr. S.R.  
Guest Speaker  
BOB FOSTER  
Subject: PUTAH CREEK  
"LOCAL GOLD MINE"  
Plus Great Raffle incl.  
9 ft. graphite rod, 5-6wt

We support and are affiliated with: Federation of Fly Fishers, California Trout,  
Clean our Rivers Coalition (C.O.R.C.)

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Junior member: \$7.50

Family member: \$20.00

### GUEST SPEAKER

Our June meeting will feature Bob Foster from Davis, California, considered by many to be "the expert" on Putah Creek. Bob's presentation is entitled "Putah Creek, Local Gold Mine", and promises to be especially informative. Bob will also be tying proven Putah patterns from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Putah Creek is a mere  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours drive from Santa Rosa, yet relatively few Santa Rosans visit it. Many of our members have asked for information on local waters; this is our opportunity to learn, in detail, about a local stream that occasionally produces trout, and plenty of them!

I recall that when I was in school at Davis, the Davis Flyfishers frequented Putah Creek on a regular basis. More often than not, they returned with reports of good action, and one member specialized in large trout with at least one trout over 6 lbs. each season--his largest was an astounding 9 pounder!

Putah Creek is open all year for angling and has a special "fly only" season during the winter months. During the summer many of the larger fish are taken from the lower, slower section on miniscule dries fished towards shore from float tubes. When I was there last, during April, I saw Allen Hennig who works with club member Dave Inks, land and release a beautiful 24" rainbow. Putah Creek, like any other piece of water, holds its secrets jealously, and Bob Foster has developed techniques which unravel the mysteries.

Bob, brother of famous Eel River guide, Make Foster, was, for many years, a bio-chemist at the University of California in Davis. Recently he returned to the life of a businessman in the private sector. Bob moved to New Zealand where he worked (and fished, or fished (and worked) for three years as a government scientist. He now returns to New Zealand each year for a month long fishing adventure, so he should

Guest Speaker, continued

prove to be a resource in that area also.

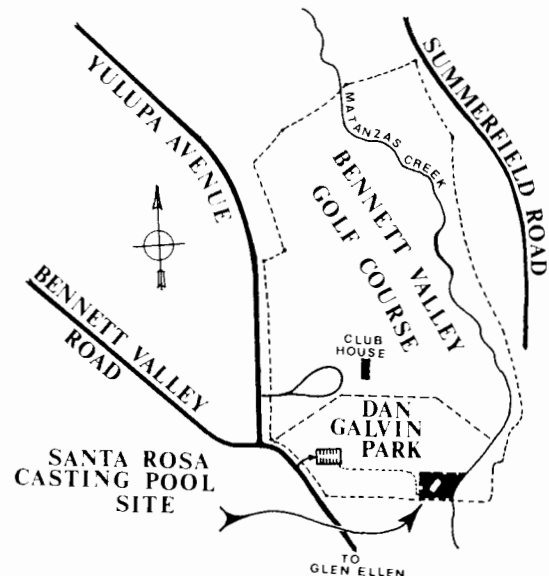
Bob's specialty is nymphing for trout in California wilderness streams in general, and in Putah Creek specifically. If you are interested in some very good trout fishing within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Santa Rosa, make sure not to miss Bob Foster's exciting and informative presentation. And remember, come early and see Bob tie patterns designed specifically for Putah Creek's rainbows.

### CASTING POOL FUND RAISER

The May 16th fund raiser was a resounding success; increasing the pool fund by some \$25,000.00 and allowing us to proceed with construction as scheduled. We owe a great deal of thanks to the many people who made this all possible. Among them, those who made either cash or auction/raffle item contributions, and those, who, in the spirit of the fund raiser, purchased the items.

Special acknowledgement should be made to the members of the Casting Pool Committee who met on a weekly basis for several months to plan and, ultimately, conduct the event. Co-chairmen: Bob Moratto and Craig Johnston Committee: Bill Archuleta, Chuck Baker, Joe Banovich, Tracy Bertaina, Art Bond, Chuck Cadman, Ben Cummings, Dick Dennis, Mel Hodapp, Dave Inks, Grant King, Bill Laurie, Russ Lockner, Karla Madsen, Phil Madsen, George Marcillac, Jack O'Neel, John Switzer, Ken Wilson, Liz Wray and yours truly.

*yancey*



## CASTING POOL PROGRESS REPORT

We are on our way! A purchase order has been placed with Palco Inc. for the Dynaloy plastic pond liner. Member Jim Mitchell has the grading stakes in place.

Elwin Millerick, professional lond grader (retired) has consented to operate grading equipment that will be supplied courtesy member Dick Dennis of ~~███~~ Equipment Rental.

LeBrun, Concrete Contractors have been chosen to do the concrete casting pit, side-walk and pool perimeter wall.

We expect to be moving dirt within the coming week.

A large force will be needed around the first of July to help move the 6000 lb. liner into place so keep in mind that volunteers will be needed about that time.

Ben Cummings, coordinator

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Russ Lockner  
Ron Lindgren  
Warren Herlihy  
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Joan Murphy  
Bob Sisson  
Ben Cummings, Cast Editor

## OUTINGS

Our Pyramid Lake was moderately successful despite a small number of fish caught. The return home was somewhat hampered by a late season snowfall on Donner Summit. One member's VW van did a graceful pirouette on icy pavement, but no damage resulted.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the outing was Chuck Baker's attempt at the Sir Cedric Limphackle Award mentioned under New Awards in our May Issue.

He is a strong contender, having hung a fly in each ear on a single day!

### Indian Valley Outing

On our arrival at the lake we old timers were amazed to see the water about 15 feet below the levels of the last several years. Last year's camp was hundreds of feet from the water and even the old bridge was high and dry once more.

With the water temperature at 61 degrees the bass were not enthusiastically hitting bass bugs on the surface. Some fish were taken that way. One nice rainbow was caught on a spinnerbait cast by my friend Martin Mulkeen from Dale Kuester's boat.

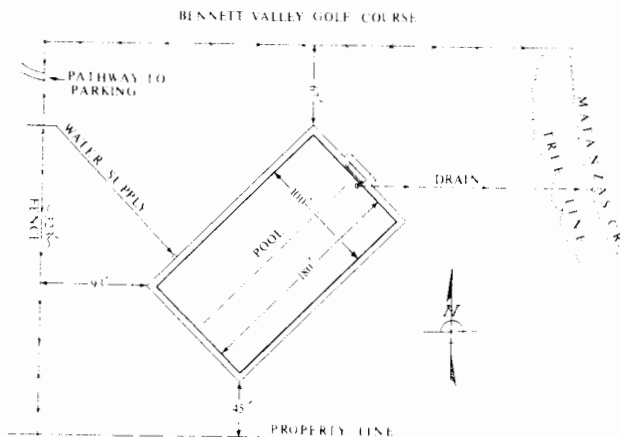
Those of us camped on the point will not soon forget the late (after bedtime) visit of Warren Herlihy and his lilting voice assailing us with sea chanties.

Though not what we expected, the outing was well attended and I do believe all present enjoyed themselves. Good company did much to make up for poor fishing conditions.

### June Outing--Sunday June 23rd

Let's try for shad or black bass in the Russian River. Meet at Neelys Beach about 11 a.m. and we'll have a nice day in the sun. Family fun and picnicking on our own river. Park in the Guerneville Safeway lot and wade across the river to Neely's Beach.

Charlie Schelter 539-0200 home  
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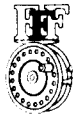
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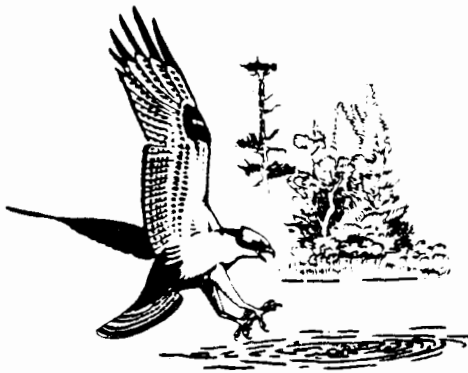
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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 10

July 1985

Number 7

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The question posed to anglers most often in our area is for information regarding local fishing opportunities. The response heard most often is that, "There really isn't any; you'll have to drive 5 hours into the Sierra or northern California." Well, I've been looking into local fishing resources lately and have been pleasantly surprised with what actually is available to us within 1½ hours!

The fine rainbow and brown trout fishing at Putah Creek comes to mind first, of course, because of the recent presentation by Bob Foster. Bob related to us valuable information about both the freestone and stillwater sections, as well as the differences between the summer and winter techniques. Bob's generosity went to the extreme of allowing us to place his phone number in the CAST for those who wish additional or more detailed information--(916) 758-4069. Take advantage of Bob's offer, he is a special resource.

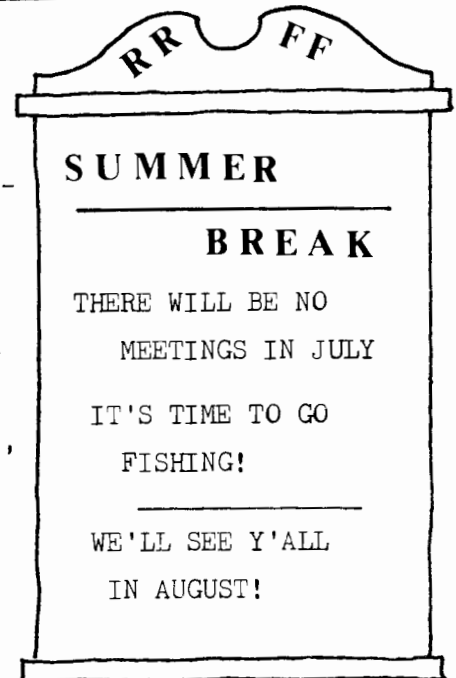
Our mother river, the Russian, is going through a resurgence, thrilling to us all. The last two winters, and especially this last winter, saw many large steelhead taken. If this trend continues, as we suspect it will, the Russian may meet most of our winter steelhead fishing wishes. Shad are the main attraction now and reports of multiple hook-ups have been common. Stripers may also be taken in season.

Amazing to me is that so few anglers take advantage of the excellent, and I mean excellent, smallmouth bass fishing in the Russian. They are there in good numbers and are fairly easy to coax to a fly.

Virtually every farm pond in the county is loaded with largemouth bass, Bluegill and catfish. With a little effort and research these ponds can be located and access permission gained.

Earlier this week I joined Fred Contavi in search for fresh water stripers at Lake Mendocino and came away a believer! We fished from float tubes from dark until 3:00 A.M. and landed many fish over seven pounds. Much larger fish were hooked, but it was not in the cards for them to be subdued. Reports of these fish are in all the outdoor publications, yet again, very few anglers from our area pursue them. Lake Mendocino will definitely be part of my fishing experience in the future.

The San Francisco Bay, Tomales and Bodega all offer a variety of angling opportunities, especially for those with adequate boats. Lake Berryessa also offers quality angling for both boaters and shore anglers. It's a large lake, one which could tempt an angler throughout the year.



And finally, consider the incredible resource which will be available for us when Lake Sonoma opens on July 1. Several people have been predicting huge bass and trout throughout the Lake, and official stocking reports concur with this. I intend to be casting to these largemouths and rainbows on July 1 and suggest that others make plans to do so also.

Good luck and good fishing,



## AND NOW THE BAD NEWS

Yearly club dues are due and payable!

Our treasury is at rock bottom at this time of the year, and early payment of your membership dues will help us get this news letter printed and mailed.

Make your checks payable to:  
RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

Send to Russian River Fly Fishers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405

Rates: Single member: \$15.00  
Junior Member: 7.50  
Family Member 20.00

### CASTING POOL PROGRESS REPORT

Since our last report, things have been happening at our casting pool site in Dan Galvin Park. (see map)

First we want to give thanks to two special people, and at the same time correct an error in the last CAST.

When we noted the loan of grading equipment by member Dick Dennis of EMPIRE TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT COMPANY, we mistakenly associated him with their arch rival A-I Equipment Rental!! We apologise Dick, may we now wipe the egg off our face?

(Casting pool report continued)

Empire Tractor has been super generous in allowing us to use their equipment for two weeks rent-free, with the result that we have essentially completed the excavation for the pool and casting pit.

The other person to whom we owe our fervent thanks is Mr. Elwin Millerick who came out of his retirement from the land grading business to donate his time and skill to operate the machines to excavate the approximately 2000 cubic yards of earth to prepare the site for the pool. Elwin isn't even a member of our Club; he gave this super effort just because he is a super person.

The combined contributions have saved about \$10,000 from the cost of building our casting pool.

In addition to the two persons mentioned above we thank Mr. Jim Mitchell of Mitchell & Heryford, Consulting Engineers & Land Surveyors for his help in surveying the pool site and locating the boundaries of the pool so that excavation could proceed.

To summarize:

We now have an access road to the pool site so that heavy trucks can reach it.

The pool has been excavated to within a few inches of final grade.

The water supply line has been brought to the edge of the pool.

The Casting Pit has been excavated as well as the trenches for the pool drains.

A purchase order has been placed with the Palco Co. for the pool liner.

A contract has been signed with Mr. Richard LeBrun, Contractor, for the concrete work on the casting pit, the perimeter wall and sidewalk.

Your editor of the CAST, (who drew the plans for the project) has been serving as expeditor on the project up to this point. Unfortunately a prior commitment to an Alaskan fishing trip during the entire month of July will bring all construction to a halt unless someone can be found among our membership willing to undertake the responsibility of carrying the work forward.

As things now stand it would appear that the project will proceed to completion sometime late in August.

(Casting pool continued)

A project this size is somewhat unique for a club such as ours. It has required the time and talents of a diversity of members, and that is perhaps what Liz Wray had in mind, when during her presidency, she proposed the project.

In our efforts to realize this project, we first had to have a level piece of land close to where most of our members live. Such land is valued between \$20,000 - 100,000 per acre when available, (far beyond our means) Fortunately the City of Santa Rosa and particularly the Recreation and Parks Department took a favorable view of the project and offered a beautiful site in Dan Galvin Park.

With the first, and most important obstacle overcome, there came many hours of discussion among many members who had experience with casting pools in other cities, leading to final determinations of dimensions and details of construction from which working drawings could be developed.

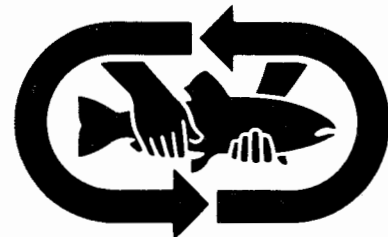
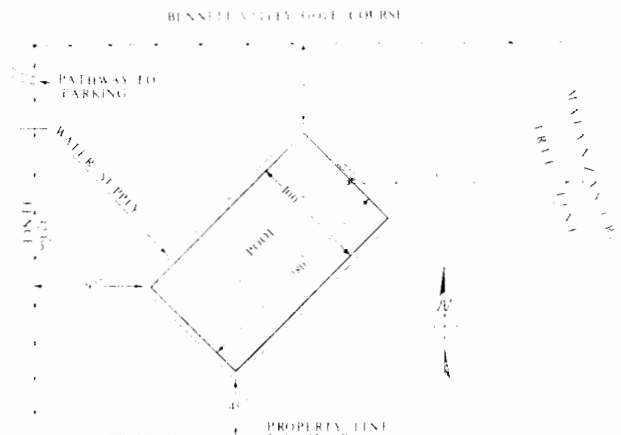
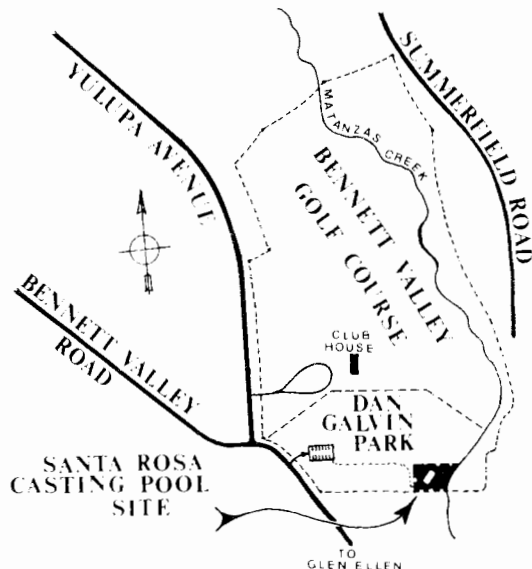
Such working drawings are essential for getting cost estimates to find how much money we would have to raise.

Once such a figure was determined, a fund raising committee was organized and through their efforts over three years, the necessary funds are now in hand and construction is in progress.

Our thanks to the following individuals and to all our members and friends who have made this possible:

Co-chairmen: Bob Moratto and Craig Johnston

Committee: Bill Archuleta, Chuck Baker, Joe Banovich, Tracy Bertaina, Art Bond, Chuck Cadman, Ben Cummings, Dick Dennis, Mel Hodapp, Dave Inks, Grant King, Yancey Forest Knowles, Bill Laurie, Russ Lockner, Karla Madsen, Phil Madsen, George Marcillac, Jack O'Neel, John Switzer, Ken Wilson and Liz Wray.





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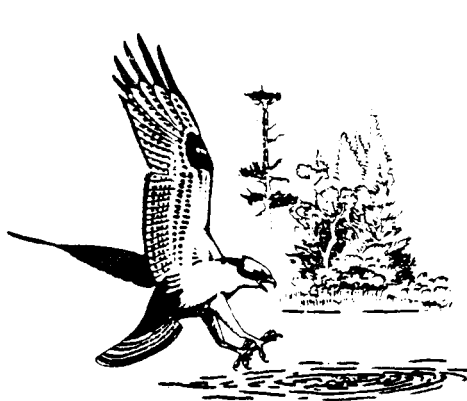
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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 10

August 1985

NUMBER 7

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The lure of fishing the Rocky Mountain states has drawn me to their fabled waters each summer for 20 consecutive seasons. The attraction was equally strong this year. If anything, I was looking forward to the trip even more than usual because of the very special group of friends who were being brought together and because of the lovely home plus the drift boats which were being made available to us in West Yellowstone, the hub of western fly fishing. Our generous host Jim Ohrt of Marysville was the provider of these favors.

However, all was not well in "River City"! Much to our chagrin, the area was suffering from a massive heat wave and extremely low water. To make matters worse, forest fires were destroying water sheds almost at whim, threatening Forest Service closures of all unpaved roads.

After several days of mediocre fishing we decided to consider our options, and after a few well placed phone calls, decided to return to the Fall River area of northern California. There we remained for an additional week experiencing the type of fly fishing that one has come to expect more readily from that Mecca of trout fishing, Montana.

To be sure, the West Yellowstone area will continue to be a very valued and important part of my yearly angling repertory. It would be silly to ignore the quality, unique angling which does, most assurdily, exist in the "West" area, not to mention the spectacular scenery and opportunity to participate in a living legend. There was a good lesson learned, however, one which we may all profit from; that is, that California, with its teeming millions of inhabitants and overfished waterways still, surprisingly offers truly quality angling for the experienced fly fisher.

No, I would never pass up an opportunity to fish the myriad of waters within reach of West Yellowstone, but there is an important point to be made: given the short periods of time which most of us have available to pursue our beloved sport, as well as the expense involved, and given the reasonably close proximity of the Fall River area, we do not need to plan lavish expeditions to experience the type of quality angling we all covet. The Fall River and the many lakes and rivers in that region are easily accessible for a week end trip. My wife and I or friends and I make this jaunt at least 6 or 7 weekends a year with longer periods thrown in occasionally.

Many club members ask about the angling opportunities available in our state, and I am quick to reply that the Fall River area offers some of the finest fly fishing

RRFF

THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS  
OF THE RRFF IN AUGUST

NEXT GENERAL MEETING  
WILL BE AT

MADRONE SCHOOL  
4550 Rinconada Dr. S.R.

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 18th  
7:00 p.m.

(President's message, cont.)

EXTRAS

in all the United States. It is surprising, however to learn of the number of fly fishers who have still not experienced the angling treasures in the Fall River area.

As previously mentioned, the Club has available, through its membership, a plethora of expertise and contacts, people who would be only too happy to provide specific information to get you started in this angling wonderland. The names which come to mind most quickly are Club members: Bob Nauheim & Frank Bertania of Fishing International, 542-4242, Grant King of the Western Angler, 542-4432, Dave Inks of World Wide Outfitters, 545-4657, and even myself, at 542-6047.

And finally, I am excited to share with you that our new Outing Co-Directors, Jim Hackle and Jim Mengle, are working on a plan to involve the club membership in club outings to the Fall River area, as well as other rewarding fly fishing waters such as the Hot Creek Ranch, Take It Easy Ranch and others. These will be organized, club sponsored events for the general membership and friends. More specific information will be available on these exciting future events in the September CAST and general meeting of Wednesday, September 18th, 1985.

*Jancy*

SUMMER VACATION

Well, it looks as if our summer vacation has been extended a bit. Because of so many conflicting times and dates, associated with both business & vacations for so many of us, we will not be meeting during August. This is not to say that we are entirely at rest because there is, in fact, a great deal being done in preparation for the future. We are planning many exciting speakers, dinners and events commencing in September. Work is continuing daily at the Casting Pool site and a great deal of follow up work has been done for the Pool fundraiser. So, please bear with the necessity of a summer break. We are all looking forward to returning in September with a LARG!

Each August as part of our commitment to the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) we donate a case of premium wine to the Annual Conclave's fund raiser. This year, as last, the wine was provided by Chateau St. Jean Winery. Club member, Dick Arrowood, is the Winemaker, and working closely with RUFF Board member, Bob Sisson, the contribution was made. Many thanks to you both, Dick and Bob, and also, a special thanks to Mr. Allen Hemphill, President of Chateau St. Jean.

A special donation was also made to our club's treasury in the amount of \$150.00 from Mr. Richard Bicknell. Richard agreed to offer one of his fine AKC German Wirehaired Pointer pups to the highest bidder, with the funds going to our club. The dog was purchased by Mr. John Marchetti! John, I know you received a fine dog and Richard, thank you for your generous contribution.

Another special contribution needs to be acknowledged. Mr. Chuck Vrabel wrote a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Casting Pool project for the pleasure of making the first cast at our opening ceremonies. Chuck, thank you for the generous spirit in which your contribution was made.

Chuck is sponsoring another event which, with your participation, could further raise the club's coffers, as well as be fun! Chuck as owner of The Riffles Resort near the mouth of the Klamath River, is sponsoring the First Annual Santa Rosa Week at his resort. The Riffles is an R.V. and camping resort on the river, and for 4 days, August 22-25, for a fee of \$40.00, Chuck is offering some pretty neat things. First of all, of course, is your space at this fine resort during the prime "half pounder" run. He has also arranged for the \$3.00 for each of the days to provide a jet boat river taxi to some of the better holding water. And finally, on Saturday night, there will be a gala steak Bar-B-Q and fishing contest with free raffle prizes (Rod, Reel, Net, Flies, Archuleta Hair Stackers, etc.). The club will receive a \$5.00 rebate for each site reserved during this period, so it sounds like a nice way for all to have fun and profit. Advanced reservations are required through either Chuck Vrabel at Brookwood reality, 575-1660, or Redwood Fly and Tackle, 526-7874.

CLUB DUES

Yearly club dues are due and payable! Many of you have met your obligation--thank you; but others still need to respond. The small amount payable is modest, to say the least, so won't you please make your payment. At this time of year we are really at rock bottom.

Make your checks payable to:  
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P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Rates:

Single member	\$15.00
Junior member	7.50
Family membership	20.00
Initiation one-time fee	10.00

RAFFLE

September's raffle promises to be full of exciting prizes. The grand prize will be a Fisher Graphite 9' rod for a 5-6 line. Of course, there will be a full line of additional prizes, including many new items. Your additional prize contributions are always appreciated; wine, flies, angling books, and so forth.

SOUTH AMERICAN FLY FISHING

The 1950's saw the introduction of American fly fishers into South America with the advent of angling literature by such renowned writers as Roderick Haig-Brown and A.J. McClane. Somewhat less known, but every bit as significant and exciting is an article written by club member, Charlie Schelter, recounting an angling adventure to Lake Titicaca in PERU in 1954 entitled Titicaca Jackpot. Charlie's article will be run in serial form in the next several issues of the CAST for your interest and enjoyment. There are two things which I find interesting about the article; first, Charlie submitted his writings to the then "Big 3" in outdoor writing--Field & Stream, Sports Afield and Outdoor Life--and each, in turn, rejected his article, but only because there was such a proliferation of articles about South America at the time! Try to find something informative and recent now, it is almost impossible; and second, the fact that not one single trout exists in Lake Titicaca, on it's feeder rivers, when once 25 pounders abounded. To further the mystery, famous oceanographer, Jaques Cousteau recently did a documentary on the now strange influz of unique frogs in the two mile high "ocean in the sky".

CASTING POOL PROJECTA Progress Report

By the end of June, thanks to the services of Elwin Millerick (who, by the way, is not a member of our club); he volunteered two weeks on a bulldozer out of personal friendship, and equipment donated for the job by club member Dick Dennis of Empire Tractor, the 180' x100' excavation for the pool proper, was done.

At that point in time your editor, who has been acting as construction foreman, left for a pre-arranged fishing trip to Alaska and all construction stopped. Upon my return on July 20, work was started on the 6 inch field drain line designed to carry surface runoff away from the pool area. That line is now in place.

Arrangements have been made with Don Dowd Co. to compact the loose soil around the pool perimeter in preparation for installation of the concrete perimeter wall and sidewalk.

Meanwhile, Recreation and Parks have arranged with Don Dowd Co. to construct a baseball field in close proximity to the Casting Pool site. The surplus earth removed in grading the ball field has been deposited in the southeast corner of the Casting Pool site where it can serve as a site for a future Clubhouse. This is being done at no expense to our Club.

In discussion with Mr. Jess Todd, Field Superintendent for Dowd, it is planned to make use of his heavy equipment to do our compaction work when he finishes the ball field, thereby saving the cost of transportation to the site. His estimate of 1/2 day's work at \$3,000.00/per day seems acceptable.

We are awaiting his availability at this writing.

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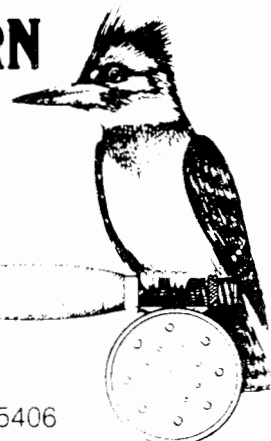
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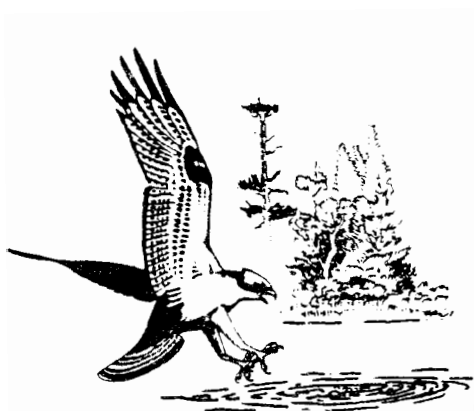
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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 10	September 1985	Number 9
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### ✦ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ✦

One of the things which binds together our membership and helps us to feel the strong pride which exists in our club is the professional quality of our guest speakers. Over the years we have been able to present the finest; such knowledgeable and entertaining people as: Lefty Kreh, Charlie Brooks, Dave Whitlock, Ernest Schwiebert, Hal Janssen, Dan Blanton, Ed Zern, Bob Quigley, Bob Nauheim, Tom Webb, Grant King, Art Bond, David Inks, James Adams, Dick May, Mike McIntyre, Bob Foster (of Garberville) and Bob Foster (of Davis) Ed Schroeder, Frank Bertania, Marv Taylor and many others.

I feel it is important to continue that fine tradition and so it is with pleasure that I announce our guest speakers for the September meeting: the internationally acclaimed angling, writing and photographic team of Mike and Christine Fong.

Michael and Christine published their first work in Outdoor Life Magazine in 1967 and have since published in virtually every outdoor publication in the country. Currently they are both on the staff of "Saltwater (California) Angler" and Mike is on the masthead of "Fly Fisherman Magazine" and "Trout", the magazine of Trout Unlimited. Their excellent presentations have been enjoyed by groups throughout the world.

Fishing is a personal experience to be enjoyed as each participant chooses. From the quiet solitude of a mountain brook to battling big game fish in the sea, there are a multitude of ways and a variety of interesting places where one can engage in this activity. All dedicated anglers have ambitions. One of the Fong's has been to become as knowledgeable and proficient as possible in the art of Stillwater Fly Fishing, the subject of their presentation. Stillwater fishing, in all aspects, offers one of the best opportunities for tempting trophy trout. It is, to be sure, one of the most challenging, yet potentially rewarding forms of fly fishing. It is definitely different from fishing moving water--the aquatic plants and animals differ, and the feeding behavior of the fish differ.

Mike and Christine's presentation will go a long way to provide a basic understanding for pursuing fish in lakes and ponds and will greatly improve your effectiveness. And don't forget to come early, at 7:00 p.m. so you may observe Mike tie the proven stillwater patterns and gain valuable knowledge from Chris about wild life photography.

RR FF

#### GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 18th  
7:00 p.m.  
Madrone School  
4550 Rinconada Dr. Santa Rosa

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

MICHAEL & CHRISTINE FONG

Subject:

Stillwater Fly Fishing

Plus Great Raffle, incl.  
2 graphite rods, 5 & 6 wt.

#### BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 17th  
7:00 p.m.  
Madrone School

*cyancy*

FLY TYING EVENING

On Wednesday, September 25th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. we will be hosting our next fly tying evening at the Law offices of Clubmembers, Ken Wilson and Craig Johnston, 2213 Mendocino Avenue, (behind the Exchange Bank). The guest instructor will be David Inks of World Wide Outfitters.

Rather than giving a structured lesson, David will be available to share helpful tips and techniques, and to critique your tying. We've been averaging 20 tyers in our previous sessions and have room for 30, so plan to join us, (whether your skills are those of a beginner or an expert) and learn from one of the world's truly great tyers, David Inks.

SYMPATHIES

Our concerns and sympathies are extended to two club members. Doug Brutacao and Dick Maddox.

While on a recent fishing trip to the Klamath River, Doug was involved in an auto accident which resulted in hospitalization for injuries to his left arm. The injury required surgery but we are assured by Doug's family that he will be out of the hospital and on the way to recovery by the time we receive our September CAST.

Dick Maddox's injury was of a much more serious and permanent nature, I am saddened to say. While undergoing recent eye surgery Dick sustained what is feared will be permanent blindness to both eyes. I am sure that you all share the feeling of shock and sorrow for this tragic news.

MEMBERSHIP

Our very active and successful membership chairperson, Karla Madsen, has made a recent career change which will affect her ability to reach as large a number of prospective new members as she has in the past. Thus, the general membership is asked to become more active in this area. As you are aware, a large percentage of our annual budget is made up of membership fees. But beyond the financial lifeblood of these fees, we should work hard to spread the word of our club and sport; without our collective and individual efforts we will not have the strong voice needed to protect and enhance our beloved sport.

Allow me to make a personal request that each of you bring at least one new member into our fold prior to the new year. Imagine what we could do with a large and active membership! Let's start with the September meeting by bringing a guest each. I feel confident that with our excellent speakers, exciting raffle, and sense of camaraderie we have a great deal to offer!

BLOOD BANK

Thanks to Dixon Browder, Peter Rizzo and Chuck Baker, our account with the Sonoma County Community Blood Bank is now at the level of 25 units. Remember, this blood is available to all members and their family members. Please consider donating to our account.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you needs to be extended to the individuals and businesses which provide clerical work for our club. Those who are called upon readily and offer so willingly are: Bob Moratto of Sonoma Properties, George Marcillac of Marcillac Insurance, Grant King of the Western Angler, Craig Johnston and Ken Wilson of the Law Offices and of course, Ben and Grace Cummings, our Cast Editor and typist.

EXTRAS

The Casting Fool received mention in the September issue of SUNSET Magazine, a sign of things to come.

The "Santa Rosa Day" at Chuck Vrabel's Klamath River Riffles Resort was a grand success. Some 40 Santa Rosans attended and a percentage of the R.V. site rentals will be donated to our Club. Bill Archuleta landed the largest salmon 17 lbs. and Fred Kontave the largest steelhead, 8½ lbs.--both landed before the "largest fish" contest. Outguess who won? Chuck of course, with a 7½ lb. steelhead. The barbecue, prepared by Stan Myersen was especially enjoyable.



I'm no millionaire--far from it; I'm just a guy who sits behind a desk most of the week, and likes to wet a lone on Sunday. But; I've had a taste of some of the world's finest rainbow trout fishing, and want to pass the word along so those of you who are as tired as I was of chasing hatchery trucks, and then finding it necessary to stretch the necks of your fish to make them legal.

For years I had heard tales of the fabulous rainbows bulging the waters of Lake Titicaca in the Andes of Peru. But to make the trip seemed like a very difficult venture--til I tried it, and discovered it's really not so rugged or remote after all. OK, so it's not like taking a bus downtown; but it's a memorable experience, and the fishing is worth a much greater effort and investment than it takes.

By inspecting its big blue blob on the map, I determined that Titicaca is a very large lake--and a long way from home. So my problems were: not knowing where to make our base, how to get there, or whom to ask for information. The best thing to do seemed to be to go and find out for myself. I discovered that passports and Peruvian tourist visas are easily obtained. For advice you can call any travel agency. There are daily flights from U.S. to Lima, Peru's beautiful capital; and the airline service within Peru is very good.

Wherever you travel in South America you will find friendly, helpful, people who speak English and who will go out of their way to be of assistance to "gringo" travelers. However, neither these people nor the travel agencies seem to know anything about the trout fishing at Lake Titicaca--except that the fish are huge and plentiful.

Wonderful! The preliminaries were taken care of and we were well on our way. My wife and I left Miami one day and had breakfast the next morning in Lima. We hopped another plane out of Lima to Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, where our connections were to be made with the train for Puno, the largest town on the western shore of Lake Titicaca. Arequipa is about two and one-half airline hours south of Lima. We stayed overnight at a very comfortable and reasonable Hotel Tourista of Arequipa. Rooms with private bath, and really excellent meals, were only \$3.50 per day. Day trains leave Arequipa three times a week for Puno, but we decided to take the night train. Pullman berths cost only \$1.50 over the regular fare. After a comfortable night's sleep, we checked into the Hotel Tourista of Puno where our rooms overlooked the Lake. Lake steamers, which carry cargo and passengers to Bolivia, were visible at the dock a few blocks away. Frankly I was amazed at the size of the ships; which had to be disassembled at the coast, carried piece by piece to this altitude of over two miles, and then re-assembled.

So--finally we were at Lake Titicaca and all ready to go fishing, but when I asked about some local hot spot where I could make my first anxiously anticipated casts, I discovered that there was no fishing to be had around Puno. How come? This is Lake Titicaca, isn't it? This is where the Big rainbows come from, isn't it? This is trout heaven, isn't it? No one seemed to have the answers to these questions; but they did know that around Juliaca, a town about twenty five miles back the way we had come, there was good fishing and we should have jumped off the train there. So back to Juliaca we went.

To be continued in the next issue of the CAST.

#### CASTING POOL PROGRESS

The main excavations are complete. Thanks to Elwin Millerick's expert land grading (donated).

Most of the drain piping is in place. All plumbing requirements have been purchased or constructed.

A manufacturer of fence products is preparing a bid on the fence and gates around the casting pit.

The sand and base rock for the pool bed and sidewalk are at the pool site. We anticipate work on the concrete perimeter wall, sidewalk and casting pit to begin about Sept. 15. With luck this work should be complete by Oct. 1st, at which time we will need many volunteers to help slide the plastic liner into place. (It weighs 6000 lbs.!) )



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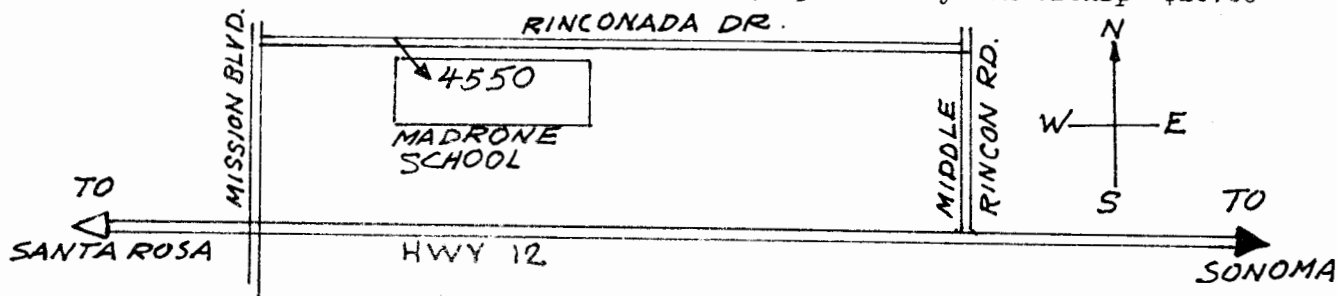
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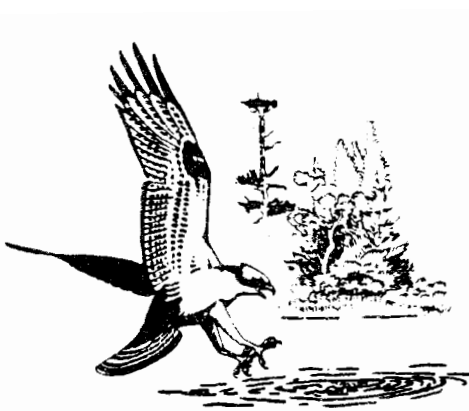
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# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 1

October 1985

Number 10

The oft heard term, "Invest in our youth, they are our country's future", is especially significant to our Club and its purpose. Well, we intend to invest and to invest heavily! We have always given credence to this concept, indeed, our by-laws specifically address our involvement with the youth of our community. In the future, however, we are anxious to provide scheduled, organized events for our member's children, as well as other interested young people throughout our community.

As a means of offering interesting and worthwhile organized events the title of "Youth Director" is being considered as a permanent position on our Board of Directors. We would like to hear from all of you concerning this decision, and most importantly, hear from anyone who would be interested in leading, co-leading, or simply participating on a "Youth Committee". Activities which we could foresee becoming involved in are: fishing trips, fly tying, rod building, casting lessons, attendance at angling shows and other associated activities which we all look forward to. Please feel free to call me at 542-6047, or to sign up at our next meeting.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Our October meeting will feature one of the north coast's premier salmon flyfishermen, Neil Light. Nothing could be more timely than his presentation entitled, "How to Locate and Fish Salmon Holding Water on North Coast Streams". In fact, the reason the meeting is being held on the 4th Wednesday in October and not the 3rd, as is normal, is that Neil cannot be enticed to leave his beloved Eel River any earlier; in other words, the salmon are in! In addition to his presentation, Neil will be tying and answering questions about effective salmon patterns from 7:00 til 7:30 p.m.

Neil has been casting flies successfully to salmon, from California to Alaska for many years. He is perhaps best known for the fly tying and fishing courses which he regularly taught at Sonoma State University during the 1970's, and for the many angling articles which he published while serving as the Outdoor Editor for the News Herald. He has also published articles in Salmon Trout & Steelhead, and Angler magazines. Perhaps least known is that Neil is also quite an accomplished saltwater angler, with the world's record fly-caught Trevaille to his credit.

Neil's presentation promises to be exciting and INFORMATIVE! You owe it to yourself not to miss his program. Don't forget to come early, at 7:00 p.m. to learn first hand how to tie Neil's favorite salmon patterns.

### GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 23

7:00 p.m.

Madrone School

4550 Rinconada, Santa Rosa

### GUEST SPEAKER

Neil Light

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 15th

7:00 p.m.

Madrone School

*Yancey*

### FLY TYING

We wish to extend a special thanks to David Inks for serving as our September guest tyer and to Ken Wilson for making his handsome board room available for the event.

On Saturday, November 9, professional fly tyer and expert instructor, Ron Vaughn, will be conducting a special tying session at Burbank's Bar & Grill, 515 4th Street Santa Rosa, from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Club member and Burbank's owner, Johnny Failing, has generously offered the use of his dining section for our pleasure. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this sure-to-be fun filled afternoon of tying. Be sure to bring your tying equipment so that Ron may provide you with personalized instruction. Equipment will be on hand for those who may not have their own. Mark your calendar!

### DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

In order that you may reserve the date in advance we are announcing the date as **WEDNESDAY, December 4th**. This will be a special dinner meeting and will be held at the Los Robles Lodge. This has become a holiday tradition, and as in the past, we will put forth extra effort to insure an especially pleasurable evening for the whole family.

No-host wet lines will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. The entree will consist of stuffed Cornish game hen with baked Alaska for dessert and wine will be included. The price will be \$18.00 and checks should be made payable to the Russian River Fly Fishers, P. O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA. 95405.

A first class presentation is being arranged with the guest speaker to be announced at both the October general meeting and in the November CAST. There will be an exciting raffle and a few unique auction items. If you would care to donate items for the raffle/auction please either call George Marcillac at 523 0908, or Yancy at 542-6047; anything would be welcome, even non-sporting items.

For all those who postmark their reservations by November 15, two special EARLY RISER SPECIAL drawings will be held. Guests will be most welcome!

Join us for the holiday dinner meeting December 4th and help us to make this one of the most enjoyable events of the year!

### FLASH!

November's guest speaker will be famous Red River guide Mike Foster, speaking on the how to whens and wheres for this grand river's mighty steelhead.

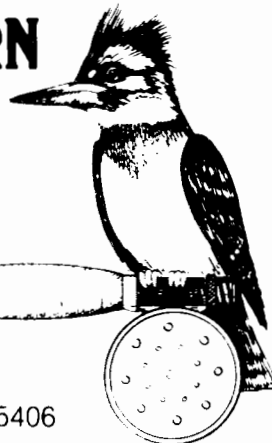
### BUDGET

The Board of Directors recently passed the 1985-86 budget which is just sky of \$10,000.00. It is amazing, isn't it, how much revenue is required to provide quality presentations, etc. Your support and participation is truly appreciated.

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## RETURN TO THE SOURCE

My daughter was delighted when I told her that I was going to New York for eight days to visit a friend and that she was welcome to join me. After all, a sixteen year old's idea of New York is the Hard Rock Cafe and other fodder for wonderous tales to tell her friends. Fortunately, we were bypassing New York City for the Catskill Mountain region and the streams that are sacred names in the history of our sport; Willo wemoc, Beaverkill, East Branch of the Delaware; each pool with a name, waters and individual fish within them that have been tested many times.

We fished every day, even on the morning of July 4th after promising my friend's wife that we would be home in time to help prepare for the neighborhood barbeque party in their backyard. We were of course late getting back but fortunately we were sober. After four days of fishing I had yet to catch a fish. Not particularly disturbing for the country was truly magnificent-hardwood forests in dozens of shades of green, lush undergrowth and grasses everywhere underfoot; clear streams with riffles, flats, pools and eddies, rhododendrons dipping their blossoms into the runs and ledges along the water's edge.

Mind you, early July is not prime trout fishing weather in upstate New York, especially for dry flies. For days the only fish I had seen feeding was under some branches overhanging a small pool in a feeder stream no more than five feet wide. But never had I a more enjoyable breakfast than in Livingston Manor in an art-deco green stooled counter cafe with a few booths at the front windows. And we had seen many trout (all browns) holding in long deep runs.

The Willowemoc, above Roscoe, in the stretch before it joins the Beaverkill is lovely water. We fished it enough to know that I would like to fish it again. In particular one long deep slick with trout at our feet at midstream as we cast for some "sippers" just below a brush pile on the far bank. My fishing partner (also my daughter) took "several" decent browns of 13"-15" and everyone released fish that day-everyone except me.

I had noticed a fish behavior that I had not seen in many years, larger fish resting no more than 12"-24" inches from shore often in water so shallow it just covered their fins. Places where the shadows stayed on the water during the heat of the day. I cast to none of these fish as I was just wading the bank making my way upstream.

Downstream from Roscoe the Beaverkill is between the old state highway and the newer four lane "quickway". The no kill sections of the stream are a tribute to the efforts of local fly fisherman. Even I caught fish in this section all browns of course but most taken in water that in western streams would be rainbow habitat i.e., aerated riffles and little pockets. We visited the site of the new Catskill museum of fly fishing, in the final stages of renovation of an old farmhouse and outbuildings on a beautiful 35 acre parcel. The new bridge across the Beaverkill to the site (complete with a casting pond of 2+ acres) had plaques acknowledging the donors with names like Joan and Lee Wulff. I pointed out the name of Hoagy Carmichael to my daughter whose response was "who?". After asking her if she had heard of "Stardust" and she answered with a blank stare I realized that middle age had indeed arrived.

As we headed for the airport for the trip back to San Francisco I felt satisfied if not sated and am already planning a return trip to this lovely region.

Russell

Now for some people the jackpot is at the end of the rainbow, but for the fisherman the jackpot is where the rainbow abounds. Juliaca is the jackpot; although you'd never think it to look at the place. The town is on a wide plain and several miles from the shores of Lake Titicaca proper. This wide plain is furrowed with beautiful trout-filled rivers. Some of these streams are small and ideal for fly fishing, and others require a strong arm applied to your spinning or casting rod to reach a deep hole under the far bank.

We discovered that there is a very active hunting and fishing club in Juliaca. There is also a fishing tackle shop that, for the locality, is amazingly well stocked. José Bernal, the proprietor of this establishment is one of the finest sportsmen and fishing companions a person could hope to find. Just a bit of recent piscatorial biography on this fellow. The name of his shop is "Todo Para La Pesca Deportiva", which translates to "Everything for Sport Fishing", and is aptly named. José came from one of the coast towns of Peru to Juliaca just about four years ago. He heard about the big trout and started fishing for them with a handline and pieces of cut bait, as is customary for ocean fishing in Peru. He became fascinated by these huge rainbows and soon discovered that fresh roe was better bait. Then one day he saw an article in a magazine which described sport fishing with rod and reel.

Shortly thereafter he ordered his first casting outfit from the States. As José progressed from primitive to modern methods in a period of a few months, he started catching more fish than anyone else around and had a wonderful time doing it. His friends became interested and he was asked to order equipment for them. Soon he found himself in the tackle business; and I feel sure that at the moment he has the most completely stocked tackle shop in Peru. I'm not exaggerating a bit when I say that it is nearly as surprising to find José Bernal's well equipped store in Juliaca in the Andes, as it would be to find Abercrombie and Fitch's huge New York sportsmen's emporium in a little hamlet in the Rocky Mountains.

Alfredo Arnillas and José Bernal are the two most enthusiastic advocates of Juliaca rainbow trout fishing, and in addition they are the government endorsed fish wardens for the area. Their main duties along these lines are destroying nets and stopping the few unscrupulous natives from dynamiting pools whenever possible. The season is only closed during the months of June and July; and even this short closed season may be removed. There is no size or number limit, although if they weren't badly hooked, we usually released fish under about four pounds. Actually, with the few sportsmen who fish the area now, there appears to be no need to release fish at all. There are so many that it would seem that if a sportsman removed all he could catch it would only make room for more to enter from the lake. Any surplus the rod and reel man might have can be given to the natives who don't have the equipment to catch their own. Dynamiting spawning beds and holes is very common, and gill nets are widely used by poachers. Even so, the streams are crammed with fish and Lake Titicaca has thousands of square miles of water filled with wonderful trout food. It may surprise you to know that these fish were first planted at Lake Titicaca less than twenty years ago.

Alfredo Arnillas is a very ardent sportsman and took us to a different stream practically every day we were in Juliaca. Even without this splendid hospitality of his, visiting fishermen could rent taxis to transport them from Juliaca to the choice fishing spots. The farthest we traveled from town was about twenty-five miles.

To be continued in the next issue of the CAST.

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BRAIDED LEADERS

Well I suppose it had to happen. Hair is braided, rope is braided, and now you can go fishing with a braided leader. The claims you hear about these range from smoother presentation to changing the water into wine. Prices range from \$4.00 to \$7.00, and of course everyone is claiming that theirs is the only genuine braid, everyone else has theirs coiled or twisted.??


I was going on a trip and thought I'd try them out. First of all, forget the instructions which come with them on how to attach them to your fly line. Mine said to strip off one inch of the plastic coating of the fly line, and then insert this into the braiding. Next I was supposed to use super glue to affix it. Uncoated fly line is like fresh, boiled, noodles. You may manage to stick it in something as big as your ear but, you never get it into the braid. Also, super glue is not the answer. I've even had people tell me that it dissolves in water eventually. What I was advised to do, and it worked, was to rough up the end of the fly line with sandpaper, and stick this end into the braid. Coat this with head cement and while the cement is still wet, wrap it with red thread. Coat this with head cement when your done and you'll end up with the leader firmly attached, and with a strike indicator on it also.

Now you're ready to go fishing!

Darn if they don't work nice! The power of the cast is transmitted through the cast to the fly. I was finding my casts laying out like I couldn't believe. Also, I found myself encountering less wind knots! Now to someone like me, this is a big plus. Normially, even on a calm day, I can manage to place a wind knot with no trouble, but on this trip I found I was spending more time fishing and less time unsnarling my tippits. I liked this! Even at the end of my flask of anti-freeze I was making good casts, and I know it wasn't because my casting had improved.

So now you're ready to go out and purchase a dozen of these, right? Well stop for awhile and consider this. If all you do is fish dry flies and subsurface nymphs, then these are for you. But, if you do any fishing more than a foot below the surface, then don't buy these. I had one attached to my sinking tip line and it didn't work at all. The braiding tends to trap air in it and this causes it to float, just like a cork. I ended up with a sinking line, a weighted, sinking nymph, and a floating leader. Nothing I could do would cause it to sink; soap, spit, leader sink, or even throw rocks at it, it wouldn't sink to my satisfaction. I missed a few strikes because of it.

In the end, it's up to you. If you fish the surface only, the braided leaders will work fine for you. If however, you fish below the surface, stay with what you've been using. You'll feel better in the long run.



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#### CASTING POOL PROGRAM NOTES

We soon will have a new casting pool. You might wonder what it can mean to you. First it will be a place where young and old, men and women, can learn the fundamentals of Fly and Plug Casting. Second, it can be a place where you can become a better fisherman.

The American Casting Association (A.C.A.) has developed a series of events used in national and international tournament casting. You may say that you're not interested in tournament casting. Well and good--but at least seven of these events involve skills that are basic to fishing success--i.e., Dry Fly Accuracy, Trout Fly Accuracy, Bass Bug Accuracy and Anglers Fly Distance (to those of us on the west coast this becomes the Steelhead Distance Event).

In addition there are three plug accuracy events closely related to fishing skills; these are 1/4 oz. plug accuracy, 3/8 oz. plug accuracy and 5/8 oz. plug accuracy.

Learning to cast these events is in itself a great pleasure and satisfaction; even though one never enters a tournament one can compete with himself by improving his score. As you begin to consistently drop your fly or plug into or near a 30 inch circle at various distances, there is no doubt your fishing score will also improve. Acquiring skill in these events will subsequently increase your knowledge and mastery of your equipment.

Last, but certainly not least of the benefits is the fellowship that comes with comparing notes and learning new skills together.

In the future issues of CAST we will present a resumé of the rules for casting these events most related to fishing techniques.

EMIL LEWIS





# The Cast

## The Russian River Fly Fishers

VOLUME 10

NOVEMBER 1985

NUMBER 11

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is a month of significant change for California sportsmen. With winter rains, river mouths are opened, making passage for the first runs of steelhead and salmon. At the same time we see the regular trout season drawing to a close. The first frosts appear and, with the temperature changes, leaves drop from deciduous trees to the damp ground and skies begin to darken. Summer equipment is oiled and packed away; winter equipment is retrieved. Whether it be field or stream, the magic that binds us all together to this time of change affects us deeply and we too are stirred to go afield.

### GUEST SPEAKER

*Yancey*

Our November meeting will feature one of northern California's most knowledgeable and successful steelhead fly fishermen--Mike Foster. Mike's presentation is entitled "Eel River Steelhead" and will focus primarily on how to locate and fish for steelies in the beautiful and extremely productive South Fork of the Eel. In addition to his presentation, Mike will be tying flies and answering questions about effective Eel River steelhead patterns from 7 to 7:30.

Mike was a part of the group of flyfishers who were lured to our mother river, the Russian, during its phenomenal heyday in the early 1950's. During the 1960's Mike was drawn to the Garberville area of the Eel's South Fork. During the 20 years he has devoted himself to the Eel, Mike has gained a respected reputation as one of the finest and most successful guides on the Eel in general and the South Fork in particular. For 12 years Mike has owned and guided out of his own flyshop in the Miranda area near Garberville, and been an instructor and seminar leader for the Fenwick Fly Fishing Schools. Mike has also published in several significant angling magazines. In addition, Mike also originated the famous Egg Head and Sparkle Shrimp series of steelhead and salmon flies.

Mike's presentation promises to be filled with specific information on how successfully to fish the South Fork of the Eel River. And you'll want to come early, at 7 P.M. in order to learn first hand how to tie Mike's favorite steelhead pattern.

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We have a need for four people to join our Board. Won't you please think about joining our team? We have an efficient and hard working group.

It is fulfilling to work with these fine people, and truly enjoyable. The commitment entails coming to the Board Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month and participating on projects as they arise.

Please join us. We need your help!

GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday, November 20th  
7 P.M.

Madrone School  
4550 Rinconada, Santa Rosa

GUEST SPEAKER

MIKE FOSTER

BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 19th  
Madrone School, 7 P.M.



CASTING POOL PROGRESS REPORT

It has been nearly five years since Liz Wray, who was then our Club President, proposed that our Club sponsor a public pool specifically adapted to practice casting.

There had been previous attempts in this direction by the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League but those facilities, which comprised a floating platform in Lake Ralphine in Howarth Park, were not much used, largely due to the hazard of backcasts in an area where casual passersby might have been injured.

Our first object was to find an area of level ground, easily accessible to the public. Fortunately such an area was made available through the generosity of the Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department.

This important first step was followed by a vigorous program of fund raising by our Club to generate a fund deemed sufficient to cover the cost of construction of a pool meeting the specifications of the design, which entailed a pool one foot deep with a heavy duty plastic liner. The pool is 100 feet by 180 feet surrounded by a 6 foot wide sidewalk, and equipped with a concrete dry pit 4 feet deep to simulate a deep wading situation.

Except for some deepening of a part of the field drain lines, construction is substantially complete.

During the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd we had the big work party to spread the 5000pound plastic liner across the pool bed. To begin, it was necessary to smooth the ridges of sand in the pool to a flat surface. That problem was solved by hitching Bob Morrison's jeep to a stack of long 2 x 12's and ridden by Charlie Schelter a-la-water skier, round and round til everything was smooth. You shoulda-been there! It had to be seen to be believed!

Thanks to the following good workers we got the liner in place and fastened to the perimeter wall as designed while the weather held good. If we have failed to note every helper who was there it is because we were all too busy to keep up with the comings and goings of the many members as the day's work progressed. we apologise for any omissions.

Some of those who were there are:

George Caywood, who brought food and beverages. Bob Morrison, whose jeep saved the day. Charlie Schelter who rode the 2 x 12 chariot. Carl Langeberg, Jackson Art, Ron Lindgren, Russ Lochner, Emil Lewis, Joe Banovich, Henry Von der Mehden, Spencer Bader, William Laurie, Tony Hebner, John Haku, Fenton Cates, Ronald Lindy--who all did so much to help fasten the liner to the perimeter walls. 560 feet of it!

To summarize; the construction of the pool and facilities is complete. A Committee is being established to develop with the Recreation and Parks Department a use schedule for public and club access. Liz Wray and Bob Moratto have held preliminary discussions to this purpose with R. & P. Department Manager, Charles Hoefer.

Ben H. Cummings

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Reservation for  
Holiday Dinner Meeting December 4, 1985  
Los Robles Lodge

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners at \$18.00 each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No Host Wet Lines 6:00 P.M. Dinner Served 7:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker----Charles Brooks

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## TITICACA JACKPOT, Continued

The general schedule we followed while fishing here was not a strenuous one. Usually we would arise about 6:30 in the morning, and Bernal and Arnillas would join us for breakfast at 7:00. By the time we had finished breakfast and driven out to the river it would be about 8:00 a.m., and the sun would have chased the night chill from the air. From the time we arrived at the fishing spot until 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. some member of the party nearly always had a trout on. Sometimes we were all playing rainbows at once. Being a stranger to these prolific waters, I laughed off some good advice when Arnillas and Bernal suggested that I use larger lures and catch larger fish. Frankly I was delighted because in some spots I would hook a fish almost every cast. The trouble with this was that Bernal and Arnillas didn't want to be bothered with the smaller fish, and at the end of a day's fishing would have several more really good ones than I had. The bodies of the lures I used were less than two inches in length, whereas the use of lures of three inches or longer resulted in a much more impressive bunch of lunkers to take home.

After about 11:00 a.m. the fish seemed to quit feeding quite abruptly. Perhaps in typical South American fashion they were taking their siestas. At any rate this was the time for us to return to town for lunch, and maybe a siesta too. About 4:00 p.m. those voracious rainbows would start hitting again, and there was plenty of action from that time till the sun dropped over the mountains, and it became uncomfortably chilly. Irma, my little wife, who doesn't care for a rugged fishing trip, thought that this routine was swell and had a wonderful time with some dandy lunkers that she hooked. She wants to go again.

Hotel accommodations in Juliaca are not luxurious, but they are quite liveable. The rates are about \$1.50 a day including meals.

The most productive tackle is either spinning or casting gear, and lures about the size of those used for large black bass, or for steelhead and salmon in the big streams of the West Coast. I used a spinning outfit and six pound monofilament. A disappointing but very exciting experience, when I lost the biggest rainbow I have ever made connections with, would prompt me to use at least eight or probably ten pound line on a return trip. The heavy line is an advantage at Juliaca as the lures used are leage and heavy enough so that a light line is not required for long casts; and the trout are not of the wary, well educated, type which might shy away from a slightly visible line.

That huge rainbow mentioned gave me my biggest thrill of the trip. Jose' took me to a pet spot of his on the shore of the lake itself. At this beautiful place a steep rocky mountain rose directly from the beach to a great height, with huge rocks along the shore which we had to scramble over and around. From the same hundred yards or so of shoreline that we fished, Jose' in one day last spring took five rainbows that totaled, believe it or not, 118 pounds. You don't quite have to be a quiz kid to see that those five fish averaged about twenty-three pounds apiece, and there are lots more of them there growing bigger every day.

After arriving at this spot we hurriedly set up our tackle and I climbed to the top of a house-sized boulder, so that I could sail my lure out as far as possible over the crystal clear water. On Jose's advice, the spoon was allowed to sink for about fifteen seconds before the retrieve was started and then brought in with a slow erratic motion. We called the lure a Peruvian Spoon. Peru's flag is red and white and this spoon was the well known red and white wobbler which is made by practically every tackle company.

My third cast was a long one and just as the lure was about to surface at the end of the retrieve, this monster came up in a rush and cleared the water as he smashed the spoon. Bernal, who is familiar with rainbows of that size, said immediately that it was a twenty-five pounder. I am not familiar with such trout; but I know other fish which commonly run that size, and I am sure that it was over twenty pounds. Anyway, once it had started its first long run, I wasn't even able to slow it down. After some hundred yards had screamed off the reel, the line parted somewhere close to the Peruvian Spoon. Maybe it was cut on a rock; and maybe in the excitement I snubbed him a bit too tight, because as the line diminished rapidly on the spool I applied what I thought was just a touch of finger pressure in an attempt to turn him before he reached the end of that six pound monofilament. At any rate there was no quick jerk when he broke free, the line just suddenly went slack and the Peruvian Spoon was lost to a tremendous rainbow! (to be continued) Charlie Schelter

## ONE OF THOSE DAYS

The interstate drops gently from the border across the open ranchlands. A few local cars and trucks, but most of the traffic seems to be in a hurry to reach more typical Rocky Mountain terrain. This is high desert country, of sagebrush hills and a little scrubtimber in the draws. The days can be warm if not hot, at least in the summer, and the winters are tough. This is the land of the "1060" cattle ranch- where the cattle have to run 60 miles per hour with mouths 10 feet wide in order to get enough to eat. The only visible water aside from the irrigation ditches is a slow moving river winding down the valley before it joins a reclamation reservoir. This does not fit one's picture of trout country.

The Interstate crosses a small stream (a Creek according to the maps), which is almost dry. I leave the highway and follow a gravel road for ten miles up towards the mountains to the west. The road passes through ranchland and then climbs into the mouth of a very narrow canyon. There is an occasional conifer but the vegetation is mostly sagebrush, and of course willows in the stream bottom. The creek alongside the road is freeflowing and quite wadeable. There is much more water here than down below; which is not uncommon in this country as the downstream ranchers dewater the streams for irrigation.

Although it is late summer (almost September) there are the usual smatterings of campers and trailers at unimproved campsites along the creek. I stop and make friendly conversation with a few of these folks and although the individual responses are varied, the theme is the same "this is a nice place but the fishing is slow for pan sized trout". I don't contradict them. Not because I'm particularly polite, but I remember a wise old man telling me "son, don't confuse your wanting to tell someone something, with their need to know". Good advice especially where treasured fishing secrets are involved.

The canyon suddenly widens into a small valley with wall to wall meadow. The archetypical western meadow stream; three miles of stream for every mile of meadow. Meandering loops with deep undercut banks and wide flats between. The average fisherman walking this stretch will see a few small rainbows and cutthroats. All native fish of 7"-11", and of course the deep holes are full of "trumpet nosed trout" otherwise known as mountain whitefish. A lot of these will exceed 16" and they all too readily come to the fly. However there is another population here; of elusive and secretive browns and rainbows that hold along the banks, often in rather shallow water.

This was one of those perfect days. Bright, clear and sunny with the snapping sound of 'hoppers on the wing. I crossed the stream with a new Scott 9' for a 5 weight line that I was fishing for the first time. (Having broken my Orvis Limestone in three places earlier in the summer.) I began working the far bank with long casts over the intermediate water of 12"-18" in depth. It could have been casting practice for there was no sign of fish. The Scott was perfect for turning the large Hopper-tie over with a **plop!** right against the far bank. Precision casting is a must, for the fly needs to be no more than 3" from the bank. For me this is easier said or thought than done, for the meadow grasses and lupines often hang down into the water making a nice target for the fly. Properly presented the takes are savage and the flashes of orange and yellow from the sides of the large browns were in magnificent contrast to the gravel of the stream bottom.

The solitude of the day was broken only by the acrobatics of the rainbows as they exploded from the water when they felt the hook. I landed many fish that day, all in excess of 14" and a few larger than 19". It gave me a special feeling as I released each one and watched them swim slowly back to their cover. This is truly a wonderful and little known resource and I often catch myself day-dreaming at my desk in Santa Rosa of the next time and that one big brown that I know will be there.



MORE ABOUT OUR HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 4th

This annual affair over the years has become one of our most popular meetings. It is usually booked to capacity well ahead of the cut-off date (November 30th).

For this occasion we have for our guest speaker the famous angler and author Charlie Brooks.

Mr. Brooks, a retired Air Force major has devoted his time toward an intensive study of trout fishing, especially in the West Yellowstone area where he spends his summers. In addition to numerous articles in "Fly Fisherman", "The Fly Fisher", the "American Fly Fisher" and "Gray's Sporting Journal", Mr. Brooks is noted for the following books: "Larger Trout for the Western Trout Fisherman", "The Trout and the Stream", "Lymph Fishing for Larger Trout", "The Living River", "Fishing Yellowstone Waters" and soon to be released, "The Henry's Fork".

About the dinner program--No-host wet lines will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00. The entree will consist of stuffed Cornish game hens with baked Alaska for dessert, and wine will be included. The price will be \$18.00 (which is all inclusive) and checks should be made payable to the RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Remember, family members and guests are most welcome!

There will be an exciting raffle and a few special auction items--guided fly fishing trips, Lodging on a famous river, wine, fly plates, fine art, etc. If you would care to donate items for the raffle/auction, please call either George Marcillac at 523-0908, or Yancey at 542-6047; anything would be welcome, even non-sporting items.

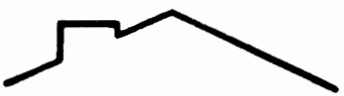
For all those who postmark their reservations by Monday, November 25, two EARLY RISER SPECIAL Drawings will be held for quality items.

SPECIAL NOTE

Charlie Brooks will also be available the afternoon of our dinner, Dec. 4th from 1 to 5 P.M. at the Western Angler to answer your questions and to autograph his books. Let me invite you to take advantage of this time to meet with one of the world's truly great flyfishers.

LADIES' FLY FISHING SEMINAR

The Western Angler is offering a unique opportunity for women to participate in a special day-long Ladies' Fly Fishing Seminar to be held in early December. Topics to be covered will be: equipment, casting, knots, fishing techniques and other pertinent information. Also included will be a special box luncheon and a preview of ladies' angling fashions. This sounds like a great opportunity for women to join together in a friendly, uncritical environment to gain both beginning and intermediate fly fishing knowledge and techniques. The price will be \$20.00 (which includes lunch) and sign ups should take place at the Western Angler prior to December 1st.



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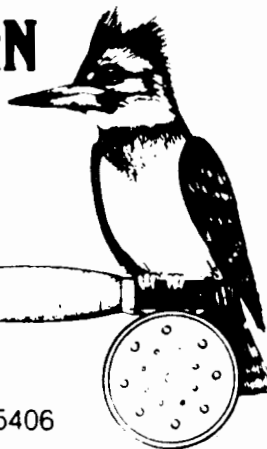
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