



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RRFF



Volume 21  
Number 1  
January 1995

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy 1995 everyone!*

The '94 season has come to a close - and not without a splash! Locally, steelhead season ended with a number of double digit chrome-plated beauties. Putah Creek's flows were in the low 40 to 90 CFS range with the "fly fishing only" regulations starting November 16th and continuing through April 15th of 1995.

Reflecting back on 1994, the club had a great year! Membership was up, club spirit and participation was inspiring (to say the least) and our new Board of Directors shows great promise for the coming year. The many *great* club meetings and certainly the co-sponsored Fly Fishing Fair were all huge successes! The casting pond saw more activity than I ever anticipated and our first unofficial casting competition, featuring Chris Korich, was enlightening for all of those in attendance.

All in all, 1994 was a great year for the RRFF - and the grand finale for the year, our Christmas dinner meeting at Cattlemen's restaurant in Petaluma, was a smash! Ninety plus club members and guests were in attendance, a tight squeeze, but with a little patience from the membership and our guests the evening was a success! Our guest speaker, Brian O'Keefe, was in his regular crazy sense of humor. His slide show was both funny and educational and his height didn't seem to get in the way at all! All kidding aside, thank you Brian - you were greatly responsible for a fabulous close to a remarkable 1994.

I would like to personally thank wildlife artist Mike Stidham as well. Mike also attended the dinner meeting and donated one of his original watercolors for our raffle. His generosity was the highlight of one of our best raffles of the year! Thanks Mike.

Finally, a special thanks to you, the membership, from myself and from the Board of Directors. It's your support and your many contributions that make a year like 1994 the success that it was. Thank You All!!!

Well 1995 is here and so are the floods. Get your waders out!!!

Looking forward to another great year,

Dwight Longuevan

### General Meeting

*Richard Culver,  
"Fly Fishing for  
Steelhead in Alaska"*

**Wednesday, January 18th**

7:00 P.M.

The North Room  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

Monday

**January 16th**

7:00 P.M.

King's Western Angler  
532 College Avenue  
Santa Rosa

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

\_\_\_\_\_ Casting Pond Clinic \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** Sunday, January 22nd.

**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.

This will be a great chance to try out all of the new gear that you received for Christmas. It is far better to use the pond for this purpose than to spoil your concentration while trying to catch a fish.

An introduction to fly casting and basic beginner and intermediate instruction will be offered from 10:00

A.M. until noon. Distance and ring casting for accuracy coaching will be available for those interested in working on improving your capabilities. For those who may not have your own equipment yet, Brian Wong has a limited number of full line outfits for loan on a reservation basis. If you know someone who is in need of a loan, call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 526-9887. Beginners with their own gear will be most welcome.

The weather may be a limiting factor. If we are in the middle of a winter storm, the event will be postponed until February.

The next scheduled event will be February 19th.

Bob Sisson

## *Federation of Fly Fishers*

**Press Release** - The Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is sponsoring its third annual Fly Fishing Exposition and Hall of Fame Dinner at Fort Mason, Bldg. A in San Francisco on Saturday, February 4, 1995. A 9:00 AM all-day exposition will feature over forty of the best Northern California Fly Tyers and displays of antique tackle, bamboo rods and collectable art and books.

Darwin Atkin, Chuck Echer, Lani Waller, John McKim, Andre Puyans, Jeff Yamagata, Bud Heintz, Mark Hoeser, Ken Hanley, Randy Johnson, Bill Carnazzo, Benson Kanemoto, Greg Bevard, Jay Murakoshi, Armando Bernasconi, Don Labbe, Marie Stull, Gene Kasmarek, Edie Mashiko, Leo Gutierrez, Lois Kilburn, Jim Victorine, Terry Eggelston, Bob Soutar, Ray Martinez, Larry Glenn, Tom Mahoney, Jack Johnson, Nicko Hatzopoulos, Jim Christensen, Mark Kaharick, Ed Berg, Don Dilley, Doug Jeffries, Barbara Stevens, Bill Newton and Chris Barza are a few of the early signed-up tyers.

A 6:00 PM evening event includes a buffet with wine and a benefit auction to induct Andre Puyans of Pleasant Hill into the NCCFFF Hall of Fame for his

## *Program Notes:*

*Richard Culver, a former guide for Dick Galland at Clearwater House on Hat Creek, has been an avid fly-fisherman on many of our west coast and area Steelhead rivers.*

*Currently, Richard guides for "On the Fly Adventures" out of Juneau, Alaska. His program will focus on some of the many fly fishing opportunities for Steelhead in Alaska.*

life-long contributions to fly tying, fly casting, conservation and fly fishing education and youth development. The public is invited at \$5.00/person at the door for the daytime show and \$30.00/person for both the day and evening events. All proceeds benefit the education and conservation activities of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

Reservations are required for the evening event. Make and mail checks to: NCCFFF, 2807 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705. Tel: (510) 843-3072.

## ***Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference***

---

February 23 - 26, 1995. The Thirteenth Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference to be held in Santa Rosa, California. Four workshops will be held at the Flamingo Resort Hotel. On Thursday, two workshops will be held; (1) the Urban Streams Program - with an emphasis on local urban stream restoration projects and (2) water rights. On Friday, two workshops will be held; (1) an overview of educational programs and (2) coho salmon - the effects of listing, current status, restoration potential and species specific restoration techniques.

The conference, on Saturday and Sunday, will be held

at Sonoma State University. Conference topics will include; developing partnerships for the purpose of restoring both watersheds and local communities, the Russian River, cumulative effects monitoring techniques, habitat restoration project design and evaluation, fluvial geomorphology - restoring channel form and function, riparian zone silviculture and estuary and ocean conditions - their role and influence on salmonid populations.

Deadline for registration is February 6, 1995. Attendance at both the conference and workshops will be limited, so early registration is advised.

**Contact: Harry Vaughn, Salmonid Restoration Federation, P.O. Box 589, Miranda, CA 95553. Phone (707) 943-3233.**

## ***RRFF Logo Contest***

---

As mentioned at the December dinner meeting, the Russian River Fly Fishers is now accepting original artwork and designs for consideration as the new club logo for the RRFF. Sharpen your pencils, grab your pens! Original designs should include a representation of the Boss Steelhead fly pattern somewhere in the design as well as our club identifier - "Russian River Fly Fishers".

Designs may be submitted in either black and white or full color and should be ready for reproduction. All entries will be presented to the membership for review at one of our upcoming monthly meetings. At this time, no firm deadline has been set for submitting entries, however, the logo review will most likely occur within the next few months. If a new logo is adopted, the designer will receive a yet to be announced token of appreciation from the club that will hopefully help compensate him or her for the lost fishing time endured for the sake of art!

Entries may be submitted to any of the Board Members or mailed to:  
**Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

Okay, we're already fast into the New Year and the fly rods are still leaning in the corner. Not that there's really anywhere to go considering the new found powers of our local waters. Anyway, with the fishing pretty much blown out throughout most of the state, now might be a good time to jot down some of those fishing stories that you'd planned to submit to *the Cast*. Or maybe a few of those fishing tips, or fly patterns, or that account of the great fishing trip that you managed to find time for this summer. Perhaps you have some suggestions for club outings, for guest speakers or information on upcoming events that help these non-fishing times pass a little more quickly. Please, take a minute, pick up a pen, and share some of your fly fishing experiences with the rest of us.

For me, 1994 was a good year! I can recall a few really good fishing trips, a few more that reminded me "at least I 'm not working" and a host of trips that I never quite found time for. It's those "trips I never found time for" that dangle temptingly in front of my polarized lenses at this time of year - teasing me with images of moving water and fish on the fly - creating a restless anticipation for warmer weather, blue skies and screaming reels. The memories, the expectations and the fishing trips, both real and imagined, are the hooks that catch me, every year, renewing my fishing license in early January- thereby arming myself with yet another ticket to sunlit waters, cloudless skies and dancing fish. And it is this renewing that completes the circle, ensuring yet another year of memories and anticipation. Hope you have a great 1995!!!  
S.T.

Address correction requested.

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



Santa Rosa, CA. 95405  
P.O. Box 2673

**RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

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

**Myself (\$35) ☐**

**For My Family (\$40) ☐**

**As a Junior member (\$20) ☐**

**(New members add \$10 initiation Fee)**

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

**Mail this application with the initiation fees and dues to:**

**RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!**



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 2  
February 1995

## Bill Schaadt

Born: April 3, 1922 Died: January 17, 1995

### Parting Thoughts

by Bob Nauheim

*(Following are excerpts from a story to appear in the next issue of CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER.)*

Bill Schaadt was born in San Francisco. He was drawn north to the Redwood Empire as a young man of 22 where he settled in the tiny community of Monte Rio, on the banks of the Russian River. It wasn't long before he was fishing steelhead and by the early 50's had become a fly fisherman.

It is difficult for anyone today to imagine just how good the Russian River was then. Bill's logs show seasons where he landed over 800 steelhead on the fly. "I went through outfits one after the other. Cane rods were brutal and would not hold up to this kind of fishing. I finally went to tubular steel and then, at last, to a material that was made to endure, fiberglass." Bill stayed with fiberglass rods to the end, preferring their action to carbon fiber rods. But early on, as if it wasn't enough to watch one bamboo rod after another self destruct, he would wear out at least two sets of snake guides every single season. "They would just saw through from use!" And all this was done catching one species of fish in a 3 to 4 month period...steelhead!

I first met Bill in the late 50s. At first he was quite distant and unfriendly, but there were not many steelhead fly fishermen around, so we soon became acquainted and later close friends. There was no need to travel great distances in those days so most anglers stuck pretty close to home fishing the Russian River and, a short jump up the coast, the Gualala. In the 50s, Bill at times would also venture to the Eel.

Bill was poetry in motion when it came to casting. He was one of the most beautiful fly casters I have ever seen. A natural athlete with God given grace he could throw the fly farther than anyone. He proved that in the early 60s by nearly beating

world casting champion, Jon Tarantino, in the single handed distance casting event at the National Championships at the Golden Gate Casting Club. He came in second because he stepped on the line.

Bill was an accomplished artist. My treasured collection includes his fly drawings and pen and inks of fishermen and human anatomies as well as numerous wood carvings. Much of his work is of museum quality. Bill made his living painting signs. As Russ Chatham once pointed out to me, "Once you hit Mirabel Park on the Russian River you entered Bill Schaadt land!" That was because virtually every business sign one saw driving through the tiny towns of Mirabel, Rio Del, Hacienda, Rio Nido, Guerneville, Guerneville Park, Monte Rio, Duncan Mills, Bridge Haven and Jenner were the product of Bill's talented brush. These signs were easily recognized by Bills distinctly flowing style and signature "Shad Signs".

The main thrust in Bill's life was fishing. I never knew a man who had so much enthusiasm for the sport as he. Bill was untiring. He was on the river at the crack of dawn and usually left it at last light. He taught me how to eat a one handed lunch so as not to miss a cast. He hated what he called "lost motion". Early one morning a friend with whom he was fishing asked, "Is your outfit set up?" Bill looked at him in genuine startled disbelief. "Is my outfit set up? Is my outfit set up? My outfit is always set up!"

One learned to always have things ready to go when fishing with Bill...fly tied to the leader and reeled to the tip top, then the rod broken and slid in a case... ready to go instantly. Waders and clothing must be organized the night before and when boat fishing, pram rope, anchor, oars, bailing can, net, priest, lunch, coffee, rain coat and flashlight all organized and ready to go in less than 5 minutes once you reached the river. He would not tolerate a dilly dallier. Being ready to go with no lost motion was probably the greatest lesson I ever learned from Bill.

Some of my best memories of fishing with Bill are of the Smith River. I'm sure that Bill Schaadt was the first guy to ever successfully and consistently take king salmon on the fly. He still holds the unofficial fly caught world king salmon record of

56 and a half pounds. He told me about the river and its fish for several years before I finally made it up there.

We owned the Smith River during the 60's and early 70's. There was no better place to fish nor was there a stream more beautiful on the coast. The old growth ecosystem of the park, the delicious wild mushrooms which my wife, Helena, and Grant King picked, the wild huckleberries, the fishers and otters along the rivers edge, and , best of all, the pools full of huge salmon which belonged exclusively to a small handful of fly fishermen. "I don't care if you were in Nome, Alaska," Bill used to shout each time he had a fish on, "you couldn't have it any better than this!"

Bill didn't like to be "Out of it", nor did he like people who were naturally "Out of it!" He would let you know in no uncertain terms if he thought you were. He told me I was "Out of it" a lot of times when we first met until I finally wised up and learned not to be a dufuss.

There was never any pretension with Bill. What you saw is what you got, as they say, he called things as he saw them. Bill's energy was limitless. During all his fishing life much of that energy was directed primarily at finding fish and staying on them. You always joined Bill on the river. He rarely joined you. And when you joined him you could be pretty well rest assured he was over fish.

Sadness swept across the western fishing world when Bill died of lung cancer in Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa on January 17th, 1995. There was a memorial service for him at Calgary Chapel in Santa Rosa on January 29 and his ashes were buried with his mother and father at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma. There were over 200 people at his services, the most important and active anglers on the western fly fishing scene. Old friends, Arch Richardson, Tootch Columbo, myself and others said a few words. Faxes were read from Andre Puyans, Perk Perkins, Rich Anderson, Ed Rice, Fred Virgilio, Russ Chatham and others who could not make it. Many of us got together at a local restaurant afterwards. It was a good send off but his loss is felt deeply by all of us.

I know that this piece I am attempting to write cannot do justice to my hero and mentor. It's done with the hope it will help others who may not have known this fly fishing legend to better understand the character of a man we northwestern fishermen knew and loved...

*(These excerpts from **Parting Thoughts** are only a small portion of the original story. Bob Nauheim's complete tribute to Bill Schaad will be published in the next issue of CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER)*

*Our sincerest thanks to Bob for his thoughts and remembrances of one of his closest friends, Bill Schaad.)*

## General Meeting

*Ken Hanley,  
"Fly Fishing for Sharks  
in Monterey Bay"*

**Wednesday, February 15th**  
7:00 P.M.

The North Room  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa

## Board of Directors

Monday  
**February 13th**  
7:00 P.M.  
Warrack Hospital  
Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa

## Program Notes:

*Ken Hanley has written two books on fly fishing in California, the California Fly Tying and Fishing Guide and Flyfishing the Surf Zone. A native Californian, Ken has fished throughout the Golden State and in numerous other locations around the world. His introduction to fly fishing took place in the waters of Yosemite Valley, but the richness and diversity of the state's fisheries soon found Ken exploring the surf zone and estuary waters, the coastal rivers and streams for salmon and steelhead, the thousands of acres of bass water, the tailwater streams and spring creeks - in addition to the lakes and streams of the High Sierra*

*As owner of **Adventures Beyond**, Ken and his staff have worked with over 5000 students in the wilderness. He holds a master's degree in environmental education and is a consultant to the State Department of Education. As an artist, his work has appeared in a number of publications and is exhibited in public and private collections.*

## *Filling in...(cont.)*

---

I retained hope. After all, anyone who has fished Putah Creek knows that a little rain never hurt anything (although I was wondering a little about 27 straight days of it!). But once again the weather won out. Lee called on the 26th to inform all of us that a mud slide below Monticello Dam had forced the restriction of flows from Lake Berryessa into Putah Creek in order to allow heavy machinery in to try to clear out the debris. Putah Creek was awash in mud! And, to add insult to injury, the predicted heavy rains for the 28th never materialized instead giving way to partly cloudy skies and that peculiar dazed and aimless feeling one gets when his plans and preparations are dashed at the last minute, only to be replaced by those things that he probably should have been doing in the first place.

So fishing in January was a washout after all. The new license went unchristened and the rods still lean in the corner. At least the 49ers won the Super Bowl.

Speaking on behalf of the Russian River Fly Fishers, our thanks to Richard Culver for his inspiring presentation of southeastern Alaska steelhead fishing. Some of the extreme conditions of his fall steelhead trips were incredible, as were the fish! This month's presentation on shark fishing *with flies* in Monterey Bay, by Ken Hanley, should also prove to be quite interesting - especially considering the unusual quarry! Hopefully, the weather will hold off a little this month to at least allow us to get out to the casting pond and work out the kinks in our lines and our techniques. I think Bob would enjoy the company.

Until Wednesday...keep dry!



Steve Tubbs

## **RRFF Elections Officers and Board Members 1995**

---

The Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors is currently preparing the slate of candidates for our June election. The membership will be electing a new President and Vice President (to serve a one year term) as well as new board members (to serve a two year term).

If you are interested in serving on the board, please give your name to one of the current board members so that it may be included on the ballot. Following is an outline of the ballot process by month, ending with the mailing of the ballots in May.

February - Prepare candidate slate

March - Include candidate slate in March newsletter. Open membership to submit nominations until the April General Meeting.

April - Close nomination submission. Introduce candidates.

May 1st - Mail ballots.

All board members must be elected by the membership, but only the President and Vice President are elected to office. The remaining club officers are appointed from the elected board members. Each board member is also assigned duties that he/she will be responsible for during their term of service.



## Warren Herlihy

January 20, 1995

*(In remembrance of long time RRFF member Warren Herlihy, Charlie Schelter has submitted the following reminiscence...)*

Warren first became vivid to me at a Russian River Fly Fishers outing at Indian Valley Reservoir in the early days of our club.

Warren, his wife Zoe and a fellow named Ron were camped about 300 yards from us on the lakeshore.

Our campfire was shared by Ben Cummings, Emil Lewis, Martin Mulkeen and Dale and Helen Kuester.

When our fire burned down we hit the sack in our tents. Shortly thereafter, here came Warren and crew singing an Irish ballad and announcing that they had a jug of Chivas Regal.

I got up! !

Over the years, we downed many drinks and had several fishing trips together, including one to Alaska.

Warren is probably bending St. Patrick's ear now.

He will be sorely missed.

To the tilt of your kilt - Laddie!

Charlie Schelter

## Filling in...

Already the new year is over a month old and all I've got to show for it is a musty smelling garage, swollen doorjamb (one of which was just replaced a month ago) and an overpowering case of cabin fever that the last few weeks of settled (???) weather has yet to overcome. Fishing? Ha!!

January was a miserable month! Not only did the rain pummel us to the point of knocking 90 years off the "100 year" flood, our spirits were further dampened by the passing of north coast fly fishing legend, Bill Schaadt, and of long time RRFF member, Warren Herlihy. Both of these men had many friends in the RRFF and both will be greatly missed.

But despite the inclement weather and our personal losses, the month wasn't a complete washout. Our January 18th club meeting featured Richard Culver and a new, albeit temporary, meeting room in the library of Santa Rosa Junior High. I don't know about you, but after the plush accommodations of the Junior High library, the Veterans Building won't ever hold quite the same allure for me. For

those of you who were unable to attend, Richard's topic was *Steelhead Fishing in Alaska* as practiced by his guide service **On the Fly Adventures** out of Juneau. After watching his slide presentation - featuring trips from his 64' custom Marlineer, the *M/V Ocean Ranger*, as well as fly-in float trips down some of southeastern Alaska's coastal rivers - and after seeing some of the fish they were catching...*I was hooked!* Cabin fever had pretty much started me bouncing off the walls a week earlier, probably aggravated by the purchase of a new fishing license around that time. It was time to go fishing! That was when the sign-up sheet for the January club outing to Putah Creek stopped in front of me.

Fifteen, or so, hopeful RRFF members signed up for a gang tackle of our winter trout fishery at Putah Creek. Since this event was to take place the day before Super Bowl Sunday, "gang tackle" is probably the most appropriate term for this outing, especially considering the fevered assault planned by 15 "ready to go do anything" guys. The phone calls were made, the flies tied, the reels lubed (just kidding Bill) and, on the 25th, another massive storm blew in and dumped on Sonoma County.



Address correction requested.

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



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

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

**Myself (\$35) ☐**

**For My Family (\$40) ☐**

**As a Junior member (\$20) ☐**

**(New members add \$10 initiation Fee)**

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

**Mail this application with the initiation fees and dues to:**

**RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!**

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Pond Clinic

Date: Sunday, February 19th.

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.

An introduction to fly casting and basic beginner and intermediate instruction will be offered from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Ring casting and distance casting coaching will be available. Brian Wong has a limited number of full line outfits for loan on a reservation basis. If you know someone who may be interested, have them call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887. Interested casters with their own gear will be most welcome.

Weather, as you may have noticed, may be a limiting factor. If we are still having serious storms, the event will be postponed until March.

Many of you are new members since the last review of our Distance Casting Achievement Regulations. The rules presently in effect are as follow:

1. **Rods:** 10' (maximum length), 10 weight or less and one-handed.
2. **Lines:** 310 grain (maximum weight) shooting heads (10 weight) or appropriate full line.
3. **Running Line:** 15# test monofilament (.012) minimum or standard commercial floating running line.

## Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

### November Clinic

60'

#47. Mark Landucci (6Wt-SH) (11/94)

80'

#42. Mark Landucci (6Wt-SH) (11/94)

100'

#26. Mark Landucci (6Wt-SH) (11/94)

4. **Fly:**

A tied fly that has had the bend of the hook removed at the end of the straight shank. The cut end must be filed smooth.

5. **Qualifying:**

All achievement qualifications must take place at a scheduled club clinic, event at the casting pond or during other interclub competition. Qualifying casts must be verified by a coach or other event official.

The distance achievement casting marks are now 60', 80', 100', 120', 135', 150', 165' and the length of the pond, 180'. All achievements are noted in *the Cast*, certificates are issued for casts of 80' or more and patches are awarded for casts of 100' or more. The degree of difficulty of a cast is based on the equipment used and a more difficult cast will be noted in *the Cast* and on the display board as an improvement over a less demanding cast for the same distance. For example, a cast of 100' made with a shooting head on a system of any weight will be upgraded if the same or a greater distance is reached using a full line. The same rule applies when a lighter weight full line system is used in place of a heavier one used originally.

The next scheduled clinic will be March 19th.

Bob Sisson

## Contributions

*The Cast* is accepting stories, articles, fish tales, fly patterns, cartoons, original artwork and other fly fishing miscellany for publication in future issues. Please submit all contributions to:

*The Cast*

c/o Steve Tubbs

511 I Street

Petaluma, Ca. 94952

All materials should be received by the first Monday of each month for consideration. Material may be submitted on 3.5" diskette in MS WORD or MS PUB format (or compatible). All diskettes will be returned to sender.

\*



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RRF



Volume 21  
Number 3  
March 1995

*Sun, sand, ocean breezes... The glare consuming the flats, scattering light off the liquid mirror that only just covers a mirage of white sand and turtle grass, its blinding brightness unerringly targeted at polarized lenses as if drawn by a magnet. Boy, am I glad I don't have to deal with that!*

*With Dwight somewhere off in the Bahamas, coping courageously with the elements and putting up with the many varied inconveniences associated with pursuing bonefish, the editor will lay down one graphite rod, pick up a much smaller one, and recount...*

## ***The Things We're Doing... (including) Fishing!***

February was a good month! After the soggy mess that preceded it, even just a few days of sun was enough to warrant that statement. A break in the storms gave us some outrageously beautiful days that found a few RRFF members out fishing our local waters. There were reports of some good steelhead being taken and a "pay for play" trout outing that sounded tempting and resulted in some good fish and/(with) nice tales/(tails). A welcome variation from some of the other private trout fisheries.

There were also the rumors of "hot" steelhead action on the Russian River, near a certain bridge in Cloverdale easily accessed by hatchery transport vehicles attempting to disperse an overabundance of fish at the hatchery. It is hoped that some of those fish will spawn in tributaries on that section of the river, however, rumors persisted that many of the fish were headed back to Dry Creek. That's the story that I heard anyway.

Our general meeting on the 15th proved to be quite interesting. Ken Hanley's high energy account of fly fishing for blue sharks in Monterey Bay was terrific! Although the purists cringed, the chumming techniques and the use of "meat flies", tied to resemble the chunks of salmon that were feeding the slick, provided for an unusual presentation and some great slides. Ken also spoke briefly on fly fishing the surf zone - outlining the conditions, techniques and equipment for this type of

fishing. (At his suggestion, our proposed surf perch club outing will be rescheduled at a later time!). We could always schedule one of those *extreme* trips. Ken's suggestion: **Float Tubing for Sharks!** (the Farallon Islands?)

The Casting Pond clinic, on the 19th, found one of those dazzlingly clear, shorts and tee-shirt days to entice a great turnout! The early session found both sides of the pond full of fly casters, with space at a definite premium. By noon, however, the crowd had diminished slightly and a number of club members turned up for some advanced instruction and to work out the kinks.

Tim Grogan's rod building class found approximately 25 interested rod makers meeting at the Northbay Cycle Club on the 24th. The facilities were spacious and the introductory meeting went well. Actual rod building will begin on Friday, March 10, and continue on the 17th and 24th to finally be concluded on the 31st. It should be a great class and a lot of fun. Classes run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

### **General Meeting**

*Paul Mauer  
Department of Fish and Game  
"A Forum on Improving the  
Russian River Fishery"*  
*also  
Mike Swaney  
"Conservation Efforts on  
Willow Creek"*

**Wednesday, March 15th  
7:00 P.M.**

The North Room  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa

### **Board of Directors**

**Monday  
March 13th  
7:00 P.M.**

Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa

## Things We're Doing...(cont.)

On Saturday, the 25th, the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers hosted a barbecued albacore dinner for the participants of the Salmonid Restoration Conference taking place in Santa Rosa and at Sonoma State University. The dinner was held at the Showcase restaurant at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for over 200 conference attendees. As a member club of the Federation of Fly Fishers, the RRFF was asked for volunteers to help serve and clean up after the dinner. Bob Neill, our club NCCFFF director and representative, organized a work crew with the promises of free eat and drink. Besides Bob, the RRFF was represented by Jack Ghilardi, Tony Hebner, Lee Smith, Marshall Lockman, Tim Grogan and Steve Tubbs. As promised, we were treated to all we could eat and drink and, as a result, the evening went off without a hitch.

March should prove to be another busy month. This week brings the International Sportsman's Exposition to San Mateo along with its accompanying Fly Fishing Show. If you've never been, it is well worth the hour and a half drive and carpooling with other club members could be a very real possibility. This month's general meeting brings Cloverdale area game warden Paul Mauer to the RRFF for a forum on improving the Russian River fishery. Also, area guide Mike Swaney will return to discuss conservation projects on Willow Creek. This is a great opportunity to get up to speed on some local conservation issues.

With another series of storms stacked up off the coast, I'm beginning to think that dealing with a little glare off the flats might not be so bad after all. Dreaming of sun and sand...(and Loreto!)



The Editor

## Program Notes

First off, I would like to thank *Ken Hanley* for coming here last month to present his program on shark fishing. That certainly got me thinking about the possibilities of doing a club outing to Monterey Bay to fish for blue sharks!

This month's program will deal with some conservation issues that involve the Russian River. Starting off the program will be *Paul Mauer* from the Department of Fish and Game. Paul is a game warden that patrols the Russian River near Cloverdale. He has asked if he could have a forum with us, and hopefully have our support, on some regulations that he feels could ultimately help improve the fishing on the Russian River.

We also will be bringing back local fishing guide *Mike Swaney* to do a slide show about some conservation work that he is doing on Willow Creek. We will have the opportunity to volunteer to help Mike with this project.

Shawn Kempkes

## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Pond Clinic

**Date:** Sunday, March 19th.

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

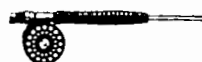
**Place:** Casting Pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

An introduction to fly casting and beginner and intermediate instruction will be offered from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Ring casting for accuracy and distance casting coaching will also be offered for the membership from noon on. For those who do not have the necessary equipment, Brian Wong has a limited number of full line outfits for loan on a reservation basis. If you know someone who may be thinking about perhaps having

a try at fly casting, have them call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887. Interested casters with their own gear will be most welcome.

Weather may still be a bit of a problem. If we are still having serious rain on the scheduled date of the event it will be postponed until April. The road and the parking area are in excellent condition, in spite of the rough winter, so recent rain should not be a problem. As soon as we go back on daylight savings time the Wednesday late afternoon pond activity of competition practice will resume.

The next scheduled clinic will be April 23rd, the Sunday after Easter.



Bob Sisson

# RRFF Elections for Officers and Board Members

The Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors is now accepting candidate nominations for the offices of RRFF President and Vice President to serve a one year term beginning June 1995. Nominations are also being taken for new Board members to serve a term of two years. All interested members must submit their names to the Board of Directors to be included on the upcoming ballot.

The success of our club depends on the contributions and efforts of our membership. Club meetings, activities and outings are all the result of the hard work of our club members, beginning with the Board of Directors and finally ending with the active participation in these events by the general membership. Maintaining membership records, welcoming new members, managing club finances and producing a club newsletter are also responsibilities of the board. In order to address these responsibilities, it is necessary to enlist, or recruit, the assistance of a few willing RRFF members to serve on our board of directors.

Each year, one half of the board members fulfill their two year obligation. This ensures that only partial chaos greets the new board after the elections are completed. Each newly elected board member will be assigned certain responsibilities to be determined by the board. The offices of Secretary, Treasurer and the other various job titles are also determined by the board members. The general membership elects all of the board members but only the club President and Vice President are elected *to office* by the general membership.

Following is a list of our current board members and those nominations that have already been submitted for the 1995 candidate slate:

## Current Officers and Board Members

### *Completing Second Year*

President:	Dwight Longuevan
Vice President:	Tim Grogan
Secretary:	Bob Ordway
Treasurer:	Marshall Lockman
Membership:	Harry Schoonbaert
Casting Pond:	Bob Sisson
NCCFFF Rep:	Bob Neill

### *Completing First Year*

Club Outings:	Lee Smith
Membership Coord:	Tim Barrett
Program Director:	Shawn Kempkes
Raffle Chairman:	Jim Hakel
Cast Editor:	Steve Tubbs

As of our last meeting, a few of the board members who are completing their second year (or more) of service have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve in their current capacities. They are noted at the bottom of the 1995 Candidate Slate along with the other returning board members.

## 1995 Candidate Slate

### *Nominations for officers*

President: Tim Grogan  
Vice President:

### *Nominations for board members*

1. Joe Craig
2. Scott Broome
3. Chuck Perry
4. Mark Landucci

### *Returning board members*

1. Bob Sisson
2. Bob Neill
3. Lee Smith
4. Tim Barrett
5. Shawn Kempkes
6. Jim Hakel
7. Steve Tubbs

To fill the Board of Directors, we need 10 board members, a President and a Vice President. Nominations will be accepted until the April General Meeting at which time all nominees will be introduced to the membership and their names entered on the official ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the membership on May 1st for voting.

If you are interested in serving the Russian River Fly Fishers as a member of the board or as an officer, please submit your name to the board for inclusion on the 1995 ballot.



## Membership News

At our last board meeting, **Tim Barrett** offered his services and assumed the responsibility of Membership Coordinator for the RRFF. Tim will be trying, in the next few months, to catch up on all of our membership packets, name tags and dues collection. If you are having any problems with these items, or have moved, or if you've got questions concerning your membership, you can call Tim at 538-5009.

It should be noted that **Harry Schoonbaert** has been stuck with the membership duties by default for this past year and has been graciously maintaining the database for the RRFF until we can find someone to assume that responsibility from him. Harry's two year term as Membership Chairman actually expired with **last** years election, so finding someone to assume the duties of maintaining our membership database is a top priority for this

## Membership (cont.)

election. Thanks to Harry, our membership records are pretty much up to date and with Tim's efforts we hope to soon catch up on the other membership responsibilities that may have lapsed this past year.

The RRFF has had a number of new members join us since our last election. Although we haven't officially welcomed them in *the Cast*, we would like to begin doing so. At last month's general meeting, Mike Nieters joined our club as a new member. Welcome Mike! (Your membership packet's on the way!)

## Conservation: End the "Low Water" Closure of the Smith River!

*Following is a reprint of a letter from Patt Wardlaw of Pacific Coast Flyrodders to Mr. David McLeod of the Department of Fish and Game. Patt has created an AD HOC Committee under the battle cry "OPEN THE SMITH!" and is hoping to inspire an organized letter writing campaign that will get this item on the Commission's August Agenda. Original letters using Patt's ideas, or those of your own, are needed to bring attention to this matter. If you wish to write, Mr. McLeod's address is below. Also, please send a copy of your correspondence to Patt Wardlaw, 4546 Auhay Drive, Santa Barbara, California 93110.*

Mr. David McLeod  
Department of Fish and Game, Region 1  
619 Second Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. McLeod,

A number of fly fishermen wish to propose a rule change for consideration at the next meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission (August?). It is my understanding from discussions you had with others at the October 1, 1994, Smith River Colloquium, that you are the proper channel for such requests. Please advise if this is not the case.

It is time to replace the so called "low water" closure of the Smith River with measures that might better pinpoint the conservation needs of that River and, at the same time, eliminate all the present negativity.

The season long, daily bag limit of one adult fish could be easily cut to three or four a week by implementing a tag system such as that in use by Oregon. Then, the *season* take could be drastically reduced to, say, 20 fish per year. Oregon's limits of 6 in 7 days and 40 per season (plus 10 under 24" per day) may still be excessive. I have not discussed this with anyone who would object to such a method of keeping our river(s) open.

The evolution, interpretation and enforcement of the existing

rule has become nothing short of abusive in view of its history. When first proposed in 1979, along with closures of the Eel and others, the matter was brought to the attention of The Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs. Paul Jensen, then DFG's Anadromous Fisheries Chief, attended a convention of this group to ward off all-out opposition. He argued that:

1. The Smith would not be affected until December 1, a month after the Eel River deadline, leaving the best of the clear water fishery unaffected.

2. The closure would be a once a year event; as soon as the river exceeded 400 cfs, DFG would be required to open it immediately and could not reclose it until the following season.

3. The river would almost never be closed more than a few days because of traditional rainfalls. Please see the enclosed proposal (*not reprinted*) from Paul Jensen, dated June, 1979, just prior to the July Conclave.

The Council's thirty-some clubs *did* back off their hard line position, based on Paul's arguments. Here, however, is how the original proposal deteriorated the way of Indian Treaties:

1. Early on, the date was arbitrarily changed from December 1 to November 1. Then, in 1988, the closure date was moved up, again, from November 1 to October 1. This eliminated forever the traditional clear water fly fishery that had always existed in the Smith's sprawling tidewater. Left open still, however, are the "Hog-line" and other non fly-fishable trolling areas below Cattle Crossing.

2. In 1989, officials began re-closing the Smith on any Wednesday when levels dropped below 400cfs, despite the original intent of the "one time" rule.

3. By 1990 they changed their rules, again, to "If we *think* it might drop below 400 by next Wednesday we'll close it." Finally, on the morning of Thursday, November 3 1994, when heavy rains brought the Smith above a probable 1500 cfs (it was up 2 1/2 feet, vertically) they kept us guessing all day. It was at 4 PM before they announced the River was "dropping" so refused to open it. The amount of the "drop" during that day was from 15.82' to 15.46'. It was not until the following Tuesday that it was finally open.

Objections to the closure are unfairness, financial impact and counter-productivity.

1. It is unfair to property owners and license holders because it deprives them reasonable use of a public resource. Bear in mind that no study has ever been done to document that low water fishing causes **any** negative impact on the Salmon population. Of the entire chain of predators fish encounter during their whole life cycle, the fly is the least deadly. The rule is unfair to us, because the fly is only at its best during these early season clear water periods.

2. It causes many financial hardships. It has been estimated every month the Smith is closed costs the Del Norte

County economy \$1,000,000.00. The tackle shop at the public launch ramp is, for practical purposes, shut down. No independent tackle store has survived in Crescent City or Smith River. Guides can't book trips because of the on-again, off-again, nature of the rules. Motels, restaurants and other merchants are severely impacted.

3. It is counterproductive. Any time the river *does* finally get open, everyone feels they *must* take advantage! The river gets jammed. When it was always open, people spread out their angling days, and probably killed a smaller percentage of fish landed. Furthermore, everyone who would normally fish Del Norte and Humboldt County streams are forced into Southern Oregon. During our closures, so much additional pressure has been put on Oregon's Chetco that, as a direct result, we have encountered two actual closures of that river with more threatened. One may contend that Oregon is not our concern. The Chetco is so close, however, it becomes part of our resource and Oregonians are also impacted by California closures.

The Smith River drains some 600 square miles compared to the Eel's 3500. The Smith's base annual runoff is some 3 1/2 million acre feet, the Eel, 7 million. Where is the logic that closes the smaller river at flows above those of the larger one (400 vs. 300)? In another case, I recall checking on October 26, 1989 to learn the Smith, which appeared very healthy, was at a stated 234 cfs. It could not be waded across safely at any point below Hiouchi. Tidewater and all the deep holes were full of moving fresh fish, yet it was closed. That same day, the Eel

was virtually dry at about 30 cfs! This difference is pretty typical in early Fall. It seems evident these two systems shouldn't be closed under the same blanket and that the thresholds were set arbitrarily.

We have been told for years the entire reason for the Eel closure was to stop "snagging" because Fish & Game couldn't police it. The Smith, where there was seldom a snagging problem, was closed in sympathy (for political purposes?) The consequences are far too severe when snagging laws *could* be enforced at a fraction of the dollar impact caused by total closures. The Del Norte Triplicate thought enough of the matter to ask me to do a guest editorial. It's attached. (*not included*)

I have been fishing the Smith since the early Sixties and probably have as much total time on the river as anyone alive. I know it intimately and am as concerned as any human being about the welfare of our resources. I can testify specifics about the lack of adverse effects past clear water fishing has had. I am also a Del Norte County taxpayer, having bought property in 1976 just to flyfish the Smith at clear water.

Please help.

Sincerely,

Patt Wardlaw  
February 7, 1995



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

Myself (\$35) ☐

For My Family (\$40) ☐

As a Junior member (\$20) ☐

(New members add \$10 initiation Fee)

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

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



Address correction requested.

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



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

Contributions to *the Cast* can be mailed to: *The Cast*  
c/o Steve Tubbs  
511 I Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952





# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 4  
April 1995

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*It's coming!!! Can you see it? Can you smell it?  
Can you feel the opening of Trout season???*

As I sit here at home, with unbaited, barbless breath, for my first opportunity to check on our friends the trout - in their homes on the *best* streams, the *smallest* creeks and the always popular (and usually overcrowded) *secret spots* - I'm bursting at my seams wondering if the streams are blanketed with baccis. Has spring swelled the waters with the crystal clear remnants of winter cold rejuvenating snows? Will the trout be as eager to

take my fly as I am to give them my well thought-out and over-practiced presentation? Well, let's all hope and pray that the opener meets our expectations or I'M GOING TO PLAY DISGRUNTLED POSTAL WORKER! So go out there, give it your best and hope that I can't pass the civil servants exam!

On to club business. Elections are in the air and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who so graciously offered your talents and time to help out with this year's board of directors. That kind of support is a great indicator of things to come. See ya Wednesday!

Dwight Longuevan

*Our thanks to Paul Mauer, of the Department of Fish and Game, for the presentation of his proposed fishing regulation changes for the Russian River at our March general meeting. Member attendance was outstanding and it became immediately apparent that there was not enough time in our club meeting to cover the issues to everyone's satisfaction. Hopefully, Paul received some helpful feedback on his proposal from our forum.*

*Also, a special thanks to Mike Swaney for his rather hurried presentation on the observation and restoration activities of the Redwood Empire chapter of Trout Unlimited on Willow Creek (a Russian River tributary). The Willow Creek program offers the RRFF an excellent opportunity for involvement in a local conservation action that directly affects our local fishery. Interested club members should contact Mike for more information.*

*Mike also spoke briefly about a steelhead incubation and hatching program that is being introduced to some public school classrooms here in Sonoma County. For an investment of about \$300.00 (for each tank), the RRFF could set up an incubation tank in a local classroom and educate the students in the maintenance of this aquatic environment as they hatch and raise steelhead smolt. The program culminates with the release of the smolts into our local river system. This could be a great conservation activity for our club and a great chance to help educate our kids about our local fishery. What do you think?*

### General Meeting

*Ed Schroeder,  
"Fly Fishing the Western  
United States"*

**Wednesday, April 19th  
7:00 P.M.**

The North Room  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

**Monday  
April 17th  
7:00 P.M.**

Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't know about the rest of you, but this nice weather is giving me spring fever. I know there's at least 18 other people out there who are chomping at the bit to get out there and "wet a line" because that's how many folks built new fly rods in our last rod building class. I haven't seen them all yet, but the rods I have seen turned out great! There were rods from 9' - 9 1/2' and 4 thru 9 weights built during the class. A few people even built 3 and 4 piece rods. I was a little apprehensive about the size of the group at first, but everything went smoothly and I think everyone had a good time. We were happy to have a couple of ladies participating this time around. A special thanks to Mike Nieters for getting us such a great place to meet.

The Russian River Fly Fishers is starting a new fly casting instruction program. We will offer casting

instruction at least once a month on a day to be determined. The club purchased 6 high quality graphite outfits, at a terrific price, to be used as loaners on a reservation basis. There are four 5 weight outfits and two 8 weight outfits for shooting head instruction. We are organizing a team of casting instructors, so there will be at least 2 instructors at each clinic. If you are a competent caster, and would like to participate in teaching, please give me a call at 538-5917.

Now that the days are getting longer, we will be meeting at the casting pond on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 P.M. to practice distance and accuracy casting. Come out and join us - I guarantee it will improve your casting no matter what your ability. As we get more people interested, we can start organizing some friendly competitions.

Just Do It!!!

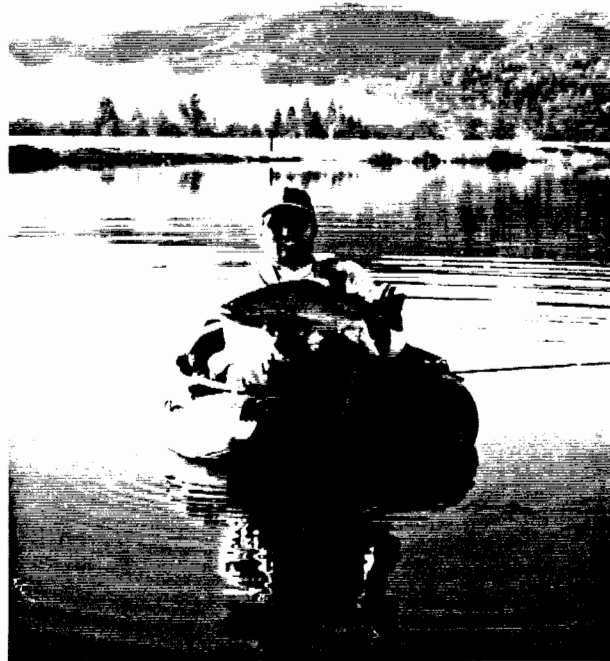
Tim Grogan

## Program Notes

*Our April general meeting finds us welcoming back Ed Schroeder from the Orvis Company. Aside from his role as the regional business manager for Orvis, Ed is an accomplished and innovative fly tier. Many of his parachute fly patterns have found their way into the various fly fishing periodicals.*

*Ed's slide program will be on "Fly Fishing the Western United States" and will feature slides from many of the west's trophy trout waters.*

Shawn Kempkes



Tim Grogan took this 22 inch rainbow, on an olive marabou leech, during a break in the weather last month. He was fishing at a private lake in Pope Valley.



## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Pond Clinic

Date: Sunday, April 23rd.

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.

An introduction to fly casting and beginner and intermediate instruction will be offered from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Distance casting and ring casting coaching will also be offered for the membership from noon on. For those of you who know someone who may be interested in trying their hand at fly casting and do not have the necessary equipment, Brian Wong has a limited number of complete outfits for loan on a reservation basis. Have the interested people call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and

Travel, 527-9887. Interested casters who have their own gear will be most welcome.

Who knows, it may turn "spring for a day" by the end of April and we will have a nice day for a change? The road to the pond and the parking area were still weathering the endless storms in excellent condition at this writing. We hope that will still be true when the 29th rolls around. If we are still in the middle of the monsoon season, the event will be postponed until May. In addition, the Wednesday afternoon competition practice should be starting up. This is not a scheduled event, but some coaching and instruction is always available.

The next scheduled clinic will be May 21st.



Bob Sisson

## RRFF Club Outings

At the last meeting, March 15, I made a proposal to change how our club fishing outings would be held. This was in reference to how some other clubs handle their outings. These clubs have an outing captain for each proposed trip. This person is someone with a good knowledge of the area to be fished, where to fish it, types of flies to use, special techniques and local accommodations or campgrounds. This proposal was discussed at the previous board meeting and met with approval as a way to generate interest in club outings.

The way this would be implemented is as follows:

Club members, who are brave enough and have the expertise to wear the hat of outing captain, would propose an outing to one of their favorite fishing spots. (P.S. - You wouldn't have to reveal your secret hole.) In proposing an outing, you would contact me (outing director - Lee Smith, 537-1421) and I would make sure that the scope of the outing is placed in *the Cast* prior to our monthly meeting. Interested members would contact me, or the outing captain, to sign up and get the particulars on flies, accommodations, etc. If there are no responses, the

trip will be cancelled as a club outing. It must be noted that members must respond to a proposed outing to determine its feasibility and to offer their input if they are interested.

I think this would be an exciting way to involve the whole club membership in decision making for some great outings! Those members who lead an outing, as outing captain, will be doing a great service for the club as a whole and especially for newer members, like myself, that don't have the expertise and knowledge of fly fishing. I would also like to encourage any member to offer fun ideas for outings, including family-oriented events. Please talk to me about these things. Also, let's not forget the opening of Trout season, April 29, and try to come up with an exciting outing for the opener.

Lee Smith

## Pyramid Lake

Ken Magoon has proposed going to Pyramid Lake on April 21, 22 & 23 and would appreciate some feedback from interested members. You can reach him directly at 527-8376. (P.S. - Ken has hinted he will offer an evening talk on the sexual spawning habits of salmon as relates to male bonding!)

## 1995-96 Candidate Slate

### RRFF Club Officers and Board of Directors

---

The April general meeting marks the close of nomination submissions for the 1995-96 RRFF club officers and board of directors. If you are interested in serving as a board member, and your name does not already appear on the candidate slate, be sure to submit your nomination by April 19 so that it can be included on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in early May.

At our last board meeting, a few of the board members, who are completing their terms of service, offered their assistance in an area that has not been promoted in recent years. Marshall Lockman and Harry Schoonbaert have offered to co-chair and re-emphasize conservation programs for the RRFF for the next term. Bob Sisson has volunteered to return as Casting Pond chairman and Bob Neill will once again serve as our representative to the NCCFFF. These guys have served on the board for many years, and their continued service is greatly appreciated.

Following is the current list of candidates for your 1995-96 officers and board of directors:

### Candidate Nominations

#### Officers

President: Tim Grogan  
Vice President: Steve Tubbs

#### Board Members

Joe Craig  
Scott Broome  
Chuck Perry  
Mark Landucci  
Paul Major  
Carl Blackledge

There are some key programs that will be needing new directors for the upcoming term. Also, there are some programs that have been neglected for awhile, so it would be nice to have a full board of directors from which all of these areas can be addressed. (How about some of our fly-fisherwomen out there?) If you would like to help out, but not as a board member, many of the current directors have expressed a desire for some assistance.



### RRFF Library



It was proposed at the last board meeting, and mentioned at the March general meeting, that we start a fly fishing library. This library would be composed of books and videos and would be made available at each general meeting for club members to use for a period of one month. There are probably lots of you fellow club members whose book cases are spilling forth with poor, neglected, unloved books and videos that could use a new breath of life. These books and videos could become the beginnings of our new library.

The way the library would function, or the way we would like it to function, is as follows. First, any items donated or loaned would have the owners name and telephone number written on them. When someone checks out an

item, it will be recorded in the master log with the owners name and phone number along with the borrowers name and phone number. This way we can keep track of where the item is if the original owner needs it returned. Bringing in magazines is also encouraged, but these would not be logged and would not have to be returned.

So let's get busy with that spring cleaning and get this library started with a bang for the April meeting. Fly tying videos would be greatly appreciated for some of the newer fly fishers.

**Hold on!** I almost forgot the important part. Would someone out there like the prestigious position of being the RRFF librarian? Basically it would entail hauling two storage crates to each general meeting and maintaining the log. For more information concerning this, please contact me (Lee Smith, 537-1421) or see me at the April meeting.

## Contributions

Okay, so who's been fishing? *The Cast* is still looking for articles, fish stories, fishing tips, jokes, cartoons, or whatever else tickles your fancy! I understand that there have been a lot of "rain-outs" in the last few month's but, what the hell, make something up! If there's one group of individuals who are entitled to tell a few stretchers, or at least to embellish some half-truths and hallucinations, it's a group of fishermen (the ladies tending , on the whole, to be a little more truthful). Dreams....reality.....what's the difference? Spin a few! Tell it the way it *should* have happened...the way it *would* have happened. Let the rest of us muddle through it all and wonder... *just how much of the story is true???*

Please send your contribution, real or imagined, to:

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

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It's been a couple of months since our new membership coordinator, **Tim Barrett**, took it upon himself to determine just what needed to be done in order to bring our membership records up to date. The March general meeting brought a long overdue name tag update, thereby allowing all of our members to be able to identify themselves. If you still don't know who you are, please contact Tim so that he can identify you!

Membership packets, and who knows what else, should be finally getting out to everyone who had not received them. As there was a period of about a year there - *everyone* was fishing *then* - when these amenities were overlooked, you must let Tim know if you did not receive your club goodie bag.

If you're not receiving *The Cast*, (then you're not reading this and) you may need to update your club dues, your address or our membership records! Again, contact Tim Barrett. You can reach Tim at 538-5009 or at our next general meeting. (We're still looking for someone to manage the RRFF membership database!)



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

**Myself (\$35) ☐**

**For My Family (\$40) ☐**

**As a Junior member (\$20) ☐**

**(New members add \$10 initiation Fee)**

Name

Date

Address

City/State/Zip

Occupation

Home Phone

Work Phone

Signature

**Mail this application with the initiation fees and dues to:**

**RRFF, PO Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405—NOW!**

---

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95405



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

Address correction requested.



### Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Dwight Longuevan	Vice President: Tim Grogan	Secretary: Bob Ordway	Treasurer: Marshall Lockman
Membership Database: Harry Schoonbaert	Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett	Casting Pond: Bob Sisson	
Club Outings: Lee Smith	Program Director: Shawn Kempkes	Raffle Chairman: Jim Hakel	
Cast Editor: Steve Tubbs	NCCFFF Club Representative: Bob Neill		

---





# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RFR



Volume 21  
Number 5  
May 1995

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's been a "wet and wild" opener. Six inches of rain hit Shingletown April 29th, the opener of trout season, so for most anglers Saturday was a wash-out. Fall River muddied up, Hat Creek followed suit (as did the Pit River) but by Sunday, Hat Creek - by some strange twist of fate - was fishable again and fished pretty darn well for the few rain-soaked, die-hard anglers who persisted despite the conditions.

The upper Sac wasn't hit very hard by either the rain showers or by opening day anglers. Again, the few people willing to forgo the weather were able to overcome the heavy flows with a handful of split shot and the increasingly popular, very appropriate and soon-to-be-famous bead head nymphs.

Baum Lake looked good - baetis, PMD's and even a few dark caddis found the lips of a few fish on this opener. Lewiston Lake was tough but again productive for those who stuck it out. Flows were up, to about 4000 cfs, which made it pretty much a wash but a nice drive and an opportunity none the less.

Locally, the shad and steelhead action slowed due to the swollen flows of the Russian River, but the weather promises to give us a break soon! Given the early fish reports, this shad season should help cushion the blow (and pressure) on some of our trout streams. Not to be forgotten, Lake Sonoma, although muddy, has been producing bass. I'm told there was a tournament there a few weeks ago. The

winning team weighed in with 15lbs. of "keeper" size bass. Spring Lake, although not much on looks, has never the less been super! The bass have been shallow, big and eager!

That's about it for the fishing reports. Don't forget to mail in your membership dues, your ballot and your reservation for our dinner meeting, June 2, featuring Trey Combs.



Tight Lines  
and Sunny Skies,

Dwight

### General Meeting

*"Bonefishing the World"*  
with

*Dwight Longuevan*

**Wednesday,**

**May 17th**

**7:00 P.M.**

The North Room

Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa

### Board of Directors

**Monday,**

**May 15th**

**7:00 P.M.**

Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa

\*

## RRFF May Events

**Elections:** The election for the 1995-96 RRFF officers and board of directors is taking place this month! Ballots were mailed to all *active* (dues paid) RRFF members during the last week of April. Please return your ballots before June 1 to register your vote. The final candidate slate is loaded with excellent choices for the next term and the energies and ideas of these club members will shape the course of the RRFF for the next few years. Judging by our candidates, I think we can all look forward to continued club growth and some exciting new directions from our new board during the coming term.

**Casting Instruction:** The RRFF will formally begin the new fly casting instruction program for our members and their guests (see *Pool Captain's Corner*) this month. A few club members have volunteered their time to provide *free* assistance with both casting fundamentals and some of the

more advanced casting techniques to any RRFF members (and guests) who *request* assistance. The club has purchased six quality outfits that can be reserved for use at these sessions so come on out to the pond and have some fun casting with us!

**RRFF Dinner Meeting - June 2, 1995:** This year, the RRFF is fortunate enough to be able to present **Trey Combs** as the featured speaker at our annual June dinner meeting. Make plans now to attend this event! We hope to once again have a large number of non-members at this meeting and encourage all RRFF members to spread the word and to invite your friends. This is a perfect opportunity to learn about one of the newer frontiers of fly fishing from one of the most prominent fly fishermen in the sport today. It's also a good opportunity for the public to find out more about the Russian River Fly Fishers. Make your reservations! Invite your friends! Let's make this dinner meeting one of our most successful ever!



The Editor

## Program Notes

*I would like to start off by thanking Ed Schroeder for presenting his slide program on "Fly Fishing the Western States" last month. I have spoken to Ed and understand that he and his dog "Bubba" are looking for engagement rings and a china pattern!*

*This month's program will be "Bonefishing the World" with Dwight Longuevan. Dwight's program will feature slides from Christmas Island and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and should prove to be very entertaining. Hope to see you there!*

*Shawn Kempkes*

## Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

March Clinic 1995

**60'**

- #48. Tom Lynn (8wt - SH)
- #49. Lee Smith (7wt - SH)

**80'**

- #43. Tom Lynn (8wt - SH)
- #44. Lee Smith (7wt - SH)

**100'**

- #27. Tom Lynn (8wt - SH)
- #28. Lee Smith (7wt - SH)

## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Casting Pond Clinic

Date: Saturday, May 20th.

Time: 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

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

As a follow-up to Vice President Tim Grogan's write up of the new instructional program in last month's *Cast*, the club has six high quality outfits to loan on a reservation basis if you would like to try some "top of the line" equipment. Call Tim Grogan at 538-5917 for reservations. **Please note that the event will be held on Saturday.** This program is basically intended for both new and old members who would like assistance in improving their casting skills with both full line and shooting systems. I have often repeated Lefty Kreh's premise that there is no disadvantage in being able to cast long. You may not use the skill on every outing, or even very often, but knowing you can go long if conditions warrant has real value. Both the equipment and the

instruction are yours for the asking at the scheduled Saturday instructional sessions. Ring casting for accuracy will also be a featured offering. Members with their own equipment are of course welcome to join in.

The Wednesday evening competition practice session at the pond (at about 4:30 P.M.) is again under way. There is usually coaching assistance available. All you need to do is ask. The instructors at all of the pond events will be happy to assist but they **will not** initiate action without being asked!

The introduction to Fly Casting Clinic will be held from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon on Sunday, May 21st, at the pond. This activity is open to all interested potential fly casters.

Qualification for the club's distance casting achievement event may be satisfied at any pond event if a pond officer or coach is present to certify the cast.



Bob Sisson

## RRFF Club Outing

July 14 - 16, 1995

### LAVA CREEK / FALL RIVER OUTING - "JUG RED SPECIAL"

On the weekend of July 14-16 our club has booked Lava Creek Lodge near Fall River Mills. Bob Nauheim, of Fishing International, has put together a "Jug Red Special" package for the RRFF. This translates to *prime time fishing*, with great accommodations, on a shoestring budget. We will be 5 min. from the Cal Trout access on the Fall River with a great shot at the Hex hatch and within an hours drive of some the best trout streams on the planet. With any luck the rains may even subside by then.

I'm writing this on the morning of opening day with a trip on hold until this weather moves along. Two weeks ago Ken Magoon and I were getting buffeted by 35 MPH winds, snow, and a very sloooooow bite on Baum Lake. So much for trying to rush Spring. I

think it's going to bust out all over in the middle of July.

To be at Lava Creek with fellow RRFF'ers, and their companions, all you need to do is write out a check in the amount of \$145 for each person and send it to our P.O. Box as soon as possible. Make your checks payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.** There is room for about 30 or so - the first to commit have first choice on cabins with double or triple occupancy. The price includes a "pasta fest" Friday night (you bring the "Jug Red"), breakfast and box lunch Saturday and Sunday, and a "burger barby", with the trimmings, for Saturday dinner.

After Memorial day, I am opening this opportunity to other nearby clubs to fill any unused spots, so let's get going on this. This pricing is based on keeping things simple so please book in the above manner *and keep the phone calls to F.I. to a minimum.* More at the Wednesday meeting.

Harry Schoonbaert

# Club Outing News

---

First, I want to thank Harry Schoonbaert for stepping forth to be the trip leader for the Lava Creek/Fall River club outing scheduled for July 14 - 16. This is the type of commitment that is required if we are to have successful club outings. I strongly want to stress that RRFF members suggest ideas for club outings even if they would not want the role of trip leader. These ideas can be discussed to see if they generate interest and, if so, another member may step forward to serve as outing captain. If you have suggestions, please contact me before the start of our general meeting or call me at 537-1421.

## Upcoming Events

The **Lava Creek / Fall River trip July 14 - 16**. A sign up sheet will be available at the May 17th meeting.

The proposed **Lewiston Lake / Trinity River** outing, for the end of May or June, is in desperate need of a trip leader (and more response) to continue as a club event. Contact me prior to the May 17th meeting if interested.

## Welcome New Members

---

Membership coordinator **Tim Barrett** would like all RRFF members to join him in welcoming three new members to our club.

**Wayne Taylor**  
**Don Rolph**  
**Neil Silverman**

If you see these gentlemen at our next general meeting, introduce yourself and find out where the fish are! RRFF membership is on an upswing, so let's make it a point to keep up the *great* recruiting.

I would like to suggest a possible one day, or maybe two day, shad fishing outing on the Sacramento River. This would require a trip leader familiar with the Sac and favorable fishing reports. This could be a fun trip so let's hear some feedback. A sign up sheet will be available at the May 17th meeting or you can call me.

**NOTE:** Let's not forget about our new RRFF Library and continue to donate those books and videos to make it grow!

Lee Smith - Outings Chairman

## RRFF Library

---

The fledgling RRFF book and video library got off to an enthusiastic start at our April general meeting. Judging by the response of some of our club members, this idea has been long awaited and is being eagerly welcomed. Already some members have donated materials and provided other items, on a loan basis, for the use of our club members. If you're having trouble getting into your tying room, if your *fishing books and videos* are multiplying beyond the confines of your bookcase, if you've simply got to *hide some of this stuff* before your wife (or husband) discovers it, please consider loaning it to the RRFF Library. You will be able to reclaim your loaned items whenever you need them *and* enable the rest of us to enjoy some of the fruits of your addiction as well.

**Tom Lynn** and **Rodger Magill** have both volunteered to serve as library coordinators. They will be hauling the materials to our general meetings and will be responsible for checking everything out and keeping tabs on all of the items. Look for them at our next meeting!

Also, for those of you who have artfully hidden stacks of fly fishing magazines throughout your homes, now is your perfect chance to get rid of them! Donate them to the RRFF library. Simply sneak them onto a table at one of our general meetings and... *what magazines?*

# **THE RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

**PRESENT:**

**BLUE WATER FLY FISHING**

**WITH**

**TREY COMBS**

**FRIDAY JUNE 2, 1995**

**FLAMINGO HOTEL  
4TH AND FARMERS LANE  
SANTA ROSA CA, 95405**

**NO HOST COCKTAILS FROM  
6:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.**



**DINNER SERVED  
AT 7:30 P.M.**

**COST IS \$35.00 PER PERSON  
YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF**

**BROILED HERB & BRANDIED  
CHICKEN BREAST**

**ROAST NEW  
SIRLOIN**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our club has continued to grow and now has 138 active members. We have had 32 new members join since July 1, 1994. A belated welcome to all new members and a thank you for your patience in waiting for patches, name tags, cards, and by-laws. (the by-laws are coming- I promise). I hope you have all received your rosters by now; pick one up at the meeting Wednesday if necessary, and also make corrections on the master if you see errors.

With a healthy and growing club we can continue to invite interesting speakers, maintain and support the pond and our casting program, plan more outings, provide better prizes at raffles, and most of all we have a larger resource base of members to share skills, camaraderie and fun. We even get to have new talent step up and take over board positions. The only downside seems to be that we need a bigger meeting place. Anybody want to build a clubhouse?

Tim Barrett and Scott Broome are taking over membership after my 6 year term. Thanks a lot guys. This is actually for the '94-'95 year that really didn't have an official membership chair. I have a strong feeling they will be reelected for the next term also.

The membership chairman position for me was primarily one of keeping the data and getting it out when needed. Club growth, however, was and is really up to all of us by inviting friends and interested fly fishers to meetings and events. It looks like we all did a pretty good job. I would like to acknowledge a few key players who helped the club grow. Dwight Longuevan, our current president, brought in several new members with his energy and frequent contacts with fly fishers at Kings Western Angler. Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle brought in members through his shop contacts and his ongoing casting program. Bob Sisson has also been a major force in club growth through his solid and reliable supervision of the casting pond and his instructions to neophyte casters. Shawn Kempkes put together an interesting agenda of events that brought in new people and Jim Hakel kept them entertained enough to make guests want to come back for the next months act. The **CAST** also played a major role by interfacing with the public and it has certainly been more appealing, interesting and informative since Steve Tubbs took over. Tim Grogan has always been there to fill in and took initiative by planning many trips and projects for the club. He'd probably make a good president, someday. Well I can't single out everybody, but we all helped to make membership and the club grow. Good going guys!



Harry Schoonbaert

## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

*Introducing...the RRFF Classified Ad section.* As suggested by future board member Mark Landucci, during our April board meeting, a classified ad section will be added to *the Cast* for the *personal* use of RRFF club members. If you have a **recreation related item** that you wish to list, send your name, phone number and a short description of the item to: **The Cast, c/o Steve Tubbs, 511 I Street, Petaluma, CA 94952.** This service is provided for active RRFF members only! (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

## WANTED!!! Membership Dues!

**All RRFF members: Membership dues for fiscal year 1995-96 are due July 1st!**

Please send in your membership renewal for next year now! This money is necessary if our club is to continue to provide the quality programs and events for all of us to enjoy!

**Renew your membership now!**

# *The Russian River Fly Fishers*

presents

## **“Blue Water Fly Fishing”**

with

### **Trey Combs**

**Friday, June 2, 1995**

Flamingo Resort Hotel  
4th Street and Farmers Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**No Host Cocktails - 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**

**Dinner served - 7:30 P.M.**

**Cost is \$35.00 for each person attending.**

Trey Combs has been authoring books and articles about fly fishing for more than 25 years. His book, *Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies*, has been called “the Steelheaders Bible” and remains in print after 18 years. Critics have called *Steelhead Fly Fishing*, published in 1991, a “classic in angling literature”.

Trout and salmon fishing have taken Trey from Alaska’s Bristol Bay to Argentina’s Terra Del Fuego and to Russia’s Kola Peninsula. He has fished for saltwater game fish all over the world; destinations that have included Australia, Papua New Guinea and both coasts of Africa, South and Central America. Mr. Combs has taken five different species of billfish on a fly, all in accordance with I.G.F.A. (International Game Fish Association) regulations. He has existing and pending world records for wahoo, big eye tuna, black skipjack and black marlin. For six years he has hosted a fly fishing school at Bahia Pez Vela in Costa Rica.

Trey Combs is a contributing editor for *Fly Fisherman Magazine* and is also a member of the Sage Advisory Team. His original saltwater fly patterns are marketed through *Umpqua Feather Merchants*. Trey has just finished writing his new book, *Blue Water Fly Fishing*, which will be available in November of 1995.

This program highlights the annual Russian River Fly Fishers June Dinner meeting. **Guests are most welcome and urged to attend.** For more information, please contact RRFF Program Director, Shawn Kempkes, at (707) 546-2041. Seating is limited so make your reservations early. Order your dinner selections and reserve your place at the **RRFF June Dinner Meeting featuring Trey Combs** using the reservation form provided on the opposite page.

**Dinner menu includes your choice of one of the following:**

- \* Broiled herb and brandied chicken breast
- \* Roast New York Sirloin

Send your dinner selections and full payment to: **Russian River Fly Fishers,**  
P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

## Membership Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark one of the following membership categories.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **I apply as a new member:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Single membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$35.00 annual dues)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Family membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$40.00 annual dues)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Junior membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$20.00 annual dues)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **I wish to renew my existing membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Single member - \$35.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Family membership - \$40.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Junior membership - \$20.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

Please mail this application and your check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

Please make my reservation for the  
**Russian River Fly Fishers June 2, 1995 Dinner Meeting**  
featuring  
**"Blue Water Fly Fishing" with Trey Combs**

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

Number of people in party \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cost is \$35.00 for *each* person attending.)

Make your menu selections below for each person in your party.

*Dinner will be served at 7:30 P.M.*



- \* **Broiled herb and brandied chicken breast** \_\_\_\_\_ dinner(s).  
\* **Roast New York Sirloin** \_\_\_\_\_ dinner(s).

Mail your reservations and make checks payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.** For more information, please contact  
Shawn Kempkes (707) 546-2014.

---

## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P.O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95405



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

Address correction requested.

---

### 1994-95 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Dwight Longuevan	Vice President: Tim Grogan
Secretary: Bob Ordway	Treasurer: Marshall Lockman
Membership Database: Harry Schoonbaert	Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson	Club Outings: Lee Smith
Program Director: Shawn Kempkes	Raffle Chairman: Jim Hakel
Cast Editor: Steve Tubbs	NCCFFF Club Representative: Bob Neill





Volume 21  
Number 6  
June 1995

## RRFF 1995 - 96 Officers and Board of Directors

Of all of the highlights of our June 2nd dinner meeting, and there were many, the introduction and installment of our new officers and board of directors was perhaps the most significant. After a two year stint as President, Dwight Longuevan passed the responsibilities over to Tim Grogan, and the new board, with an audible sigh of relief.

Under Dwight's leadership, the RRFF saw an upswing in membership and an influx of energy and new ideas that are already impacting the future of our club. His energetic, humorous and knowledgeable approach attracted and renewed interest in the Russian River Fly Fishers and, with the help of Tim Grogan and the board of directors, resulted in a very successful two year term. More importantly, the recruiting of our newest board members, and the upbeat direction our club has taken these past two years, has provided a strong foundation for our continued success. Our thanks and appreciation to Dwight for all of his hard work and for his considerable talents at keeping all of this *fun* - with the hope that his sigh of relief was not so deep as to affect his continued participation and support as a RRFF member.

The new officers and the 1995 - 96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors are as follows:

### RRFF Board of Directors

#### Officers

**President:** Tim Grogan  
**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major

#### Board Members

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett  
**Membership Database:** Scott Broome  
**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes

**Club Outings Chairman:** Lee Smith  
**Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hake  
**Conservation:** Harry Schoonbaert (co-chairman)  
**Conservation:** Marshall Lockman (co-chairman)  
**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry  
**Casting Pond Chairman:** Bob Sisson  
**NCCFFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill

Fulfilling his two year obligation to the board with this election is Bob Ordway, who served as Secretary for the past term and deserves our thanks for his participation on the board. Hopefully Bob's night job will still enable him to participate in our monthly activities. Former board members Harry Schoonbaert, Marshall Lockman and Bob Sisson "re-upped" and were re-elected to another two year term by the membership.

The new board will meet for the first time on Monday, June 19th, at 7:00 PM in the Warrack Hospital Board Room. All board members should make a point of attending this meeting. Our next general meeting will be in July at the Casting Pond. Watch for details in next month's *Cast*.

### General Meeting

*Barbecue and Picnic  
at  
the Casting Pond.*

**Wednesday,  
July 19th  
7:00 P.M.**

**The Casting Pond  
Dan Galvin Park,  
Santa Rosa**

### Board of Directors

**Monday,  
June 19th  
7:00 P.M.**

**Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Out with the old and in with the new, *right?* Well, I guess it's something like that, but I feel more like I'm just changing hats! I'd like to thank you for having me as your president. I wasn't necessarily the best man for the job, but when Dwight asked the board, "Will anyone interested in being President, please step forward", I was the only one who didn't take a step back. (Just kidding).

As you read this, let's stop and give Dwight a round of applause for doing such a great job for the last two years. Hopefully, he'll stick around because he's really a valuable asset to the club. I would also like to thank Steve Tubbs, our new Vice President, for volunteering. Next year I'm sure he'll make a great President.

For those of you who didn't make it to the dinner, it's my privilege to announce that our Pool Captain, Bob Sisson, has been awarded a Life Membership in the RRFF for the many years of dedication and hard work he's given to our club. Bob is one of the charter members of this club and we're very grateful for his participation.

The RRFF is really in great shape right now and I expect this to be a terrific year. We're lining up some very notable and

entertaining speakers - like Trey Combs, Dave Whitlock and Dan Blanton. We've got some great outings planned - to Manzanita Lake, Lava Creek Lodge, Loreto Baja, the North Fork of the Umpqua, Frank's Tract and maybe a kelp bass trip up around Fort Ross.

Don't forget, support and participation make a strong and successful club. Support the raffles, join club outings, volunteer to instruct fly casting, fly tying, photography, or whatever skill you can share, and our club will only get better.

Our next meeting will be a picnic / barbecue at the pond, so bring a rod and your family, or invite a friend, and I'll see you there!

Tim Grogan

## Program Notes

*The RRFF would like to thank **Trey Combs** for his interesting presentation on "Blue Water Fly Fishing" at our June dinner meeting. As Trey gives very few slide presentations each year, his appearance as our dinner guest was greatly appreciated and his program was outstanding. Thanks for a memorable evening!*

*Our July General Meeting will be held at the Casting Pond. It will be a picnic/barbecue type of deal, so bring your food, fixin's, family and fly rods for a little fun! More details in the July Cast.*

*August is traditionally a vacation month and we do not have a General Meeting during this month. Watch **the Cast** for updates on club activities in August.*

*Our September general meeting will feature Dan Blanton. This should be another excellent show and a good kick-off for the striper season.*

*Be sure to mail in your 95-96 dues as soon as possible. This will help enable us to continue providing excellent guest speakers at our club meetings! See you in July.*

## Casting Pond Maintenance

If you've been out to the casting pond in the past week, you will most certainly have noticed an absence of water. As promised by the city parks department, the pond was drained and cleaned during the week of June 5th. Bob Sisson organized a crew of RRFF members to make some needed repairs, over the weekend, on the drain system and to patch a few holes in the liner. As a result, we hope to have the facility full of water and functional by the Wednesday, June 14th, evening casting practice

On Saturday, Bob, Tim Grogan, Lee Smith, Scott Broome and Don Russel jack-hammered out the old drain, removed the debris, and dug out the area to once again place the drain *below* the bottom of the pond. The concrete was then re-poured and the drain screen and gasket assembly remounted. Sunday found Bob pulling double duty, this time with Steve Tubbs, as they installed the new liner in the drain area and patched the tears that had been discovered during the week.

Our thanks to the club members who donated their time this weekend and to Bob Sisson for organizing all of the materials and practically camping in the casting area during the repairs. The RRFF is fortunate to have one of the nicest casting facilities in the state. Come on out and join us at one of our club casting practices (every Wednesday evening), our fly casting instruction clinics (every third Saturday of each month) or at our July Picnic / Barbecue / General Meeting (bring the family to this one!). Let's keep those loops under control and those backcasts strong! Here's to 100 feet!



## POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

### Casting Pond Clinic

**Date:** Saturday, June 17th.

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

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

Reminder for all interested casters who would like to become better. These clinics are staffed with instructors who can help you improve in the use of any kind of fly casting equipment you may be interested in using. Bring your own gear or call Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve one of the club's new top of the line full line or shooting system outfits. The event is intended for both old and new members or non-members who would like to become members. Both the distance casting course and the ring casting courses are there to work out on. Do not forget that the clinics are now **SATURDAY EVENTS**.

The Wednesday evening practice casting sessions are in full swing and will continue until we run out of daylight savings time in the fall.

The Introduction to Fly Casting activity will be held from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 18th.

The next scheduled clinic will be Saturday, July 15th.

Bob Sisson

## Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

March Clinic 1995

60'

#50. Jim Cramer (5wt - SH)

80'

#45. Jim Cramer (5wt - SH)

100'

#29. Jim Cramer (5wt - SH)

120'

#13. Jim Cramer (8wt - SH)

## Club Outings

**June 16-18** brings a RRFF Father's Day club outing to **Manzanita Lake** hosted by Shawn Kempkes and Steve Tubbs. For last minute info, contact Shawn @ 546-2014 or Steve @ 765-1787.

The **Lava Creek/Fall River** trip **July 14-16** still has a half dozen spaces available. This trip has turned into a real family oriented affair and really should be a lot of fun. Contact host Harry Schoonbaert to get in on this *bargain* weekend - 539-8129.

Shawn Kempkes would like to put together a **North Umpqua** trip for steelhead sometime in September. All interested parties should contact Shawn so we can "rough out" the particulars.

*If you are interested in rounding up some RRFF members for a fishing trip, make your suggestions to **Lee Smith**, 537-1421, and we'll see who's interested. We've got some great people in this club and these club outings are a great way to get to know them beyond a "How ya doin'?" at a Wednesday night meeting! If there's someplace you would like to go that you've never been, bring it up! Leastways, if you can't get some (expert) guidance you may find some other adventurous soul who may be interested in doing a little recon with you. Heck...somebody has to do the legwork!*

## LIFETIME MEMBER

At our June 2nd dinner meeting, charter RRFF member **Bob Sisson** was awarded a lifetime membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers. Bob has been with the RRFF since its inception, and has been instrumental in the construction and maintenance of our casting pond facility at Dan Galvin Park. He has served as the club liaison with the city parks people and has been a fixture at all club casting pond events for the past 10 years. His assistance with the club fly casting instruction programs, and his fly casting instruction, has helped interest many newcomers in the sport and has resulted in a number of new club members. Bob also organized the RRFF Fly Casting Achievement Awards program and maintains these records as the Casting Pond Chairman, a position to which he has just been reelected for another term. **Congratulations Bob!**

## On Family Vacations...

Have you ever had a problem coordinating fly fishing and family vacation time when you are the only fly fisher? Am I the only one who has had to negotiate and compromise whether we go to Montana or Maui? I chose our previous three vacation sites with prime fishing as a focal point (as in Yellowstone/Green River, Dolores/San Juan, and Costa Rica). There was, however, a wealth of non fishing activities available at these locations, so I felt that everybody should be satisfied. Usually, however, it seemed I either did not get to fish enough or else I was taking advantage of the good will of others by fishing my brains out and making myself too scarce during the day. Sometimes fishing until after dark, if you can believe it, was also practiced - I did notice this practice can produce cold, soggy meals and stilted fireside conversations (I may get some disagreement here, though).

This past September I reluctantly agreed that my fiance, Gail, could choose the destination. Europe. Not my first choice. The Benelux countries and Ireland, to be exact, were our destinations. I even agreed that we meet Gail's folks in Dublin, who would be there seeking information on their ancestors.

Ireland, I am happy to report, can provide pleasure and enjoyment for fly fishers and non fishers alike. I had always heard the British Isles provide good Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon fishing, but I thought it was with limited access, very restricted, and very expensive. Bob Nauheim, of Fishing International, set me straight on Ireland and the potential of this destination. He suggested a few rivers and gave me an idea what to expect.

For starters, the countryside in southern Ireland is incredibly beautiful and of course much greener than in your mental pictures. Most of the rivers have slow runs and riffle sections, but not much white water. Throw in a few swans and trout that readily rise to dries most of the day and it begins to sound a little like a fantasy. It sounds good now and it was even better then. I fished two rivers in three days. Each area had a distinctive character. The first was the River Suir in county Tipperary near the Rock of Cashel. We stayed at a B & B called The Adrmayle House, a two century old country estate with a mile of river frontage just a short walk through the pasture. The house was run by a lovely Irish woman. Her English husband's family secured the property generations ago when most of Ireland was but a convenient source of supplies for the British aristocracy. Furnished in 19th century pieces and original oils, the accommodations alone were worth the \$30 U.S. per person to say nothing of free access to all fishing on the land. The river here was too deep to wade in most areas and reminded me of a smaller, darker Fall River with soil banks and high weed growth. There was a hatch of Baetis in mid day during a light drizzle the same as we might expect on the Fall when the weather cools off. Eight to ten inchers were eager to gobble my #16 BWO at the only riffle, but I could not get any action from larger Browns lurking under weed growth and overhanging banks using streamers and woolly buggers. (I was hoping for a

fat 23 incher who flunked out of Trinity College). Evening fishing was suggested, but I did have to compromise here, since we had plans for evening dinner after my companions finished their castle tours.

The next day I had another chance to fish the Suir, only this time the desired stretch of water was under the protection of a local fishing club. I had to pay 2 quid (about \$3.50 if my memory serves me) to fish a mile stretch of river below the ruins of Holy Cross Abbey. This decision worked very well. Gail and her folks dropped me off to fish while they toured the ruins and the countryside. This section was upstream of the previous day; shallower, and wider with more riffles and a solid limestone bottom covered with aquatic plants. Again the weather was drizzly and cool with a steady hatch of Baetis and some Sedge. I used the same emerger BWO fly for 2 1/2 hours and caught 8 to 12 inch browns steadily throughout the day.

After the Blarney Woolen Mills, the Blarney Castle, and of course the "Stone" I got to fish the Laune river on the West Coast near the town of Killarney. The weather again was cloudy with a few sprinkles. (This weather scenario was repeated throughout most of our vacation, although it did not affect our plans or dampen our spirits) The Laune is a larger river draining Lake Leane and emptying into Dingle Bay on the west coast. There is a run of Atlantics in September and in the Spring. I did see a 12 pounder caught on bait, but I chose to fish for Browns, again with the BWO cripples and emergers. The fish here ran larger - up to 16 inches and fought more like California 'Bows than the Browns we know here. I had one eager Brown take my fly in the air before it hit the water. I think I gave a loud yell at this time. I know I did not disturb anyone though, since I only saw three or four others flyfishing during these days and three or four men bait fishing for Salmon.

If you like healthy, unpolluted, scenic rivers gently flowing through pastoral landscapes with 11th century castles and ruins scattered about for diversion, Ireland may be a destination to consider. Top this with genuinely friendly people who enjoy a taste of Jamesons or Guinness while conversing in your native language and you have a destination hard to beat. An added feature is you can fish your brains out and know the non-fishers are also having a wonderful time. Although I can not quite understand how they can pass up all the great looking water.

Harry Schoonbaert

## RRFF Library

The **RRFF Book and Video Library** is accepting materials on a loan or donation basis from any members willing to share their accumulated reference libraries. If you have something to contribute, bring the goods to the next general meeting and contact either **Rodger Magill** or **Tom Lynn** to complete the transaction. Some items are already available for club members to "check out" at our monthly meetings. See Rodger and Tom for more details!

## QUICK, GRAB THE NET!!

And not that smelly, tangled thing hanging from the back of your vest! The Internet is upon us and it is changing the way we communicate. Since I empty out our P.O. Box I get to see what other clubs are up to. The Delta Fly Fishers have published a list of fly fishers' E-mail addresses that I am passing on in this newsletter and the Davis Fly Fishers even have their own World Wide Web page on the Internet. Fly Fishing magazine has recently featured the Davis club for being the first in the country to go WWW. They have club news, fishing reports, tips, conservation news, and more - available to anyone on the planet with a computer, a modem and Internet access. For those already on line the Davis address is: <http://wheel.dcn.davis.ca.us/~tamarten/flyish/htm>.

For the neophytes out there, the Internet allows us to link up with information on any topic placed on line. Most of us have seen the great fish report gathered by **Fish First** in Berkeley. If you have access to an Internet line you could read this info moments after it is posted, rather than two weeks after your club's newsletter publishes it. As the new Conservation Chair, I'm looking forward to communicating directly with conservation, research and legislative sources on latest policies and events. It's very quick and easy to send an E-mail message to legislators as more of them get on line. Bill and Hillary are, by the way.

Besides the hardware requirements (computer, modem, etc. ~ \$1200 to \$1500 for a fast system) you need access to the Internet. The easiest way to do this is sign up with one of the

carriers such as America On Line, Compuserve or Prodigy which will cost about \$12 per month minimum. After you get the hang of it you can get access through SRJC, or SSU if you are taking a class. The public library system has free, but limited access due to high volume.

Here's a list of "The Fishnet" folks taken from the Delta Flyfisher's June newsletter. Jerry Neuburger, the Delta Club's editor, credits Steve B(?) of Chico FF for the term "The Fishnet"

Ray Cole	Delta FF	74267.744@compuserve.com
Gene Johnson	Delta FF	DANC18A@prodigy.com
Dave Ford	CAFFU	DaveF17965@aol.com
Richard Izmirian	Bay Area FFF	Richardiz@aol.com
M. Mitchell-Wise	GWFF	75222.1064@compuserve.com
Britt Phillips	Santa Lucia FF	75013.341@compuserve.com
Al Smatsky	Delta FF	algofish@aol.com
Walt Kotecki	Delta FF	WalterK114@aol.com
Jerry Neuburger	Delta FF	PSJK47A@prodigy.com
Marty Seldon	San Jose FC	mmseldon@aol.com
Dick Hubbard	Hi Sierra FF	TKSD64A@prodigy.com
Harry Schoonbaert	Russ Riv FF	Harryls@aol.com
Steve B	Chico FF	SteveB@aol.com

Give me a call at 707-539-8129 for more info or send me an E-mail note about your favorite spot.

Harry Schoonbaert



## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a **recreation related item** that you wish to list in the **RRFF Classified Ads**, send your name, phone number and a short description of the item to: **The Cast, c/o Steve Tubbs, 511 I Street, Petaluma, CA 94952**. This service is provided for *active RRFF members only!* (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

**Sage 61000 RPL** (6wt. - 10'), as new, \$300.00.  
**Orvis 9 1/2' 8wt. Stream King graphite**, \$125.00.  
**Custom 9 1/2' 6wt. Fisher blank**, professionally made, \$150.00.  
 Contact Paul Major - 579-0990 days, 539-5437 evenings.

**8' Fiberglass pram**, very stable, great boat! \$300.00.  
 Contact Tim Grogan - 538-2578.

## WANTED!!!

### Membership Dues!

**All RRFF members: Membership dues for fiscal year 1995-96 are due July 1st!**

Please send in your membership renewal for next year now! This money is necessary if our club is to continue to provide the quality programs and events for all of us to enjoy!

**Renew your membership now!**



## June Dinner Meeting

It was a promising spring evening, breezy, with mild temperatures and clear blue skies that questioned the unseasonable wetness of weeks and months previous, and teased with the hope that the seasons had righted themselves and that the weather was once again as it should be. Recent rain forecasts had failed to produce, seeming instead to give way to a more desirable pattern of sun, wind and the almost tidal action of the marine layer as it crept inland from the coast, only to be beaten back by the morning sun until evening when it could once again gain purchase.

The sunshine had righted things. Already my restlessness, and the helpless disgust that had been building with each successive weekend of rain, was slowly burning away, as the fog, with the increasing heat of the sun.

I couldn't help but be upbeat. Optimism was beginning to replace the cabin fevered, self pitying, "*is it ever going to end?*" (whine!) attitude that predominated the past months. In only a short time, the sun had dried waterlogged spirits and was burning anticipation into me for the coming summer.

It was the evening of June 2nd. As I turned into the parking lot at the Flamingo Hotel, memories of earlier visits with family members, lodging here for the Sonoma County Fair, further strengthened my outlook. The temperature seemed to creep up to the mid summer levels that I remembered, and it was not hard to picture the lot of us at poolside, cooling down after a day of dust and horses. I eagerly climbed from the car amidst the lengthening shadows and the first orange tinges of the setting sun.

Trey Combs has long been one of the people who helped define my conception of fly fishing. One of the earliest books that I purchased on the sport was *Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies*, followed a year or so later by *Steelhead Fly Fishing*. I had seen Trey speak three or four times at different fishing shows on topics that ranged from salmon and steelhead fly fishing to the long range blue water trips that he has become involved with in recent years. His presentations were always interesting and informative and his easy-going delivery only furthered my respect and conviction that he is an active participant in the group of anglers that is setting, and breaking, the boundaries of our sport today.

Upon entering the well appointed banquet facilities of the Flamingo Hotel, my upbeat mood was furthered still by the pleasant surroundings. *This place was nice!* Plenty of room with a good view of the presentation area from all of the tables and, more importantly, a handy bar tucked off neatly to one side. It was easily the best banquet room of any RRFF dinner meeting I had yet attended.

Over 70 RRFF members and their guests shared our annual June dinner meeting. This meeting traditionally marks the "changing of the guard" as the newly elected board members are announced and assume their positions on the board and as the new officers finally realize what they've been duped in to, smile

bravely, and try to make the best of it! But this dinner meeting had an added attraction - Trey Combs.

Now, my experience in saltwater fly fishing is somewhat limited. As a relative newcomer to this sport, most of my fly fishing has taken place in the Sierra Nevada's, the Yellowstone National Park region of Wyoming and Montana and on a bunch of local lakes and a few farm ponds. There have been a few other trips to other places, but unfortunately I do have to work a little bit to pretend to be able to afford all of this expensive stuff we fly fishers can't seem to live without. In fact, the bulk of my saltwater experience stems from 5 years spent in coastal North Carolina, fishing most weekends, anywhere from 3 to 25 miles off the coast at New River, with my father who was then stationed at Camp Lejeune. We became somewhat proficient at king and spanish mackerel, bluefish, bonita, albacore, jacks and later on got our jollies fishing for hammerheads and tiger sharks with float rigs and live bait. But this was all on conventional tackle and often involved long hours of trolling (except for the float fishing). Fly fishing was not a part of our repertoire.

Yet despite my lack of experience in the saltwater aspect of fly fishing, I still find myself intensely interested in the techniques and the opportunities of this developing arena for our sport. This is a new frontier, where records that have stood untouched for decades are falling by the wayside, only to be broken again by the next group out! Experiencing big, explosive and extremely fast fish on a fly rod has "grabbed" my interest and listening to speakers like Trey Combs helps only to "set the hook" in anticipation of getting some firsthand experience. (Too bad the hook always sets deepest in the wallet!) My anticipation for the program ahead was mounting.

The club business went smoothly, after a quite tasty dinner - once again a step up from some of our recent fare. None of the new board members claimed that they had been "tricked" or "rail-roaded" (unusual considering...) and Tim Grogan took over as president despite all of the protesting and reluctance expressed by Dwight as we dragged him "kicking and screaming" from his presidency of the past two years (If only he'd read the by-laws). Tim's first official act was to bestow a lifetime RRFF membership on charter member Bob Sisson, who was also re-elected, for the gazillionth time, to the board as our Casting Pond Chairman, a position he has held for nearly 10 years. Then, after fishing reports (ask Hakel) and raffle tickets, Tim introduced Bob Nauheim to welcome our guest speaker. Bob's eloquent remarks attested to the years of friendship and fishing that these two men share, and so launched the evening's entertainment.

The program was excellent. Starting with salmon fishing deep water off the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, it proceeded to big game marlin fishing and the intensive long range trips out of San Diego, of which new possibilities are presenting themselves with each trip. Trey took us to Ascension Bay, to Belize, to Christmas Island, to the flats and to deep water. We fished for bonefish, permit, barracuda, tarpon, dorado, roosterfish, sailfish, marlin, wahoo, tuna, mackerel and salmon. The presentation was loose, friendly and interspersed with questions and humor. Trey stated at one point "This is like old home week, I either know or recognize so

## Dinner Meeting (cont.)...

many people in this group...". The show ran late, although few noticed. My anticipation had been well founded.

When the slides stopped spinning and light returned to the banquet hall, we were left with the somewhat anti-climatic task of raffling off Hakel's bounty. Anti-climatic for everyone save Paul Major, who walked (danced) off with the Sage 3wt. LL with Lamson reel that constituted a *grand* grand prize. Trey Combs also donated his book, *Steelhead Fly Fishing*, as a door prize and it took a little doing to find a winner who didn't already own a copy.

When all was said and done, I felt that this dinner meeting was one of the best that I've attended. The facilities were more than adequate (there was even a comment about "this is *too* nice for you guys!") and the presentation was first class. Our thanks to Trey Combs for a great show and to Shawn Kempkes for all of the organizational work and putting it all together. For those of you who missed this one, mark your calendars now for the Christmas dinner meeting featuring Dave Whitlock. More details about this promising meeting will be published in future issues of *the Cast*.



Steve Tubbs

## Hello...Chuck Perry!

Not that it hasn't been fun, but with the new board comes a new editor for *the Cast*. After serving as editor for the past year, our recent elections have found me with a new job and new board member, **Chuck Perry**, has generously agreed to try his hand at publishing our newsletter. *This is not an easy job!!!* It takes a lot of time even when you have received articles to publish...and a lot longer when you have to make it all up!

Our newsletter is the link between our board of directors and the membership. It is the only forum we have that will reach 100 percent of our members and it is only as good as the information it provides. Many times this past year, I asked for articles, stories, cartoons, *anything* that would make it a little bit easier to bring you a newsletter. Variety...different viewpoints, writing styles, ideas...*these* make a newsletter interesting! We are starting to get there.

Let's all help Chuck continue to make *the Cast* an interesting reflection of our club and a meter of where we're headed. His is a difficult job, yet there is not another that has any more importance or a greater impact on the RRFF and its activities. **We must continue to make it better! Thank you Chuck!**

Steve Tubbs



## RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS Membership Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the following membership categories.**

☐ **I apply as a new member:**

☐ (Single membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$35.00 annual dues)

☐ (Family membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$40.00 annual dues)

☐ (Junior membership - \$10.00 initiation fee *plus* \$20.00 annual dues)

☐ **I wish to renew my existing membership:**

☐ (Single member - \$35.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

☐ (Family membership - \$40.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

☐ (Junior membership - \$20.00 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

Please mail this application and your check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

## **RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

P.O. Box 2673

Santa Rosa, CA. 95405



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

Address correction requested.

### **1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors**

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)      **Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci (528-4547)      **Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)  
**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)      **Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)      **Club Outings:** Lee Smith (537-1421)  
**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)      **Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hakel (869-9033)  
**Conservation Co-Chairmen:** Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)  
**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)      **NCCFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)





# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 7  
July 1995

## The Pres sez:

As many of you may know, I became a general contractor this year. Before I quit my job to go into business, my boss warned me that it was against the regulations to hold both a contractors and fishing license simultaneously. From the amount of fishing I've been able to do I think he was right. It seems most of the fishing I do lately is thinking about fishing I've done or will do soon hopefully!

This hot weather is really getting me fired up for our Baja trip so I thought I'd share an article I wrote for Fishing International with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although we always have a good time when we go to Loreto, previous obligations and two years of less than productive fishing due to El Niño, had kept me from booking this year. But, late reports of dolphin fishing like that of the old days, forced my hand and I booked a trip for the last week of the month with good friend Binky Castleberry.

On our first day we purchased the usual 15 live mackerel for chum and headed for the tidal rip that runs off Punta Lobos at the north end of Isla Carmen. We began trolling flies up the rip and hooked-up instantly on a pair of dorado of 7 or 89 pounds. What terrific fighters dorado are. I once heard Dan Blanton say... "a dorado will tow the skin off an equal size salmon," and he wasn't kidding. The best part was these were the smallest fish in a school of around thirty fish. While the dorado were gorging themselves on small pieces of chummed mackerel, we landed our fish and started casting streamers into the melee. The next school we encountered was equally disinterested in our streamers so my partner switched to a large red and white popper and that was all she wrote. Those fish ate poppers like candy! Day two saw us heading for a small cove in Isla Carmen in search of sardines. A throw net borrowed from another panga captain netted a hundred or more sardines. We noticed a group of six or seven pangas, and upon approaching them noticed bent rods and leaping dorado everywhere. In the center of the action was a large patch of seaweed, "sargasso" grass. These floating weeds almost always hold fish. Our captain tossed half a dozen live sardines over before shutting off the motor. The bait darted about nervously for a few seconds, then all hell broke loose. From out of nowhere a pack of neon green and purple blurs began slashing at anything in the water, including our poppers. We stripped as fast as we could to imitate the terrified sardines. The dorado would leap from three feet away, taking the poppers on the way down, then greyhound across the surface for forty to fifty feet.

"Intense," best describes the action when you first hit the school. Cast, strip, strip, hook, jump, lose, set, strip, strip, hook, jump, jump, run, land, cast strip, strip... This would go on for thirty minutes to an hour then the school would disappear and we'd catch our breath with a cold cerveza.

We each had sailfish eat our flies but couldn't get hooks into them. We caught lots of bonito and black skipjack, that, pound for pound, pull harder than just about anything.

On our best day this year we hit a school of fish that ran between 10 and 20 pounds with a few larger fish mixed in. The fish were so aggressive they fought and raced each other for our poppers. The best dorado we landed out of this pack peeled an honest 100 yards of backing against a very tight Fin Nor drag.

This year's trip to Loreto was the best fishing we ever had, period. My partner and I landed between 120 and 130 dorado, from 8 to 18 pounds in six days. 85% of those fish were caught on surface poppers with 9 wt. floating line outfits.

If you're interested in going next year, 1996, give me a call.

See ya,  
Tim Grogan

Many thanks to Fishing International for allowing us to excerpt this article!! Ed.

# **General Meeting**

*Barbecue and Picnic at the Casting Pond*

**Wednesday July 19th, 1995**

**The Casting Pond**

Dan Galvin Park

Santa Rosa

---

## **Board of Directors**

**Monday July 17th, 1995**

Warrack Hospital Board Room

2449 Summerfield Road

Santa Rosa

## **Club Outings**

Well, Fly Fishers, summer is upon us and a lot of us are probably planning our own outings to the wonderful places of our dreams. Lets keep those dreams alive and not forget about Fall fishing. Now is the time to come up with some exciting Fall adventures. The family picnic and meeting July 19 at the casting pond is the perfect time to explore some of these ideas. Please do not hesitate to offer them up! This year we hope to have a more organized and full schedule to fill out the year, but it will take the participation of all the members to make this successful. I know stepping forward as a trip leader may seem a bit overwhelming at first, but you will find lots of support once you June in. I personally will give my utmost to any proposal, so lets get the ideas and juices flowing.

**UPCOMING PROPOSALS:** Tim Grogan has proposed an August outing to either Shelter Cove or Bodega for rock fish from boats. This would be a spur of the moment affair due to the weather and ocean conditions. If you are interested you should contact Tim or sign up at the July meeting.

Shawn Kempkes has proposed a North Umpqua trip for steelhead sometime in September. All interested parties should contact Shawn to rough out the particulars.

'Some other proposals are a smallmouth bass outing on the Russian River in August. This would require someone with some experience to step forward as trip leader. Also a camping trip to the Trinity or Klamath in late September or October for salmon. Let's hear some feedback at our July meeting.

Lee Smith

## **1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors**

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci 528-4547)

**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)

**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)

**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)

**Conservation Co-Chairmen** Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)

**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)

**Club Outings:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hakel (869-9033)

**NCCFFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)

---

# VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

*It finally looks as if summer has joined us!* Although a little late for our club outing to Manzanita Lake, the last week or so has found us at the other weather extreme, where any water calls forth images of swimming rather than wetting a line. How quick things change! One week I'm hoping for a break in the weather so that I can get out and *fish*, the next week I wish I were one!

I would like to thank the membership for their assistance in allowing me to pass on the editor duties for *The Cast*. When Tim asked me to consider helping him out as vice president for this next year, I felt that at worst it couldn't take any more time than publishing the newsletter. Although I did enjoy editing *the Cast*, it does require quite an investment in time. **Chuck Perry** has agreed to assume these responsibilities as the new editor, but I'm sure he wouldn't turn down *any* offers for assistance! If any of you can help out with articles, layout, mailing or suggestions, please offer your services. A good newsletter will require a commitment from all of us.

Our June club outing, to Manzanita Lake, turned out to be a great time with a number of RRFF members participating despite the inclement weather. Ted Adkins, Travis Lipscomb, Scott Broome, Joe Craig, Rodger and Justin Magill, Shawn Kempkes and I established "base camp" in the shadow of Mt. Lassen (there *would* have been a shadow had there been some sun) after joining Scott and Pam Lewis, who were passing through Manzanita on their way back to Santa Rosa. We spent most of the weekend courting the nicer weather down at Hat Creek, but enjoyed the campground facilities at Manzanita Lake in spite of the rain. (For those of you who may have gone on some of Charlie "Rainmaker" Schelter's club outings, this probably sounds kind of normal.) Our group was small enough, and the area diverse enough, that we could all fish good water without feeling like we were pounding the fishery by descending on it *en masse* - a necessary consideration when planning a group outing. With the sunshine now full upon us, let's get some more outings planned! If there's someplace you'd like to go, suggest it to Lee Smith, our outings chairman, and we'll see who's interested!

The July general meeting, at the Casting Pond, will be a family style barbecue compliments of the RRFF. Bring family, friends and fly rods for a little fun! This will be the last time that we meet before our September general meeting, featuring Dan Blanton, so come on out and enjoy our terrific casting facility. Hope to see all of you there. In the meantime...

*...Accurate casts and drag-free floats!*

Steve Tubbs

---

## Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

---

### June Clinic 1995

60'

- #19. Brian Ray (8Wt-SH)
- #30. Monte Springer (8Wt-SH)

80'

- #32. Brian Ray (8Wt-SH)
- #46. Monte Springer (8Wt-SH)

100'

- #37. Brian Ray (8Wt-SH)
- #51. Monte Springer (8Wt-SH)

(Congratulations to each of you!! Ed)



### "Away we go!"

Previously mentioned in *The Cast* was an outing to the North Umpqua River near Glide, Oregon. The dates will be September 21st through 24th. There is an October caddis hatch at this time of year. This hatch gives anglers an opportunity to catch big summer steelhead on a dry fly!

For more information contact Shawn Kempkes at 546-2014.



## CONSERVATION

Recently I took it upon myself to redo our club bylaws. Previously, the handful of copies available were 1990 7th generation photocopy versions complete with spots, smudges, and broken letters. As a former quick print shop owner, I could not convince myself to go quite that "quick and dirty", in the trade jargon, to reproduce this poor quality document. I decided to scan the 14 pages of outline-typed manuscript rather than retype at my blazing 25 wpm. Thanks to scanners, word processors, computers, and other high technology aids, the club now has updated clean copies of the bylaws available on disk as well as hard copy. This only took over a year to complete. A poor typist may have taken 10 hours. Oh well, I learned a lot. Actually two things stand out. Scanners don't do a very good job distinguishing poorly defined type faces and we actually have something in the bylaws concerning conservation.

This may be a surprise to many, but I had always heard from other board members and members at large that our club is primarily a social club, used by the members to kick back, converse, and enjoy ourselves within the world of fly fishing fact and fantasy while we plan ahead for yet another "trip of a lifetime". Conservation issues were too controversial. The "C" word was seldom spoken aloud. The Conservation position on our board since my 10 years as a member has been Siberia. A real pariah. Other board members, including yours truly, would tolerate a few comments at board meetings or give lip service to a clean-up campaign, but there never was much support for any activity. It was no wonder we had a difficult time keeping the post filled. Too many bankers, realtors, developers, growers, and other Russian River water users were club members and might be offended by bringing up hard core conservation issues. I heard this statement more than once. By being exposed to the bylaws for such an extended period I actually took the time to read them, and..... wouldn't you guess? There are actually two paragraphs of the 1990 Bylaws ten paragraphs under Section 3, (a) on purposes for club foundation that are concerning conservation. It seems to me our club founders placed more emphasis on conservation than we do currently.

Preservation, conservancy, safekeeping, maintenance, ecological equilibrium; these are the first words in my on-line word processor thesaurus on conservation. In this spirit, as the Conservation co-chair (along with Marshall Lockman), I will attempt to put the "C" back into club functions. My own tack will probably be by picking up pertinent, relevant issues over the net and from other clubs and relaying the info in the *CAST*. I will attempt to present an objective approach to controversial issues, but definitely with my own slant.

Today's Press Democrat, Friday the 30th of June, informs us that the U.S. Supreme Court kept the authority of the Endangered Species Act intact. Sounds like a big win for habitat = forests = clean cool rivers and spawning beds = smolts = Salmon and Steelhead. Sounds like good news to me, but then I don't own 200,000 acres of virgin Redwood, either.

Harry Schoonbaert

## "After all, this was a fishing trip..."

"Baaahhh...roooooommmmm!"

Silence.

"Baaahhh...roooooommmmm!"

It was a passable imitation of a foghorn, deep, reverberating and slightly muffled by the conditions that prompted it.

"Baaahhh...roooooommmmm!"

The water rippled gently as my fin just broke the surface. To my left, a stump appeared out of the gloom, gaining definition and form as I glided silently past.

"There's one!"

Splashing.

A few quick kicks spun the pontoon boat around and I could just barely make out the shadowy form of Shawn Kempkes, rod held high and arced under the weight of a sizeable fish.

"This is a *good* one!"

The reel sang...

And so began our Russian River Fly Fishers outing to Manzanita Lake, on a cold, wet winter's weekend in mid June. *Father's Day weekend!* Of course this scenario was in keeping with nearly every other fishing trip I'd been a part of this year. So far, my fishing box score read: Rain 8, Sunshine 1. An "Oh-fer-eight" on trips of any consequence, the lone "1" being an afternoon excursion to a local farm pond on a rather pleasant evening when the smallmouth jumped all over themselves in their eagerness to inhale a #10 black leech. A day befitting sunshine, shorts and floating a farm pond.

Our Manzanita excursion had started out on a somewhat questionable note. The *latest* "late season winter storm sweeping down from the gulf of Alaska" had settled in over the state on Wednesday and was showing a decided reluctance to move on, although it was being prompted to do so by some of the finest weather watchers in the area. With that coaching, the storm system had simply settled in over Northern California, slowed down, and readied itself to further discredit the prognosticators of weekend sunshine and the return of more seasonable weather.

Last minute phone calls to the RRFF'ers that had expressed an interest in "snow camping" at Manzanita Lake, found all parties still "rarin' to go", a few of them even managing to sound eager about it. Armed with a forecast of clearing skies, a beautiful Saturday (!) and a somewhat shakier Sunday, Friday evening found Shawn and I roaring up I-5, directly into a clear horizon and a dazzling sunset that suggested maybe the forecasts, for once, were right. I, for one, couldn't help but feel that maybe we would beat the weather this weekend, figuring that my losing streak on previous fishing trips would have to end sometime.

The drive was promising, and before dark, just outside of Redding, heading east for Lassen National Park, the setting sun teased us as the few remaining clouds scattered across the sky. The night brought stars, and as both stars and sunshine had been scarce in recent days, things were looking good. In retrospect, kind of like the "eye" of a hurricane. We arrived at the Manzanita Lake Campground at 10:00 P.M., under the stars, ready to pitch camp.



More people would camp, and venture into our national parks, if they could expect to receive the welcome that awaited Shawn and I as we pulled into the campground area. Berthed in the parking lot, its welcoming lights advertising hospitality, was Ted Adkins "tent", approximately 30 plus feet of comfort from which emanated distinctly (and I'll swear to this!) the unmistakable clinking of ice cubes! In fact, no sooner had our headlights scanned the lot, than we could see Ted and Travis Lipscomb waving us in to moor alongside, a welcome full of promise although not quite conducive to "making camp". As we were, after all, on a fishing trip, the chance to sample a few of Ted's ice cubes only delayed our selection of a campsite by a hour or so when we, somewhat reluctantly, went off in search of the rest of our group.

"Making camp", more specifically "pitching a tent", at 11:30 in the evening is not an engaging prospect. However, help arrived with the surprise appearance of Scott Broome and Joe Craig (and a bottle of - whiskey wasn't it?) who had obviously listened to the same weather reporters we had. After a beer (first), we finally got the tent up by about 1:30 A.M., probably to the considerable relief of the other campers in our loop. This was the inaugural trip for my new Alaskan Guide Model 6-Man Dome Tent (with Vestibule) and with Joe's expert help (he has the *same* tent) and with Scott and Shawn's supervision, we made quick work of the bottle. The stars were no longer visible overhead.

Saturday dawned sunny - for a couple of minutes. Then the fog sucked up around Mt. Lassen and blanketed us in drizzle. Not so bad! We headed out for a look at the lake, after running into Scott and Pam Lewis who filled us in on what had been happening since they had arrived earlier in the week. We were greeted by fog! But the water was fairly calm and, although we couldn't see much, we decided to pump up the boats and give it a go. Scott and Joe decided to head off for Hat Creek, and Ted and Travis eventually followed them. Scott and Pam lit out for home, having spent a few weeks already fishing the north state. The breeze picked up slightly as the fog hunkered down to get a better foothold on the lake.

We fished Manzanita until our toes practically froze off. (Scott later told us that the water temperature where the stream entered the lake had read 41 degrees.) Probably no longer than a couple of hours at most. Shawn had the hot hand, hooking up six and landing four, mostly in the 16 - 18 inch range, all thick and healthy fish. I covered more water, having to return to the car for a missing fishing license and a little practice in navigating by compass. Eleven o'clock found us both thawing out on shore, toes numb, when the fog lifted completely and presented me my first full view of Manzanita Lake in probably 15 years. It is a beautiful lake, smaller than I remembered, and on this morning deserted, save for two fishermen along the bank near the spawning stream. As the fog lifted, it was quickly replaced by the rear guard of the past week's storms and within minutes it began to rain. The "weather" had found us. "The mountains make their own weather..." Shawn stated glumly as we headed up to the van for some shelter and lunch.

Two hours, of continuous rain, later found us heading down the mountain to join the rest of our group at Hat Creek, with a promise of only partly cloudy skies (with occasional showers) to look forward to. We had run into Rodger and Justin Magill, who themselves had just arrived at the campground after an early morning start, and the four of us decided to head on out to "Hat Creek Park", at the 299 bridge, to, if nothing else, at least get away from the rain at Manzanita. The weather on Hat Creek was considerably better, and the afternoon fishing was tough as fish worked the slick water east of the 299 bridge

and throughout Hat Creek Park. Ted and Travis caught up with us and Ted managed to "rob the cradle" by actually catching one of the younger creek residents, a feat he defended by claiming that we were *actually* fishing. That of course prompted beers all around and, in our zeal not to be outdone, Shawn, Rodger, Justin and I headed off downstream to fish the limestone bluffs and the riffle section below. Fishing remained tough, a few small fish being taken sporadically on various flies. Justin favored an elk hair caddis, which landed a few fish. BWO's, PMD's, little yellow stones, caddis; all were on the river, along with the occasional green drake. Speculation ranged as to whether the fish were feeding on emergers, cripples, nymphs or on the various insects we could see on the surface. Yet despite our efforts to determine what was what, no one found the key and we were relegated to simply enjoying some good fishing (if not catching).

Our late return to the campground found things progressing in pretty much the same way as they had been when we left Manzanita around noon. The rain, although not quite as substantial, was still steady and prompted us to make some necessary changes in our campsite in the hopes of achieving a dry eating and cooking area in which to hunker down for the evening. Once the tarp had been rigged into the trees, the barbecue started, the lanterns lit, the stove fired up and the Crown Royal unsealed, we began to warm up. After all, this was a fishing trip. No sooner had the crown been removed from the Royal, a couple of cups attached to the hand of Scott Broome mysteriously appeared. *Amazing! And those guys were camped at least 10 sites away!*

We feasted. Prime rib, cut into 1" (plus) steaks, fried onions and potatoes, baked beans and our liquid amenities warmed us up quickly. By the time we quit trying to get Justin to eat all that was left (we didn't want to throw anything away) the rain had even let up. Surprised that Scott and Joe hadn't returned for a *Royal* encore - after all this was a fishing trip - Shawn and I grabbed up the bottle in the hopes of scouting them out. When we arrived at their camp, all was dark, but some good natured flashlight work finally roused Scott out of his sleeping bag *at only 11:00 P.M.!* Mumbling something about getting up at five to go back down to Hat Creek in the morning, we figured that if these guys were actually going to act like fishermen we probably could cut them some slack. Our last hope lay with the whereabouts of Ted and Travis, no one having seen them since the afternoon at Hat Creek Park. After a little reconnaissance, we figured they must have headed up to Reno...what with Ted's exhibition of skill on the Hat and all.

Sunday morning brought sunshine. Scott and Joe had pulled out earlier (than 7:00 A.M. anyway) and were probably well rested, at least.. We broke camp, actually getting things relatively dry, and headed for the lake. It started to sprinkle. Already the wind had picked up considerably over yesterday, and although a few float tubers were heading out on the water, we opted once again for Hat Creek and to avoid the "weather" at Manzanita.

Parking at "Powerhouse", we decided to avoid the crowds and to head downstream to "Carbon Bridge" and points beyond. Once again, there were a number of different insects on the water, with caddis and PMD's predominant. We walked downstream in search of feeding fish.

The afternoon was warm and the partly cloudy skies of Saturday were giving way to mostly sunny with only an occasional sprinkle. With nothing much happening on the surface, we continued down river to "Teal (Wood Duck) Island", where a few fish were feeding in the slot alongside the island. We fished to these fish for over two hours, throwing fly after fly at them and receiving only half-hearted grabs with no



hook-ups. Justin managed to hook and land a nice 12" fish a little further downstream, once again on a elk hair caddis, but both Shawn and I were busy with our prospective "Oh-fers" and spending a lot of time washing flies. About 4:30, we decided to cross the river and head back up to Powerhouse, fishing the opposite bank on the way back to the car.

The river had changed during our afternoon at Teal Island. Fish were now rising readily, dotting the slick surface as they fed. Having lost Rodger some hours ago, to a likely spot near Carbon Bridge, we decided to stop and fish this area on our way back, and hopefully cross paths with Rodger again in the process. We stopped, downstream of the parking area, where the fish were rising steadily. Again we repeated the ritual, throwing everything we had at the rising fish, and with the same success. Shawn managed to hook up a nice fish on a mayfly cripple but broke off. Other than a few other *brief* grabs, our success was spelled out in seven letters "S-K-U-N-K-E-D!!" We headed back for the car, leaving Justin and Rodger a river full of feeding fish, feeling quite humble about the whole affair. Don't get me wrong, the *fishing* was real good!

The drive home was uneventful, save for the fact that it finally did look as if the stormy weather of the past week had finally given way to more seasonable expectations. We left Powerhouse around 7:00 P.M., and arrived back in Petaluma around 11:30, Shawn continuing on to Santa Rosa from there. It had been a good trip, fun, despite all the "weather". The fishing had been tough - those fish are really fished over! - but it had been good, and the fish were there. Although we only were able to fish Manzanita Lake briefly on Saturday, it is a beautiful lake that I plan to visit again as soon as I get an opportunity.

Looking back, it is apparent to me how much more there is to a fishing trip than merely catching fish. I did not do well in the "catching" department this weekend, only landing two small fish for two *heavy* days of fishing, one of those days getting completely skunked! And yet the "fishing" was great; challenging, humbling and demanding. It also provided an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the other members of our club, outside of the format of a monthly meeting. The company was good, the food good, and we *never* ran out of ice! Hey, after all, this was a fishing trip!

Steve Tubbs

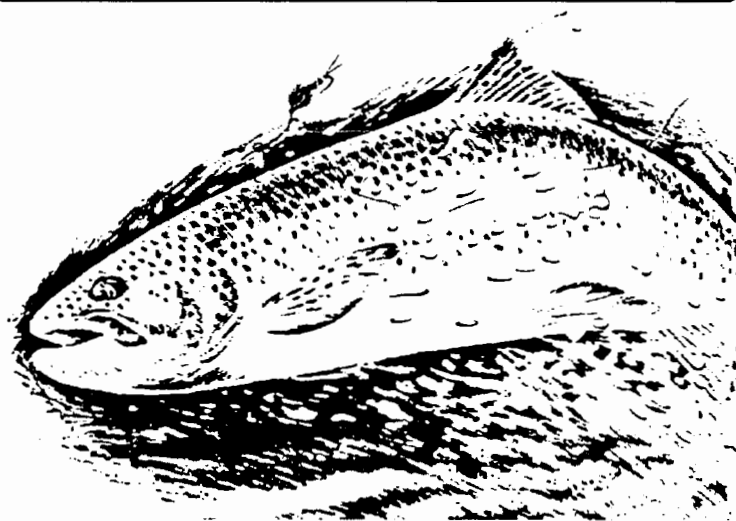
# Wanted!!

## Membership Dues!

**All RRFF members: Membership dues for fiscal year 1995-96 are due July 1st!**

Please send in your membership renewal for next year now! This money is necessary if our club is to continue to provide the quality programs and events for all of us to enjoy!

**Renew your membership now!**



## Upcoming Events

Mark Wednesday, July 19, 1995 on your calendar! That's the next regular meeting of the RRFF. The club is providing free hot dogs, hamburgers, beans and soft drinks for members and their families. The festivities will start with the regular Wednesday afternoon casting circa 4:30 P. M. Dinner will be served 'bout 6:30 P. M.. Scott Broome, RRFF board member "parr" excellence, is the star of this event! Be sure to thank him for all his efforts!!

There were still a couple of openings for the Lava Creek-Fall River trip July 14th-16th. Get hold of Harry Schoonbaert @ 539-8129 for more info.

The September meeting is one you won't want to miss! Dan Blanton will be doing his presentation on stripers in the Delta. September, October & November are 'premo' months for this developing freshwater fishery. Tim Grogan had fishing there that was as hot as the weather during the recent heat wave. Ask him about it!

Program chairman, Shawn Kempkes, gets a little nervous when you put him in front of a group with a microphone in his hand. He must be a totally different person on the phone. Shawn has hooked **Dave Whitlock** for the December dinner meeting of the RRFF.

WAY TO GO SHAWN!!

Ed

---

# POOL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Casting Pond Clinic

---



**Date:** Wednesday, July 19th, 1995  
**Time:** 6:00 P. M. (Casting begins about 4:30 P. M.)  
**Place:** Casting pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of  
Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa.

This evening is for fun. Bring your gear and loosen up your casting arm a little. The rings are set and the distance course is ready to use for all comers. Instruction will also be available. If you wish to use one of the club's new outfits, call Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to lock one up. More details regarding the barbecue and picnic will appear else where in the "Cast" and will be provided by the program director.

The Wednesday evening, from 4:30 or so, practice and instructional session is in progress and will continue until late fall.

The regular Saturday Clinics will be on hold until September at which time they will resume at times and dates to be displayed later.

The next scheduled clinic will be September 16th.

Bob Sisson

This is my first edition of "The Cast" and the first time I've ever put a newsletter together. **WHAT A JOB!!** I now have a much greater appreciation for Steve Tubb's efforts in putting "The Cast" together over the last year. Don't think you're through Steve—I've got a lot of questions you haven't answered yet! If any of you try to phone Steve and get a lot of busy signals, just blame me! I'm going to need a lot of help from him and all the rest of you putting together future issues. Many thanks to all of you who contributed articles to this issue of The Cast. It made my job much easier!!

**MANY THANKS STEVE! IT WAS A JOB WELL DONE!!!**

Chuck Perry

---

## Editor

The changing of the guard requires some new information. The new address for contributions to "The Cast" is:

**The Cast**  
c/o Chuck Perry  
2985 Thorn Rd.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

My phone number is 823-2029. I'm retired but if I'm not in, please talk to my recorder. I'll get back to you ASAP!

You can mail copy to me and I'll type and format it. Better yet, send it to me on a 3.5" disk. If you work on a Mac, I'm currently using ClarisWorks or MS Works 3.0 on a Power Mac 7100/66. If you're DOS oriented my desktop publishing program, PageMaker 5.0, will import most DOS based documents

I'm working on fax capabilities and I hope to have them up and running in the near future. You can also reach me through America On Line. There I am Charles362.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!!**

Contribute articles, stories tips, fish tales, ads etc. to me at the above address by the first Monday of the month for the current issue.

---

# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

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

**Myself(\$35)      For My Family(\$40)      As a Junior Member(\$20)**  
(New members add \$10 Initiation Fee)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application and your check payable to the:

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

**RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

**P. O. Box 2673**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95405**



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

Address correction requested.



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 8  
August 1995

## The Pres sez:

In spite of this blistering heat I hope that you're all having a good time this summer and finding enough cool water to catch a few fish.

As many of you may know I started a new construction company this year and fortunately have been very busy. I had some friends tell me that they didn't think it was legal to have a contractors license and a fishing license at the same time but to my surprise I've been able to do quite a bit of fishing in the last couple of months.

I've been able to file away some great memories this summer.

I took my son, Patrick, and some of his friends to Franks Tract striper fishing in June. Before I could get my rod strung and fly tied on Patrick had landed two 4 pound stripers on his spinning rod. Later that afternoon the boys were swimming next to the boat and I was catching stripers 10 feet away from them. We caught 28 stripers in the 104° heat.

I invited my dad to go salmon fishing out of Bodega. We had a great day fishing. We landed 12 salmon to about 12 pounds. What I'll remember most about that trip was the look on my dad's face when he prematurely unhooked my boat from the winch and as I backed down the ramp the thing rolled off of the trailer onto the concrete. Luckily no harm done.

My wife, Stacy, and I joined the club on the outing to Lava Creek Lodge. We really enjoyed the lodge and the company. Despite the tough conditions I actually had some decent fishing.

The most memorable event of the trip was running back to the lodge in the dark Friday night. Paul Major and Lee Smith were following my wife and me because they were having trouble with their lights. We rounded a bend in the river and could no longer see them behind us so we doubled back to find them. We finally found them about 30 feet back in the tules on the outside bank of the bend. Once again luckily no harm done.

Last but not least was the club trip to Baja. I won't elaborate too much on the fishing here, however my son and I experienced the best fishing I've seen in four years.

The trip wasn't entirely perfect. John Thomas spent some time at the local hospital nursing a pretty bad ear infection and was only able to fish a day and a half. Three of the guys were cursed with Montezuma's Revenge but a little Lomatil and Imodium kept them in the game. On the up side the weather was pleasant and the Mexican beer was plentiful, so was the vodka, the rum and the Margaritas. "After all, it was a fishing trip". Let me know if you're interested in another Baja trip next year.

After all that I can't wait for the great fishing of fall. Make sure and let Lee Smith know about any ideas you have for club outings. They can be great fun if you participate!!

Sometimes your fishing memories have nothing to do with catching fish. Share them with your family and friends.

See ya in September,

Tim Grogan

### 1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci 528-4547)

**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)

**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)

**Club Outings:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Conservation Co-Chairmen** Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)

**Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hake! (869-9033)

**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)

**NCCFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)

## Casting About...

August is the fishing month! No club events or meetings that you just *have* to attend, nothing but the opportunity to get out somewhere and wet a line. This is your chance to round up some material for those fall and winter fish stories that you've been planning to submit to *the Cast*. The weather has finally turned summer (and then some) and although the upper elevations are a little reluctant to give up the last ghost of winter, fishing elsewhere should be enjoying an abundance of water if nothing else. I hope everyone is having a good summer, and if you're not fishing, hopefully you're getting in lots of other fun stuff and at least enjoying the heat.

As far as I was concerned, we had a great trip to Loreto, having returned to Sonoma county only about a week ago. Eight RRFF members, and former members, answered Tim's slide show presentation while we were still in the throes of winter, and all were rewarded with some excellent fishing and some good times. Tim hosted this trip, which was shared with his son, Patrick, Binky Castleberry, Chuck Perry, Harry Schoonbaert, Bob Neill, John Thomas, Bob Brown and myself. I'm sure you'll be reading some of the accounts of that trip in this month's *Cast*.

During our break this month, let's not forget about our casting facility at Dan Galvin Park. The July club meeting/barbecue out at the pond was a huge success. I was a little surprised at the turnout, but it was good to see everyone out there with their kids and "significant others". I've been to the pond on a few Wednesdays in recent weeks and pretty much had the place to myself. Now that the combination lock is on the gate, it's absolutely no problem to drive in and park at the pond. Just be sure to lock the gate behind you, both on the way in and on the way out!

Board members - remember that we will have a board meeting in August, so try to schedule your fishing accordingly. Our next general meeting ought to be a good one, with Dan Blanton, in September. Mark your calendars now to attend this one, just in time for the inside scoop on the fall striper fishing in the delta. Also, membership dues are now past due. Please take a few minutes to update your RRFF membership for the 95 - 96 year so that we can keep up the good programs and continue the positive direction that our club is taking. All moneys that the RRFF takes in during the course of the year, from dues, raffles, dinner meetings, etc., go right back into our club. Shawn has been doing an excellent job in bringing us some great speakers for our general meetings, but the better speakers do require a little more compensation for their presentations. Please consider this and help us out by getting those dues in.

There seem to be a few interested parties for the Umpqua summer steelhead trip in September, hosted by Shawn Kempkes. If you haven't had a chance to participate in one of our club outings, they really are a lot of fun. I'm hoping to get in a few day trips and short weekend trips this fall, maybe to some of the lakes, rivers and creeks in the Sierras around Lake Tahoe. If you just want to get out for a day or two, some of these trips may be just the ticket! Watch for details.

I'm currently experiencing sailfish withdrawals, exasperated further by the unbelievably hectic working conditions I returned to this week. *Thank God* I'd gone fishing and cleared my head. Hopefully, you're getting a chance to do it too. See you next month.

Tight Knots (tighter than mine, anyway),

Steve Tubbs

### Upcoming Events

Next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, August 21st at the Warrack Hospital Board Room.

#### **No general RRFF meeting in August!!!!**

#### **September 20, 1995 meeting with Dan Blanton.**

Dan will be doing a slide show on fishing stripers in the Delta. The timing on this show is great!! September, October and November are premo months for this fishery. Any boat you have can be utilized. **DON'T MISS THIS MEETING OR YOU'LL REGRET IT!!!**

**Dave Whitlock** is coming for the dinner meeting in December. This will probably not be on Wednesday. Latest rumor has Dave doing weekend appearances at a couple of local fly shops. Dave puts on a superb show and talk. His last tying demonstration for the RRFF was incredible!

Shawn Kempkes is trying to put together an all day Saturday fly tying class with Ron Vaughn. More details as to who, what, when and where in the September *Cast*.

# Sailfish Are Just *BIG* Trout...

(a fishing tale!)

Loreto, Baja California del Sur. July 22 - 29, 1995:

The water was still... glassy... rolling gently with the slight swell traveling westward across the Sea of Cortez. The air was in concert, hot... moist... the early morning sun already blazing with the promise of another 100 degree day. *No viento*, no wind. Not yet...

The outboard droned steadily, pushing the 22' *ponga* north toward Punta Pulpito. Every now and then, flying fish would burst into view, skipping across the oceans mirrored surface in a frantic effort to take flight. Massive schools of *sardinias* boiled in numerous locations before us, under assault from dive-bombing pelicans tumbling gracelessly into their midst, the water alive with the fevered dashing of hundreds of thousands of bait fish.

It was 8:00 A.M. - and we'd been hunting for nearly an hour.

Daybreak had found us collecting bait. Enrique, our captain and guide, standing crouched in the bow with throw net tucked under his arm and pinched tightly to his side. Rocking... rocking... then unwinding in a graceful throw as the subsurface motions of the *sardinias* betrayed their location, each net bringing forth another wriggling mass of silver for our live bait well. The bait had been plentiful and we'd filled up quickly. 5:30 A.M. had found us cruising northward to the fishing grounds, Enrique absorbed in his daily ritual of carving and refitting the freshwater intake scoop for the live well, occasionally tossing the stale water casualties over the side into the flat sea.

The engine droned on. Bait moved in pockets on the sparkling expanse before us. It was hard to tell where the water ended and the sky began. The glare from the morning sun hid much of the life around us from untrained eyes.

Suddenly the boat swerved.

We looked at Enrique, whose sunglassed eyes were intently studying something ahead of us and slightly to starboard.

"*He's on point.*" Binky stated.

Again the boat changed direction.

"*Now he's fine tuning.... He sees something!*"

"*Velas*" Enrique informed us. Sailfish!

We stood up to look, following our guides' line of sight until we too could pick out the tips of the tails only just breaking the surface, preceded occasionally by the slightest portion of a sail. The pod was moving slowly, lazily, exhibiting all the characteristics of the late riser on an early morning sea.

"*How many... four... five?*" I asked.

"*Seis o siete*" replied Enrique. He cut the engine and we drifted on a clear intercept course with the *velas*, now only

100 feet away. He reached for the bait net.

*Splat!!! Splat!!!*

The bait hit the water, skipping once or twice before being swallowed up, halfway between us and the sailfish. Immediately the lazy progress of the sails changed. The tails quickened, their short strokes replaced with wide sweeps that shot the group forward. They veered to the boat.

"*Get ready... here they come!*"

Tails whipped back and forth as the pod closed the gap between us. Moving swiftly now, searching for the *sardinias* that had attracted their attention, they disappeared beneath the glassy surface, hidden by the glare. But only briefly. A frantic baitfish spit from the sea only 20' from the boat, followed closely by the slashing bill, head and sail of a pursuing *vela*. Another sail cut the surface, and still another. Two more fish were under the boat, their sails lit up, their sides neon blue and silver, magnificent fish competing violently for the few *sardinias* that Enrique taunted them with, feeding their frenzy.

We were already casting.

Poppers, **saltwater "dry flies"**, on #4 and #5 hooks. Pick your fish... cast... pick up... cast again. The popper dropped in front of a charging sailfish, neon, lit up, competing. *Strip... Strip... (the sailfish turned to the fly)...* Pause... The fish rose, bill and head out of the water, sail fully extended, **and inhaled the popper!** Like a very large trout sucking in a dry fly!

The popper descended beneath the surface as the fish turned. Immediately I set up, hoping to drive the hook into a softer area of the vise that had taken it under. There was no waiting. The ocean boiled not 15 feet away as the hooked sail exploded into the sunlight, tailwalking forward 100 feet before abruptly reversing course and repeating the spectacle back to the boat. Again it exploded through the glare, this time seemingly aware of the boat that held its tormentors, and tailwalked away toward the open sea.

All in the space of seconds!

I hung on, bowing the rod to the fish, and hoped that the hook would stay in place and my knots would hold. The freight train continued its thrashing course away from the boat... and the line went slack! In its wake, I could see the popper floating in the excited water.

Trembling, I retrieved my "fly", noting the straightened hook trailing out from behind the foam body. "*Wait till your hands stop shaking before you tie on another*" Binky advised, a slight smile playing on his face. I sat down, dazed

And such was my first experience with *pez vela*, on the first day of our trip to Loreto, Baja California del Sur. Over the course of the next five days, this scenario would be repeated a number of times, each with a different result, *all* intense and exciting as we pursued these incredible fish. My fishing partner, Binky Castleberry, had spent the week previous to

ours lining up our guide and working out the intricacies of the popper presentation to sailfish. We called it "*fishing saltwater dry flies*". By the time I joined him on July 23rd, Binky had already boated and released two sails using the popper technique. His enthusiasm was catchy, and after my first "hook-up" I had no trouble understanding why.

The trip had begun with a growing sense of anticipation and considerable expectation. Early reports from Loreto had all boasted stories of this years incredible fishing - a product of abundant bait and, as a result, an unusual amount of *big dorado* and sailfish. Brian Wong's group, having fished the last week of June, had returned with stories of some fantastic days of fishing and some unusually large fish. Scattered reports from the early weeks of July further confirmed Brian's results and suggested that the unusually good fishing was not falling off, with reports of sailfish and big dorado filtering into local fly shops as other anglers returned with fish tales and photos.

On July 15, Binky headed down to Loreto for his first of two weeks at the Hotel Oasis, and, as the rest of our group rushed to finish off those last flies and other varied preparations for travel, his reports too began to filter back to us. *Sailfish! Big schools! He'd already landed two on poppers - casting to them! And there were some really big dorado being taken as well.* Last minute preparations were suddenly altered slightly, with new emphasis on sailfish and heavier gear. I had a newly built 10 wt. and a 9wt. in my arsenal, suited well for the dorado, a bit questionable for the sails. Oh well! No correcting that problem at this short notice. So I tied a few larger sardine patterns instead, all the while convinced that my undersized fly rods would at least guarantee a hook-up or two if for no other reason than to simply demonstrate to me the inadequacies of my tackle.

The fishing was incredible! From that first day, when the first fish we found were a pod of sails and my first cast resulted in a hook-up, the excitement and intensity never let up. After our second day on the water, Binky and I decided that as long as the *velas* were cooperative, we would spend our time hunting them. Tim Grogan and his son, Patrick, had found a large school of dorado away to the south and tempted us with their tales of 15 to 20 fish per day *each*. Other members of our party had varying degrees of success, relating more or less to the proficiency and willingness of their guides to cater to the *moscatito pescadors* (fly fishermen).

But hunting is what *we* did. The three of us, Enrique, Binky and I, searched the water for any sign of fish: the tips of tails, sails, excited water, a "jumper". We cruised the fishing grounds at trolling speed - scanning the water - occasionally letting a line out if things were really slow. We (usually Enrique) found, and Binky and I cast to, sailfish and dorado, although the dorado we found were either single fish or schools of only three or four, not the huge schools that Tim and Patrick were experiencing to the south. But the fish were big. Our first day, Binky landed a 35 - 40 pound

monster that put up a much better fight than any of the sails we brought to the boat later that week.

The numbers of sailfish were also amazing. A couple of days we found *un grande escuela de velas* numbering well over 100 fish. The largest pod of sails we cast to contained approximately 25 fish and resulted in a hook up and, after 35 minutes or so, a few pictures and a release. "*No muerte*" we told Enrique, and he obliged us accordingly. He had guided fly fishermen before and knew how to "catch and release", exhibiting an urgency to return the fish to the water as quickly as possible, leaving only time to remove the hook and snap a couple of pictures. We didn't spend any time resuscitating worn out fish - all of them swimming off immediately after being returned to the sea.

Each day provided intense action. Even the "eats" that didn't result in hook ups were exciting. The sails would rise, suck in the popper, turn, we'd set the hook and the popper would simply float back up to the surface. With the larger pods, foul hooking was a problem as the sails slashed the surface in their frenzied feeding. A number of times, fish would hook our leader under their bills and drag the popper down behind them, sometimes lodging it in their mouth but often times in their sails, an easy way to lose a fly line. Other times, just casting into the melee of feeding fish resulted in snagging a sail as it charged past. Either way, foul hooked or a legitimate "eat", the result was the same - once the fish felt the hook (or line) all hell broke loose.

As the week progressed, the three of us fine tuned our act, each days' fishing suggesting new strategies which in turn presented their own alternatives. Tuesday, I had 4 "eats", 2 hook-ups and 3 foul hooked sails, never bringing one to the boat. Binky had 7 or 8 "eats", 3 hook-ups, 2 foul hooked sails and 1 fish landed, with most of the sailfish action really not starting until after 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday brought rougher weather; wind, whitecaps and difficult conditions for sight fishing. Yet Enrique found the *velas* again, by late morning, and the action was every bit as good as on the calmer days. We had 6 *velas* eat our poppers out of the 10 or so pods that we cast to. However, perhaps as a result of the rougher conditions, not one of the "eats" resulted in a hook up. It was noticeably more difficult to set up on the fish while the boat was continually drifting into them. Also, we were spotting the fish when they were much closer to the boat, so our reaction times were shortened considerably and there were a few pods that we simply put down. We blamed the weather, Enrique blamed *mala suerte* (bad luck).

We learned. Thursday brought a beautiful morning, calm and still. By this time we'd pretty much come to the conclusion that the sailfish were late risers and that the early morning pods that we'd seen on previous days were simply not hungry or not interested until around 9:00 A.M.

At 7:30 A.M. we spotted our first pod, 6 fish moving slowly toward shore. Enrique tossed a couple of *sardinias* and the



fish swerved in our direction. In moments we were casting, the sailfish charging around the boat, slashing the surface with their bills, one of them consuming Binky's popper before tailwalking on a course for Hermosillo. A half hour later, Binky landed and released that fish.

Within a few minutes we'd found another pod, bigger, maybe 10 fish. These too were hungry and, with only a little teasing from Enrique, the water around our boat was once again alive with neon blue and silver. A sailfish erupted from the water in front of me, tailwalking toward us, Binky's line rolling off of its white belly. As its bill smashed into the side of the boat, my own popper disappeared beneath the surface. "Ahora!" Enrique whispered, "Now!"

I set up, hitting the fish hard three times with both rod and line. The ocean erupted as the sail stood on end and thrashed, vigorously trying to shake the hook as it circled our boat. It disappeared momentarily, then changed course and headed away from us, whipping the calm surface into white froth as it convulsed sideways through the water. My tackle held. After maybe 35 minutes of boat circling and tug of war, I landed my first sailfish and the monkey was off my back!

We were jazzed! Not even 9 o'clock and we'd had 2 "eats", 2 hook ups and landed both fish. It was already an exceptional day!

For the next hour and a half, we did not see a sailfish. The wind began to kick up a little bit, although nothing like it had been the day before. Finally, the boat swerved as Enrique spotted a group of tails. They were interested, and Binky hooked and landed our third sail of the morning. We continued hunting. The pods were appearing quickly now as we once again found *el grande escuela*. Cast... strip... strip... pause... "eat"... STRIKE... miss... cast... strip... strip... pause... "eat"... STRIKE... "FISH ON!" It was easy! And after another half hour of acrobatics and screaming runs, Binky's third sail of the morning, our fourth of the day, was beside the *ponga*. Four hook ups, four fish!

I was ready to improve my numbers. Before long, we were onto another pod. Strip... strip... (the *vela* turned)... pause... (bill, head and sail broke the surface as the popper disappeared)... STRIKE... and the hook sunk home. Again the water exploded as the fish charged away from the boat. But this time, my line went slack, the leader broken clean about a half inch below my nail knot. The sail, hooked solidly, continued its wildly thrashing course out to sea.

We ended that day with 5 sailfish hooked and 4 landed. Our best single day fishing for sails! Although other days found us into more fish, Binky's three fish, and my first, were an astounding tally for one mornings' fishing.

Our final day was also exceptional, although our success ratio no where near approached Thursdays numbers. Binky was getting it wired! Fishing from the bow, he was placing his popper directly in front of the charging sails as they would turn to our boat. This resulted in a couple of immediate "eats" and gave us some real shots at "doubles", as long as the first

sail hooked didn't head immediately for another planet. One early hook up resulted in a tailwalking dash that peeled out 100 feet of Binky's amnesia before the sail threw the hook. As he stripped the popper back to the boat, three more sailfish "ate" his "fly", the last becoming Binky's fifth sailfish landed for the week. For my part, I played the "eat", STRIKE, miss game, although I did entice one nice fish into a couple of acrobatic runs before he returned my popper to me. We never quite got two hooked up at once, although there were a couple of occasions where we were pretty darn close!

It was a great week. We were lucky. The weather never seemed unbearably hot, the accommodations at the Hotel Oasis were comfortable, the company was good and the fishing was excellent. Whatever weather aberrations brought forth the massive schools of *sardinias* and followed them with the even more impressive schools of sailfish and dorado, we were fortunate to have been there to see it. "You pay your money and take your chances!" This year may have been a one-time phenomenon, a year to remember, like the salmon fishing off of our own coast this season. For me, this trip was one that I will not soon forget, and it was one that I would most gladly do again. In an instant!

Steve Tubbs



## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get your name, phone number and short description of the item to:

**The Cast,  
c/o Chuck Perry  
2985 Thorn Rd.,  
Sebastopol, CA 95472.**

This service is provided for active RRFF members only! (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

**Sage 61000 RPL** (6wt. - 10'), as new, \$300  
**Orvis 9 1/2' 8wt.** Stream King graphite, \$125  
**Custom 9 1/2' 6wt.** Fisher blank professionally made, \$150  
Contact Paul Major - 579-0990 days, 539-5437 evenings.

**Fiberglass pram**, 8' very stable, great boat! \$300  
Contact Tim Grogan - 538-2578

**Flip up boat wheels**, Complete, brackets etc., \$50  
**Eide electric boat loader** \$500  
Contact Chuck Perry - 823-2029



## Loreto

A few moments ago I sat bolt upright in bed. The thought that nobody had pounded on my door to begin my day startled me wide awake! As the haze slowly cleared from my head I realized the fan on the air conditioner couldn't be heard. Reality crept in!! I was home. This was my own bed.

Saturday, July 22, 1995, my wife had dropped me off at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. I met up with Tim Grogan, his 10 year old son Patrick, Harry Schoonbaert and Bob Neill. The Airporter collected us and our pile of gear. John Thomas, Steve Tubbs and Bob Brown joined us in Petaluma. We hustled through the San Francisco airport and caught the United Shuttle to LA. After arriving in LA a brief 10 minute walk got us to the international terminal. Desk personel at Aero California checked out tickets, passports and luggage. There was time for a drink at the bar and then we lifted off for Hermosillo, Mexico. A brief stop in Hermosillo saw us checked in by the Mexican authorities. Back on the plane we were Loreto bound. Forty-five minutes later we touched down again, collected our baggage, cleared customs and set off for the Oasis hotel. It was then I learned that a 15 passenger Ford van really will hold 15 adult fishermen and all their gear but it is close, hot and sweaty.

For the next week our day started at 4 A.M. We were at the boats, Mexican pongas, by 5 A.M. In the hour available, you had to get up, dress, slather on the sun screen, have breakfast and get you and your gear down to the beach. Breakfast was served at 4:30 A.M. and your gear was ready, leaning against the wall in the corner. All you had to do after eating was pick up the tackle and ice chest, walk a hundred yards to the ponga your guide had waiting on the beach and go fishing!

The Oasis Hotel in Loreto, Baja, Mexico, is an eclectic collection of rooms that vary tremendously in amenities and styles. Facilities seem to be dictated by when the rooms were built and what was available as building materials at the time. Two days after arriving Harry Schoonbaert & I were shifted from our first room, behind the hotel proper, to a much larger room fronting the beach. Our trip was arranged by Fishing International and it is possible that under other booking conditions this change might not have happened, at least not without extra costs. All rooms were air conditioned — a welcome relief from the hot, humid outside conditions. One amenity that was sorely missed was a phone. There were no phones in the rooms. A call from the main desk to California was over \$30 once the hotel added its service charges. The alternative was to go a mile downtown to the public phone. There you dialed the international operator directly and it was a bunch cheaper!!! The Oasis is a beach front hotel so you had to get used to the sand. You had to cross the beach going to and from the pongas. You had to walk across sand to get to the swimming pool and you even had to tread sand to get to our first room.

Meals at the Loreto Hotel were served in the dining room or on the adjoining terrace facing the beach. A typical breakfast was juice, coffee and your choice of cereal, scrambled eggs, bacon, and pancakes. Lunch and dinner were taken on the terrace with the beach in full view and the island of Carmen plainly visible some twenty miles to the East across the Sea of Cortes. Lunch and dinner were taken on the terrace. The food was good, the supply was plentiful and as camaraderie was established between staff and anglers the service improved significantly. The bar was just a few steps away with its own terrazzo terrace and view. Most of our group spent some time there in the late afternoon after cooling off in the pool and taking time to shower off sun tan lotion that had survived the days fishing. The supply of cervesa, Margaritas and Shark Bites was cold, wet and endless!!

The pongas made me a little nervous at first. I'm addicted to fire extinguishers, compasses, an auxiliary engine, life preservers, a radio, cushions, etc. The typical U.S. Coast Guard requirements. You don't have any of those amenities in Loreto. The boats were 22 feet long, four feet wide and heavily built of fiberglass. Motors varied from 55 hp to 75 hp and most had manual starts. Our guide had one oar that was used as a push pole to get us off the beach and into water deep enough to start the outboard. The gas tank was a 5 gallon plastic can with a rubber stopper that the gas hose ran through. After two or three hours running time additional gas was siphoned from other plastic jerry cans into the one supplying gas to the engine. There no other amenities. No cushions, no bimini top for shade, nothin'. Just you, your fishing tackle, your trusty ice chest with cervesa, drinking water, soft drinks and what ever you had snagged from the breakfast table as a snack. After six or seven hours in these conditions under the tropical sun I was glad to head back to shore. By the by, the Oasis supplied the ice chests for the boats and filled them with ice and whatever drinks you had ordered for the days fishing.

Bob Brown's luggage went elsewhere for the first two days. That's a good reason your carry-on luggage should hold toiletries, fishing clothes and enough tackle to fish the first day. Our group had extra fishing equipment to loan so his first days weren't a total loss. Bob survived but it sure was an inconvenience. Steve Tubbs lost a Walkman to a baggage thief somewhere between Petaluma and Loreto. Another good reason for keeping small valuables in your carry-on. American quarters for the ice machine were in short supply. Take some extra! Also more \$1 bills than you would normally carry are handy. Next time I'm going to take \$20 in one dollar bills in my carry-on. Harry Schoonbaert and I

also came down with a mild case of Montezuma's Revenge. Be sure to carry anti-diarrheal medication with you. I'd have lost at least two days fishing if Tim Grogan hadn't been well prepared when my own medication proved ineffective. John Thomas had the misfortune to come down with an ear infection while in Loreto. He wasn't sure for a while that he would be able to fly home with the group as scheduled. The local Mexican hospital didn't do much to add to his mental security. The dirt floor wasn't very reassuring. Fortunately he has a strong constitution and the infection cleared up enough for him to join us for the trip back to Santa Rosa. Bob, "Can I have some more tortillas" Neill, caught some nice dorado and a gentle (?) ribbing for his tortilla capacity. Bobs Brown and Neill supplied dorado and sailfish for a couple of our evening meals. The kitchen crew did an absolutely fantastic job in preparing the fish. Pat, "Patricio", Grogan displayed fishing skills well beyond his 10 years. I think he was probably top rod for the trip with several sails and numerous dorado. He also managed to work his wiles on the waitresses. Three different desserts came his way after one evening meal. Ah!! To be so young!

There was talk that Tim Grogan might lead another group next year. Binky Castleberry, who had a fantastic run on sail fish, also spoke of leading a group in 1996. A word to the wise; if you are interested in going, get your reservation in early. Our group filled very quickly.

All in all hotel and boat conditions were a bit on the primitive side by U. S. standards. I had some good days fishing and some that were pretty poor. Would I go again? **IN A MINUTE!!**. A hook-up with a 70 lb. tail-walking sail fish is a thrill worth all the minor discomforts we endured.

Chuck Perry

## What's Going On !!!

This is an exciting time to be a member of the Russian River Fly Fishers. Membership is up. People are involved and excited about our club, the programs are fantastic and so are the outings and trips. What other club is leaving the old U. S. of A. to pursue their uncontrollable desire to catch fish? The trout in the classroom project is starting to come on line, (watch for more information) and so is our conservation program. We have at our disposal one of the best casting ponds in the country and yes you guessed it, we will teach you to fling a fly at least five miles. Just kidding but we do have a casting team. We have had rod building classes where you can learn to build your own fly rod, thanks to Tim Grogan. I made a 7 wt., 9'6" rod last year and love it for heavy flies with a sinking line. We are starting a video and book library for our members. The benefits go on and on. Each month we have a good program for the membership and a chance to win some great prizes. We are all looking forward to Dave Whitlock coming this winter. !! **DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS PROGRAM!!** The updated bylaws are being printed and new membership packets are being prepared. Some of the club members are ON LINE with up the the minute fishing reports and news from the fishing world. The new Board of Directors have some new ideas and we will be working on a plan for the future of our club. Sounds pretty deep but it's necessary. A lot is going on so make sure you come to the meetings or you may miss out on some of the excitement!.

Many thanks to all the members who get involved and participate in club events. it takes a lot of time and effort to run any club and ours is no different, so please help out when you can. If we spread out the work things can be a lot easier for everyone. Remember that this is your club and you get out of it what you put in. Many thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors and to Dwight Longuevan for making our club better and more interesting. Our club is in good hands and looking to the future thanks to these guys.

Life is short. Fish hard!

Tim Barrett

(Ed's. note. This column was held over from the July issue due to lack of space. Thanks Tim for being so understanding!)

## 95 NCCFFF Conclave

The Federation of Fly Fishers 95 Conclave will be held September 29 to October 1 at King's Beach Convention Center, North Lake Tahoe, CA. Several members of the RRFF have attended this in past years and have had good things to say about the event. They even managed to get in a little fishing while in the area. I have preregistration forms available now. You can also contact NCCFFF Registration Chair, Harold Patterson at (415)-345-9888.

Ed.

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the following categories.**

**I apply as a new member:**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$35 annual dues )
- ☐ (Family membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$40 annual dues)
- ☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$20 annual dues)

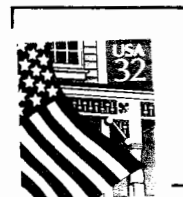
**I wish to renew my existing membership**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)
- ☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)
- ☐ (Junior membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

Please mail this application and your check payable to:  
**Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

**RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

**P. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405**



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

**Address correction requested.**



Volume 21  
Number 9  
September 1995

## The Pres sez:

So much to do and so little time to do it. It seems like every year I plan to fish 7 or 8 different places, a particular hatch or a run of salmon or steelhead, and at the end of the year I've only checked one or two of those off my list. This year it looks like I'm going to miss the fall salmon on the Rogue and the Feather. I wanted to fish summer steelhead on the North Umpqua and half pounders on the Klamath but the calendar over my desk just keeps filling up and it's not with fishing dates. The other thing missed this year was our weekly casting sessions at the pond on Wednesday nights. I think I only made it out twice this summer and there was no one else out there on those days.

I don't recall whether or not Scott Broome was officially commended for the terrific job he did organizing the July barbecue. **Thanks for doing such a great job on the barbecue Scott!!**

For those of you who weren't at the July meeting, the club is in the process of organizing a committee to research the possibility of building a permanent club house at the casting pond. Wouldn't it be great to have our own place to meet, a rustic club house adorned with fly fishing memorabilia from great local anglers past and present? We'll keep you posted on the progress of this possibility!

As summer begins to wind down, it's time to begin thinking about all the great fall fishing. One or two last trout trips and then break out the heavier gear, add some new Amnesia to your reel, make sure the loops are good on your shooting heads and start tying salmon and steelhead flies.

Another great fall fishery is the Sacramento Delta for stripers. This month's meetin with Dan Blanton, Fly Fishing the Delta, is right on cue. Make sure and come early, (6:15 P.M.), as Dan will demonstrate how to tie the famous Whistler series of flies.

The Whistler was developed over twenty years ago and is a salt water standard right up there with Lefty's Deceiver. **THIS EVENING SHOULD NOT BE MISSED!!**

See ya'  
Tim Grogan

### 1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci 528-4547)

**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
**Club Outings:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)

**Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hakel (869-9033)

**Conservation Co-Chairmen** Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)

**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)

**NCCFFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)

## Getting Back to It!

*The Fall of '95 is upon us!* Once again, Labor Day has managed to sneak up and drive home the first realizations of a waning summer. What happened to those Sierra fishing trips I so patiently waited for during that deluge of winter that only just released us? Even the weather seems to be anxious to move on, the last few weeks bringing those very comfortable days and crisp evenings I always associate with autumn and the winding down of the trout season. It's time to "get back to it". Back to school, back to work, back to the routines that will carry us through another winter. The vacations are over and, unfortunately for me, I still need to dispel some of last winter's cabin fever. I need more sun, more fun and more trout!

With August behind us, it's also time to get back to RRFF club business. I hope everyone took some time in the last few months to get in a little fishing and that you'll be sharing some of your trips and stories at our upcoming club meetings and in future issues of *the Cast*. I enjoy a little armchair angling and I've heard a number of club members relate stories and accounts of a few fishing trips this summer that would make for some very enjoyable and entertaining reading. Please consider sharing those with the rest of the membership.

September welcomes the RRFF "back to it" when we resume our general membership meetings on September 20th. After taking August off, we're going to jump right back with a terrific show featuring **Dan Blanton** and striper fishing in the Delta. You don't want to miss this one! With striper season just around the corner, it's your chance to get the low down on this remarkable fishery from one of the most proficient striper anglers on the west coast. The general membership meetings will then continue on the third Wednesday of each month, excepting our bi-annual dinner meetings which are usually held earlier in the month in December and June and replace our normal monthly meetings. Remember, make plans now to attend our December meeting with **Dave Whitlock**. Look for more information concerning this event in future issues of *the Cast*.

September also brings with it another RRFF club outing, this time to Oregon and the North Fork of the Umpqua for a shot at some summer steelhead. Early reports are that there are a lot of fish in the river and prospects are looking good for a great trip! **Shawn Kempkes** is your host (sponsoring his second RRFF club outing of the summer) and has really got things organized if you're thinking of going. He's been fishing this area for the last 5 years (in September) and can really put you onto the preferred flies and answer a lot of the questions that you may have concerning the river and the accommodations once you get there. There were a number of interested RRFF'ers at the organizational meeting (August 30th) and Shawn provided lists of flies, maps and information on guide services and accommodations along with, of course, pizza and beer. After all, "*this is a fishing trip*". This has all the makings of a great club outing! You can contact Shawn at 546-2014 for more information.

September 29th thru October 1st marks the Northern Califor-

## NCCFFF Conclave '95

The Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) is holding it's Conclave '95 at the North Lake Tahoe Convention Center in Kings Beach, North Lake Tahoe from Friday, September 29, through Sunday, October 1, 1995. The event begins with a Friday night cocktail gathering and is followed on Saturday night with a main-event dinner featuring the keynote address presented this year by **Ralph Cutter**. Ralph will be presenting some of his specialized techniques for fishing the lakes and streams of the Sierras. Saturday and Sunday will be filled with an almost constant array of exhibits and demonstrations as well as where-to and how-to seminars. Continuous events include fly tying, fly casting, raffles and commercial exhibits.

This years speakers will include **Ken Hanley**, on inshore salt-water fishing, **John Shewey**, on summer steelhead, **Lani Waller**, on steelhead, **Andy Burke**, on fishing still waters, **Jim Victorine**, on bass and sunfish techniques, **Brett Jensen**, on Klamath and Trinity River steelhead, **Dick Galland**, on wild trout waters, **Frank Armendariz**, on Deschutes River fly fishing and **Randy Johnson**, on Truckee/Tahoe fly fishing. Other notable speakers include **Fred Rowe**, **Don Johnson**, **Sarge Reynolds**, **Press Powell**, **Dave Simmons**, **Dennis Pierce**, **Andre Puyans**, **Ron Rabun**, **Jay Murakoshi** and **Mark Hoesser**.

Over 40 world class fly tyers will be demonstrating their techniques and creative patterns in the fly tying theatre. You will be invited to share in the knowledge and skill of these innovative tiers when they invite you to sit down and join them as they tie some of their favorite patterns. Some of these special people include **Ned Long**, **Andre Puyans**, **Kate and Bill Howe**, **Chris Barza**, **Larry Glenn**, **Ed Berg**, **Dan Blanton**, **Jim Christensen**, **Gene Kaczmarek**, **Jennifer Lee**, **Edie Mashiko**, **Ralph Wood**, **Dorothy Zinky**, **Britt Phillips**, **Tami Armendariz**, **Leo Guterrez**, **Mark Hoesser**, **Mario Rojo Del Busto** and **Gail Campbell**.

Come and participate in casting instruction for both youths and adults. There will be special youth programs, programs on salt-water, freshwater and warmwater species, casting games, the fly fishing Olympics, numerous raffles, auctions, fly club awards and recognition and rod building demonstrations. There will be over 20 exhibitors showcasing guides, lodges, tackle and rod manufacturers, boats, publications, angling art, tying materials and a number of other interesting items.

The North Lake Tahoe Convention Center is situated on the North Lake Tahoe shore at Kings Beach. At this time of year, the "off" season, the weather is usually quite nice and the Sierra scenery even more resplendent than usual, lacking only the crowds of the summer and ski seasons. Lodging in the area is very reasonable at this time of year as well. Fall fishing in the local lakes, rivers and streams can be quite good and fairly uncrowded compared to the spring and summer months. Although not as big as the San Mateo Fly Fishing Exposition, the

## **Getting Back to It! (Cont.)**

nia Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) Conclave at the North Lake Tahoe Convention Center in Kings Beach, North Lake Tahoe. If you've never been, this is a great opportunity to view some excellent fly tiers, see some great slide presentations and participate in a wide variety of events related to our sport. And then there's the fishing! Fall fishing in the Sierras can be great, and with the high flows and copious amounts of water that have affected the summer fishery in the region, perhaps by early October the streams, rivers and lakes in the area will be a little more friendly to fly fishing. This could be an excellent time for some of the better trout action of the year. There are a few RRFF members who religiously attend the Conclave and they always have a great time. If you are interested in attending, this is a good opportunity to get out and meet some of the other fly fisherman and clubs in our area as well as to enjoy the beauty of Lake Tahoe in the off" season.

Finally, I would like to commend **Chuck Perry** on last month's edition of *the Cast*. In the past two months, Chuck has taken our newsletter from the PC format and converted it to the Mac format - no easy task and certainly a time consuming one. I thought last month's edition looked great and reflects the amount of time he's spent editing and not fishing.

Hope to see all of you on the 20th. Tight knots, Steve Tubbs

## **NCCFFF CONCLAVE '95 (Cont.)**

Conclave offers a much more personal and intimate experience as well as a special ambiance that is unique to its location in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Registration is \$25.00 per individual, \$35.00 per family for the entire weekend and does not include after hours cocktail receptions or dinner functions, raffles or auctions. All meal functions are limited in size so advance reservations are advised. The Friday night cocktail reception is \$7.50 per person and the Saturday night dinner is \$20.00 per person. Raffle donations are \$1.00. Daily registration is \$10.00 per person and is sold at the door as well as through early registration.

The Russian River Fly Fishers is a member club of the NCCFFF. Our NCCFFF representative is Bob Neill. If you would like to find out how to make advance reservations, or would like some more information regarding Conclave '95, you may contact Bob at 542-6723.

### **Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers**

60 ft. #52 Jim Hakel (8Wt. SH)

80 ft. #47 Jim Hakel (8Wt. SH)

100 ft. #31 Jim Hakel (8Wt. SH)

120 ft. #14 Jim Hakel (8Wt. SH)

## **Club Casting Clinic**

**Date: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th**

**Time: 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.**

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



First things first, we now have our own lock as part of a chain of locks on the front entrance gate into the pond parking area. This is a four (4) dial combination lock with 1977 as the first series of numbers. The number will be changed every three months since the lock is for members use only. It is important that all of you close and lock the gate behind you when you enter and again when you leave. This holds for all occasions other than scheduled events or Wednesday evenings. It is even more important that you never bypass any other lock that is part of the chain. The beginning number will work until January 96. Check the Upcoming Events box, lower right corner in the December *Cast* for the new number.

Reminder for all interested casters who would like to become better. The clinics are staffed with instructors who can help you improve in the use of any kind of fly casting equipment you may be interested in using. Bring your own gear or call president, Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve one of the club's new full line or shooting system outfits. The clinic, which will run from 12 noon until 2 P.M. or so, is intended for both old and new members or non-members who would like to become members. This next series of clinics will feature the use of shooting systems. Both the distance casting course and ring casting courses are there to work out on. **DO NOT FORGET THE CLINICS ARE ONCE AGAIN SUNDAY EVENTS.**

The Introduction to Fly Casting part of the overall clinic will begin at 10 A.M. This activity is intended to offer potentially interested fly casters a chance to see if the sport is for them. Coach Brian Wong has a limited number of full line outfits that he will loan on a reservation basis. If you know someone who is interested contact Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

The next scheduled clinic will be October 15th.  
Bob Sisson, Casting Pond Captain



## Cast Editor Goofs Again..

My apologies to Shawn Kempkes and to any other member who missed the organizational meeting to the upcoming Umpqua River outing. Shawn drove out and delivered the copy to me in plenty of time. I entered it and the article was in the first mockup of the Cast. It was omitted from the final version that went to press. If you are interested in going, get hold of Shawn at home, 546-2014, or you might be able to get him at King's Western Angler, 542-4432. He's putting in a lot of hours there for the new owners. The Umpqua trip is still on for September 21st -24th, 1995. The group will be staying at Susan Creek Campground. There is a motel about a thousand yards downstream for those who yearn for greater comfort. The Steamboat Inn, owned by Jim Van Loan, is nearby providing great meals the last I heard. In earlier days the Steamboat Inn was a favorite stopping place of Zane Gray. (Who is Zane Grey, you ask? Ah!- to be too young to know!!) Chuck Perry

## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get your name, phone number and short description of the item to:

**The Cast,**  
c/o Chuck Perry  
2985 Thorn Rd.,  
Sebastopol, CA 95472.

This service is provided for active RRFF members only! (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

**Sage 61000 RPL** (6wt. - 10'), as new, \$300  
**Orvis 9 1/2' 8wt.** Stream King graphite, \$125  
**Custom 9 1/2' 6wt.** Fisher blank pro made, \$150  
Contact Paul Major - 579-0990 days, 539-5437 eves.

**Fiberglass pram,** 8' very stable, great boat! \$300  
Contact Tim Grogan - 538-2578

**Eide electric boat loader** \$500  
Contact Chuck Perry - 823-2029

## Upcoming Events

The next **Board of Directors** meeting will be held **Monday, Sept. 18th** at the **Warrack Hospital Board Room**. Any interested member of the RRFF is invited to attend. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

**RRFF general meeting with Dan Blanton will be Wednesday, Sept. 20th in the Santa Rosa Veterans' North Room.** Fly tying demo at 6:15 P.M. The meeting and presentation will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Don't forget the NCCFFF Conclave September 29th to October 1st, 1995 at King's Beach Convention Center, No. Lake Tahoe, CA. Bob Neill has attended for the last five years and swears it is the next best thing to the Expo in San Mateo. It features some great tyers doing continuous demonstrations, a raffle and dinner, plus some great scenery and some good local fishing. Call Harold Patterson at (415)-345-9888 for registration.

**October meeting** will feature **Tim Grogan** talking about the July trip to Loreto with slides and anecdotes. This should whet your appetite for fishing the salt!! (Total out of pocket costs, portal to portal, for this trip last July was about \$1500. Not small change but not bad for air fare, three meals a day, air conditioned rooms & six days of fishing for sails, dorado, jacks and bonito. Ed.)

**October trips in the planning:** Franks Tract for Stripers, The Klamath for steelhead and a float trip on the Sacramento. There are no dates set for any of these at this time. If you're interested in the Sac float, call Paul Major at home, 539-5437 or at his shop, 579-0990.

**November** will be here along with **Bill Archuleta**. Bill will be talking about **"Fishing Alaska on a Budget"**. His goal-one week's fishing for \$800. (Mama, I'm going to need more vacation time and a bigger fishing budget next year. Ed.)

**December** is going to be a dinner meeting with **Dave Whitlock**. This meeting should be outta sight!

I haven't been able to get any more info on the Ron Vaughn fly tying day. Shawn Kempkes is putting in a lot of time organizing trips and events for the RRFF. Give him a pat on the back next time you see him for all his efforts!

## Calling All New Members

If you are a new member and didn't receive a membership welcome packet, please let me know. I am trying to make sure that all new members get a welcome letter, club patch, membership card and a copy of our club by-laws. We have ordered more patches and you can pick up the new by-laws at the September meeting. Let me know if you are missing any of these items at the meeting or call me at home and I will make sure you get the materials you need. My home phone is 538-5009.

Tim Barrett  
Membership Coordinator

## Scott's Corner

I would like to thank everyone who helped out at the RRFF's club picnic in July and a special thanks to those members who donated goodies. Thanks to Steve Tubbs, Harry Schoonbaert, Paul Major and his wife Margie, Chuck Perry, Bob Wobser and his wife, Gail, for all their support. Special notice should go to Bob Sisson who had the pond in great shape. I would also like to thank the real star of the picnic, my wife Debbie, for her killer beans. Here is the family's secret concoction:

### Oh, Beans!!!

One pound ground meat (beef, turkey, whatever)  
One large onion  
One clove garlic  
One can chile con carne with beans  
One can chile con carne without beans  
One can white navy beans  
One large can pork and beans  
One can peeled tomatoes  
Sugar or maple syrup (to taste)  
Dark rum (to taste)

Brown meat, onion and garlic until soft and browned. Add beans, tomatoes and simmer for three hours or longer. Add sugar, rum and salt and pepper to taste. For those who like a little bite to their beans, add hot sauce to taste.

Scott Broome

(You can bet this one goes in my wife's recipe book. Ed.)



## Club Outings

**Wanted Alive and Kicking**  
Club members to propose and volunteer for trip leaders for some great fall fishing!!

Well Fly Fishers, summer is behind us but the glorious fall is here. Now is the time for some great fishing. As you remember from last year, we are trying to get more club involvement in planning the outings. This is being done by getting club members to step forward and propose outings and/or be a trip leader if you have any expertise in some

area. As you know it is very hard in the fall to set exact dates for outings due to the weather and when the fish are running. Flexibility is the key to successful outings. This can be accomplished by signing up for proposed outings at our general meeting or by calling me, Lee Smith-537-1421, with your ideas or or your wish to participate. This way members who are interested can be contacted as situations change.

Upcoming trips: Shawn Kempkes' North Umpqua trip for steelhead, Sept. 21-24. Please contact Shawn at 546-2014 if interested.

Proposed trips:

October-Klamath/Trinity for salmon  
October-Franks Tract for stripers  
October-Russian River for king salmon  
Charter boat out of Bodega Bay for rock fish (10 person minimum, \$35 for 1/2 day)

Lee Smith  
Outings Chairman



## Goodbye and Hello...

If you've been into King's Western Angler lately you may have noticed a change in the faces behind the counter. Dwight and Sandy Longuevan have sold the shop. Sandy is working with a winery over in Pope Valley and except for the commute is very happy in her new job. Dwight is traveling around the country lining himself up as a customer rep for various manufacturers. Lots of success to both of them in their new endeavors!

New owners are Judy and Jim Edgar. Don't expect to see them in the shop very often. This is one of several enterprises they own and they stay pretty much behind the scenes. The new manager is Gary van Antwerp. He is up here and also at the Edgar's fishing tackle store in San Rafael. Shawn Kempkes continues to man the counters. You may also run into Dave Chelini, Noel Plum or Gene Fossi tying on leaders or suggesting flies and tackle at your behest.

We need to support our local shops. They are there when we need help and advice. If you're in Santa Rosa stop in and say "Hi". The Western Angler will continue as a full service fly shop. You can pick up most anything you might need in the way of fly tying materials, rods, reels, waders, books, magazines, the Cast etc. Since the San Rafael shop carries some lines the Western Angler does not stock you will probably see a greater selection in time to come.

At any rate, WELCOME TO THE NEW OWNERS!!



# Carpe Carp!

As I drove into Fall River Valley and first caught sight of the river, I fought back any thoughts of catching my trophy, not wanting to jinx the weekend of fishing. But nonetheless, I knew that somewhere out there, around some bend, floating beneath an undercut bank or drifting under an arched willow, a leviathan awaited.

I stopped at the Glenburn access and talked with a local angler. He pointed up the river to the first visible bend. Just past there along the bank was good fishing. Then he turned, cocked one eyebrow and glanced at the willows no more than 50 yards upstream.

"You can catch fish over there," he said in a quiet, knowing voice.

I put my canoe in and paddled up to where I saw an occasional fish rise. The sun was high overhead and after a couple hours fishing, I decided to follow my better judgment, paddled in and headed to Lava Creek Lodge to see who else had arrived from the club.

Hanging around the lodge were the usual suspects and after a couple brief reports I decided that no one had fared any better than myself that afternoon. But the evening fishing wasn't more than a few hours away.

I found my room and settled in. With the twilight hours nearing, I took out my gear, cleaned my lines, inspected my rod for hairline cracks that could spell disaster with "the big one," oiled my reel, sorted my flies by name, color, size, type, style, natural vs. synthetic, east coast vs. west coast, purchased, home tied, variation and miscellaneous. I was ready.

After a pleasant dinner, I packed my gear and headed back to Glenburn. Fish were beginning to rise, but I knew in the back of my mind, that the fish I was after might not be so eager to take flies from the surface.

Still, I tied on a small dun just hoping to break the ice. Soon I connected with a rainbow, about a foot long and feisty. I brought him in released him and although I was pleased to have caught a fish, something inside me said, "This isn't what you're here for." I knew there was a real fish waiting out there for me.

I hooked up another rainbow about the same size, but lost him after a brief struggle. It was dark, the flies were small, the tippets thin and my eyes aren't what they used to be. I called it a day.

Whatever success or failure I had that first day, I went to bed knowing that my trophy was still out there hiding someplace. For some unknown reason, the next morning I was back at Glenburn. Perhaps something was telling me that this would

be the place, "If you fish here, he will come." Perhaps it was just that the parking was easy and you don't have to drag your boat very far. I guess I'll never know. But there I was. I decided to let wisdom overcome desire and put on my sink tip line with a weighted wooly bugger at the end (black, #8, weighted, standard, natural died black, west coast, home tied, two strands flash in tail, tail pinched, not cut). I quickly had two very strong hits, but no hookups. Then things slowed down a bit and my drying patch quickly filled up with flies tried and abandoned.

I turned and began to paddle in. The willows the local angler had pointed out to me the day before loomed ahead. The smart thing to do would be to work my wooly bugger (see above) deep under those trees, I told myself.

I angled the canoe into position and set anchor. I didn't want to come up short because my fly hadn't drifted deep enough, so I pinched on a tiny piece of lead. I casted short and threw line into the water, letting it drift and sink. Then I began my retrieve. No fish.

Systematically I worked the wooly bugger through the lanes underneath the branches. As I started to retrieve about my tenth cast, I felt the unmistakable tug of a fish on the other end. I applied pressure and he was on!

Or was he? The weight in my hands was so tremendous I began to doubt it was a fish and suspected I snared a branch. I played the branch for all I was worth and after it took a few runs, finally felt confident it was, in fact, a fish.

The beast would grudgingly give me a little line, only to take it back—and then some—with another run. This went on for 10 minutes. I worried about that thin little tippet all the time. Finally I caught a glimpse of him five or six feet underwater. The noonday sun reflected off his huge silvery sides and he flashed like the serving platter at a royal wedding.

"This is what it's all about," I said to myself in prayer like tones.

It was another ten minutes before I brought him to the side of the canoe and could fully drink in the enormity of this trophy. With some difficulty, I pulled him from the water. I didn't measure or weigh him, but he was at least the length of my arm.

In a daze I looked at him—*Cyprinus carpio*, the common carp, close relative to the goldfish.

Suddenly all the casts, all of the drifts, all the changing of flies had been worth it. He was cleanly hooked in the upper lip. With a quick twist I separated him from my wooly bugger (see above) and gently slid him into the water thinking:

Ah, Fall River.

by Ray Manley

e-mail: [Ray\\_Manley@RedwoodFN.org](mailto:Ray_Manley@RedwoodFN.org)

## RRFF Guest Speaker for September is Dan Blanton!!!

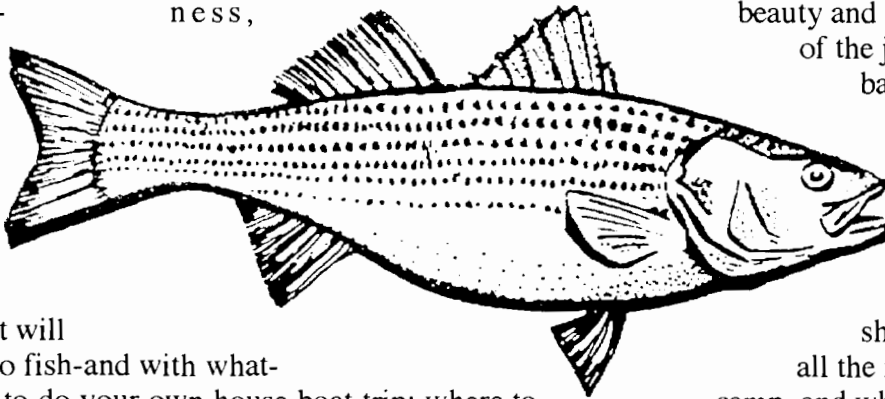
Dan is from San Jose, California, and is an angling instructor, lecturer, author, photographer, travel and tackle consultant. He is acknowledged by the nation's leading anglers to be one of the pioneers in the development of pacific and Central American salt water fly fishing. More important to members of the RRFF, Dan was one of the first to seriously fly fish the lower San Francisco Bay for stripers.

An innovative fly tyer, Dan is credited with originating the Whistler Series, Punch Series, Sar-Mul-Mac Series, Sea Arrow Squid and many other world renowned salt water patterns. He has fished for most fresh water and salt water species along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North and Central America. He spearheaded fly fishing for giant tarpon in Costa Rica in the early 1970's and is considered an authority with regard to this fishery. He has also fly-fished extensively for bonefish, tarpon, snook and others in the Florida Keys; and for bill fish in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico. He is no stranger to salmon, steelhead and trout; and is equally at home with warm water species. His recent articles detailing fly fishing for California Delta stripers have put this remarkable fishery squarely on the map.

The former Managing Editor of Angler Magazine, Dan is currently and Editor-at-Large for Fly Fishing Salt Waters magazine; he is also the Salt Water Fly Fishing Editor for Sport Fishing magazine. A free-lance writer for 20 years, Dan contributes regularly to many fly fishing periodicals and has contributed to three anthologies: the Angler's Bible, the Fly Tyer's Almanac and Lefty's Little Library. He is currently working on his first book, Fly Fishing With Shooting Heads-Panfish to Bill Fish.

### The Show...Delta Stripers!!!

Dan refers to the California Delta as "California Backcountry". To him it engenders nostalgic recollections of other wonderful fly fishing places he's had the good fortune to fish. This vast area, encompassing more than 1,000 miles of navigable water-ways, sitting right smack in the middle of the din and urban sprawl of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton, has miraculously sustained it wilderness, beauty and country charm. It is a combination of the jungle river of Costa Rica, the bayous of Louisiana and the backcountry of the Florida Everglades. This presentation will take you to the Delta-California Backcountry, put you into Dan's boat and take you striper and largemouth bass fly fishing. It will show you how, when and where to fish-and with what gear, all the right flies and what- gear. You'll how to do your own house boat trip; where to camp, and where to launch your boat, rent a boat, or hire a guide. You'll see lots of outstanding wildlife photography, fly-rod action-the works!

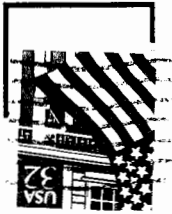


California's Backcountry is a place that will become embedded in both you mind and heart as a very special fly angler's destination and not just because it is possible to catch and release from 10 to more than 20 stripers and large mouth bass a day on flies. It will capture your heart because this is truly a marvelous place-a place frozen in time... for now.

**Dan will do a tying demonstration before the regular RRFF meeting beginning at 6:15 P.M. The regular meeting of the RRFF will have its normal 7 P.M.start.**

Address correction requested.

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



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

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the following categories.**

**I apply as a new member:**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$35 annual dues )  
☐ (Family membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$40 annual dues)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$20 annual dues)

**I wish to renew my existing membership**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

Please mail this application and your check payable to:  
**Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 10  
Oct. 1995

## The Pres sez:

I can't believe it's fall already. It was great to see everyone after our summer break. I always enjoy our September meeting because everybody gets to share their summer vacation/fishing stories. It's kind of like when you were in school only it's the Madison instead of Disneyland.

I want to thank Dan Blanton again for the great program he shared with us at September's meeting. For those of you who didn't know, this is the same program that Dan did for the International Sportsmans Expo in San Mateo. I think it's great to see the club in a position to bring in speakers of this caliber for our regular meetings. Of course, this month you just get my good friend Binki Castleberry and me doing our program of "Fly Fishing Baja", but I think it's a pretty good show anyhow.  
*(I've seen it. He's right! Ed.)*

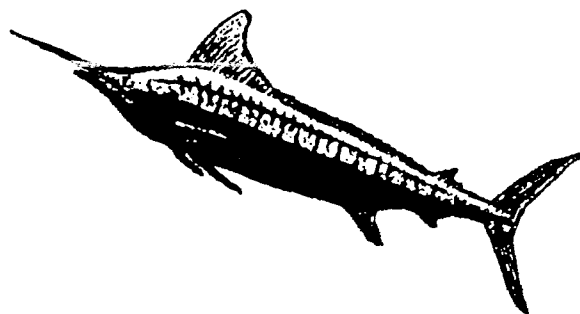
Our past president, Dwight Longuevan, and I couldn't wait for this month's club outing so we went over to Franks Tract in the Sacramento Delta Sunday, 10/1/95. The day started out great. Dwight and I are very good friends but seldom get the opportunity to fish together so the two hour drive over there gave us a chance to do a lot of catching up. We had the boat in the water by 6:45 A.M., the sky was clear, the wind calm and the day full of promise. Coincidentally, Binki Castleberry and our friend Roy Sails were launching their boats also. Dwight and I motored over to Chuck's Bait for some information and beer, "after all it was a fishing trip," and then we headed out into the tract. on the glassy surface of the tract we could see schools of threadfin shad boiling everywhere. We saw a few stripers feeding on shad but despite our best efforts we couldn't interest them. Around 10:00 A.M. we met up with Binki and Roy and they reported that they hadn't done much better. Later we found that the shad had moved into the area only a week or so ago and that the stripers should show in the next couple of weeks so I think we'll postpone our outing until the 3rd week of October. If you're interested in going give me a call at 538-5917.

Next month Binki and I will be doing our slide show on Loreto, Baja with some exciting pictures and stories of sailfish on flies and plans for next year's trip so don't miss it.

See ya, Tim Grogan

## Board of Directors

Monday  
October 16, 1995  
7:00 P.M.  
Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road  
Santa Rosa



## General Meeting

Tim Grogan and Binki Castleberry  
present  
"Fly Fishing Baja"

Would you believe sailfish over 100 lbs on a popper?  
Dorado over 30 lbs.?  
Patrick Grogan out fishing his dad?  
This year's trip was FANTASTIC!!!  
Come see the proof!

Wednesday Oct. 18, 1995

7:00 P.M.

The North Room  
Veterans Memorial Building  
Santa Rosa



## The VP's Line

Sierra Sun 'n Sand '95

What a beautiful weekend for Conclave '95 at Kings Beach! Only twenty hours ago - hours highlighted with nearly 200 miles of travel, an eleven hour work day and barely enough sleep - I found myself floating the algae particled waters of Martis Creek Lake along with nearly two dozen other refugees from the last day of the NCCFFF Conclave. It was a fitting end to a beautiful weekend on the north shore of Lake Tahoe.

I observed the screeching retreat of bald eagle as an unidentified smaller antagonist unceremoniously chased him from his perch atop a snag across the lake. The victor could have been a small hawk, appearing slightly brown at this distance, reminding me of a similar episode I witnessed on the Snake River in Wyoming last year when a pair of ospreys chased yet another eagle from its trespassing repose near their nest.

The lake was dotted with an assortment of prams, float tubes and pontoon boats. In the channel, Dan Blanton stood amidst the lower profiles of the belly boats, his red pram providing the casting platform from which his shooting heads explored the lake bottom. He had the hot fly, his Fatal Attraction (see this month's Fly Tyer magazine) providing double-digit numbers of trout in only the first two hours of fishing - from about 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. It seemed that every time I glanced in his direction another trout was being brought to his boat!

Elsewhere, Ralph Cutter plied the waters from his pram and later on foot as he walked the lakes edge. I saw him land several nice fish "fishing the edges" as he calls it and wondered whether he was using the Martis midge pattern that he developed specifically for the blood midge hatch on Martis Lake.

I was not doing as well as my company. I guess my busy summer of, "little fishing and lots of work", had finally caught up to me. Fishing an olive zonker on a slime line, I was getting plenty of grabs but could not seem to pull the trigger and hook up. As evening progressed, I changed to a floating line and a Martis midge with an emerging midge as a dropper in anticipation of the evening hatch. But the hatch barely materialized, and the few takes I had found me once again with no solid hookups. In fact, as the

evening wore on, it seemed that the fishing slowed for everyone - save for one pram that had moved into Dan's vacated honey hole and was continuing to tap into the fish that hadn't sampled Blantons' green sunfish pattern. It was a humbling evening for me, a testimony for the value of spending more time on the water.

This years Conclave was once again a great chance to see some world class fly tying, catch a number of slide programs on the various fishing opportunities in Northern California and to renew acquaintances with other FFF members from our area. A number of RRFF'ers attended this years event. Bob Neill, Tony Hebner, Harry Schoonbaert, Ken Magoon, Bob Ordway, Lori and Mike Nyholm (and family) and myself participated in the varied activities of the Conclave and some of us even managed to fish a little. Lori attended in two capacities, as a RRFF member and as a member of the Golden West Women Fly Fishers, who sponsored the, "Casting Olympics", at the icebreaker cocktail reception on Friday evening. Harry and Ken, "roughed it", at the Martis Lake campground, thereby getting first crack at the fishing - which proved to be enough to keep them out of the convention center and on the water for most of the weekend. Despite all of his fishing, Ken Magoon still found time to enter and win the Casting Competition with the top score in the accuracy portion of the competition and the longest cast (116'). Bob Neill has your first place prizes, Ken. (Sorry Bob!)

The weather this weekend couldn't have been better. In fact it was so good that on Sunday I found the allure of the beach and casting ponds far more appealing than sitting indoors for the fly tying and slide presentations. The raffle brought us indoors for awhile, but by 2:00 P.M. the fish were calling and Bob, Tony and I collected our winnings and were off to Martis. Daytime temperatures were in the 70's, nighttime temps in the 30's and 40's and the water temperature at Martis was in the upper 50's. It was just warm enough to pontoon boat in shorts, although it got a little chilly once the sun dipped below the horizon.

I would encourage anyone to fish the Sierras at this time of year. The fall fishing is good and could get better if the weather holds, and the water levels are just now getting back down to flow rates that are more conducive to fly fishing. Martis Lake is back down to its normal level of the last few years and, although it's fishing a little differently this year, the fish are there and they are nice! The Truckee River looked pretty much normal, and reports are that the October Caddis are starting to come off. With a little luck, we may have a great fall fishing season. I will try to find time to host a couple of day trips to possibly Martis or Pleasant Valley Creek for you adventurers who don't mind a day that consists of roughly six hours of

(See VP's Line Pg. 5 Col 2)

## Western Angler

Western Angler, formerly King's Western Angler, is located at 532 College Ave., in Santa Rosa. To find it, turn east on College Ave. from Hwy 101. Cross Mendocino Ave., stop at the red light if necessary, and start looking for Sampson's Typewriter Co. Turn right into the parking lot and you're there. There are signs on both sides of the driveway touting the shop, one up high and one at belt level. Just "read the water." You'll find it.

Open the door, cross through the alcove and you are in the shop proper. Someone is bound to greet you as you enter. Most often that is going to be Brian Vignati.

**Brian Vignati** has done a stint guiding in Alaska for all five salmon: chum, sockeye, pinks, silver, and kings as well as grayling and rainbow trout. He has organized back pack trips for both large and small groups. Along the line, he has acquired a BA from San Diego State University in Recreation, Parks and Tourism spending several years working as a ranger for the National Park Service in northern California and Arizona. He has also served as Athletic Director for the Santa Rosa Boys and Girls Club.

**Shawn Kempkes** continues on with the new management. Shawn has an extensive background fishing all the northern California regions as well as British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. He is on the board of the RRFF and serves as program chairman for our club. When Shawn is not fishing or behind the counter for Western Angler, you'll find him working for the local Lucky supermarket outlet. As I am writing this he is leading an outing to the Umpqua River in Oregon. Look forward to some great fishing stories from this trip!

Red haired **Noel Plumb** is another new face manning the counter a couple of afternoons a week. Noel has been fly fishing for about ten years now, the last four seriously. He was president of North Bay Fly Fishers in Novato for two years and has taught various casting and fly tying classes. Float tubing the local lakes and ponds is high on his list of fun things to do. Talk to him about Spring Lake and Lake Ilesanjo. Surf perch and stripers have also been targeted by him from time to time

**Jim Kelly** comes up one day a week from the San Rafael store. Jim was born and raised in south Florida and has an extensive salt water background. The Florida Everglades were nearby when he was growing up and he has spent a lot of time fishing its waters. Trips to Flamingo, Key Largo, the Bahamas, Key West, the Marquesas and other angling hot spots help round out his fishing background. Locally he has spent time on the upper Sac, the McCloud, Manzanita Lake and has acquired a place in Mt. Shasta.

(Hmm, I didn't ask him if he'd consider renting it on a nightly basis. Oh well.) Additionally he has sold yachts, studied architecture at the University of Florida and attended the San Francisco Art Institute and makes part of his livelihood as a professional illustrator.

**Gene Fossi** and **Gary van Antwerp** may also be in the store to answer your questions and give advice. At this time they are spending most of their time in the San Rafael store. Gene is well known in the angling trade and is well versed in angling for steelhead and large mouth bass. I hear he has even done a few(?) slide shows for various organizations. (Maybe he is in the RRFF's future for one of our regular meetings?) Gary van Antwerp is the last of the group. I haven't met either Gary or Gene as of this writing. As always time is pressing and deadlines are near. But in talking with Gary on the phone he seems to be very knowledgeable and interested in a continued philosophy of fly fishing and quality fly fishing gear. Gary is the guy in charge so the ambiance should continue pretty much unchanged.

The Western Angler carries Sage, Loomis, Powell, St. Croix, Scott and Scientific Anglers rods. Able, Billy Pate, SA, Orvis, Ross and Lampson reels are available. If you can afford the finest, they can order one of Bill Archuleta's custom crafted creations, tho the last I heard there was a several month waiting period for delivery of any of Bill's reels. Soon to be available is a new series of reels designed by Ted Jurassic. Jurassic was formerly associated with Pate so these should be another quality reel. Float tubes, swim fins, waders, pontoon boats and a wide selection of fly tying vises and materials are available. It goes without saying that they have all the scissors, bodkins, threads, stackers, packers, dubbing twisters, hackle pliers, wing burners etc. that any tier could need. Both SA and Cortland lines are available in a dizzying array of sizes, types and colors. By the way, they are the only local dealer for SA's new "Mastery" lines. There are more Umpqua, Cortland and Climax leaders than you can shake a stick rod at. If your old fishing shirt is getting frayed at the cuffs, they stock a wide variety of designer tees, Tarpon Ware, etc. Oh yes, for those of us who would rather watch TV than read, there is a whole shelf of videos that are available for rent. I was told that fishing licenses will be available in the near future. The Western Angler stock access maps for all the northern California rivers. Plans currently are to place more emphasis on beginning fly fishers with plans for ladies only casting, fly tying and fly fishing classes. Stop in and ask about the classes! This is not to say that the shop won't continue to be the hangout for the local boys.

Brand new to Western Angler will be a collection of nearly 7,000 new, used and/or rare books. These are currently housed in San Rafael but will soon be making their way north. They are currently on the internet with these. I'll

(See "Western", Pg 5, Col 1)

## WHAT I DID AND DIDN'T DO ON MY SUMMER VACATION

How can it be October? April was about six weeks ago, or so it seems, the summer is gone, another trout season is about over and winter is staring us in the face again.

'As usual this time of year, I'm looking back on the spring and summer and, at the same time, relishing the memories of the fishing that got done during the season and regretting the trips planned during the winter that didn't find a place on the schedule this year.

The things I didn't do that were planned: Most notably, we didn't make the horseback trip into the head waters of the Yellowstone that I promoting at club meetings in April and May. We did get a group signed up and booked the trip for the last week in June. The Big Winter of Ninety-five, however, claimed another casualty when the outfitter, (Scott Milward, owner of Shoal Creek Outfitters in Jackson Hole), called on the tenth of June with the sorry news that the trip was not to be. Our proposed route north from Jackson Hole over Two Ocean Pass, elevation 10,500 ft., was still under eight to ten feet of snow and the Yellowstone Meadow valley where we were to make camp was totally flooded; no camping place, no forage for the livestock, no possibility of fishing any of the streams. End of story. (We did regroup and organized a trip out of Jackson Hole in August, which I'll cover in the "did-do" chapter.

Also...Didn't fish the Lower Sac; too much water (drifted it on the 30th of June and it looked like the Mississippi, huge and muddy and basically Un fishable, got skunked for the first time in my experience on that water).

...didn't get to the McCloud (altho' it's not too late, good fishing for spawning Browns thru October).  
...Didn't get to Klamath Lake and the Williamson.

But before I start sounding like a whiner, Maarji and I did make several trips to the Wilderness Unlimited property at Bidwell ranch, on one of which we were joined by Tim and Stacey Grogan and family, and had some good fishing and pleasant camping, (best memory: a twenty inch rainbow that rose to a size 18 Adams and then refused to quit for nearly twenty minutes, the kind of fish that can make a whole summer's fishing seem worth the trouble).

Then there was the Club trip to Lava Creek Lodge on the Fall which we stretched to five days thanks to the gift certificate for two days which I won at the Christmas Dinner Meeting. In my first Hex hatch; the sound of those Fall River rainbows slurping those huge bugs out there in the near dark while I fumbled to tie on another fly will remain with me over the cold winter, I'm sure.

The Second week in August the survivors of the aborted Yellowstone trip made the drive to Jackson Hole, (seventeen hours, straight through), to embark on "Plan B", a trip

into the head waters of the Gros Ventre River, (pronounced, "grow-vont", in the Gros Ventre Wilderness east of Jackson Hole and then down the other side of the Gros Ventre Range into the head waters of Shoal Creek, (pronounced, "Shole Crik"). The bad news was that the fishing on the Gros Ventre was, to put it bluntly, non-existent due to an apparent winter-kill from the previous hard winter following a drought summer which left all the trout schooled up in pools which froze solid when the cold hit, (at 9000 feet, cold means 20 to 50 below). The good news was that we rode into and through some of the most amazingly beautiful country I have ever seen in forty years of going to beautiful mountainous places. At the top of the Gros Ventre, nearly 10,000 feet, we could look north and see the Absorokas in Yellowstone, look west and see the top of Grand Teton, look east and see the Wind River Range and look south at the peaks of the Wyoming Range... all without moving from one spot! I'd go back in a heartbeat just for the scenery. Fortunately when we dropped down into shoal Creek we found good fishing for those great Snake River Cutts in Shoal Lake and Shoal Creek, complete with beaver ponds and not another fisherman in sight for three days. All in all the trip didn't touch the Yellowstone for fishing, but if you like horses and breathtaking country you would have loved it.

As a last hurrah, the weekend after Labor Day, myself, Theo Adkins, Roy Little and good friend and pilot Deems Davis took Deem's Beech Baron to West Yellowstone for a three-day weekend of Montana trout fishing. We waded the Madison one day, drifted it the next day and the third day we drove into Yellowstone Park where we discovered we could wade across the Yellowstone at Buffalo Ford, (not normally possible until very late in the year), and fish the, "other side", which doesn't get all the pressure the highway side gets all summer. The most memorable part of that day for me was finding myself belly-deep in the river with my retreat cut off by a herd of buffalo who had come down to the river while I was engrossed in working some fish on a Blue Wing Olive hatch. Those suckers are HUGE!, (the buffalo not the BWO's which were about 20's). I was beginning to contemplate a swim to the far side when they, (the buffalo), lost interest and wandered off.

A word on the Madison; although the local fly shops try to minimize the effect of Whirling Disease, the guides will tell you they have not been seeing the Rainbows they used to see, although the Browns are coming on strong and the fishing is still good in general. In two days we didn't see a 'bow longer than six inches and most of the fish caught were "Browns which is a reversal of the way it 'ustawas'.

so that's what I did on my summer vacation(s). Now it's time to get out the shooting heads, tie some striper and steelhead flies and start planning next summer's adventures. All in all it was a pretty good summer in spite of the high water and late spring.

*(See "Major" top of next page)*



## Major Con't.

I hope all of you had a good one too, and many thanks to fellow club members who shared some of our good time and made most of them better by being there, (Lee Smith may never ride with me in my boat again after I put us into the bank tules in the pitch dark while coming back from the Hex hatch on the Fall, but we're still friends, aren't we Lee?)

Tight Lines,

Paul Major

---

## Western con't.

try to have their address in the next Cast.

One last thing that caught my eye was "Heater Meals." These things cook in their own box by catalytic or chemical reaction. They are completely self contained and will let you have a hot meal with out leaving your pram. HOW'S THAT FOR AN APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES!. 'Tis possible Western Angler may have samples at a future RRFF meeting.

Stop in and see the new boys on the block. They're anxious to meet you. Shop hours are 9A to 6P, Monday thru Friday, Saturday it's 10A to 5P and "never on a Sunday."

(This is the first in a series of columns featuring our local area fly shops. the Cast is not promoting one over the other. It is just an effort to give each shop a little exposure to the RRFF. Ed.)

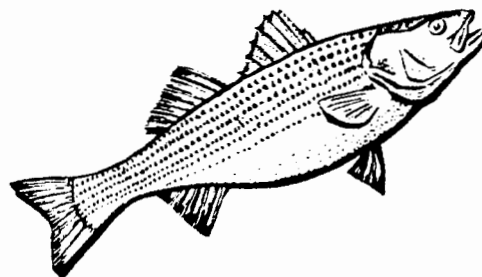


## A Timely Tip

Have ya' ever stood in the middle of a stream changing flies and discovered that the dummy who tied the fly, (maybe you?) had left the eye full of head cement. If you're like me you fish around for another fly and either tie it on or use it to poke the cemented eye open. Next time you're tying at the bench take a few seconds while the cement is still wet, grab a junk feather with a stem small enough to fit through the eye of the hook and pull the hackle through the eye stem first. This will clean out that extra dab of cement that ended up in the wrong place. I usually stick my newly tied flies in a block of foam while the cement dries. I have always left them in a head down position. I finally figured out it is just as east to put them tail down. That way any extra cement tends to flow into the base of the hackle or into the thorax and helps secure it.

## Franks Tract Outing

If you read, "the Pres Sez", you already know the date for this has been changed. The new date is Oct.21st. Pres Tim Grogan will spell out details at the October general meeting. If you couldn't make the original date, you just got lucky!



---

## the VPs Line (cont.)

driving for 10 or 11 hours of fishing. The Truckee River is another fairly close trip that is beyond my experience but would make a great day trip for anyone interested.

Last month's general meeting with Dan Blanton was a great show and a good prelude for the coming striper season. Hope everyone who wanted to got a chance to see it. Although the striper action is still a little slow at Franks Tract, watch for some upcoming trips once the fishing begins to pick up. While you're waiting, go "quick strip" some green Fatal Attractions at Martis for trout! It's almost the same thing.

If you're thinking of maybe visiting Baja next year, you'll definitely want to attend the October general meeting on the 18th. Tim Grogan will be recounting the exploits of this years club outing, with great new photos and lots of help from some of the RRFF members that made the trip. This was an exceptional year in Baja, so come and whet your appetite for one of the most reasonable week-long fishing trips that you will find anywhere!

In another month and a half, our trout season will be closed. Get out and enjoy some of the beauty and uncrowded fall fishing that we are lucky to have here in Northern California.

Screaming reels,

Steve Tubbs





## Casting About...

Nearly 80 people showed up to hear Dan Blanton's presentation on Fishing the Delta at the RRFF's September meeting. Three Kodak slide carousels and an hours time gave all the important wheres, whys, whats,whens and hows of catching stripers in the Delta. A lot of black bass also show up in the typical days catch. If you missed the meeting, you lost a tremendous opportunity to hear about the basics of a developing local fishery.

Speaking of a developing local fishery, the July/Aug. issue of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters has an article titled Perch in the Surf. The author, John Shewey, gives advice on the nuts and bolts of catching pink fin, or "redtail,"perch, barred perch, shiner perch and walleye perch. Interesting..Makes me think about Tomales Bay among other places. By the way, Fly Fishing in Salt Waters and Salt Water Fly Fishing are two distinctly different magazines.

At the September RRFF general meeting, **Paul Major** talked about the hoped for drift trip on the Sacramento. There is simply too much water coming out of Shasta Dam to make that feasible at the moment. Flows will have to drop below 5,000 cfm to make this trip possible. Contact Paul at 539-5437 to let him know if you're interested in this trip. He will keep up with the flows and put it together in short order when and if conditions are right.

**Pres. Tim Grogan**, interested board members, and several community members are getting together early in October to do advanced planning and coordination on the feasibility of going ahead with plans for a new club house. Bob Nauheim of Fishing International had offered his home as a meeting place for these early developmental meetings. Give Tim a call at 538-5917 if you have input for the group or if you are interested in helping with this project.

**Bob Sisson** is recently back from Alaska. He had some glorious fishing for silvers at a new camp located on Prince William Sound about halfway between Cordova and Yucatan. His total cost was \$3000 plus. This is one spot that the crowds haven't found yet and by Alaska's standards isn't terribly expensive. A week at many of the well established lodges can run \$4000 to \$6000 by the time you get back home.

Speaking of Alaska, **Bill Archuleta** is back from his northern sojourn. LESS THAN \$800 FOR A WEEK IN ALASKA & THAT INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION!!!. Bill will be telling us just how he did it at our November general meeting. (He is thinner than he was, mebbe he din't eat.)

**Ted Adkins** is off on an exploratory trip to the SW. One of the items on his itinerary is the San Juan River. Hope-

fully he will let us in on some of the details of this jaunt. "After all it is a fishing trip." Yes, he was on the Manzanita outing!

Closer to home, buddy **Leon Powell** had a tremendous mid-September weekend at Indian Valley Reservoir in Lake County fishing for Kokanee and Mackinaw. They were up in the shallows gorging on calibaetis. No real details on numbers, sizes or patterns, but he was really bubblin' about the fishin! Maybe he just called me to gloat(?). I was invited but couldn't go.

Many thanks to **Mike Nieters** for stepping up and taking over the coffee and cookie responsibilities for our monthly meetings. Mike was also the man who found the space for the RRFF's last rod building class. Hmm...maybe he has a spot in mind for the upcoming fly tying sessions.

**Lee Smith**, Outings Chairman, put out a sign-up sheet at the last general meeting for fly tying sessions. Only three people hooked up for that. Any of you that didn't make the meeting can give Lee a call if you want to join the group. We now need members to step forward and determine just how those sessions will be organized. Will it be for beginning tyers, or maybe sessions for people to get together and tie a particular type of fly. How about particular problems, ie wings on no hackles. I know I was never able to solve that one! Maybe we will need a couple of different groups for different purposes(?). Maybe several people would be interested in leading just one or two sessions. **Dan Fisher** for instance ties a really mean deer hair bass bug. I know there are many members who have great skills they could share. C'mon fellas, step forward and give of yourselves a little. You'll be able to feel proud knowing you have contributed. It is a nice feeling! Give Lee a call at 537-1421.

Eight of you signed up for a jaunt on the Russian to try for Silvers. This trip needs a leader. Be brave! Step forward and take charge!

**Dr. Ted Olson** was at the September general meeting. Ted was one of the charter members and founding fathers of the RRFF back in 1977. He was also one of the movers in getting the casting pond from concept to reality. Welcome back Ted!

**Tim Barrett** flashed a picture of a drift boat for sale. I didn't get any of the details on it. Sure, he'll be glad to talk to you about it. Call him at 538-5009.

(Got any information that is of general interest or use to members of the RRFF. Get it to me in any shape or form. I'll find some way to use in it the Cast. See me at the meeting or call me at 823-2029. If I don't answer my recorder will. Ed.)

## Casting Pond Corner

Club Casting Clinic

Date: SUNDAY OCTOBER 15th

Time: 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.



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

Another reminder for all of you interested casters who would like to become better. The clinics are staffed with instructors who can help you improve in the use of any kind of fly casting equipment you may be interested in using. Bring your own gear or call Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve one of the club's new, full line or shooting system outfits. The clinic will run from 12 noon until 2 P.M. or so. Have you ever tried shooting your back cast? This extra added technique can be a real help under several different sets of circumstances. I had occasion to use this cast on a number of instances on my recent trip to Alaska and it paid off big time. Instruction is yours for the asking.

The introduction to fly casting part of the clinic will run from 10 A.M. until noon. This session is to provide an opportunity for a little bit interested people to see if the sport is really for them. Coach Brian Wong has a limited number of outfits that he will loan on a reservation basis. If you know someone who might like to participate, have them call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

The next clinic will be November 19th.

Casting Pond Captain  
Bob Sisson

## Goin' Fishin'?

**How bout fishin' in your pocket for your 95-96 dues!!**

You say you don't know if you paid your dues or not? Look in the address area on the back page of this issue of the Cast, it will let you know if your dues are current or not. According to the RRFF bylaws any member whose dues are not paid by October 1st will be dropped from the roster. THERE ARE ABOUT 60 MEMBERS WHO ARE IN ARREARS according to membership chairman Tim Barrett. Please folks, speakers like Dan Blanton and Dave Whitlock aren't available without money to front them. Even the Cast isn't free. It may be cheap but it ain't free.

**Take a moment and write that check!!!**

Use the form and address available on the back page of this issue of the Cast. We'd hate to lose you over a paltry \$35.

**DON'T FALL THROUGH THE NET AND GET LOST!**

## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

This service is provided for active RRFF members only! (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.) If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get your name, phone number and short description of the item to:

The Cast,  
c/o Chuck Perry  
2985 Thorn Rd.,  
Sebastopol, CA 95472.

**Sage 61000 RPL** (6wt. - 10'), as new, \$300  
**Orvis 9 1/2'** 8wt. Stream King graphite, \$125  
**Custom 9 1/2'** 6wt. Fisher blank pro made, \$150  
Contact Paul Major - 579-0990 days, 539-5437 evenings.a

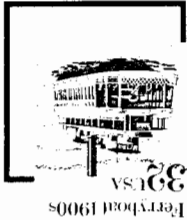
**Eide electric boat loader** \$500  
Contact Chuck Perry - 823-2029

**Walton Powell** graphite fly rod 10' for 8wt, \$85  
**Eide Boat Loader #404** manual, for pickup tops or vans. New in box! \$125  
Contact Marshall Lockman 829-5058

President: Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
 Secretary: Mark Landucci (528-4547)  
 Membership Database: Scott Broome (575-5993)  
 Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)  
 Program Director: Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)  
 Conservation Co-Chairmen: Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)  
 Cast Editor: Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
 Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
 Club Outings: Lee Smith (537-1421)  
 Raffle Chairman: Jim Hakei (869-9033)  
 Vice President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
 Treasurer: Paul Major (535-5437)  
 NCCFFF Club Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)

## 1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

Address correction requested.



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

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

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark one of the following categories.**

**I apply as a new member:**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$35 annual dues )  
☐ (Family membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$40 annual dues)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee **plus** \$20 annual dues)

**I wish to renew my existing membership**

- ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$40 annual dues **payable July 1st.**)

Please mail this application and your check payable to:  
**Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 21  
Number 11  
Nov. 1995

## The Pres sez:

If I ever suggest a club outing to Frank's Tract again, somebody shoot me! Last year's trip to the Delta was less than ideal with wind, rain and no fish. Well, this year's trip wasn't much better!

It started out terrific. The seven of us showed up at Russo's Marina at 5:00 P.M. Friday afternoon with plenty of time to put the boats in the water and set up camp. Watching Steve Tubbs and Bob Neill set up their stuff was like an advertisement for Cabela or L.L. Bean. They had the cots, the high tech tent and the water proof cases for everything! No paper grocery sacks or plastic garbage bags for these guys. There was no dirt or scratches on any thing. WE WERE IMPRESSED!!

There was a gentle breeze blowing as we pitched camp but not enough to worry about. Chuck at Chuck's Bait had given us a favorable fishing report, not red hot, but favorable. We had high expectations!!

I woke at 4:00 A.M. the next morning to the sound of the wind rustling the leaves on the mulberry tree outside the trailer- -NOT A GOOD SIGN! The water was choppy right from the start and got progressively worse. But I have a bigger boat than I had last year so Jim Hakel and I decided to tough it out and fished almost all day for one grab apiece and no fish.

Back at camp we found that the rest of the group had similar luck. We spent the rest of the afternoon drowning our sorrows and playing basketball. We had a great dinner and some interesting company at the Rusty Scupper.

When we got back from dinner it was still blowing a gale so we checked the boats and went to bed. Paul Major and I had moored our boats together with rubber fenders. The

next morning we found that overnight the wind had reached 45 MPH, dislodging the fenders from between the boats. By the time we got to the boats, they were grinding the paint off each other.

Fishing was definitely out of the question, so we packed up and headed out. Then, to add insult to injury on the way home, the awning on Paul's travel trailer blew open, tearing the canvas and punching a hole in the aluminum siding. It was fun hanging out with such a good group of guys but other than that it was not a productive trip. Hopefully the next outing will be better!

This month's program on fishing Alaska for under a thousand bucks should instigate another great outing for the club in addition to our Baja trip. I'm sure Bill Archuleta could be coerced into hosting a trip. I know that trips like Baja and Alaska may seem like rather lofty goals to some but the memories of trips like these will last a life time.

Our December dinner meeting is just around the corner. The speaker, Dave Whitlock, is one of the biggest names in the fly fishing community. With Dave's wealth of experience and talent, I'm sure it will be a memorable program. Please sign up for the dinner as soon as possible and by all means invite your friends. Our Christmas dinner and raffle is how we make a lot of the money it takes to get speakers of this caliber so your support is very important!

This fall weather sure got my blood pumping in anticipation of salmon and steelhead fishing. With a little more favorable weather than we had last year, we just might have some good fishing in the Russian this year. Get out! Enjoy it! Bring the stories back to us!

Keep your fly in the water,

Tim

---

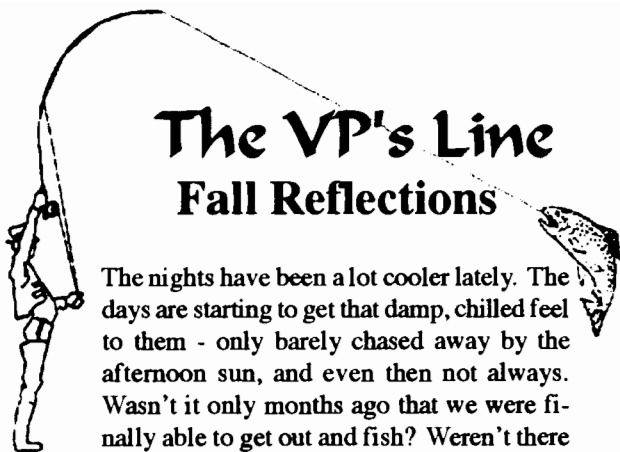
## 1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Mark Landucci 528-4547)

**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)  
**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)  
**Conservation Co-Chairmen:** Harry Schoonbaert (539-8129) and Marshall Lockman (829-5058)  
**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
**Club Outings:** Lee Smith (537-1421)  
**Raffle Chairman:** Jim Hakel (869-9033)  
**NCCFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)



## The VP's Line Fall Reflections

The nights have been a lot cooler lately. The days are starting to get that damp, chilled feel to them - only barely chased away by the afternoon sun, and even then not always. Wasn't it only months ago that we were finally able to get out and fish? Weren't there winter storms still hanging on around Father's Day? What happened to the summer, to trout season, to all of the things I hoped to do this year, all of the places I hoped to fish?

For me it was a hectic summer. Business was good so something else had to suffer and that something was usually my fishing. And there was baseball... and soccer (only just now wrapping up!)... and all of those other things that Dads do with their 7 year old sons on weekends. Soon, Nicholas may wish to accompany me on those fishing trips, the one's I had no time for this year, the one's that I am regretting missing now, the one's that help dissuade the cabin fever with their recollection. Somehow I'm not ready for the end of trout season and the onslaught of winter. It's too early, my fishing journals are too sparse and I feel a longing to be on the water. Summer water. The warm evenings and late sunsets, the swarms of caddis, the comfortable quiet of mountain lakes and moving rivers.

The summer rivers have passed me by, and their memories of a season ago are less bright and in need of reinforcement. But it is already too late for that. The winter rivers are beginning now, the chill is here, penetrating my spirits with the certainty of what I have missed. Choices. And after them the consequences. Something had to give, always has to. We move on. Business is starting to slow a little now. Maybe last winter's washed out steelhead trips will find me this year. Maybe.

As the holiday season arrives, I hope all of you had memorable and eventful fishing seasons and that the steelhead around the corner help to highlight our winter months. Share your stories with us in *the Cast*. Help to brighten those summer memories and fuel us against the chill.

Within the next month, there will be two RRFF General Meetings. November 15th finds Bill Archuleta sharing his Alaska fishing on a budget, a trip that boasts premium Alaskan fishing, for one week, for well under \$1,000.00 *including your air fare*. Bill's presentations are always great so you'll want to be sure to attend. Just over 3 weeks later, on Friday, December 8, will be our annual Russian River

Fly Fishers December Dinner Meeting with our special guest Dave Whitlock. This should be an exceptional show and for those of you who attended our last dinner meeting at the Flamingo Hotel, you know how nice the accommodations were. Make your plans now to attend and to bring guests or invite your friends. Dave Whitlock is an exceptional speaker and one of the most prominent figures in flyfishing today. I hope all of you can attend and support our club.

As we all get busier in these next months let's remember how lucky we are to have this sport of flyfishing, and the Russian River Fly Fishers as our vehicle to get together and share this passion. Let's thank all of those people who have been doing such a great job and putting forth the effort that has really got things going for us these last few years. And let's make it a point to show our support, to attend the General Meetings, to attend our Dinner Meetings and to commit to continued growth and enthusiasm that is so much a part of the RRFF today.

In hopes that this winter is a little less harsh than our last, see you on Wednesday.

Steve Tubbs



## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get your name, phone number and short description of the item to:

The Cast, c/o Chuck Perry  
2985 Thorn Rd.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472.

This service is provided for active RRFF members only! (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

Sage 590 GFL (5wt 9ft) + tube Mint \$80  
Hardy fiberglass (6wt 8ft 6in) + tube \$35  
Hardy Perfect 3 3/8, agate line guide \$150  
Columbia vest, Lg. \$25  
Thompson vise "A" + 3 bobbins + 2 scissors \$20  
Winston cane rod 4 1/4oz, 8 1/2ft, 2 tips, case \$600  
Contact Fred Pedersen 542-5296

Powell graphite fly rod mint (10ft 6wt) \$85  
Eide boat loader #404, manual, for pickup tops or vans, in original box \$125 (New price is \$369)  
Contact Marshall Lockman - 829-5058

## Board of Directors

Monday

**November 13, 1995**

7:00 P.M., 1995

Warrack Hospital Board Room

2449 Summerfield Road

Santa Rosa, CA

## General Meeting

**Bill Archuleta**

does one week in

**Alaska**  
**for less than**  
**\$800**

including round trip air and bush  
plane!!!

Come hear about the travel miracle of  
the 1990's.

Cozy cabin in the woods!

B & B in Juneau, AL

Enough silver salmon to be fun!

Pink salmon to die for!!

250 cabins available

**Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1995**

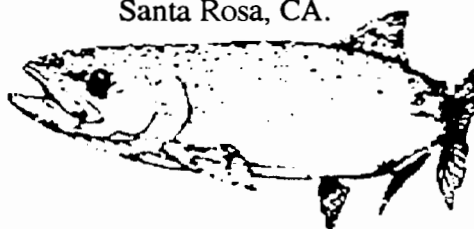
**7:00 P.M.**

The North Room

Veterans Memorial Building

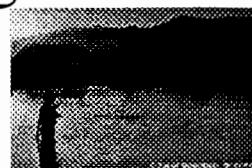
1351 Maple Ave.

Santa Rosa, CA.



## Club Casting Clinic

**Date: SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 19th**



**Time: 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.**

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

Just a little curious to see how much your distance casting has improved? Come out and test yourself against the distance casting course. Equally curious about your accuracy? Come out and shoot the ring course for a while. Feel like you could use some coaching? There are coaches available at the clinics every month. Like to try some high capability equipment? Call president Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve one of the club's full line or shooting system outfits. The clinic will run from noon until 2 P.M. or so. Practice pays off!! Instruction is yours for the asking.

The Introduction to Fly Casting session will run from 10 A.M. until noon. If you know someone who might like to give fly casting a try and needs equipment, coach Brian Wong has some full line outfits he will loan on a reservation basis. Those who need the gear can call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

We are now nearing the time of year when weather may become a limiting factor. If we are experiencing a serious winter storm the clinic will be postponed until December.

Casting Pond Captain  
Bob Sisson

## WINE, WINE, WINE

Scotty Broome, the one of RRF July barbecue fame, has volunteered to "procure" the wine for the Whitlock dinner at no cost to the club. This is formidable undertaking even for one of his prodigious persuasive powers! If you have any connections with the wine industry or if you have just inherited your late Uncle Joe's humungous wine cellar, how's 'bout helpin' Scotty out? Give him a call at 575-5993. One bottle or several cases - all donations gladly accepted!

# “Got Enough For a Chowder?”

Well, its been a week since “Frank’s Tract II” and I’m convinced - there are a few things that you just can’t count on, especially when they have to do with flyfishing, weather and late October.

Things were looking real good only a few days before the lot of us planned to assault Chuck’s Bait and Tackle and experience first hand the improved fishing reports emanating from his Russo’s Marina “last chance” concession. Tim had managed to assemble quite a mob of prospective striper stalkers but by gameday, the high wind advisories had scared off the not so serious anglers (translate that as “smarter”) and left only the diehard, adverse condition specialists who would do practically anything rather than spend the weekend doing odd jobs around the house. Just for the record (and so the rest of you will know who to mock at November’s meeting) this year’s “chuck and duck” was attended by; our host Tim “B.B.” Grogan (we’re proceeding counter-clockwise around the bar table), Dwight “M.P.” Longuevan, Jim “Dr. Bob” Hakel, Scott “L.S.S.” Lewis, Bob “the real Bob” Neill, Steve “Roberto” Tubbs and Paul “good enough sense to stay at the trailer” Major. “Hat’s off” to the rest of you who didn’t even bother to show up!

Not that things were that bad! (After all, it was a fishing trip!) Friday evening found the lot of us launching boats, parking trailers and pitching tents at Russo’s comfortable marina/campground followed by a little bit of “hoop” and a session of “stack the ice chests” (on the picnic table) to give Dwight the elevation he needed to retrieve a flat basketball from the roof of the picnic area. It was a good thing that cocktail hour had begun upon leaving our vehicles or we might never have put up that fourth ice chest, the one that allowed Dwight to simply step onto the rim and from there to the roof. The significant point here, of course, is that there were four big ice chests and only seven guys...and our food fit in only one half of one of the chests!

Dinner at the Delta Marina was just the thing to “take off the edge” after making camp. Most of us had the “special”, T-bone steaks sans bone, which we simply classified as “some kind of meat”. Couldn’t beat the price and what we couldn’t chew or wash down with beer made a perfect evening meal for “Sam”, Paul’s black lab and striper retriever. Thus relieved, we headed back to Russo’s and turned in early in anticipation of Saturday’s windfest.

The predawn stillness was not! By the time the sun joined the rest of us, the breeze was hinting of the upcoming

battle, and promising that few would not go the day without being reminded of why Dan Blanton named that fly the “whistler”. Paul and Dwight headed out in Paul’s Tracker, Tim and Jim took off in Tim’s Tracker, Scott hit the water solo in his own boat and Bob and I set out in his Valco, complete with modified casting deck in the bow which worked out pretty darn slick despite the wind.

We weren’t the only sportsmen on the Tract. Opening day of duck season accompanied us and with it the occasional barrage of shots from one of the many blinds that pepper the surface of the “lake”. After rounding the berm, we were greeted by working birds, who were not as busy working baitfish as they were harassing a seal who was busy showing all of us the only striper we would see for the weekend. It was a nice fish! Already the wind was baring its teeth and the chop was making Bob’s new casting deck feel like a day at the gym. Toes trying to clutch the deck, legs bent into a crouch and weighted flies singing in the wind, we braved that wide open expanse of water - for about 15 minutes. In that space of time, the gulls gave the skies to the ducks and our own momentum across the water found us well on our way to the eastern edges of Frank’s Tract, and the islands and rock walls at that end of the blow.

Bob and I spent the morning fishing the rock wall and the islands along the eastern side. We soon discovered that things worked a lot better if one of us devoted his efforts to piloting the boat while the other fished. As the morning progressed, the wind seemed to lessen and for awhile it looked as if our prospects were improving. But we couldn’t find the fish. Plenty of weeds, sticks and hyacinth but no fish! At noon we headed back to Russo’s to beat the lunch rush and reformulate our strategies.

The lunch stories were heartening! Tim had actually had a striper on for a few moments before breaking it off! Hakel was “top rod” having lucked into a school of feeding clams. He legally hooked and landed two during the height of the hatch and both were caught in the mouth! After explaining to us the intricacies of his strip retrieve, we declared cocktail hour officially begun. During our hiatus, the wind regrouped and was promising to “put down” any other clams with the 3 foot waves and white-caps it was creating out in the Tract. We decided to wait for the evening hatch, what with the sudden appearance of Mr. Walker, Mr. Cuervo, the Royals and a few of their friends.

It didn’t get any better. But as this was a fishing trip, we all once again took to the water as afternoon blew into evening. Black bass, or anything really, was the new quarry - mainly because this would allow us to fish behind the sheltering berm and within the waterways surrounding the tract, thereby staying somewhat out of the wind. Bob and I headed to points south, finding a nice sheltered area



where there weren't any fish but I lucked into a brief resurgence of the "clam hatch" and caught two, legally, in quick succession. Don't tell me I'm not a quick study! The remainder of the evening we devoted to casting practice, finally returning to Russo's with the setting sun.

Back at camp, Jim was trying to get together a pool for "top rod" honors, having hooked and landed his third clam of the day thereby retaking the lead and breaking our tie. The rest of our group had had some luck with weeds, hyacinth and sticks, but no one was certain that there were any fish in our immediate vicinity. We were all very certain of the wind, however. With the departure of the sun, the wind had summoned up reinforcements and had turned things up a notch. As the cocktail glasses were being blown from the tables, we decided it wouldn't be such a bad idea to stroll off down the levee in search of a good meal.

The Rusty Porthole, only a few hundred yards from Russo's, is a first-class place for a bunch of grubby fishermen to spend an evening. Boasting a nice bar, good live music, and a nice dining area with a terrific menu, the waiting list didn't bother us a bit. After a number of rounds, loud storytelling and raucous laughter, the proprietors finally ushered us off to a large corner table only a short step from the bar. The food was quite good, although by that point who really knew, and we had such a grand time that Bob "Twinkletoes" Neill felt compelled to dance, between the tables while searching for accompaniment from the still-packed bar. That loosened things up considerably, and soon Bob's antics brought attention from our nearest neighbors, whom we left wondering "I sure wish I knew who the real Bob was!" We thought it wise to remove ourselves before the dancing really caught on, so we reluctantly ventured back out into the gale that had become Russo's. After a quick check of the boats, and a review of the tent situation, most of us headed off to town for a little recon but nothing we found there held quite the allure of our dinner stop so we were soon back at camp in hopes of a calm Sunday.

The morning light left no question about our chances for fishing. The wind continued to batter the Delta, the overnight gusts reaching 45 MPH as recorded at Chuck's, the morning blast still blowing in the 20's. The Trackers had banged into each other and the dock for a good part of the night, the bumpers having dislodged in the wind and waves, and were pretty scratched up. Odd jobs from around the house, items forgotten but now suddenly remembered, took on a new priority as we broke camp and pulled the boats from the water. By 9:00 A.M. the wind had won, and the stripers were again safe from the talents of the Russian River Fly Fishers. As we caravanned away from Russo's Marina, we were thankful for at least one thing. It hadn't rained!

Our second trip to Frank's Tract as a group had again turned into another blow-out. This time of year seems to be a crap shoot at best, as far as weather goes, and planning an outing and hoping for the best has yet to work for us. Yet despite the insufferable fishing conditions, the trip itself was a lot of fun, as they all seem to be. We all go fishing for different reasons, and often it is not the catching of fish that we remember most. The chance to recharge from a busy work schedule, to simply "goof off" for a couple of days, to get out and enjoy some of the outside - whether its windy, rainy, snowing or dead calm and clear - to let go of the routine and simply exist, to try to fool a fish with a fly by means of a contemplated and well rehearsed plan, to fish. And when we do these things with others who are of similar mind, the opportunity for a memorable experience seems more inevitable and the chance to learn more certain. I have not been on a club outing that has not had its moments. The fishing is not always great, or even good, but the participants make the trip worthwhile anyway and it is something that I would urge all RRFF members to be a part of.

I arrived home around 12:00 noon on Sunday, just in time to do one of those things I had earlier sidestepped by going fishing. My son was playing in the 1:00 P.M. Championship Peeewe soccer game of the Windsor Cup Soccer Tournament. I arrived at his game just in time and his team won, 1 - 0. It was a great fishing trip!

Steve Tubbs



## Y'ALL COME!!

All members of the RRFF, their spouses and friends are cordially invited to a cocktail party honoring Dave Whitlock and his wife, Emily, Saturday evening, December 9, 1995 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Oaktop, Bob Nauheim's home high on Mt. Taylor.

RSVP Shawn Kempkes at the Western Angler, 542-4432, or his home 546-2014 for the address and maps to Bob's home. PLEASE GIVE SHAWN THE NUMBER OF GUESTS IN YOUR PARTY! This will allow us to have appropriate supplies on hand for the expected number of guests.

*(Many thanks to Bob Nauheim for his generous offer to host this affair. Ed.)*

# Outdoor Pro Shop

To find the Outdoor Pro Shop, take Highway 101 to Rohnert Park. Turn east on the Rohnert Park Expressway and move into the right hand lane. The first stop light east of 101 is Commerce Blvd. Turn right, (south). There is a gas station at this corner. Turn right again, (west), into the shopping center. The owner, Ken Elie, (pronounced E-lie) would appreciate it very much if you would stop or find a place to park before you drive into his shop. The actual street address is 6315 Commerce Blvd., Rohnert Park. For you old-timers, this building was formerly occupied by Toy and Model. The Outdoor Pro Shop is a huge, 5340 sq. ft., very open, spacious and airy place.

Ken opened his store in April of '94. His goal on opening the shop was to be able to outfit any angler to tackle any fish any where. To that end he has sections of the store devoted to trout, stripers, rock fish & bottom fish, salmon-both ocean and river, black bass, sturgeon, surf fish and small rock fish. As you may have guessed from the aforementioned list of species, this is not an exclusively fly fishing shop-(more on the fly fishing later).

Ken Elie spent some 10 years of his career in textile manufacturing and another 15 years in corporate banking. Yearning for a change of pace, he spent two years researching the market and manufacturers before opening the Outdoor Pro Shop. By his own admission there is nothing in Sonoma County to approach his shop in size or in his comprehensive approach to fishing. This comprehensive approach carries over into his employees also. One is a WON pro bass circuit winner, two others are exclusively fly fishermen. Ken grew up in southern California fishing the beaches there on a daily basis. His resumé includes trips to Hawaii and 12 jaunts to Mexico including Cozumel and Cancun. Bonefish in Florida were his latest quarry. He was lucky enough to be chased by two hurricanes while he was there. Good timing Ken!

Debbie Elie is the back room pro, handling all those mundane tasks that are super important to making a business a success but are often overlooked by those of us who are more involved in the sport than in the business. You may not see her but she is there and is an important part of the shop!

Skeet Reese is a black bass fisherman par excellence! He has won a completely equipped bass boat each of the last two years on the WON pro bass circuit. He loves Lake Sonoma in the spring. Skeet heads for the ocean and salmon in season, braves the winter for steelhead and spent part of the summer of 95 fishing in Mexico for dorado, sails, marlin, and tuna. You'll find Skeet in the store 40

hours a week if he isn't out on the professional bass circuit. Skeet is also an old hand with a cast net having grown up in the South with a need to catch his own bait.

Scott Carey is a fly fishing fool, (Ken's words-not mine). He has been in retail sales for 10 years. Scott has spent time on the prowl for surf perch, an oft over looked quarry, trout, salmon, stripers, shad and steelhead. Baja's lure proved to be irresistible for him this past summer. If you saw Tim's show on this you know the kind of season '95 was down there.

Jon Nyberg is a student at Sonoma State University. He is a knowledgeable fly fisherman who manages to squeeze a full job schedule in between classes. He likes to spend his spare time trekking around northern California for whatever is in season.

The fly fishing section of the Outdoor Pro Shop is already complete but is due to expanded in the upcoming months. There are 720 bins of flies ranging from size 24 midges to Abel anchovey patterns. A new item is Hoffman Hackle Bits. These are partial necks or patches of dry, wet and schlappen feathers. Prices range from about \$3 to \$7. You'll find rods by Loomis, Lamiglass, Fenwick, St.Croix and Redington, reels from Aaron, Pflueger, Ross, Fin-Nor, Billy Pate, Odyssey and Orvis.and hooks by Eagle Claw, Mustad and Gamakatsu. There are rack of vests, shirts and britches, five different brands of waders, and an assortment of wading shoes, belly and pontoon boats (one with an electric motor). They have books, hardbound and paper back and videos for rent. They also have the Fishing Buddy II, a portable depth finder that runs on 3 c-cell batteries. It is ideal for a small pram.

Outdoor Pro Shop carries items made by Orvis, D. H. Thompson, The Hackle House and Loon. They have all the gadgets and aids for tying and fishing. No wonder my vest weight 20 lbs. what with all the nippers, hemostats, nets, thermometers, knot tyers, hook threaders, leader material, stomach pumps, etc.

I ran across several items of interest to me. Some piqued my curiosity and imagination. I put several on my wish list and bought a few. Corrosion X comes in a neat dispenser bottle with its own pressurizing pump and is refillable. It is a lubricant and corrosion preventative. I also discovered some fly line ID markers, little hollow tubes marked with line types and sizes. Slip then on the line, dunk them in hot water and they shrink to fit. There was a fly line winder also. It cranks the line back into a little plastic box. it looked really neat. The crank is separate from the box and so helps prevent bulk. I had

read about Zap Kicker, a crazy glue accelerator, but this was the first place I had seen the stuff.

Ken also made me aware of their seminar room. Local guides are brought in for seasonal presentations and it is available to groups on a reservation basis. The room is booked solid for Thursday nights by several local fishing groups.

Fly tying materials include necks by Metz and Keough,

dubbing by Seal Ex and Ligas, Crystal, Cactus, & Ice chenilles, Larva Lace both foam and body material. On the peg board was a good selection of both doll and crystal (stemmed) eyes. They stock lines by SA (including Mastery lines), Lee Wulff, Teeney and Orvis along with any backing you might need.

If you are in the area, drop in and browse around. I warn you though, you might buy more than you anticipate. They aren't pushy salesmen, they just stock a lot of neat stuff!

## Whitlock is Comin'

By now you should have received the flier for the Dec. 12 RRFF Christmas dinner featuring Dave Whitlock as guest speaker. **THIS ONE IS GOING TO SELL OUT IN A FLASH. DON'T BE LEFT OUT.** I hate to see anyone lookin' like the guy who discovers his waders leak after making a five hour drive to the Klamath. Get that flier off the desk or counter, tell your significant other that you are taking 'em out to dinner and **GET YOUR CHECK IN THE MAIL NOW!!!!** (Thanks to Steve Tubbs for the production work on the flier and to Shawn Kempkes for hookin' Dave Whitlock and providing the bio and art work!)

.....  
JUST IN CASE YOU MISPLACED THE ORIGINAL FLIER YOU CAN USE THIS FORM FOR RESERVATIONS

PLEASE MAKE MY RESERVATION FOR  
**DINNER WITH DAVE WHITLOCK**

FRIDAY DEC. 8, 1995  
No Host Cocktails at 6:30 P.M..  
Dinner at 7:30 P.M.  
FLAMINGO RESORT HOTEL  
4th St. and Farmers Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405



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

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please enclose \$35 per attendee)

Please make you menu selections below for each person in your party.

\*Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ dinner(s)

\*Broiled herb and brandied chicken breast \_\_\_\_\_ dinner(s)

Mail your reservations with check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**  
**P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.**

For more information please contact Shawn Kempkes (707) 546-2014

\*Vegetarian dinners available by special request



Address correction requested.

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



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

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark one of the following categories.

I apply as a new member: ☐ (Single membership-\$10 initiation fee plus \$35 annual dues )  
☐ (Family membership-\$10 initiation fee plus \$40 annual dues)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee plus \$20 annual dues)

I wish to renew my existing membership ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)

Please mail this application and your check payable to:  
Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405