Go for the gold! See page two.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### TO THE MEMBERSHIP

I would like to thank our vice president Tim Grogan for his help at the November dinner meeting. I understand it was a great success and am very sorry I was unable to attend. I was fighting off a bad case of the Asian flu.

Happy New Year All! I trust everybody enjoyed their Christmas and New Years holiday and hope you were all able to get out and wet a line. The steelhead fishing in the Russian (dare I say?) has been outstanding. From Dry Creek to Guerneville reports of good fishing abound.

Hot files tend to be the old standards, bosses, comets and flames. The fish seem to be well spread out and on the move. One day they're here the next they're up river a half mile or so! Of course the good news is they're in the river at all.

The seal population in the river seems to be on the upswing which discourages many anglers, but not I, because where there are seals there are fish. Use the seals to your advantage because they are a sign of an abundant population of steelhead in our watershed. Granted they are there for the purpose of eating fish and our greatest competition for our elusive quarry. But nonetheless they are here and so are we. So let the game begin!

—Dwight M. Longuevan

# SECRETARY'S BENCH

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! A new fishing year is upon us with dreams of new fishing adventures. To start the year off right with some great inspiration, our first meeting's guest speaker will be Don Vachini. If you are thinking of the high Sierras for one of your trips this summer, this is the meeting to go to! (See story page 2.)

Our year-end dinner meeting was both successful and inspirational. Al Kyte had a well prepared slide show

and was very entertaining. Thanks Al.

Again, I'd like to encourage our members to bring in an article for our next newsletter. If you tie flies and would like to help the club in another way, how about contributing a dozen of your tied flies?

Before the last meeting I "challenged" John Thomas (who's an excellent tier) to match me in contributing a dozen flies. Not only did John and I contribute flies but so did Dr. James Woolley! Thanks guys!

Everyone can use flies, what else would you use on the end of your tippet? Just bring them to John before the meeting and you'll probably get a standing ovation.

Thanks and see you at the next meeting.

—Robert Ordway

## General Meeting

Don Vachini High Sierra Gold(en trout)

> Jan. 19 7 р.м.

Veterans Memorial bldg. Santa Rosa see pg. 2 for details

### **Board of Directors**

Monday
Jan. 17
7 P.M.
Warrack Hospital
Board Room
2449 Summerfield Road
Santa Rosa

### **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

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



# POOL CAPITAN'S CORNER

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, Jan. 16 Time: 12 P.M. to 2 P.M.

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

There will never be a better time to get the feel of all the new equipment you received for Christmas. It is far better to become familiar with it at the pond than to try and get a feel for it while you are concentrating on trying to catch a fish. An introduction to fly casting and basic beginner and intermediate instruction will be offered from 10 a.m. until noon. Distance course qualification and ring casting for accuracy will also be available for those of you who are interested.

The weather may be a factor. If we are in the middle of a winter storm the event will be postponed until February. The next scheduled pond activity will be Feb. 20.

-Bob Sisson

## BUILD A ROD

### SAVE \$\$, IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS

Well, Christmas is over and if you're like me you now realize that you didn't get that new rod you wanted. Maybe it was a 9'6" for an 8 weight steelhead rod or a new 9', 4 weight for this coming trout season. The bad news is the price of a new rod these days. A top quality rod may run you over \$400. If you fish for several species with different techniques you could need as many as six, eight or even more rods. I don't know about you but I don't want to ask my wife for that much money. That's why I started building my own rods. I own seven beautiful Sage rods and I didn't pay more than \$150 for any of them.

Rod building is a lot of fun and with a little patience and practice you can build rods that make your friends jealous. Club secretary Bob Ordway and I would like to see how many people would be interested in a rod building class. We would discuss component selection, prefinished and custom cork handles, guide and decorative trim wrapping and finishing.

If you're interested please give me a call. Also call if you have any other special abilities or skills you think might make a good clinic.

-Tim Grogan, 538-5917

# THE FLY CORNER

### THE BOSS LEECH, BY TIM GROGAN

This simple fly was very effective for me and some friends last year in both the Russian and Gualala rivers for steelhead.

Hook: Mustad 9671 #4-8

Thread: red

Weight: 10 wraps .025 lead Tail and wing: black marabou

Collar: webby portion at the base of a red saddle hackle

Tie in approximately four clumps of black marabou similar to Hal Janssen's marabou leech then finish the fly with two turns of webby red saddle from the butt of the feather and whip finish with red thread.

# JANUARY GOLD

Don Vachini will be the featured speaker on Jan. 19. Don is a member of both the Outdoor Writers of California and the Outdoor Writers of America and a regular contributor to Western Outdoors, Salmon-Trout-Steelheader, California Angler and California Game and Fish magazines. His credits also include Sports Afield, Outdoor Life and Field and Stream.

A lifetime Petaluma resident, Don has spent the past 21 summers backpacking California's high Sierra in pursuit of the rare golden trout. Over the last seven seasons he has set 18 golden trout line or tippet class world records with the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and the International Game Fish Association.

The slide show will not only cover a brief history of the gaudy state fish and some backpacking necessities, but will focus on tactics and techniques to fool the really large world-class specimens which are available only in desolate, high elevation locales tucked near the clouds.

Frank Armendariz from Junction City, Oregon will be the speaker on Wednesday, Feb. 16. I will have more information on him later.

-Jack Vallerga

# JANUARY OUTING

Saturday, January 22 will be our first 1994 outing to the bay model at 2100 Bridgeway in Sausalito. This model is great and maybe you can spot a new fishing hole. We'll meet at noon at the Santa Rosa Veterans building across from the fairgrounds and carpool.

-Charlie Schelter, 539-0200

The pattern book called it "a very good searching pattern when nothing specific is going on." It looked easy to tie—a grizzly hackle fiber tail, muscrat fur body and a grizzly hackle collar. I could do that.

It was a few years ago and I had this new fly rod outfit and some rudimentary fly tying materials sitting around. I wasn't quite sure where to start. As far as I could tell, whenever I visited a lake or a creek "nothing specific was going on" so the gray nymph sounded perfect.

I tied up a few and took them with me to Lake Cleone one warm September evening. Cleone sits right on the coast in Fort Bragg. It stays cooler than a lot of lakes and even when it's roasting inland, Fort Bragg can be, well, cold. I started with an Adams and caught a fish or two then switched to the gray nymph just for fun. After the change I caught one fish after another, if I may be permitted a little license for the sake of this story.

As the sun set trout, panfish and little bass kept attacking that nymph. I knew I was on to something.

My deep admiration for the gray nymph was cemented about a week later when I went to fish Mill Creek Pond in Ukiah. I was chatting with a bait fisherman as I prepared to tumble into the water in my float tube. He said action was pretty slow. I showed him the gray nymph and told him it had worked well for me before.

After I made it into the water, I tossed a dozen or so feet of line out my tiptop and started to fin away from shore. About three kicks later I had a fish on. The bait fisherman stared. I tried to act cool, but was more startled than he was. That nymph stayed tied to my line most of the year.

I felt the need to share my discovery. I have a fisherman friend who doesn't fly fish. Nonetheless I tied a couple of gray nymphs, packed them in an old 35mm film canister and sent them off to him. I'm going to digress a bit now, but I'll come back to this part of the narrative before too long, promise.

Between then and now, my fly selection has evolved a bit. A black wooly bugger with a bit of flash is now my first choice for stillwaters (I try not to use the word lake anymore, too declasse.) But the gray nymph's deadly fish attracting qualities hit home again some weeks ago.

My wife Pam and I homeschool our two sons, Grant and Casey. Grant's seven and Casey's five years old. Another father and I organized a fishing tournament for a group of homeschool kids. Grant conquered casting with a closed-face spin casting reel when he was five and is a pro at it now.

I bought worms and oddly-colored marshmallows for the kids to use. The farm pond was full of bluegill, perch and bass and I figured we couldn't go wrong with nightcrawlers. Well, we weren't having the luck I thought we should have, so I cut off Grant's bait hook and tied on a gray nymph with a little lead under an old red and white bobber. I told him to chuck it out

and reel it in. That's what he likes to do anyway-even without a hook. That did the trick. He started catching one after another.

Of course, Casey was getting a little mad watching his big brother out fish him so badly. A lot of these fish are small, so I tied on a little pheasant tail nymph figuring he'd even catch the little ones who couldn't get their lips around the bigger gray nymph.

Well, as is often the case, I was wrong. Casey wasn't catching anything. So I scoured my fly boxes and found one last gray nymph, tied it on and Casey stopped fishing and started catching.

Grant went on to win first place with 20 fish and Casey came in second with 12. Grant can now cast, hook, land and, this was a milestone, take his fish off the hook. He's seven and a self-contained fisherman!

Now, about my friend I sent those gray nymphs. He loves to fish, lives on the Peninsula and suffers a bit of frustration about where to fish, finding the time etc. He fishes mostly for bass and actually, due to his odd work and family circumstances, ends up fishing more in Florida than he does in California. He tolerates my trout fishing, but always associates trout and fly fishing with a uppity attitude. I've tried, gently, to persuade him otherwise.

Anyway, a little creek runs behind his home and one day last summer a neighbor told him he saw fish in it. My friend investigated and, sure enough, there were trout living in a nice little pool not 50 yards from his bedroom. Now I don't want to identify this place or my friend, because we've since found out it's illegal to fish in this creek.

But one evening he went down there, tied one of my gray nymphs on the end of his line and eased it down to the water. The instant it touched the surface of that little pool, it was swarmed by hungry little trout. He caught two that night and was made a believer, of sorts.

A few weeks after his discovery I went and spent a couple of days with him and caught a trout in his hole (mine was on a wooly worm) one warm afternoon. It was late July and the water was still running a cool 62 degrees.

There are probably a dozen trout living in that little pool. We explored upstream and found a few other holes and assorted little trout living here and there in the creek. It's what you'd consider an urban creek or at least a suburban creek. It empties, or used to, into the San Francisco Bay, but a small reservoir has blocked it for many, many years. These colorful, hard fighting little fish must be the living fossils of an impressive steelhead run that snaked its way up the watershed before the area got so loaded up with people.

Those fish probably hadn't seen a fisherman in 30 years. A fly? Maybe never. And what got them was a gray nymph.

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The Deschutes Experience, page 3.

## President's Message

### THANKS ALL AROUND

In the immortal words of January's keynote speaker, Don Vachini, "Thar's gold in them that hills!" Wow, what an inspiring presentation; Don's slide presentation of California's glorious high country, the fish and the passionate words of experience shared by Don were truly golden. Thank you Don for bringing us a taste of the riches this great state holds.

I'd like to take a moment to thank a few people, namely John Thomas our raffle chairman (single!) for his efforts

in generating new and exciting prizes, and for the enthusiasm he brings to every club activity. Thanks John!

And a special thanks to Bob and Gail Wobser for their work on the coffee and cookie line. It's really a treat having goodies at all our meetings, so let's all show our support for Bob and Gail's efforts and pitch in some "\$" to the coffee and cookie fund!

Just one more thank you to the membership as a whole. I'm six months into my term as president and I can't express how truly excited I am by the response and support of the membership to the club in its '93 and '94 years. It's very rewarding to see the increased participation of the club members in recruitment and attendance to club functions and your support of the club's ever-growing raffles. This kind of growth and enthusiastic support is just what it takes to help further the

positive direction our club is going. And it's you, the members of the Russian River Fly Fishers, through your continued support who are making it possible for all the good and great things to come.

Tight Lines,

Dwight Longuevan (John Thomas is still single)

### **General Meeting**

Frank Armendariz
The Deschutes
Experience
Feb. 16
7 P.M.
Veterans Memorial bldg.
Santa Rosa
see pg. 3 for details

### **Board of Directors**

Monday
Feb. 14
7 P.M.
Warrack Hospital
Board Room
2449 Summerfield Road
Santa Rosa

### **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

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

## FEBURARY OUTING

Not knowing what weather we may have, we are nonetheless scheduling our February outing for Casini's Campground on the Russian River for Sunday, Feb. 27.

There is a reasonable chance at steelhead or salmon. Casini's is on Moscow Road west of Monte Rio and east of Duncan's Mills. Come early, picnic, stay late.

---Charlie Schelter, 539-0200

# Miss the January meeting?

Then get your gold update on page 2.



"24-carat steelhead...that will put a pretty good bend on your fly rod," is how Petaluma angler-writer Don Vachini described the quarry of his passions, the golden trout.

Vachini, who has held many golden trout line and tippet class records, spent about an hour at the RRFF's January meeting going through slides and discussing the tactics he and his family have used in their relentless pursuit of the official state freshwater fish.

To get to the big goldens, he explained, you have to go "up, up and away." At elevations from 11,000 to 12,000 feet you'll find "big fish and solitude," he told the club as he clicked through slides of anglers plying their trade under broad blue skies, kneeling near edges of granite-strewn high Sierra ridge line lakes.

A trophy golden, by Department of Fish and Game standards, is any over 10 inches in length. But Vachini and his cohorts regularly stalk prizes in the two to three pound range. And he told stories of shadowy six to ten pound leviathans he's seen cruising the clear, cold Sierra waters.

Vachini has developed a system for classifying golden trout lakes. The first are those with abundant food and spawning habitat. An outlet stream provides the spawning grounds and the fish move in and out of the lake all day long. The fish in these lakes are small, but plentiful and anglers can get action all day long, he explained.

The second class of lakes is a little bigger and deeper and has less spawning habitat. With poorer ability to spawn, fewer fish will compete for the food supply and the fish will grow a bit bigger, up to 10 inches, Vachini said.

For the big fish, greater than 11 inches, you have to hit the high lakes—above 11,000 feet—that have no natural spawning. These have been stocked by aerial drops. They'll be rocky, forlorn lakes, that take some tough hiking to reach, according to Vachini. Such a lake would be Royce #4 which is more than 100 feet deep and, while you can go all day without seeing a fish, it's also "fairly easy" to catch a one to two pound golden.

While you can hire outfitters to get you and your gear up to many good golden trout areas (and save you two to three days), the trophy lakes can only be reached by "bipedal locomotion," many times off the trail with a map and compass in hand.

Vachini urged anyone who decides to go off hunting the lunker goldens to "study before and during the trip." The hike will likely take you over difficult, rocky terrain as well as snow fields. You have to be prepared, he warned.

Also bring plenty of "bug juice" as the mosquitoes can seem as big as, and more plentiful than, the trout. Keep yourself protected from the elements, which are fierce at those elevations and be ready for weather in the 80s during the daytime and below freezing at night, he said adding that it can rain (and snow) at anytime so bring along a rainfly for your tent and a poncho for yourself.

Other necessities include a long handled net which lets you keep a little distance from the water thereby spooking fewer fish. The net also helps keep your tippet class world record away from sharp granite edges when you go to land the lunker. Don't forget your Polaroid glasses to help spot fish as well as protect your eyes in the thin mountain air.

Make yourself take "forced water breaks" every half hour to avoid the dehydration that sets in easily at such high altitudes, Vachini urged the group.

The best time of year is just after ice out, usually late June, when the fish are ravenous or in the late fall when they go on a feeding frenzy to bulk up for the winter.

Class 1 and 2 lakes can provide enjoyable angling for small goldens that "will attack anything." Vachini said "flail at inlets" and you'll get your fish.

To go for a trophy golden you "need special tactics," he continued. First scout the lake looking for structure as well as the inlets and outlets. Look for dropoffs, shelves and schools of cruising fish, he told the RRFF group.

All but two of his records have involved "arduous crawling" up to the edge of the lake to keep from spooking the fish, he said adding that he trains by doing situps and upper back strengthening exercises and uses kneepads to make crawling around the rocks less painful.

After properly stalking the fish, the cast won't be very long, he explained. Many times he finds himself on his back, stripping out line onto his stomach then whipping it out in the direction it needs to go. Sometimes he and his son work together with one acting as a spotter for the other, directing casts to the right place.

An effective technique is to cast parallel to shore, "let it sink, then draw, twitch and retrieve" your fly back in. The take can be a subtle tug or a massive hit. He carries both floating and sinking lines but most often uses the floating line on his five weight outfit.

When fishing ice out, an effective technique is to cast your fly onto the ice pack then drag it off the edge of the ice and into the water. Big goldens are often suspended in the dark water just under the edge of the ice and will pounce on your fly when it hits the water.

Caddis nymphs and scuds in dull, dark colors, particularly tan are Vachini's favorites. He said he has never caught a trophy fish on dry flies.

Not only are goldens perhaps the most beautiful of trout, they're "the best eating," Vachini said showing a slide of several lunker goldens on the camp grill.

While most of his fishing is catch and release, he keeps some to eat and some don't survive the weighing and photography necessary to claim a place in the record books. (Governing agencies are working out procedures to make

Continued page 3

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, Feb. 13 Time: 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

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

The clinics will feature an introduction to fly casting and beginner and intermediate instruction. These programs are designed for those who think they may have an interest in fly casting or are just getting started. Most of these folks do not have equipment. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel has a number of full line outfits available for loan to these not-yet-equipped prospective fly casters on a reservation basis. If you or someone you know needs gear to use contact Brian at 527-9887. Those who have their own equipment will be most welcome. For the more advanced casters among you who would like to develop a new skill or improve on an old one there will be coaching on hand to help you to the extent you wish. The distance course is always in place for those who would like to measure their ability.

It cannot stay summer all winter and the weather may be a factor. If we are in the middle of a winter storm the event will be postponed until March.

The next scheduled activity will be March 20.

-Bob Sisson

# SECRETARY'S BENCH

Inspiration. Last month's article from the Secretary's Bench talked about inspiration. By the end of last month's meeting with Don Vachini I believe everybody left filled to the brim with inspiration. If you weren't there, just read Ray's article on the meeting. What a great beginning to the year! My wife and I both caught golden-rainbow hybrids from the Kings River, but those fish couldn't compare to the beauty of Don's examples.

Speaking of Ray's article in this month's Cast, did you read his article last month (of course you did!)? These are the kind of stories you can submit to me or any other board member for inclusion in an upcoming Cast. I know everyone has a "gray nymph" in their history. Put it on paper, Ray Manley will insure that it's readable (heck, he does it for me, why not you?). Ray broke the ice with "The Gray Nymph," let's keep the ice cracking!

See you at the next meeting.

--Robert Ordway

# **DESCHUTES EXPERIENCE**

Oregon outfitter Frank Armendariz will be the featured speaker at the RRFF's Feb. 16 meeting. Frank's program is titled "The Deschutes Experience" and is an hourlongslide show detailing his nearly 15 years of experience boating and fishing for trout and steelhead on Oregon's Deschutes River.

Frank and his wife Tami are owners and operators of River Path Outfitters Angling and Rafting, specializing in fly fishing. They live in Junction City, Oregon. Frank will have information about their company at the meeting.

Due to a physical disability he does not tie flies. Tami is the fly tier in the family but will not be able to attend the meeting with Frank. So there won't be a fly tying demonstration before the meeting. Frank will have a set of Tami's flies that are popular on the Deschutes River. These flies are unique, exceptionally crafted and extremely productive. A set will be presented to our club for the raffle at the meeting.

Frank first fished the Deschutes in the spring of 1977. He is a writer, lecturer and full time river guide and outfitter. His articles on fishing for steelhead have appeared in Salmon-Trout-Steelheader and the California Fly Fisher magazines. Currently he is the Oregon reporter for West Coast Fisherman News. He was a featured speaker at the 1993 Federation of Fly Fishers Northern California Council Conclave and has contributed his outfitting services to the council's fund raising activities. Frank is a native of California receiving his education at San Jose State University and has lived in Oregon since 1979.

Frank's presentation concentrates on trout fishing on the section of the Deschutes River from Warm Springs Crossing to the town of Maupin. Aside from angling information (flies, seasonal hatches, gear) he will present information necessary to allow RRFF members to embark on a safe and rewarding Deschutes River experience.

-Jack Vallerga

...GOLD

From page 2

catch and release more feasible when angling for a record.)

Goldens have an oil-rich, red flesh and are best cooked on

the grill with their skin still on, Vachini said.

Although Vachini has been hunting the goldens and writing about his crusade for more than 10 years, his presentation reflected abundant enthusiasm. And considering his talk came after a day at his real world job, middle school teacher, the gold fever this special fish brings to our sport must be strong indeed.

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Fly Fishing Fair! See below.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you Bill (Archuletas Reel Works) for your generous donation of time, experience and wit. As always, your presentation on reel care and construction was not only informative but entertaining. For the newer members of the club, Bill Archuleta is a life member of the RRFF, an honor well deserved.

Bill has spent years serving the club in a number of different capacities, including president during which the club had its most successful growth spurt in its history. Bill has always generously donated his time and talents to the club.

# APRIL OUTING

Outing April 23-24, Lake Sonoma, Rustler's Camp. Experience has proven this to be a fun-filled weekend. Some of us will go in early to secure our camping area. Entry is from Cloverdale on Hot Springs Road to the parking and launch area. Rustler's Camp is about a one mile boat in. Any craft is fine but if you use a trailered boat you must launch at the public ramp or marina and run up the lake to Rustler's. We may be joined by members of the Santa Cruz Fly Fishing Club. Bring mild weather camping gear and we'll have a pot luck cook out Saturday night.

See you there. Charlie Schelter, 539-0200

**General Meeting** 

Chris Steiner

International
Off Shore Fishing
April 20
7 P.M.
Veterans Memorial Bldg.
Santa Rosa
see pg. 3 for details

# **Board of Directors**Monday

April 17 7 P.M. Warrack Hospital Board Room 2449 Summerfield Road Santa Rosa

### **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

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

## 1ST ANNUAL FLY FISHING FAIR

The RRFF in cooperation with King's Western Angler will present their First Annual Fly Fishing Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 16 at the Casting Pond in Galvin Park (see Pool Captain's Corner for directions). The event will not only be free, but will feature the expertise of the following manufacturers' representatives and their lines of gear:

Jamie Lyle: Sage Rods, D.B. Dun rod cases, Billy Pate Reels, Climax Leaders and The Box Company.

Ken Wiebe: G. Loomis Rods, Abel Reels, Angler's Expressions, Creek Company float tubes and Specialized Eye Wear.

Pat Riley: Scott Rods, Bucks Bags, Streamline Waders, Imperial Headwear and Royal Wulff Lines.

John Dietz: Umpqua Feather Merchants, Lamson Reels, J.W. Outfitters, Lone Peak Designs and Simms fishing products.

Ed Schroeder will be there representing the Orvis line of fly fishing equipment.

Refreshments will be available. Merchandise can be tested and tried out but there will be no retail sales at the fair. It will be a great opportunity to cast rods, play with reels and pick the brains of the factory representatives without the crowds of the bigger shows. So come on out, bring your friends and share in the fun!

Tight Lines
Dwight Longuevan.

## DAVE WHITLOCK, HAL JANSSEN AND JELLO PUDDING

If you're like me you received at least two flyers from the big fly fishing exposition held last month at the San Mateo fairgrounds. I went through it with a pencil and figured out that most of the stuff I was interested in was on Wednesday, opening day. I put it on the calendar and gave my wife Pam plenty of notice.

But the day came and things came up (I forget what) that made it impossible to get away. So I said to myself, "Maybe next year."

Now here's where I guess I should have got suspicious. Pam started to encourage me to go anyway, even spend the night with friends who live down that way. Why would she be so anxious to get me out of the house and to a fly fishing show? Too much false casting down the bathroom hallway? Who knows?

So I went on Friday. I planned to get there at about 2 p.m., hoping to beat the crowds. Wrong.

The parking lot was like Disneyland on Memorial Day and they didn't have those cute little Dumbo trains to take you to the main gate.

Once inside it looked like the typical array of vendors, guides and fish camps trying to make a sale. I was a little disappointed. To pick up my spirits I went around to all the Canadian resorts.

I listened intently. I watched with awe their slides and video presentations. I told them how great everything looked. As they started to urge me to book a trip, I looked them right in the eye and said:

"You know I'd love to come up there. But right now, I'm, well, not allowed to leave California." Then I turned and walked away. Gave 'em something to think about.

I was beginning to think the event wasn't worth the \$8 admission. Then I found Dave Whitlock holding court at the indoor fish tank.

He stood high on a ladder at the head of a long skinny tank full of lunker bass from the delta. He worked a variety floating and skinking flies past the bass using various lines—floating, sinktip and full sinking. He used the different setups to get his offerings at different levels in the water column and to make the flies behave differently.

The most impressive was his use of a sinktip line with a floating fly. This setup can be used to rip a fly from the surface causing a big commotion and a lot of bubbles. Then you can let the fly float up gently. More frequent tugs keep the fly subsurface.

A sinking fly on a floating line does the opposite. It looks like a minnow struggling to get to the top then falling back. Just before Whitlock took over the tank I watched a regular

bass fisherman give a demonstration. His Rapalas, rubber worms and such failed to draw any strikes. A couple of Whitlock's techniques got their attention.

After a dinner in the "cafe" (about ten bucks for a hot dog and cup of Jello instant pudding) I caught the last few minutes of Larry Schoenborn's demonstration. I missed his fly fishing tips, but mainly I just wanted to see him.

Of all the TV fishermen, Schoenborn is the only one I admire. He approaches fishing with a certain humility. He asks for and takes his guides' advice and seems genuinely pleased to learn from them. I went up, shook his hand and told him how much I enjoyed his show and his attitude.

Next up was Hal Janssen of Janssen Leech fame. He talked about fishing stillwaters. He's from the long leader school—up to 30 feet. This allows him to control depth using a countdown method. He is also an advocate of Scientific Anglers new clear monocore sinking line. "Its like fishing a 60 foot leader."

A few of his keys. Use a floating line when fishing mayfly nymphs and caddis or midge pupa. On the retrieve, the floating line will cause the nymphs to "swim" up like the naturals do.

He uses a sinking line for leech patterns as well as dragon/damselfly nymphs. The sinking line allows him to keep the fly at a specific depth rather than getting the "up and down" achieved with the floating line.

Janssen could be nicknamed Mr. Marabou. His patterns rely heavily, and in many cases entirely, on marabou. He scorns the typical "over the counter" marabou most commonly available and recommends having good stuff special ordered. Janssen hunts turkey, so he gets most of his feathers the old fashioned way. He uses Rit powdered dies to get the colors he likes and recommended people try it themselves. (He even uses it to die his fly lines!)

After holding court at the fish tank, Janssen took center stage in the tying demonstration room. He showed how he worked his miracles with marabou. He pulled off the fibers from the sides of the feather, tied them in, then pinched (not cut) them to the proper length.

It was approaching 9 p.m. as Janssen was about to start his fourth marabou pattern. I knew that I'd probably miss learning to tie his best "surefire" fly, but I was getting tired.

I wandered out into the cool night air. The parking lot wasn't so full any more. I couldn't quite remember where I parked and there weren't any of those signs with big letters to help me remember.

And there still weren't any of those cute little Dumbo trains either.







# JAMIE LYLE

Representing:

Sage Rods

Billy Pate Reels

Climax Leaders

D.B. Dun

**Rod Carriers** 

Reef Rider Belts

Struble Manufacturing

The Box Co. Fly Boxes

# PAT RILEY

Representing:

Scott Rods

Streamline Waders

Broden Nets

Bucks Bags

Royal Wolff Products

## **AND**



# JOHN DIETZ

Representing:

J.W. Outfitters

Umpqua Feather Merchants

Simms Fishing **Products** 

Lone Peak Designs

L.A. Calving Company

# KEN WIEBE

Representing:

G. Loomis

Abel

Specialized Eyewear Designs

Creek Company

& Stream Designs

Anglers Expressions

IN CASE OF RAIN, FAIR MOVES TO KING'S WESTERN ANGLER

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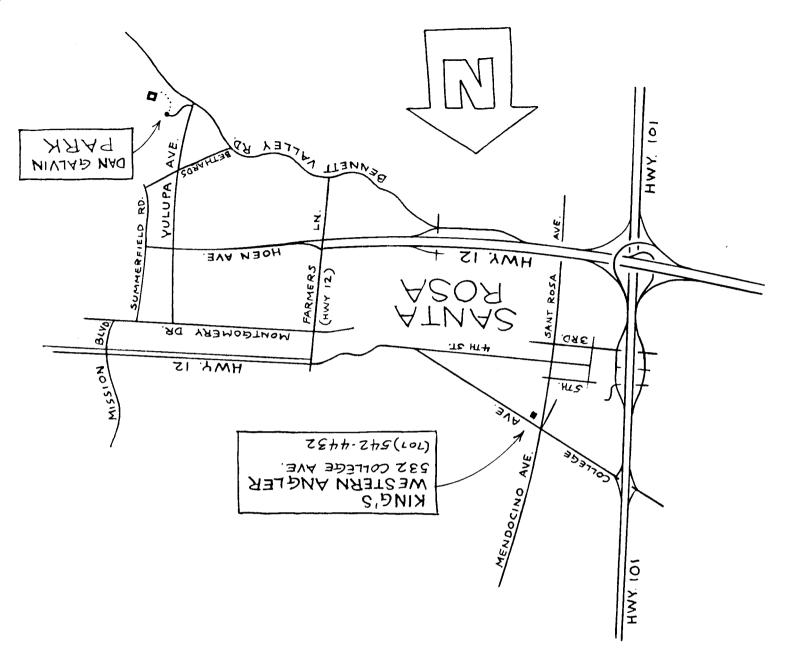
## SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 KING'S WESTERN ANGLER

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BOB SISSON 3607 GREEN HILL DR SANTA ROSA CA 95404-6206

OF CURRENT RESIDENT



### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS SUMMER DINNER

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1994

PLACE: LA GRANDE'S (SEE MAP ON BACK)

TIME: 5:00PM NO HOST COCKTAILS

7:00pm Dinner

COST: \$20.00 MENU CHOICES: PRIME RIB, DEEP FRIED PRAWNS,

CHICKEN KIEV (PRICE INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY)

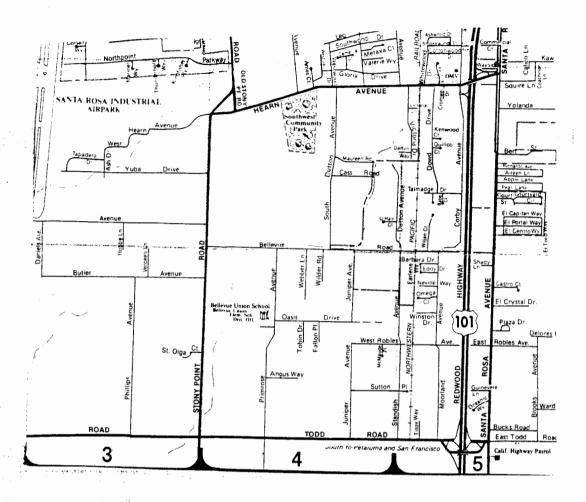
The program will be Rick Hafele from Portland, Oregon. Rick is co-author of the Complete Book of Western Hatches and Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations, His 3-M Video, Anatomy of a trout stream, is widely considered one of the Best on the subject of trout fishing. Rick has a Masters degree in aquatic entomology with a minor in fisheries biology, and has worked as a professional aquatic biologist for over 15 years. He has also been an avid fly fisher for over 30 years. This combined experience gives Rick a unique understanding of trout and how to catch them. For many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishers through books, articles, slide shows and seminars.

RICK'S PROGRAM IS TITLED "FOUR SEASONS OF FLY FISHING. THIS TALK PROVIDES AN ENTERTAINING LOOK AT FLY FISHING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT DESCRIBES THE SEASONAL CHANAGES THAT OCCUR ON A STREAM, AND HOW TROUT, INSECTS AND ANGLERS ARE AFFECTED.

PLEASE RETURN THIS BOTTO	OM PORTION IN TH		DRESSED ENVELOPE	
PLEASE RESERVE:	PRIME RIB,	PRAWNS,	CHICKEN KIEV	
FOR A TOTAL OF	DINNERS a	\$20.00 EACH	TOTAL	
	MEMBERSHIP	RENEWAL		
MYSELF (\$35.00)	, MY FAMI	Y (\$40.00)		
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP (\$20.0	00)	<del></del>		
NEW MEMBERS PLEASE FILL	OUT A FULL APPL	ICATION IN THE CAS	T OR AT KING'S WESTER	N

MAIL THIS BOTTOM PORTION TO: RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS IN THE ENCLOSED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

ANGLER.



# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, April 17 Time: 11 a.m. to noon
Place: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersectikon of
Bennett Valley and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

The clinic will feature an introduction to fly casting as well as beginner and intermediate instruction. These programs are designed for those who would like to see if fly casting is for them and for those who are just getting started.

Some equipment is available for those who do not have their own. Brian Wong of Lyle's tackle has a limited number of outfits for loan on a reservation basis.

If you or someone you know needs equipment to use, contact Brian at 527-9887. Those who have their own equipment will be most welcome.

At Saturday's **Fly Fishing Fair**, the opportunity to work on distance casting techique and accuracy improvement will be available. See page one for more information. If weather becomes a factor both events will be postponed.

The next scheduled activity will be May 15.

-Bob Sisson

# SECRETARY'S BENCH

I'd like to thank Bill Archuleta for a new-found respect for my fly reel. Last month's meeting had Bill discussing not only the construction of his reels but other reels on the market. He also had a clinic on proper care and maintenance of fly reels, spin and casting reels.

Then Bill fielded question from the audience. It was interesting to see the plugs of the reels in various stages of construction. It was a very informative meeting.

Speaking of meetings, the board of directors took steps to improve the quality of the slide shows. We now are proud owners of a new Kodak automatic focus slide projector purchased from Camera Corner in Petaluma. Hopefully this will keep the shows clear and easy to see.

I want to announce what we hope will be a monthly feature to our newsletter, *Flyfishers Show and Tell*. Bring to the meeting a photo of you and your catch and add a short write up including your name, where it was caught, fly pattern, rod, line, reel etc. We'll make sure it gets into the next newsletter. So start taking more pictures!

Finally I'd like to thank Bob Elliot for contributing a Sage 9'6" four weight rod, Chuck Perry for the dozen steelhead flies and my wife for finding time in her schedule to tie a half dozen elk hair caddis.

See you at the next meeting.

Bob Ordway

# INTERNATIONAL OFF SHORE

Chris Steiner from Fishing International, will be the featured speaker at the RRFF April 20 meeting. He will talk about offshore fishing at a wide variety of international locations.

Chris has been with Fishing International, a fishing and hunting speciality travel agency, for more than 10 years. He acts as the area specialist for most salt water fishing destinations south of the border. He has sent over a thousand people to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia in search of billfish and other deep sea denizens. He is familiar with the fishing migration of billfish in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Whether it's salt water fly fishing, spin fishing, plug casting or live bait fishing, Chris is able to assist anglers as to where and when to go. He's helped countless clients land the big one.

# ROD ACADEMY GRADS

I would like to congratulate the graduates of the 1994 RRFF Rod Building Academy. All eight students graduated with flying colors and new fly rods.

For those of you who didn't sign up, you really missed out. We all had a great time and made some new friends.

The class was broken down into three evenings. The students learned about rod components, how to make and attach cork handles, reel seats and fighting butts and how to wrap guides, including some decorative thread winding techniques. Most of the students even made their own rod winding stands which, I might add, were as nice as some of the rods. Between us we built nine rods from 4 wt. through 12 wt. and the average cost was around \$110.

These beautiful works of art will be on display at the next regular meeting.

Good job guys. Tim Grogran

# COLLECTIBLES SHOW

The West Coast Sporting Collectibles Show will be held May 6-7 at the Union City Holiday Inn. For the last seven years the show was held at the El Rancho Tropicana in Santa Rosa, but its demolition has forced the move to Union City near Oakland.

The 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, Japan and from throughout American will display on some 150 tables.

The Union City Holiday Inn is at the intersection of Hwy 880 and Alvarado/Niles Road.

Myself (\$35) □	For My Family (\$40)  (New members add \$10 in	
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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa California 95405

> BOB SISSON 3607 GREEN HILL DR SANTA ROSA CA 95404-6206

Address correction requested Return postage guaranteed

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, March 20 Time:

Time: 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

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

The clinic will feature an introduction to fly casting and beginner and intermediate instruction. These programs are intended for those who would like to find out if fly casting is for them or for those who are just getting started. Most of these folks do not have equipment. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle has a number of excellent outfits available for loan to these not-yet-equipped prospective fly casters on a reservation basis. If you or someone you know needs gear to use contact Brian at 527-9887. Those who have their own equipment will be most welcome. If any of the more advanced casters among you would like to develop a new skill or improve on an old one, there will be coaching on hand to help you to the extent you are interested. The distance course is in place for those of you who would like to test your ability. The accuracy rings are on hand and are available by request. If by chance there is a heavy winter storm in progress, the event will be postponed until April. The next scheduled activity is April 17.

# MARCH OUTING

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There will be an all-day outing on Sunday, March 20 to Lake Hennessey. This lake is on Hwy. 128 three miles east of the Silverado Trail and about 30 miles from Santa Rosa.

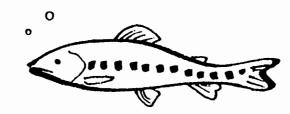
There is a launching ramp and picnic areas. Hennessey is stocked with trout and there are self-sustaining populations of black bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill. Great for kidsl

Fish from boats or shore and the ride is guaranteed beautiful.

-Charlie Schelter, 539-0200 o

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I apply for n	nembership in the Russian River Fly	Fishers for:
Myself (\$35) □	For My Family (\$40)   As a Jun (New members add \$10 initiation Fee)	ior member (\$20) [
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City/State/Zip		
Occupation		
Home Phone	Work Phone	
Signature		

-Bob Sisson

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### TROUT, SHAD AND OTHER THINGS

In case you missed it, last month's meeting featured Frank Armendariz, owner/operator of Rivers Path Outfitters in Springfield Oregon. The Deschutes River was Frank's topic, and so inspiring was his presentation that I set up a four-day drift trip with Frank this August. We plan to start our drift on Monday, Aug. 22 and end on Thursday, Aug. 25. Frank tells

# **PROGRAM NOTES**

Bill Archuleta will speak on reel manufacturing, repair and service at the RRFF March 16 meeting. Bill graduated from San Jose State in 1967 with a degree in industrial education and for the past 27 years has worked for Optical Coating Laboratory. For the last 15 years he has been the supervisor of the engineering model shop, which is a proto-type machine shop where they help engineers develop their concepts. Bill has been repairing his own reels for most of his life and as he grew older he began repairing reels for his friends. This interest has developed into Bill's business, Archuleta's Reel Works. In 1983 Dave Inks asked Bill to repair reels for his shop and this developed into bigger and better things. Since then Bill has become the designated Hardy specialist in the United States. He is also the official repairman for Marryat. Bill will service and/or repair any type of reel, but he specializes in fly reels. He has his own line of reels that he manufactures, which include four sizes of small trout to tarpon/billfish size. These reels take about two years to build and are not found on retail shelves.

me there will be plenty of good dry fly trout fishing at this time as well as a shot at some early Deschutes River steelies. If anybody is interested in joining my group there are four spots available out of a group of six. Estimated cost is \$800 per angler. This includes four days guided fishing, three squares a day, transportation down the river, a warm dry tent and lots of grins and fish! I'd like to travel up and back as a group. So if you're interested in joining our party call me at work, 542-4432 and I'll sign you up. If you'd like to set up a trip of your own, you can reach Frank at 1-800-854-9449.

Trout and shad season are almost here and it's time to get out your trusty trout rod and take to the banks of California trout streams. In addition to and along with this month's Fly Fisherman magazine tribute to private waters, I was recently fortunate enough to have fished a local trout pond and bass lake where I caught and released nine trout in two hours. The largest was 25 inches long with a 15.5 inch girth and there were a number of other spectacular specimens as well. A great warm up for the trout season. But let's not forget about the shad on the Russian. Our local favorite is a great place to start and maybe we can talk our activity director Charlie Schelter into organizing a club outing for these underrated, supercharged fish we fondly refer to as the "poor man's steelhead."

Tight lines and great journeys,

Dwight Longuevan

---Jack Vallerga

# SECRETARY'S BENCH

Boy am I confused now! After Frank Armendariz' great program on the Deschutes there is now another new destination I'd like to explore. Although I've fished in the Sierras, I've yet to reach the timberline area for goldens. Now after several year absence, it's time to explore Oregon's fly fishing opportunities. Frank's show was well received by both club members and the general public turned club members. This year just might set a record for attendance (if we kept any attendance records). Keep on coming, it's only going to get better!

Also, to encourage club participation, John Thomas informed club members that he would match anyone's contribution of flies with his own. For each dozen contributed to the raffle, John will match it with a dozen of his own hand-tied flies for the raffle. John, Niña and I are tying ours now. Speaking of contributed fly collections, I'd like to thank Chuck Perry, Dr. Woolley and Tami Armendariz for their beautiful fly contributions. It would be fun to see member collections like that at each meeting. See you at the next meeting.

--Robert Ordway

## **General Meeting**

Bill Archuleta Reel important stuff March 16 7 r.m. The North Room Veteran'sMemorial Building Santa Rosa

### **Board of Directors**

Monday March 14 7 r.m. Warrack Hospital Board Room 2449 Summerfield Road Santa Rosa

### **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

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

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# VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### GREEN, WITH ENVY

As the days grow longer and the temperature warmer, most of us fly junkies begin to day dream about our favorite trout streams. Thanks to Bill Archuletta and Dwight Longuevan and their slide show last month, I've been day dreaming about the Green River in Utah. Dwight and Bill did a terrific job and had the whole room drooling over pictures of 19-inch trout.

# **PROGRAM NOTES**

Guide and expert fly tier Mike Swaney will speak and show video footage of the many California fishing spots he guides for the May 18 meeting of the Russian River Fly Fishers. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. but Mike will demonstrate his fly tying at 6:30 p.m.

Mike was born in Meadville, PA., and moved to California with his family in the 1960s. He's currently president of the Redwood Empire chapter of Trout Unlimited. Mike started fishing in ponds and streams in Pennsylvania until his family settled in San Anselmo where he turned his attentions to local creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Another move, this time to Petaluma, found Mike sneaking into farm ponds and fishing the Petaluma River when stripers were still being caught from shore in good numbers. In 1974 Mike went to Eureka for college, where he majored in construction technology and drafting and minored in excuses to go fishing. He lived at Fernbridge Inn for a year and fished the Mad River when kings still ran and started his yearly pilgrimage to the holy river, the Smith.

He has been on the Smith River every year since 1974, first as a fisherman and later as a guide. There he fished aside the heros of his dreams before moving back to Petaluma to spend all his off days fishing the Gualala River. When he is not fishing, Mike is a general contractor and draftsman.

He met his wife, Beth, in 1975 and they were married in 1980. Beth's family introduced Mike to the Stanislaus River, an event, which along with his marriage was one of the most important in his life.

Over the years Mike has spent much time fishing the Russian, Smith, Gualala, Petaluma, Stanislaus, Sacramento, McCloud, Fall and Napa rivers along with Sonoma, Mendocino, Pardee, Don Pedro, New Malones, Camanche, Tulloch, Pinecrest and Beardsly lakes.

The June meeting will be a dinner meeting on Friday, June 17, but the exact place, time and cost have not yet been determined.

With economy air fares to Salt Lake City as low as \$99 round trip, a ten day trip to the Green, including room, meals, and rental car can cost as little as \$400 per person. As entertaining as the slide show was, my favorite part of the presentation was Dwight's hilarious impersonation of the frustrated English angler they met on the stream.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the fly fishing fair. Everyone who showed up thought it was a terrific success. We estimated the turnout at between 200-250 guests. I was a little disappointed by how few club members were in attendance. It was a great opportunity to cast the latest rods and check out many other new products. It was so much fun I'm sure we'll do it again next year.

One thing the fair did was show a lot of people what a wonderful resource our casting pond is and how much fun it could be to cast for casting's sake. We're going to be organizing a casting competition for club members of various skill levels so start practicing. Bob Sisson and I would also like to put together a tournament casting team that would not be embarrassed to compete with other clubs. So if you think you've got the right stuff, give me a call at 538-5917.

In the mean time, get out there and catch some shad.

Put a bend in it.

—Tim Grogan.

### **General Meeting**

Mike Swaney
Video guide to
great fishing
May 18
7 P.M.
(TYING AT 6:30 P.M.)
The North Room
Veteran's Memorial Building

## **Board of Directors**

Monday May 16 7 P.M. Warrack Hospital Board Room 2449 Summerfield Road Santa Rosa

## **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

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

## MAY OUTING

Outing May 20, 21, 22, Lett's Lake.

Sorry folks, I take full blame for creating another deluge of rain by scheduling a campout at Lake Sonoma for last April 23.

Our May outing is at Lett's Lake in Mendocino National Forest, about 16 miles west of Stonyford, a lovely area. There is a nice campground and only non-motorized craft are allowed.

This pretty 35-acre lake is at 4500 feet elevation and has trout and bass.

---Charlie (Rainmaker) Schelter

539-0200

## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### **CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER**

Date: Sunday, May 15

Time: 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Place: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park, intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avc., Santa Rosa.

The event will feature an introduction to fly casting and beginner and intermediate instruction. These programs are intended for those who would like to find out if fly casting is something they may want to get serious about or for those who are just getting started. Most of these folks do not have equipment.

Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel has a number of excellent outfits available for loan to those not yet equipped prospective fly casters on a reservation basis. If you or someone you know needs gear to use contact Brian at 527-9887.

Those who have their own equipment will be most welcome. If any of the more advanced casters among you would like to develop a new skill or improve on an old one there will be coaching on hand to help you to the extent you are interested. The distance course is in place and you may test your ability and the accuracy rings are on hand and available on request.

The next activity will be June 19.

---Bob Sisson

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

Warm Springs Fish Hatchery Report, April 25, 1994:

Steelhead—1705

Chinook Salmon—21

Coho Salmon—449

The number of Chinook Salmon are down from last year and no eggs were collected as the fish were all males.

The hatchery also released all of their fingerling steelhead into the Russian River. Unfortunately, the word is out and many fish are being caught at the check dams along the river. Please remember if you must keep your fish—the limit is two. Better yet, release these fish to improve next year's run. Also, those of you with some clout, let's try to influence our county supervisors to eliminate all check dams along the river until June or July.

### Trout Unlimited Update:

Russian River tributary restoration (symposium): May 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Duncan Mills Sportsman's Club. Featured will be top speakers on this important subject. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

"Stream Restoration in Action"—Willow Creek tour of lower section, May 7 starting at 9 a.m. Meet at the first bridge on Willow Creek. Mike Swaney from Trout Unlimited will be the guide. For more information call 829-3580.

---"Von" H. Von Der Mehden

## SECRETARY'S BENCH

Our last meeting had a change of program, instead of the planned saltwater program, we got the Green River.

Dwight Longuevan and Bill Archuleta both gave a spirited and informative (if not downright funny) program of this famous tailwater fishery. My wife and I spent one day on the Green a few years ago. We were no where near as successful as Dwight, Bill and their friend. We would like to go back this year though.

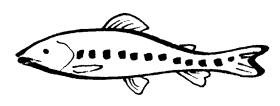
The slide program was also the first for our club's new slide projector. I must say that after the first few pictures, hand held shots by Bill, the show continued in perfect focus!

Please don't forget about our "fly fisherman's show and tell" for upcoming newsletters. Bring a picture of you and your "catch and release" to a meeting. Include a short write up of what, where and how and we'll put it in the newsletter.

I'd like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the raffle. Chuck Perry for the dozen flies (get tying John): Norm Mochel for a trout salt and pepper shaker and waterproof jacket; Bill Archuleta for a t-shirt; and the Wobsters for an excellent deal on two cases of wine. Great going guys!

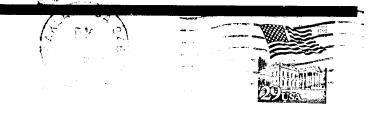
See you at the next meeting.

—Bob Ordway



## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa California 95405



BOB SISSON 3607 GREEN HILL DR SANTA ROSA CA 95404-6206



## President's Message

For those of you who missed last month's meeting, Mike Swaney of Bernard's Guide Service was great. His fly tying demonstration was colorful, big and not for the weak of heart. His video on the Stanislaus River was a great change of pace from the standard slide show and his terrifically spirited program was inspiring to all in attendance.

Thanks Mike, we'll see you on the river. If anyone would like to drift with Mike, Tim Grogan and I are planning a trip, and you can do the same by calling (707)829-3580.

This month's meeting is a dinner meeting, in case you didn't

receive your invitation. Our guest speaker will be author and well-known fly fisherman Rick Hafele from Portland Oregon. Rick's appearance and presentation to our club June 17 is one not to miss. Rick is a great talent and we should all feel fortunate to have him as a speaker. Dinner will be at La Grande's Restaurant. No host cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20. This is a great opportunity, don't miss it. Bring a friend or your spouse. See ya there!

Tight lines and great hatches.

-- Dwight Longuevan

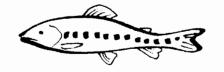
## **PROGRAM NOTES**

Rick Hafele will be the speaker at the Russian River Fly Fishers on Friday, June 17, 1994 at La Grande's Restaurant in Santa Rosa.

Rick Hafele is co-author of The Complete Book of Western Hatches and Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations. His 3-video, Anatomy of a Trout Stream, is widely considered one of the best on the subject of trout fishing. Rick has a Master's degree in aquatic entomology with a minor in fisheries biology,

and has worked as a professional aquatic biologist for over 15 years. He has also been an avid fly fisher for over 30 years. This combined experience gives Rick a unique understanding of trout and how to catch them. For many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishers through books, articles, slide shows and seminars.

Rick's program is titled: Four Seasons of Fly Fishing. This talk provides an entertaining look at fly fishing throughout the year. It describes the seasonal changes



affected.

that occur on a stream, and how trout, insect and anglers are

There will be no host cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Rick's program will follow dinner. The public is invited.

Keep your loops and lines tight,

-John M. (Jack) Vallerga

### **General Meeting**

Rick Hafele
Four Seasons of
Fly Fishing
June 17
6 P.M. NO HOST DRINKS
7 P.M. DINNER
La Grande's
Santa Rosa

### **Board of Directors**

Monday June 20 7 P.M. Warrack Hospital Board Room 2449 Summerfield Road Santa Rosa

## RRFF Hot Line

538-1733

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

# JUNE 18 OUTING LAKE HENESSEY

True to form, for the last outing I scheduled to Lake Henessey, it rained. Honest folks it's not likely in June.

This is a neat place for a family outing. The lake is forty miles from Santa Rosa and there are picnic areas and a boat ramp.

You can fish from shore or from anything that floats for bass or generously stocked trout.

Take Hwy. 128 (road to lake Berryessa) from Silverado Trail.

We'll meet around the boat ramp to fish, picnic and have a fun day.

See you there.

Charlie Schelter 539-0200

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## CASTING POND CLINIC REMINDER

Date: Sunday, June 26

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Introduction to FLY CASTING

12 P.M. to 2 P.M. CASTING CONTEST

Place: Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park, intersection of

Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

The distance casting course will be laid out for some friendly competition. The same three classes that were used in 1991 will be used again. The first class will be for those who have not achieved 80', the second class for those capable of 80' to 100' and the open class for those with capability of over 100'.

The ring course will also be set up for some accuracy competition. Since we do not have any prior records to go on there will be only an open class until it is possible to break the event into classes based on relative levels of skill.

The morning session will be an introduction to fly casting and a beginning and intermediate instruction. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle has a limited number of full line outfits he will loan to those who are yet equipped on a reservation basis. Anyone who wishes to reserve one of these outfits can contact Brian at 527-9887.

Vice President Tim would like to put a team together for future interclub competition. All we need are enough casters willing to take their ability to a little higher level.

This will be the last scheduled clinic for the summer. Watch the September *Cast* for details of the new fall season.

SECRETARY'S BENCH

Stripers in the Stanislaus River? There sure are!

Both the California Department of Fish and Game and I had no idea, but Mike Swaney's informative video presentation showed us how, when and where. Also that dog on ESPN's "Fly Fishing America" isn't the only animal to dive into the water for fish. Mike showed no reservations whatsoever in jumping into the drink to untangle the line from snags. It was a great show! Mike also spent about an hour tying the flies he uses to catch his fish. Many members took advantage of the tying lesson.

As you should know by now (hopefully) our dinner meeting is coming Friday, June 17. This is a great opportunity to support the club by not only buying tickets for the dinner, but also donating, say, a dozen of your favorite flies to the raffle. I know that there has been enough flies donated so far that John Thomas needs to tie four dozen to catch up. This dinner meeting has the potential to have the largest selection of flies for a raffle we've ever offered. Let's get tying! Of course John's happy to accept anything for the raffle. I'm looking forward to the meeting and hope to see you there.

Happy fishing.

-Bob Ordway

l apply for m	nembership in the Russia	an 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 fees and dues to: RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa California 95405

Bob Sisson



EOB SISSON 3607 GREEN HILL DR SANTA ROSA CA 95404-6306



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a meal, what a show, what a deal! Last month's dinner meeting was a great success. Rick Hafele's show was entertaining and from the comments I heard, very well received. One of our life members said to me that the meeting reminded him of the RRFF of yesteryear! We couldn't be paid a higher compliment.

This month's meeting will be held at the casting pond July 20th. Bring your own picnic. (Don't forget your rod and reel.) Families are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We may even be graced with the presence of Kris Korich, world champion caster. So don't miss our next meeting. Also you'll find in this month's cast a ballot for the new board of directors. Please fill it out and send it back as soon as possible. We need your support and input. Thanks again.

Tight Lines and Long Casts.

-Dwight Longuevan

## Secretary's Bench

Another great, successful dinner party for our June meeting is completed. It was a little slow in developing but we had a great turn out, fantastic speaker and found a wonderful new restaurant.

I'd like to thank Rick Hafele for his fascinating slide show on the four seasons of fly fishing. His best pictures were of the bugs and flies to imitate them with. Considering he's "American Anglers" entomology specialist, how could you blame him. I couldn't help feeling that it would be great to find Rick on the stream and get a first hand lesson on what to look for and how to fish it. I'd also like to thank everyone who planned the meeting including Jack Vallega and everyone who showed up to make the meeting successful.

Once again the club is changing. We will be having some new board members who will bring in some new ideas and excitement into the club. There is still some room for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please volunteer at the next meeting.

I know you've been catching fish. Bring in those pictures and short articles for publication in *The Cast*. Let's start enlarging the volume of our newsletter!

-Bob Ordway

# VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's become apparent to me that we can't get you guys out to the casting pond unless we dangle a carrot in front of your noses. Well, now you have to come out because this month's meeting will be at the pond.

You're all invited to bring your rods, your families and a picnic supper to the pond at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 20.

We will have the accuracy rings set up and explain the rules and scoring of tournament casting. We'll also have the distance course set up so we can get everybody recorded in our distance book. Remember, you get certificates and patches for 80, 100, 120 and 135 foot increments and soon we will be adding a 150-foot class (it could happen).

There will be plenty of instruction available for both novice and

pros. If you don't think you could use any help then you should come and teach somebody else.

We may even get a little friendly competition going.

This should be a great summer get together. Don't forget to bring your family or friends, a picnic supper and your rods.

We'll see you at the pond.

—Tim Grogan

### **General Meeting**

Casting Pond
Picnic and Practice
July 20
6:30 P.M.
Casting Pond.
Dan Galvin Park, Bennett
Valley and Yulupa Ave.

# Board of Directors

Monday
July 17
7 P.M.
Warrack Hospital
Board Room
2449 Summerfield Road
Santa Rosa

### RRFF Hot Line

538-1733

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

<u> </u>	
l apply fo 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 fees and dues to:  RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!

# Russian River Fly Fishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa California 95405







# President's Message

I hope everybody has had and enjoyed vacations this summer - and I trust you were able to squeeze in a fly rod on your summer holiday!!! While you were out for the month of August, your Board of Directors were hard at work trying to reorganize with our new board members assuming their new positions, planning for some upcoming events and organizing an official casting competition team. From what I've heard, we'll all be impressed with the work these guys have done to bring together a team the RRFF can be proud of!!

Now I'd like to take a moment to thank the directors who are leaving. First, John Thomas. John has been on the board for many years in one capacity or another (and many times more than one). John is stepping down as our Raffle Chairman, a job of great importance for obvious reasons which he has done admirably. John has always had the club's interests in mind and it has shown in the quality of his work. Thanks John!

Jack Vallerga has stepped down from his position as Program Director, a job he took upon himself. From the response I've received from you the membership, and the turnout at this past years meetings, Jack has been a huge asset to our club.

Harry Schoonbaert is passing on the membership responsibilities and disc. Harry has done a great job, a job that is the life's blood of our club. Harry has worked very hard and successfully at building a line of communication between the membership and the Board of Directors that has helped put the RRFF back on the path to success.

Dan Fischer has stepped down as our Youth Director. Dan put together some great programs combining the resources of the RRFF and the youth of the Boy's clubs - many times a thankless job. For those times, thanks Dan.

Our friend, and somewhat silent partner, Ray Manley has fulfilled his term as *Cast* editor. Ray lives in Philo, for those of you who didn't know, and from there he managed to construct, edit and write for the RRFF newsletter (*The Cast*) - a task not easily done, and certainly not from afar. Rays' literary wit and ability to read and correct my chicken scratch has been greatly appreciated.

See ya Wednesday night!

Tight Lines, Tall Tales - Dwight M. Longuevan

## **General Meeting**

Tim Grogan
"Fly Fishing Lareto"

Sept August 21

7:00 P.M. he North Root

The North Room Veteran's Memorial Building Santa Rosa

### **Board of Directors**

Sept.

Monday
August 19
7:00 P.M.

Warrack Hospital Board Room 2449 Summerfield Road Santa Rosa



## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Date: Sunday, September 18th. Time: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Place: Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park. Intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

First, a big thank you to Tim Grogan, Ken Magoon, Tim Barrett, Lee Smith and John Thomas for their hard work and invaluable help in restoring the fabric locking strip at the pond. Another big thank you to Dan Fischer for the great rod racks for the pond.

The fall season is about upon us and the river migrations are beginning. The pond is a great place to work out the kinks in your steelhead and salmon plans of attack. Don't wait until you are waist deep in the river. The distance course and the ring courses will be ready for you from noon on. The competition casting team will probably be working out and everyone will have a chance to test both courses.

The morning session will be an introduction to fly casting and beginning and intermediate instruction. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle has a limited number of top grade outfits to loan on a reservation basis. Anyone who wishes to reserve one of these outfits can contact Brian at 527-9887.

There is also a tentative regional interclub competition that has been cooked up by champion Kris Korich and some of our neighboring Bay Area casters for Sunday, September 11th. Our developing team will compete if the event takes The competition will include Dry fly place. accuracy, Trout fly accuracy and Roll cast It will also include Angler's Fly accuracy. Distance for the present. The full package of A.C.A. competition events will be added if there is interest by the membership. Call Ken Magoon, Tim Grogan, Brian or me for more information during the week before the 11th. The whole pond will be needed for this activity, but just observing will provide a learning experience. You noncompeting members will have plenty of opportunity on the following Sunday afternoon of the 18th.

The next scheduled event will be October 16th.



**Bob Sisson** 

## Competition Casting Team

Meets every Wednesday evening from 5:30 P.M. until the light fails. Club members interested in perfecting their casting skills are welcome to attend.

The accuracy rings and distance course are both available - as are tips and suggestions from other casters.

### **Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers**

Clinics of October 1992 through August 1994

### 60'

- #41. Dennis Amato (6Wt.F.L.)
- #42. Dwight Longuevan (5 Wt.F.L.)
- #43. Steve Tubbs (8Wt.S.H.)
- #44. Carl Blackledge (6Wt.F.L.)

### 801

- #35. Dennis Amato (6Wt.F.L.)
- #36. Dwight Longuevan (5Wt.F.L.)
- #37. Richard Hollingshead (6Wt.F.L.)
- #38. Steve Tubbs (8Wt.S.H.)
- #39. Carl Blackledge (6Wt.F.L.)

### 100'

- #20. Dan Fischer (8Wt.S.H.)
- #21. Dennis Amato (8Wt.F.L.)
- #22. Dwight Longuevan (8Wt.F.L.)
- #23. Steve Tubbs (8Wt.S.H.)
- #24. Carl Blackledge (6Wt.F.L.)
- #03. Bob Sisson (6Wt.F.L.) \*\*

### 120'

- #09. Steve Tubbs (8Wt.S.H.)
- #10. Tim Grogan (8Wt.S.H.)
  - \*\* Indicates greater degree of difficulty.

### 135'

#07. Tim Grogan (8Wt.S.H.)

### 150'

- #02. Kris Korich (10Wt.S.H.)

  Honorary member. Current
  National and World Champion.
- #03. Tim Grogan (10Wt.S.H.)

  New club record @ 157.5'

  WAY TO GO TIM!!!

## **NCCFFF CONCLAVE '94**

### Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe

Sept. 31 - Oct. 2: The Northern Calif. Council, Federation of Fly Fishers, hosts "Conclave 94" at Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe, an exciting week-end long fly fishing show. This family event will feature the likes of author, angler, and fly fishing legend Gary Lafontaine; internationally recognized steelhead fly fishing expert Lani Waller; and renowned author and fly casting instructor Mel Kreiger.

Other notable speakers will be discussing such varied topics as smallmouth and largemouth fly-fishing techniques, still water trout techniques, intermountain wild trout and many other topics of interest to the fly fisher.

Many other unique programs and events will make this an entertaining and educational weekend for fly fishers and their families: casting instructions.

. . fly-fishing olympics . . . awards and recognition . . . raffles, drawings and auctions . . . rod building demonstrations . . . guides . . . lodges . . . clinics and workshops.

Something that always interests people is fly-tying. A continual round-robin of over 40 expert tiers,

including award-winners Darwin Atkin and Mark Hoeser, will be giving helpful tips and demonstrating their craft in the fly-tying theatre.

A special feature of the Conclave are the programs for young fly-fishers. These include casting and fly-tying instructions, contests and a special raffle.

The accompanying trade show features tackle, guide services and an array of gear and "goodies" for fly-fishing. A silent auction runs throughout the three days of the show; attendees can bid on tackle, equipment, and miscellaneous items. Entry to the trade show and demonstrations can be obtained in advance or at the door.

A no-host reception on Friday evening, and a Saturday night dinner, raffle and auction with keynote speakers Gary Lafontaine and Lani Waller, are open to everyone. Advance reservations are recommended for these popular events.

Proceeds from the show are used by the Federation to promote the conservation of fish habitat.

For more information call Dave Duffy, 209-824-2346, or write 551 April Way, Manteca, CA 95336.

PRESS RELEASE - David Zimmer



## Editor's Note

As a new RRFF board member, and recently recruited "word-herder" for the Cast, I am looking forward to what is sure to be an informative and quite busy term as your editor. Being somewhat new to the RRFF (and to my addiction to fly-fishing), I am continually surprised at the amount of information and talent that is available to us right here among the many club members that share our attraction to this sport. Hopefully some of you will share your tips, stories, anecdotes and humor with all of us in future issues of the Cast, and I look forward to meeting those of you who have so far eluded me.

In order to layout the various letters, columns and articles in *the Cast*, and attempt its timely distrubitution, it will be necessary to have all information submitted by the 4th Wednesday of each month **at the latest**. This gives everyone a week after our monthly club meeting to organize material for the next month's newsletter. I am quickly finding out that it takes a considerable amount of time to retype and layout the submitted items into something that even resembles a newsletter. "Hats off" to Ray Manley who preceeded me and performed these tasks admirably (and from Philo no less!!!).

Once the dust clears, the computer is up and

### The Deschutes

Five intrepid RRFFers left Petaluma right on time Saturday morning August 20, '94 after storing a forest of rods and a mountain of gear in Ted "Iron Man" Adkins brand new 30' motor home. Paul "Flyin High" Major was met at the Redmond, OR airport Sunday afternoon and the group was complete.

7:00 A.M. Monday morning found us, all necessary and unnecessary permits in hand, waiting for the outfitter to show up in Madras, OR. With return arrangements (after the float) made and paid for in the parking lot, some unexpected float changes announced, and handshakes made all 'round, the trip to the river was started. After an assault on 10 miles of rocky downgrade and washboard inspired roads, the launch was accomplished and the drift started by 11:00 A.M.

Chuck "Stumble Bum" Perry was the first to "cool off" in the river after being awarded the first cast at rising trout. These first fish rapidly spread the word that trouble was in the water and the fish remained very alert for the rest of the trip.

Don "Lefty" McCorkle had the honor of releasing the largest trout of the trip, 19½ inches of the Deschutes finest. The "sneak" presentation of a #18 paradun, strike and release were impressive to watch.

Smooth nymphing technique awarded John "Outfitter" Thomas several trout and the largest whitefish of the trip. A few minutes spent with a borrowed Sage SP is going to turn out to be very expensive on his next trip to the Western Angler. His extensive collection of gear won't be complete without a new SP.

Steve "Strong Arm" Tubbs, aka Steve "L.L. Bean" Tubbs, rose at 4:00 A.M. one morning for

a go at some elusive summer run steelhead. They managed to elude him and the three of us that he persuaded to join him.

The harvest moon provided the brightest moment of the trip. There was no need for a flashlight to find a convenient bush in the middle of the night. The cooling breezes of the Deschutes River Canyon got confused on a couple of occasions and howled along at hurricane force. Thanks to the powerful protection of "Bullfrog" and modern science's other powerful blockers, the sun was kept at bay and no one got burnt, but if **you** decide to go, make sure **someone** brings the beer!

All in all, the fishin' could have been better, but the Deschutes River Canyon scenery was terrific, the ride back through Eugene and down Highway 101 was comfortable and the change in scenery from high desert to mountain forest to coastal cliffs and ocean shore was thoroughly enjoyable. It is no wonder that fly fishing is growing as quickly as it is. This trip took six strangers, put them together in close quarters for a full week, and produced nary a harsh word. In the process, it gave us many learning opportunities along with uncounted moments of cooperation, conversation and consideration.

Many thanks Issac!!



## WANTED

Stories, articles, upcoming events, cartoons, tips, techniques and tactics - anything pertaining to your enjoyment of fly fishing!

You will be given full credit for your contribution

(unless you request anonymity).

Send to: Steve Tubbs 511 I Street Petaluma, CA 94952.

or leave materials with Dwight at Kings Western Angler.

## Editors Note: (cont.)

running, and I figure out what I'm doing (any suggestions?), I'm sure everything will settle down from the scramble that preceded this issue. Still, I feel a certain sense of optimism about our newsletter. If each of you would consider sharing something with the rest of us; casting tips, tactics, new skills, fly patterns, accounts of fishing trips (fact or fantasy), camping tips or anything that defines the various pleasures that we receive from this sport, our newsletter can become something

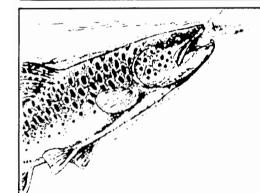
more than it is now. I **know** there were some great! fishing trips this summer and I **know** we all learned at least a little bit more about fly fishing!

Please submit stories, articles, etc. to Dwight at Kings Western Angler or mail them to me at 511 I Street, Petaluma, CA 94952.

I look forward to including your contributions in the Cast.

Sharpen those pencils!!!

Steve Tubbs



## **RRFF Hot Line**

538-1733

For information on meetings, upcoming events and fishing conditions.

I apply for r	nembership in the Russia	an River Fly Fishers for:
Myself (\$35) 🗆	For My Family (\$40) 🗆 (New members add \$10 initia	As a Junior member (\$20) 🗆 ation Fee)

Name Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone Work Phone

Signature

Mail this application with the initiation fees and dues to: RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!





## Виззіви Вілев Гіх Гізневз, Іис.

P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa California 95405

5997 5-5550 5697 5-5560 HJJL 96564-65766 5-5656 HJJ 2656 ATGE Address correction requested Return postage guaranteed



# President's Message

Fish On!!!

For those of you who were able to attend last month's meeting, you know what I'm writing about when I say - "Thank you Tim Grogan" (Vice President RRFF) for an outstanding presentation on fly fishing Baja's *Loreto*, the Dorado Hot Spot! Tim's slide show was terrific and the commentary well thought out and presented. The representation of what the club can expect to find

## **General Meeting**

Bill Archuleta,
"Montana in July"
and
Shawn Kempkes,
"British Columbia Rainbow
Fishing"

October 19
7:00 P.M.
The North Room
Veterans Memorial Building
Santa Rosa

### **Board of Directors**

Monday
October 17
7:00 P.M.
Warrack Hospital Board Room
2449 Summerfield Road
Santa Rosa

next year was enough to get me shopping for sunscreen! So, for those of you interested in bending your rods in Baja next year, call Tim at 538-5917. He's got the details!!

Winter is almost here. Although our coastal rivers are officially closed (due to low flows), there are still the Russian, Klamath and Trinity Rivers to fish. And let's not forget our little known, unsung hero - Putah Creek.

Putah Creek is a great little fishery that lies only one hour and thirty minutes away from downtown Santa Rosa - right on Highway 128. This little creek is a raging torrent all summer long, with flows that can reach or exceed 650 cubic feet per second. Right about this time of year, the Solano County Water District starts to drop the flows out of Monticello Dam down between 160 CFS to 40 CFS. The Department of Fish and Game also cooperates by modifying the regulations from "anything goes" to single barbless hooks, "Catch and Release" and FLY FISHING ONLY!! So this winter when it's wet, or coastal fishing is slow (or closed), remember Putah Creek. It can mean the difference between "honey dues" or a bent rod.

See ya on the 19th!

Tight Lines & Sore Lips,

Dwight M. Longuevan

\*\*My apologies to Charlie Schelter for failing to recognize him in last months' newsletter. As our departing Club Outings chairman, Charlie fulfilled his term on the RRFF Board of Directors with the passing of our last election. Charlie has done an outstanding job as our Outings chairman during his term as "rainmaker" and has been a valuable asset to our club. Thanks Charlie!!

# VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Russian River Fly Fishers hosted its first Inter-club Tournament on September 11th. There were 22 casters signed up to compete - along with a few spectators. The clubs in attendance were; The Golden Gate Angling and Casting club, the Oakland Fly Casters, the San Jose Fly Casters, the Diablo Valley Fly Casters and of course the Russian River Fly Fishers.

Our club hosted the event with a hot dog barbeque and "a good time was had by all". The visiting casters were especially impressed by our wonderful casting facility and there was even talk of holding a national tournament here in Santa Rosa. We are going to be meeting with these clubs to organize a tournament schedule to include our pond.

Although we had never competed before, the five RRFF team members scored very well against the visiting casters.

The RRFF casting team is open to any club member willing to practice and participate. You need not be an expert to join and instruction will be available to those who need it. Presently we are practicing for the Northwestern Regional Competition to be held in Golden Gate Park at the

Anglers Lodge.

In the interest of conserving space, I will list only our teams scores from the September tournament.

### **Trout Fly**

Brian Wong	88
Tim Grogan	87
Ken Magoon	82
Steve Tubbs	84

### Dry Fly

Brian Wong	92
Tim Grogan	93
Ken Magoon	88
Steve Tubbs	89

### **Bass Bug**

Ken Magoon	87
------------	----

Other Bass Bug scores were missplaced (although I'm sure I got 100).

### **Anglers Fly Distance**

Brian Wong	138'
Tim Grogan	138'
Ken Magoon	126'
Steve Tubbs	148' **

\*\* Steve's personal best!! Congratulations Steve.



Tim Grogan

## Competition Casting - What is it?

If you've been thinking about competition casting, but have reservations about your own skills and what exactly to expect in a casting tournament, don't worry! At almost any skill level, you can compete competitively with other casters and have a great time improving and perfecting your casting ability.

Our RRFF casting "team" has been meeting weekly under the auspices of learning what exactly is involved in an American Casting Association (ACA) sanctioned event. Thanks to Tim Grogan, the accuracy rings are now a somewhat permanent fixture at the pond and allow everyone a shot at the

30" targets. The distance course is often set up during the practice sessions and Bob Sisson is all too happy to qualify casters in the distance achievement catagories. More often than not, a typical practice finds most of us trying to better our distance scores while one or two casters work the accuracy rings. It's a lot of fun to throw a shooting head 100 plus feet!

Always, the competition is low key and lighthearted. Instruction and suggestions flow freely and everyone is interested really in only one thing improving their personal casting skills. You might be surprised at the effect this will have on your Following are the scheduled casting tournaments for the remainder of 1994. These tournaments feature various casting events found in the ACA competition. As this is a tentative schedule, if you make plans to attend one of these competitions, a phone call to verify this information would be advisable.

Date	Events to be cast	Accuracy	Type/Location
0/09/94	Dry Fly & Bass Bug/ 1/4 oz. & Open Plugs	Club Western	Anglers Lodge
0/22/94 and 0/23/94	NORTHWESTERN	Club Western	Anglers Lodge
1/06/94	Le Rogue Et Le Bleu	ACA	Le Anglers Lodge
1/20/94	Das Turkey Shooten Zie	ACA	Rerangler Lodge
/27/94	Trout & Dry Fly / Bass Bug 1/4, 3/8 & 5/8 oz. Plugs	*ACA by mail	GGACC hosts Oakland
/04/94	Directors Cup - Trout Fly / Bass Bug, 3/8 oz. & 5/8 oz. Plugs	ACA	Anglers Lodge

Registration for all events will begin at 9:30 am. The tournaments will commence promptly at 10:00 am. All registered tournaments (ACA by mail) will require a fee of \$0.50 per event, PAID DURING REGISTRATION prior to the tournament.

Any questions? Call:

Ricardo Nunez Tournament Chairman Telephone: (415) 925-0463

## Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers RRFF

Events of August and September 1994

120'

#11. Dwight Longuevan (10Wt. S.H.)

#12. Carl Blackledge (6Wt. F.L.)

135'

#8. Dwight Longuevan (10Wt. S.H.)

#9. Steve Tubbs (10Wt. S.H.)

## Tailing LoOoops!!!

Thanks to everyone who showed up for the *August* General Meeting - (What month is this anyway?). Apologies to Chris (C-h-r-i-s) Korich for the liberal spelling of his name in previous articles.

Contributor Update - For all RRFF members waiting to contribute articles, etc. to the Cast - do not (repeat) leave your material at King's Western Angler! Instead, mail them to: The Cast

c/o Steve Tubbs 511 I Street Petaluma, Ca. 94952

Where are all of those fishing trip tales?

Looper!

## NCCFFF Conclave Review

Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe - The weekend of September 30th thru October 2 provided an opportunity for some uncrowded Sierra fishing as well as the pleasure of the NCCFFF Conclave '94 at Kings Beach. Three members of the RRFF - Bob Neill, John Thomas and myself, attended this years event, which featured keynote speaker Gary LaFontaine as well as Lani Waller and Mel Kreiger.

Although this show is small in comparison to the Sacramento and San Mateo Sportsmens Expositions, it offers an excellent opportunity to get "up close" to some excellent fly-tyers in a relaxed environment not found in the larger shows.

Over 40 tyers participated in this years Fly-tying Theatre, including John Thomas who was once again asked to participate. Various slide show seminars covered a wide variety of topics relating to our Northern California fisheries as well as presenting techniques and tactics for both freshwater and saltwater species.

Mel Kreiger and Al Kyte offered the "Casting Certification" course for all would-be casting instructors. This program consisted of a "How-to Teach Casting" seminar followed by a casting skills test. The test consisted of demonstrating the double-haul while casting at least 75' (6Wt.), a 50' roll cast, a 50' off-side roll cast, demonstrating good loop control while false casting (followed by

## Competition Casting (cont.) -

fishing as well.

All first time competitive casters compete in a "C" level classification, unless they choose to move up to the "B" or "A" levels with the more experienced competitors. The "C" level consists of other first-timers and casters who are learning the fundamentals of the ACA events, including the basic requirements of each event as well as the scoring and tournament procedures. Remember, the emphasis here is on improving your personal scores while having fun in a competitive situation.

Each competiton level conducts its own scoring and all contestants compete only against other casters in their skill level. Last month's Interclub tournament at the pond was primarily a "C" level tournament. Chris Korich, and a few of the more savvy tournament casters, informally competed among themselves while at the same time helping the rest of us learn the basic tournament format.

There are six fly competition events in an ACA casting tournament. These are divided equally between distance and accuracy events. The three fly distance events include Angler's Fly Distance, Fly Distance Singlehanded and Fly Distance Doublehanded. The three fly accuracy events involve Dry Fly Accuracy, Trout Fly Accuracy and Bass Bug Accuracy. In addition, there are also events that involve the casting of bait-casting and spinning rods for distance and accuracy.

Any RRFF member can join the casting "team". "Casting team" is really a misnomer as all competition is on an individual basis, however, as a "team" we get together to practice and help each other improve our skills. It's been a lot of fun so far, and if you come out to "wet a line" you'll be guaranteed, at the very least, the opportunity to improve your cast.!

Next month's newsletter will outline the six ACA fly competition events and their requirements.

## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Clinic

Date: Sunday, October 16th.

Time: 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. or so.

Place: Casting Pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett

Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

The first ever regional interclub casting competition was held at the pond on Sunday the 11th. World and National casting champion for the past two years, Chris Korich, brought up a group of sixteen or so competitors from Oakland, Golden Gate and San Jose. For the record, Chris had to give back the current championships to Steve Rajeff in Toronto and Europe during the past month. You wouldn't know the difference as well as Chris was casting at the pond on the 11th. Both Steve and Chris abundantly display the qualities of true champions in any sport.

Our team did itself proud. We were strongly represented by Tim Grogan, Ken Magoon, Brian Wong, Steve Tubbs and Carl Blackledge. Steve

even broke the 135' mark in the distance event. President Dwight and I were unable to cast due to injuries, but we got a cram course in scoring as did most of the rest of the team. The event was intended to be a familiarization of American Casting Association competition procedures and was a great success.

The morning session of the 16th will be an introduction to fly casting and beginning and intermediate instruction. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel has a limited number of full line outfits to loan on a reservation basis. Anyone who wishes to reserve one of these outfits can contact Brian at 527-9887. Bring your own if you have the needed equipment.

The afternoon session will probably see the competition team working out together with any of the rest of you who are interested in improving either your accuracy or your distance casting or both. Coaching will be available on request.

The next scheduled event will be November 20th.



**Bob Sisson** 

## Conclave - (cont.)

the presentation of the fly), demonstrating the beginning casters "open" loop as well as the "tailing loop" and demonstrating the "reach" cast. Just watching the certification process and listening to the casting critiques proved to be very informative and worthwhile.

Evening entertainment consisted of an "Ice Breaker" Reception and Fly Fishing Olympics on Friday and a no-host bar cocktail hour followed by a Buffet Dinner and BBQ at the Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay on Saturday, with the keynote address delivered by Gary LaFontaine. A live auction and raffle rounded out the evenings festivities.

The early fall weather cooperated wonderfully, and coupled with the off-season delights of no crowds and minimal traffic, the weekend was a definite success. And there's always the fishing!

Fall fishing in the Sierras can be a completely gratifying experience. Gone are the summer crowds and traffic. The air is fresh, cool and crisp - and the fish can be quite active.

Both Saturday and Sunday found me at Martis Creek Lake - pontoon boat beneath me. Evening fishing was quite good with the Martis' standbys (Blood midge and small emerging patterns) proving very effective. The fish weren't large - 10 to 12 inches for the most part - but they sure made the ride back home a little more fun!

Steve Tubbs



## Upcoming Events!

November 16th General Meeting - Guest Speaker - Bob Brink of Spring Creek Outfitters, "Fly Fishing for Trout in California".

**December 2cnd Dinner Meeting** - Guest Speaker - Brian O'Keefe, Photographer/Fly-Fisherman.

## Conservation Notes:



The Gualala River Steelhead Project is currently accepting donations to assist in habitat restoration on the Gualala River. Current projects include the removal of fish migration barriers, riparian planning, the building of instream structures and erosion control measures. The GRSP is dedicated to the revitalization of the once mighty Steelhead and Salmon fisheries of the Gualala River. Membership donations are tax-deductible and anyone interested in volunteering time or sponsoring a restoration project is urged to contact the GRSP. For more information, please write or send contributions to:

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

In a related issue, Gualala Aggregate has recently submitted a E.I.R. with the Mendocino County Planning Commission that asks permission to remove aggregate from the Garcia River and to construct a gravel and cement processing plant on

the Garcia's floodplain. Gualala Aggregate is currently extracting gravel from the Gualala River in Sonoma County.

The proposed extraction of more than 30,000 cubic yards annually from two miles of river frontage near Windy Hollow Road has alarmed fisheries and environmentalist groups. Critics are concerned that this mining will reduce the cool, deep channels that the fish need for successful spawning. John Hooper, a spokesman for Cal Trout, contends that "earlier mining by another company (Bedrock Inc.) caused the water to sheet over wide gravel bars, completely destroying the holding and spawning grounds."

Gualala Aggregate maintains that gravel mining and river restoration are compatible concepts. They claim to be heavily restricted under their plan, to minimize vegetation removal and to limit operations directly in the water to one hour twice a year to construct crossings. They also feel that they can enhance certain areas of the system by creating channels for the spawning Salmon and Steelhead.

The E.I.R. is open for public and agency comment until October 17. Then county consultants will prepare a final report and the commission will decide whether to approve, deny or modify the request.

Address correction requested. Return postage guaranteed

2907 GKEEN HILL DR BOB SISSON



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa, CA. 95405

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I apply for membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers for:			
Myself (\$35) □	For My Family (\$40)  (New members add \$10 initial	As a Junior member (\$20) [ ation Fee)	
Name		Date	
Address			
City/State/Zip			
Occupation			
Home Phone		Work Phone	



# President's Message

(Note: Because of the recent addition of a cast to Dwight's writing - and casting - wrist, this message was "ghost-written" by the editor)

First, thanks to Bill Archuleta for his slide presentation on fly "fishing" (not "catching") in Montana and to Shawn "Quickfinger" Kempkes for his whirlwind tour of rainbow trout fishing in B.C. Although the Montana scenery was beautiful, it was nice to know that there are at least some places in Canada that we can go to if we want to catch some fish!

The December dinner meeting is fast approaching. Our guest speaker, Brian O'Keefe, will provide a fascinating slide show on fly-fishing in Alaska. If you are unfamiliar with Brian's presentations, he combines spectacular photography (from four projectors) on a wide screen, synchronized with music and Brian's humorous narrative. Often, the non-fishermen at Brian's shows find that they enjoy the presentation as much, if not more, than the fishermen. Seating is limited so make your reservations early. This is a fantastic show! Also,

wildlife artist and illustrator Mike Stidham will be present and will be painting and donating an original watercolor for our dinner meeting raffle. This is a great opportunity to support the RRFF at what is sure to be an entertaining event. Hope to see all of you there.

This month's club meeting will be on the second Wednesday, November 9th, at the Veteran's Memorial Building. This change was necessary because our meeting room is not available during the third week. Hopefully, all of you will be able to attend. Bob Brink's presentation on some of our nearby trophy trout waters should be great.!

See you on the 9th!

Tight Lines,

Dwight M. Longuevan (as outlined to the editor)

## **Program Notes**

This month's speaker will be **Bob Brink** of **Spring Creek Anglers Guide Service** in Burney, California. Bob has spent many years guiding fishing trips on Northern California's trophy trout waters. His program will include slides from the Fall River, Pit River, Hat Creek and the lower Sacramento River through Redding. The program will be preceded by a fly-tying demonstration featuring some of the patterns Bob uses on these rivers.

Shawn Kempkes

Note: Our contract with the Veteran's Memorial Building designates the second Wednesday in November as our club meeting night. Please make note of this change for the November meeting only! We'll see you on November 9th.

## **General Meeting**

Bob Brink,
"Northern California's
Trophy Trout Waters"

November 9th
7:00 P.M.
The North Room
Veteran's Memorial Building
Santa Rosa

## **Board of Directors**

Monday
November 7th
7:00 P.M.
Warrack Hospital Board Room
2449 Summerfield Road
Santa Rosa

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Pond Clinic

Date: Sunday, November 20th. Time: 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

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

The morning session of the 20th will be an introduction to fly casting and beginning and intermediate instruction. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel has a limited number of full line outfits to loan on a reservation basis. Anyone who wishes to reserve one of these outfits can contact Brian at 527-9887. Bring your own if you have the needed equipment.

The afternoon session will see the competition team

American Casting Association (ACA)
Competition Casting Events

Okay, so you're maybe just a little bit curious about this "competition casting" thing. Maybe you're even considering trying some of this stuff - just to see what it's all about. Great! Here are the general guidelines for the six fly-casting events, and some of the rules as well. Once again, it is important to remember that all of this is really only about one thing - improving your own personal casting skill.

The six ACA fly competitions are divide equally between distance and accuracy events. The three distance events differ from each other in line weight, rod length and casting time. In each event, the reel (with the capacity to hold the entire shooting head and running line) must be attached to the rod. The longest cast in each event determines the winner.

## Angler's Fly Distance

Rod: Unrestricted in weight, but no more than 9'1" long.

Line: Shooting head between 28 and 31 feet, weighing no more than 310 grains (between 10 and 11 weight line) with running line not less than .015" in

diameter.

Time: Five minutes - unlimited number of casts.

\*1992 record distance: 190 feet.

working out on both the ring casting accuracy and distance casting. There will be a lot of opportunity for everyone to improve their accuracy and their distance casting - with coaching available for the asking. There is no disadvantage in being able to cast long and a lot of advantage in being able to reach lies beyond the reach of most casters. Weather, hopefully, will soon be a possible limiting factor. If an early season storm is paying us a visit, then the clinic will be postponed until December.

The next scheduled event will be December 18th.



**Bob Sisson** 

## **Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers**

October 1994 Events

100'

#25. Lori Nyholm (8Wt.S.H.)

135'

#10. Carl Blackledge (9Wt.S.H.)

## Fly Distance, Singlehanded

Rod: Unrestricted in weight, but no more than 9'9" long. Line: Shooting head of not less than 49'3", weighing no

more than 650 grains. The diameter of the running

line is unrestricted.

Time: Five minutes.

\*1992 record distance: 236 feet.

A line tender is allowed, who helps the caster by pulling the shooting line back in, after each cast, and laying it out in large coils on the ground prior to the next cast.

## Fly Distance, Doublehanded

Rod: Unrestricted in weight, but no more than 17' long.

Line: Shooting head of any length, but weighing no more

than 1,855 grains. Running line diameter is unrestricted. A line tender is allowed.

Time: Seven minutes.

\*1992 record distance: 287 feet.

\*Current world record distances exceed these 1992 marks in each catagory.

Pam was right. We walked over the Cordorus one afternoon and it smelled like Al Gore's worst nightmare. In a sort of dime-store parody of tarpon, carp rolled under its brown surface. A friend of Pam's later told me that the smell was from waste pumped into the creek by a huge paper mill.

"They say it's the 'smell of money,'" she related.

I couldn't exactly envision trout surviving in that opaque stinky mess. I thought it must be like the river in Cleveland that caught on fire a few years ago. On the other hand, I knew I'd be fishing upstream several miles and hoped the water would be a little less, shall we say, substantial.

My first outing was to the Yellow Breeches. It was about an hour and a half north of York. The drive took me through beautiful country. I saw some of the picturesque towns two or three times as I missed turnoffs and backtracked to make sure I hadn't missed a turnoff.

It was early October, the middle of the week, threatening rain and the Yellow Breeches was lousy with fly fishermen. I'm the kind of fisherman who would rather get skunked in solitude than catch fish in crowds, so I was immediately a little put off. Getting skunked didn't help.

I fished for a couple of hours, then the rain came and I hadn't packed any rain gear. I was thankful for the rain; it gave me a partial excuse for not catching fish:

"No, didn't catch anything... but only fished for a little while because it started to rain."

I didn't witness anyone else catching anything, or if I did, I've conveniently blocked it from my memory. According to the locals, the river was high and off color due to the recent rains. I'm sure it can be a wonderful river much of the time. It supports a population of wild browns and they stock it with rainbows. The trico and white fly hatches are supposed to be fantastic.

With the Yellow Breeches down, all that was left was the Stinky Cordorus. I took off one morning in the rental car and headed out to the countryside. The trees were beginning to show their fall colors and the villages hinted at Rockwell's small town America.

I came to a larger town, crisscrossed with railroad tracks. Then looming out the passenger side window was the offending paper mill. Delivery trucks buzzed around its outer edges like Africanized bees to the honey pot.

But it only took a few minutes to get outside the city limits and once again I was driving through the rolling countryside. After a few tentative turns, and a little backtracking, I found the stream and a nice place to start fishing.

Pennsylvania handles water rights and fishing access a little differently. Many landowners allow fishermen onto their property. So instead of "No Trespassing", the signs read, "If you aren't fishing, you're trespassing." Sort of affirmative action for anglers.

The Cordorus is a small tail water stream. It runs cool all year long. While the Yellow Breeches was running at 58 degrees, the Cordorus was at 50. Although a little below the ideal temperature, I had the Cordorus all to myself. Either it wasn't being pressured like the Yellow Breeches or it was all fished out.

Ever the optimist, I first tied on a little blue winged olive. But I couldn't pound up anything so I resolved myself to high stick a few runs. I put on a caddis pupa and sprayed it with some junk that really holds the "bubble."

After a run or two through a fishy looking slick I caught a nine-inch native brown. I was greatly relieved. At least I wasn't going to go 0-for-Pennsylvania. After fishing a while longer with no more fish, I added a little PT nymph to the rig and soon had a very fat, 14-inch rainbow in hand with the PT hanging out the edge of his mouth.

I fished about another half hour, but unsuccessfully. I still felt good about the two I managed to drum up and knew that if I went several hours more without another fish, the glow would be gone.

I packed up thinking, "If I lived around here, I bet I could really kill 'em on this little stream." Then again, if I lived around there, I wouldn't have my in-laws 3000 miles away any more.

## Casting Events - (cont.)

Accuracy fly events all utilize 30" targets set at various distances. Scoring is based on starting with 100 points and then deducting points for missing the targets (one point for each foot away from the edge of the ring). Each event emphasizes different casting techniques.

### Dry Fly Accuracy

Rod:

Maximum length of 9'6".

Line:

Unrestricted.

Leader:

Minimum length of 6'.

Targets:

Set at distances from 20 to 50 feet.

\*1992 men's record (held by 27 people): 100 points.

### **Trout Fly Accuracy**

Rod:

Maximum length of 8'6".

Line:

Leader:

9' minimum, with .008" tippet of no less

than 18".

Targets:

Five hoops, at 20 to 50 feet.

\*1992 men's record (held by 4 people): 100 points.

Trout Fly Accuracy is interesting in that it requires the caster

to employ more than one casting technique. In the Dry Fly Accuracy round you can use unlimited false casts, in the Wet Fly Accuracy round, false casts are limited. The third round is roll-casting, allowing only 15 casts to hit all five targets.

### **Bass Bug Accuracy**

Rod:

Maximum length of 9'3/4".

Line:

WF9F

Leader:

6' minimum, wiith a tippet not less than 12"

long, nor thicker than .014".

Targets:

Five are set as in the other accuracy events,

plus a sixth target set between 65 and 70

feet.

\*1992 men's record (held by 3 people): 100 points.

\*As in the distance events, the men's records have increased since 1992.

now you have some of the basic rules for competition casting. Come on out to the pond during one of the casting clinics, or when the casting team is practicing, and we'll be glad to answer any questions that you may have. Or, if you're still unsure, sneak off to the pond by yourself. The accuracy rings are always there, and the casting pond is a first-rate facility that is largely under-utilized.

by Ray Manley

(Note: Any lighthearted jabs at in-laws in the following story are solely for literary effect. The author assures us that he has wonderful in-laws and in fact rather enjoyed his recent trip to visit them.)

It was a dreary summer. Business dealings kept our family stuck at home like a 100-ton anchor in the bottom of the Marianna trench. No fishing except the local farm ponds. And while I get a kick out of ripping a few bass and bluegill lips, my doctor said I had to get away and harass fish of a higher order. But there was no relief in sight. In fact, the only trip we'd be taking was a long-overdue excursion back east to see my wife's

A family trip to visit in-laws in Pennsylvania could be a dreary proposition. But I jumped on the phone and tracked down a copy of Pennsylvania Trout Streams and Their Hatches, by Charles Meck, and wouldn't you know it, my father-in-law lives not too far from some legitimate trout fishing. That put a whole new light on things.

So a couple of rods, reels, and my vest got stuffed into an old cross-country ski bag and off we went. (Not to be outdone, my wife lugged her golf clubs along on the trip and was rewarded with beating her dad the first time they played.)

Once settled, I made a few phone calls and the options came into focus. The Yellow Breeches was everyone's first choice. It's one of those famous chalk streams of American fly fishing lore. Then, in passing, people would mention Cordorus Creek, which happened to run right through York, where we were staying with Pam's family.

The Meck book speaks well of the Cordorus, but when I mentioned it to Pam she laughed out loud.

"The stinky Cordorus?" she asked incredulously.

## Russian River Fly Fishers

# 1994 December Dinner Meeting

An invitation to share an evening with

## **BRIAN O'KEEFE**

Friday, December 2, 1994

Cattlemen's Restaurant 5012 Petaluma Blvd. North Petaluma, California 94952

Cost is \$35.00 Per Person

No-Host cocktails 6:30 - 7:30 Dinner 7:30

Brian O'Keefe, of Bend, Oregon, is a noted fly-fishing personality. He is a much traveled angler and an outstanding photographer whose visual glimpses of fly fishing have graced the leading fly-fishing magazines, calanders and catalogs (including Patagonia).

Brian is a Northwest sales rep for Scientific Anglers, Scott Rods, Lamson Reels and Barbour Clothing. He has published many fly fishing articles and is equally at home in salt or fresh water - holding the world record tarpon on 20# tippet.

Those fortunate enough to have seen one of his electrifying slide presentations find it unlike any other show they've seen on the circuit. His slide shows employ a wide screen and the synchronization of four projectors - complete with music and Brian's inimitable anecdotal style of presentation. The four projectors allow Brian to put up four times as many images on the screen and enable him to utilize the beauty of wildlife, flowers, beautiful scenery and people in his presentations. These techniques result in a fascinating show that has proven to be quite interesting and entertaining for both fishermen and non-fishermen alike.

Brian started fly-fishing travel in 1973 with a two year fishing adventure to New Zealand, Australia and Kashmir, India (brown trout - Himalayas). He spent three summers in Alaska and worked as a guide in the Bristol Bay area. He has also guided five years on western trout and steelhead streams.

Brian's slide program will be *Fly-fishing in Alaska* and will feature slides from four different styles of trips - from a do-it-yourself approach to the ultimate fly-out lodges. Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early if you wish to attend.

# WILDLIFE ARTIST MIKE STIDHAM WILL ALSO BE PRESENT AND WILL BE DONATING AN ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR TO BE RAFFLED AT THE DINNER MEETING!

December 2, 1994 Dinner Meeting:			
Phone number			
Number of people in party	Amount enclosed		
(Cost is \$35.00	for each person attending)		
Please make your menu selection(s)	below for each person who will be attending.		
PRIME RIB CHICKEN TERIYAK	KI FISH TOP SIRLOIN		

Address correction requested.

SANTA ROSA, CA. 95404 6206 3607 GREEN HILL DR BOB SISSON



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS P.O. Box 2673 Santa Rosa, CA. 95405

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I apply for n	nembership in the Russia	an River Fly Fishers for:
Myself (\$35) □	For My Family (\$40)  (New members add \$10 initia	As a Junior member (\$20) 🗆 ation Fee)
Name		Date
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