



Volume 14  
Number 1  
January, 1989

## PRESIDENT'S (Friend) MESSAGE

Bob Moratto got to me before I figured out that one of my resolutions this year should be to say "no" more. Or actually, I visited him in the hospital before I had that figured out. (Yes, he is recovering speedily!)

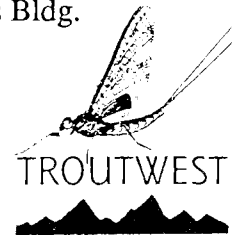
I had already thought about some others. I guess a "fresh slate" lets one do that. I'm going to read more. I'm going to spend more time away . . . not "busy" . . . just Fred and me and our dog. I'm going to devote more time to things that really seem important.

When you think of your year, remember your club and the excellent events that many people are working hard to provide for you. Bob Sisson, Brian Wong, and Emil Lewis put on casting clinics that are good fun . . . and they do help your fishing. Ken Magoon has planned some fine monthly outings for the next year. Bob Morrison is lending his office for fly-tying meetings (how about a class?) Tim Grogan plans just a couple conservation projects . . . but they are going to be effective. Dwight Longuevan is straightening out our membership obligations. I have some great programs planned for you in the next six months, Chuck Stranahan in February; Chico Fernandez in March (that's a dinner on Tuesday, March 14); and Lily Wong in April . . . just for starters. But it takes more than planning to make great meetings. It takes Russ Lockner and Bob Neill, the Raffle Brothers; an excellent president to run things; and most importantly, your attendance.

## GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, January 18 - 7:00 p.m.  
Recreation & Parks Bldg.  
415 Steele Lane  
Speaker:

T. J. Laviolette-



"Great Montana Fishing" Missouri River, Bighorn, private spring creeks near Livingston.

Board of Directors Meeting:  
Monday, January 16th - 7 p.m.  
Warrack Hospital Board Room  
4788 Hoen Ave.

So what did I want to say about all these people and events? **Participate!** Put things on your calendar and get out there. These things are being organized for you. Or if you have better ideas, tell us.

But as Bill Laurie and Mike Hawes can tell you, when Bob Moratto asks you to write a President's message, say "**no**".

**Happy 1989!**

## DFG OFFERS LIFETIME HUNTING, FISHING LICENSES

In September 1988, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 2458 (Assemblyman Phil Wyman, R-Tehachapi) authorizing the Department to provide lifelong hunting and fishing licenses to California residents over the age of 16. Revenue from the sale of these licenses is intended to provide a permanent source of funding to preserve wildlife in the state and will be used for management and conservation of game fish and animals, as well as habitat improvement.

Effective January 1, 1989, the Department of Fish and Game will be offering California residents lifelong hunting and fishing privileges through licenses that provide holders with a lifetime of opportunities to enjoy the resources they protect. The fee for a lifetime sportman's license authorizing the holder to the legal take of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles or amphibians in California will be \$1,200 for a resident of the state under the age of 40 years. For those 40 years old and older, that price drops to \$825. In addition, the Department will offer lifetime fishing licenses for those not interested in hunting. Lifetime fishing licenses will be available to California residents 40 years of age or older for \$450. For those under 40, that price is \$600. The license allows its

holder lifelong sportfishing opportunities for fish, amphibia or reptiles anywhere in California, in accordance with the law.

During the past five years, hunting and fishing license fees have risen considerably. Lifetime licenses offer the sportperson a hedge against inflation and immunity to any future license fee increases while being able to enjoy either hunting or angling for many years to come. Revenue generated from the sale of such licenses will be placed in a trust account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The Department will use only the interest earned to pay for programs needing long-term funding.

Lifetime licenses will only be issued at the DFG License and Revenue Branch office in Sacramento, not from sporting good stores and other outlets that sell annual hunting and fishing licenses. Applications will be available January 1, 1989. They must be renewed annually, a procedure where no fees will be paid but licensees will be expected to file residency and identification information with the Department. In addition, purchase of a lifetime license does not exempt the holder from having to annually purchase the various stamps and tags needed to hunt or fish certain species.

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## DFG TO TEST 5-YEAR INLAND SALMON PROGRAM

State fish and game officials have announced they will raise chinook salmon in three state hatcheries in California from eggs of adult fish, which are normally disposed of for research purposes. The resulting fingerlings will be stocked in four lakes and reservoirs as part of a five-year trial inland salmon program.

Anadromous fish — like chinook salmon — normally return from migrations to ocean waters to spawn in the same freshwater stream beds where they were born three to four years ago. But research of salmon in the Great Lakes region has found that anadromous fish in landlocked bodies of water can thrive, without migrating to salt water, although some adaptability is required before a population becomes self-sustaining. At present, there are no self-sustaining

inland salmon fisheries in California and fish and game officials periodically restock lakes and reservoirs with salmon raised from eggs obtained from out-of-state sources.

Recent attempts by the DFG to procure disease-free chinook salmon eggs from sources outside of California have failed. Unable to secure healthy salmon eggs from sources outside California, but prevented from dropping the program by a storm of public protest, DFG officials elected to use surplus adult fish, that were routinely dispatched before they spawned and never contributed to natural or hatchery production. DFG will maintain strict control over the rearing of eggs to ensure they remain disease-free.

## POOL CAPTAINS CORNER

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th.

TIME: 11 AM - 2 PM

PLACE: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave. Santa Rosa.

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be featured. Bring the equipment you wish to work with.

If the rain season has returned it will be necessary to park outside the main gate. In the event of a storm the event will be postponed until the March 19th clinic.

### HOW GOOD ARE YOU ?

A new event has been added to the clinic format. This adds up to distance casting proficiency.

1. A distance casting achievement display board is in the planning stage.
2. Four distances are presently set to shoot for.  
80', 100', 120', and 150'.
3. Achievement patches may be in your future.
4. To qualify (Catch 22) you must make your mark at a scheduled clinic at the pond, have your qualifying cast witnessed and verified by a casting pond coach.
5. Qualifiers will have their names published in the Cast monthly.

### DISTANCE QUALIFIERS. December 4th clinic.

<u>80'</u>	<u>100'</u>
#1. BOB SISSON	#1. EMIL LEWIS
#2. EMIL LEWIS	#2. BRIAN WONG
#3. LIZ FLYNN	
#4. BRIAN WONG	

Bob Sisson  
Pool Captain

**POOL CAPTAINS CORNER  
CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER**

**DATE:** SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

**TIME:** 11 AM - 2 PM

**PLACE:** Casting pond. Dan Galvin  
Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley  
Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

**BRING:** the equipment you like to work  
with. Beginners instruction and shooting-  
head proficiency will be featured.

The area around the pond is muddy now  
and parking will have to continue to be  
restricted to the regular paved parking area.

If a winter storm is paying us a visit the  
clinic will be postponed until the  
scheduled February 19th date.

Bob Sisson  
Casting pool captain

HERMAN By Unger

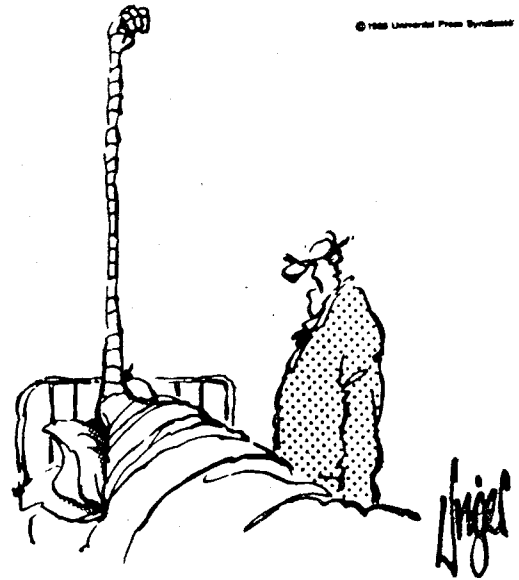
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate

## LAKE BERRYESSA TROUT REWARD ANGLERS

Anglers at Lake Berryessa have a little incentive from the Department of Fish and Game when it comes to catching trout.

The Department recently released 300 tagged rainbow trout in the lake and will pay anglers a \$5.00 reward for turning in each tag. From the tags, DFG fishery biologists can extrapolate growth and survival rates for different varieties of rainbow trout and use the information in determining which variety is best suited for similar habitats, the best times for planting trout, the number of fish most ideally compatible for the lake, the success potential for such plantings, as well as other trout management questions. Such information should help the Department build a better fishing program for Lake Berryessa anglers.

DFG advised anglers to return any tags they have to the Department of Fish and Game, 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA 94558, or mail tags to P.O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, care of the Department of Fish and Game.



"So what did you do, Don, when you ran out of backing?"

### COMING EVENTS

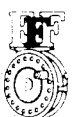
Feb 15, 6:30  
Park & Rec.  
Chuck Stianahan  
"Discover the Bitterroot"

Russian River Fly Fishers, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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otherwise*

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### HOW WELL CAN YOU HANDLE A LONG CAST?

A new distance casting proficiency event has been added to the casting pond clinic format.

1. Five distances have been established as achievement levels to shoot for. These are: 60', 80', 100', 120' and 150'.

The length of the pond is 180'. This distance will also be a recognized level of achievement if anyone can reach it.

2. A distance casting achievement board is in the planning stage. It will display the names of all qualifiers together with identification of the rod wt. class and the type of line used; i.e., (6 wt. - SH) or (8 wt. FL).

3. Achievement patches to use with your regular club patch are being considered. These may show, for example, — RRFF 80' Club —

4. Qulifiers will have their names published monthly in the “Cast”.

5. To qualify (CATCH 22) you must make your mark at a scheduled clinic or other club event at the casting pond, have your cast witnessed and the qualification verified by a casting pond coach. American Casting Club tackle rules will be followed. Example, minimum running line weight allowed is 15# test.

Coaching will be available to help all of you be even better than you are.

### DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

#### December 4th clinic

60'	80'	100'
#1. Bob Sisson	#1. BobSisson	#1. Emil Lewis
#2. Emil Lewis	#2. Emil Lewis	#2. Brian Wong
#3. Liz Flynn	#3. Liz Flynn	
#4. Brian Wong	#4. Brian Wong	

#### January 15th clinic

60'	80'	100'
#5. Bob Neil	#5. Bob Neil	#1 Bob Sisson

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

TIME: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PLACE: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be featured. bring the equipment you wish to work with.

Distance casting qualification will be in progress.

If the rain season has returned it will be necessary to park outside the main gate. In the event of a storm the event will be post-poned until the March 19th clinic.

DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 19th

TIME: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PLACE: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be featured. Bring the equipment you wish to work with.

Distance casting qualification will be in progress.

If the rain season is still with us or it has not dried up it will be necessary to park outside the main gate. In the event of a storm the event will be postponed until the April 16th clinic.



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the CAST

Volume 14  
Number 2  
February 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You've got a great club going! Thanks to the generosity and dedicated work of our Board Members and other volunteers, the administration of our organization is once again whole and healthy. All of our committees are now not only fully manned, but they are very active and aggressively performing jobs that should make us all feel delighted with our committee leaders. Let's take a look.

Vice-president **Bob Morrison**, in addition to his other duties, has agreed to be the chairman of the youth committee. His goal is to take some youngsters fishing very soon. Bob says "fishing first and casting skills later". He'd appreciate your help and he is also looking for donations of spinning rods and tackle. Can you help?

**Dennis Amato** has agreed to take over the Secretarial duties from Liz Flynn for the remaining term of our fiscal year. Special thanks to Liz for her continued generosity and to Dennis for his willingness to do this important job.

Treasurer **Mike Lisignoli** continues to keep us well informed on our finances.

**Tim Grogan** is doing an excellent job as our Conservation Chairman and among other things is working on projects for the Russian River and Salmon Creek.

**Dwight Longuevan** is making excellent progress as our Membership chairman with the able assistance of **George Marcillac**.

**Ken Magoon** is the enthusiastic leader of our Outings. He has conducted some excellent trips already and has some even better ones planned.

**Bob Sisson**, the Pond Captain, has just initiated a distance casting contest. There's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm about this. Read the Cast for further details.

Each of our monthly programs seems better than the last one; the next two will feature **Chuck Stranahan** and **Chico Fernandez**. I can't thank **Liz Flynn** enough for her great efforts on this committee.

## GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, February 15, - 7:00 p.m.  
Recreation & Parks Bldg.  
415 Steele Lane  
Speaker: **Chuck Stranahan**  
"Discover the Bitterroot"



Board of Directors Meeting:  
Monday, February 13 - 7 p.m.  
Check with **Bob Moratto** for location

## COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6:30  
Dinner Meeting  
**Chico Fernandez**  
Holiday Inn \$15.00

**Russ Lockner** and **Bob Neill** consistently give us great raffle prizes each meeting. It takes a lot of work and we appreciate their efforts.

The printing of the Cast would not be possible without a lot of hours spent each month by **Mike Hawes** and **Bill Laurie**. Special thanks to both of you.

Thank you all for your involvement!

## CONSERVATION NOTES

I'm sure most of us are aware of the problems created when the Bureau of Reclamation sells water to agriculture without regard for fisheries. I witnessed this first hand earlier this year on the American River. The Bureau depleted the water supply in Folsom Lake to the point that natural reproduction of the salmon was virtually impossible.

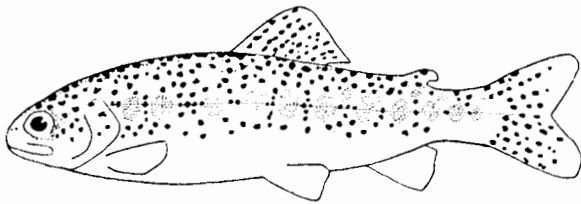
**Trout Unlimited** has asked all those concerned to write their representatives about their concern for water exports affecting the Delta and San Francisco bay fisheries.

Current studies are showing a dramatic decline in the salmon and striped bass populations as a direct result of water exports to the south.

The following are possible topics to be addressed along with names and addresses of representatives who can affect this problem..

Please take an active part in the future of our fisheries.

Release 'em alive.



*Following are some of the issues you may want to raise:*

1. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires full consideration of environmental impacts and alternative actions before the Bureau of Reclamation negotiates or executes any long term contracts. Insist on a detailed environmental impact statement on all Central Valley Project water contract renewals.

2. Demand a public hearing in California, especially in the San Francisco Bay/Delta area. The water contracts of the Central Valley Project have a direct bearing on the health of the Delta and the Bay. The Bureau's regulations allow for public meetings and hearings on any proposed long-term contracts. No hearings have been proposed by the Bureau in connection with the Friant Dam water contract renewals.

3. In view of the lame duck administration, insist that the Department of the Interior delay execution of any long-term water contracts until after the new Congress and administration take office in January, 1989. Urge that the Bureau be allowed only to sign a one year interim contract until full NEPA compliance has been achieved on all water contract renewals.

4. 40 year water contracts are too long in view of the state's changing water needs. The fact is that there is just not enough water to go around. It is absurd to require some water users, such as cities, to cut back in drought years but to allow agriculture to have all of its allotment based on contracts signed decades before. Shorter contracts would allow flexibility in water planning.

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*Here are the addresses of some people who can affect this issue:*

**Hon. Alan Cranston**  
45 Polk Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 556-8440

**Hon. Pete Wilson**  
450 Golden Gate Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 556-4307

**Hon. George Miller, Chairman**  
Subcommittee on Water and  
Power Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

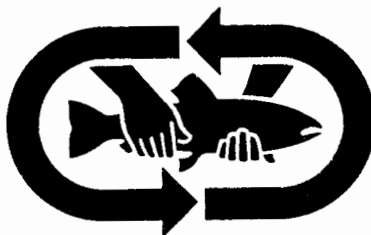
**Hon. Barbara Boxer**  
88 Belvedere  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 457-7272

**Hon. Donald Hodel**  
Secretary of the Interior  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Mr. Don Maughn, Chairman**  
Resources Control Board  
California State Water  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95801

and your other representatives in Washington.

When you write, use your own words. Short, handwritten notes are sufficient. It is often the volume of mail on a subject, rather than its content which affects the views of government officials.





### RAFFLE MATCHES

On behalf of the club we would like to thank all of the persons whose generous donations made our annual Christmas Dinner Raffle such a great success.

**WESTERN ANGLER:** A Sage 996 RP Rod and 509 Reel. A D.B. Dun Rod Case, a pair of Action Optics Polarized Fishing Glasses and 2 leader kits.

**GEYSER PEAK WINERY:** 2 cases of Fume Blanc Wine.

**LYLE'S TACKLE:** 2 fly casting lessons by Brian Wong.

**CLASSIC CAR WASH:** 10 Free car washes.

**GORMAN DESIGN:** 4 sets of ear rings.

**MARIN SURPLUS:** A trout landing net.

**RUSS AND VICKIE LOCKNER:** A \$100 reel repair certificate from Bill Archuleta Reel Works.

We would also like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to **Western Angler** for their generous discount on all items purchased by the club for our raffles.

Russ Lockner and Bob Neill, co-raffle directors.

### No Smoking Allowed!!!

The people at the Park & Rec Center have complained to the club about members (especially men) smoking in the building.

There is no smoking allowed.  
This includes the Men's Room...



### Next Outing

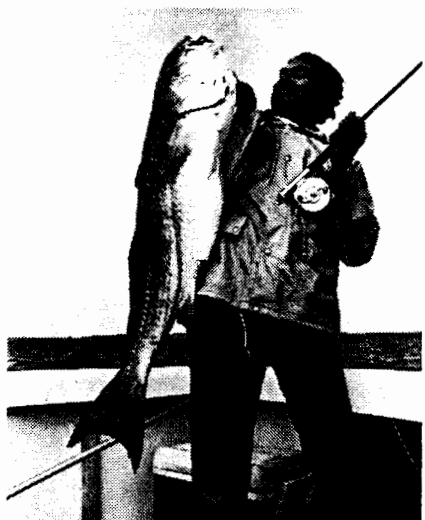
Pyramid Lake - April 7, 8, 1989. Details at next meeting or contact Ken Magoon, 527-8376. Space is limited at luxurious Cosby's Lodge. Cost is very reasonable.

Russian River Fly Fishers, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

PROUDLY PRESENT

J. M. "CHICO" FERNANDEZ

Outdoor writer, consultant to Scientific Ang  
photographer, I.G.F.A. World Record Holder  
angler extraordinaire!

"BONEFISHING AROUND THE WORLD"

Tuesday, March 14, 1989  
Holiday Inn Sonoma County  
3345 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

6:30 p.m. Cocktails / 7:30 p.m.

MENU: Beef Taco, Chicken Enchilada, C  
Mixed Green Salad with House Vina  
Rice and Beans  
Salsa and Tortilla Chips  
Hot Tortillas and Butter  
Coffee and Decaf

\$15.00 per person



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RIF



Volume 14  
Number 3  
March 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a child, perhaps eight or nine years old, I remember one lazy, early summer day lying on the grass in the backyard, watching bright, odd-shaped individual clouds floating lazily in the sky above. A young lad's imagination, if allowed to wander freely and unsobered by reality, can perform marvelous feats. Were these clouds God's angels protecting His creatures below? Or were they hiding Martians preparing to attack us? Perhaps they were the eyes of the universe spying on me. I better be good! Or were they just ordinary clouds gathering moisture in preparation for a summer shower? On Saturday my father would be taking me fishing in one of the local creeks. Please, no rain on Saturday!

The clouds started to dissipate. There was more blue sky. I really don't think it will rain Saturday. Hey, I better check my pole. In those days it was a fishing *pole*, not a fishing *rod*. In those days for me it was worms, not flies. In those days it was how many fish could you catch. Limits, though generous, were for others to observe. All the fish I caught I would keep and eat. Unfortunately, conservation and environmental impacts and protection of a wild fish were never even thought of, let alone considered or discussed. I'm not too proud

of that, but that's the way it was then. I'm sure that I myself am responsible to an extent for the near depletion of trout in some of our scenic creeks. *Mea culpa*.

How time changes our awareness and understanding. Then I was "dumb" because I was uninformed. Today most of us practice conservation in a responsible manner and I'm proud of that. Our being "dumb" is changing to being "informed."

A lot of the information we get today regarding conservation comes from organizations like the Russian River Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, Cal Trout, and others. They deserve our enthusiastic support and participation. But we still have a ways to go. Today some of my non-fishing friends think I'm "dumb" for releasing most of the fish I catch. But the impetus for conservation is definitely on the plus side, thanks to people like our members and others who realize that fishing is more important than catching.

I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting with well-known saltwater expert Chico Fernandez.

### General Meeting

CHICO FERNANDEZ  
Dinner Meeting  
Tuesday  
March 14  
6:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
\$15

### Board of Directors

Monday  
March 13  
7 p.m.  
Check with  
Bob Maratto  
for location

### Coming Events

LILY WONG  
Fly Fishing For Trout  
In Some Lesser-Known  
Northern California  
Waters  
Wednesday  
April 19



# LYME DISEASE

Now what? A new terrestrial to tie up? No, but this could tie *you* up for a while!

The Western Black-Legged Tick is known to cause Lyme disease (first isolated from the California species in 1984). As you go afield during the winter and spring months to your favorite steelhead rivers or bass ponds or trout lakes, be aware that *Ixodes pacificus* is waiting in the vegetation for you to brush against him.

## SYMPTOMS

Early symptoms include a characteristic spreading rash accompanied by flu-like symptoms, fever, and aches. Possible complications in the heart and/or nervous system may occur, as well as severe arthritis. The disease commonly has these three stages:

**Stage 1** The first recognizable symptom usually is a characteristic rash, *erythema chronicum migrans* (ECM), that occurs 3 to 30 days after the bite of an infected tick. ECM is a red, blotchy, circular, expanding rash that may grow to several inches in diameter and clears centrally, producing a ring-like appearance. One or more ECM lesions may occur, not necessarily at the tick-bite site. ECM may be preceded or accompanied by flu-like symptoms. These symptoms may persist, change, disappear, and reappear intermittently for several weeks.

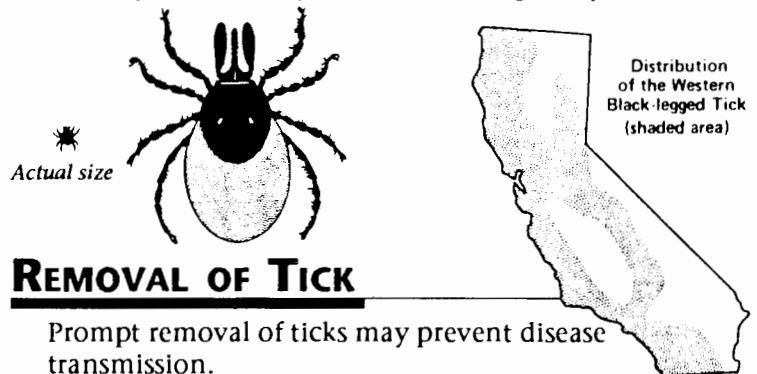
**Stage 2** Some infected persons may develop long-term complications weeks to months after the initial symptoms. These complications may include disorders of the heart or nervous system. Abnormalities of the heart include varying degrees of blockage of the heart muscle. Nervous system abnormalities include meningitis, encephalitis, facial paralysis (Bell's palsy), and other conditions involving peripheral nerves. During this stage, patients may experience migratory pain in joints, tendons, muscles, and bones, often without joint swelling or redness.

**Stage 3** Months to years after disease onset, patients may develop arthritis that appears and disappears intermittently for several years. Arthritis is the most common long-term symptom of Lyme disease. Large joints, especially the knees, are most often affected. Lyme arthritis may become chronic, with erosion of cartilage and bone.

## AVOIDANCE

- Tuck pants into boots or socks, and shirt into pants.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks can easily be seen.

- Apply insect repellent on pants, socks, and shoes. Use a repellent registered for use against ticks.
- Avoid trail margins, brush, and grassy areas when in tick country.
- Check yourself and your children frequently.



## REMOVAL OF TICK

Prompt removal of ticks may prevent disease transmission.

1. If possible, have someone else remove the tick from you.
2. Use tweezers or forceps rather than your fingers.
3. If you must touch the tick, use a tissue to protect your hand.  
*If ticks are crushed or squeezed with the fingers, exposure to body fluids may lead to transmission of Lyme or other disease agents.*
4. Grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible.
5. Gently pull the tick straight out, steadily and firmly. *Do not twist or jerk the tick.*  
*Tick mouthparts have harpoon-like barbs; they do not screw into the skin.*
6. If mouthparts of the tick break off and remain in your skin, consult your physician.
7. Dispose of tick in alcohol or by flushing it down the toilet.
8. Wash hands and bite site with soap and water. Apply antiseptic to bite site.
9. Use the same procedures and precautions when removing ticks from pets.

## TREATMENT

Early recognition of Lyme disease is very important. Treatment with antibiotics during the early stages can cure the infection and prevent complications associated with stages 2 and 3. Antibiotic treatment of the later stages of Lyme disease is often, but not always, successful.

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## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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### CHANGE IN APRIL POND CLINIC DATE

It has been necessary to reschedule the April casting pond clinic **FROM** Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> **TO**:

**Date:** Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Casting pond, Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be featured with assistance from our chief coaches Brian Wong (Lyle's Tackle and Travel Service) and Emil Lewis (formerly Golden Gate Casting Club and one of world-champion Steve Rajeff's early instructors). The coaches will also assist distance-casting achievement casters improve on their current "personal best."

DISTANCE ACHIEVEMENT CASTING WILL BE IN PROGRESS.

### DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

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#### 60 Feet

- #6. Bob Morrison (8wt)
- #7. Ken Magoon (8wt)
- #8. Brian Hatch (8wt)
- #9. Bill Archuleta (8wt)
- #10. Joe Tucker (8wt)
- #11. Tony Hebner (5wt)

#### 80 Feet

- #6. Bob Morrison (8wt)
- #7. Ken Magoon (8wt)
- #8. Bill Archuleta (8wt)
- #9. Joe Tucker (8wt)
- #10. Tony Hebner (5wt)

#### 100 Feet

- #4. Bob Morrison (8wt)
- #5. Ken Magoon (8wt)
- #6. Bill Archuleta (8wt)
- #2. Brian Wong (5wt) \*

#### 120 Feet

- #1. Ken Magoon (8 wt)  
124' Record
- 125' New Record
- #2. Brian Wong (8wt)  
126' New Record

\*Second entry with lighter weight

Three new distance marks were set during the February clinic. Ken Magoon became the first member to reach the 120' marker with a record cast of 124' and then broke his own mark a few casts later with a 125' effort. Ken's record lasted only an hour when Brian Wong, having completed his new casters' instruction for the day and using Ken's outfit, made a current record cast of 126 feet. Bill Archuleta, after I was able to convince him he was 100' capable and using my 896 outfit, went over the 100' marker repeatedly and will soon be over the "magic" 120' line. Bob Morrison finished his day frustrated by a dozen 119' efforts. Will he make 120'? Tune in on March 19th.

You too can be better than your present "personal best."

Come out and see for yourself at the **Sunday, March 19th clinic.**

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### STEELHEAD UPDATE

After a slow start this year and real concern about the poor return of Russian River steelhead (at the hatchery), we had a heavy week this month bringing us up to approximately last years' numbers at this time. We've also had decent silver returns, including some "late" fish, though I didn't hear of any coho being caught.

The May 26 DF&G recommendations to close the coastal streams in Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties due to low water does not affect fishing in the Russian, nor most of the Eel. The closure, if approved, should help discourage some of the snagging that goes on during droughts when any dufus can see fish.

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### TYPOS? WHAT TYPOZE?

Yes, last month we published another teeny-weeny mistake (like the wrong month for Chico Fernandez!). Picky, picky, picky. The Ayatollah isn't an RRFF member, so I don't have to go into hiding with Rushdie, but a few irate calls went to Western Angler.(?!)

Western Angler is a generous supporter/member of our club, but they do not write or print *the Cast*. Please, if you have suggestions, questions, or gripes about our newsletter, call me at my office: 542-4236. Be careful, though, you may find yourself with a job.

—Mike Hawes

# SPORTING COLLECTIBLES SHOW

The West Coast Sporting Collectibles Show will be held at El Rancho Tropicana Resort Hotel in Santa Rosa on May 20 and 21, 1989. Vintage fishing tackle and antique duck decoys will be featured by 100 collectors from throughout the West. They are expected to have display tables exhibiting their collectibles, and will be offering fishing rods, reels, lures and tackle, old wooden duck decoys, knives, and sporting memorabilia for sale or trade, as well as offering to purchase such items.

The general public is welcome to attend (free admission), and are invited to bring any fishing tackle, decoys, knives, duck calls, or other sporting artifacts for identification, appraisal, or sale.

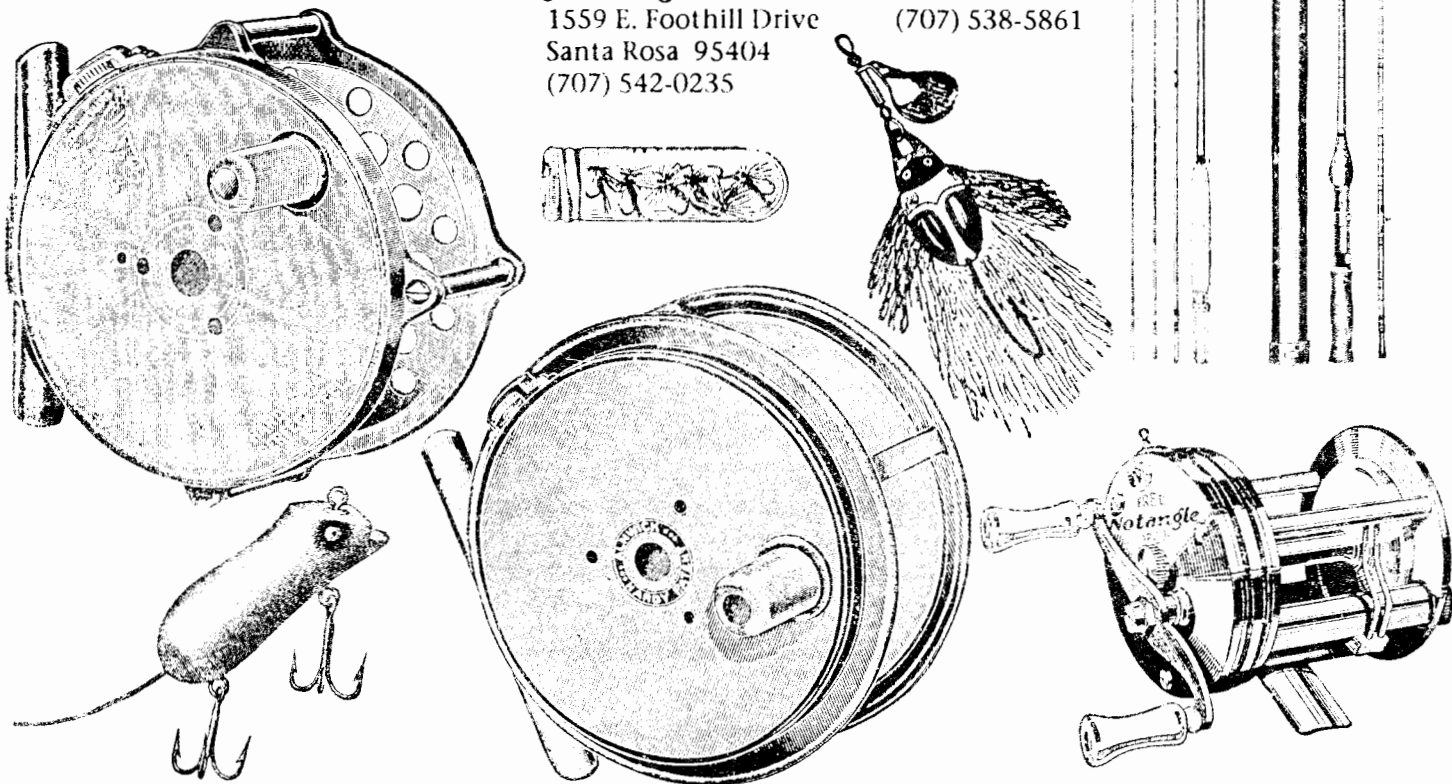
For further information contact either:

**Jim Keegan**

1559 E. Foothill Drive  
Santa Rosa 95404  
(707) 542-0235

or: **Dave Inks**

(707) 538-5861



## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

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California  
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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT REGULATIONS

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Club President Bob Moratto has requested a review of the distance casting achievement event equipment rules. They are as follows:

### Distance Casting Achievement Regulations

1. Rods: 10' (maximum length), 10 weight and one-handed.
2. Lines: 300 grain (maximum weight) shooting heads, (10 wt.) or appropriate full line.
3. Running Line: 15# test monofilament (0.012 inch) minimum.
4. Fly: A tied fly that has had the bend of the hook removed at the end of the straight shank may be used. The cut end must be filed smooth.
5. Qualifying: All achievement qualifications must take place at a scheduled club clinic or event at the casting pond. Qualifying casts must be witnessed and verified by a coach or other event official.

The specifications regarding rod length and running lines do not conform exactly to American Casting Club regulations. They do, however, reflect commercially-available standard north coast big-water tackle types for our kind of fishing.

The distance-casting event course has been changed to include a 135' qualifying distance. The achievement casting marks are now 60', 80', 100', 120', 135', 150', and the length of the pond, 180'.

Thanks to Mike Galbraith and Jim Hakel of SGH Contractors for their assistance with the installation of the course line fittings.

## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

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### 60'

- #12. Bob Moratto (6wt-SH)
- #13. Chuck Baker (8wt-SH)
- #14. Fred Flynn (8wt-SH)
- #15. Galen Robertson (8wt-SH)
- #16. Harry Schoonbaert (6wt-SH)
- #17. Dave Dempsey (8wt-SH)

### 80'

- #11. Bob Moratto (6wt-SH)
- #12. Chuck Baker (8wt-SH)
- #13. Galen Robertson (8wt-SH)
- #14. Dave Dempsey (8wt-SH)

### 100'

- #7. Dave Dempsey (8wt-SH)

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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**Date:** Sunday, May 21

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Casting pond, Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be provided. Bring the equipment you wish to work with.

Distance-casting qualification and coaching will be in progress.

If the rainy season is still with us and it has not dried up, it will be necessary to park in the paved area outside the main gate.

## COACHES NEEDED

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We are having such great turnouts for the pool that we need more coaches. We had about 35 people out there last time! It was great! If coaches will volunteer, we could use the help.

—Liz Flynn



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 14  
Number 4  
April 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The San Mateo Sports Exhibition was once again a fine display of fishing tackle, trips, demonstrations, rods, reels, and adult toys. One needs to attend this annual function with an attitude of entertainment and fantasy. The fly-casting demonstrations were especially interesting. They make it look so easy that I am somewhat embarrassed at my own lack of proficiency, especially when someone like Joan Wulff, who is so petite, can cast so far with almost imperceptible effort. New graphite rods and smaller and lighter reels make purchasing them a real temptation—that's why I take very little money down there. *Damn* those credit cards!

A couple of Sundays ago, I attended the RRF-sponsored casting clinic at Dan Galvin Park. While the weather was threatening, a large and enthusiastic group participated in improving their skills. The talented instructors were very patient and helpful to all those who needed assistance. The Club encourages each of you to participate in these scheduled sessions, and when you start to think you are better than you really are, then go for some of the distance-casting markers in the pond. Why is it that when you make what you think is a perfect cast of 90 feet,

it only measures to 63 feet? The instructors will help you and you *can* make that longer cast with practice and help from others.

The process for electing a new president and vice-president and some new directors has begun. A nomination committee has been named that is actively seeking interested members to participate in the administration of our club. If you have some interest in this, please contact any of our officers or board members and let them know of your willingness to serve. The new term begins in July. The officers are elected for a one-year term and the directors will serve staggered terms of either one or two years. It's a good opportunity to give us your ideas. We welcome your participation.

By the time you read this *Cast*, trout season will be only a couple of weeks away. So now is the time to tie flies, clean fly lines, and rearrange your gear; and for heaven's sake, if you have a secret stream loaded with hungry, dumb trout, please invite me to go with you.

### General Meeting

LILY WONG  
Wednesday  
April 19  
7:00 p.m.  
Parks & Recreation

### Board of Directors

Monday  
April 17  
7 p.m.  
Check with  
Bob Maratto  
for location

### Coming Events

BRETT JENSEN  
*Fly Fishing For Shad*  
TUESDAY  
May 16



days from Healdsburg...there were no road maps...when you didn't know which way to go, you stopped and asked somebody for directions," Cummings said—that would define and focus his love affair with the outdoors and his desire to preserve it.

"It [Yosemite] was an extraordinary adventure," said Cummings. "The brown trout were so fat in the Merced River we thought they were suckers. And Yosemite itself...we camped there a month and hiked all over the valley...to the tops of waterfalls, everywhere. It was an incredible experience."

Cummings would later graduate from University of California, marry (Grace) in 1936, and take a job as a chemist with Shell Development Company. A project he remembers well is Shell's development of synthetic rubber, which became a top-priority item when the Japanese invaded Malaya in World War II. He moved to Houston to work on the project, where the Cummings family grew with the additions of two sons and a daughter.

All this time, Cummings nurtured his outdoor interest and was refining what he calls "a God-given talent," his painting. And his paintings were beginning to sell. "I discovered early in life that the best way for me to describe something I had seen was to draw or paint it. I never thought seriously about a career in art, mainly because I figured it wouldn't pay enough to support a family." He sold his first paintings—\$25 each for three stream scenes from the Tuolumne River—when he left Berkeley and needed \$75 to pay the moving man.

Cummings moved to New York City when Shell relocated in 1948. Named Director of Quality Control, he spent 15 years there; although the family moved to nearby Rockland County, where, for \$79 a month, they lived on a 250-acre estate that featured a trout stream and plenty of deer hunting. He recalled an ironic moment while hunting near his home late one day: while gutting a buck he had killed with a bow and arrow, Cummings looked up; off in the distance he could see the top of the Empire State Building.

Other than taking a few classes, Cummings had no formal art instruction. He did spend much time at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and readily admits observing what other artists were doing, retaining techniques he felt were effective.

During his stay in New York, Cummings joined the Sierra Club and eventually became chairman of the Atlantic Chapter. He led hikes through the Adirondacks, as well as such scenic places as Yellowstone, the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming, the Grand Tetons, and the Southwest. "I was learning the landscape of North America, first-hand," said Cummings, who was also capturing that landscape on canvas.

In 1963, his brother-in-law Hugh Coddington, an avid hunter and outdoorsman, invited Cummings to California to help create the Coddington Museum of Natural History in Santa Rosa. Cummings retired from Shell and moved to Santa Rosa, where he became the museum's first curator, a post he held until 1985. Cummings painted all the backgrounds and landscapes in addition to setting up the exhibits.

Cummings continued his own painting, relying on the

many color slides he had taken on his journeys around the country and around the world. He began to appreciate that in his own small way, his paintings were preserving in time scenes that were ever-changing, by the natural process and by the hand of man.

Cummings, who paints in many mediums but prefers acrylic watercolors, has specialized in landscapes and outdoor scenes, generally staying away from human or animal elements in his creations. "I related to the landscape, the play of light on the land...the sense of the geography," said Cummings. "Besides, painting people isn't my particular strength."

Cummings satisfied a life-long ambition five years ago when he took a two-month trip, billed as "The Himalayas—End to End." Cummings has studied the area extensively. In fact, during a flight over the Himalayas in 1964, Cummings was able to identify all the peaks, even though he had never seen them in person before.

The trip included no actual mountain climbing—"these old legs aren't what they once were," Cummings said—but plenty of jeep trips and hiking. He said it was all he had hoped it would be. From photos he took on the trip, he has done more than 30 paintings since.

Cummings, who will have a month-long show starting April 9 at Wild Wings Gallery in Coddington, has painted Sierra sunsets, desert days, and just about everything in between. His favorite, strangely enough, is not some remote location. It's a painting he did of Mount Shasta, one of the most photographed and painted landmarks in the West. "Something about the lighting...I just like it a lot," he said.

Critics who don't like Cummings' work—he said he couldn't think of many—don't bother him. As an artist, his paintings are his own interpretation of what he has seen and experienced. Criticism, like praise, is a matter of opinion.

Cummings paintings have been shown and purchased all over the country. The fact that someone would buy his work and then hang it in their home is what he feels is the greatest praise of all.

Cummings turns 80 in May, although his energy level suggests a person much younger. He still fishes a little and hunts ducks. And he still paints. His studio is filled with sketches and paintings to be completed.

"At my age, you wonder how many days you've got left," Cummings said with a smile. "I'll keep painting as long as I can."

*Reprinted from the Press Democrat, by Bruce Meadows*

## COLLECTIBLES SHOW

El Rancho Tropicana Resort Hotel in Santa Rosa  
May 20 and 21, 1989

For further information contact either:

**Jim Keegan**

1559 E. Foothill Drive  
Santa Rosa 95404

(707) 542-0235

or: **Dave Inks**

(707) 538-5861

(free admission)

## RAFFLE HATCHES

On behalf of the club, we would like to express our appreciation to the following for their gracious donations to our spring dinner meeting:

- Western Angler:** Fly box and six trout flies; shooting head wallet; marlin T-shirt; two fly lines; and set-up and backing for the rod and reel that we gave away for the Grand Prize.
- Reel People:** A guided trip or a seminar of the winner's choice.
- Lyle's Tackle:** Fly-casting lessons for two.
- Bill Archuleta's Reel Works:** \$50 reel repair certification and an Archuleta Reel Works T-shirt.
- Geyser Peak Winery:** A case of Fumé Blanc.
- The Tire Shop:** A front-end alignment.
- Bob Moratto:** A bottle of Pescivino wine and a dinner (\$15 back).

Again, we would like to thank **Western Angler** for their discount on all items purchased by the Club for our raffles.

—Rus Lockner and Bob Neill, Raffle Co-Directors

♥  
**Congratulations  
to  
Dwight and Sandy!**  
♥ ♥ ♥

The Club has a phone number of its own now, with an answering machine for updated messages, and a place to leave comments, questions, complaints (please, less of the latter!)

☎ **573-8909**

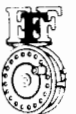
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 14  
Number 5  
May 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It finally happened! A tremendous and catastrophic oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound promises many animals, birds, and fish death, serious illness, or at a minimum serious discomfort. From news accounts, we can be certain that this could have been avoided. Such a serious spill had been predicted even prior to the leasing of the oil tracts. Why were not proper safeguards put into place to avoid this thoughtless spill and why were not contingency plans put into action immediately for the cleanup process? This accident has been termed the most devastating accident of this century. Natural disasters are certainly easier to understand than one that is man-made. In addition to animals, fish, birds, and other wildlife, all of us and the environment will be affected for many, many years to come. The recent proposal for a boycott of Exxon and its products is one that I am participating in and I encourage each of you to join in also. Unfortunately, money—or the lack of it—may be the only effective way to get the attention of Exxon and other oil companies who are very willing to

take but not to give or act in a responsible manner.

In another section of the Cast you will find a list of candidates for the Board of Directors, together with a brief summary of their qualifications. In addition to these candidates, nominations from the floor will be encouraged and taken at our regular meeting in May. I thank all nominees for their willingness to

serve and encourage each of you to vote.

Membership dues for the coming fiscal year are due and payable on July 1st. Family memberships are \$30; single membership is \$25; and junior (under 21) is \$17.50.

Trout season opening has come and gone. I hope many of you participated and were successful. I tried Fall River and the Pit River off 299 East. The rivers were packed with people, boats, motors, and frightened ducks, geese, and muskrats. The latter were all happy to see us leave. Despite the crowds fishing was fine—fishing is always fine!



### General Meeting

BRETT JENSEN

*Flyfishing for Shad*

◆ Tuesday ◆

May 16

Parks & Rec Department  
7:00 p.m.

### Board of Directors

Monday

May 15

7 p.m.

Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

CARLO BONGIO

of Marin Outdoors

*Sierra Golden Trout*

Wednesday

June 21



# SPAWNING TROUT SAVED BY CONCERNED CITIZENS

More than 1,500 Crowley Lake kamloop rainbow trout, trying to spawn in a temporarily-flooded man-made canal, were rescued from death by a group of dedicated fishermen from the Mammoth Flyrodders Club this past week...no thanks to the powers that be.

According to Dick Dahlgren, president of the Mammoth Flyrodders and Mono County manager of Cal-Trout, he first noticed the unusual occurrence a few weeks back. "The ditch is only an overflow from Rock Creek," Dahlgren told *Western Outdoor News* on Sunday, "where any excess water, over the amount that is granted to flow down Rock Creek, is diverted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power into Crooked Creek, where it flows into Crowley Lake. There were thousands of big, kamloop rainbows in the stream," Dahlgren said, "fish that were between 14 and 24 inches long."

Instead of heading up Crooked Creek, which is heavily silted and very poor spawning water, the fish came into the ditch where there was a better flow and more oxygenated water. Dahlgren advised some DFG biologists of the incident, and "they were amazed," he said. Apparently, there hasn't been any major spawning run from Crowley rainbows in years, and they hadn't ever seen anything to match this run.

"Bob Kaiser of Mammoth called the aquaduct manager for the DWP," Dahlgren continued, "and he was advised that the ditch would have water for anywhere from one to two more months, plenty of time for the fish to spawn and return. The DFG had no plans and, basically, they didn't know what to do. Then last Thursday a couple of the members of the Mammoth Flyrodders noticed the water had been turned off. I found out about 4 p.m. on Thursday and called the DFG. They said they knew about the problem and still didn't know what to do, so we rounded up a bunch of bodies and started doing what we could to herd them down the ditch."

The scenario was this: The ditch is about two miles long, but about one-third of a mile from its juncture with Crooked Creek is a concrete weir that the trout couldn't clear. The ditch is about 17 feet wide, and when Dahlgren first saw the fish there was about two feet of water flowing down it. When they arrived Thursday evening there was less than three inches of water, and trout were flopping out of the water and onto the bank, dying.

Dahlgren and 14 members of the Mammoth Flyrodders got into the creek and began trying to herd the fish back

down the stream to Crooked Creek. "About half of them would move," Dahlgren said, "and we got about 1,000 fish back down into Crooked Creek, but the others were too stressed or they went around us."

At that point the rescuers got whatever bags they had that would hold water and they began to physically carry the fish down to Crooked Creek. "We carried about 500 more of the big trout down to the creek," he said, "probably only a few hundred died."

To sum it all up, Dahlgren had this to say: "The tributaries to Crowley are in bad shape due to overgrazing the banks and diversion of the streams by cattle ranchers. There's not enough water running through to Crowley, and there hasn't been a flushing flow to clean out the gravel beds in five years. When all this fresh, clean water started flowing down the gravel bed, it attracted the spawning fish like the tributaries haven't been able to do."

"This has happened in the past and it will continue to happen in the future until the DFG and DWP can come up with a solution to the problem. The only short term answer is a barrier at the mouth of the ditch."

*Reprinted from Western Outdoor News, by Bill Karr, staff writer.*

## SHAD FISH-OUT/COOK-OUT

- When:** Friday afternoon, May 19  
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Where:** Johnson's Beach  
(access road next to Sonoma County Sheriff's sub-station in Guerneville)
- What to bring:**
1. Any interested family and friends.
  2. Your favorite BBQ meat, beverages, eating utensils, and one food dish to share. RRFF will supply a BBQ, charcoal, an ice chest, and a green salad.
  3. Fly-fishing gear:
    - 5- to 7-weight rods with shooting tapers or full lines in #2, #3, or #4 densities (the river flow will be reduced by the dams and shad aren't necessarily bottom "feeders").
    - leaders 4' to 7' with 3x or 4x tippets.
    - shad flies (see *Western Angler's* and *Lyle's* for good selections).
    - chest waders.
- Who to call:** Call Ken Magoon at 527-8376



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## TRIBUTE TO A GREAT FLY FISHERMAN

**Virgil Sullivan** died March 7 at his home in Forestville. At his request, there were no public services. Yet I could not let the passing of Virgil go without comment. I considered Virgil one of the best fly fishermen I ever knew, a pioneer in the sport on Redwood Empire streams.

He was born in Sebastopol 82 years ago, a member of a pioneer Forestville family. He was a talented athlete at Analy High and Santa Rosa Junior College.

I first ran into Virgil in 1946, fishing on Salmon Creek for steelhead and silver salmon. Virgil was a hod carrier by trade, a robust, big Irishman who could cast a fly the proverbial mile. I was using spinners and a level-wind reel then, but after watching Virgil catch fish with a fly when nobody else could get a hit, I asked him to teach me to cast a fly.

Virgil was one of the first to rig up a shooting head to get the long casts so vital in winter steelhead fishing. You couldn't buy a shooting head in those days—you had to make them out of a double-tapered fly line. He rigged me up with a Fenwick rod, a Pfuenger Medalist reel, the proper weight shooting head, and backing of 20-pound test nylon. I still have all of those but the shooting head; it wore out years ago.

Virgil taught the double-haul method of casting. The key to that is the use of the left hand to put power into the rod for the final cast. I can still remember him roaring at me, "Damn it, what's wrong with your left arm? Use it! Keep that back cast high! Now, shoot it." It took a few lessons but I finally caught my first fish on a fly under his tutelage.

Virgil also had another trademark in his casting. He kept his fore cast in the air, never allowing the line to hit the water until his final cast was made. He spoke with contempt of the tournament casters who would come up from the Bay Area and slap the fore cast on the water in order to put more line into the air on the back cast. "San Francisco water beaters" is what he called them. I've seen him walk in among a group of the "water beaters" and catch fish where they couldn't and do it with a longer cast. Keeping the fore cast in the air was a good technique to develop. It didn't spook the fish in quiet waters like slapping the fore cast on the water did. I still cast that way.

Virgil also tied some of the most beautiful ties ever to tempt a steelhead. He is credited with developing the first Comet flies, now a favorite pattern on many streams. He also was an early user of the Boss pattern. He tied a fly for the Klamath River, which he would fish around Labor Day for half-pounders, which had no name, but which we called "The Sullivan."

I still catch fish on the Klamath with that fly. He tied flies for fish, not for fishermen. Many of his flies had no names, but he knew they would catch fish on the streams for which they were designed. He had flies for the Gualala, the Garcia (one of his favorite coastal streams), Alder Creek, Salmon Creek, and Bodega Bay.

Occasionally, Virgil would give me a fly, and I think almost every fly was taken from me by a fish. I remember a Mickey Finn he tied for me to use on black bass in the Russian River. It went south in the mouth of a big bass in Alexander Valley. He gave me a Polar Bear streamer to use at Bodega Bay. It was

inhaled and snapped off by a big steelhead when I was trailing it behind my boat while rowing to shore.

Once Walter Foster, one of Virgil's fishing companions, and I went with Virgil to fish the Eel River between Lake Pillsbury and the Van Arsdale impound for trout. We camped at Trout Creek and then walked down the long Blue Slides trail to the river. (There was no road on the south side of the river in those days.) Virgil hooked fish after fish, releasing most of them, and it wasn't until he gave me a couple of his grasshopper flies that I started to catch trout, too.

In those days, Virgil sometimes fished with Walt Christensen, Phil Souza, George Locey, and Gus Ameral, all early-day fly fishermen. But mostly he fished alone. He was a great believer in watching the water, reading it, looking for a tiny rise or some sign of fish before he would take out his rod. He never made a big thing of the fish he caught, releasing almost all that he beached.

He believed that if you couldn't catch fish in two hours of fishing, then it was time to quit. However, he might spend four hours looking for better fishing.

Virgil's legs betrayed him in his final years, but he still fished for trout when he could and for steelhead out of his boat until just last year.

Now this consummate fly fisherman is gone. I hope where he is, there's a run of bright fish, fresh from the sea.

*Reprinted from the Press Democrat, by Art Volkerts*

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## FOR CUMMINGS, ART IS SECOND NATURE

**Ben Cummings'** description of fine art says much about the man himself. "Fine art," explained the 79-year-old painter of landscapes and outdoor scenes, "is when someone decides to buy one of my paintings...and I say, 'that's fine.'"

The unpretentious Cummings, born in Healdsburg in 1909 and raised in Alexander Valley, has traveled to exotic spots throughout the world, taking part in adventures most people only dream about—tiger hunts in India, African safaris, and Himalayan hikes.

Through his love of the outdoors, as well as his one-time affiliation with the Sierra Club, Cummings has seen most of America up close, having hiked in just about all 48 contiguous states, as well as Alaska.

Cummings hunted and fished extensively as a boy when he wasn't getting his early education in the one-room Alexander Valley School. In 1923, the family moved to Healdsburg, where Cummings recalls skipping church to hunt quail and fish for trout.

"I had a special feeling for nature even then. My father strictly adhered to game laws and taught us to do the same," said Cummings, adding that regulations were a lot different in those days with limits like 25 ducks and 50 trout.

But it was a 1923 family trip to Yosemite—"it took three

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## CONSERVATION NOTES

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As a reminder to those who may not have heard, all coastal streams in Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties—with the exception of the Russian River and some parts of the Eel River—are closed to all fishing until May 26.

Many of us have been having a lot of fun catching the newly-released steelhead smolts around the Dry Creek area. They are very gullible fish and will readily take a variety of small nymphs and dries. I urge you to release these fish so that they may come back as adults. Using barbless flies makes releasing much easier and does little harm to the fish. If you must take any home, remember that the limit is only three fish in possession. You might also remind those anglers who are not observing this regulation.

I recently attended the monthly meeting of Salmon Unlimited. The topic of discussion was whether or not to open the mouth of the Russian River as the water backs up. There were several speakers, including Dr. Jerry Smith, a biologist from San Jose State University, who gave an excellent presentation of studies he had conducted on other coastal streams in the Santa Cruz area. In his studies he found that as a sandbar forms at the mouth of a river such as the Russian, fresh water backs up behind the bar to create a lagoon. As this fresh-water lagoon floods the surrounding marshlands, it becomes a very fertile environment, providing an excellent nursery for juvenile salmonoids. When the sandbar is breeched, the lagoon drains and through normal tidal action is partially refilled with salt water until the sandbar is reformed. At the time when this occurs there is generally insufficient water flow to replenish the fresh-water lagoon. Since salt water is heavier than fresh it stays on the bottom. The salt water is then warmed by the sun's rays during the day and is unable to dissipate the heat through the fresh water at night. This process can cause temperatures as high as 95° or more, which eliminates the chance for smolt survival.

One way to avoid this situation is to lower the level of the lagoon, rather than to drain it when water levels enroach on homes and businesses along the lower river. A flood-gate type of device has proven effective for this purpose in other coastal lagoons with similar circumstances. This would also prevent early-arriving salmon from entering and becoming trapped in a river that is just too low and warm for successful migration and spawning. Obviously, further study is necessary before a real solution can be found.

Another fishery that deserves our attention is the

lake at Fountain Grove in northeast Santa Rosa, across from Hewlett-Packard. For those of you who fish it, you know what a great little bass lake it can be. With the aid of a float tube or pram, fly-rodders can expect to take several nice bass in an evening—some as much as 8 or 9 pounds. It can also be a great place to take the kids for bluegills where they're assured of catching some fish.

The only problem with the lake is the abundant trash. I've been talking to Charles Hoeffler of the Parks and Recreation Department about organizing a clean-up project at the lake. He informed me that the corporation that owns the lake was in the process of donating it to the city, and as soon as things were final he would be willing to supply trash bags and a dumpster for such a project. After it's cleaned up, the city will place anti-litter signs and trash cans around the lake. With the bass going on the bite soon, we might make a fun outing of it with a clean-up during the day and a little bass-bugging in the evening.

*Release 'em alive!*

—Tim Grogan

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## A NOTE FROM BRETT JENSEN

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From what I understand, the Russian River Club is a solid organization and home to many talented anglers. I am looking forward to meeting club members.

In my presentation, "Fly fishing for Shad," I will be focusing on the different techniques and methods used to fish for these special sport fish. I also blend salmon and steelhead into the presentation to demonstrate that the techniques used to fish for salmon or steelhead are similar. The bottom line being: shad are the perfect fish to sharpen your skills or to learn new ones or to just enjoy the experience. After the presentation, for those who are interested, I like to demonstrate how to tie the patterns introduced in the program.

I have lived in Shasta County for the last twelve years and it is the waters of Northern California that I have guided and given the most attention. I have presented slide programs and tying demonstrations all over California and in Nevada, and have had articles and photographs published in popular fly fishing publications. Three years ago partner Mark Lane and I started "Jensen-Lane Flyfishing," a Montana-based guide service. This coming season we will be opening a flyfishing camp located on the Big Horn River in Southeastern Montana.

—Brett Jensen

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## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS


The Nominating Committee has completed its search for candidates for Board positions. The following candidates have been proposed. A separate ballot will be mailed to voting members, and two weeks will be allowed for return of the ballots. The due date will be clearly indicated on them.

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the May meeting. Please be sure a candidate is willing to serve before nominating them. A person may nominate themselves.

The nominating committee consisted of Liz Flynn, Dwight Longuevan, Bob Moratto, and Bob Morrison.

*Liz Flynn*

The Club has a phone number of its own now, with an answering machine for updated messages, and a place to leave comments, questions, complaints (please, less of the latter!)

 **573-8909**

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### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**Russ Lockner** Currently co-chairperson of raffle; vice-president 1987-88; energetic and active in promoting the RRFF; business: commercial real estate

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**John Thomas**



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Date: Sunday, June 18th

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Casting pond

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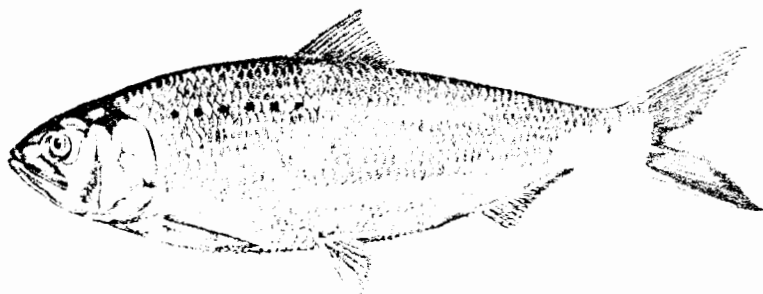
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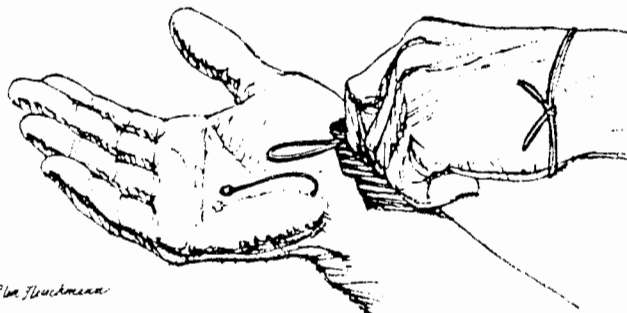
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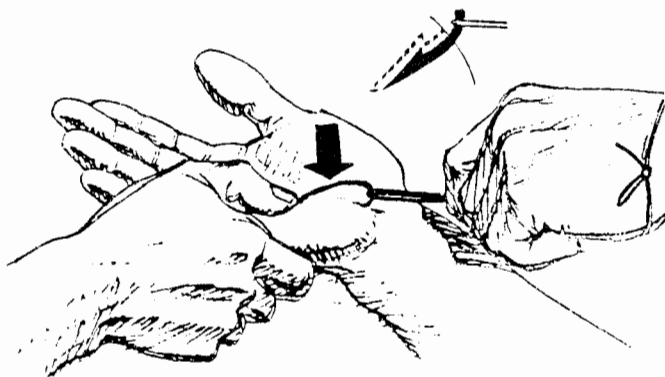
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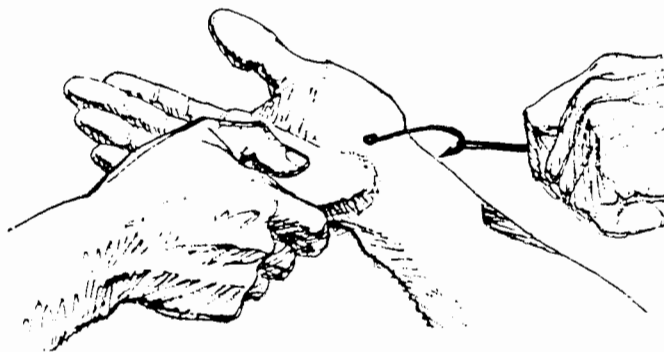
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Many thanks to Vickie Lockner (club member and principal of Steele Lane School) for contacting families of students, and to Bill Archuleta who provided several reels, as well as to all the others who donated equipment to the program. As for Ken and I, we had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the next trip. Other members interested in participating in this program should contact Bob Morrison. *Bob Morrison*



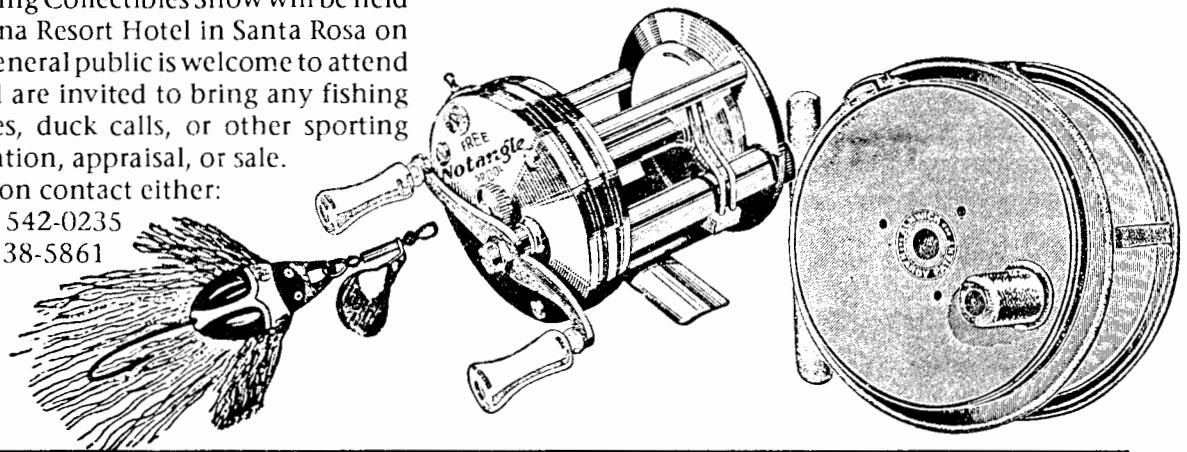
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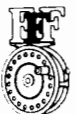
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 14  
Number 5  
May 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It finally happened! A tremendous and catastrophic oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound promises many animals, birds, and fish death, serious illness, or at a minimum serious discomfort. From news accounts, we can be certain that this could have been avoided. Such a serious spill had been predicted even prior to the leasing of the oil tracts. Why were not proper safeguards put into place to avoid this thoughtless spill and why were not contingency plans put into action immediately for the cleanup process? This accident has been termed the most devastating accident of this century. Natural disasters are certainly easier to understand than one that is man-made. In addition to animals, fish, birds, and other wildlife, all of us and the environment will be affected for many, many years to come. The recent proposal for a boycott of Exxon and its products is one that I am participating in and I encourage each of you to join in also. Unfortunately, money—or the lack of it—may be the only effective way to get the attention of Exxon and other oil companies who are very willing to

take but not to give or act in a responsible manner.

In another section of the Cast you will find a list of candidates for the Board of Directors, together with a brief summary of their qualifications. In addition to these candidates, nominations from the floor will be encouraged and taken at our regular meeting in May. I thank all nominees for their willingness to

serve and encourage each of you to vote.

Membership dues for the coming fiscal year are due and payable on July 1st. Family memberships are \$30; single membership is \$25; and junior (under 21) is \$17.50.

Trout season opening has come and gone. I hope many of you participated and were successful. I tried Fall River and the Pit River off 299 East. The rivers were packed with people, boats, motors, and frightened ducks, geese, and muskrats. The latter were all happy to see us leave. Despite the crowds fishing was fine—fishing is always fine!

### General Meeting

BRETT JENSEN

*Flyfishing for Shad*

◆ Tuesday ◆

May 16

Parks & Rec Department

7:00 p.m.

### Board of Directors

Monday

May 15

7 p.m.

Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

CARLO BONGIO

of Marin Outdoors

*Sierra Golden Trout*

Wednesday

June 21



# SPAWNING TROUT SAVED BY CONCERNED CITIZENS

More than 1,500 Crowley Lake kamloop rainbow trout, trying to spawn in a temporarily-flooded man-made canal, were rescued from death by a group of dedicated fishermen from the Mammoth Flyrodders Club this past week...no thanks to the powers that be.

According to Dick Dahlgren, president of the Mammoth Flyrodders and Mono County manager of Cal-Trout, he first noticed the unusual occurrence a few weeks back. "The ditch is only an overflow from Rock Creek," Dahlgren told *Western Outdoor News* on Sunday, "where any excess water, over the amount that is granted to flow down Rock Creek, is diverted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power into Crooked Creek, where it flows into Crowley Lake. There were thousands of big, kamloop rainbows in the stream," Dahlgren said, "fish that were between 14 and 24 inches long."

Instead of heading up Crooked Creek, which is heavily silted and very poor spawning water, the fish came into the ditch where there was a better flow and more oxygenated water. Dahlgren advised some DFG biologists of the incident, and "they were amazed," he said. Apparently, there hasn't been any major spawning run from Crowley rainbows in years, and they hadn't ever seen anything to match this run.

"Bob Kaiser of Mammoth called the aqueduct manager for the DWP," Dahlgren continued, "and he was advised that the ditch would have water for anywhere from one to two more months, plenty of time for the fish to spawn and return. The DFG had no plans and, basically, they didn't know what to do. Then last Thursday a couple of the members of the Mammoth Flyrodders noticed the water had been turned off. I found out about 4 p.m. on Thursday and called the DFG. They said they knew about the problem and still didn't know what to do, so we rounded up a bunch of bodies and started doing what we could to herd them down the ditch."

The scenario was this: The ditch is about two miles long, but about one-third of a mile from its juncture with Crooked Creek is a concrete weir that the trout couldn't clear. The ditch is about 17 feet wide, and when Dahlgren first saw the fish there was about two feet of water flowing down it. When they arrived Thursday evening there was less than three inches of water, and trout were flopping out of the water and onto the bank, dying.

Dahlgren and 14 members of the Mammoth Flyrodders got into the creek and began trying to herd the fish back

down the stream to Crooked Creek. "About half of them would move," Dahlgren said, "and we got about 1,000 fish back down into Crooked Creek, but the others were too stressed or they went around us."


At that point the rescuers got whatever bags they had that would hold water and they began to physically carry the fish down to Crooked Creek. "We carried about 500 more of the big trout down to the creek," he said, "probably only a few hundred died."

To sum it all up, Dahlgren had this to say: "The tributaries to Crowley are in bad shape due to overgrazing the banks and diversion of the streams by cattle ranchers. There's not enough water running through to Crowley, and there hasn't been a flushing flow to clean out the gravel beds in five years. When all this fresh, clean water started flowing down the gravel bed, it attracted the spawning fish like the tributaries haven't been able to do."

"This has happened in the past and it will continue to happen in the future until the DFG and DWP can come up with a solution to the problem. The only short term answer is a barrier at the mouth of the ditch."

*Reprinted from Western Outdoor News, by Bill Karr, staff writer.*

## SHAD FISH-OUT/COOK-OUT

- 
- When:** Friday afternoon, May 19  
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Where:** Johnson's Beach  
(access road next to Sonoma County Sheriff's sub-station in Guerneville)
- What to bring:**
1. Any interested family and friends.
  2. Your favorite BBQ meat, beverages, eating utensils, and one food dish to share. RREF will supply a BBQ, charcoal, an ice chest, and a green salad.
  3. Fly-fishing gear:
    - 5- to 7-weight rods with shooting tapers or full lines in #2, #3, or #4 densities (the river flow will be reduced by the dams and shad aren't necessarily bottom "feeders").
    - leaders 4' to 7' with 3x or 4x tippets.
    - shad flies (see *Western Angler's* and *Lyle's* for good selections).
    - chest waders.
- Who to call:** Call Ken Magoon at 527-8376

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## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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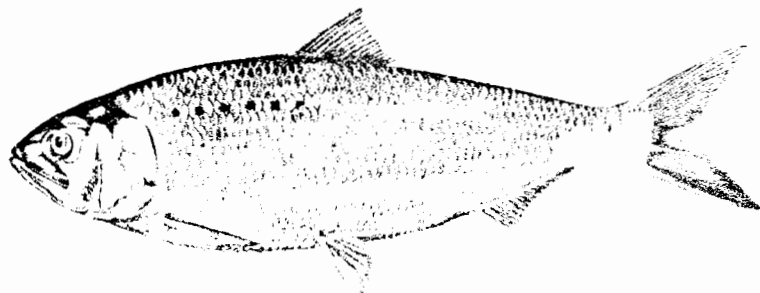
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# CANDIDATES

## FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS


The Nominating Committee has completed its search for candidates for Board positions. The following candidates have been proposed. A separate ballot will be mailed to voting members, and two weeks will be allowed for return of the ballots. The due date will be clearly indicated on them.

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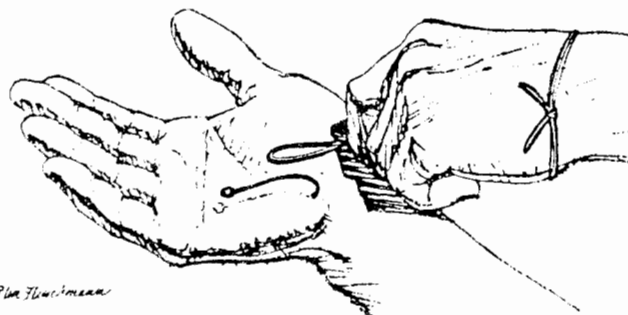
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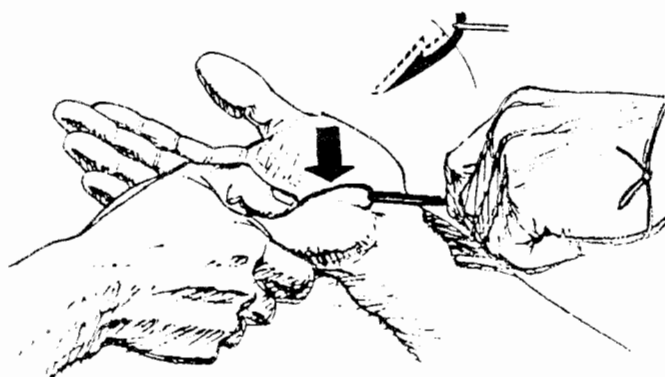
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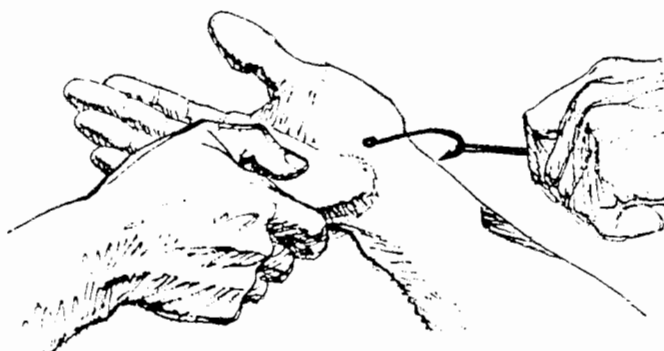
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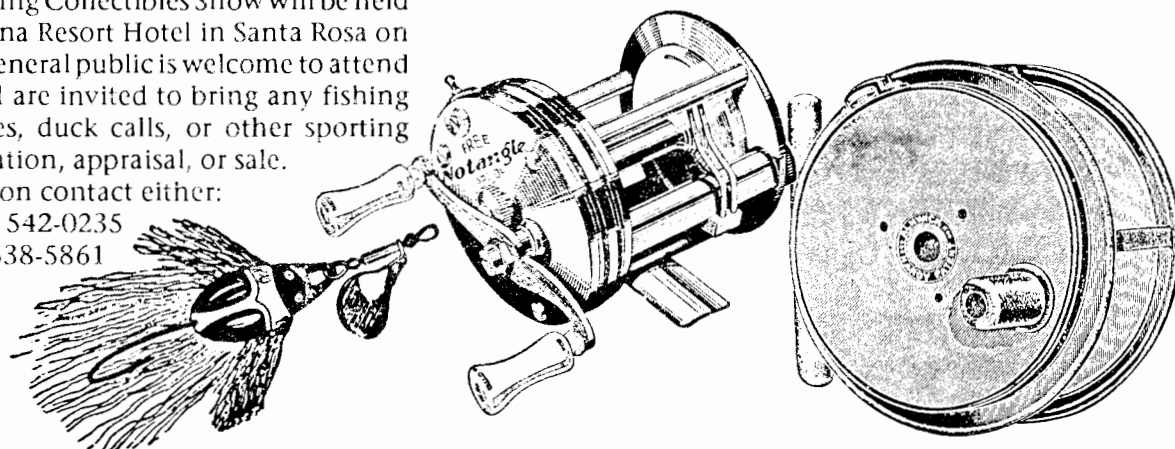
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

*The RRFF*



Volume 14  
Number 6  
June 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be the last *cast* of the current electoral year. It's amazing how quickly a full twelve months goes by. And yes, we did have fun! Last July we took the reins from a very capable two-term president, Bill Archuleta. I am pleased to say, we will be turning the gavel over to a hardworking and knowledgeable gentleman in the person of Bob Morrison (providing he wins his uncontested election).

Some of the main accomplishments achieved by this year's Board of Directors were in the fields of administration, pond landscaping, and youth activities.

When we experienced the loss of our former Secretary, Dennis Amato stepped forward and performed those important duties in an excellent manner for the completion of the year. Dennis, I thank you! You made the job of the Board Members a lot easier. Dwight Longuevan assumed the duties of the Membership Chairman and is now in the process of completing an up-to-date membership list. This has been a difficult and time-consuming task; Dwight, I appreciate your efforts.

All of the wheels are in motion for the landscaping of the pond at Dan Galvin Park. We have received

excellent cooperation from the City. A delay was caused when it was determined that a large main water line had to be routed through our pond to service the entire park. This should be completed shortly, at which time the already approved landscaping will be installed. We hope you will like it and use the pond often.

Special thanks to Bob Morrison and Ken Magoon for conducting the first fishing outing with a group of youngsters. They had a great time and we certainly hope this program is now underway on a permanent basis.

My special personal thanks to Liz Flynn who, after many years, is retiring from the Board of Directors. Liz is one of the original founders of our organization and her constant and dedicated efforts for RRFF will be missed. Somehow I feel she will still be around to keep us on the right track.

Bob Morrison—here's the gavel. Run with it! Do Well! God speed!

Thank you all for letting me serve.

### General Meeting

CARLO BONGIO  
of Marin Outdoors  
*Sierra Golden Trout*  
Wednesday  
June 21  
Parks & Rec Department  
7:00 p.m.

### Board of Directors

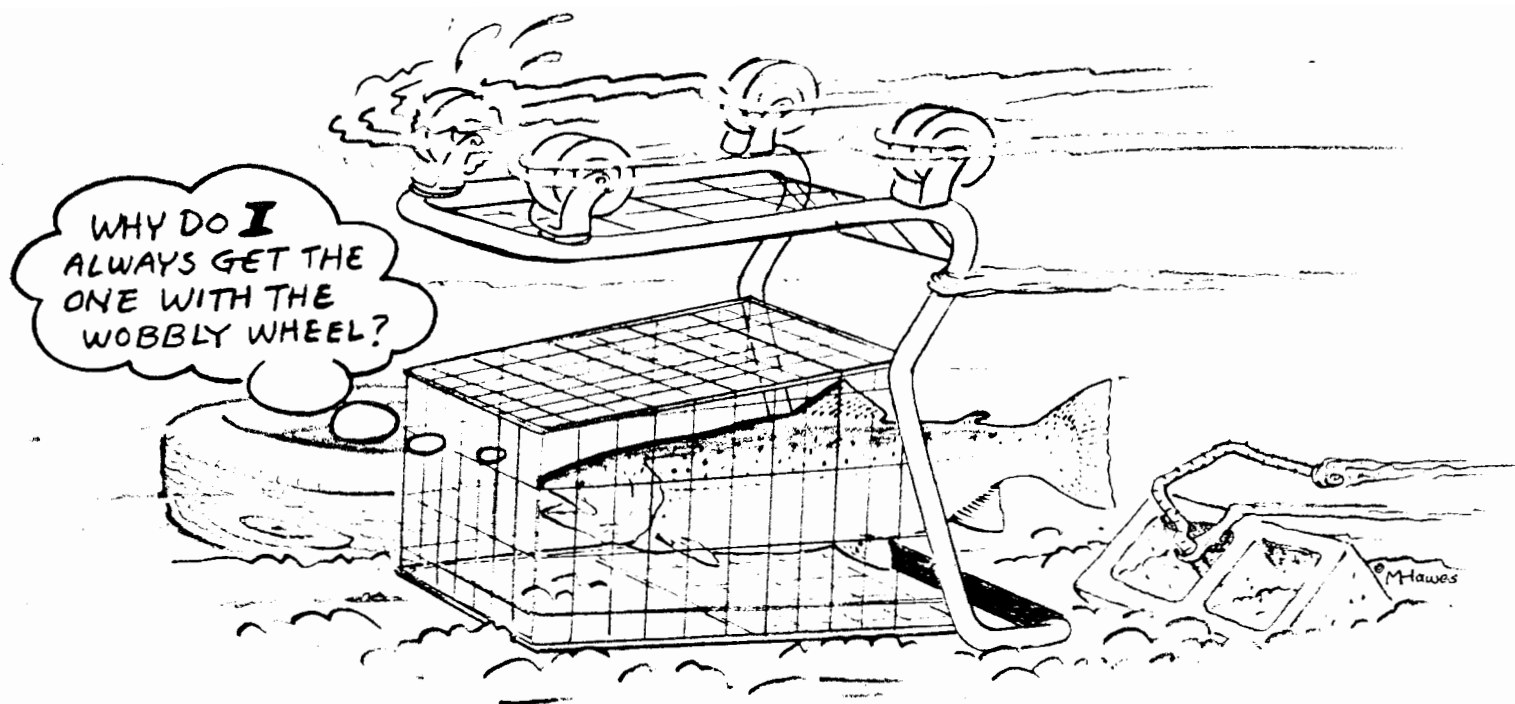
Monday  
June 19  
7 p.m.  
Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

SKILLS SEMINAR  
Knots for fresh & salt;  
reel maintenance;  
plus other skills  
Wednesday  
July 19

(The dinner meeting is  
tentatively scheduled for  
September 20)

*Bob Morrison*



## SINCE WE'RE NEIGHBORS, LET'S BE FRIENDS WITH SANTA ROSA CREEK

There's been a lot of talk recently about cosmetic improvements for Santa Rosa Creek. I'd sure love to see something good happen to this old friend for a change. When I was growing up here shooting my Red Ryder B-B gun at its songbirds and learning to fish it with a cane pole, it seemed that all grown-ups hated this wonderful stream. They feared that unsupervised kids would drown in it; that it flowed sewage and "polio water"; that the banks were crowded with hobo camps of "dangerous" vagrants.

Most of us didn't drown (more thanks to those early morning Red Cross swimming instructors than our raft-building skills), and polio was beaten (thanks in part to all those dimes we gave)—but there are more camps in the bushes now than I ever saw then. The banks then were crowded with wildlife. Now, almost every bridge in the city limits has people living under it, even the channeled parts and the freeway, and without the luxury of hot showers or toilets. The graffiti under some looks like mini-versions of the New York subways or LA freeways—mankind's visual equivalent to male dogs' marking trees and hydrants. Under the Alderbrook Street bridge last year I found a huge pile of Papst cans, several empty fortified wine jugs, and a spent cylinder of nitrous oxide. Hey, is this a party town or what? And there must be more shopping carts, milk crates, and old mattresses in the water than polywogs.

Yet, in spite of what we've done to the creek through neglect and damming or channeling for flood control, a great run of steelhead still travel through our city to

the unspoiled upper reaches. Well, they're great in spirit, if not in numbers. We usually see or hear about the adult fish as they run the low-water gauntlet on their way back out to the Pacific; we seldom notice or think about the thousands of their fingerlings as they back downstream through our drainage ditch to the lagoon. Even those of us who stand waist-deep in the Russian for hours in the freezing rain, for the chance of hooking just one more of these spectacular acrobats, can't really appreciate all that the wild Santa Rosa Creek strain has survived in order to provide us the privilege. Of course, the housing and population density that we have encouraged in the flood plain makes it unlikely that we can ever bring back the riparian riches of forty years ago, but this majestic fish deserves better than we're doing.

I would hope that future "beautification" studies might include practical efforts to resurrect some of the many miles of spawning habitat that we've lost to our narrow, short-sighted planning and economic priorities. How can we expect third-world countries to save the world's rain forests while we with our curb-and-gutter attitudes can't or won't even protect a living, self-watering park that runs literally through our backyards? Why do I get the feeling that I'm still defending the virtues of "my" creek with the grown-ups? Maybe this essay from the *May Audubon* will help me figure it out. —Mike Hawes

*The views expressed in this editorial are those of the author, known to be an occasional bait-slinger and plug-troller, and do not necessarily represent the views of any other members of RRF.*

ESSAY

# THE MEANING OF CREEKS

*Nearly everybody has one gurgling through their memories.*

by PETER STEINHART

CREEKS DON'T GET NAMED for Civil War generals or Indian chiefs. They take their names from whatever's handy and are introduced without fanfare as Rock Creek, Mill Creek, or Mud Creek. They don't get celebrated in travel literature or national anthems. Tourists make no pilgrimages to them. They have to be renamed "brook" to get into a poem or a map of New England. Creeks are the trivial parts of our landscape, what scoundrels and rusting shopping carts are thrown into. Mark Twain heard a miner at Angels Camp declare that an abusive lady should "be bundled neck and crop into the creek."

But nearly everybody has a creek gurgling through their memories, a confiding waterway that rose in the spring of youth. A national park ranger's voice softens as he talks of a boyhood creek in Louisiana where he swam and fished. Conservationist David Brower's eyes sparkle as he recalls building dams on Strawberry Creek in the Berkeley of his youth. An Ohio woman feels suddenly at home again as she remembers catching crayfish in the creek behind her house.

A creek wound between my grandfather's apricot orchard and a neighbor's hillside pasture. Its banks were shaded with cottonwoods and redwood trees and a thick tangle of blackberry and wild grape vine. A parh was cleared along the streambank, and on hot summer days its sun-dappled glades were cool and filled with the song of thrush and quail. The quiet creekwater flowed clear and cold over gravel bars I fished for brook trout.

Nothing historic ever happens in

these recollected creeks. But their persistence in memory suggests that creeks are bigger than they seem, more a part of our hearts and minds than lofty mountains or mighty rivers.

Creektime is measured in strange lives, in sand-flecked caddisworms under the rocks, sudden gossamer clouds of mayflies in the afternoon, a salamander wriggling back to winter water, or minnows darting like slivers of inspiration into the dimness of creek fate. Myseries float in creeks' ripples, crawl over their pebbled bottoms, and slink under the roots of trees. Thoreau declared, "The shallowest water is unfathomed; wherever a boat can float there is more than Atlantic depth and no danger of fancy or imagination running aground."

While big rivers are heavy with sophistication and sediment, creeks are clear, innocent, boisterous, full of dream and promise. Their mysteries are modest enough to tempt youth. A child can wade across or push aside the trail-side branches without a parent's moral imperatives and hygienic cautions. You can go it alone, jig for crayfish, swing from ropes into jubilant air. Creeks belong to childhood. In Greek art, they are sometimes represented as youths bearing plants.

To spend childhood days along creekbanks is to be drawn into the wider world. A creek reaches upward into the hills and mountains, where clouds brood and gods bluster. It reaches down to the lowlands and the bays, to fat old rivers, sad and murky with the silt of experience. A creek teaches one the curve of the Earth, the youthful swell of mountains, the age of

the seas. Above all, a creek offers the mind a chance to penetrate the alien world of water and think like a tadpole or a trout. That is one of the great experiences of otherness, one of the leaps of perception that make us human and allow us to live with dream and obscurity. What drifts in creekwater is the possibility of other worlds inside and above our own. Poet Robert Frost wrote, "It flows between us, over us, and with us. And it is time, strength, tone, light, life, and love."

A creek may pluck one's imagination and bear it away like a drifting leaf. And helpless, we may trundle along after it, delighted by its liquid babble, dazzled by the leap and sparkle of sunlight on water. Creeks lead one on, like perfume on the wind. In fact, the word "creek" may derive from the word "crack," a cleft in the surface of things. Poets of the 17th Century talked of fate appearing "in every creek and turning of your lives." A creek is something that disappears around a bend, into the ground, into the next dimension. To follow a creek is to seek new acquaintance with life.

I STILL FIND MYSELF following creeks. In high mountain meadows I'll trace the course of brooks that gnaw into the lime-green grass and deep glacial duff, marveling at the sparkle of quartz and mica and the silvery quickness of fingerling trout. The pursuit liquefies my citified haste and cynicism. It lifts weight from my shoulders. Once, in the California desert, as hummingbirds darted from cactus blossoms, a storm cloud brooded on top of a distant ridge. In the sun-dried

silence I heard the babble of rushing water. I followed my ears a half-mile over dusty hillsides and down scabrous ravines to an unexpected ribbon of clear, cold, rushing water, leaping from rock to rock, filling little pools. The discovery seemed Biblical, a benediction. It filled me with joy.

At such times I think creeks may be a part of our human consciousness. Perhaps we see in them reflections of our own dreams of liquid ease and silvery coursings. Perhaps it's the other way around—that creeks are the way Earth sees itself in us, recognizes in the branching of capillary and vein, neuron and thought, the dendritic pattern of rill and river. The gurgle of a brook may be the sound of confided ancestry. Perhaps that is why we universally find the sound of creeks reassuring. Perhaps that is why we carry creeksongs in our memories.

But as often as not the original creek is lost. Brower saw Strawberry Creek wedged into culverts. My ranger friend returned to his boyhood creek and found "it just didn't live up to the memories." Perhaps the adult eye sees outline but can no longer penetrate the meaning. Perhaps city life hardens our senses so that we no longer recognize the kinship of leaping water.

Or perhaps the destruction is real. In Pennsylvania, coal mining acidifies creeks: A map of Clarion County shows the blue veinwork of Allegheny mountain creeks, but virtually all of them have small skulls and crossbones beside them. In the Midwest, silt eroding off cultivated fields suffocates creeks. In the Southeast, second homes belly up to them, and as homeowners worry about fifty-year floods, they channelize and riprap and culvert the creeks. In the Northwest, logging waste and erosion chokes creeks. In California, housing tracts and industrial parks crowd right up to a creekbank, and as soon as a flood threatens, the channel is straightened, deepened, enclosed in concrete, and then fenced off so that children and lawsuits will not stray into its bone-white inhospitality.

Where laws are written to protect them, creeks may be so low on the list of priorities that the law dries up. There may be no staff at the state level to inspect creeks or follow permits. In California, water-quality officials are often forbidden to inspect lands about to be harvested by loggers. Pennsylvania's Division of Rivers and Wetlands Conservation has no field staff. Says Roger Fickes, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources,

"If we issue a permit with mitigation requirements, we almost never get out to see if permit conditions are met."

Creeks today seldom fall under the terms of wild and scenic rivers acts. In Ohio, for example, a waterway must be at least ten miles long to qualify for protection. Where creeks are not yet altered, landowners tend to think things will never change, and they are reluctant to get involved in efforts to protect them. Of 3,500,000 river miles in the United States, less than 30,000 are protected by scenic river laws. Federal laws protect a few short waterways, but they invariably have special qualities. Four and a half miles of Pennsylvania's Bear Run is protected, for example, but largely because it hosts two unique invertebrates and Frank Lloyd Wright's famous house "Falling Water."

CREEKS HAVE NOT fared well in a culture which defines itself by sweep, size, and noise. We grew up a nation of mighty rivers and mountains—rivers to turn the wheels of commerce and mountains to echo the names of explorers. We belittled other countries for failing to come up to the brag of our scenery. "The wildest things in England are more than half tame," sneered Nathaniel Hawthorne. "We've got steamboats enough at St. Louis to tow Great Britain out into the Atlantic and stick her fast," crowed an American in 1857.

We would never boast that we were a nation of creeks. But might British character—its inwardness of thought and outwardness of purpose—have as much to do with the creeks in its salad landscape as with the sea thundering at its back? Might our own fragile sense of care and community be nurtured by the simplicity and summery song of childhood creeks? And what may be lost when a creek vanishes? Robert Frost lamented a brook he once knew gone under city concrete, "thrown deep in a sewer dungeon under stone," and wondered if the interment kept thoughts from rising and work and sleep from inspiring the citizens who droned over the culvert.

There is an increasing interest in keeping creeks. People have begun to worry about what goes into water and to see that rivers and wells alike begin in creeks. The Izaak Walton League has, for twenty years, offered monitoring kits to anyone who wants to look after a stream, and there are now more than two hundred streams watched by the league, and an untold number of

others watched by people who have written in for the kits. Several states have "adopt a stream" programs, under which citizens go out to clean up trash, construct trails, conduct research, or monitor the political fate of a creek. In Ohio nearly 4,000 citizens are streamwatchers. In North Carolina, 150 streamwatch groups watch about 700 miles of waterways. In California, local creek councils try to stop Corps of Engineers flood-control projects from destroying their neighborhood creeks.

But more is needed. A University of California at Davis study warns that 60 percent of California's surviving creeks are in trouble. In the Rocky Mountain states, there is little or no protection for streams. In cities, people dump chemicals into storm drains, killing everything in their creeks. Expanding suburbs push creeks underground and cut the bond of sunlight and water. "Mostly they are taken for granted," says John Kopec of Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program. "Many times they are abused."

My boyhood creek long ago fell victim to groundwater pumping which lowered the water table, subdivision which fenced it off, and channelization and culverting for flood control. It followed the fate of nearly all the creeks that flow into San Francisco Bay. Not a single one is left without at least some stretch straightened and enclosed in concrete. With the creeks went the intimacies of the valley, the song of thrushes, the cool shade of cottonwoods, the inspiration of youth. In their place came freeways, smog, and the buzzing haste of placelessness.

But I keep yet another vision of creeks, a small consolation for the loss of boyhood haunts. In it, a confiding creek gurgles through a small alpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. It is a summer day, and the late-afternoon sun lines the golden haze with long blue forest shadows. My six-year-old son's blond hair catches the light as he stretches a fishing rod over the creek, dabbling at the water with a dry fly. The creekwater fairly boils with leaping rainbow trout. They are five- and six-inch fry, and their mouths are too small to close over the hook. But they dart impulsively, trying to draw him into their world just as he tries to lure them to his. And when one finally becomes snagged, he dances, shuffling triumphantly from foot to foot, the golden light of endless days in his eye, the silvery fish wriggling on his upheld leader. In the vision it is clear that it is he who has been caught. ■

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## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, June 18th  
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Place: Casting pond  
Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be provided. Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Distance achievement casting will be in progress. Coaching will be there for the asking.

Remember—this is the last scheduled clinic of the regular 1988-89 season. Come out and join the qualifiers. July will be an off-month, but a distance-casting clinic and ring-casting clinic will be held the third Sunday of August, August 20<sup>th</sup>, if the landscaping project will permit use of the pond.

The first scheduled casting clinic of the 1989-90 season will be held on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at the usual 11 AM to 2 PM time schedule.

### DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

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60 Feet	80 Feet
#19. Max Dreyer (8wt-SH)	#16. Max Dreyer (6wt-SH)
#20. Robert Brown (6wt-FL)	#7. Ken Magoon (8wt-SH)*
#7. Ken Magoon (6wt-SH)*	
#1. Bob Sisson (6wt-FL)**	
#2. Emil Lewis (6wt-FL)**	
#3. Liz Flynn (6wt-FL)**	

100 Feet	120 Feet
#5. Ken Magoon (6wt-SH)*	#1. Ken Magoon (6wt-SH)*

#### 135 Feet 148 Feet: New Distance Record

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#2. Ken Magoon (8wt-SH)

\* Repeated distance with a lighter-weight rod.

\*\* Repeated distance with a full line.

Ken Magoon, who set the first over-120-foot club record cast, is at it again. Ken rewrote all of his previously set distance marks from 60 feet through 120 feet with a 6-weight outfit instead of his original 8-weight rod. Ken, not satisfied with this noteworthy achievement, then borrowed my 896 and proceeded to not only qualify the 135-foot distance, but also set a new club distance record of 148 feet.

Ken is an outstanding example of how to improve on your "personal best." Everyone can do the same thing with a little effort (improve on your personal best, that is; the 148 feet may take a little doing to better).

Most of us who were there failed to reach new distance markers, but everyone improved over their past efforts. Better casting is a sure way of making your fishing outings more fun, even if the fish will not always cooperate. Remember, you spend over 90 percent of your time on the water casting unless the bite is really hot, and you can be certain to make that last cast a beauty—even if it does not produce a strike.

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## TROUT UNLIMITED

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The first meeting of a new local chapter of *Trout Unlimited* will be held June 22 at 7 p.m. in the Piner High School cafeteria.

*Trout Unlimited* representative Leo Cronin will be there, and Hal Janssen will speak on still-water techniques.

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## WRITE IT DOWN!

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To prevent missing a meeting or event due to the untimely delivery of bulk mail and the expense of first class postage, we suggest you mark your calendars a month in advance; all meetings and events are generally announced in the previous month's *cast*.

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## SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER-RUN CHINOOK SALMON CLASSIFIED AS "ENDANGERED"

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The State Fish and Game Commission last Tuesday (May 16) classified Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon as "endangered" at a public meeting in San Luis Obispo.

The Commission action came after Department of Fish and Game (DFG) officials reported recent estimates that the winter run has declined from about 2,000 fish in previous years to 550 in the most recent run.

The practical effect of this action is to inform all state agencies they must enter into a consultative process with DFG before taking any action which could affect winter-run salmon.

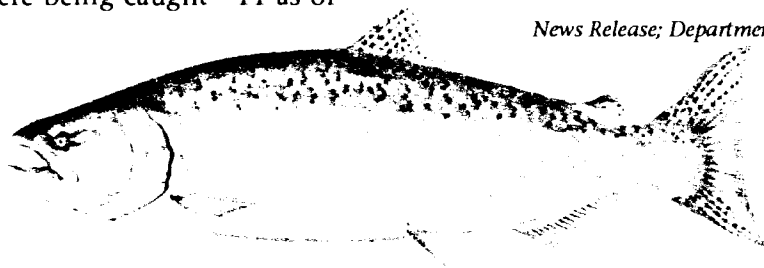
The Commission directed the DFG to provide recommendations at its August meeting on any changes affecting angler take of winter-run chinook salmon.

DFG estimates of a decline to 550 in the most recent winter run were based on observations of adult winter-run chinook salmon at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. DFG officials added that a concurrent angler census also showed few of the fish were being caught—11 as of April 25.

DFG officials indicated that a higher percentage of four-year-old fish have been observed in the current run, adding that the 1986 year "class" of fish—three-year-olds—appears to have suffered a high mortality, though the cause or causes are not known.

The issue of whether to designate the winter-run chinook salmon as "endangered" had been discussed at several commission meetings in recent months. Commented DFG Director Pete Bontadelli: "As the Department has indicated all along, we would continue to review the data as it came in and make appropriate recommendations as necessary. The data from the current year was the first significant change in several from the population stability which had formed the basis for our previous recommendation that there was no need to list this species. The Department's decision to recommend listing to the Commission was predicated on that continual review. Now that the data warrants the recommendation of listing, the Department has submitted it."

*News Release; Department of Fish & Game*



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

And so we begin again. On behalf of the Russian River Fly Fishers, I wish to thank those members leaving the board for their very talented service to the club. Bob Morrato, Liz Flynn, Dwight Longuevan, and Dennis Amato—your talent and energy will be sorely missed on the board. Thanks for a job well done!

Several new board members have been elected or re-elected, to complement board staff returning for the second year of their term. Not all board assignments have been decided yet, but I will advise you after the next board meeting. I would like you all to welcome members new to the board this year: Vince Murphy, Mike Galbraith, Augie Maugg, George Marcillac, and Grant Fletcher. Your new vice president, Russ Lockner, and I wish to thank those returning to the board for the very fine work accomplished last year and for their willingness to serve again. These return members include Mike Lisignoli, Bob Sisson, Bob Neil, Tim Grogan,

and Ken Magoon. We are going to have a great year!

August is our traditional vacation month. There will be no meeting during August. We do have a skills night scheduled for this month's meeting, however, and some of our talented members have consented to operate booths to teach us how to tie knots, etc. It should be exciting, fun, and informative.

I hope to see you all there.

### General Meeting

SKILLS SEMINAR  
Knots for fresh & salt;  
reel maintenance;  
plus other skills  
Wednesday  
July 19

### Board of Directors

Monday  
July 17  
7 p.m.  
Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

The dinner meeting is  
tentatively scheduled  
for September 20

*Tight  
Lines,  
Bob Morrison*



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## OUTINGS REPORT

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### FALL RIVER

Our next outing will be to Rick's Lodge on Fall River. The reserved dates are Friday night, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The dates have been changed from October to have warmer weather and, hopefully, better fishing. As I will probably miss the July meeting, please send a check for \$25 per person before August 1 in order to reserve space at Rick's. Send it to:

Ken Magoon, 5294 Arnica Way  
Santa Rosa, California 95403

We have reservations for **10 people**, on a first-come basis. There are two doubles at \$75/night and two rooms that sleep three at \$90/night. You can launch your own boats for free or rent boats for \$40/day. Meals are served at the lodge.

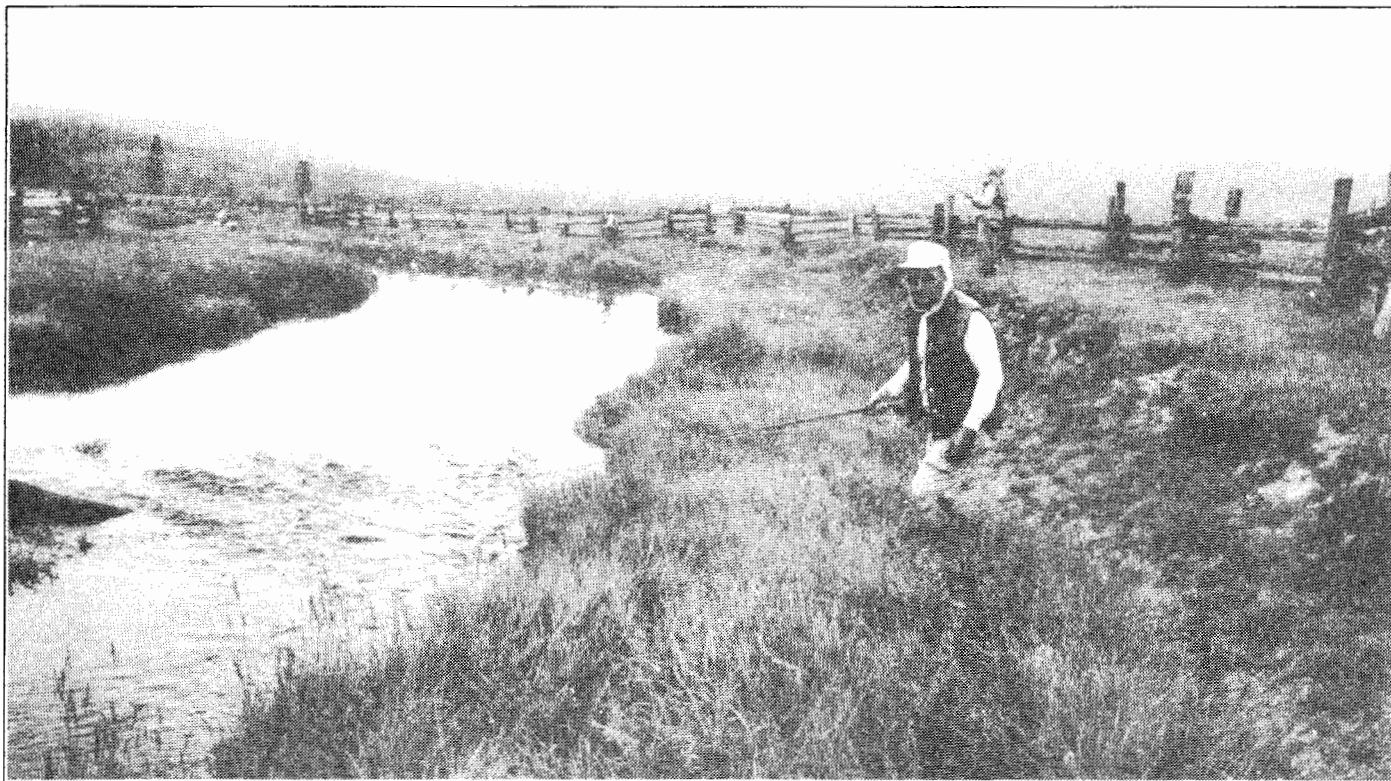
Fall River is truly one of our best spring creek trout fisheries and it is so close to other great fishing at Hat Creek, Baum Lake, Manzanita Lake, and McCloud River, that it's becoming my favorite Northern California area. This trip will offer a good introduction to traditional fly fishing techniques for novices and a renewed challenge for experienced anglers.

### YELLOW CREEK

Last month a group of us went out for another challenging spring creek fishing experience at Yellow Creek in the Humbug Valley. This restored stream has been preserved as a wild trout catch-and-release fishery. Despite the lack of any significant hatch due to unseasonably cool weather, it was obvious there was a considerable variety of insects which could provide great dry fly action. Charlie Schelter, Ben Cummings, and Patrick Palmer had good success using an array of flies. A special thanks to Dave Dempsey, who guides on Yellow Creek and other waters. He suggested this location and provided considerable knowledge about hatches and fishing techniques, as well as some very effective fly patterns.

I'm sure many of us will think back fondly on this trip, as much for the camaraderie as the fishing. The close proximity of the creek to the PG&E campground allowed people to walk to the fishing and generally "hang-out" with one another.

*Joe Tucker and Ben Cummings working on a green drake hatch at Yellow Creek.*





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## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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### SPECIAL CASTING CLINIC NOTICE

Date: Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Casting pond

Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

This clinic is scheduled primarily for distance achievement casting. It will be approaching the beginning of fall and the salmon and steelhead runs will not be very far in the future. If enough of the coaching staff is available we will also begin casting for accuracy using the rings.

Most of you, if you are not already 100' capable casters, can make that mark and more if you try a little.

### DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

#### 60 Feet

#21. Ron McDonell (8wt-SH)

#22. Dan Neff (5wt-FL)

#### 80 Feet

#17. Fred Flynn  
(8wt-SH)

#18. Robert Brown  
(4wt-FL)

#19. Ron McDonell  
(8wt-SH)

#### 100 Feet

#9. Liz Flynn (8wt-SH)

#### 120 Feet

#3. Bob Sisson  
(8wt-SH)

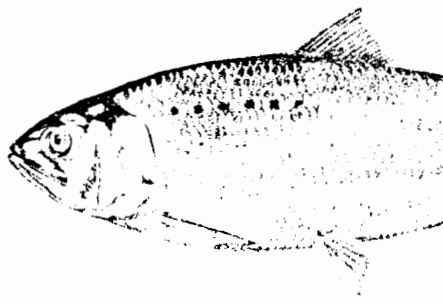
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## RUSSIAN RIVER SHAD TRIP

This goes back to May, but the club's outing to Johnson's Beach deserves a special mention as one of our more successful "family" outings. As evident by the accompanying photo, the barbeque was the central focus of this gathering. A special thanks to those who contributed the great food. Another positive feature of this outing was that it brought out several couples and introduced some new RREF members. Unfortunately, only two shad were briefly coaxed to join the party.

I have enjoyed working on these outings and look forward to setting up some different trips next year. I certainly welcome any suggestions.

*Ken Magoon*



*Shad trip  
to Johnson's Beach*



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## SKILLS SEMINAR

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Some of my favorite programs over the years have been given by club members. I really feel that the club has the responsibility to promote members teaching others, and I'm happy to be able to provide another opportunity for this. The July 19th meeting will be a skills seminar, focusing on knot-tying and reel maintenance. Perhaps like many of us you rely on just a few knots that you know how to tie—here's the opportunity to broaden your skills painlessly with others who want to brush up on the same things. Or you'd like to learn to rig saltwater gear *before* your trip. Or you've promised you'd take better care of your reels if Bill Archuleta would just show you how. He will. Printed instructions and equipment will be available for practice. There will be stations set up around the room with different instructors; you can pick the things you want to learn.

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Reminder: there is no meeting in August.

The next meeting  
—September 20th—  
will be a dinner meeting:  
Feather River Steelhead/Salmon.

*Liz Flynn*

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

*The RFR*



Volume 14  
Number 8  
September 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a happy and productive summer with many opportunities to pursue our sport. Now that our vacation month is behind us we need to focus our attention on club goals. To this end appointments of board members to various committees has been completed. Grant Fletcher is new to the board and has been asked to serve as Secretary to the club. Mike Lisignoli is continuing his superlative performance as Club Treasurer. Tim Grogen will continue as Chairman of our Conservation Committee. George Marcillac, who has been assisting our Membership Committee in the past is now Chairman of that committee. Ken Magon will continue the fine outing program he has been providing us as Outing Committee Chairman. Bob Sisson will continue as Casting Pond Chairman and continue the clinics he has held there each month. Augie Maugg has consented to take over the duties of Program Chairman from retiring Liz Flynn. New board member Mike Galbraith will serve with Bob Neill on the Raffle Committee. Vince Murphy will chair our Youth Program.

My personal goals for the Russian River Fly Fishers this year are to complete landscaping of our casting pond, expand our youth program, begin planning for our club house, and to direct our efforts wherever we can to improve our fishing resources. We have members working now on the CreekWeek program.

Our membership renewal is down from last year. I'm sure that many of you have simply overlooked renewing. The more of us that participate, the more exciting and meaningful the experience will be. If you have not yet renewed, please do it right away.

I am honored to be chosen your president and will make every effort to continue the progress the board has made to date under the capable leadership of past-president Bob Moratto. We all appreciate the fine job he has done.

*Tight Lines,  
Bob Morrison*

### General Meeting

DAVE SIMMONS  
Powell Fly Shop, Chico  
*Feather River  
Steelhead & Salmon*  
Dinner Meeting  
Holiday Inn  
Wednesday  
September 20  
7:30 P.M.

### Board of Directors

Monday  
September 18  
7:30 P.M.  
Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

CreekWeek  
September 24-30

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC SCHEDULE

### Fall 1989 – Spring 1990

All planned clinics will be held at the casting pond at Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Yulupa Avenue and Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa.

The schedule for the clinics will follow as closely as possible the following dates:

September 17 1st Sunday

October 15 2nd Sunday

November 19 1st Monday

December 17 4th Sunday

January 14 2nd Sunday

February 18 3rd Sunday

March 18 2nd Monday

April 15 1st Sunday

May 20 3rd Sunday

June 17 1st Sunday

The 1989–90 season's coaching staff will be made up at present by your pool captain; deputy pool captain Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel Service; Emil Lewis, former Golden Gate Casting Club instructor; and 1989 distance-casting club champion Ken Magoon.

Distance Casting Achievement will be featured at all of the scheduled clinics.

The distance casting program has been successfully under way since last December. The qualifying distances will continue to be 60', 80', 100', 120', 135', 150', and 180'. All of the distance marks through 135' have been exceeded and the best qualifying cast to date has been Ken Magoon's outstanding 148' effort.

1. All distance achievement casting qualifiers will be published in the cast.
2. All distance casting qualifiers will be recognized on the display board at the monthly club meetings.

3. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 80 feet and beyond will receive a certificate of excellence.

4. All distance casting qualifiers who achieve the 100'–200' mark will receive a certificate of excellence and a letter of commendation from the club.

5. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

6. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

7. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

8. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

9. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

10. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

11. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

12. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

13. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

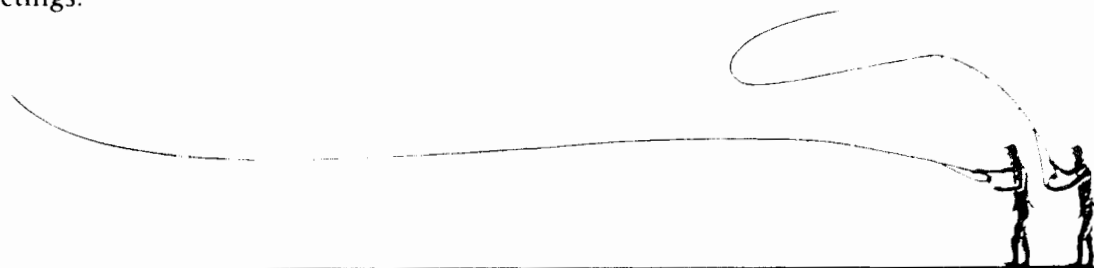
14. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

15. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

16. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

17. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.

18. All distance casting qualifiers who reach 100' will receive a letter of commendation from the club.



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# DINNER MEETING



**DAVE SIMMONS**

Powell Fly Shop, Chico, California

## FEATHER RIVER STEELHEAD AND SALMON

Wednesday, September 20, 1989

Holiday Inn Sonoma County  
3345 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

Cocktails @ 6:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 7:30 p.m.

MENU: Flank Steak with Green Peppercorn Glaze  
Caesar Salad  
Baked Potato, Vegetable du Jour  
Rolls, Butter  
Coffee, Tea, Decaf

\$15.00 per person, including tax/tip

-----  
RESERVATIONS: Mail resos received by Sept. 15 are \$15.00; last minute phone resos @ 573-8909 are \$20.00, paid at the door.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Russian River Fly Fishers; P.O. Box 2673; S.R. 95405

# CREEK WEEK

Santa Rosa Creek, west from Willowside Road

photo by Ben Cummings



"We [the organizers] aren't here to design a creek—we're here to look at the possibilities."

*Bill Knight, Chairman  
Committee for Restoring Santa Rosa Creek*

September 24–30 brings you a week devoted to Santa Rosa Creek (and its tributaries) and the possibilities any of us can envision, from its upper reaches to where it joins the Russian River via the Laguna. By drawing attention to the Creek—as a wildlife resource, a steelhead nursery, an aesthetic and recreational/park resource—we can take some steps toward protection, restoration, and enhancement of the natural habitat, while working cooperatively with those who envision a people-friendly downtown creek park, much like in the city of Boulder, Colorado.

CreekWeek will showcase fun events (among them: creek walks, a cross-creek corporate tug-of-war, and a rubber duck race for adults—seriously!); more serious meetings (the planning director of Boulder with a slide show of what they have done with their creek; he'll meet with both the public and with city planners);

exhibits and demonstrations at Thursday Night Market (read, visit the RRCF booth about the current state of the creek and what might be done to improve the spawning/rearing habitat for the steelhead who still use it, or sign up to help us with the booth).

Above all, Saturday, September 30 brings you TakePart, a workshop where everyone who wants has a chance to do just that—play with his or her dreams of what a creek could be, or once was. TakePart is a process of interaction, design, and fun that gives the whole community the chance to create a design for the future. TakePart is a workshop you can be part of—as well as the project to restore Santa Rosa Creek.

If you aren't able to donate your time or talents (or even if you are), the committee could certainly use money **now** to help cover the costs of getting the word out about the creek. Please make checks payable to:

Santa Rosa Creek  
1055 W. College Avenue, Suite 285  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Non-profit tax-exempt status is in the works and should be available this fiscal year.

*Liz Flynn*

## FALL RIVER TRIP

**Dates:** September 22 to 24  
**Place:** Lava Creek Lodge  
**Reservations:** Frank Bertaina  
 542-4242

**Rates per person:**

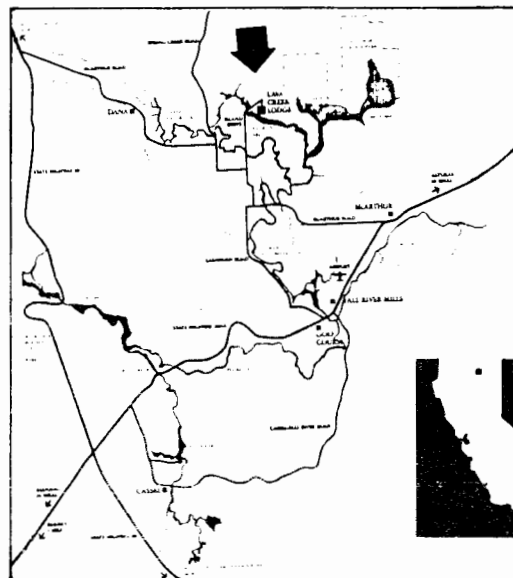
Lodge	2 nights/\$130
	3 nights/165
Cabins	2 nights/\$110
	3 nights/\$135
R.V.	2 nights/\$95
	3 nights/\$120

The facilities at Lava Creek include rooms in the Lodge and two-person cottages, hence the rate differences. There will be a buffet available for those arriving late on Thursday or Friday nights. On Saturday night there will be a sit-down dinner. Breakfast and lunch will be prepared daily. A full bar will be open for your enjoyment.

You can launch boats at the Lodge's access to Eastman Lake, which is between Tule River and Fall River. Gas or electric motors can be used in that area, but you may encounter some hassles if you try to go up Fall River with your old gasser. Launching at Fall River is from Cal Trout and they only allow electric motors. Also, the DMV requires registration of all boats when using any motor; the Cal Trout people may not let you launch an unregistered boat. In any case, you can only fish from a boat on Fall River. Boats are available at the lake on a first-come basis.

Everyone will be responsible for making their own reservations and advance payments. Call Frank Bertaina at Fishing International (542-4242). About eight club members and friends have made reservations to date. Those who wish to more closely commune with nature by camping can call Bill Laurie (538-0399). This group will probably stay at MacArthur Burney State Park and fish various waters in the area.

**Flyes:** Pale Morning Duns, #16 & #18  
 Pheasant-Tail Nymphs (weighted) #14 & #16  
 Zug Bugs, #12 & #14  
 Black-and-olive leeches, #10 & #12  
 Olive-and-bright-green caddis, #14 thru #18  
 Olive-and-rusty spinners, #16  
 October caddis, #8



**Rods/Lines:** 4, 5, or 6 wt. rods  
 Floating lines  
 Long leaders (12 to 16 ft.)  
 Light tippets (4x, 5x, & 6x)  
 Strike indicators  
 Waders, staffs, etc., are not needed for Fall River, but are necessary for Hat Creek and the Pit River.

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

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 California  
 95405

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the CAST



Volume 14  
Number 9  
October 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I mentioned in our September Cast that our membership renewal was down. I am happy to report that many of you have since renewed. We will soon be printing our new roster, so those of you who have not as yet renewed, and who want to be included and continue to receive your Cast must act quickly.

October marks the return of steelhead and salmon to our coastal streams. I, for one, am anxious to try new casting techniques I acquired at our casting clinics. Those of you that haven't taken advantage of our very able coaching staff by attending the clinics are missing a fun and informative event, and since clinics are scheduled every month, you should be able to attend some of them.

Both the Eel and Russian Rivers should be showing action by mid-month. In addition to silver and king salmon, striped bass should offer sport by mid-month in the lower Russian. The early rains we had last month should help this situation. Ken Magoon, our outgoing chairman has a steelhead outing planned for October 21 &

22 to the Feather River. That should be a great trip. You trout fishermen should try some of the late season fishing, as I have found it to be some of the best available all year.

I have high hopes that the landscaping around the casting pond will actually happen soon. I have recently spoken to Charlie Hoefer of the City of Santa Rosa Parks' Department relative to its progress. Charlie told me that the architectural and engineering drawings

and specifications are complete and that he will advertise for bid in mid October. Bids will be due in November and the contractor is expected to begin when weather permits, probably in the spring. Work will include grading around the pond, planting of turf, planting of shrubs around the fence line, installation of irrigation and drainage lines, and the installation of a sidewalk from the turnstile to the southwest side of the pond. Charlie said he will keep us informed of the progress.

### General Meeting

BRIAN WONG  
*Flyfishing Baja*  
Wednesday  
October 18  
7:00 P.M.  
Steel Lane School

### Board of Directors

Monday  
October 16  
7:30 P.M.  
Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

Leo Kronin  
of Trout Unlimited  
*Creek Restoration*  
Wednesday  
November 5

Abe & Angelo Cuanang  
*Marlin Fishing*  
Tuesday  
December 5

*Tight Lines,  
Bob Morrison*



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# CREEK WEEK REPORT

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Overheard Friday during CreekWeek:

"You know which was the best booth?"

"Well, probably the Russian River Fly Fishers/  
Trout Unlimited booth."

"Oh, no, it was the one with that fish (22  
pound steelhead)."

"Yeah, you mean the Russian River Fly Fishers/T.U.!"

"No, no, it was the one with that big fish and  
with the steelhead swimming around on the  
videotape."

"Well, that's what I mean. That was the RRFF/  
T.U. booth."

"Well, all I know is that those fish really were  
something!"

They may not remember who we were, but a lot of people will sure remember those fish (22# steelhead lent by Fishing International and Santa Rosa Creek steelhead videotape filmed by Mike Hawes and Neil Light). Thursday Night Market during CreekWeek gave your club a chance to educate a lot of folks about the creek and our concerns about it: Yes, there really is a creek running through town—yes, those steelhead really do spawn in the creek—no, the tributaries of the Russian River are closed to fishing—we need to improve the habitat for these fish in specific ways.

Our booth, shared with Trout Unlimited, contained educational posters (about what a healthy steelhead nursery stream needs and what the Russian River once was in terms of fishery quality), photo enlargements of Santa Rosa Creek, a slide presentation of Santa Rosa Creek (slides by Ben Cummings and Mark King), a flyer about the Club and its philosophy about the Creek (written by Bob Sisson), the mesmerizing videotape of the steelhead (Augie Maugg borrowed a big-

screen TV and VCR), and T.U.'s display of stream rehab projects in action.. Other members on hand to answer the public's questions were Tim Grogan and myself.

Mike and I attended TAKE PART, on Saturday, September 30. This was a workshop where the community sits down to design the improvements *they*, not the "officials" would like to see in the creek. Several things were interesting to me:

1. We all sought the same goal, no matter what jobs we held during the week or what group we were allied with. That's what I've seen all along in this project. Developers are talking to conservationists and city councilmen, and they're all working together.
2. It looked like people paid attention to our booth's "message." Most of the creek "designs" at TAKE PART were careful to think of the fish. The water was shaded, there were boulders, rocks, and overhanging banks added; the concrete channel had been modified.
3. We had a great time, but there could have been more people there. On the other hand, we would have been there till dark! But this is your creek and now's the time to get involved, rather than when plans are set in (heaven forbid) concrete. Sorry, I couldn't resist that. The next segment of TAKE PART, where the artist's sketches of our ideas will be presented will be October 28. My homework is to bring six more of you with me.

Other thanks to Unruh's Photography for photo enlargements; TEE VAX for loan of TV and VCR; Grubb& Ellis and Santa Rosa Blueprint for assistance with printing; Scott Architectural Graphics for donation of the signage; and Riley Street for donation of the signage material.

—Liz Flynn

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## THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE PART IN RESTORING SANTA ROSA CREEK

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**A Second Community Workshop is being held on:**

Saturday, October 28, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at

Santa Rosa Junior High (Cougar's Den),

500 "E" Street

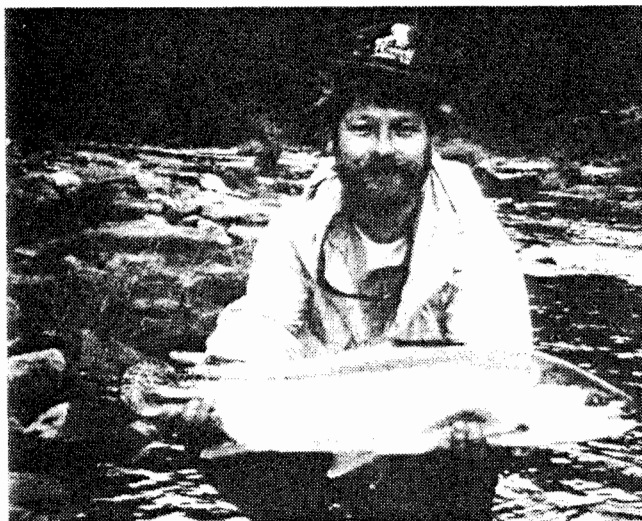
**Everyone** is Welcome! This is your chance to refine, revise and review the results of the 1st Community Workshop in September, attended by over 120 people. Those ideas included enhancement of fishery and wildlife habitat, bike and

hiking trails, an amphitheater, park-like settings, creek side cafes and linking existing parks to the creek. What else do YOU want to see along the creek? Come on out on October 28 and bring your ideas and friends.

Creekweek was a great success and we sure appreciate your efforts. If you missed Ed Gawf, the Planning Director from Boulder, Colorado, and would like to see the video tape, give us a call to arrange a showing to your group.

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RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHER  
**DINNER MEETING**



**DAVE SIMMONS**

Powell Fly Shop, Chico, California

**FEATHER RIVER STEELHEAD AND SALMON**

**Wednesday, September 20, 1989**

Holiday Inn Sonoma County  
3345 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Cocktails @ 6:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

**MENU:** Flank Steak with Green Pepper  
Caesar Salad  
Baked Potato, Vegetable du Jour  
Rolls, Butter  
Coffee, Tea, Decaf

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS OUTINGS

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All members' families and friends are invited to any of our club outings. All reservations for motels, etc. must be paid for one month in advance. I would greatly appreciate suggestions for places to go and stay for any of our outings. If you wish we might arrange for a guide to accompany us for a nominal fee. Please contact me if you know someone who can guide us on any of these trips. Ken Magoon, 527-8376.

**October 28 – 29 Feather River/Steelhead**

(camping or motel)  
Seminar information below

**November 18 – 19 Eel River/Salmon**

(camping or motel) Guided?

**December 16 Russian River/Dry Creek**

(walking trip)

**January 20 – 21 Gualala River/Steelhead**

(camp, hotel or rent cabin?)

**February 17 Putah Creek/Trout**

**March 24 – 25 Sacramento River/Trout**

(camp or motel in Redding) Guided?

**April 21 – 22 Pyramid Lake**

(Despite the gloomy predictions about its demise as a fishery, I think we might give this lake and Crosby's "yet another effort," mon amis).

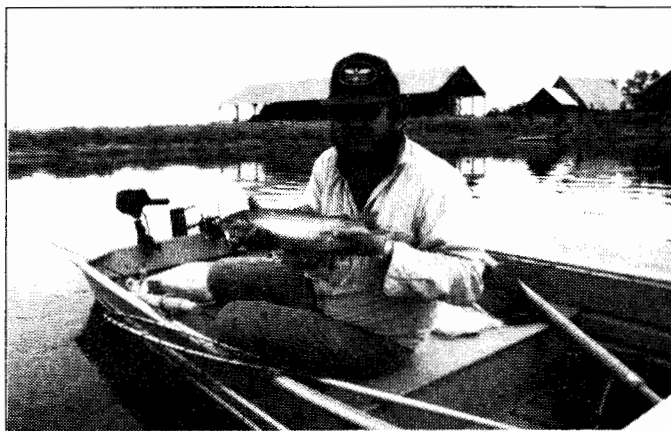
**May 18 – 19 Owens River**

(Johnson's Resort/Rent bus?)

**June 2 or 3 Shad on Russian River, Sacramento or Umpqua River, or...**

## Feather River Seminar

We have an opportunity to participate in an all day seminar sponsored by Powell Fly Shop on October 28. It will cost \$50 per person. If we can get 10 to 15 participants, Dave Simmons, who gave the fine presentation at our September meeting, will provide three guides for a day of on-stream instruction on how to read and fish the Feather River for steelhead. The seminar will be followed by a BBQ. Call me at 527-8376 if you want more information.



*Ken Magoon with 18-incher on Fall River above Cal Trout Access. Caught on #12 Zug Bug. Photo by Bob Neill*

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## OUTING REPORT

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Our trip to Fall River produced some very nice fishing for many of us. The days were unseasonably warm, which produced good hatches of Baetis (Little Olives) and Infrequens (Pale Morning Duns) for some good dry fly fishing (but not necessarily catching). But the most and biggest rainbows were caught with Pheasant Tail Nymphs and Zug Bugs. I landed four fish in the 16-inch range using these flies below an indicator. Bill Laurie hooked a big fish that would not leave the weed beds and left Bill with a slack line. Bob Neill also got into a nice fish using this technique.

About 16 club members and friends went. Some camped at MacArthur Burney State Park, but ten stayed at Lava Creek Lodge. We all got together at the Lodge for a prime rib dinner on Saturday night. I really enjoyed staying at the Lava Creek. It was convenient to get to the Cal Trout access to Fall River and some guys just motored from the Lodge to some good fishing on the lower river. The food and staff were great and Frank Bertania's tales of fly fishing for tarpon and sailfish kept us entertained well into the night. I hope more members get a chance to go on next year's trip.

—Ken Magoon

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

DATE: Sunday, October 15th

TIME: 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

PLACE: Casting pond.

Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

If weather (heavy, steady rain), forces postponement of the clinic on the 15th, we will attempt to hold the event on the following Sunday, October 22nd.

Distance casting qualification and coaching will be in progress.

Ring casting for accuracy will be headed up by coach Emil Lewis.

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be provided by coach Brian Wong.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Brian has several basic full line outfits he will provide to beginners, both members and non-members, on a reservation basis. If you wish to reserve the use of one of these outfits call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

### August and September Clinics

60'

- #5. Bob Neill (5wt-SH) \*\*
- #23. John Van Cott (3wt-SH)
- #24. Charlie Shelter (9wt-SH)

80'

- #5. Bob Neill (5wt-SH) \*\*
- #20. Charlie Shelter (9wt-SH)

100'

- #10. Bob Neill (8wt-SH)

\*\*Repeated distance with a lighter weight rod.



## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

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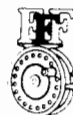
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 14  
Number 10  
November 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just contacted the Santa Rosa Parks Department regarding progress on our casting pond landscaping. I was informed that the specifications have been completed and approved. Advertisement is planned for later this month and they plan about a ten-day advertisement period. Even though the rainy season is near, they hope to complete part of the work this fall. Mr. Hoefer has promised to keep us informed.

I also contacted Georgean Salisbury of the City of Santa Rosa Finance Department regarding the club money on deposit with the City. We have at present \$23,412, including accrued interest. The money is presently invested along with other city reserves on a month-to-month basis at a 9 percent interest rate. Your Board will look into having those funds back to our treasury if we can beat the interest rate. The money is earmarked for pond improvements exclusively, but would be much easier to access from our own treasury. Ms. Salisbury will check to see how such a transfer could be made and will contact us.

Salmon and steelhead action should be hot in the Russian and Eel Rivers by mid-November, barring heavy rain. I always look forward to this period with great

anticipation as very little equals the thrill of hooking one of these fresh-run beauties. Programs about steelhead fishing, like the one we had at our dinner meeting in September, really get my juices flowing. I hope you all have a great steelhead season.

We will be having our December dinner meeting early. It is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>, a Tuesday night. Be sure to mark it on your calendar now and plan to attend. This is always one of the best meetings of the year.

We have been experiencing trouble in getting our *Cast* mailed on time. The problem is that we mail them third class, which costs us only 8.4 cents per copy, but they may sit in the post office for up to three weeks before being mailed out. If the *Cast* is prepared early enough to meet this delay, the news is old news before you get it. Your Board has decided to mail copies to our members first class and continue to send other clubs, etc., third class. We hope this will result in your getting your *Cast* in a timely fashion and that it will contain current news.

*Tight Lines,  
Bob Morrison*

### General Meeting

LEO KRONIN  
of Trout Unlimited  
*Creek Restoration*  
Wednesday  
November 15  
7 P.M.  
Parks & Rec Building  
Steele Lane, Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
November 13  
7:30 P.M.  
Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

Abe & Angelo Cuanang  
*Marlin Fishing*  
Tuesday  
December 5

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Place: Casting pond  
Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

If weather forces postponement of the clinic on the 19<sup>th</sup>, we will attempt to hold the event on the following Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Distance casting qualification and coaching will be in progress. Ring casting for accuracy will be headed by coach Emil Lewis. Beginning and intermediate instruction will be provided by the coaching staff.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has several basic full-line outfits he will provide to beginners, members or non-members, on a reservation basis. If you wish to reserve the use of one of these outfits, contact Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel (527-9887).

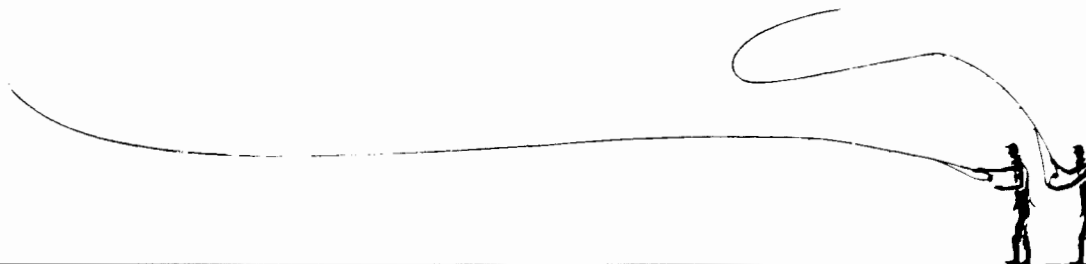
The awards program for the distance casting event is in full swing. All qualifiers are presented in the *Cast*, the display boards are in operation, the certificates for achievement of 80 feet or more are being presented at

the monthly meetings, and the patches for achievement of 100', 120', and 135' are being awarded. The presentations for achievement for 150' and farther will be made when someone qualifies the distance.

## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

60 Feet	80 Feet
#25. Lynn Bartholomew (8wt-SH)	#21. Lynn Bartholomew (8wt-SH)
#26. Richard Bicknell (8wt-SH)	#22. Richard Bicknell (8wt-SH)
#13. Chuck Baker (5wt-SH)**	#12. Chuck Baker (5wt-SH)**

*\*\*Repeated distance with a lighter-weight rod.*



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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# *the Cast*



Volume 14  
Number 11  
December 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Santa Rosa Parks Department has undertaken landscaping work at the casting pond using their own forces. Considerable work has already been completed. The entire area around the pond has been graded (away from the pond) and with a little luck the irrigation system should be completed before weather stops work for the winter. Things are looking good!

Your Board hopes you all plan to attend our December dinner meeting on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn. We have a wonderful program scheduled for the event, as well as some great raffle items. We hope to see all of you there. Because of the date, so soon after you receive this, please call our answering machine right away to make your reservations so the Holiday Inn can be ready for us (573-8909).

Your Board regrets inconveniences caused by the very late delivery of *the Cast* to many of you. Many people did not receive them in time for the November meeting, although they were at the post office three weeks prior to the meeting. It seems we were \$4 short in postage and we were not notified until the day before the meeting. We have decided

that *the Cast* will be mailed first class starting with this issue. We hope this will cure the continuing problem of late newsletters.

A couple of weeks ago on a visit to the coast I noted that the mouth of the Russian River was closed and that the harbor seals were conspicuously absent. I assumed this indicated there were no fish in the area waiting to go up.

The mouth was opened during the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> and I heard a report that on the following weekend the seals were back in large numbers. At our November meeting there were reports of some fish in the river—the seals must have heard the report also.

### General Meeting

ABE & ANGELO CUANANG

*Fishing the Baja*

Tuesday

December 5

Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn • Santa Rosa

6:30 P.M. Cocktails

7:30 P.M. Dinner

### Board of Directors

Monday

December 4

7:30 P.M.

Warrack Hospital

### Coming Events

Next Meeting

Wednesday • January 17

Parks & Recreation Center

Santa Rosa

*Tight Lines,  
Bob Morrison*

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## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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Date: Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Place: Casting pond  
Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

If weather forces postponement of the clinic on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the next clinic will be held on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. That'll be the **second** Sunday of the month, not the **third**.

Distance casting qualification and coaching will be in progress. Coaching for ring casting accuracy will be offered. Beginning and intermediate instruction will be provided by the coaching staff.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has several basic full-line outfits he will provide to beginners, members as well as non-members,

on a reservation basis. If you wish to reserve one of these outfits for yourself or a non-member, contact Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel (527-9887).

Great things are happening at the pond site. Progress on the final landscaping has been underway since late October. Much grading has been accomplished and may be complete as you read this memo. The water lines will be or may be in place if weather has permitted. Seeding is scheduled immediately, if weather permits. In any event the turf will be in place by this spring if it cannot be planted now. The area around the pond looks great—no weeds, just a bare expanse that, when planted, will provide a surrounding that will be as attractive as any that exists anywhere. Initial planning for interclub activity is in the beginning stages. We intend to invite Golden Gate up for some friendly competition for starters, and then possibly move on to regional interclub activity.

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## DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

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### Abe Cuanang • Fishing the Baja

Tuesday, December 5 • \$20/person  
Holiday Inn • Santa Rosa  
6:30 P.M. Cocktails • 7:30 P.M. Dinner

A native San Franciscan, Abe and his brother Angelo have had the opportunity to fish every anadromous fish population in Northern California and have fished all over the world for tarpon and billfish. Abe and Angelo are perhaps most renowned for their ability to catch San Francisco Bay stripers and sturgeon.

From 1980 to 1985 they were involved in the UC Davis Sturgeon Program. Abe is the author of *San Francisco Bay Sturgeon and Stripers* and is on the staff of "California Angler" and "Saltwater Sportsman." He is also a charter staff writer for a new publication, "Pacific Fisherman," devoted to saltwater sportfishing; the premier issue will be in December 1989—look for it at the newsstands.

If you love saltwater fishing, don't miss Abe at our December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting!

The January meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 1990, at the Parks & Rec Center in Santa Rosa.

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### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

For more information, contact:  
Russell J. Smith, Editor, *California Angler*  
10000 E. Highway 101, Suite 100  
San Jose, CA 95138

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