



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# The RIF



Volume 16  
Number 1  
January 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our annual Holiday Dinner was a success in every way. The food was good, the speaker was excellent—his slides were magnificent—and best of all, there were almost no empty chairs in the room. Give yourself a well deserved pat on the back for a job well done. As I was sitting next to Mel at the head table during dinner, I asked him when he began to fly fish. I perhaps expected him to tell me a story of how his father or grandfather had taken him by the hand at some tender age and taught him all the tricks. When he told me that he had spent his early years in Texas and had first used a fly road at the age of 35 years I wasn't really that surprised. But imagine—here is a man who by any standard is one of the world's most competent fly casters and certainly one of the best teachers in the world, who learned his craft at the age of 35! I think it has to do with commitment and finding something that one really likes.

The word amateur has come to mean one who dabbles or engages in a sport as a pastime rather than a profession. When in fact, the origin of the word comes from the French meaning "lover of." What a really fine word to describe a fisherman. A professional does

something for the monetary reward (as in B.A.S.S. tournaments) and the word is usually equated with work. Now fishing is not work, which isn't to say that people don't work at fishing, or work at some aspect of the fishing industry. But to me the great fisherpersons, be they writers, fly tyers, guides, rod builders, artists, etc. are not the same as "professionals," they are amateurs as "lovers of their craft." I am always amazed when browsing in a fishing store to behold a truly beautiful

book full of wonderful prose and equally enchanting photographs, or a wood carving of a trout so carefully painted, or a tiny little mayfly tied on a #18 hook. These are the works of people who truly enjoy what they do.

We are most fortunate to have a club with a strong and diverse membership. We have artists, artisans, and fisherman of national prominence; but most of all we have people who like fish and fishing. I am pleased to be associated with you and hope you each have a truly wonderful year pursuing that aspect of our sport which you love most.

### General Meeting

NEIL LIGHT  
*New Twists for Fly Fishing for  
Summer & Winter Steelhead*  
Wednesday  
January 16  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
January 14  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue  
Suite 1B  
Santa Rosa

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## **FUTURE OUTINGS**

This is one of my less than enthusiastic winter contributions. There's not much to report or anticipate in the near future in the way of local anadromous fish activity, so I suggest we forego our wildly exciting annual **Dry Creek Stroll** this year. Even the extremely popular **Gualala River Fresh Frozen Steelheader Camp Out** may be endangered. (See last year's *Cast* for all that you're missing.) However, if there's any decent rain in January...

Realistically though, we should probably consider some other fishing destinations in the early months of 1991. Here are some suggestions:

- January 26** Putah Creek - Trout
- February 15 - 17** Sacramento River - Trout  
(Drifting and wading in the Redding/Andersen stretch)
- March 15 - 17** Pyramid Lake - Trout  
(Reservations at Crosby's should be made soon.)

- April 20** Family/Youth Outing  
(Picnic and fishing at a small local lake or pond.)
- May 18 - 19 or  
May 25 - 27** Sacramento River - Shad  
(Camping at Verona. Dates depend on the "Run")
- June 9 - 12** Owen's River/Arcularius  
*Booked Up!* Ranch
- June 18 - 20** *Open*

Since the booking for this trip has to be so far in advance, we should definitely have a backup list. I will require \$50 from each person by the January 16 meeting to cover a deposit required by the "Ranch" in February. I was informed by Richard Gravett that Arcularius is already completely reserved for the summer, so this may be your one chance to go. See the November *Cast* for more details on this great outing.

I can be reached at 527-8376.

*Ken Magoon*

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## **COMING EVENTS**

- February Royce Gunter on the Warm Springs Hatchery
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## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

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We closed out 1990 with 137 paid-up members, which includes about 20 new members. We must build our strength if we are to survive and enjoy fly fishing in the North Bay and elsewhere. To this end we are now considering a membership drive during the three month period of April thru June 1991. Now is the time for every member to "hook a new member." To get membership applications, call Dick Mattingly at (707) 526- 4477; or drop me a card % R.R.F.F., P.O. Box 5162, Santa Rosa, CA 95405; or pick up an application at Lyle's Fishing and Travel Service, 2690 Santa Rosa Avenue; or at King's Western Angler, 532 College Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Will those of you who attended the Holiday Dinner with Mel Krieger and took home your name tag, please return it.

## **RAFFLE NOTES**

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The raffle and club dues are the main source of support for the R.R.F.F. Items at the raffle are either purchased or donated (King's Western Angler has been our main benefactor). Even with this type of support and your generous purchase of tickets, our margin of profit is slim. *We need donations for our raffles!* Large or small items, you be the judge—if you like it the rest of us probably will too. Put your name on any item you donate so that I can give you credit. Thank you for your support.

*Michael Galbraith, Raffle Chairperson*

## **CONSERVATION NEWS**

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We are working with the Department of Fish and Game to "Adopt at Stream" whereby the club can start with a modest stream/habitat improvement program and develop it into an ongoing program depending on the level of interest and participation. More on this later.

*Ed Smith, Conservation Chairperson*

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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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Date: Sunday, January 20

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.

The event will provide an opportunity to work out any bugs that may have developed in your distance casting and will also provide for ring casting accuracy practice. Beginning and intermediate instruction will be offered as usual.

The event will take place as planned unless we are enjoying a serious rainstorm. If it has been raining prior to the event, the best approaches

are to walk past the baseball field to the access road or just walk the access road from the paved parking area.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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).

*Bob Sisson*

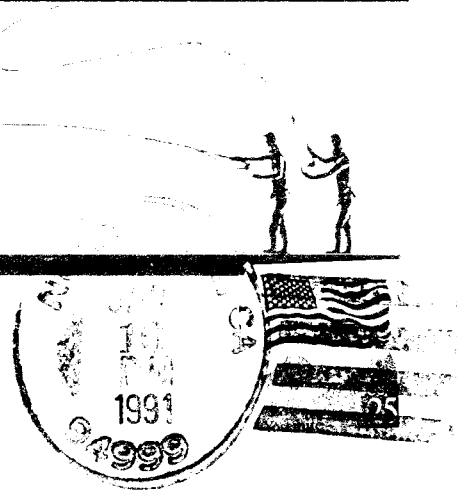
The next event will take place on February 17

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### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404



Address correction requested  
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 16  
Number 2  
February 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steelhead. What are they? Scientifically they are very closely related to the rainbow trout, in fact, perhaps a subspecies although this is unclear. They are anadromous (that is, they migrate into fresh water from the ocean to spawn). They are unique among Pacific salmon in that they do not die after spawning. Their great size relative to other trout is due to the fact they have the benefit of two or three years of feeding in the ocean with its diverse and abundant food supply.

We do know that their numbers have declined drastically in our north coast streams in the last half century. The average number of spawning runs has decreased by over 65 percent in the last 40 years. This is largely attributed to destruction of the spawning beds by extensive mining, logging, road construction, gravel operations, grazing, and damming of the rivers.

Any loss of habitat in a spawning tributary results in a complete lost opportunity for the adult fish to spawn. It was established long ago that each fish returns to its "home" tributary system to breed. Thus any loss of spawning habitat in a tributary system or impediment to upstream travel has ruinous effects.

The fish spawn in the spring (winter run fish move into the rivers in November to March; summer fish may run in late spring, summer, or fall and then wait until the following spring to spawn). Ninety percent of the fish spend two summers in the ocean, the remainder spend three years. And the annual return to the

fresh water which yields the great sport but also sets the stage for the problems of declining numbers. The fish congregate outside the mouths of the rivers before beginning their run. Obviously they must wait until the mouth of the river is open sufficiently for their passage; second, the fish must switch their kidney mechanism from operating in salt water to fresh water and this may take several days. The fish are easy prey for aquatic mammals (although the evidence on the actual effect of seal and sea lion predation is minimal) and also the nets of commercial fishing operations.

What to do? Conservation of resources is probably key—from preservation of the spawning habitats to conservation and maintenance of water and stream flows. Add to this the removal of breeding fish from the population by fisherman and the populations must decline. Fishing pressure is even more serious with steelhead because a fish taken this year will not only not make its contribution to the gene pool this year but in future years as well. I think it may be in our own best interests to *eliminate* fishing altogether for certain years. A drastic measure, clearly, but far better than the alternative.

### General Meeting

ROYCE GUNTER  
*The Warm Springs Hatchery*  
Wednesday  
February 20  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
February 18  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue  
Suite 1B  
Santa Rosa

RRFF Hot Line  
573-8909

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## **FUTURE OUTINGS**

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With everything going so badly and nothing but war, recession, homelessness, and drought in the news, it seems somewhat trivial to plan for such seemingly whimsical activities as fly fishing trips. Yet, in times like these, folks need a pleasant diversion. Movie attendance remains high and I notice that the golf links are just as crowded as ever. And if you've had the opportunity to fish the River this month, you probably came across a few pods of flyfishers diligently pounding the water over even fewer steelies. Occasionally, someone (usually Bill Schaad or Neil Light) hooks into one and everyone in the line-up gets a vicarious thrill. At least, that's all I got out of five days in the water, "cheap thrills" and some chills.

As for other matters, such as the **Arcularious Ranch** outing, we are expected to make a fifty dollar deposit by March 1. The June 9 to 12 dates are tentatively booked, but there's room during the June 18 to 20 period. There's also a possibility that some folks may not be able to make the first week, so contact me at 527-8376 to get on a waiting list. We'll have a pre-trip meeting or two to plan meals and tie fly patterns for the **Owens River**.

If the *Cast* is out early enough, we can get a group going to the Redding area for some good trout fishing on the **Sacramento River**. According to Mike Mercer of the Fly Shop in Redding, nymph fishers are doing well up near **Keswick Dam**. In February, we ought to see more caddis activity. There's fairly easy drifting in the area or we can drive to several different riffles in a day. We can also take a side trip to **Lewiston Lake**, if there's a decent *Callibaetis* hatch.

I made reservations with Crosby's at **Pyramid Lake** for Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9. I expected to get any weekend since it's so early, but they are all booked for the rest of the month. We have the "house" with the BBQ, which holds 5, and one room that sleeps 2. It's still only \$12 per person, too! To avoid last minute cancellations and vacancies I'm going to ask for \$24 by the February meeting. Call me soon to get in on this one. **Pyramid Lake** is still our best **Trophy Trout Fishing** bargain, such as it is.

### **OOPS!**

Due to a desire to be with my family the night "The Storm" hit Iraq, I missed the last meeting. I forgot to make arrangements to provide the coffee, etc. I know that many of you might not have even noticed this. To those of you who didn't get dinner and for those who purposely forego dessert on RRRFF meeting nights in order to have my decaf coffee and Chips Ahoy cookies, I sincerely apologize for the omission. I'll appoint an assistant to help out in the future.

*Ken Magoon  
Outing Person and VP in Charge of Snacks*

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## **COMING EVENTS**

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- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 20 | Mike Foster<br><i>Steelhead and Salmon<br/>Fly Fishing on the Eel River</i> |
| April 17 | Dave Simons<br><i>Shad Fishing on the<br/>Sacramento and Feather Rivers</i> |

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## SPORTING COLLECTIBLES SHOW

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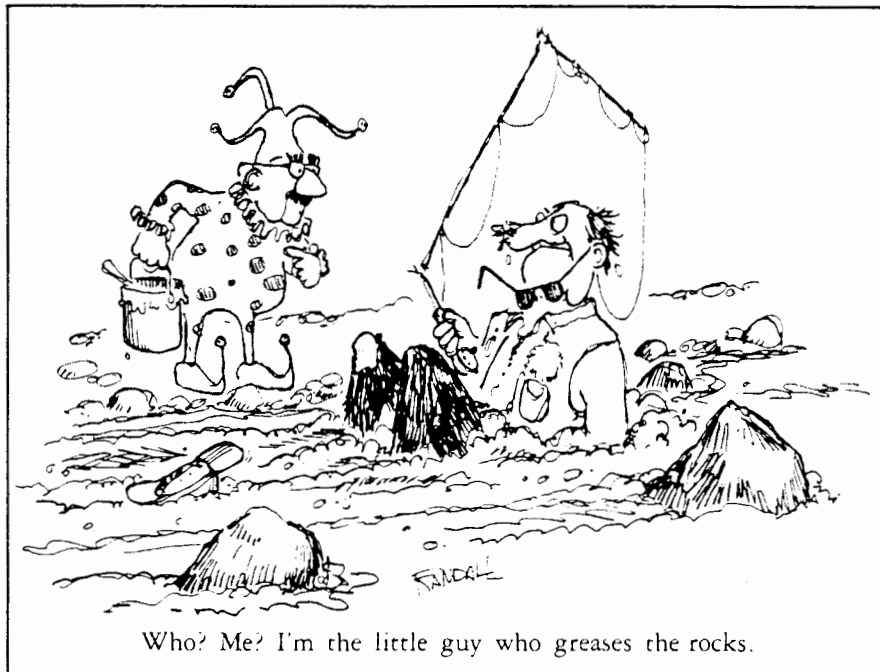
The Fifth Annual West Coast Sporting Collectibles Show will be held at the El Rancho Tropicana Resort Hotel in Santa Rosa on April 6 and 7, 1991. Vintage fishing tackle and antique duck decoys will be featured by 150 collectors and dealers from throughout the west expected to have display tables exhibiting their collectibles and offering fishing rods, lures and tackle and old wooden duck decoys, wildlife art, knives and sporting memorabilia for sale or trade as well as offering to purchase such items.

The general public is welcome to attend and 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 Foothill Drive  
Santa Rosa 95404  
(707) 542-0235

or: **Dave Inks**  
(707) 538-5861.



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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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Date: Sunday, February 19

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.

The event will feature both distance casting techniques and ring casting accuracy practice. Beginning and intermediate instruction will be offered as usual.

The event will take place as planned unless we are finally receiving some serious rainfall. If it has been raining prior to the event, the best

approaches are to walk past the baseball field to the access road or just walk the access road from the parking lot gate.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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).

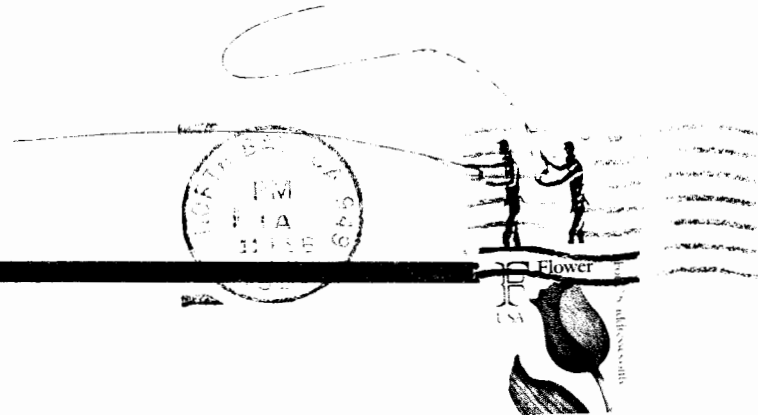
*Bob Sisson*

The next event is scheduled for March 17.

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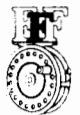
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P.O. Box 2673  
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**RUSSIAN  
RIVER FLY  
FISHERS**

*The RRF*



Volume 16  
Number 3  
March 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are entering the spring of the year; a time for renewal and readiness for things to come. We will be having a membership drive, which will kick off in April, to bring the Russian River Fly Fishers to more people. We continually have guests at our regular meetings, some of them as your guests and some who come because they have seen or heard of an upcoming event. We acknowledge the contribution of our own Dave Dempsey who has been doing a great job with public relations.

The club's activities, which include our meetings, casting pond events, outings, conservation projects, and the *Cast*, obviously don't just happen. We as a collective membership support and make possible the above, but the mechanics of running the club are a function of the Board of Directors. The Board is really the spokesperson of the membership and is your/our chance to make your desires and wishes known and more importantly, to take an active role in their implementation. The terms of office are staggered to insure continuity. This year we have several terms expiring which offer an opportunity for new members. It's not unlike a self-sustaining fishery which constantly brings new material into its gene pool. If you have an interest in the club, or even if you think you might have an interest, make that known

to some member of the Board or simply call the "hot line" and leave a message.

The recent activities of Santa Rosa Creek Week culminated in a series of presentations and workshops featuring experts in urban restoration from several municipalities. The Thursday presentation was followed by a "hands on" visit to the watershed and workshops. It seems clear that the downtown area of the creek will be a transition area to the upper waters where the spawning

habitats are. The current boundary areas of focus, which are approximately 13 miles long, probably need to be expanded to include the headwater reaches in the Hood Mountain area. What is certainly true is that we have a unique resource which needs to have proper and ongoing custodial care. If you have ideas or want to know how you can participate, please contact Liz Flynn or leave a message.

There are still a few spots available for the upcoming trip to the Arcularius Ranch on the headwaters of the Owens River. This will be a June outing and should prove to be great fishing in a spectacular setting. Contact Ken Magoon for more information.

### General Meeting

MIKE FOSTER  
*Steelhead & Salmon  
Fly Fishing on the Eel River*  
Wednesday  
March 20  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
March 18  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909  
*For information on meetings,  
upcoming events and  
fishing conditions*



# SPORTING COLLECTIBLES – BIG BUSINESS

Collecting old fishing and hunting equipment is fast becoming a major hobby. More and more sportsmen are coming to realize that grandad's old set of duck decoys, or the old rod and reel or tackle box filled with lures, are now collectible and becoming increasingly valuable. As a result, much old sporting equipment is finding its way out of closets, attics, and barns and forming the nucleus of new collections or being offered for sale at flea markets, auctions, or sporting collectibles shows. There are many duck and goose decoy shows throughout America with two being held in California—one in February in San Diego and one in June in Sacramento. Fishing tackle shows are held in Sacramento in October and in Los Angeles in February. The shows attract many collectors, dealers, and interested spectators. One of the largest sporting collectibles shows in the west is the West Coast Sporting Collectibles Show which will be held April 6 and 7, 1991, at the El Rancho Tropicana Hotel in Santa Rosa. This show features antique duck and goose decoys; old fishing rods, reels, lures, baskets, etc.; old duck calls; fishing knives; duck stamps; and wildlife art. Collectors and

dealers from Canada, England, and throughout America come to Santa Rosa each year to display all types of old sporting goods (except firearms) to sell, trade, and to purchase on some 150 tables. These collectors are very knowledgeable and are most willing to share their expertise.

The public is welcome and encouraged to bring any and all old sporting equipment to have identified and appraised or to add to their collections. These shows are also the place for beginning collectors to learn what books and publications are available as well as the names and location of collectors' organizations, auction houses, and regional shows specializing in areas of their particular interest. The show also provides an excellent opportunity for antique dealers and interior decorators to purchase inventory for their shops, and for the public to bring in old sporting artifacts for identification, appraisal, or sale.

For more information on the April 6 and 7 West Coast Sporting Collectibles Show in Santa Rosa you may call Jim Keegan, (707) 542-0235.

## COMING EVENTS

April 17 Dave Simons  
*Shad Fishing on the Sacramento & Feather Rivers*

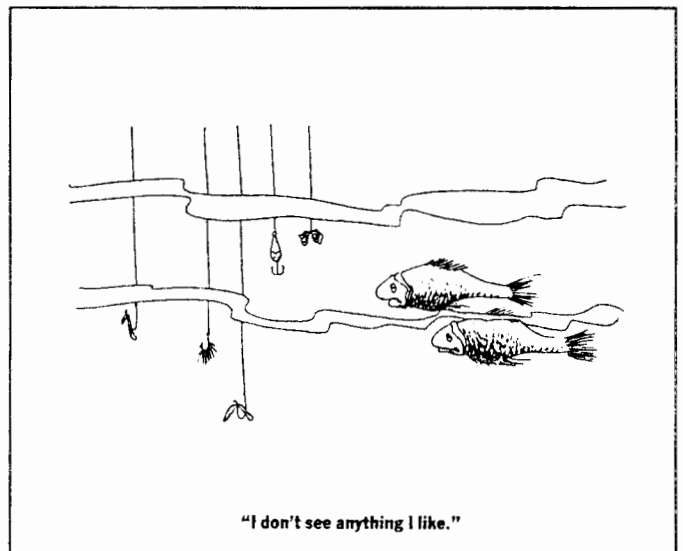
**YOU  
ARE A GUEST  
ON THIS PROPERTY  
AND THIS EARTH**

**ACCESS BY FISHERMEN  
CAN BE BETTER ASSURED  
BY RESPECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**KEEP THE SCENE CLEAN**



Al Hazzard Chapter



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Well, things are starting to look up—a cease fire in the Middle East—the rains are here!!!—and perhaps the rivers and streams will again fill to provide habitat and spawning areas as well as sport for our fly casters.

As of February 20, our membership reached 145, including five reinstatements and three new members. We hope to see the following flycasters at the casting pond or on the streams:

- Neil Light      P.O. Box 6777  
Santa Rosa 95406  
527-9109
- Mark Valerga    885 A Boyd Street  
Santa Rosa 95407  
579-2562
- Dave Bowman    7433 Oak Leaf Drive  
Santa Rosa 95407  
538-0238

Member Arch Richardson of Stewarts Point asks us to help with the Gualala River Steelhead Project. To this end we have printed a membership application. Let's see what we can do to help this worthwhile cause.

We will start our "New Member Drive" in April—details in the next *Cast*

*Dick Mattingly*



Gualala River Steelhead Project  
P.O. Box 266, Gualala, CA 95445

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

"Caught anything?" "Glad you did... was it a planted fish from the G.R.S.P. hatchery?" Did you know that in the last 9 years the Gualala River Steelhead Project has released approximately 130,000 **NATIVE STRAIN** Steelhead smolt into the Gualala River. Now it's your turn to help, your membership and support is needed and would be appreciated. You'll be helping... yourself. A membership card, voting rights and newsletter will be mailed to you annually, advising you of upcoming events, goals and project accomplishments. 50% of your \$10.00 will go toward stream restoration and habitat improvement. (1990 membership 350 strong!) Hope to see your name on the membership list.

### THANKS!

*Arch Richardson, GRSP President*  
785 2660

**1991 G.R.S.P. DUES \$10.00 (tax deductible donation)**

cut here & return today to: **Gualala River Steelhead Project, Box 266, Gualala, CA 95445**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:       New     Renewal

### GUALALA STEELHEAD PROJECT

A 10-Year Old Group Dedicated to Operating the Hatchery & Rearing Ponds. This Year We Have Raised Approximately 22,000 **Native Strain Steelhead Smolts** To Be Released Into The Gualala River March, 1991

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



## FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

*Conserving — Restoring — Educating Through Fly Fishing*

Northern California Council

2215 EATON AVENUE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

### Northern California Council

#### Activity Schedule 1991

April 6: Warm Water Seminar and Fishout, Lake Amador. Contact Mike Parrish at 408-484-9587.

April 20: Pyramid Lake Fishout and world famous Barbecue. Contact Mark Tilton at 702-677-0231.

June 1: NCC/FFF Quarterly Business Meeting

July-October: Wild Trout Stream Surveys (to be announced).

August 5-10: FFF International Conclave, West Yellowstone, Montana.

September 7: NCC/FFF Quarterly Business Meeting.

September 13-15: NCC/FFF Conclave, Lake Tahoe.

Contact Jon Twichell at 916-583-4186.  
November 16: NCC/FFF Fly Tying Get Together hosted by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club, San Francisco (Tentative)

December 7: NCC/FFF Quarterly Business Meeting.

Contact Richard Izmirian at 415-592-9595 for information about these activities.

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, March 17

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.

The event will feature beginning and intermediate instruction for both members and non-members. Distance casting course qualification and coaching together with ring casting will also be available for those interested.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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)

*Bob Sisson*

## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

### January and February Events

120'

#7. Dave Dempsey (8wt-SH)

135'

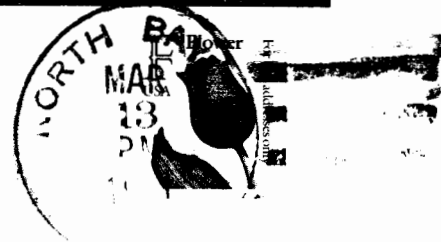
#6. Bob Sisson (8wt-SH)

The next event is scheduled for April 21



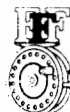
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Volume 16  
Number 4  
April 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first day of spring—a harbinger of summer trout fishing. Actually, the time honored tradition of “opening day” has lost some of its mystique, what with year ‘round seasons and the advent of salt water angling. For me, however, this is the time when my thoughts turn to my first love—stream fishing for trout. Others of you may be dreaming of sea run species or warm water game fish as they prepare to defend their nesting areas. But I think of my favorite trout streams and welcome another opportunity to get to know them even better. I probably will venture forth to some new places this season, perhaps a new watershed, or more likely just a new part of a favorite stream.

I like returning to familiar places. There’s a certain comfort in wading the same waters again. Not that there is no adventure in this, because streams change. At times the changes can be marked, especially if the spring runoffs have been pronounced; other times the changes are quite subtle indeed. Micro-changes in the drift line over established lies, the sudden absence of good fish in a given hole, and of course, the vagaries in the time of emergence of the hatches.

It’s not unlike friendships which take years to develop. And then the task is not how many fish can be taken on a given day, but rather a pleasure derived from rounding a bend and knowing what I’m going to see. And also the anticipation of discovering

what is going to be different. Many a time it is on a day like this when one is really challenged. You know the riffle intimately, you have released enough fish back into this run to appreciate the productivity of the stream, and yet, no fish. Not even a roll or a flash to indicate a rejection. I suppose this is what gives rise to the immense differences in a fisherman’s perception of the same stream. I have overheard fishermen talking about a stream that I know well, and know that it is a fine producer; yet to hear them speak you would obviously not go out of your way to fish it. I doubt that it has that much to do with the anglers (although one does expect to be able to catch fish in ones “home waters”), but rather a day when you can catch fish, but you have to rely on all your skills and knowledge of the river to do so.

All of this is not to say that I don’t fantasize about the opportunity to fish Patagonia, or New Zealand, or South Africa, because I do. But if I never get back to Alaska, or don’t again experience the winds of Tierra del Fuego, it will be all right. Perhaps this year I’ll walk upstream from the meadow of one of my favorite places, a quarter mile beyond where I’ve been before, and add one more place to revisit again.

### General Meeting

DAVE SIMMONS  
*Fly Fishing the Sacramento &  
Feather River Drainages*  
Wednesday  
April 17  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
April 15  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
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### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909  
*For information on meetings,  
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# OUTINGS

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## Pyramid Lake

As a few of you know (that's just about everyone I could collar at the last meeting) our little outing to Pyramid Lake in March wasn't a complete failure. On Friday there was only one fish caught between three of us. Saturday, under threatening skies, we did a little better. Harold White hooked a couple and practiced his "California Release." Mike Pellagrini also got one. And even I hooked a few. Well, actually, I did great!

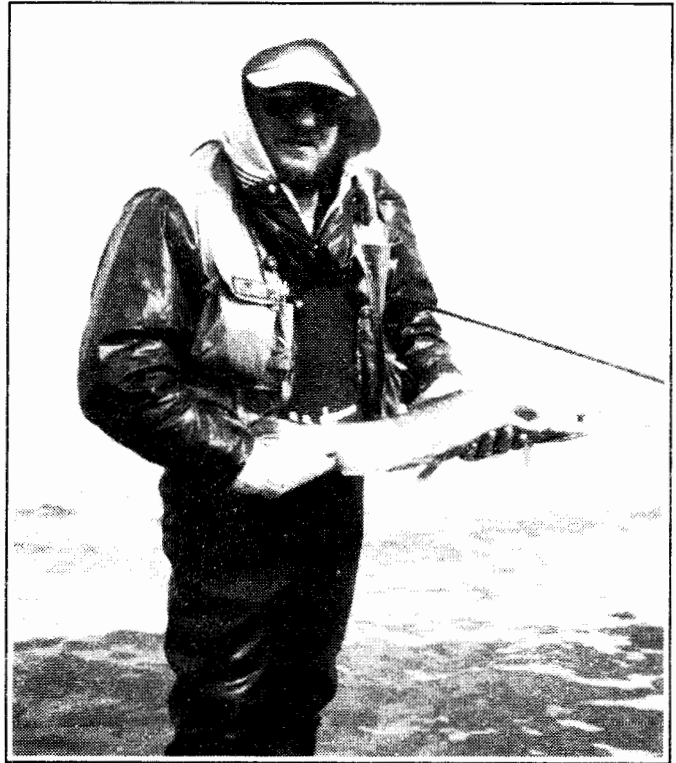
Using the old "picture...thousand word" cliché, take a look at the photo! This cutthroat was in the #10 range and caught on a size 4 purple wooly bugger. I'm not entirely sure about the weight, because I released the fish. Fortunately, I do have a couple of permanent records including this photo by Steve Scott from Roseville, and a video sent to me by Dan Kershner of Winnemucca. Thanks guys!

## Arcularius Ranch

I'll be in contact soon with the first 10 people on the list for this trip. Stan Diamond has offered a meeting place where we can discuss further plans such as fly patterns and gear for the Owens River, car pooling, cabins, and food provisions. I can hardly wait.

## Spring Lake Family Outing

A couple of Board meetings back, there was some talk about a family oriented BBQ and fishing outing on Spring Lake. I recommend Saturday, April 20 in the late afternoon—say around three-ish. That way we won't conflict with kiddie activities such as baseball, or daddy activities such as the Casting Pond. Why not make it to both as a warm-up for trout season? Will someone volunteer to organize the Spring Lake *thing*?



*Pyramid Lake cutthroat caught and released  
by Ken Magoon. Photo by Steve Scott*

## Sacramento/American River Shad

Last year the shad run was well under way on these streams by Memorial Day. This year I would like to try going the weekend before, on May 18 and 19. We can camp at Verona on the Sacramento and shoot over to other spots if necessary.

For further information, please call Ken Magoon at 527-8376.

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## ELECTIONS

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The nominating committee has been working these past weeks to come up with a slate of nominees to replace the outgoing members of the Board of Directors. The nominees to date are:

- President:** Ken Magoon
- Vice President:** Bob Neill  
Ed Smith Jr.
- Directors at Large:** Don Fisher  
Warren Herlihy  
Travis Lipscomb  
Mike Lisignoli  
Paul Lyon  
Patrick Plumley  
Bob Sisson  
Kent Swisher  
Henry Von der Mehden

We will be accepting additional nominees from the floor at the April meeting. If you wish to nominate someone, make sure you have that person's permission to serve before submitting their name. Ballots will be mailed out in the May issue of the *Cast*.

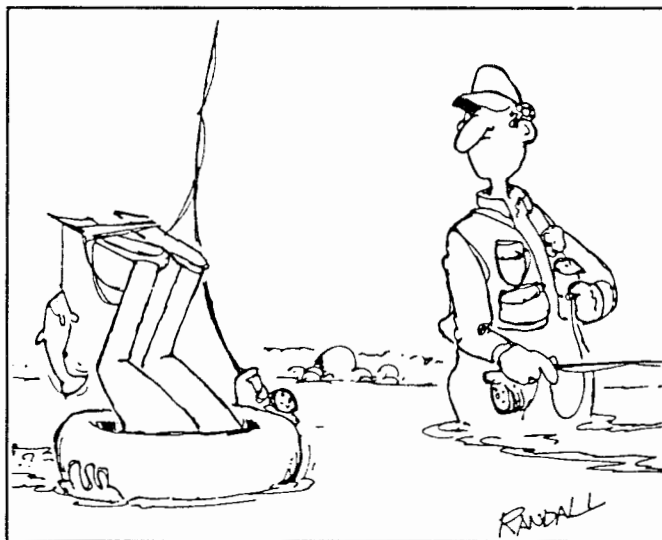
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## COMING EVENTS

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### Dave Simmons

Dave comes to us from Chico where he is affiliated with the Powell Fly Shop. Dave has over 15 years experience as a guide in Northern California on Hat Creek, the McCloud River, the Fall River, and the Sacramento River. He is an acknowledged teacher, a fly tyer, a lifelong outdoorsman, and a nymph fisherman *extraordinaire*. He resides right on the banks of the Sacramento River where he teaches casting and gives seminars. His charismatic personality makes him a speaker in great demand and we are indeed fortunate to have him on Wednesday, April 17. Don't miss it!



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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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Date: Sunday, April 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.

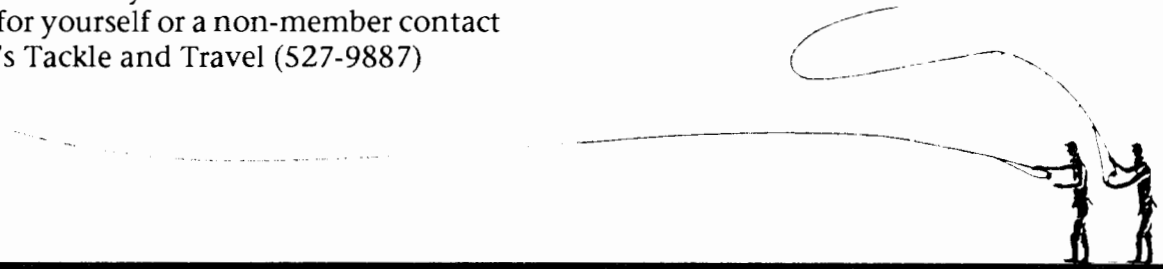
The event will feature beginning and intermediate instruction for both members and non-members. Distance casting double hall coaching, course qualification, and ring casting will be available for those members interested.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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)

The welcome March rains have not only kept the pond full, but have raised the levels in all of the local large and small lakes and ponds. This will make for some fine surface bass fishing later on in May. It helps to be accurate when putting your bugs in just that right spot. Come out and warm up before you get serious

*Bob Sisson*

The next event is scheduled for May 19



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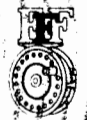
### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405



BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404

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**RUSSIAN  
RIVER FLY  
FISHERS**

*The RRF*



Volume 16  
Number 5  
May 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently asked several acquaintances to tell me "their most memorable fishing experience," and I would like to relate some of those thoughts to you. Obviously, this is not intended to be a public opinion poll or a survey to draw major inferences from, but rather a look at what some of our colleagues hold dear.

The boy was young, 14 perhaps, but a competent fisherman for he had a patient father as a teacher. They were fishing the Gobar hole on Washington's Kalama River. This is a medium sized stream which can be very clear as it runs off the back side of Mt. St. Helens. They were looking down into the hole from the canyon wall, and could see several steelhead holding just off a rocky ledge on the far bank. Once down at stream-side the boy began casting to the fish. Not only was it a long cast (perhaps 80 feet) but the steep bank behind them dictated either a change of direction or a roll cast—not easy for a seasoned angler—and on this day, beyond the capabilities of the boy. Try as he might each cast came up just a bit short. They went on downstream but returned to the pool later in the day. The boy's father asked if he might try a cast and was able to roll cast to the far side of the pool. Although they couldn't see the fish, the boy saw the white on the inside of the mouth as the fish took and immediately came straight up out of the water. They chased the fish downstream and finally beached a 14 ½ pound steelhead which was released.

Of all the years and years of fishing, much of which has been in salt water, there was a one hour period on the flats

in the Bahamas that stands out above all the others. It began with a seven pound bonefish that was successfully released and followed almost immediately with a barracuda of four feet. Feeling rather smug, the angler was not ready when the guide pointed out a nice tarpon in casting range of the boat. He did not have any tarpon flies but was able to borrow one from the guide. The tarpon rushed the fly and missed, so another quick cast was placed in front of the cruising fish. He took and the fisherman (who was fishing with his son, a novice in salt water) struck by lifting the rod and missed. Three species in the span of one hour, none easy. The day was capped off by his son hooking and landing his first bonefish.

Not all memories involve the fish; there are places which require an adventure to get there. In many areas of the mountainous West there are "jeep" roads winding back into remote streams. It was on one of these treks that a small mud puddle posed more of a problem than the four-wheel drive could handle. Three hours (plus lots of jacking, digging, profanity, and two six-packs of Lucky Lager) later they were again on their way. Luckily the beaver ponds were prolific and the puddle was negotiated with ease on the way home.

They were fishing a very famous western stream and had enjoyed some success spin fishing for rainbows and large brown trout. The little side channel! looked interesting so they followed it upstream until they came to a large

*continued inside, see President*

### General Meeting

JAY FAIR  
*Fishing Still Waters,  
including Eagle, Davis, &  
Almanor Lakes*  
Wednesday  
May 15  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
May 13  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909  
*For information on meetings,  
upcoming events and  
fishing conditions*



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# APRIL OUTING REPORT

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## LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER

A couple of friends and I gave the Lower Sac a try on April 3 and 4. Other club members, including Patrick Plumley, Jim Hackle, and Dave Dempsey also recently fished it on separate trips. Since the local papers recently made it their “picks” of the week, I thought it appropriate to add our varying experiences to the discussion of this promising but difficult trout fishing destination.

We drifted from Andersen City Park to Balls Ferry on a Wednesday afternoon. It’s about six miles and most of the trip is through slow moving sections with very little fish activity. The upper mile has the best riffles. My advice, which might be echoed by Patrick, is to take a motor or use a canoe. Better yet, skip this drift altogether and just fish the area around Andersen Park from the bank.

Apparently, the best drift this year has been from the “Posse Grounds” down to the “Park,” a distance of at least 15 *river miles*. This is the stretch fished by Dave Dempsey with some clients and Jim Hackle with another guide. Both reported that they had one “great” day and one not so great day’s fishing. (Which is one great day better than I had.) Like any run on the Sac, this one has some hairy chutes and dangerous “sweepers” (where the unwary are literally swept into tree limbs and roots on bends of riffles). Even if they’re lucky enough not to be sunk by the latter, the very unwary are likely to find their gear and/or themselves knocked out of the boat by overpowering branches. As a novice drift fisherman I’ve begun to learn not to take my skills, vessel or the river for granted. Try to make your first drift on this or any other river with someone familiar with its hazards, as well as its prime fishing spots.

Even if you don’t have a boat, the “Park” provides access to miles of bank fishing over a daily caddis hatch and rising fish. Good wading access is dependent on low water releases though. In fact, the continued “hot action” on the Sac—for those

without jet boats or guides—depends on the low releases (2300-3500 cfs) from Lake Shasta, an unanticipated benefit of the drought. If we take the time to obtain information about public accesses (we’ve *discovered* several this year) and put our energy into walking the miles of gravel bars, I’m sure we’ll be rewarded with some good fishing. This is as true for shad fishing as it is for trout. Fishing the Sac in the late fall and early spring extends the trout season to year ‘round.

## Speaking of Shad Fishing...

Inspired by Dave Simmons’ presentation at the April meeting and local reports, Harry Schoenberg and I went out to the Russian that weekend and got skunked. We can report there was at least one shad in the River, though. It was caught and released at Johnson’s Beach by Andy, a local *phly phishing phenom*, who will soon be releasing 50 shad per day. Shad phishin in the River ought to improve once the releases from Lake Mendocino are reduced and the Rubber Ducky is inflated.

Enough local lore and name dropping. We are going to the Sacramento River to catch lots of shad on May 18/19. I’ve tentatively suggested going to Verona at the confluence of the Sac and Feather Rivers. It’s a good early season spot with easy wading. There’s a private grassy campground with showers and a boat ramp, plus nearby restaurants and a motel. Located 10 miles north of the Sacramento Airport on the Garden Highway, and about a two hour drive from Santa Rosa, Verona has a definite Delta atmosphere—as much as I’ll ever need, anyway.

Dave Simmons said to call him the week before for a shad report, which might alter our destination somewhat, but not our mission.

So, call me—Ken Magoon—at 527-8376.

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## ELECTION NEWS AND DUES RENEWAL

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This month you are being asked to vote for the officers and directors of the RRFF, and to renew your membership for 1991-92, which begins July 1. Since the Club runs on a bare bones budget, it would be very helpful to start the fiscal year with some cash in the treasury.

Please vote and mail your ballot in; save stamps and send your dues in at the same time (we promise not to peek at your ballot if it's in the same envelope).

Thanks for your early renewal.

K.M



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## COMING EVENTS

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### Jay Fair

Jay Fair has 40 years of fishing experience in the West. Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he began fishing the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers. He has been guiding on Eagle, Davis, and Almanor Lakes for 15 years. He has also fished the lakes of Central Oregon.

Jay has developed his own materials which he uses to tie the flies used in casting and trolling the lakes he guides on.

Jay will be doing a tying workshop starting at 6:30 P.M. with the general program beginning at 7:30 P.M.

### President, *continued from front page*

beaver pond. It looked empty, but the first cast produced a rush from at least a dozen pan-sized trout. Each cast produced numerous strikes and their creel was soon filled with dinner (this was 25 years ago before fly-fishing and catch and release). The next pond—for there were a series of at least seven in the little side channel—produced a vicious strike from a large fish. It was fall and leaves had covered the pool. The fish was about 19 inches and brilliantly colored. They waded back across the main river and started back to town down the little dirt road. A creel census station had been set up about two miles downstream. They stopped to chat with the attendant (a fellow graduate student at the university in town) who told them that the large fish was the biggest brook trout he had seen taken from the stream in recent memory.

Well, all of these stories have some things in common; some involve large fish or fish which were memorable in some way. However, each involves a sharing of the fishing experience with someone else. This seems to be universal in the stories we read or pictures we see...fishing is to be shared, and one's enjoyment of the sport is often enhanced by someone else's success.

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# **POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER**

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## **CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER**

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Date: Sunday, May 19

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

Place: Casting Pond.

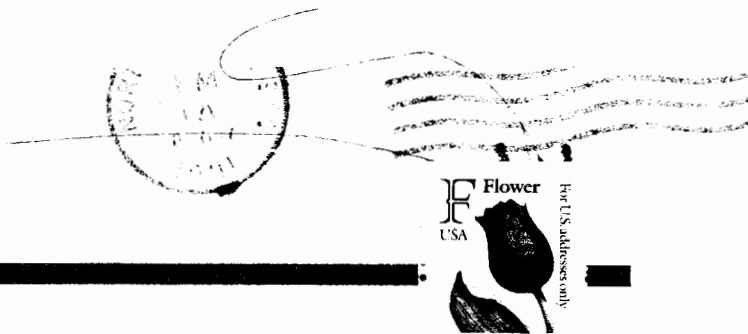
Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue,  
Santa Rosa.

The event will cover beginning and intermediate instruction for both members and non-members. Distance casting double haul coaching, course qualification, and ring casting will be available for those members interested.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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)

*Bob Sisson*

The next event is scheduled for June 16



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### **RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.**

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404

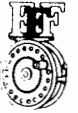
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**RUSSIAN  
RIVER FLY  
FISHERS**

*the Cast*



Volume 16  
Number 6  
June 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our program for June will be presented by Mike Swaney who is the V.P. of the Redwood Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited. In addition to talking about the stream restoration project on Willow Creek, Mike will be addressing the issue of mass commercial gill netting in the Pacific Ocean. This is a most timely and disturbing issue. Our resources are at risk and this will be a chance to get involved.

If you haven't voted, please do so. (Ballots were mailed in last month's *Cast*.)

DUES are DUE! Please remit your checks as soon as possible. (We need the money.)



## SPECIAL RAFFLE

The club is most fortunate in having a lithograph print of a famous watercolor painting by Hewitt C. Wells which will be raffled at the July dinner meeting. Mr. Wells is likened to Remington and Charles Russell for his loving portrayals of outdoor art. Mr. Wells traveled the west extensively, painting his favorite fishing rivers. His paintings are in many important galleries across the country as well as in many private collections. Mr. and Mrs. Wells were members of the RRF since coming to Santa Rosa, and Mrs. Wells has graciously donated a print of the Truckee River entitled *The Rise Above Farad Intake*. Tickets are available at the next two meetings for \$2 each or three for \$5. You need not be present to win so make sure and get tickets.

## JULY DINNER MEETING

Watch for the announcement of the speaker and location in the next *Cast*. This will be a dinner meeting with installation of new officers. Space will be limited so plan on making reservations early.

## OUTING REPORT

My last outing report will be on our trip to Arcularius Ranch on the Owens River. There's considerable enthusiasm among the great group who are going. We'll fish our brains out!

## FUTURE OUTINGS

The presentation by J. Faire on Eagle Lake was excellent and we want to follow it up with an outing. We have a commitment from him to provide a nominally priced on-site workshop the

first weekend in October. We'll need some folks with power boats to put people on the shallows where those five to eight pound rainbows cruise. Bob Neill, John Thomas, and Richard Bicknel are organizing this one.

This is admittedly a wild shot, but would anyone be interested in creating the *First Annual RRF Fourth of July Fall River Golfers and Gulpers Tournament*? We can stay at one of the local motels in Fall River Mills, play Bing Crosby's favorite course, and (once again) fish our brains out! We'll bring our own prams, rent them from the Fly Shop in Redding, or make reservations with local guides. Did I say wild shot? Everybody take cover when I step up to the tee!

Ken Magoon 527-8376

### General Meeting

MIKE SWANEY  
*Willow Creek Stream  
Restoration Project &  
Strip Mining the Ocean*  
Wednesday  
June 19  
7:30 P.M.  
Steele Lane School  
301 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
June 17  
6:30 P.M.  
1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909  
For information on meetings,  
upcoming events and  
fishing conditions



# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, June 16

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.

The event will cover beginning and intermediate instruction for both members and non-members. The distance will be laid out for all who wish to practice their technique. Coaching will be available for all who may be interested in improving their all around ability.

Bring your equipment, your family, and your lunch. The lawn makes a nice place for a picnic. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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)

*Bob Sisson*

The next event will be in the fall.  
Watch the *Cast* for details

## NEW MEMBERS

Our membership has climbed from 62 last June to over 150 to date. We welcome into the "Club" Tom Eaton, Robert S. Bogason, Jay Allen, and Don Bossert. All indicate that they are beginners and we hope to see them more often at the Pond.

We are a little late starting the membership drive—but so that you all have a membership application for your friends and acquaintances, we will be providing the application in the *Cast* monthly...just clip it out, fill it in, and mail it with the initiation fee of \$10 plus dues. C'mon now...let's each member get a member!

I apply for membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers for:

Myself (\$35)  For My family (\$40)  As a Junior Member (\$20)

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

Mail this application with the initiation fee and dues to the  
RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!!!

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404

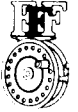
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**RUSSIAN  
RIVER FLY  
FISHERS**

*The RFF*



Volume 16  
Number 7  
July 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here! People are getting ready for their annual treks and thinking about fishing and family outings. We just returned from a club outing on the headwaters of the Owen's River (yes Virginia, there is water in the Owens that Los Angeles hasn't taken). You can read more about this in Ken Magoon's Outing Report inside, but I was struck by the beauty of the place and the feeling of history that it is steeped in. Remember, this was a working cattle ranch that has been under the same ownership for almost 75 years. Today the fishing is fly only, barbless hook with a no-kill limit. This was not always the case. While there I was looking through the scrapbooks from years past (1950's) and many guests had smiling faces with stringers full of large brown trout. We all espouse conservation and catch-and-release fishing, and I at times can be a fanatic about no-kill fishing. This is not to say I don't enjoy eating trout, and in fact, I eat them daily at my place in Montana. (We never kill fish in excess of 10" and usually just brook trout.)

All of this said, I felt definite twangs of elitism and snobbery while plying my trade. I happened to meet an older couple who had been fishing the ranch for literally 45 years. They asked me how I was doing and I reciprocated, really just being polite. The wife told me that she was "the best worm fisherman the river had seen" but that she didn't "cotten" much to this fly fishing. We all know, or perhaps remember, from our own experiences how truly effective a skilled bait fisherman can be. Try and imagine how this lady

felt—or how you would feel—if one of your favorite streams was suddenly taken from you. Perhaps we are coming to a point where all fishing will be private and fly fishing only, my question is what will become of all the "old ladies who were the best worm fisherman the stream had ever seen"? They say we can always learn a new skill, but why should someone who is in their twilight years have to endure the effort? I think there is room for us all, maybe on different parts of the same stream or at different times of the season. Food for thought really.

The meeting in July will be my last as president. I feel honored to have been your president and feel we have the club on track for the nineties. I am especially indebted to the Board of Directors for their unselfish efforts in the areas of membership, casting pond, raffles, outings, conservation, finances, and records. I appreciate their help and leave the club in good hands with Ken Magoon as your new president and Bob Neill as vice president.

See you on the streams.

### General Meeting

MICHAEL & CHRISTINE FONG  
*Trouting in Oregon & Selected  
Streams of Northern California*

Saturday

July 20

Cocktails 6 P.M.

Dinner 7 P.M.

El Rancho Tropicana  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday

July 15

6:30 P.M.

1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909

*For information on meetings,  
upcoming events, and  
fishing conditions*



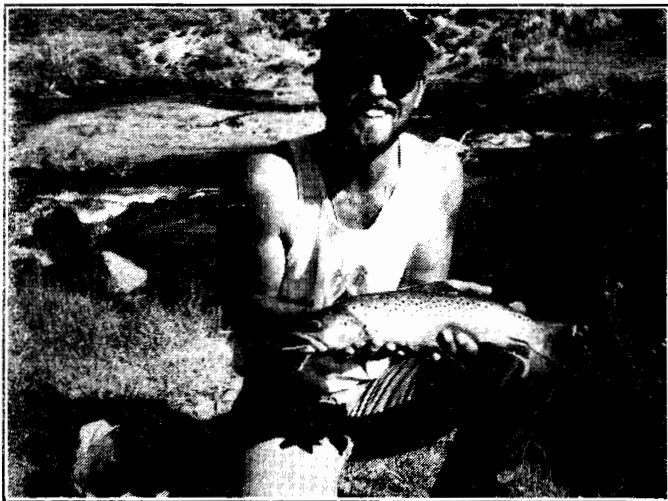


# OUTING REPORT

## ARCULARIUS RANCH

Eight of us shared a spacious, well equipped bunkhouse situated 15 feet from the Owens River. The Owens is a meandering spring creek averaging 20 feet wide and 2 feet deep. Although there are reputedly big fish all through the Ranch property, we consistently hooked Brownies over 16 inches in the holes down river, usually around sunset.

The most successful guys used stealth, a good eye for spotting fish, delicate casting technique, and little yellow stonefly nymphs. We credit Richard Bicknel for correctly identifying the insect and its pattern. First he observed black birds working the edges of undercut banks for insects during the



*Tim Grogan with one of the many 17" browns he caught at Arcularius Ranch*

stonefly hatch. Apparently they were knocking the helpless nymphs back into the water. Later he pumped the stomach of a fish (which was released unharmed) to discover that it had been feasting on these nymphs of the Western Yellow Stonefly, aka the Mormon Stonefly, (*Isoperia Mormona*). I got this information from Patrick McCafferty's [Aquatic Entomology: The Fishermen's and Ecologist's Illustrated Guide to Insects and Their Relatives.](#)

Actually our on-stream analysis of the appropriate



*Richard Bicknel and a nice Owens River trout*

pattern followed more proverbial than scientific lines. In an entomological variation of the story of the "Three Blind Men and the Elephant," Richard thought the nymph was amber in color, Harry Schoonbaert said it was grayish, while I saw it as more olive in tone. Apparently we each described the insect's coloration at a different stage of its demise. But Richard's yellowish version, fished along the bottom with Tim Grogan's "poly-yarn" strike indicator, caught the biggest fish of the trip.

Although we all didn't catch large fish at Arcularius, I think each of us got into enough "decent" trout to want to return. I especially enjoyed the comfortable lodging, the comradery, and listening to Ben Cummings's delightful stories.

## EAGLE LAKE

We have made reservations with J. Faire to be guided on Eagle Lake the weekend of October 18, 19, and 20. We need some people with boats to take folks around to the hot spots in the "flats." A fifty dollar deposit will be required.

Contact John Thomas, (778-1312) or Bob Neill (542-6723) for more information.

*Ken Magoon*



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## **SPECIAL RAFFLES**

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The club will be holding two special raffles for artwork which has been donated to the club. We are most fortunate in having a lithograph print of a famous watercolor painting by Hewitt C. Wells which will be raffled at the July dinner meeting on July 20. This has been graciously donated by Mrs. Wells, who is a member of the Club.

Additionally Ben Cummings, a life member of the Club, has donated one of his acrylic paintings entitled "Steelheading on the Gualala." Ben is a retired Shell Chemical engineer who paints extensively in his "spare" time. This painting is valued at \$450 and will be raffled at the fall dinner meeting. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the next meeting.

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## **ELECTION RESULTS**

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Your President Elect is Ken Magoon

Vice President is Bob Neill

Directors at Large:

Ed Smith

Frank Arriza

Dan Fisher

Warren Herlihy

Mike Lisignoli

Bob Sisson

John Thomas

Henry Von DerMehden

Congratulations and thank you for your participation!

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## **JULY DINNER MEETING**

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Michael and Christine Fong will be here on Saturday evening to talk about their fishing experiences on some of Oregon's most famous rivers—such as the Deschutes, Williamson, and Fall River—and take us to the Trinity and upper Sacramento as well. Michael is a superb tactician and teacher, and Christine's photography has appeared in several fishing magazines. They have been with us in the past and always give a great show. DON'T MISS IT!

Reservations are \$20 each, and tickets are available by calling 573-8909 and leaving a message, or picking up a reservation form at Lyle's or the Western Angler.

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER



The next event will be in the fall.  
Watch the *Cast* for details

I apply for membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers for:

Myself (\$35)  For My family (\$40)  As a Junior Member (\$20)

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

**Mail this application with the initiation fee and dues to the  
RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!!!**



## **RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.**

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405



BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 16  
Number 8  
September 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE OREGONIANS

"**THE GOOD**" was the feeling of a big Deschutes River summer run steelhead making my reel scream as s/he ran with the current down towards the Columbia. I was stumbling to the shore to follow it when I realized that less than half of my backing remained on the the spool. With all the composure of a novice steelheader I grabbed the rim of my reel, bringing it to a dead stop. Unfortunately, this action did not have the same effect on the fish which continued its journey now adorned with my bon voyage gift of a barbless #4 Green Butt Skunk.

As the emotional rush (which always accompanies a solid steelie grab) subsided, I felt a sense of self-satisfaction. I had followed my friend Frank Rodriguez' instructions well enough to have confidence that I had actually induced that fish to hit the fly. He told me that if I felt a "bump" or even a grab that I should "do nothing." After a definite bump I continued to cast the Skunk out along the seam of the fast and slow currents. I varied the depth of my presentation by mending the floating line to change the speed of its swing. Then there was the weight of a fish-on as it mouthed the fly and turned into the current and the brief battle was on.

A little while later I completely forgot everything when a second steelhead viciously attacked another Green Butt Skunk. By then I was so pumped up that my response was to set the hook as though I was into a big Pyramid Lake Cutthroat. This act saved this fish the

energy required by the first one to possess my fly. But next summer on the Deschutes, "do nothing" will be my fishing motto.

"**THE BAD**" was a group of stoned young men with no future who were determined to earn the Williamson River the reputation of being the *Drift Fishing Shooting Gallery of the World*. As our guide headed down a remote stretch of water above the Highway 97 bridge we heard music blaring from trucks parked on the bank. One guy gave us an exaggerated version of the international gesture of ill will. A moment later he produced a loud caliber automatic weapon and sprayed a volley directly across the stream. At first I thought this might be another "local" fishing innovation as there were some rise forms in the area. But the whole group continued firing rifles, handguns, and shotguns long after they put the fish down.

Our guide, Dale Seins of Klamath Falls, kept his cool. As he slowly maneuvered the boat past the group's firing range, he kept assuring Harry and me that they wouldn't even point their weapons in our direction. Thankfully, he was correct. As we came abreast of these guys the arms assault was replaced by a verbal one. They yelled obscenities, told Dale to stay off the River and let us California tourists know that we should stay the hell away from their sacred waters (which they had just filled with lead). Dale calmly  
*continued on page 2*

### General Meeting

Annual Swap Meet

&

Fly/Knot Tying Demos

Wednesday

September 18

7 P.M.

Steele Lane School

Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday

September 16

6:30 P.M.

1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B

Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909

For information on meetings,  
upcoming events, and  
fishing conditions



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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

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### EAGLE LAKE

Eagle Lake is still on for the weekend of October 18, 19 and 20. We will have an evening seminar and barbecue with Jay Faire on the eighteenth, and he will guide us for the next day. We will fish the shallows of Eagle Lake as Jay described in his recent presentation. Some boats large enough to hold four people and still handle well in strong winds are needed. Contact Bob Neill at 542-6723 to make reservations.

### CASTING POND BARBECUE

A casting pond barbecue will be held Sunday, September 22 from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Galvin Park location in Santa Rosa. The Club will supply the barbecues, charcoal, and soft drinks. Bring your choice of meat, a side dish to share, and a picnic blanket. Fly casting activities will include rings for accuracy, distance casting, and a friendly competition. Instruction will be available for people at all levels of ability. We want to increase involvement in casting activity this year with the goal of creating a casting team and eventually holding tournaments at this unique facility. *So come out and support your local casting pond!*

### FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS CONCLAVE '91

When: September 13 - 15, 1991

Where: North Tahoe Conference Center  
North Tahoe, California

What: Seminars, Exhibits, Casting, Fun, etc.

Directions: Route 267 from the interstate (Highway 80 at Truckee); go about 12 miles on 267 to Kings Beach. Turn left at the traffic light in Kings Beach (Route 28), and go three blocks to the North Tahoe Conference Center.

Questions? Contact Jon Twichell, (916) 583-4186

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1991-92

President: Ken Magoon

Vice-President: Bob Neill

Board Members:

Richard Bicknell

Dan Fischer

Warren Herlihy

Mike Lisignoli

Harry Schoonbaert

Ed Smith

Bob Sisson

John Thomas

Henry Von Der Mehden

### JULY DINNER MEETING

The summer dinner at the El Rancho was a great success! Michael and Christine Fong had a wonderful show, the dinner was good, and the raffle very abundant. Thank you all that participated and a special thanks to the raffle contributors.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *continued from front page*

responded to their drunken tirades with phrases such as, "Have a nice day!" He later told us that he would report the incident, but I think he would just as soon forget it. I doubt that neither Harry nor I will though.

"THE OREGONIANS" we actually met were intelligent, warm and friendly. Many of them, such as the proprietors of the Water Wheel Camp Ground on the Williamson, went out of their way to help us. One shop owner told Harry he could take some flies and pay for them the next day. My friend, Frank Rodriguez from Portland, took us to his favorite holes and instructed us on how to fish for steelhead on the Deschutes. Other than the jerks we encountered on the river there was no indication of any anti-California attitude among the folks we met.

Even though Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming are the best known fly fishing destinations, Oregon is much closer and offers excellent trout fishing with the bonus of summer steelheading. The Williamson is an eight hour drive; the North Umpqua is 10 hours; and the Deschutes is 14 to 16 hours away, depending on the section. It's definitely a fishery worth exploring on your next vacation.

*Ken Magoon*

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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## CASTING POND PICNIC

---

Date: Sunday, September 22

Time: 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

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

This club picnic will be the first to be held at the casting pond. Bring your own sack lunch or barbecue hamburger and franks. The club will furnish the charcoal, the grills, and the soft drinks.

The distance casting course will be laid out for some friendly competition. Three classes will be in effect. The first class will be for those who have not achieved 80 feet, the second class will be for those capable of 80 feet to 100 feet, and the third class will be the open class for capability of over 100 feet. The ring course will also be set up to accommodate some accuracy competition. The distance casting will include both shooting head and full line casting.

There will also be a casting instruction period for beginning and intermediate casters from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. Coach Brian Wong has basic full line outfits he will loan to both members and 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).

*Bob Sisson*

The next event will be October 27  
(the fourth Sunday in October)

## DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

---

### March through June Events

60'

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- #34. Richard Hollingshead (8wt-SH)
- #35. Jay Allen (6 wt Full line)
- #36. Tim Grogan (4wt Full line)
- # 4. Brian Wong (5wt Full line) \*\*

80'

---

- #31. Tim Grogan (4wt Full Line)
- # 4. Brian Wong (6wt Full Line) \*\*

100'

---

- #18. Tim Grogan (6wt Full line)
- # 2. Brian Wong (6wt Full line) \*\*
- # 3. Bob Sisson (9 wt Full line) \*\*

120'

---

- # 8. Emil Lewis (9 wt-SH)

\*\* This acknowledges obtaining a previously displayed level of accomplishment at a greater degree of difficulty. For example, use of a full line instead of a shooting head.

I apply for membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers for:

Myself (\$35)  For My family (\$40)  As a Junior Member (\$20)

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

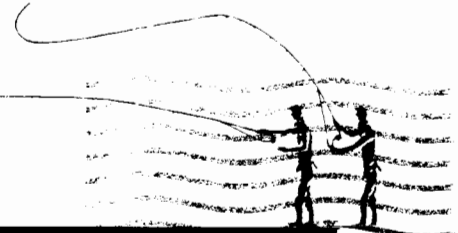
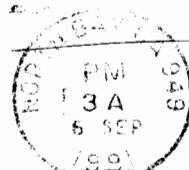
Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

Mail this application with the initiation fee and dues to the  
RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!!!

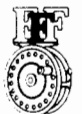


**RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.**

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

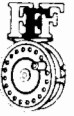
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SANTA ROSA CA 95404

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 16  
Number 9  
October 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### DIRECTIONS, PLEASE!

The current Board of Directors wants your input on programs and information to meet your fly fishing needs and interests. What do you want to know and where do you want to go?

In the past eight years that I've been an active member of the Russian River Fly Fishers, my fishing experiences have been greatly enhanced through the programs and guest speakers, and my knowledge of fly fishing destinations and techniques has been greatly expanded. Good trout water, such as Fall River, Hat Creek, the Lower Sacramento River, Pyramid Lake, and Lewiston Lake has sort of become "local" water, even though most of them are at least five hours away by VW bus. There are many other places such as Alaska, Belize, Florida, British Columbia, and New Zealand which our guest speakers have enticed me to embezzle my kid's college education money and visit.

Then there's the Casting Pond, where, with Bob Sisson's able coaching along with his 8 wt Sage II and a good tail wind, I learned to consistently throw a shooting taper over 120 feet and have achieved a few casts over 135 feet. Emil Lewis has provided valuable information about casting techniques. Brian Wong's smooth style and tight loops are to be admired, and hopefully emulated.

We have many creative and skillful fly tiers and designers in the Club. Their knowledge should be tapped through

more programs and fly tying sessions devoted to this enjoyable activity.

While there may not be "world class" water in Sonoma County, we do have some respectable steelhead and shad runs in the Russian and other coastal streams. Then there's the *fly fishing only* period during the winter on Putah Creek. Bass are plentiful in many local lakes and streams. And there's the extensive, but largely untapped, salt water fishery. I'd like to see us do more local on-site clinics to introduce new members and beginners to the techniques that produce good catches in our area.

Finally, there is community involvement in the form of conservation projects and teaching youth something about fishing and nature.

There are so many interesting aspects to fly fishing, but our resources are limited. We would like to know what the membership of the RRFF wants us to emphasize with respect to the activities mentioned above. So expect to receive a "Needs Assessment Survey" in the near future.

**General Meeting**  
*Kodlak Island Summer on the Karluk River*  
 CARY BROOKFIELD  
 & DWIGHT LONGUEVAN  
 Wednesday  
 October 16  
 7 P.M.  
 Steele Lane School  
 Santa Rosa

**Board of Directors**  
 Monday  
 October 14  
 6:30 P.M.  
 1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
 Santa Rosa

**RRFF Hot Line**  
 573-8909  
*For information on meetings,  
 upcoming events, and  
 fishing conditions*

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## **PAYING FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF FISHING**

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The very idea smacks of something between a tawdry shopping trip to a Mexican border town with a Nieman Marcus card as required payment. I in fact, learned to fish at one of those fish farms in the foothills of the San Bernardino mountains. A place where long cane rods were baited with dough balls and loop cast to a very willing trout. I also remember my father taking the days "catch" up to a sort of check out counter to be measured and paid for. I soon graduated to real waters but the trout farms, of which there were several, did play a role in my education.

There have always been private waters, those we read about on the chalk streams of some far continent, or maybe the heavily posted spring creek or pond where we were sure the fishing was truly great. No one knew for sure because we never talked to anyone who had actually fished them. But surely a place that was OFF LIMITS had to be outstanding.

Actually, not all "pay fishing" is private. Technically, hiring a guide on one of our western rivers is fee fishing. True, the waters are public, but what one pays for are the knowledge and perhaps the actual access points to the river. Beats on famous salmon waters are supposedly ways of managing the harvest. That may be, but it is still expensive and limited fishing.

Recently many large western ranches have been sold to sporting groups with conservation easements and in some cases, the establishment of "reservation only" fishing which must be booked far in advance, often at a cost exceeding \$50 per day with strict limits on the number of rods.

The actual water (usually a stream) has become just another piece of tackle or equipment for the super wealthy. Individuals who have the means to acquire large tracts of land with native fisheries. Literally many thousands of acres are purchased, all access is blocked and there is no fishing. It does seem a bit incongruous to see corporate jets on remote airstrips for a weekend fishing outing of the landed gentry.

Obviously, the waters in question are far better off from the standpoint of preservation of a resource. Assuredly they are better fisheries because of their exclusivity and in some cases, the improvements of the habitat that the owner does, at his own expense. However, it is a shame to lose some of these waters, lose them in the sense of the public domain. I suppose we either aspire to the means to own such a place ourselves (or collectively) or sincerely hope that our favorite waters will remain as they are today.

*Russ Lockner*

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## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

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### **HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING**

When: December 5 (Thursday)

Where: El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa

Guest Speaker: Lani Waller

Our annual holiday dinner, great fellowship, super raffle, and as always, a great program. Plan to bring your spouse or a guest. (Reservation form included.)

### **EAGLE LAKE OUTING**

October 18, 19, and 20. An evening seminar and barbecue on Friday, Oct. 18, with the Eagle Lake master, Jay Faire. Saturday guided fishing with Jay. Call Bob Neill for information, *evenings*, at 542-6723.

### **NATIONAL CONSERVATION BANQUET**

Presented by the Redwood Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited

When: October 11, 1991 (Friday)  
No-Host Cocktails – 6 P.M.  
Dinner – 7:30 P.M.

Where: Flamingo Hotel, Santa Rosa

Cost: \$25 per person

For additional information contact Warren Bray, 576-1499 or Rich McGowan, 887-1378



▼

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS DINNER MEETING

### STRATEGIES FOR STEELHEAD

BY LANI WALLER

When: Thursday, December 5, 1991

Where: El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, 2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

No-Host Cocktails – 6:30 P.M.

Dinner – 7:30 P.M.

Menu Choices: Baked Spring Chicken / Braised Sirloin Tips  
(Dinners include antipasto plate, salad, rice pilaf, bread, coffee, and dessert)

Reservations are \$20 per person, which includes dinner, tax, gratuity

*Special Note:* We will be raffling a Ben Cumming's watercolor of The Gualala

Lani Waller brings over 30 years fly experience to his audiences. He has fished and traveled extensively over much of the world's best fly fishing waters. He is the West Coast Field Editor for *Fly Fisherman Magazine* and his articles and photographs appear regularly in several national publications. He is consultant for several fly tackle manufacturers, including *Sage Rod Co.*, and *Scientific Anglers 3M*. Lani has several video productions to his credit, including the award winning series on "Fly Fishing for Pacific Steelhead" with *Scientific Anglers*. He operates a full service fly fishing travel agency in Novato called *International Angler*.

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ Baked Spring Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Braised Sirloin Tips

For a Total of \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners @ \$20 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO: Russian River Fly Fishers • P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**I apply for membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers for:**

**Myself (\$35)  For My family (\$40)  As a Junior Member (\$20)**

New members add \$10 Initiation Fee

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this application with the initiation fee and dues to the**

**RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!!!**

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# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

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## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

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Date: Sunday, October 20

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.

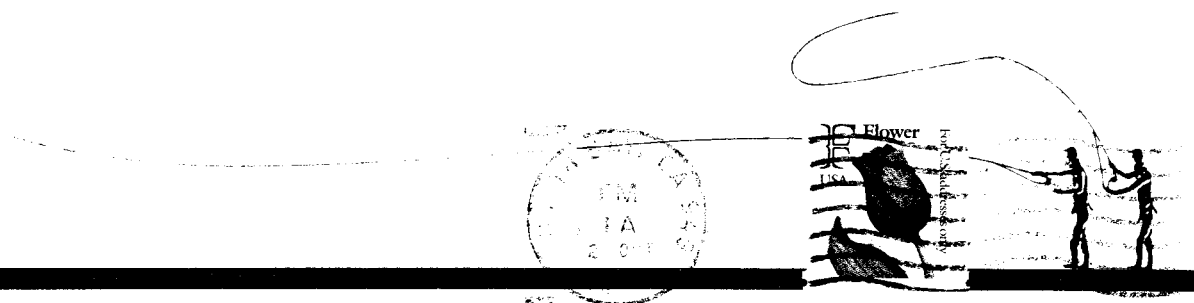
The time is almost upon us for the start of the fall and winter steelhead and salmon season. Now is the time to get the kinks out and sharpen up on your shooting head distance casting techniques.

The event will feature distance casting with course qualification and coaching, together with ring casting and beginning and intermediate instruction for both members and non-members.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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).

*Bob Sisson*

The next event will be November 17



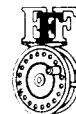
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### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa  
California  
95405

BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL RD  
SANTA ROSA CA 95404

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**RUSSIAN  
RIVER FLY  
FISHERS**

*The RRFF*



Volume 16  
Number 10  
November 1991

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THE TULE ZONE

Picture, if you will, moving slowly among six foot high tules. The blue autumn sky and unusually warm October sun are ignored as you scan the crystal clear water and sandy bottom for the shape, shadow, or movement of a big Eagle Lake rainbow. Your guide J. Faire has tutored you on what to look for and you have confidence that you'll soon be within casting range of a nice fish.

Yes, I'm describing sight fishing with flies to three to six pound trout in shallow water on the famous Eagle Lake near Susanville. This is not our usual image of this water. More typically we read in the *Chronicle's* Fishing Report (October 24, 1991) that, "Fishing with threaded night crawlers under a bobber produces trout...." When the weather turns cooler however, fly fishing heats up on Eagle as fish move in along the shore in pursuit of minnows, leeches, and scuds.

We cast leech patterns on floating lines along rocky shores and in the tules with good success. Bob Neill, Harry Schoonbaert, and Tony Hebner caught nice fish over the rocks. Bob hooked the most and the toughest fish. One leviathan caused his Loomis rod to "explode." One of Harry's fish was the most spectacular, going aerial five times before releasing itself. But Tony's fish were the most memorable for reasons that those who have accompanied him on Pyramid Lake trips will know. Nice going Tony!

Bill Laurie and I hooked all our fish in the tules. He and Harry had a double



*Tony Hebner and J. Faire with an Eagle Lake trout. (Photo Bob Neill)*

### General Meeting

*To Russia with Love*

BOB NAUHEIM  
Wednesday  
November 20  
7:30 P.M.

Steele Lane School  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday  
November 18  
6:30 P.M.

1140 Sonoma Avenue, 1B  
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

573-8909

*For information on meetings,  
upcoming events, and  
fishing conditions*

hookup in J.'s boat. One of the fish I landed could have gone seven pounds. We all had exciting action in the tules, spotting fish and watching them grab the fly so delicately that you never felt the take.

If you want more information on exact locations, techniques, and flies you should contact J. Faire at 1-916-825-3401. His knowledge of Eagle Lake is impeccable and his enthusiasm is infectious. His expertise, combined with the hospitality he and Dee provided, makes this an enjoyable outing.

*J. Faire*

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# COMING ATTRACTIONS

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## HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

December 5 — El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa

Guest Speaker: Lani Waller

Featuring great fellowship, super raffle, and as always, a great program. Plan to bring your spouse or a guest. (Reservation form included.)

## TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Bob Nauheim of Fishing International will speak on his recent Atlantic Salmon fishing trip to the Umba River on the Kola Peninsula of Russia. Bob will give us a feeling for this great fish (not unlike our own steelhead), the Russian countryside, the people and how they live.

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

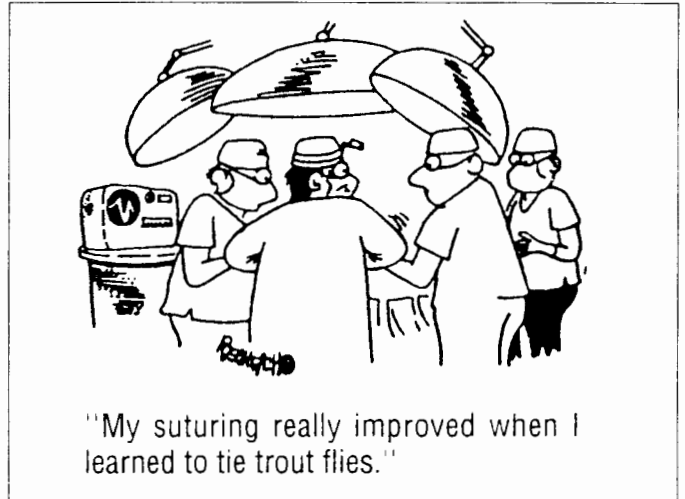
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Dues are payable in October for the coming year. If you haven't renewed, please send your check to P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, 95405; or bring them to the next meeting.

## ARCULARIUS RANCH

June 8 to June 12, 1992

We have reserved the Bunkhouse from Monday to Friday. Give me a \$50 deposit by our January meeting to hold one of the 10 spaces on this very special outing. Since we came away from last year's trip with a better knowledge of hatches and techniques, next year should produce some good fishing.



R.R.F.F. ready to "finesse" Eagle Lake.  
Left to Right: Bill Laurie, Ken Magoon, J. Faire, Harry Schoonbaert, Tony Hebner.  
(Photo by Bob Neill)

▼

# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS DINNER MEETING

## STRATEGIES FOR STEELHEAD

BY LANI WALLER

When: Thursday, December 5, 1991

Where: El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, 2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

No-Host Cocktails – 6:30 P.M.

Dinner – 7:30 P.M.

Menu Choices: Baked Spring Chicken / Braised Sirloin Tips

(Dinners include antipasto plate, salad, rice pilaf, bread, coffee, and dessert)

Reservations are \$20 per person, which includes dinner, tax, gratuity

*Special Note:* We will be raffling a Ben Cumming's watercolor of The Gualala

Lani Waller brings over 30 years fly experience to his audiences. He has fished and traveled extensively over much of the world's best fly fishing waters. He is the West Coast Field Editor for *Fly Fisherman Magazine* and his articles and photographs appear regularly in several national publications. He is consultant for several fly tackle manufacturers, including *Sage Rod Co.*, and *Scientific Anglers 3M*. Lani has several video productions to his credit, including the award winning series on "Fly Fishing for Pacific Steelhead" with *Scientific Anglers*. He operates a full service fly fishing travel agency in Novato called *International Angler*.

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ Baked Spring Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Braised Sirloin Tips  
For a Total of \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners @ \$20 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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New members add \$10 Initiation Fee

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this application with the initiation fee and dues to the**

**RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!!!**

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, November 17

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.

At the September Event—read that Club picnic—attended by some 15 or 16 interested beginners, (some of whom became new members) there was also a casting competition. The only competition was in the open class. Brian Wong won this one with ease with three out of five casts at or just under 142'. Ken Magoon was an easy second with three out of five casts at or just under 135'. Your pool captain and coach Emil Lewis had to settle for best casts of 120' or so for their effort. Ann Marie Bakker won the women's open class as an un-contested participant with several casts of 110'. Tony Hebner was the un-contested "A" class winner. We need more participants to come up with at least two men's and women's teams if we

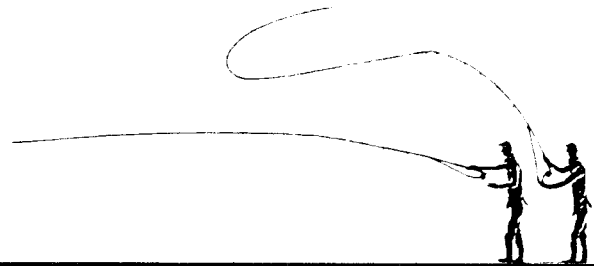
are to seriously consider some of the inter-club meets we have been talking about.

The November event will provide opportunity for distance casting practice with course qualification and coaching, together with ring casting if desired. Intermediate and beginning instruction for both members and non-members will be available.

Bring the equipment you wish to work with. Coach Brian Wong has some basic full line outfits for loan to beginners, both members and 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).

*Bob Sisson*

There will be no scheduled event during December. The next event will be in January, weather permitting.



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