



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 22  
Number 1  
January 1996

## The Pres sez:

I'd like to start by wishing you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!. I hope Santa was kind and brought you all the things you had circled in your favorite fishing catalog. Santa was pretty good to me. He brought some Orvis 2 mil waders, a new Tidelog which shows a graph of the high and low tides for each day, (these are great if you fish any tidally effected water), a Hoffman grizzly saddle that was far too nice for any of my flies so it was returned for three lesser saddles. I also got a book called The Complete Guide to California Fishing. The book is a kind of generic angler's bible with little value to fly fishers, however on further inspection I found it shows the migratory routes and timing of striper urns from the ocean to the delta. It also had some great info on ocean salmon fishing, which I hope to do more of next season. But that's enough about toys!

This year's RRFF Holiday Dinner was a terrific success. We had 113 people in attendance to share some good food, good wine and good fishing in New Zealand with Dave Whitlock and his charming wife Emily. If you didn't get the chance to talk to the Whitlocks personally you missed out! They are both genuinely friendly people!!

As I said earlier the dinner was very successful and that was because of strong support from a very healthy club. Shawn Kempkes and Scott Broome worked hard planning and organizing the arrangements. Jim Hakel put together a great raffle, thanks in part to some generous donation from club members.

I hope that the much needed rain isn't keeping you from fishing altogether. Before the last big rain there were quite

a few steelhead being caught in the Russian. If you've got \$75 to spend and want to do some private trout fishing, call Paul Wilms at (707) 965-2207 over in Pope Valley. My dad and I fished at his ranch last month, (Nov., Ed ). Between us we caught close to 40 trout from 16 inches to 7 lbs. We were fishing from float tubes with streamers to imitate juvenile blue gill.

As many of you know I've gotten addicted to striper fishing over the last couple of years. The fish never really showed up at Frank's Tract this fall so we started fishing San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and found that there are still enough stripers around to catch them on flies if you know what to look for. The bay fishing is over till next year but look for rocky or sandy areas and preferably at least 18" visibility in water shallow enough to cover with fly gear. The fish feed best across the top of the tide and smaller tidal movements seem to me more conducive to fly fishing.

For fly fishers the delta means Frank's Tract which hasn't fished very well this fall. However, there are several other places in the delta where you can take stripers on flies if you've got a boat and a good map. On New Year's Day, Binky Castleberry and I fished Discovery Bay and found lots of fish on the graph. There were guys catching them by trolling plugs but we couldn't get them on flies. Just another place we need to learn. We then went over to Mildred Tract where we finally managed to get five stripers from 4 to 6 lbs. on white and yellow Whistlers. We were told that 2 to 4 weeks prior had been excellent fishing in this area. All accounts seem to indicate that the fishing should continue in the delta for the next couple of months, weather permitting. To give it a try and let me know how it was.

Tim Grogan

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

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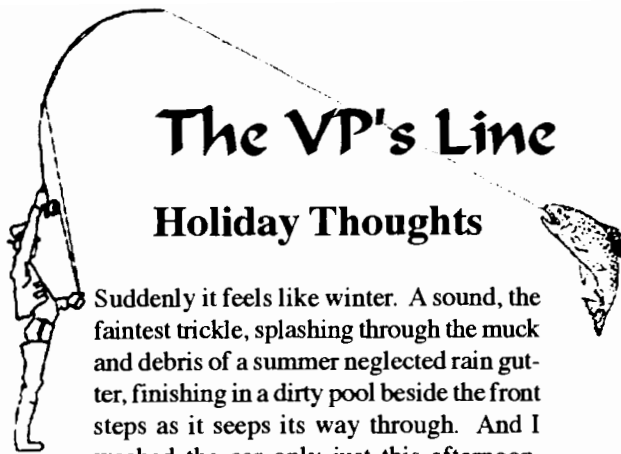
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**NCCFFF Club Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)



## The VP's Line

### Holiday Thoughts

Suddenly it feels like winter. A sound, the faintest trickle, splashing through the muck and debris of a summer neglected rain gutter, finishing in a dirty pool beside the front steps as it seeps its way through. And I washed the car only just this afternoon.

The drizzle has been steady for a few hours now, sometimes even qualifying as light rain. And although I haven't really been out, I've been observing from my chair in front of the wall heater as it, and the incoming tide, slickened things up out at Candlestick (what?) Park. When I first noticed something other than mist silhouetted in the stadium lights, I headed for the front porch for confirmation. The streets were wet, the gutters flowing, the correct seasonal conclusion to this overcast day.

It's been a beautiful fall. Most of the rivers have been closed for over a month now, but our own backyard is still open and the lack of rain to this point is tough to get too worked up about. Last year was so wet that it just now seems as if we're starting to dry out, and our wettest month's are still ahead with promise. We can afford to enjoy a little Indian summer, fish for stripers in the bay and delta, search the river for early signs of steelhead, ease ourselves slowly into the winter mode.

In less than a week, Dave Whitlock will be sharing his experiences of New Zealand with the Russian River Fly Fishers. This has been an anticipated dinner meeting for a number of months now, and I hope all of you are planning to come out and support our club for this special event. Ticket sales were quite brisk with only three weeks to showtime and there is a real possibility of a sell-out. As this newsletter may not reach you before Friday's meeting, I hope it finds you satisfied with our last club meeting of 1995.

A couple of weeks ago, I managed to do a little fishing - at about the same time all of the "hot" fishing reports were filtering down from the Chetco. I took a weekend trip up to Arcata to visit my folks and, after talking to Dave at "Time Flies", talked my dad into accompanying me up to the Trinity River in hopes of some steelhead. We spent Saturday hitting a few different spots on the river, starting at Willow Creek and working down to the Hoopa area. We saw fish in a few locations, already under heavy pressure from the hardware and bait guys, so instead of being a couple of "premium A-1's" we searched out more uncrowded and unfor-

tunately fishless water. The weather and the river were beautiful and it was a thoroughly enjoyable day nonetheless.

Sunday morning I tried the tidewaters of the Mad River, where the steelhead had started showing a few weeks earlier. I was a little late, catching the tide at the ebb and as it was starting to go out, but I wasn't lonely. Actually there was a group of four or five fly fishermen fishing the north side of the river where I was, and we all watched the bait crowd (on the south side of the river - fishing off the boat launch ramp and adjacent bank) play a few nice fish, in the 6-8 pound range, and even manage to bring one to a severe bludgeoning on the bank. One young lady evidently caught her first fish of any kind (a half-pounder) judging by her screams and the dragging of the fish up the boat ramp and into the parking lot. Her excitement to get her line wet again was momentarily interrupted when she sunk her roe-dressed hook into her admiring little brother's arm on her next cast. An adult relative dislodged the hook with what could only have been practiced ease, and within minutes she was back in the water as the assembled onlookers consoled her brother to "take it like a man". It was another beautiful day, the fog burning off early and the bright sun driving the fish to the deeper pools where they were safe from me.

Thanksgiving weekend brought with it the "holidays" and family obligations that left no time for other pursuits. Once again I find myself laying in wait for those rare days when I can dodge all other obligations and go fishing - but then we all have a lot of time in December. May you all have the happiest of holidays, a Merry Christmas and a great New Year! Here's to more fish in '96.

Steve Tubbs

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## Did Ya' Notice?

This was supposed to be the December issue but Mother Nature conspired with the Weather God to send us the nastiest storm in many a moon during the normal production time for *The Cast*. We had no power for over 36 hours and my word processor simply stared back at me like a black hole during all that time. The storm was immediately followed by a broken shoulder on my 98 year old mother who is living with us. While learning to cope with that my wife developed pneumonia. Combine those three items with all the family responsibilities for the holiday season and December just melted away before this issue was ready! I sincerely hope the end of 95 was kinder to your household than it was to mine!! Hopefully production for the rest of the year will be routine and on time. My apologies to any of you who might have noticed *The Cast's* absence!

## A Taste of Paradise

It is nice to be reminded, as winter sets in and the first storms roll across the wine country, that there are other places where the chill has already run its course and where spring has come with blossoming colors, sparkling rivers and large beautiful trout. In the images of New Zealand, presented by Dave and Emily Whitlock at our December dinner meeting, I found myself looking ahead to our own spring, encouraged by the lush fern-tree forests, the rugged canyons, the deep green valleys colorfully splashed with wildflowers, the wild, crystal-clear rivers and the sparkling blue skies. Their beautiful photographic essay captured what is considered by some to be a flyfisherman's paradise, a feeling obviously shared by our guest speakers as they recounted for us some of the experiences of their two visits to this remarkable destination.

If you were unable to attend our last RRFF meeting of 1995, it was a resounding success. "One of the best dinner meetings of the last ten years!" was a sentiment not uncommon from the members and guests in attendance. As winter crept into Sonoma county, the spacious and well-appointed accommodations of the Flamingo Hotel once again beckoned, this time over 115 dinner guests, for our "last hoorah" of 1995. And what a way to welcome the new year!

Dave Whitlock, and his wife Emily, joined us for a short respite from the homeward leg of their latest journey to New Zealand. Beginning with our dinner meeting slide presentation (of their first New Zealand trip two years ago) Dave and Emily kicked off their busy weekend schedule with the Russian River Fly Fishers and the Western Angler. Saturday found Dave at the Western Sport Shop in San Rafael, and later at the Western Angler in Santa Rosa, demonstrating some of his renowned fly patterns and tying techniques, signing books and answering questions. The evening wrapped up at "Oaktop", Bob Nauheim's beautiful home high atop Mt. Taylor, for a cocktail reception for Dave and Emily, before the final portion of their journey home on Sunday.

Friday evening truly was something special. Thanks to a lot of hard work from Shawn Kempkes and Scott Broome on getting everything set up, and from the rest of the board members in promoting the meeting and making it all work once it got underway, this years dinner meeting was the best I have attended. A virtual "sell-out", RRFF members and guests were treated to a great dinner, an exceptional raffle (with numerous door prizes), cocktails, good company and an excellent presentation of one of the world's dream flyfishing destinations. Spending the evening with Dave and Emily as they shared with us some of the things that make flyfishing so special to them was a treat. Their wonderful personalities attested to why they are such sought-after speakers.

With generous donations from some of our club members and from area businesses, this years raffle was incredible. Some of the prizes included a pontoon boat (donated by the Western Angler), a 6 wt. Sage rod (donated by Dave Whitlock and Sage), 49'er tickets (donated by Paul Dix), a three day/ two night trip for two to Lava Creek Lodge (donated by Bob Nauheim and Fishing International), assorted flies (beautifully tied by Jim Cramer), gift certificates (donated by the Outdoor Pro Shop) and a number of other items, both donated and purchased, that contributed to a truly impressive array of goods. Numerous door prizes were also given away (once again donations) some of which were a "fisherman's goodie basket" (donated by Moreda's Sporting Goods) and some excellent red wines. Although I have not listed all of the donations here, these generous contributions were a fantastic addition to the evening, and all of the contributors deserve our deepest thanks for their efforts and success in making this evening a dinner meeting to remember.

Saturdays fly-tying session with Dave Whitlock, at the Western Angler, found a number of RRFF members taking notes and questioning Dave on his various fly-tying techniques. His sculpin and hopper patterns were of particular interest, as were his prodigious use of "Zap-a-Gap" and Flex cement. The "Zap-a-Gap" whip finish and Dave's custom hair stacker (his palm) proved food for thought and drew a few surprised comments. A number of club members also purchased some of Dave's books, and took the opportunity to have Dave "art"ograph their copies with an original Whitlock drawing.

A special thanks to Bob Nauheim for sharing his remarkable home with us for the Saturday night cocktail reception. The opportunity to visit with Dave and Emily on a more personal level was a pleasant, low-key conclusion to a great weekend.

As we move into 1996, we can look forward to a continuing slate of exceptional speakers, starting in January with Bob Nauheim and Bob Sisson recounting their recent excursion to the "lost coast" of Alaska. As we leave 1995, we can once again thank all of the RRFF members who made this such a memorable year - and thank Dave and Emily Whitlock for their special contributions to one of our most memorable dinner meetings ever.

Steve Tubbs.

### Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

60' #53. Lin Drafton (7Wt. SH)

80' #48. Lin Drafton (7Wt. SH)

## **Lyle's Tackle**

### **2690 Santa Rosa Ave.**

### **Santa Rosa, CA**

Brian Wong is Lyle's Tackle. This is a one man operation by a guy who has been in the fishing industry since he was 12 years old. When I first became aware of Brian he was tying shad flies for Burney Butler and in the seventh grade at Santa Rosa Jr. High. At that time Butler's in Santa Rosa and King's in Guerneville were the only two fly shops in the area. When he was 15 1/2 Brian was in charge of the fishing department for Cuneo's Sporting Goods. He ran that for 6 1/2 -7 years finishing high school and attending Santa Rosa JC in the process. While attending Santa Rosa JC Brian met Lyle Carpenter of Lyle's Tackle. Eventually Brian bought out Lyle's partner, Don Parks. When Lyle passed away Brian took over the whole operation.

While he was absorbing the retail end of the fishing business Brian was also involved in fishing as a sport and was primarily a fly fisherman. In the process of improving his own casting he became involved in tournament fly casting and in the process rubbed elbows with many state and national casting champions over the years. During this same period he met Mel Kreiger of Club Pacific. One thing led to another and he put in many a pleasant stint as a trip leader for Mel. Sandwiched in between fishing trips he did time as a fly casting instructor at schools put on by both Club Pacific and Fenwick. Brian continues to give monthly fly casting clinics at the RRFF casting pond in Bennett Valley. These clinics are held on the third Sunday of the month from 10 to 12 AM. Private fly casting lessons for individuals or groups can be arranged by

contacting Brian. Lyle's Tackle also has a women only fishing club that has about 40 members. The club is not restricted to fly fishing only. If your wife, girl friend etc., would like to learn more about fishing but is intimidated by your accumulated lore, here is an opportunity ripe for the taking! Lyle's Tackle adjusts its merchandise on a seasonal basis and is more than happy to help anglers at any level get into what ever is happening at any given time!

Brian has 17 years of accumulated experiences and contacts with fishing resorts and guides from Mexico to Alaska. He has the know-how to book trips to just about anywhere and the resources to outfit individuals for any fishing venture they might want to undertake. Brian is closely tuned into the local fishing and can give you up-to-date info on what is happening and can arrange for a guide if you are so inclined.

Lyle's Tackle is a relatively small shop and you won't find a wide selection of fly fishing paraphernalia. They are a Loomis dealer and they do have the necessities in stock if you need an outfit today. Lyle's also offers rod and reel repairs. One unique thing in this shop is the Water Master. I can only describe it as a rubber raft without a bottom. It has a seat akin to a float tube but is closer in size to the pontoon boats now on the market. It has oars, etc. available.

If you are looking for information on distant locations or simply want to know what is happening on the local scene, stop in at Lyle's Tackle and talk to Brian. He has been on the local scene for many years and knows it well. Shop hours are: M-Th 9-6, F 9-7, Sat 9-5 and Sunday 10-2. 527-9887 will put you in touch if you can't get outta the house or away from the job.

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**Date: SUNDAY January 21st    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.**



Got some nice new equipment for Christmas? Come out to the pond and give it a try. Want to use some of the club's equipment? Call President Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve what you would like to use. The pond and the grounds look great and provide a nice place to just stand around and shoot the breeze if nothing else tempts you for the moment. Practice cures many problems.

The introduction to fly casting session will run from 10 A.M. until noon. If you know someone who would 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 equipment can call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

If we are experiencing a real winter storm the clinic will be postponed until February.

The next clinic will be February 18th.

Bob Sisson 1977

General Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Wednesday  
Jan. 17th, 1996

**Bob Nauheim and Bob Sisson**

**Present**

**Silver Salmon on**

## **The Lost Coast of Alaska**

Can you imagine traditional as well as dry  
fly fishing for silvers!!

The world record silver is from the Kikluhk  
River so this area has some of the most  
exciting silver salmon fishing in the world.

**Ride to the river hotspots on an ATV**

North Room,  
Santa Rosa Veterans Building  
1351 Maple Ave. Santa Rosa, CA

## **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!  
Ads will run one time only unless renewed by member.

Hardy fiberglass (6wt 8ft 6in) + tube \$35  
Hardy Perfect 3 3/8, agate line guide \$150  
Columbia vest, Lg. \$25  
Winston cane rod 4 1/4oz, 8 1/2ft, 2 tips, case \$600  
Contact Fred Pedersen 542-5296

Two Heddon bamboo rods, extra tips plus case, \$100 ea  
Contact Binky Castleberry 527-9607

Scott Scott 4 pc 6wt 9', tube, like new, \$275  
Contact Dick Rosenquist 829-8020

## **Dates to Remember**

**Jan 10, 1996** WesternSport Shop, San  
Rafael — Saltwater Perch Flyfishing class, Wednesday  
evening 6 PM to 8PM \$25 fee 542-4432 for more info.

**Jan 12-21, 1996** Boat Show, Cow Palace, SF

**Jan 13, 1996** Saltwater Perch Flyfishing  
outing, (in conjunction with Jan. 10 class above)

**Jan 15, 1996** RRFF Board Meeting at  
Warrack Hosp. Board Rm., 2449 Summerfield Rd., SR

**Jan 17, 1996** RRFF General Meeting,  
North Room, Veteran's Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., SR  
Bob Nauheim and Bob Sisson fish "Alaska's Lost  
Coast." Silver salmon adventure!

**Jan 17 - 20, 1996** Sacramento Expo, Cal Expo,  
Sacramento CA off Business 80 (This is a smaller show  
than the one at San Mateo but interesting.)

**Jan 27, 1996** NCCFFF Fly Fishing Hall of  
Fame Fort Mason, Bldg. A, SF. Over 40 of northern  
California's best fly-tyers. 9 AM to 5 PM. More info  
(415) 661-7638

**Jan 31-Feb 4, 1996** San Mateo Expo This is a  
new time period. It is a tremendous opportunity to see  
the fore runners in the fly fishing world.

**Feb 19, 1996** RRFF Board Meeting at  
Warrack Hosp. Board Rm., 2449 Summerfield Rd., SR

**Feb 21, 1996** RRFF General Meeting,  
North Room, Veteran's Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., SR  
Mike Kuczinski, (The Fishing "Pole") of the Eureka Fly  
Shop - "North Coast Fishing Opportunities"

**Mar 18, 1996** RRFF Board Meeting at  
Warrack Hosp. Board Rm., 2449 Summerfield Rd., SR

**Mar 20, 1996** RRFF General Meeting,  
North Room, Veteran's Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., SR Jim  
Mengle of Last Chance, Idaho. "The Henry's Fork".  
Jim is a former RRFF member and a great fisherman.

**Apr 15, 1996** RRFF Board Meeting at  
Warrack Hosp. Board Rm., 2449 Summerfield Rd., SR

**Apr 17, 1996** RRFF General Meeting,  
North Room, Veteran's Bldg., 1351 Maple Ave., SR  
Andy Burke of the Fly Shop, Redding, CA. Andy does  
a monthly column, "At the vise," for the "California  
Fisherman." "Stillwater fly fishing."

## Christmas Spirit Runs Amok

Last December 12, at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa an explosion of generosity took place. It may not have been the first expression of the season but it was a show of generosity by individuals and businesses, the likes of which I have seldom seen. The occasion of course was the RRFF Christmas dinner meeting with the inimitable Dave Whitlock! Not only did Dave present a tremendous slide show with pictures of some hogs the likes of which this ol boy has seldom seen, he and Sage presented one of Sage's newest rods, an RPL S+, to the club for its raffle.

The Western Angler donated a Buck's Bag Stalker, for the uninitiated that is one of the new style rowable pontoon boats. The Outdoor Pro Shop provided \$100 worth of gift certificates. Paul Dix had a pair of tickets to the 49er game on Dec. 18 that went into the pot. Bob Nauheim of Fishing International provided a free weekend at Lava Creek Lodge that went to some lucky angler. Morida's of Petaluma threw in a boxed coffee mug. The club's Jim Cramer, an awesome tying talent, put two dozen of his finest efforts on the table bunched in groups of six and the RRFF provided an assortment of other prizes.

Jim Hakel, raffle chairman, says it is the wine on the table that makes these raffles so successful that they help support the club during the rest of the year. I kinda think that's only partly true. Too many of our members reach into their pockets month after month and buy one of each color of raffle tickets that are available. I know that I am not financially able to do that but I really appreciate the effort by those that can and do contribute so generously. Yeah they are really "lucky" when it comes to picking up prizes but I have a hunch they could simply buy what they win and be money ahead! All in all it was a great way to kick off the holiday season.

Some special thaks are always due in an event like this. Shawn Kempkes arranged for the speaker and the room. Scotty Broome acted as wine broker and helped chauffeur Dave and Emily Whitlock around. Bob Nauheim opened his home for the cocktail party to which all RRFF members were invited on Saturday night. Jim Hakel and Bill Archuleta put on a really fantastic raffle. Steve Tubbs displayed his great skills again in putting together the flyer that helped generate such a tremendous turnout to the meeting. Pres Tim Grogan managed to keep things moving and on schedule. The staff at the Flamingo did an admirable job of preparing and serving the dinners. All in all it was a tremendously successful evening!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO YOU ALL!!!**

## Lyme Disease

It is that time of the year to try to heed the call of the trout stream and break away from the city. When we venture outside of our element, we must realize the precautions to follow in order to maintain a safe and memorable outing. Lyme disease has made its presence known here in California from its Northeast origin of Lyme, Pennsylvania. In 1993, more than 6,000 cases were reported throughout the United States, and preliminary data from the Centers of Disease Control indicate that figure may have doubled last year.

Transmitted to humans by the bite of deer ticks or black-legged ticks infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, Lyme disease can become a chronic condition if left untreated. Initial symptoms often include a red, circular rash expanding in a bull's eye pattern, possibly accompanied by chills, fever, fatigue, and aching joints.

While the Northeast still accounts for 90% of all Lyme cases, California, especially in the northern region, has had a significant number of reported cases over the past few years.

Here are some measures to take to reduce the risk of bites when enjoying outdoor activities:

- ✓ While walking in the woods, stay on trails and avoid brushing against low bushes or tall grass where ticks are present.
- ✓ Anyone venturing off clear pathways should wear protective clothing such as light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and light-colored pants tucked into boots or socks. Such clothing will make it easier to spot ticks.
- ✓ Most importantly, wear an insect repellent containing DEET (N-diethyl-metatoluamide) on bare skin and/or treat clothing with Permanone, an effective tick repellent.
- ✓ When returning indoors or to your car, examine yourself carefully for ticks.
- ✓ Attached ticks should be removed using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible and pull outward—gently, but firmly. Do not burn the tick or use other chemicals as this may cause regurgitation into the wound. After removal, apply an antiseptic such as alcohol or an antibiotic ointment.

Being bitten by a tick does not mean a person will



automatically get Lyme disease; however, if symptoms of the disease develop, seek medical attention for proper treatment. Early intervention has shown to overcome the illness.

*(Reprinted from the Kaweah Flyfishers August 1995 Newsletter. Many thanks to them for their blanket permission to reproduce parts of their newsletter. This would have been more timely in an earlier edition but there was too much other good stuff to allow it. Ed)*



## The Conservation Angle

House Bill 39 reauthorizes the Magnuson Act. This act was meant to help reduce wasteful commercial fishing practices (which includes reducing bycatch-fish not sold or kept for personal use). At present this bill does not distinguish between commercial and recreational fishing. CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING IN SALTWATER WOULD BE ILLEGAL UNDER THIS BILL AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED. If you're concerned about this write your U.S. Senator at the U.S. Senate, Washington D.C., 20510 or to U.S. Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries, Suite 428 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

## Just So You'll Know!

Bill Archuleta sent me a column from the Oct. 10th, 1995 issue of The Wall Street Journal. The column detailed the travails of one Jasper Thomas who was fly fishing for rainbow trout one morning on the Madison River near Ennis, Montana. Suddenly it began raining rocks. Two young men were bombarding the area he was fishing with baseball sized stones. "Hey, you'll scare the fish!", he called. "That's the idea", was the response. Mr. Thomas started "zinging casts at the trout protectors" and they eventually fled, after "plastering his truck with anti-fishing leaflets."

Apparently the animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA has now taken up the cause for fish and crustaceans. This group has dressed in lobster suits and berated customers at Gladstone's, a restaurant that servers as many as 10,000 lobsters a week in Pacific Palisades, CA. Another group, The Crustacean Liberation Front has tagged San Francisco restaurants with pro-lobster graffiti. These people obviously represent a minority view but as with many zealots, they can create problems out of all proportion to their numbers.

Closer to home, Scott Broome pulled up to Vacation Beach and was watching two couples fishing the area. One of the couples was in their sixties the other in their thirties. The older gentleman was wearing an RRFF hat. As Scott stood there watching, a car drove up. A man and his dog, a Springer Spaniel, got out of the car and went down to the river. The guy started throwing sticks into the river near the area where one of the ladies was fishing. There were words exchanged to the effect that the dog was ruining the fishing. The inconsiderate jerk's reply was, "Well, it's a dog's world".

Scott decided it was too inviting a pool to pass up so he strung up his rod, slipped into his waders and started for the river. He stopped and watched as the interloper grabbed the stick from the dog, still dripping from his latest retrieve, and heaved the stick into the Russian again.

Scott walked up close enough to the man so he didn't have to shout and assured the man that he was going fishing. "If you throw that stick in the river again, you, not the dog, are going in after it", was Scott's gentle admonition to the guy standing there with the stick in his hand and the dog at his feet.

The guy started to raise his hand, thought better of it, screamed a number of obscenities, spluttered something about "Rush Limbaugh types, and ".....leash laws". He plowed through the sand and gravel back to his car and drove off throwing debris from under the tires in his hurry to leave.

Moral of the story? Don't be too nice to these types. They may think they have intimidated you when all you are doing is tolerating asinine behavior from a real jerk.

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)

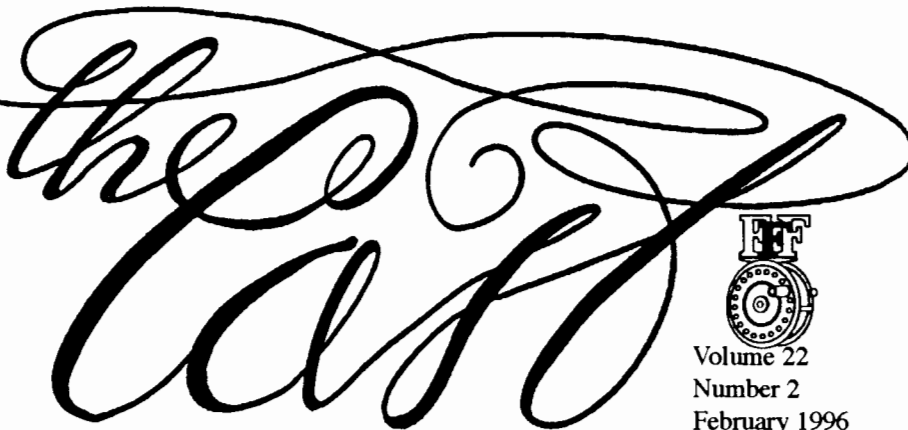
I wish to renew my existing membership ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)

**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 22  
Number 2  
February 1996

## The Prez sez:

If you're like me you enjoy fishing for fishing's sake. Fishing and especially fly fishing has special helling powers. It rejuvenates the soul and lifts your spirit. Although most of us enjoy fishing for its own sake, let's face it, if we didn't catch any fish, we'd probably take up golf.

Think it is safe to say we'd all prefer to be successful rather than unsuccessful anglers. Many of us tie dozens and dozens of flies. We buy fly tying books and spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars on materials to help us tie flies that most imitate the food stuff that fish eat. We might have to twelve different rods, several reels and dozens of lines. We spend time and money learning and practicing fly casting. But the perfect hundred foot cast and all the gadgets in our vests won't insure success.

If you compare notes with the most successful anglers you know you may find that their batting average or hours per fish is better than yours. Their success is not necessarily due to their exceptional fly tying skills or Olympic casting ability. The most successful anglers cut their failures to a minimum by simply making sure that they will have feeding or interested fish to fish to. All the custom flies, high tech lines and \$500 rods in the world won't help you catch fish if there aren't any fish in front of you.

There are several useful tools that will help you increase your average. Some of these suggestions are more important when fishing for migratory fish but even resident trout are more catchable at different times and making sure that you are in the right place at the right time can be critical to success.

One of the most important tools you can use is a fishing log. It can be a real pain to make yourself keep accurate records of your fishing but the benefits are well worth the effort. A good fishing log records time and place, weather, and water temperature. Obviously you want to record the fish you or your partner caught and the flies that were effective. If you didn't catch anything, record that and it's a good idea to note the catches of other anglers. Some information is more pertinent to a particular type of fishing. When fishing for steelhead, keep track of the days a favorite river takes to clear. Make a note of which holes hold fish in murky water and which in clear. When fishing for stripers, record time and height of high and low tides and which portion of the tide the fish were more active.

Certain spots hold feeding fish on one phase of the tide and

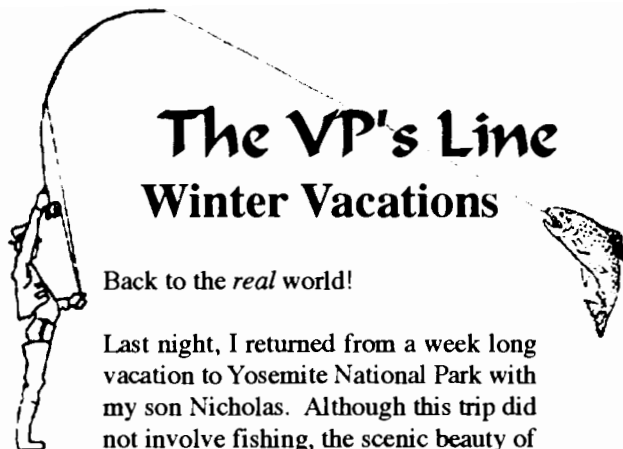
nothing on another phase. A tide book with a graph showing the rise and fall makes it easier to determine what the tide will be at any given time. Your tide book may also tell you when fresh salmon and steelhead will enter the rivers you fish. This information can be critical to success on many of our short coastal streams. A good tide book will tell you when sunrise and legal fishing time will occur. It will also show the moon phase which is important if you plan of fishing at night. As important as any of your equipment is your phone and little black book. Unless you're just bored you should have a current fishing report on any piece of water you intend to fish. There is nothing worse than driving two hours only to find the river too muddy to fish. Many successful steelhead anglers increase their odds of catching fish by fishing only when they have first hand information that the fish are in the river. Your fishing phone book should have the numbers of fly shops, bait and tackle shops, launch facilities, DFG stream closure numbers and your fishing buddies. It helps to make friends with retirees, firemen and school teachers because they seem to have more time to fish than the rest of us.

Sharing information with friends can be kind of tricky. Generally it's in your best interest not to tell too many people about the hot steelhead grab you had or the great striper spot you've found. However, you can't get something for nothing. If you expect one of your buddies to call and tell you he hooked six fish this morning at The Docks You've go to throw him a bone every once in a while.

It's also a good idea to keep your ears open whenever guys are talking fishing. Occasionally you'll be fortunate enough to eavesdrop on some poor guy who couldn't keep a secret if his life depended on it. When you overhear this juicy info, write down the dates and places and check 'em out later.

There are a couple more things that are useful if you intend to fish local saltwater especially with a boat. One is a weather band radio. This helpful tool will tell you if it's too foggy at the Delta, too windy on the bay or it may tell you the swells are small enough and far enough apart to make for a perfect day rock fishing off the kelp beds. Lastly maps and nautical charts will help you find other areas similar in depth and structure to the areas where you've already been successful. Good charts will show you how tides ebb and flood revealing seams where fish feel. If you schedule only affords you one day during the month to fish you certainly don't want to go on a day when there are no fish in the section you want to fish. By the same token if you can only go fishing on a particular day, if you've kept good notes and

See Prez Sez Pg. 8



Back to the *real* world!

Last night, I returned from a week long vacation to Yosemite National Park with my son Nicholas. Although this trip did not involve fishing, the scenic beauty of

the park, accompanied with the escape from work, television and my daily routine, had the same restorative powers. Daily, I would view the clear, snow-fed waters of the Merced River as it coursed along the valley floor and beside the road. I would find myself wondering about the fishing, reading the water, thinking that maybe this spring or summer I might find my way back here in hopes of answering some of these questions, questions that always seem to ask themselves when I'm around rivers.

I had never been to Yosemite. Points north, east, west and south - but never to Yosemite. For once, the weather was an ally and we saw the Valley in a preview of its early spring splendor. Snow dusted the meadows and the higher peaks that surrounded us. El Capitan, Half Dome, Glacier Point and the rest competed every evening for the last rays of the setting sun, bringing to life many of the pictures captured by countless photographers whose eyes had provided my former experience of Yosemite's beauty. The falls, all of them, were at full force, crashing to the valley floor to join the swollen Merced River. Everywhere, water cascaded from the granite faces that ringed us - miniature water falls that would dry up with the melting of the last snows. It is hard not to be recharged when in the midst of such a fantastic show.

Most days found Nick and I enjoying the snow at the Badger Pass Ski Resort with my brother and his family. After a week of ski school, Nick was all over the mountain, traversing even the most difficult black diamond slopes under the guidance of his Australian ski instructor. My own skill cautiously returned after nearly a six year hiatus. Although Nick will probably soon be skiing rings around me, I managed to keep up with my brother and his wife, despite lacking the grace of those who do this sort of thing more than once in a great while. The bus rides from valley floor to the ski resort provided excellent sight seeing opportunities, with the evening rides down to Yosemite Lodge often presenting excellent vistas of the valley at sunset. It was a great trip. If you've never been to Yosemite, GO! The pictures are, as always, unjust.

Prior to our vacation, Nicholas and I took in the Sacramento

and the San Mateo Sportsman's Expositions. For fun, I entered the Best of the West Casting Competition in San Mateo but gave a poor showing after qualifying for the championship round in both the 5 wt. and the 10 wt. (shooting head) class. I did meet a few casters from other area clubs that are interested in competitive casting. Once daylight savings returns, perhaps a few RREF'ers will join us on the pond for some casting practice. It would be nice to host another casting competition at our pond for our Bay Area neighbor clubs.

Nicholas shot pellet rifles, fished for catfish and tested his archery skills at the Youth Outdoor Exhibition. I had a hard time assuring him that "Yes, that's Flip Pallot from the *Walker's Cay Chronicles*" when he spied him at Ted Jurasik's booth in the Fly Fishing Exposition. (I have forced Nick, a time or two, into watching the Saturday morning fishing fare on ESPN.) All in all, we both had a great time, despite questionable weather. With a little luck, and a few more years, Nicholas might become that fishing companion I'm hoping for. For now, we'll just have to finish up basketball and get ready for the baseball season only a few weeks away.

As I gear up for another spring of baseball and assistant coaching, I'll somehow have to figure out a few more ways to sneak off for some spring fishing. After all, none of us can simply "head off to Yosemite" whenever we need to recharge those batteries or rejuvenate those parts of us that long for wide open spaces, beautiful rivers and a return to the wilder portions of our environment. For me, the forests, the rivers, the beaches, the places where nature is still dominant, provide the contrast to my predominantly urban lifestyle. Going fishing always brings me back to the "wildness" of nature. And right now, having been only just recharged by the beauty of Yosemite, I realize just how important that "wildness" is and how much I need it. Okay work! I'm ready!

I'm back!

Steve Tubbs

## Help!

One of our members approached me at the January meeting about doing a column on access points to the Russian River. After becoming active only a few months ago after a 20 year hiatus, your editor is not qualified to tell anyone about Russian River access. I think it still flows out of Coyote Dam, down the Alexander Valley, through Healdsburg and Guerneville to the Pacific but that is about the extent of my knowledge. If you fish it for salmon, steelhead, trout, bass or any of the warm water species and would like to share some information on this topic, call me at 823-2029. Thanks, Chuck

## CASTING POND CORNER



**Date:** SUNDAY February 18th

**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.

Want to be as good as you can be? Come out to the pond and begin the process. Want to try some of the club's equipment? Call President Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve what you would like to use. The day of the January clinic turned out to be as nice as anyone could want to see. Practice cures nearly all problems.

The introduction to fly casting session will run from 10 A.M. until noon. There may be some new members as a result of the January session. If you know someone who would like to stick a toe in the water and who needs equipment, Coach Brian Wong has some full line outfits he will loan on a reservation basis. Those who need the equipment can call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

If we are still experiencing a winter storm the clinic will be postponed until March.

The next clinic is planned for March 17th.

Bob Sisson  
1977

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## 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! Ads will run one time only unless renewed by owner/member. (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing in the Classified Section.)

Penn #60 salt water reel	\$15
Ocean City Level Wind - trolling and bait casting reel	\$20
Hardy Perfect 3 3/8", agate line guide, original case	\$115
Wright McGill fly rod, 8 1/2' fiberglass	\$15
Columbia fly vest	\$25
Spin-fly combination rod, 7' fiberglass/Abu Matic reel	\$25
Contact Fred Pedersen	542-5296

### Get It Rightr!!!

*(or somethin' like that)*

After a couple days of intense tutelage from Harry Schoonbaert, Scotty Broome has worked the bugs out of his computer and new rosters are on the way! If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or need to have any changes made on the information the RRFF has in its files, LET SCOTTY KNOW ASAP!!! Corrections and additions will have to be made, the copy sent to the printers and only then can rosters be distributed. RRFF membership now stands at about 125 members so this is not an easy undertaking. You can reach Scotty at 575-5993 if you have changes or corrections that you want made.

# Some Thoughts On Taking Up Fly Tying

I have been fly fishing for forty years but only started tying my own flies two years ago. There were lots of reasons that I spent all those years buying flies instead of "rolling my own", not the least of which being that when I was about thirteen I lobbied for and got, a "fly tying kit", for my birthday. This was the early fifties and if such a thing as a fly fishing specialty store existed I didn't know about it, so I would guess that my tying kit probably came from the Sears Catalog. It turned out to be an unrewarding, (traumatic might be a better adjective), experience for an impressionable adolescent; even the passage of four decades has not dulled the frustration of trying to tie a size 12 Royal Coachman using the size 1/0 thread, (no bobbin was included, as I recall), crude vise and poor material which made up the "kit". My best efforts looked like something scraped off a bug deflector, took an hour to tie, and came unraveled after about three casts. I quickly decided that even at a quarter apiece, (a princely sum in those days), store-bought flies were a bargain and were obviously tied by superhumans with skills not possessed by mere mortals

So much for my fly tying career until a couple of years ago. I had one of those days when I lost flies every which way, bushes, bad knots, bottom snags, etc., etc. I ran out of my relatively meager supply of whatever fly it was that the fish liked and was out of business for the day. After I laid out twenty or thirty bucks to replace what I had lost I began to think that maybe it was time to take another look at tying my own flies.

My second foray into fly tying turned out to be enormously more positive than my first. I didn't have to rely on Sears and Roebuck, and the available materials and tools had improved dramatically. My friend and fly tying mentor, Dwight Longuevan, provided sound advice about what I needed (and didn't need) to get off to a good start, and within a day or two I, a mere mortal, was not only tying my own flies, but they didn't fall apart! The beauty of this was that I discovered I **loved** tying flies!

Since then I have spent many contented hours at my tying bench, have tied a couple of hundred dozen flies, everything from size 24 dries to saltwater streamers, and my product now looks pretty much as good as that in the bins at the fly shop, (I still tie the occasional "bug deflector special", but not often). Maybe best of all, I'm rarely caught without the, "fly de jour", or without an adequate supply of the fly that's hot.

So... to those of you who may be thinking about taking up tying I would say **DO IT!** And I would offer these thoughts, based on my recent experience:

...Don't think that you can't start tying until you have taken a fly tying class. I started with no instruction at all, but I did start with Randall Kaufmann's two books on tying nymphs and dries. I can't recommend these books

too highly; they're written for the beginning tier and both the text and photos will lead you by the hand from the simplest, "beginner's flies", through the most complex concoctions in easy-to-follow steps. (Jack Dennis' "Western Trout Fly Manuals", are also excellent.) Remember also that you belong to a club full of experienced and talented tyers, most of whom will give great free advice if you get stuck or "in over your head".

...Buy the best basic tools, i.e. vise, scissors, thread bobbins, that you can afford. They will last you the rest of your life and will serve you well long after you've forgotten what you paid for them. (In any case, it ain't that big a deal money-wise. You can buy a Regal vise, which is as good as you'll ever need, for the price of five or six dozen flies).

...Do **not** buy a "kit".

...Do **not** buy a whip finishing tool.

...If you possibly can, set up a permanent tying bench. If you have to dig all your equipment and materials out of the closet every time you want to tie, and clean up and put it away when you're through, you won't tie as often as you'll need to in order to become proficient and enjoy the craft.

...Don't try to buy all the materials you'll ever need right off the bat. If you do, you'll spend a ton of money, you'll end up with stuff you'll never need, and you still won't have everything you will need. Buy the Kaufmann books first, pick two or three patterns you want to start with, (Pheasant Tail Nymphs and Gold Ribbed Hare's Ears are great first flies; easy to tie and always useful), and just buy the materials you need to tie those. As your repertoire expands, you can add new materials as you need them. With this approach you can minimize your investment and maximize the usefulness of your material and hook inventory.

...Unless you are blessed with the visual acuity of a Peregrine Falcon, buy an optical visor. These are adjustable headbands with a flip-up magnifier attached. I have an, "Optivisor", which I believe is the best of the breed. It is available with various degrees of magnification, depending on your needs, works splendidly and only costs about thirty bucks. Given my middle-aged eyes, I would not be able to tie without it, and I think it makes tying small flies easier for anybody. (Fly shops don't seem to have these things, but they're normally available at good tool stores.)

That exhausts my store of free advice except to urge anyone who has been thinking about it to go ahead and do it. If you are an active fly fisher, you will save money, (in the long run), and I've found it a gas to catch fish on a fly that I tied myself. Tying has also led me to learn a lot more about aquatic insects and, I'm sure, has made me a better fisherman. Of course, I don't watch as much TV as I used to, and we all know what a loss that has been...

Paul Major



This is the first of what I hope will be a long series of articles on fly tying for the Russian River Fly Fishers' news letter, "The Cast". Before I get into the meat of the of this first article let me give a little background on myself.

I tied my first flies over 50 years ago after seeing some in my great-uncles box. As I remember those flies, they were wet flies, about size 10, with gut snells and stored between two felt pads in a small round aluminium box. The felt pads were to keep the gut snells wet so one would could change flies while fishing without having to

wait for them to soak. Needless to say this storage method didn't do much for the long term appearance of the flies. On the other hand the fish weren't as well read as they are now so we all managed to catch more than we ever needed. It is a shame that mankind wastes so much before they wise up.

My first tying attempts were made using bait hooks, cotton sewing thread from my mothers sewing drawer, and chicken feathers from the hen house. These first attempts were a sorry mess as I had never seen a fly tied, nor had I ever seen a book on the subject or a tying vise. It was a mystery to me how they got all those little hairs (the hackle) tied in place.

Then Santa Claus came! An uncle sent me a fly tying kit for Christmas complete with vise, bobbin, and a copy of George Herter's , "Professional Fly Tying and Tackle Making Manual and Manufactures' Guide". A whole new world opened up and I was hooked for life. By the time I got to high-school I was peddling my works to all the local tackle shops to support my addiction. After all, hooks were 85 cents to \$1.35 a box, pure silk floss was 20 cents a spool, and jungle cock necks out of sight at \$16.50 to \$22. My tying continued through high school and college, but then took a back seat to family, career, and making a living for a few decades. I kept tying during those years but not with the same intensity. I have to admit that I was some what turned off by the snobbery that began to creep into the sport. Any way, about five years ago with the start of retirement and not willing to vegetate in front of the TV, my tying once again took a prominent spot in my life. That's enough history, let's talk fly tying.

Fortunately for the fisherman who ties his own flies, the fish who are the ultimate judges, are often very forgiving (but not always). That the fish so often agree with the fisherman's labors at the vise give the tier a degree of satisfaction and accomplishment that adds greatly to his enjoyment of the sport. The next level of satisfaction comes when one's skills are recognized by his or her fellow anglers. Quality, uniformity and speed are the three goals for which all tiers should strive ( There may be more but I can think of them at them moment ). The good news is that they go hand in glove with one another, almost.

Quality in a fly is the aggregate of the quality of the materials used, the assembly of the materials (which also controls the durability), neatness, and proportion. Skimp on any one of these and the quality of the fly is reduced.

Uniformity is is easy to understand. All of your flies should look alike as far as possible. When you can reach into your box for a #16 Adams without even thinking about sorting through for the best looking one, then you have probably achieved this goal. Over time each tier will develop his or her own style and their flies will have a distinctive look, much the same as one's hand writing does. Beware, your flies can be uniformly out of proportion or all having the same tying flaws. This is not what we are striving for.

Speed is something that will come as you gain experience but only to a point. If you don't specifically think about and practice increasing your speed, you will reach a comfort point and stay there. Maybe your comfort speed is half a dozen flies an evening. If you tie for relaxation and want one each of six different flies maybe that is good enough. However, with a little effort in organizing and some technical skills I'll be discussing in the future not only will your speed increase dramatically but so will the quality and uniformity of your flies.

Now for some tips. All instructions will assume that you are right handed, if not reverse hands and we'll save words. I also know that the readers of this will vary from novice to accomplished tiers so bear with me as I try to include something for everyone. Take what you can use and disregard the rest.

**TIP #1** Get a hackle sizing gage and presort your hackles. If you divide them into envelops as to size, quality and type, wet or dry, you will improve all three aspects of your tying. Small gages that clamp in your vise sell for about \$4.00.

# General Meeting

7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 1996

**Mike Kuczinski**  
of the  
**Eureka Fly Shop**

Fly fishing the northern California Rivers for winter steelhead.  
Mike will be tying his innovative patterns beginning at 6:30 P.M.

North Room, Santa Rosa Veterans Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

## Tyer's Corner

After many years of plucking my hackles directly from the neck for use I decided to presort the hackles from several necks. After the sorting, not only did I achieve my objective of more uniform flies; I got a crash course in judging the quality of hackles, necks, and a real appreciation of value received for dollars spent. Not all necks and not all feathers are created equal! Other rewards were reduced tying time and reduced storage space, especially important to those who travel with a tying kit. If you don't gage and sort your hackles, I urge you to try it once. Even if you decide that you would rather leave the feathers on the skin, sorting a few necks will teach you a lot about judging their quality. ....P.S.: I don't presort saddle hackles because the feathers are generally much more uniform in size and I can often get several flies from a single feather.

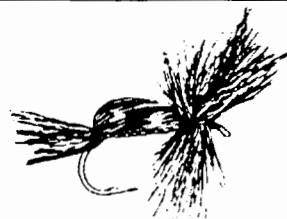
**Tip #2** This tip is so simple that it hardly seems worthwhile and many of you may already do it but for those who don't, here it is. First I assume that you already wear your scissors while you tie; if not learn to do so. Now scissors don't always need to be used as clippers, there are two other ways they can be used to cut. With the blades part way open they can be pushed against a taunt material to cut it. This is especially useful when tapering a streamer wing of synthetic or soft material. A single blade of your scissors can be used like a razor blade to cut the thread after whip-finish with no fear of inadvertently cutting some of the hackle.

**TIP #3** Here is one for new tiers. Fasten the thread to the hook. Now pull on it until it breaks. Do this several times until you have a good feel for how much tension you can put on the thread. Also pull on it in different directions to see where the break occurs. Repeat this process every time you change thread sizes or brands until you gain a feel for it. In general you will want to tie at close to maximum tension for best results. There are exceptions to this which I'll discuss in the future.

**TIP #4** Magnetize the tips of your tying scissors by rubbing the against a permanent magnet. You can then use them to help pick up small hooks and flies. Jim

## Tying One On!!

Don't get the wrong idea! We're talking about tying a fly on a hook! Paul Major has agreed to coordinate the fly tying program for the RRFF. With the board of directors blessing Paul has assembled the beginnings of a club fly-tying kit that will be at available at future club meetings for demonstration and problem solving purposes. If you have excess tools or tying materials that you could donate to the cause, (kit), they would be greatly appreciated. You can reach Paul at home, 539-5437, or work 579-0990. (He's self-employed so you don't have to be bashful about calling during working hours.) The fly tying sessions will be held on the third Wednesday meeting nights beginning at 6:00 P.M. IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM OR FLY PATTERN YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED CALL PAUL IN ADVANCE SO HE CAN HAVE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS ON HAND TO DEMONSTRATE THE SOLUTION OR THE TIE! Paul is trying to get a sense of direction from members on these monthly sessions. If you have any thoughts on this he would appreciate your input. Numerous club tyers will be pressed into service from month to month to hold forth at these sessions so you will get to see different tying strategies. Jim Kramer has agreed to do a monthly column for The Cast and will often be the man at the vise. At the February meeting Jim will be demonstrating "chopped dubbing and unique ways to use it". This month we will be twice blessed as Mike Kuczinski of the Eureka Fly Shop will be demonstrating steelhead ties.



## Trippin Out!

### One Day Trip: Ocean Surf Perch

Trip Time: One day

What: Sonoma Coast Surf perch: 10 in to 2 lbs..

Where: Any sandy beaches along the coast, eg.. Dillon, Doran, Bodega Dunes, Stinson

When: November--March

How: Wade into the surf casting sink tips or shooting heads-extra fast sink to get your fly down. Fish the incoming tide for various species of surf perch, barred perch will probably be the most common. They are a feisty, sunfish type of fish that readily take flies. Cast to the incoming waves, let your fly sink and use short strips to trigger strikes. Keep moving along the beach to locate schools of feeding fish. This fishing can be fast and furious. Keep your fly near the bottom. Look for beaches with good population of sand crabs as they will produce the most fish.

Tackle: 7 or 8 wt. rods with shooting heads or sink tip lines. Use a short 8 to 10 lb. leader

Flies: Comet style flies in #6, #8 or even #10. Use bright colors, eg.: reds, yellows and whites

### One, Two or Three Day Trip: North Coast Steelhead & Salmon

Trip Time: 1, 2, 3 or more days

What: Winter run steelhead & salmon

Where: Russian, Eel, Gualala, Garcia, Big, etc.,

When: Dec-Feb, Mar (?)

How: Many opportunities for winter steelhead and salmon. Cast shooting heads on 7 to 9 wt rods. Most north coast rivers do not open until after the first rains. Many patterns and flies will take fish. Rivers to watch this year will be the Russian and the Eel. Many fish are expected to return to these rivers after last year's high water. Many maps and much info available.

Try using #10 and #12 flies. Comets, Thors, Polar Shrimp, Chickens and Bosses will all entice fish. Chartreuse can be deadly.

Maps: Available at the Outdoor Pro Shop, 6315 Commerce Blvd., RP, 588-8033.

### 3 Day Trip: Pyramid Lake Cutthroat Trout

Trip Time: 3 days or more

What: Cutthroat trout

Where: Pyramid Lake, outside Sparks, Nevada

When: December, January or April

How: Cooling temperatures bring Lahontan Cutthroats to shallow water. The lake record on a fly is 21 lbs.. Most fish are 18" to 30" and will go to maybe 12 lbs.. Wading out in shallow water on a shelf that drops off to deep water. Many fishermen bring crates, boxes or ladders to get them out of the water. This is cold weather fishing casting Woolly Buggers on shooting heads. Use mostly short strips to trigger strikes. Camping and lodging are available on the Indian reservation. (It may be more fun to commute from Sparks or Reno ! Ed)

Tackle: No less than 7 wt. rod! This lake can be very windy! Use extra fast sinking heads with short, 3' to 5' leaders to 12 lbs..

*(Many thanks to Jon Nyberg of the Outdoor Pro Shop, 6315 commerce Blvd., RP, 588-8093 for preparing this information. This column was to have started some months back but lack of space precluded it. My apologies if the information is not as current as when originally written. Ed.)*



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**



Prez Sez cont.d

have a variety of resources from which to draw information, the odds of having a successful day will be in your favor. Of course, if you don't want to go to all that trouble you can always go fishing for fishing's sake.

Keep your fly in the water, Tim

By the way one of our members is currently nursing a clipped fin. Binky Castleberry went in for knee replacement surgery on Feb. 5th. He's expected to be off the water for about 6 weeks. If you know Binky you know that's like a prison sentence. Get well soon Binky!!

### 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)

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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)



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 22  
Number 2  
August 1995  
\$10.00

## The Pres sez:

Well, here I sit staring out the window at the rain...again. I guess this winter's storm patterns are healthy. We get plenty of needed rain without major flood damage. The skiers in the Sierra think it's great-snowing for a few days then sunny for few days. I'm sorry, but from a fisherman's point of view, this sucks! The rivers never seem to get much better than bait fishable. The ocean and bay have been too rough or too murky for decent fly fishing. Then the few times when it seemed we'd get a break in the weather, I've just been too busy. I think I've been fishing a total of 3 hours since the 15th of January.. I feel guilty every time I look at my boat. I don't know if you've ever seen a contractor's garage, but my boat seems to have been transformed into a large shelf for tools and materials.

The few recent spring-like days have found me day-dreaming of upcoming trips. Visions of bucket sized Tarpon mouths engulfing my flies and greyhounding sailfish have filled my dreams lately. I'm sure my wife would suspect me of having a mistress if it weren't for the tarpon flies and the bimini twist class tippets all over my tying bench. I know I'm not the only one afflicted. Many of the folks in the group going to Baja with us this year have called me or checked into the local fly shops to find out how to tie mylar poppers or find out what types of leaders and lines they will need. The trip's almost six months away but what else have they got to do?

By the way, for those of you going to Baja with us, we will be getting together for an informational meeting towards the end of March to talk about tackle, flies, travel arrangements, etc. Binky Castleberry and I both have video tape of some of the Dorado and sailfish we caught last year. Bob Nauheim has graciously offered his home for this get together. I'll call everyone to confirm the date and time.

Last month's meeting went extremely well. The new format with the hour of fly tying prior to the regular meeting should be a big hit. For you beginners or those interested in learning new tying techniques, this is a valuable opportunity to learn from some very skilled tyers right her in our own club. I'm sure Paul Major, (our fly tying coordinator), would love to have more volunteers to help with this program.

We have plenty of people on the ballot to fill our new

board of directors, however, if you are interested in serving on the RRFF board, make sure to contact one of the current board members no later than the next general meeting.

I hope we get some breaks in the weather and our schedules in the next month to get out and do some fishing. In the meantime—keep daydreaming!

Tim

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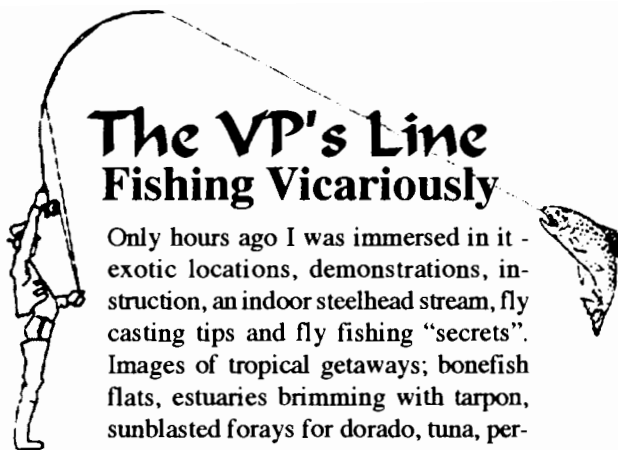
## Now Who Thought of That?

I came by a new rod the other day, a nice 7100 RPL by Sage. Nothin' would do on gettin' home but taking it out to the back yard for a little practice. A rare shower interrupted my casting so I scurried back inside. After breaking down and drying the rod, stowing the reel, slipping on the rod sock and getting everything back into the tube I was unable to lay my hands on the cap for the aluminum rod tube. Fifteen minutes of fussin' and fumin' went by before the culprit was located. I grabbed an electric drill, and proceeded to drill a small hole in the center of the can and another small hole in the aluminum tube just below the threaded collar. A 6 inch piece of 30 lb. mono was knotted on one end. The other end was slipped through the hole in the cap, the knotted end kept it from coming all the way through. The unknotted end was passed through the hole in the tube and then knotted. A little heat on the knots from a lighter will keep the knots secure. Now if I ever lose that cap again I'm gonna be lookin' for tube too! *(If he had been smart enough to slip*

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## Tip O'the Month

Have you ever been embarrassed by your rod tip coming off and sliding down your line and getting hung up on your Woolly Bugger, or worse yet, not getting hung up on it? Many of us use some paraffin to keep this from happening but paraffin isn't the best solution according to Lefty Kreh..He advocates the use of candle wax which has just enough of an oily base to lubricate well and still not be tacky. Who would have thought a candle stub would become a standard piece of equipment for a fly vest?



## The VP's Line Fishing Vicariously

Only hours ago I was immersed in it - exotic locations, demonstrations, instruction, an indoor steelhead stream, fly casting tips and fly fishing "secrets". Images of tropical getaways; bonefish flats, estuaries brimming with tarpon, sunblasted forays for dorado, tuna, permit, and sailfish. Only a few feet away the frigid waters of glacial rivers and the straits and passageways of Alaska's southeast arm. Salmon, steelhead and giant rainbows. Halibut, crab and lush evergreen forests, thrusting skyward on the tips of the jagged mountains that seem only to have just barely broken the ocean's surface. (Replace the Alaskan rain forest with a tropical one, toss in some brilliant sunshine, and you could be in the Hawaiian Islands, the coastlines are so similar.) Tackle, fly rods, guide services, outfitters, boats, fly tying, all of the brain food necessary to fly fish the imagination.

I've been doing quite a bit of that lately. Today, the San Mateo Sportsman's Show (not to be confused with Ed Rice's larger Sportsman's Exposition) and although quite a bit smaller than the Exposition, the Sportsman's Show offered some excellent fly tying, casting instruction and the benefits of a *much* smaller attendance. I couldn't help but wish for a few more exhibitors, especially among the ranks of the rod and reel manufacturers, but there's probably a trade-off there somewhere. All of the elbow room for more "stuff". Nicholas again enjoyed fishing, this time for trout in the kid's fish pond, and he even managed to promote the "catch and release" of the two trout he landed. The archery range was another attraction that demanded his attention, it always does, and we both enjoyed "that funny guy's" (Mel Kreiger's) fly casting demonstration at the casting pool. And so I spent another day fly fishing vicariously, never wetting a line, yet escaping all the same into the world of flies, water and gamefish.

Baseball's in full swing now, weather permitting. Two practices a week, soon to be followed by two games a week and whatever practices the coaches work schedules will allow. Already I'm making arrangements to give up a baseball weekend for the opening of trout season and our club outing to Hat Creek. Weekends are devoted to baseball and Nick. We both manage to find time for some vicarious angling with John Barrett, Mark Sosin and Flip Pallot on Saturday mornings and Nick sometimes even catches Jimmy "What a handsome man" Houston, a favorite because he kisses all the fish he catches "on the lips!" With

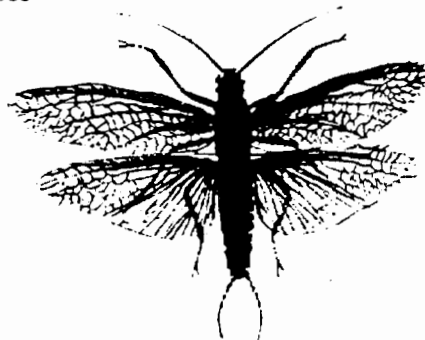
Nick around, I guess I can stand to miss a few fishing trips. As I help him grow-up, I realize how short these times we have together really are, and *right now* fishing vicariously is not such a bad way to stay in touch with my favorite sport.

This time of year, the weather can make it difficult for any of us to wet a line. For me, a little "armchair angling" always finds its way into my schedule, especially during the winter months. If you're looking for a good "fishing" book, here are some of my favorites: *The River Why?*, by David James Duncan, *The Bright Country*, by Harry Middleton, *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis* by Howell Raines, *Islands in the Stream*, by Ernest Hemingway and the many books of John Gierach, all provide entertaining *non-instructional* reading. I also enjoy the work of Nick Lyons and the humorous stories of Patrick McManus. For those of you interested in fly fishing anthologies, two I found that were quite good are *The Armchair Angler*, edited by Terry Brykczynski and David Reuther and *The Sports Afield Treasury of Fly Fishing*, edited by Tom Paugh. Both anthologies provide short stories written by some of the legendary names of fly fishing in a format ideal for quick, light reading. Many of the stories can be read in 15 to 20 minutes and you won't often have to put the book down without finishing the story you've started. Just another way to experience fly fishing when you can't actually get out there and do it.

Enough! I certainly hope some of you are actually fishing now and then and not merely taking off on these "flights of fancy" that I am. RRFF elections for officers and new board members will be upon us in May with the new board taking charge in June. If you would like to help us, please get your name to one of the current board members for inclusion in the ballot. We could really use your help. See you all on Wednesday when we welcome back former RRFF member Jim Mengle, currently a resident of Last Chance, Idaho, and his slide presentation on "The Henry's Fork". Come on out and support our club.

Wishin' I was fishin',

Steve Tubbs



# Date: SUNDAY March 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.



Perhaps spring really will have sprung by the time of the scheduled date. Some of you have expressed interest in improving your double haul or even beginning to learn how to use one. This can be a very useful addition to your bag of casting tricks and well worth the effort which is not all that much of a job to begin with. Instruction will be available. Want to try some of the club's equipment? Call president Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve what you would like to use. Let's hope the weather is more agreeable than it was in February.

The introduction to fly casting is scheduled from 10 A.M. until noon when the general clinic will begin. If you know anyone who would like to give fly casting a try and who needs equipment, coach Brian Wong has some full line outfits he will loan on a reservation basis. Those who may be interested can call Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

If the weather turns on us again, the clinic will be postponed until the scheduled April 21st event.

Bob Sisson 1977

## RRFF Elections 1996

In May, the membership of the Russian River Fly Fishers elects the new officers and board members for the coming year. Each year, half of the Board of Directors and the offices of President and Vice President are decided by this election. Board members are elected to serve a two-year term with their duties assigned by the board as a group. The President and Vice President are elected by the general membership to serve a one year term. The new Board of Directors and club officers assume their duties at our June Dinner Meeting.

Following is a list of the club members whose names were nominated for consideration for our upcoming ballot. This is only a preliminary candidate slate. Hopefully, everyone who appears on this list has already been contacted by a board member. If your name is on this list, and you absolutely will not be able to fulfill the obligations of being a board member, please make sure that your name is removed from the candidate slate. If your name does not appear on the candidate slate, and you would like to serve on the board, submit your name to an existing board member for inclusion on the ballot.

As a board member, you will be required to attend the RRFF Board of Directors meeting on the third Monday of each month, two days before our general club meeting. There may also be additional board meetings for further planning of special events or outings. Each board member will be assigned an area of responsibility within the board which he will oversee as chairperson to coordinate the needs of that activity for the Russian River Fly Fishers.

## Returning Board Members

(beginning second year of two year term)

1. Bob Sisson: Casting Pond
2. Scott Broome: Membership Database
3. Chuck Perry: *Cast* Editor
4. Paul Major: Treasurer

## Nominations for Officers

President: Tim Grogan (incumbent)  
Vice President: Steve Tubbs (incumbent)

## Nominations for Board Members

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Shawn Kempkes                            | 2. Tim Barrett   |
| 3. Lee Smith                                |                  |
| 4. Bob Neill (as our NCCFFF Representative) |                  |
| 5. Dwight Longuevan                         | 6. Joe Craig     |
| 7. Lynn Drafton                             | 8. Rodger Magill |
| 9. Mike Nyholm                              | 10. Chuck Baker  |
| 11. Ted Adkins                              |                  |

The RRFF has been fortunate in recent years with the election of strong club leadership. This has resulted in an amazing array of speakers at our general meetings, and at our bi-annual dinner meetings, as well as some excellent club outings and events. Our club membership has continued to grow and we have established a sound financial base from which we can continue this growth. All of this begins with the work of your Board of Directors. If you would like to help us continue our success, please add your name to the ballot or volunteer to assist on a committee. The final candidate slate will be published in next month's *Cast* prior to the presentation of the ballot in May.

## 1ST FLY TYING CLINIC A HIT!

Our first pre-meeting fly tying clinic exceeded our expectations in every way. Our biggest concern had been that a six o'clock starting time would be too early for most people, but at six there were ten to fifteen eager participants on hand and waiting for Jim Cramer to get set up and underway.

By the time Jim got his vise in action, the main problem was that there were so many observers that it was difficult for everyone to get close enough to see Jim's truly excellent demonstration of the many ways to use chopped dubbing and how to create and blend your own dubbing. As an added bonus, in the process of showing us how he uses dubbing I think we all learned a lot from Jim about tying techniques in general. I, for one, learned how slow I am compared to a true master tyer such as Jim, and picked up a number of tricks that will make my tying go faster in the future.

When our guest speaker Mike Kuczynski got his vise set up and started demonstrating some of his North Coast Steelhead fly patterns we found ourselves in the midst of a mob scene redolent of an Irish pub on free beer night. Thirty people trying to watch everything two tyers were doing almost caused some of us to be trampled. Fortunately no one was injured. If anyone has an idea about how we can set this up so everyone can see, short of a closed circuit TV system (and it may come to that), I'd be very glad to hear from you.

It has also been suggested that we should video tape these sessions and establish a fly tying video library for members'

use. I think that's a terrific idea, and we're working on assembling the equipment to do that.

Thanks to all of you who missed your dinner (or worse, stopped at McDonalds for a quickie on the way to the meeting) in order to be there at six. Very special thanks to Jim Cramer and Mike Kuczynski for putting on a truly outstanding clinic for us.

At the March meeting, unless someone more talented volunteers, I will be doing the clinic on tying herl-bodied flies using the dubbing-loop method with a special focus on Prince Nymphs.

Again, if any of you have any suggestions about topics for the clinics please give me a call. Additionally, if you have a specific tying problem that you would like help with, please don't hesitate to bring it up at the clinic. If you have a specific pattern that's giving you trouble it would help if you would bring your own materials so that a resident expert can show you what you need to know, since we can't possibly have every possible combination of materials there at every meeting.

Any suggestions of any kind about how to make this program better and more helpful will be very gladly received, and the program will be open to any member who would like to demonstrate any patterns or techniques at one of the meetings. Please feel free to call me any time.

Paul Major; 579-0990 (work), 539-5437 (home).

## 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! Ads will run one time only unless renewed by owner/member. (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing.)

Sage rods;	6100RPL 10', 5100RPL 10' as new,	\$285 each.
	DB Dunn 10' 2-rod case \$50. All for	\$600
	Contact Paul Major Work 579-0990,	Home 539-5437

Sage Rods	9 1/2' 6 wt RPL, new \$250
	Contact Mark Landucci 528-4547

## To all members of Russian River Flyfishers...

Now that your board has been kind enough to allow us to join your monthly communication, we want to use our first opportunity to give you some very special information.

At Western's second annual Fly Fishing Faire, you'll have the opportunity to discuss the gear one on one in a more comfortable and less claustrophobic setting than the giant shows offer. In addition, you'll also have a **chance to win some of the best equipment on the market.** (Hint: A Sage rod & more!)

In addition to seminars on improving your casting and fishing techniques, the manufacturer's reps will also give presentations on Modern Fly Rod Construction (Jamie Lyle from Sage), The History of Flyfishing in Northern California (Press Powell from Powell Fly Rods), Fly Reel Construction (Ken Weibe from Able), Selecting Waders (John Deitz from Simms) and more.

Secondly, we'd like to thank each of you for the friendly support you've shown us since we took advantage of the opportunity to carry on the legacies of Grant King and Gene Thompson at Western Angler. The fact is that even though we appreciate the purchases you have made at the shop, we're enjoying even more the opportunity to make new friends in our new home. We thank you and promise to continue to improve our selection, our knowledge and our level of service. We're also committed to continuing our support of RRFF through donations and other assistance we can offer your club.

As a way of thanking you personally, we encourage you to clip out the coupon below and use it for the next 30 days in either our Santa Rosa or San Rafael stores, whichever is most convenient for you.

### ***RRFF APPRECIATION SPECIAL!!!***

## **10% OFF FOR 30 DAYS**

*One time offer---Expires April 14, 1996*

*For RRFF Members Only*

We aren't allowed to offer this discount on Sage and other "Pro-Shop" items or licenses. We welcome it on boots, waders, apparel, materials, books, lines, etc.

*Just show this for every purchase until April 14.*

Have you checked out our schedule of classes lately? In Santa Rosa we'll have a **Rod Building Class** on March 22 & 23. We are also now offering **Flyfishing 101 for Women Only** and we will be doing another Saltwater Flyfishing for Surf Perch (dates will be announced soon). Also, if you want to be included when we schedule the **"Bonefish, Tarpon, & Permit Fly Tying"** or **"Tying Hexagenia & Other Fall River Basin Flies"** classes, give us a call and we'll put you on the list. We're adding more classes all the time.

We're really enjoying the challenge of serving a group with such a wide scope of interests. Thank you for the opportunity. We look forward to seeing you at Western Angler & Western Sport Shop!



## 1996 SPRING

# FLY FISHING FAIRE

## Saturday, April 13th

## FREE! from 9 to 5

### CASTING INSTRUCTION

Special techniques by the Factory Pros! Introductory sessions by qualified instructors! Something for every level!

### FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS

Freshwater, saltwater, bass...Tying and techniques demonstrated by the industry's best, *all day long!*

### RODS, REELS & EQUIPMENT

Meet with the factory representatives from *Sage, Loomis, Scott, Powell, Streamline, Scientific Anglers, Cortland, & many more.* Test cast the latest rods and reels at our outdoor casting pond. Try the state of the art equipment before you buy (or just for fun!).

### ORGANIZATIONS

Get to know your local conservation groups and clubs. Talk with members of Trout Unlimited, North Bay Fly Fishers & more! Find a new fishing buddy!

### OUTFIT YOURSELF

Check out the newest gear and technology from *Weinbrenner, Simms, Columbia, Danner, DB Dunn, Wood River & others.* See the best of the new 1996 float tubes and pontoon boats.

### TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

Explore your '96 fishing travel plans with guides, lodges and outfitters from north and central America's premier fishing venues.

## WESTERN SPORT SHOP

902 Third Street

San Rafael, CA 94901

(415) 456-5454

*Directions:*

*Take 101 to the Central San Rafael exit,  
go west on Third Street for five blocks,  
to the big red fish!*





Last time we talked briefly about three important aspects of tying: Quality, Uniformity and Speed. This month we will continue along those lines.

If you really want to improve your tying skills you need to practice, practice and practice. Remember when you were in high-school and the coach was trying to teach you a certain drill or special maneuver? You didn't do it once and then go to something else; you did it over and over until you got it right or he gave up. The same applies to tying practice, you don't go from an Adams to a Humpy to a Pheasant Tail Nymph. Until you really get good you should limit yourself to one pattern and one size during any one tying session. Even when you really do get good, you will tie better flies if you stick to one size and one pattern during each session. That doesn't mean that you can't change colors if you want a variety of Wooly Buggers, just keep them all the same size.

Before you start you need to clear the deck. The only tools and material that should be in front of you are those you need for the task at hand. Think for a moment about the tying process and place those items that you use often at the most convenient spot to pick them up, yet out of the way enough so that you won't accidentally knock them off the work surface. Hooks, for example, which you need only once per fly can be placed in the upper left corner of the work surface, out of the way but accessible. Dubbing and wax should be side by side so as you put one down the other is right next to it. Hey! You're getting to be a real efficiency expert. Don't forget the hackles that you sorted after last month's advice ( you did sort them didn't you?). If you didn't then pluck and gage enough for this session now and put them in a pile.

As you tie, try to get in the habit of always returning the tools and material to the same spot on the work surface. I know it sounds fuddy now and seems like it is going to take all the fun out of tying and turn it into work. Trust me on this, once the habit is formed life will be simpler.

One of the most visible aspects of quality is proportion which is the relative size of the individual parts to one another. Hackle and/or wings that are too long or too short throw the fly out of balance and make it look awkward. This is probably more noticeable on dry flies than for wets and nymphs. The length of the various parts is usually expressed as a function of the hook gape or shank length. The problem is that shape of the bend on some hooks makes the length of the shank hard to determine. Also the vise is covering the gape so it is not clearly visible. The solution is to make a mark on your vise or at the edge of your work surface to measure the materials against.

One of the first problems most novice tiers have is the handling of materials. They get through the stacking and the measuring and then everything seems to go to hell when they start transferring the material back and forth between their hands before tying it down. Let me walk you through a process that will ease your pain. Assume that we are tying in a hackle fiber tail and that that we have determined that the tail should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long beyond the tie in point. First make a mark  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the edge of your work station on the right side. Now select a spade hackle, the ones along the side of the neck with the longest fibers. Align the ends of the fibers and holding the tips in you left thumb and forefinger cut or strip them from the quill. Grasp the butt end of the fibers with your right thumb and forefinger without misaligning the tips. Now measure and adjust your pinch spot against the mark you made on the work surface. Adjust so that your thumb nail is against the work surface edge and the tips are at the mark. Now transfer the fibers back to your left hand by touching you thumb nails together as you pinch with your left hand. This preserves the measure point. Your tying thread should have been at point where you want the tail tied down. Place your left hand over the hook with your thumb nail at the exact tie-in point. If you position the fibers to your side of the hook and at a slight angle the torque of the thread will roll them to the top of the shank. Make the first wrap of thread by letting it slide down your thumb nail. Following wraps should be towards the eye of the hook. All of this is easier done than said. More on tails another time.

Now a tip for the more advanced tiers. Do you ever have trouble tying in spinner wings of synthetic material at the exact point you want them? Try this approach. Wrap the thread to the exact tie in point and let the bobbin hang. Take a short length of the wing material in both hands and bring it up from under the hook with one hand on each side of the thread coming from the bobbin. Bring the material to the top of the hook where it is trapped by the thread. Now holding one side or the other make a few cross wraps to finish securing the wings.

## OOPS!

I'm so embarrassed! I hate it when I screw up so badly, especially in print 'cause it never seems to go away. The "Prez Sez" column in the February issue of *The Cast* was the most recent example of my ineptitude. I ran it through the spell checking process but that obviously wasn't enough! I can accept the inevitability of a few typos in an issue but that column was beyond belief!!! Sorry Tim! My apologies to each of you whose enjoyment of *The Prez Sez* was lessened by my typos. Chuck



# The Russian A Perspective

*(The following is a letter written by Ben Cummings to Chuck Baker in response to a much earlier edition of "The Cast", written long before my association with our newsletter. I present it here only for the historical perspective Ben provides. Ed.)*

Dear Chuck:

In reading over your item on the Salmon & Steelhead Advisory Committee, I found your comment on habitat to be somewhat at variance with my own observation on the Russian River.

My experience began in 1912 on Dry Creek where my father had a small prune orchard that adjoined Dry Creek about a mile downstream from Lambert Bridge.

I remember going with my father in a horse & buggy down the more-or-less dry stream bed on the way to Healdsburg. (He drove in the creek bed to wet and swell the spokes in the buggy wheels, besides the roads were 6" deep in dust in the summer.) There were occasional isolated shallow pools in the creek, connected by subterranean flow of the stream.

In one of these pools, local Indians had constructed a weir dam of gravel and weeds and willow stakes to force the small entering flow through a narrow channel in which they had placed a jute sack full of crushed turkey mullein. The toxic juice of the turkey mullein (rotenone?) had killed all the fish downstream in the pool.

My father said that this was a common practice in both Dry Creek and the Russian River.

The dead fish were all warm water species, i.e. suckers, squawfish, various sculpins, sticklebacks and chubs. There were no bass, sunfish, bluegills, etc. in the Russian River or its tributaries at this time. Bass first appeared in noticeable numbers in the river in 1915.

It should be noted that this method of fishing had the effect of keeping the populations of squawfish at a low point such that very few adult fish survived to a size where they became predatory. Most of the young steelhead occupied the head waters of the tributary streams. These head water basins were well shaded with redwoods and firs and the hillsides were stable. The result was excellent habitat for young steelhead. The water were too cold for the warm water species, so the steelhead fry had ample forage. With the fall rains they migrated downstream in immense numbers and were not molested by the big squawfish that now occupy the river. The Russian River during that period was not a significant spawning area. Most of the adults worked their way back up to the head waters of the tributaries.

In 1919 a significant change occurred in the regime of the Russian River. PG&E built Scott Dam on the upper main stem of the Eel, the increased storage enabled them to run the little hydro unit in Potter Valley throughout the summer. For the first time the Russian flowed year-round. The Indians stopped poisoning the pools to get fish and the squawfish grew to predators and were able to take heavy toll of the migrating steelhead smolts. The riparian timber in the nursery streams was logged out. Road building and bad land use destroyed hundreds of miles of habitat water. Some steelhead began to spawn in the main river but the survival of the young fry was slight and these runs died out.

A few streams continued to support young steelhead, notably Big & Little Sulfur Creeks, Upper Mayacamas Creek, Pieta Creek and some branches of Austin Creek. However power development in the head waters of Big Sulfur Creek has damaged that stream.

During the 1950's, a former game warden acting without Departmental permission, rotenoned Big Sulfur Creek below the Geysers and got rid of a substantial number of the big predatory squawfish in the lower creek and all the way down the Russian River to Alexander Valley.

The steelhead fishery showed a remarkable improvement during the late 1950, and early 1960s.

About 1965 the F & G Dept. planted catchable rainbow trout in the Russian River above Cloverdale. The resultant fishing pressure eliminated both the planted fish and the native steelhead smolts. The steelhead run declined ever since until the wet winters of the 1980s when it has shown a resurgence.

This brings us to the present with the development of the hatchery at Warm Springs Dam. Here we have the potential for a spectacular improvement in our anadromous fishery if....

1. A continuous patrol of the length of Dry Creek and Russian River is maintained and poachers vigorously prosecuted. (Last winter, when many steelhead smolts were released from Warm Springs Hatchery, a family of Mexicans was observed with hand lines and a string of 30+ smolts.
2. Every effort is made to protect the riparian vegetation in the head waters of the tributary streams, with the object of preserving the remaining wild strain of native fish.

A special note: About the middle of October, Emil Lewis and I tried the fishing below the Alexander Valley bridge, where I had formerly, (5 years ago), had good fishing for small mouth bass.

Chuck, there were no fish of any kind in the 1/2 mile of river. Agricultural workers in the Alexander Valley had fished it out!

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## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, March 18th, 1986

7:00 P.M.

Warrack Hospital Board Room

2449 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa, CA

## **General Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 20th**

**Fly Tying 6:00 P.M.**

**General Meeting 7:00 P.M.**

The North Room

Santa Rosa Vets Building

1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, CA

*featuring*

## **Jim Mengle**

**Fishin' on the Henry's Fork in Idaho!**

Want to know about the Henry's resurgence?

Ready to tie up the latest hot local patterns if you only knew what they were?

Then come listen to Jim, formerly a local resident and member of the RRFF.

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 22  
Number 4  
April 1996

## The Pres sez:

I want to start off by apologizing for missing last month's meeting, it sounded like old home week with a lot of guys who haven't been around for years. I'm sorry I missed Jim Mingle. I feel like I know the guy personally after listening to all of Hakel's stories.

I guess things move along fine without me. In my absence it appears we changed our meeting room and, after only 20 years, the night on which we meet. Oh well, I guess change is good, right?

I sincerely hope you've all been fishing more than I have this month. I used to say if I'm too busy to go fishing, I'm too busy! Lately I've been way too busy. You know you're in trouble when the guys you fish with quit inviting you because they know you can't go anyway.

There are so many opportunities this time of year. It seems many of our favorite fisheries begin to wake up from their long winter naps. As much as I enjoy steelhead fishing, I haven't done much of it the last couple of years.

Unfavorable weather conditions, decreasing fish populations and increasing crowds have made me appreciate some of my other spring fishing pursuits all the more.

I've got a job in Richmond and have been driving over the San Rafael Bridge lately. The water looks great and from the elevation of the bridge you can see lots and lots of good looking striper spots. Those of you with boats should get out and explore the bay a lot more. There's almost no pressure from fly fishers and I think the fish are on a comeback. The more people involved, the more protection the fishery receives.

Due to the constraints my business is putting on my time, I'm sorry to say that I won't be running for president next term but Steve Tubbs will make a great president for our club! I will remain active on the board as much as possible.

Get out and enjoy the spring.

Tim Grogan

## Tips From Here & There

How many times have you stood a rod case up against something, turned to walk away and heard the rod case clatter as it fell. This often happens because the bottom of the rod case is metal or hard plastic and it is slick. Try gluing a piece of gasket material to the bottom of the rod tube. It is not as slick and will stand longer. You can also use a piece of inner tube, carpet or neoprene in place of the gasket material.

Do you have a collapsible rod case for traveling that holds three or four rods. Have you seen how rod cases are handled by baggage personnel at airports? Try cutting a piece of 1/2 inch PVC one inch longer than your longest rod and putting it inside the rod case. That way if the adjustment on the rod case slips your rods are protected against breakage by the collapsing case.

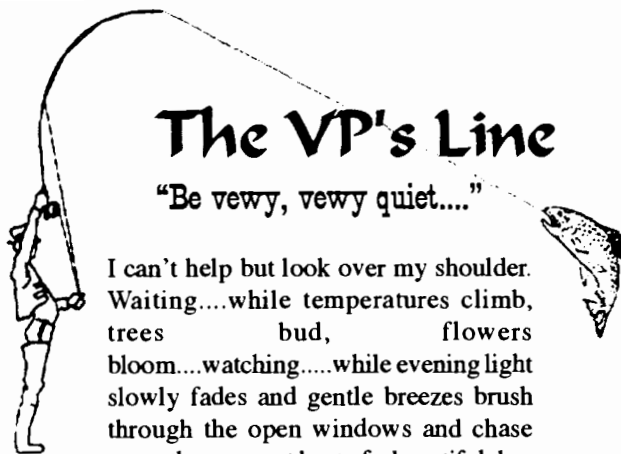
## 1995-96 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

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

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
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**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)  
**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
**Conservation:** Joe Craig (525-8948)



## The VP's Line

"Be vewy, vewy quiet...."

I can't help but look over my shoulder. Waiting....while temperatures climb, trees bud, flowers bloom....watching....while evening light slowly fades and gentle breezes brush through the open windows and chase away the remnant heat of a beautiful day.

The other shoe is out there somewhere. After last year, it's hard to believe that the weather of the last few weeks can hold. Any day now, I half expect a big size 14 rubber boot to thunder down upon us, splashing merrily through the puddles as it bounds across Northern California, muddying up the waters and once again washing out the spring fishing.

But the days *have* grown longer. The nights *have* been calm and clear, lately bathed in a bright, almost mid summer, light from a perfectly full moon. A few nights ago, I could make out a few clouds in the sky, high clouds, the moonlight reflecting off them, summer clouds...like those that used to accompany us on those humid nights in coastal North Carolina while flounder "giggin'" under skies full of high clouds and stars. It was warm, the moon was large on the horizon, the stars were blinking overhead. Hard to think of rain and April showers, spring storms and cold, gray days. Ben (my retriever) and I enjoyed our walk, prolonging it significantly, enjoying the night. I could feel the anticipation awaken. Cautiously, stirring from somewhere deep inside, shaking off the effects of a winters hibernation.

And the last few days have strengthened it. Warm, beautiful days that have nearly pushed beyond the bounds of spring. I'm smiling more. My energy level has risen. I'm beginning to hope, to watch the budding world and sparkling skies and dare to anticipate, to slowly turn my back on winter. But still I'm unable to quell that questioning backward glance. The glance that expects a size 14. The glance that finds me tip-toeing through a beautiful spring in hopes that we just may sneak up on summer without overturning the apple cart. "Be vewy, vewy quiet..."

Easter weekend was spectacular. Nicholas and I donned our hiking shoes, grabbed a couple of spinning rods, and headed for the green hills of Annadel Park and Lake Ilsanjo. Our spirits high, we searched the trail for signs of lizards, "bluebellies", doing lizard push-ups as they watched us from the stumps and rocks lying warm in the sun. The lizards were there, a few of them, also anticipating the coming summer and the warm sun. Nicholas would have been happy to

spend the remainder of the afternoon conducting a lizard rodeo - lassoing lizards with lassos of grass stalks - but the grass was still too wet and needed more than the anticipation of warmer weather to dry out sufficiently enough to fashion lizard leashes.

We continued up toward the dam, accompanied by the splashing meandering of the normally dry creek that moved along beside us. Everything was green. Moss covered the tree trunks as they bent and spanned the road, stretching their branches for patches of sunlight where they could warm their leaves. The road was wet in places, small seepage's moving to join the creek as it dashed down the hill. The hillside was almost lush, it was definitely fresh and it was very much *alive* as it too waited in anticipation for the summer sun that would brown its grasses, dry its creekbed and dust over its trails with its dry heat. It was beautiful. I smiled.... and snuck a quick peek over my shoulder.

The lake was brimming, thus explaining the creek. The water was cool and a silty gray, bringing to mind the clay composition of the topsoil and the numerous places where runoff still made its way across the trails and down the green hill-sides. Ducks and red-winged blackbirds moved among the reeds. Occasionally the water would boil as a bass sucked down something from the surface. We ate lunch, enjoying the day.

The problem with Lake Ilsanjo and fishing is that there are very few places where one can fish from the shore. It's a perfect float tube lake, nearly surrounded by reeds, and that is definitely the best way to fish it. Nevertheless, Nick and I rigged up a couple of Rapala's and practiced chucking lures. Nick's getting pretty good with his spinning rod, as long as the reeds mind their own business and don't try to snatch any of his lures. We tossed top water baits for awhile and then Nick fished a plastic worm as we sat in the shade on the bank. I saw a few fish boil, but always on the other side of the reeds and out of casting range from shore. We enjoyed the "fishing" anyway and when the sun started dropping behind the trees we joined the lake overflow in following the creekbed back to our car.

And now I find myself still smiling, and thinking about trout season only a few weeks away. I've started messing around with my tackle, cleaned my trout rods, even straightened the lines out at the casting pond after a winter of neglect. My anticipation is undeniable now, and I'm setting my sights on Hat Creek and April 27th. Now if I could just keep from looking back over my shoulder....

Tight Lines,

Steve Tubbs



# THE CASTING POND

**Date: SUNDAY, April 21st**

**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.**



On the date of the March clinic somehow or another the season jumped over spring and came down on the first day of summer, like 87os worth of summer. It did not, however, deter the likes of V.P. Steve Tubbs and coach Brian Wong from breaking the 150 foot casting barrier and having a good time doing it. Ken Magoon came close and will make the jump soon. If any of you are at all interested in joining the relentless attack on 180 feet, which is well within reach, come out and give it a try. Instruction will be available.

Want to try some of the club's equipment? Call president Tim Grogan at 538-5917 to reserve what you would like to use. If the weather continues to be our friend, even President Tim's 164 foot club and casting pond record is in peril.

The introduction to fly casting is scheduled from 10 A.M. until noon when the general clinic will begin. The March clinic was well attended and included one of our member's young son. If you know anyone who might like to get a feel for fly casting and who needs equipment, coach Brian Wong has some excellent basic outfits that may be borrowed on a reservation basis. Those who may be interested can reach Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887.

If the weather fails us the clinic will be postponed until the scheduled May 19th event.

Bob Sisson

1977

## What A Show!!!

If you missed Jim Mingle's presentation on the Henry's Fork and Henry's Lake, you lost a golden opportunity. In addition to tying a couple of locally effective ties for the area, (see the recipes elsewhere in this issue), Jim did a killer job on the hows and wheres of the area around Last Chance, Idaho. If you are going to be in that area, you can reach him at (800) 428-8338. If you are going to be anywhere within a couple hours of Jim give him a call. I fished with him once many years ago. He is an outstanding fisherman and an outstanding guide. In addition to a super slide show, Jim also brought out many of the pioneers of the North Coast salmon and steelhead fishing. Names like Tooch Colombo, Dale Chelli, John Christlieb, (John is currently producing a custom line of smooth casting rods, one of which he donated to the raffle-I didn't get his current address but Steve Tubbs, lucky winner of the rod, could probably supply the address if you are interested.) Gary Rowan was also seen standing in the back. Chuck Cadman managed to sneak away from his duties as Petaluma's Superintendent of Schools long enough to put in an appearance. Getting all those old-timers together at one of our meetings is an indication of Mingle's status as a fisherman.

Thanks Jim. It was a truly outstanding show!

## Welcome Aboard!

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors of the RRFF, Joe Craig was appointed to the board to fill one of the vacated board positions. He "volunteered" to join the board and "volunteered" to serve as Conservation Chair. Thanks Joe! We're looking forward to working with you. Also back in the fold is Dwight Longuevan. He has stepped into the Raffle Chairman's job. Jim Hackle asked to be relieved due to the workload imposed by his construction company. Thanks Jim for a job well done!!



Fly tying is an interesting hobby that can become very addictive. Many tiers start with hopes that they will save a few dollars and a few start with the anticipation that catching a fish on one of their own flies will add to their enjoyment of the sport. The first reason to save a few bucks doesn't often work as you end up tying more and more flies and needing more and more material, etc, etc. You do however end up with well stocked fly boxes if you get seriously hooked on tying.

The second reason, to add to your enjoyment, will always yield positive results. No matter how good or how poor your flies are at your particular stage of tying having a fish take one of your own is a satisfying experience. I still remember my first trout on one of my own. I was fishing a #12 Rio Grande King as a dropper above a salmon egg. The trout took my fly in preference to the salmon egg. As a 10 year old, it made my day!

A few others start tying for other reasons, maybe just to try their hand at it or as an outlet for their creative juices. I have an acquaintance who is a once a year fly fisherman; his wife took up the hobby and now supplies all his flies.

One of the interesting aspects of fly tying is how much the character of a fly can be changed by changing the manner in which it is tied. Many older books would list hundreds of fly patterns, some in table form, giving the materials for the tail, body, wing, hackle, etc. Some times color plates would show the flies which all seemed to have the same shape/ form. The modern tier is not bound by such limited thinking and it shows in the much wider variety we have in our flies today.

This month I want to discuss some of the different effects that can be achieved by variations in hackling techniques. I'll cover wet flies this month and dry flies at a later time. But there are some similarities and some differences that I'll mention now.

In general the standard for hackle length, whether wet or dry, is one and a half times the hook gape. Naturally this doesn't apply to special cases like spiders, spey flies, etc. When tying in the hackle for a dry fly have the dull side of the feather facing you; for a wet fly the shiny side; for a parachute the shiny side up.

When tying Wooly Worms or Wooly Buggers, if you tie

the hackle in by the butt of the feather the hackle fibers will almost always slant to the front of the hook. If the feather is tied in by the tip, the fibers will slant to the rear. If you are using a neck hackle for this type of pattern you will also get a tapered effect with the longer fibers either at the front or rear depending on which approach you take. If you are using some of the generic saddle hackles on the market you won't notice this taper as much as the fiber length is so uniform. The method I prefer is to tie the hackle in by the tip so that as I wrap forward I will have the fibers slant to the rear and the longer fibers will be at the front of the hook giving a tapered effect to the fly. An important point here: Don't start the hackle at the very rear of the body. If you do it will be vulnerable to breakage by the fish's teeth. Always have one wrap of chenille behind the first wrap of hackle. You can gain further protection of the hackle stem if you bury the stem between the chenille wraps. One more point, When using large neck hackle on Wooly Buggers the length of the hackle fibers will vary considerably from tip to butt. Select a feather that is the right size at the midpoint and you'll end up with a fly with a nice taper from front to rear. When you reach the front of the fly take a couple of extra wraps of hackle before you tie off.

Several different effects can be achieved when applying hackle at the head of the fly. Many wet flies and steelhead flies in particular benefit in appearance by folding the hackle. ( Folding hackle is a process of stroking the hackle to make all the fibers stand out to one side of the stem). A properly folded hackle will slant the fibers towards the rear of the fly. You can accomplish somewhat the same effect by wrapping back over the hackle once it is tied in, but the folded hackle method is a little neater.

There are several methods used to fold hackles. Some fold the feather before tying it to the hook, some afterward. The easiest method for me is to fold it after tying it in just before wrapping. Do this by holding the feather taut and stroking all of the fibers with a wet thumb and forefinger to the rear side of the hackle stem. You may need to continue the stroking with wet fingers as you wrap the hackle.

There are a couple of other methods of applying hackle to wet flies but we are running out of room so I'll cover them next month.

---

## CDC ADULT SPENT CADDIS

Hook: TMC 100 or TMC 5210 (1x fine)#14, 16  
Thread: 8/0 Uni-Thread, Olive or Dark Brown

(See CDC page 5)



**Attend to register  
to WIN ...**

Sage Fly Rod!  
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Fly Boxes!  
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DB Dunn Rod Tube!  
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Neoprene Waders!  
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& much more!!!

\*winners must attend to register but  
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**1996 SPRING**

**FLY FISHING FAIRE**

**Saturday, April 13th**

**FREE! from 9 to 5**

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# Coming up at



## San Rafael & Santa Rosa

Fly Fishing 101 Class-March 11,16 & 18, Santa Rosa

Fly Fishing 101 for Women-Ongoing, Santa Rosa & San Rafael

Antique Tackle Show-March 23 & 24, Santa Rosa Fairgrounds

Santa Rosa Boat, RV & Sport Show-March 29, 30 & 31, Santa Rosa Fairgrounds

## Fly Fishing Faire-April 13, San Rafael

Sage School Clinic-May 5, San Rafael

Rod Building Class-April 24 & May 1, San Rafael

Rod Building Class-April 19 & 20, Santa Rosa

Flyfishing 101 Class-April 18, 20 & 25, San Rafael

Basic Fly Tying Class-April 22, 29 & May 6, San Rafael

Gene Fassi's Bass Fly Tying Clinic-April 22, San Rafael

Ascension Bay Bonefish Trip-May 3-10, Yucatan, Mexico

Sage School Clinic-May 4, Santa Rosa

Flyfishing 101 Class-May 8, 11 & 15, Santa Rosa

Tying Class: Fall River/Hat Creek Flies-May 11, Santa Rosa

Loomis School Clinic-May 11, San Rafael

Flyfishing 101 Class-May 13, 18 & 20, San Rafael

Tying Class: Bay Area Saltwater Flies-May 15, San Rafael

Basic Bass Techniques for Local Lakes-May 18, San Rafael

## Float Tube Day-May 18, Santa Rosa

Surf Perch Flyfishing Class & Outing-May 22, San Rafael & Santa Rosa

Doug Brutocao's Tying Class: Upper Sacramento River Flies-June 15, Santa Rosa

Surf Perch Flyfishing Tournament-June 22, Dillon Beach

Ascension Bay Bonefishing Trip #2-Call for June dates, Yucatan, Mexico

Alaska Salmon Trip-June 29 to July 4, Wilderness Place Lodge, Alaska

Bare Lake Kamloops Trout Trip-July 20-25, Kamloops, British Columbia

Flyfishing for Women Only with Maggie Merriman-Fall '96, San Rafael & Santa Rosa

Duck Calling Seminar-Sept. 18, San Rafael

Other Duck Hunting Classes-Fall '96, San Rafael

*Check often for additions to this schedule*

*\*Call for reservations, prices, times & complete information*

**Western Sport Shop**

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**Western Angler**

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# 

The March fly tying clinic was another smasheroo! Jim Cramer demonstrated his secrets for tying Humpies. I did what I could to show the technique of tying durable herl-bodied flies using the dubbing loop method (and in the process invented a new pattern which I call the "Ribless Prince Nymph," also known as the "OOPS"). The highlight of the program was our guest speaker, Jim Mingle, demonstrating some of the patterns he ties and fishes as a pro guide on Henry's Lake and the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

At the April meeting (April 17) we are more than fortunate to have Andy Burk from the Redding Fly Shop as our guest speaker and fly tyer. As I'm sure most of you know, Andy is one of the best known, inventive, and talented fly tyers in the business, with many famous original patterns to his credit. Andy is on the fly-design staff of Umpqua Feather Merchants, and a quick perusal of any fly catalog will show more flies entitled "Burk's" than any other name I can think of.

Please note that the April Clinic will start at 6:30 rather than 6:00, and Andy will be the only tyer demonstrating. We'll try to give him a full hour to work before the start of the regular meeting. This will be a rare opportunity, so don't miss out on the chance to see one of the legendary tyers in action, up close and personal.

The May meeting is scheduled as the Great Tie-O-Rama with the entire meeting being devoted to tying! At this date we have not yet finalized the program, but we hope to have at least five or six tyers demonstrating everything from Salt-water Poppers to Midges.

Again, anyone wishing to participate in this very popular and valuable program, please call me and let me know you're available and/or any suggestions you might have to improve the clinics in the future. This is a new deal, and all contributions will be greatly appreciated.

### 

Abdomen:	Harrop fine Blue Wing Olive dubbing or Oregon Upstream #06, Rusty Olive or choice to match any caddis.
Underwing:	Sparse medium gray elk, downwing, flat
Overwing:	Wild Mallard CDC or Gray Dun or Olive Dun. Two to three hackles, flat, downwing.
Legs:	Butts of CDC wing tied back, trimmed.
Head:	Fine Natural Harrop Dubbing, black or Oregon Upstream #12, black

## 

HOOK:	Mustad 94840, TMC 100, size 10
Thread:	8/0 Uni-Thread, color to match body
Tail:	Orange, pink-orange marabou, olive marabou for Olive Damsel. Not too full, approximately 1 inch in length. Two strands of Pearl Krystal Flash on each side of tail.
Overback:	Scudback or plastic strip 1/8 " over body, rib with 4 to 5 wraps of fine gold wire.
Head:	Seal brown, rust dubbing, Hareline #33. Wrap 5 to 6 turns of .015 lead at head prior to dubbing. Dark goose wing fibers for wing case over head.
Legs:	Three strands of Pearl Krystal-Flash tied at rear of head on each side, trim to approximately body length.
Notes:	Orange version effective on Henry's Lake in the fall. Try SA "Stillwater" line, strip slowly and erratically. Olive good during Damsel hatch. Original fly tied with small gold eyes at head.
Originator:	Robert Spiller, Maidstone, Kent, England
Tyer:	Jim Mingle

## 

#### 

#54 Mike Nieters (8 Wt. SH)

#### 

#49 Mike Nieters (8 Wt. SH)

#### 

#4 Bob Sisson (10 Wt SH)

#5 Steve Tubbs (10 Wt SH)

#6 Brian Wong (10 Wt SH)

# 1996 Candidate Slate

The following list of nominees was finalized for the Russian River Fly Fishers 1996 election for club officers and Board of Directors. Each of these nominees has agreed to serve on the board for a period of two years, except for the President and Vice President who are elected to a one year term. Any changes to this final Candidate Slate must be made before the mailing of the ballot during the first week in May. Additions or removal of candidates can be made by contacting Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

## The Russian River Fly Fishers 1996 Candidate Slate for Officers and Board of Directors

### Club Officers

President: Tim Grogan (incumbent)

Vice President: Steve Tubbs (incumbent)

### Board of Directors

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shawn Kempkes (incumbent) | 2. Tim Barrett (incumbent)                       |
| 3. Lee Smith (incumbent)     | 4. Bob Neill (NCCFFF Representative - incumbent) |
| 5. Joe Craig (incumbent)     | 6. Dwight Longuevan (incumbent)                  |
| 7. Mike Nyholm               | 8. Rodger Magill                                 |
| 9. Ted Adkin                 | 10. Chuck Baker                                  |

### Returning Board Members (Second Year)

Bob Sisson: Casting Pond

Scott Broome: Membership Database

Chuck Perry: *The Cast* Editor

Paul Major: Treasurer

Two temporary appointments were made by the board in March. Joe Craig was appointed to serve as director of the Conservation committee to replace Harry Schoonbaert and Marshall Lockman. Dwight Longuevan was appointed as Raffle chairman, replacing Jim Hakel whose new work duties required him to give up his position. Also, current board member (up for re-election), Lee Smith, was appointed to the position of Secretary, replacing Mark Landucci whose work schedule changes forced him to give up his position. These appointments will be effective until the June election results have determined our new board. Our special thanks to Mark Landucci, Jim Hakel, Harry Schoonbaert and Marshall Lockman for their past service to the Russian River Fly Fishers.

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## EVERYONE'S A WINNER Eight Raffle Tickets \$5.00

You don't have to be a big spender to be a big winner! Just five bucks at last month's raffle could have won you a custom built rod, a beautiful 5 ft. 3 in., 5 wt. fly rod, hand crafted and donated by past member, John Christliebe. or a portable fly tier's bench crafted and donated by the same!. THANK YOU JOHN!!! Maybe you could have been the lucky winner of a J. W. Outfitters fanny pack, mitten clamps or been able to take home to your fishing library *The Guide to Fishing the Henry's Fork* and the *Idaho Road Atlas*. Perhaps you're a fly tier, you could have picked up one of the assortment pack dubbing dispensers loaded with the best colors and styles, bead heads in assortment packs of 100 in the best colors and sizes, a "must have", for any serious fly tier. The last items were generously discounted to the club by our

friends at the Western Angler. If you are not a fly tier you might have taken home a meticulously tied assortment of flies crafted by our very own Jim Cramer, or a fly box and a dozen shad flies tied by the lovely and talented Lin Drafton. Our guest speaker generously donated his fly picks for his home waters, a fly box and a couple of baseball caps from his local shop. Just for buying raffle tickets last month you would have received samples of a new glow edge fly-tying material donated by Doug's Bugs-this is the hottest stuff for this season's shad flies. Doug's Bugs also donated some great new books for the club library and for future raffles.

Whether you hold the lucky ticket that takes home a prize from our raffle or not, as a member you are always a winner. You're a winner because the funds generated at our raffles pay for our great guest speakers, the use of our beautiful casting pond, next month's raffle items, our news letter and all the little things that make the RRFF the great

club that it is. Thanks to all of our generous contributors and to you, the membership, for your support.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank Jim Hakel for his hard work in bringing us successful raffles with a comedic twist. Thank you Jim, for a short guy you did a great job!

Get your tickets early,  
Dwight Longuevan

### **Din Din.....Again!!**

The indefatigable Scotty Broome is at it again! He and his capable crew of Margie Major and Shawn Kempkes are already hard at work setting up the June dinner meeting. The date will be Friday, June 6th at the Vet's Hall in Santa Rosa. Details are a little sketchy at this time but the speaker will be Dave Hughes! The dinner will be catered, buffet or sit down is still undecided and the menu is almost set. There definitely will be an open bar and wine on the tables. Volunteers are needed to help with the decorations, raffle prizes are definitely in order and donations of wine for the tables would be greatly appreciated. If you can help with any of these items please give Scotty a call at 575-5993. He is also taking dinner reservation at this time. **Mark your calendar NOW for this 20th anniversary fete of the RRFF!!!!**

## **Hat Creek - April 27th & 28th**

This year's trout season opener on April 27th also marks the return of what used to be a RRFF tradition - the opening day club outing. Our sights this year have been trained on the Hat Creek area, where we will surely join the masses on opening day regardless of the weather. Last year's 4"-5" rainfall on opening weekend still found many anglers at Hat Creek, so expect a crowd. Here are our plans:

Shawn Kempkes and Steve Tubbs are co-hosting this trip which means pretty much that we know that we for sure will be there and that we have been there at least one other time in our lives. Our plan is to attempt to obtain a few campsites, if possible, at the Cassel PG&E campground and to establish that as our base area. From there, club members could fish a number of waters; Hat Creek, Baum Lake, Fall River, Pitt River, Cassel Forebay and Manzanita Lake to name a few. Steve Tubbs and Bob Neill will be heading up to the PG&E campground on the morning of Thursday, April 25th to set things up. Paul Major and Chuck Perry will also be heading up Thursday morning and will be camping at the nearby Bidwell Ranch. Shawn plans to join us on Friday.

At present, there are about 15 RRFF members interested in attending this outing. Bring everything you will need to camp if that's what you plan to do. (There are a few motels in the area if you are inclined to avoid the weather.) Expect to pay campground fees. If the crowds are heavy, we may end up at any one of the numerous campgrounds in the area. We will post any alterations to our plan at the PG&E campground so you should check there first. If you don't hook up with us Friday night, I'm sure you'll run into RRFF members fishing Hat Creek on Saturday. Those of us going up early are expecting to fish Baum Lake Friday. Everyone attending this outing should treat it as they would any camping trip - bring enough food for those members of your immediate party and all of the gear that you will need. Be prepared for rain! Plan on 4 - 5 hours of driving time from Santa Rosa.

Regardless of the fishing or the weather, our club outings are a lot of fun. Last years Manzanita Lake outing was subjected to heavy rain and found most of us fishing Hat Creek. We had a great time! It would be best to get as many of us staying at the PG&E campground as possible just to have a central place where we can all meet up in the evenings after fishing.

Flies: Here are a few of them. PMD's, BWO's, Green Drake's, Elk Hair caddis, mayfly cripples, emergers, PT nymphs, Hares ear's, midges and midge emergers. If you plan to fish the riffle at Powerhouse, bring an assortment of nymphs. Fishing the lakes may require Woolly Buggers and leech patterns. There are prolific hatches of a variety of insects on these waters. Sizes: #12 - #16 but be sure to bring some #18 - #22. You may even want to bring along a few stonefly and salmonfly patterns (just in case). Call The Fly Shop in Redding or one of our local fly shops for additional hatch and pattern information.

Although Shawn and I are planning to return to the Santa Rosa area on the 28th, there are a number of club members who are planning to stay over Sunday and return home Monday. We will meet briefly after our April general club meeting to finalize our plans. Please direct your questions to Shawn Kempkes (546-2014) or Steve Tubbs (765-1787).

### **Did Ya'Ever...**

look at a listing for a pattern that called for a hook you were unfamiliar with and wonder what you might have in your hook collection that was comparable? Well, Greg Payne of the E. C. Powell Fly Fishers has come up with a hook chart cross referencing Mustad, Tiemco, Daiichi and Dai Riki. Look for it in an upcoming issue of *The Cast*.

Address correction requested.

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

P. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

## General Meeting

with author

**Andy Burke**

## Fly Fishing Still Waters

Andy is a regular columnist for the "California Fly Fisher" and a superbly innovative fly tyer. This show is a "MUST SEE!"

Wednesday, April 17th  
Santa Rosa Vets Building  
Fly Tying 6:30 P.M.  
General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

The North Room, Santa Rosa Vets. Building, 1351 Maple Ave., S.R.

### RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday April 15th, 1996  
7:00 P.M.

Warrack Hospital Board Room  
2449 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa, CA



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 22  
Number 5  
August 1996

MAY  
1996

## The Pres sez:

This is such a beautiful and exciting time of year for fly fishers. There are so many angling opportunities that unless you're retired it's difficult to decide where to fish when you get the chance. I guess that's not exactly accurate. I've got two or three retired friends who seem to have less time to fish than I do. In any case it's too bad the angling opportunities of spring weren't spread through out the year. If so we'd never be without fish to fish for.

Probably foremost importance to fly fishers this time of year is the trout fishing. Trout are probably the reason that fly fishing started in the first place. With the rainfall we've had over the last two years most of the trout waters in the state should be in great shape with healthy insect and trout populations.

Close to home there are several species that come into the spotlight at this time of year. Black bass should be coming off their spawning beds and feeding aggressively. Subsurface flies that imitate leaches, crayfish and minnows will produce the most consistent results but as the water warms, there are few things as fun as casting popping bugs to eager bass on warm spring evenings.

Another fish close to home this time of year is the American shad. These fish average 1 1/2 to 3 lbs.. and for their size, few fish can out fight these guys. Shad are great fish on light steelhead gear. What's nice about shad is where you find one you'll almost always find more. It's not difficult to catch fifteen fish in an afternoon's fishing. I've seen days on the Russian River when more than 400 fish were landed from a single hole. A six to eight weight

rod, a #2 or #3 fast sinking shooting head and half a dozen size 6 flies is all you need for more fun than you can shake a rod at.

If you've got a decent size boat you can chase a Bay Area Grand Slam. Halibut, salmon and stripers will all become available in the next month. Salmon won't move up into the bay for another month or so. The last couple of years have seen some great ocean salmon on fishing off Bodega. Although salmon are not really considered fly rod fish when they're in the ocean, I've caught them trolling as shallow as 20 feet and others have caught them even shallower than that, well within fly rod range.

This is the best time of year to catch halibut. Most people drift live bait for halibut, however they can be caught trolling jigs. If you can catch 'em on jigs you can catch 'em on flies. Dwight Longuevan and I were fishing the bay for stripers a couple of weeks ago and Dwight caught a 23" halibut on a red 'n white Whistler. Didier Van Der Vecken, one of our new club members, holds four IGFA line class records for California Halibut and none of them are over 6 1/2 lbs. Something to think about.

It's also this time of year that the stripers move back down out of the delta to feed in the bay and ocean. There are still lots of fish available in the delta including some big spawners. In the bay, look for fish where ever the guys get them trolling. Use big red and white flies during small incoming tides. A little further from home, this is prime time for tarpon in Florida, but that's another story....So many fish, so little time.

Tim

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

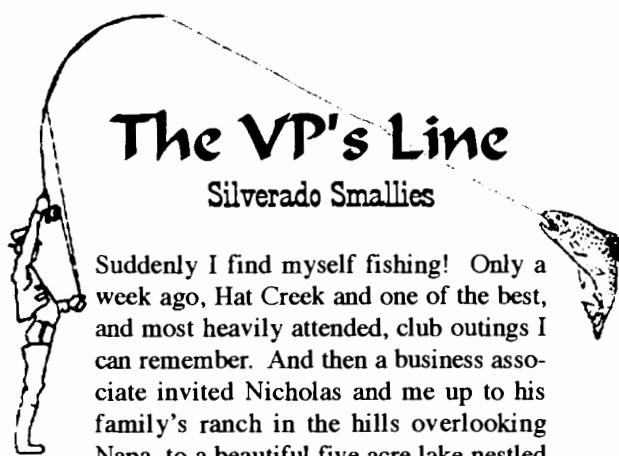
**President:** Tim Grogan (538-5917)  
**Secretary:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Vice President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
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**Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
**Conservation:** Joe Craig (525-8948)





Suddenly I find myself fishing! Only a week ago, Hat Creek and one of the best, and most heavily attended, club outings I can remember. And then a business associate invited Nicholas and me up to his family's ranch in the hills overlooking Napa, to a beautiful five acre lake nestled

snug against the mountains and brimming with bass and bluegill. We joined our host and his son for Sunday afternoon and evening, meeting them at their home in Napa and then proceeding out the Silverado Trail and up into the hills that ring the valley.

We weren't entirely unprepared for this trip, Nicholas and I. Our spinning gear had been overhauled prior to a recent day trip up to Lake Ilse, where Nicholas spent a good amount of time casting and retrieving floating Rapala's. As I pretty much expected to find the bass spawning and on nests in the shallows, it seemed that those floating Rapala's might just do the trick. As far as Nick was concerned, we had a couple of things going for us. One, we were at a lake. Two, we were about to go out on that lake in a boat. Heck, we wouldn't even of had to bring a fishing rod for the day to have been a success!

But the fishing rods kind of iced the cake. For once, we had it figured correctly. I "oared" us down into the shallows where we dropped anchor between one of the islands and the far bank. On Nicholas second cast, he hooked and landed his first bass of 1996, a 15" beauty that was one of the larger fish we saw all day. We worked the shallows, moving around the islands and rock piles, casting right up to the bank and retrieving through the weeds. About every 10 or 15 minutes we'd hook a fish. Sometimes they'd come quicker. Nicholas was finally able to do it all and put it all together. I'd point out a good looking spot for him to cast to, he'd try to put it there and every now and then his ultralight would slam down toward the water in the middle of his retrieve. This would always bring forth whoops and hollers. "We got one!" he'd yell, and as I removed the hook(s) he would lobby heavily for us to weigh anchor and take that fish over to show "those guys" what we caught. The conditions were perfect. Enough action to keep the kids interested, plus the excitement of being on the water and the prospect of having a lakeside barbecue as the evening wore on.

After dinner, we fished until dark. I preferred to play guide while Nicholas fished, rowing him to likely spots and ma-

neuvering him into position to make the cast. In the last hour he hooked and landed two more nice fish, 12" - 14", and lost a third. As our hosts wanted to take a few home for a future meal, we kept those last two - which of course opened a whole new series of suggestions from Nicholas like; "Why don't you fish for awhile Dad? I'll just sit here and play with these fish!" and of course the obligatory "I'm going to throw my lure right in front of him and try to catch him again!" (as the fish body surfs behind us with a 1/4" nylon rope running through his mouth and gills). We had a great time. All told, I landed 6 or 7 fish and Nicholas landed 5. Between the two of us we probably lost twice that many. Nicholas put it best when he said to me, "This kind of fishing is fun!" (as opposed to the kind of fishing where you don't catch anything, I guess).

I'm finding it hard to believe my good fortune. The RRFF outing at Hat Creek really was a lot of fun and although I have no idea how everyone else did fishing, I know that personally the trout opener was kind to me. I would really like to thank Scott Broome for all the work he did putting together the feast we had on Saturday night, and for thinking up the entertaining questions for around the campfire. Also, I would like to thank Ken Magoon, Lee Smith, Scott Lewis and Rodger Magill for coming up early with me on Thursday to reserve the campgrounds for the rest of the group. As far as the fishing went, talk to some of the club members who attended and find out how they did. We covered a lot of water in the area over the course of the weekend.

Our 20th Anniversary June dinner meeting, featuring Dave Hughes, is coming up fast! Start making plans now to attend this event. Scotty Broome and Margie Major are putting it all together and rumor has it there will be some special doings to commemorate the RRFF's 20th year. This event will be catered by Sonoma County Preferred Caterers, who do an excellent job, so bring some guests and join us for cocktails, dinner and a great evening.

Finally, the May general meeting is a tying clinic where we will have a number of club members tying some of their favorite patterns. This is a great opportunity to tap into some of the talent reserves right here in our own club. Hope to see you there Wednesday night.

Steve Tubbs

## Thanks Andy Burke!

It was just a superb show!! How can you improve on superior photography, great dialog and raucous interaction between the speaker and audience?? If you weren't present for this meeting you lost a golden opportunity to learn about the wheres and hows of northern California still water trout fishing!

# THE CASTING POND

**Date: SUNDAY, May 19th**

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

**PLACE: Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park**

**at the intersection on Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa**



Participation in the April clinic was great. Much of this activity was due to the wise decision on the part of our members who are preparing for forays against the tarpon off the Florida Keys and the dorado and pez vela in the Sea of Cortez. All in all there is no better place to ready yourself and your gear for combat than to use the casting pond. Some new prospective beginner members were also in attendance and had their enthusiasm raised considerably by the activities of the practicing members. Want to try some of the clubs equipment? Call Pres. Tim Grogan to reserve the desired gear at 538-5917. The tentative interclub meet being considered for May has been put on hold until fall at the request of the clubs Ken Magoon has talked to.

The introduction to fly casting portion of the clinic is again scheduled from 10 A.M. until noon when the general clinic will begin. If you run on to anyone who would like to participate and needs equipment, coach Brian Wong has excellent basic outfits that may be borrowed on a reservation basis. Those who may be interested can reach Brian at Lyle's Tackle and Travel, 527-9887



Last time we were discussing hackles for wet flies so let's start where we left off. We've covered palmered hackle for Wooly Worms and Wooly Buggers and folded hackle.

Not all hackle is applied by wrapping the stem around the hook. Many patterns call for the hackle to be applied in the form of a beard. This simply means that the hackle fibers are cut or stripped from the stem and tied in on the under side of the hook in a bunch. There is a little more to it than that which I'll get to in a minute. I suspect that this was the first method of putting legs on a fly and only later did some clever fellow come up with the idea of wrapping the neck feather of a cock around the hook. One great advantage of the beard approach is that almost any fur, feather, or hair can be used. The original size of the feather or the length of the hair is not important, (unless it is too short) as it can be tied in at the correct length and the butt ends clipped off. The wide variety of materials that can be used with this approach give the creative tier the ability to produce some very realistic, beautiful or unusual flies. It is often used on salmon flies.

When preparing the material attempt to even up the tips of the feather fibers before cutting them from the stem.

This is much easier than trying to even them up after cutting them loose. The same applies for hair although you can stack it. Start with the tips even but don't worry too much if they slip a bit as this will give a staggered effect which looks realistic. If you can't handle enough material in one bunch for the entire fly, no sweat, tie in additional bunches to get the effect you desire. A beard is generally placed under the hook but a full hackle effect can be accomplished by distributing the material around the hook. I often tie my nymphs with a small short wisp of duck flank feather on each side of the thorax. I believe that it looks much more realistic than just a beard tied underneath.

A neat easy variation of this tie in is called the DeFeo method. Take a large webby neck hackle and carefully cut the center stem without cutting the hackle fibers. Take the butt portion of the feather which now has a large "V" in it and loosely tie it in under the hook with two or three turns of thread. Tie it in so that the fibers are much longer than you need. Now carefully pull the stem forward through the loose wraps of thread until the fibers are the correct length. Tighten the thread and add a few more turns and you have a perfect beard hackle.

Another way to add hackle legs to a nymph pattern is to take a soft webby feather and spread the fibers by stroking down the feather. Tie in the feather on top of the hook after completing the body and tying in the thorax shell material but before building the thorax. Dub the thorax, Pull the hackle feather down across the top of it so the fibers extend out to both sides and secure at the front. Then bring the thorax shell material over the top of the hackle and secure at the front. The hackle fibers should be sticking out to both sides from under the thorax shell.

# Of Steelhead... Shooting heads... and Hat Creek

Club Outing: Hat Creek, April 25 - 28.

The question went something like this: "Do we use shooting heads because that's what we've always done, or are there better ways to present our flies, and to control their speed and depth, perhaps by using different line systems and methods of presentation...after all, what about other steelhead fisherman...fisherman in Oregon and Washington...fly fishermen that do not use shooting systems...period!...Do they know something that we don't know?" At least that's what I think the question was. It kind of ran on like that, delivered in a slightly(???) inebriated fashion from a rabble-rousing Scott Broome, to a group of slightly less inebriated fishermen (????) sitting around a campfire on an absolutely gorgeous April evening at Hat Creek, waiting for opening day of trout season only a few hours away.

A discussion followed. For hours. The question was kicked about, roughed up, torn apart, dissected, discarded - and just about when we thought we'd beat it to death, Scott would ask it again. "You don't understand my question," he'd say, and then proceed to resurrect it in all its glory only to receive another barrage of answers, another go around the campfire, and in the end we were no closer to answering the question than when we'd started. Not that there weren't some worthy answers. But somehow they didn't seem to satisfy whatever Scott had hoped to discover. What was the question? I'm not sure. I think it appears above. You can understand my confusion.

Or maybe you can't. You kind of had to be there! And if you weren't, you missed one of the best RRFF club outings in recent years. Seventeen RRFF members and guests congregated at the Cassel PG&E campground for opening day of the 1996 trout season. The weather was absolutely superb! For once, clear skies and nearly balmy days greeted us. No snow! No 4" - 5" of torrential rains! In fact it was nice enough for shorts and a T-shirt and warm enough to wade wet! Sharing in this good fortune were: Scott Lewis, Rodger Magill, Lee Smith, Ken Magoon, Harry Schoonbaert, L.J. Denney, Nate Wallin, Scott Broome, Dale Cheli, Larry Johnson, Joe Craig, Brian Vignati, Jim Iodence, Paul Major, Dick Betts and hosts Shawn Kempkes and Steve Tubbs.

Thursday afternoon found Scott, Rodger, Ken, Lee and I securing the campsites, four of them, and later, once the tents were pitched, heading off to Baum Lake for a little evening fishing - just to get into the spirit of things. After marveling at the clouds of mosquitoes and caddis, and working the kinks out of casting arms while slapping at the

former, it soon became apparent that there were still a few things left to do back at the camp. And so, after an instant fire (courtesy of Lee Smith and a canister of white gas), and once the oxygen had returned to our immediate vicinity so we could all breathe again, we got into the spirits of things, accompanied by a variety of poisons that livened the evening considerably. The good cheer did not translate well into morning, however, but at the time... the wolves that were howling all around us?... well, they just didn't seem to matter! (We all heard them... I'll swear to it!)

In the morning, once we could stand (the pounding), the four of us headed off to Baum Lake to seriously give it a go, Rodger trickling down a little later having taken a little heavier pounding than the rest of us. We fished hard all day, through the mid-day hatch, breaking off a few fish here and there, not having much success bringing anything to a net. I lost two that first day, fishing dries near the tule island, one of them a good size fish that managed to break me off rather convincingly while getting my heart up to speed with my head. Early evening found us back at camp as the rest of the group began pulling in, and as the campground became a parking lot, the tents went up and soon we were all around the campfire, waiting in breathless anticipation for Scott's question. The question. A question to tantalize trout fishermen everywhere! As plans were made and discussed, and the hatchery trucks dumped more trout into the Cassel canal, the question hung in the air, unanswered in Scott's mind. The night wore on. Fishermen teamed up and formulated their opening day strategies. Some went to bed. Soon the rest followed. And then, around 2:00 A.M., L.J. and Nate rolled into camp. Opening day was underway.

As day broke, the wind gusts shook the tent as they caromed through the campground. Shawn and Jim had left early for Fall River with Jim's boat. Scott wandered aimlessly, looking for Motrin and trying not to think about breakfast. Kids lined the canal, tossing worms and powerbait in hopes of catching breakfast. In small groups, RRFF members headed off for their opening day waters, wondering aloud about the gusting wind and what that might imply. I hung around camp for awhile, not really wanting to fight the crowds and the wind. Lee Smith and I walked on down and checked out the Cassel Forebay, already seeing some of the "planters" on stringers in the water. We decided to seek solitude at a nearby spring creek, where we suspected there would be few anglers and where we could possibly minimize the effects of the wind.

Opening day was kind to me. After finding a few working fish in a narrow tree-lined chute just above a nice riffle, I spent the better part of an hour and a half working them and trying to keep my flies out of the trees. After landing a beautiful 12" wild rainbow and missing a number of other grabs, I headed back up to the truck to grab some



*presents a visit with  
fly tier, author & photographer*

# Dave Hughes

**Saturday, June 8**

- Fly Tying Demonstrations
- Book Signings
- Discussion

*Don't miss this opportunity to visit  
with one of fly fishing's  
most prolific and authoritative authors!*

**9am to Noon at  
Western Sport Shop  
902 Third St.  
San Rafael  
(415) 456-5454**

**2pm to 5pm at  
Western Angler  
532 College Av  
Santa Rosa  
(707) 542-4432**

# Float Tube Day

**Saturday, May 18 from 10-2**

**at Spring Lake**

*Everyone Welcome*

- Try out the latest Float Tubes & Pontoon Boats from J. W. Outfitters & Buck's Bags
- Tackle Pack seminar & Float Tube demos by Wood River
- Factory Reps on site
- Scott Fly Rod demonstrations
- \*Special Bass Fly Fishing Seminar

*Presented by*



**532 College Ave., Santa Rosa (707) 542-4432**

*\*Call for directions & detail*

lunch and find Lee. Lee had been exploring upstream and decided to head off to see more of the creek after lunch. Having already located fish, I returned to my morning haunts and almost immediately hooked another rainbow that tore up the pool as it catapulted itself from the water, finally managing to wedge my line beneath a rock while it worked itself free. These acrobatics put down the rest of the fish and before long I too was headed back to Cassel, wondering how the other members of our group had fared and thinking about the evening's promise.

One of the pleasant amenities that seem to always punctuate our club outings is good food. With the question still hovering in the air, Scott Broome had put together a feast to fuel our pursuit of the evening hatch. When I returned to camp, the coals were white and packed high around foil covered potatoes, potatoes so huge that even half of one dwarfed the plate. Thick steaks were piled high near the fire, and as our group assembled, late afternoon gave way to evening while Scott grilled the steaks to order. Shawn and Jim had done well on Fall River, landing nearly a dozen fish apiece although none of them were of any real size. 10 - 12 inches seemed to be the rule of the day. Others had found a few fish but had had little success in catching them. Scott, Joe, Dale and Larry had spent some time at Powerhouse 2 - picking up some fish while also trying to answer Scott's question, a process that continued through dinner. Rodger was absent. Rumors had it that he'd taken off on foot for Powerhouse 2 hours ago, not having transportation of his own on this trip, and that we'd have to look out for him around dark after completing our own evening pursuits. Dinner was excellent, and as thoughts turned again to fishing, the group once again split up to find use for the last hours of daylight.

But that "shooting head" question refused to die. Finally, Dale Cheli grabbed his fly rod and punctuated what he'd been trying to convey to Scott since the evening before. A number of us headed down to the Cassel Forebay after dinner. It was close... and all the decked-out fly fishing guys from The Clearwater House were there! Using a 5 wt. shooting head and a nymph pattern, Dale made one cast and hauled in a nice brown trout while conversing with a few of the guys that were still setting up their gear. He cast again, and was fast into an 11" rainbow. Two casts, two fish. By this time he'd attracted a little attention, especially from a few guys who'd been fishing the same water pretty heavily for quite awhile before we got there. On the third cast, the pressure had become pretty intense and he missed the grab at the end of his drift. After a couple more casts, Dale decided that there was nothing to be gained in continuing to fish, having already fueled the answer to the question. The rest of us fished on till dark. A few fish were rising, teasing us and keeping us interested. I fished to one for probably 45 minutes, raising him a number of times before finally sinking the hook and bringing him in - a 10" rainbow that paled next to the wild

fish I'd caught earlier that day.

Other evening reports were more promising. Jim and Shawn had snuck off to Carbon Bridge, stumbling across a crazed Rodger Magill in the process. Rodger had made it to the Powerhouse and continued on downstream where the fishing proved so good that he couldn't think about stopping. The evening hatch was in full swing, with fish rising everywhere. Shawn played the familiar Hat Creek game of shuffling flies, trying desperately to find the one that the fish had selected for their dinner course. With so many flies on the water, it sometimes can be very hard to find the one that the fish have keyed on, especially if they've keyed in on only one! Jimmy landed 6 fish and lost a number of others. Shawn raised fish all evening but couldn't quite hook up. Rodger claimed success as well, although the exact numbers were muffled as he ate leftover potatoes and salad by the light of the campfire. A quiet campfire... free of questions. We were tired. It had been a memorable opener.

Sunday morning dawned calm, and as the sun rose the wind resumed somewhat, gusting up now and then as a reminder of the day before. Most of us broke camp, hoping to fish somewhere on the way home. My own agenda called for fishing somewhere nearby for the afternoon and then heading off to Carbon Bridge to experience the touted evening hatch. I remembered it from last year and, based on Shawn and Jim's testimony from the night before, couldn't wait to see the spectacle again. Besides, I hadn't fished Hat Creek at all yet on this trip. Brian Vignati heard of my intentions (to fish the evening hatch and drive home after dark) and claimed shotgun for the ride home. After packing up, we decided to head down to Baum Lake for the afternoon activity and two or three hours of surface action. But the wind, by this time, had grown stronger and once we arrived at the lake it became apparent that observing any afternoon hatches was going to be a neat trick. So we enacted Plan #2, donned our hiking boots, grabbed our gear and hoofed over to the turtle pond, a new experience for both of us. The geese and their goslings were every where. Hundreds of them it seemed. And although we caught few fish (Brian landed one), the walk and the wildlife were well worth the effort.

Evening found us at Carbon Bridge, and after walking downstream about halfway to Teal Island, we began to work our way back up to the car. As the light left the water, the first splashy rises taunted us, and while the sun sank behind the hills the hatch I remembered materialized over the river. It was as Shawn had said; fish rising everywhere while clouds of insects danced above the surface. And for a change, I had the fly. By the time night claimed us, I'd released 5 fish - the fifth actually releasing itself at my feet while I reached for it with my net. I'd also managed to lose the hardware off my "net keeper" for my efforts. Brian paid his dues to the river, searching for the

right fly and trying to hook up. Hat Creek is like that. It demands tribute. And occasionally, after it has frustrated and teased you, it lets you in on the secret for a little while. Enough for you to justify what it is that makes you fish. Enough to hook you and bring you back for more. Enough so that you don't mind paying tribute the next time.

I arrived back in Petaluma at 3:30 A.M. Monday morning. It was worth it. Without exception, every member that attended this outing considered it to be one of the best in recent memory. But then to me, all of our club outings are great. Even those that have been snowed on, rained on and blown out. We have some great members in this club, and any chance to get out, to fish with them, and to experience some of the great fishing opportunities that are at our disposal is well worth the effort. I spoke to Scott Broome the other day, a few days after we'd been back. He told me how he really had a great time and how he thought it had been a great outing! And then he added, "But you know, no one ever did answer my question!" What question was that, Scott? Steve Tubbs

## DISTANCE CASTING QUALIFIERS

60'

#55 Paul Major

80'

#50 Paul Major

100'

#32 Paul Major

WAY TO GO, PAUL!!

## We're Moving!!

Beginning with the September meeting the RRFF is changing both it's meeting night and it's meeting place. Neither is changing very much. Meeting nights will be the 2nd Wednesday of the month not the 3rd. The new meeting place will be the Lodge Room in the SR Vet's Bldg. not the North Room. The new room is about 4 times as large as the present one and has a built in PA system. You can still park in the same spot, walk in the same door but go past the North Room to the corridor, turn right and turn right again into the first door you see. That's it! You're there!!!

## THE MAY "TIE-O-RAMA" MEETING IS HERE!

As promised, our May meeting (May 15) will be all fly tying! We have been able to line up a stellar cast of talented fly tyers to demonstrate a wide range of tying techniques. As of this writing the program will include:

TIM GROGAN: Striper flies

STEVEN TUBBS: Mylar/foam poppers for Dorado and Sailfish

CHUCK PERRY: Special rotary vise techniques

JIM CRAMER: You name it...bring him your problems

DWIGHT LONGUEVAN: tying Glo-bugs

ROGER MAGILL: Fuzzy numph dubbings

BOB SISSON: fishing knots, Granny to Bimini

Additionally, we'll have two heavy hitters whom we haven't previously met. TIM PAXTON, inventor and purveyor of various specialized tying materials, will show us his very inventive and unique foam-body fly techniques; and BOB NORMAN, long time Fall River guide and now on staff at Fishing International, will show us how to tie his loop-wing dries that are such killers on the Fall and Hat creek. (Bob has just recently relocated to Santa Rosa from Fall River Mills and we hope to get him involved with RRFF. He's a super guy, so be sure to give him a big welcome.)

We'll try to have the Tyers up and tying by 6:30 with all of them tying at the same time at separate tables. Around 7:30 we'll take a break and have our usual meeting agenda, raffle, etc., then we'll go back to fly tying for the rest of the evening.

This program really qualifies as a "Don't Miss" so come early, stay late, and see more fly tying going on under one roof than anywhere this side of Srilanka!

## WANTED...96-97 DUES

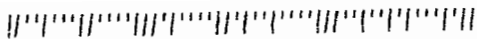
The RRFF operates on a fiscal year calendar that runs from July 1 to June 30. All new members paying their dues after March 30th are credited for the balance of the current fiscal years dues as well as the entire following fiscal years dues. Paul Major, RRFF Treasurer, is now accepting dues for the upcoming fiscal year from current members. Hopefully all of you have had a chance to recover from your recent bout with the IRS and have a little something extra in your sock. You can use the application on the back of this issue to send in your dues. I know it is a little early but if you pay your dues now you won't go off on vacation this summer, wake up from a horrible nightmare about being delinquent and have to rush off in the middle of the night to find a mailbox so you can appease your nagging conscience!



# Hook Chart

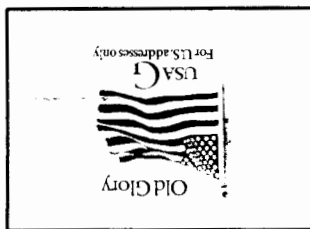
Surface Flies	Dai Riki	Mustad	Tiemco	Daiichi
Down Eye Dry Fly Hook	305	94840 AC94840 AC80000BR	TMC 100 TMC 921 TMC 5210	1310 1170 1180
Barbless Dry Fly Hook	none	94845	TMC 900 BL	1190
Straight eye Dry Fly Hook	310	94859	TMC 101 TMC 501	1480 1640
Up-Eye Dry Fly Hook	none	94842	TMC 500 11	1330
Fine Wire Dry Fly Hook	300	94833 AC94833	TMC 5290	1480 (straight eye)
Fine Wire 2x-3x Long Dry Fly Hook	none	94831	TMC 2312 TMC 2302 TMC 5212	none
Subsurface Flies	Dai Riki	Mustad	Tiemco	Daiichi
Standard Sproat	070 075 (heavy)	3906 AC3906	TMC 3769	1530 (short) 1550
1x Long	070	3906B AC3906 B 7957B	TMC 3761	1560
2x Long	730	9671 AC9671	TMC 5262	1710
3x Long	710 270 (curved)	9672 AC9672 AC80050BR (curved)	TMC5263 TMC 200R	2461 1720 1270 (curved)
4x Long	700 700B (Bent)	9674 79580 AC79580	TMC 9394 TMC 9395	2220 1750
6x Long	none	9675 36620 AC36890	TMC 300	2340 J171
Scud-Caddis Pupa Hook	135	AC80250BR AC80200BR	TMC 2457 TMC 2487	1130 1150 J220

(Thanks to Greg Payne of the E. C. Powell Flyfishers for his generous permission to reprint this. I had to retype it so any typos are apologized for in advance and any errors are mine not Greg Payne's. Ed)



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

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**General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 15th**  
**Santa Rosa Vets Building**  
**Fly Tying 6:30 P.M.**  
**General Meeting 7:30 P.M.**

The North Room, Santa Rosa Vets Building, 1351 Maple Ave., S.R.

**LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD!!!**  
**COME AND SEE SOME OF OUR OWN RRFF MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE**  
**THEIR SPECIAL SKILLS & TECHNIQUES**  
**SEE SALT WATER TIES, SPECIAL TOOLS & TECHNIQUES ON DISPLAY**

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**RRFF Board of Directors Meeting**  
7:00 P.M., Monday, May 12th, 1996  
Warrack Hospital Board Room, 2449 Summerfield Rd., Santa Rosa, CA

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*Please Join Us For*

**The Russian River Fly Fishers**  
*June Dinner Meeting and 20th Anniversary  
Celebration*

featuring noted writer and speaker

**Dave Hughes**

presenting

**“The River of Swans, Chile”**

**Friday, June 7, 1996**  
**Veterans Memorial Building Dining Room**  
**Santa Rosa, CA**

**Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres: 6:00 P.M.**

**No Host Bar**

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

prepared by Preferred Sonoma Caterers

**Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

32<sup>USA</sup>

**SANTA ROSA CA 95404-6206**

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# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RFF



Volume 22  
Number 6  
June 1996

## The Pres sez:

It's kind of funny, relieving myself of at least a little responsibility should make me happy but it doesn't seem to be doing that. My wife warned me not to step down from being president if I didn't have to. She said it was an ego boost that I would miss and I think she was right. But besides that, it's been a lot of fun being president for the past year. Even if I didn't have time to fish, I could look forward to the board meetings and general meetings for the same kind of comradery and fishing related conversation that I derive from my fishing trips.

When I was younger I used to go fishing by myself all the time. I shared very little of my fishing with other people. As I get older, I find sharing those experiences with good friends every bit as enjoyable as the fishing itself. I think that's why this club has become so important to me. We've got so many great people and good friends willing to share their experiences with each other that it's kind of like a family. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy quiet, mist shrouded mornings alone on the river and I don't give away all my secrets. But I guess my priorities have changed a little.

I'm really looking forward to watching Steve run with the ball for a while. Steve's such a great guy with so many good ideas he can't help but be a tremendous benefit to the RFFF!

Well, enough mushy stuff.

Wasn't that a fun dinner!??? Now I have to add Chile to the list of angling destinations I'd like to visit in my life. I had an opportunity to spend some time with Dave Hughes, his wife, Masako, and their new daughter. Masako is a writer for a Japanese fishing magazine. They're both extremely nice, interesting people.

We were originally a little concerned about the number of people that weren't signing up for the dinner, but in the end we had a good turn out and a great time was had by all. A special thanks to Scotty Broome for organizing the

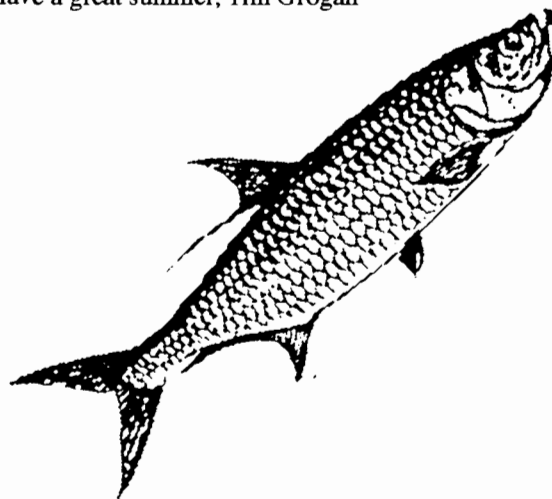
event!!

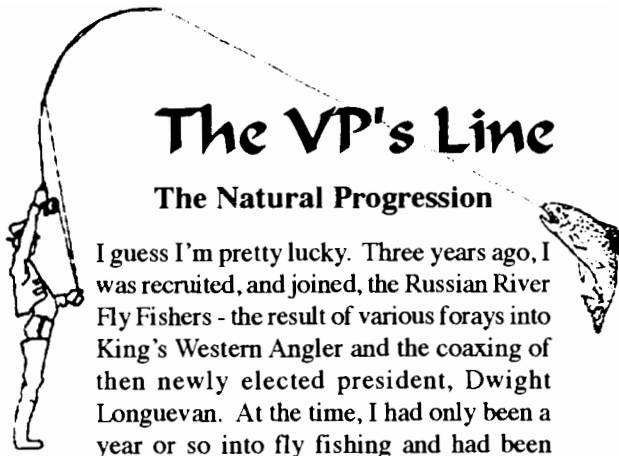
Next month our annual Bar-B-Que should be a great family happening. Make sure to mark your calendar and tell a friend about the event. Guests are certainly welcome!! The dinner will be held at the casting pond so bring your rods for some practice or a little friendly competition, (Go ahead Rajaef, "Make my day!").

On a final note my very good friend and mentor, Jim, "Bone Head," Hakel and I spent a week in Florida fishing for tarpon last month. All I can tell you is if you haven't done this kind of fishing before, "You haven't got a \*\$%#@\*& clue!." It's kind of like fishing for 100 lb.. spring creek brown trout. It is one of the most exciting and challenging types of fishing you'll ever do. Jim and I had a terrific week and between us we landed only three tarpon, my biggest, a 90 pounder.

This kind of fishing isn't for everybody. It's expensive, tiring, frustrating, not relaxing at all and when you think you've got it figured out, you find you still haven't a clue. If you do decide to try tarpon fishing make sure you ask Jim or myself to explain a few secrets like the Green Weenie, the Wavy Gravy, or the MPA.

Have a great summer, Tim Grogan





## The VP's Line

### The Natural Progression

I guess I'm pretty lucky. Three years ago, I was recruited, and joined, the Russian River Fly Fishers - the result of various forays into King's Western Angler and the coaxing of then newly elected president, Dwight Longuevan. At the time, I had only been a year or so into fly fishing and had been pumping Dwight quite heavily for information concerning rod building and fly tying and other varied aspects of my new passion. His energy and guidance in the fly shop continued with his promotion of the RRFF, and, with very little lobbying, my membership application was on its way - influenced largely by the belief that any club with such a convincing and personable president couldn't be that bad.

Of course I really didn't know Dwight that well back then. In fact, as I began attending meetings, and met some of the other members, it became apparent that there were a number of guys, besides Dwight, that exuded the same positive energy, and who helped promote a general feeling that this club was going places. That first year found me pretty much in the wings, an observer, listening to the fish stories, getting to know faces, sharing in the enthusiasm of Vice President Tim Grogan's fish reports, Charlie Schelter's soggy club outings, John Thomas' raffles and Jack Vallerga's speakers. I became familiar with the casting pond that year, and of course Bob Sisson. I sat back and watched. And in the course of watching, I learned that this positive energy that I was witnessing had only been very recently rediscovered. That the surging membership was a recent phenomenon. That the RRFF had weathered some very stormy seas in recent years, and had only just sailed into calmer waters. And I saw, as more new members joined around me, that whatever the reasons for the hard times, the realities of the present were based on a vitality, an energy and a commitment from the guys up front. From the officers and the board members. And I saw something else. The energy was infectious.

That was three years ago. Two years ago, I was asked to join the board and did so - serving as *the Cast* editor by unanimous delegation. I started to get to know the board members a little better, started fishing with some of them and started to have some fun. There were quite a few new board members that year, and a number of key responsibilities up for grabs. Dwight continued as a second term President and Tim as a very active Vice President. The new board delegated its responsibilities. The energy continued, fresher now, fueled by the success of the previous year. Things got even better.

Dwight bailed last year, having mistakenly believed that his presidency was supposed to be a two year sentence, and turned matters over to Tim Grogan. It was the natural progression - vice president to president. But with Tim's looming Presidency (and it *does* loom) the board was left with a vacancy at vice president and the task of determining leadership for the next few years. There were no volunteers. After a few weeks, I finally consented to run as Tim's vice president, mainly because he told me I wouldn't have to do anything and that it was the easiest job on the board. The only catch was that a year from then ("two", we said, "two years"), I would have to take his place as president.

That time is now here. And it was only one year (precedent?). I can't help but feel that I'm too new to this fly fishing game, that I don't get to fish enough, that I could use a little more experience. Common misgivings, I guess. But like I said, I'm lucky. Lucky enough to follow Tim and Dwight. Lucky enough to have a full board of directors - boasting several new additions and most of the guys I've served the past two years with who graciously volunteered to do it all again. Our club is in sound financial shape, with membership continuing to climb. It seems that each year our programs get better. The past few years have found us with excellent speakers, some fantastic club outings and a variety of new ideas for the future. We've started fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction and even got into a little casting competition. There is energy here. We are lucky to have members who care. I am glad to be a part of it.

Thanks for a great year, Tim. We hope to have your input and assistance on the board as often as your schedule will allow. Additional thanks to the new board of directors for volunteering to keep the ball rolling. And a special thanks to Paul Major, who is standing where I was at this time last year under nearly identical circumstances. "It's the easiest job on the board, Paul...but then next year...?"

Steve Tubbs

## DISTANCE CASTING QUALIFIERS

60'

#56 Chuck Perry (9 Wt. SH)

#57 Gerald Senseney (8 Wt. FL)

80'

#51 Chuck Perry (9 Wt. SH)

#52 Gerald Senseney (8 Wt. FL)

100'

#33 Chuck Perry (10 Wt. SH)

120' Bill Archrleta (10 Wt. SH)

# THE CASTING POND



**Date:** SUNDAY, June 16th

**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.

The June clinic has two major objectives. The first is to give all of our traveling fly fisherpersons one more opportunity to get in some practice and sharpen up their techniques for the hoped for battles with the mighty Sails and Dorado. In addition there will be all the opportunity you can desire to broaden your collection of casting systems and the knowledge to use them. If you do not have a shooting system for example and would like to learn this casting technique, the club has both shooting and full line outfits that you can reserve and use to get started. All you need do is call either President Tim Grogan, (538-5917), or V.P. Steve Tubbs, (765-1787), to reserve the desired gear. There will be coaching assistance at the clinic for both the heavy tackle and the regular gear.

A club picnic and casting fun and games is planned for July 27th. The incomparable and indefatigable Scotty Broome and friends will be making sure all the edibles will be at their mouth watering best as usual. The details will be in the July Cast.

Next event will be the club picnic.

Bob Sisson

1977

## Fly Tying Clinic News

The really big news about the monthly fly tying clinic this month is that there ain't gonna be one!

Our June meeting was, of course, the dinner meeting and as the sixty of us who were there may, (or may not), recall we had a great time, ate a wonderful meal, drank a lot, (some of us), of wonderful wine, enjoyed Dave Hughes' great program on Chile, had a super raffle and a generally rowdy good time... but did not, to my recollection, tie one damn fly! No fly tying, nada, zip, aero.

The July meeting will be our annual picnic at the casting pond, so we won't be tying any flies there, and there is no August meeting, so we obviously won't have a tying clinic in August, (this column is just writing itself).

So...our next club fly tying clinic will be in September, our first meeting in our new larger and improved meeting room and our first meeting on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month and there WILL BE A FLY TYING CLINIC! At this point I have no idea what the clinic will be about or who will be conducting it, but I've got the rest of the summer to figure it out so I'm not too worried.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Tie-0-Rama in May so successful... Bob Norman with his really nifty technique for loopwing dries and spinners, Tim Grogan of striper flies, Dwight Longuevan and his

amazing White Shark Size Glo Bug, Steve Tubbs on saltwater poppers, Chuck Perry and his rotating vise tricks, Roger Magill with his material show, and our resident guru, Jim Cramer, with various and astounding tying tricks. Special thanks to Bob Sisson for showing us how to tie all those knots we always hoped we wouldn't have to learn to tie. I'm, almost glad that more of us didn't choose to brave the pouring rain to be there because the somewhat sparse crowd allowed those who did venture out to get closer to the various tying tables and get a better view of the demonstrations.

All in all, I think our new tying program has been a very interesting and useful addition to our meetings. I know that I've learned a lot from all of you fellow RRFF members who have shared your expertise, as well as our visiting experts, Mike Kuczynski, Jim Mengle, (no, it's not spelled "Mingle), and Andy Burk. As fly tying coordinator, unless I can talk someone else into the job, I'm looking forward to the coming year and the possibilities for more good clinics.

Again, (and again, and again, and again), if any club member would like to volunteer to give a clinic, or if you have any ideas or requests for topics for clinics, please let me know... I'd really like to hear from you.

Paul Major



## Unexplored Options

June. Summer's emcee. Announcing our transition to vacation time.

The kids are antsy. Change is in the (100<sup>+</sup> plus) air, fueled by a dry heat that forces windows open, overhauls fans and finds one sleeping above the covers. The last days of school, the last weeks of baseball and the beginnings of summer vacation are around the corner. Already, plans are being made, trips booked, vacations planned as the cloudless days incite our imaginations and destroy our concentration. Daydreams. Alpine lakes, granite peaks, sun-splashed beaches, turquoise seas. We missed it last year. We're ready for it now. And as we sweat through breezeless, star-filled nights, the heat roots out the last remnants of winter and spring. There is promise and hope. Our air conditioner lies poised in the marine layer, somewhere off the coast. And when it comes, the change will be complete.

Traditionally, June is a month of change for the Russian River Fly Fishers. Our June 7th dinner meeting, featuring Dave Hughes, found over 60 RRFF members and guests on hand to welcome our new club officers and Board of Directors. The heat backed off a bit, and we were all treated to a pleasant evening with a slight breeze that made things very comfortable. As this year marked the 20th anniversary of the RRFF, we departed from some of the routines of recent dinner meetings in hopes of providing other amenities to help celebrate our 20th year.

The Veteran's Memorial Building dining room replaced the Flamingo Hotel banquet facility of our past two dinner meetings. A superb meal was provided by Amber Balshaw and her company, Preferred Sonoma Caterers, complete with a fantastic hors d'oeuvres table and a dessert bar that made everyone regret that they'd gone back for seconds of the prime rib and salmon. This was easily the best meal that I've had at any of our dinner meetings. Although the Veteran's dining hall isn't much for ambiance, it did provide a simple and casual atmosphere with plenty of room. It wasn't fancy. We were able to spread out, enjoy the no-host bar and a beautiful evening. Thankfully, the breeze kept things comfortable.

The June dinner marked the end of Tim Grogan's term as RRFF president. Although he debated running for a second term (until just before the ballots were mailed), it was apparent that his heavy workload would probably interfere with this desire. Tim kicked off club business with the introduction of the new officers and board members, confirming that the membership had elected the ballot as presented. Having just returned from tarpon fishing in the Florida Keys with Jim Hakel and Bill Archuleta, it wasn't long before the fishing reports started, featuring primarily the exploits of Tim, Jim and Bill as they pursued the silver kings. I'm not sure if there were any other fish reports - everything else kind of paled next to the excitement and exploits described in Florida. All three caught fish! All three can "sit with the big boys!"

I did hear some stories about shad, but...?

Following the fish reports, word came from the kitchen that the salmon was "perfect!". The resulting migration to the buffet table confirmed this fact and heaped kudos on the rest of the meal as well. While assorted desserts replaced the main fare and coffee followed the wine, Dwight Longuevan presented the evening's raffle items.

And what a fantastic raffle. Grand prize: an Orvis 8wt. Rocky Mountain fly rod with Battenkill reel. Other items included a Mike Stidham hand colored etching, a framed Mike Stidham print (generously donated by Jim Hakel), a limited edition numbered and signed print (donated by Mrs. James Keegan), a rod rack, rod tube, hand-tied flies (donated by Jim Cramer), books, wine, fly tying materials and various other items that managed to completely fill two full sized tables. A number of club members donated merchandise and, along with the door prizes of five \$100.00 gift certificates, this year's raffle ranked up there with the best. A special thanks to everyone who contributed.

Once the raffle items were presented, Tim introduced our guest speaker, Dave Hughes. Dave is an excellent photographer and writer who has written many articles and authored a number of books on fly fishing and fly fishing destinations. His slide programs often deal with his exploration of fly fishing locations or of various fly fishing topics, and his presentation on "The River of Swans, Chile" was no exception. Featuring some beautiful photography, Dave recounted his recent excursions with Rick Hafele to a 360,000 acre *estancia* in central Chile, where he and Rick had the unfortunate task of having to explore and fish as much of the watershed as possible. The *estancia* was in the process of positioning itself as a fly fishing resort, and needed to determine what fishing possibilities existed and what new possibilities could be developed on the various lakes and rivers they controlled. Dave's presentation emphasized his love of exploration and his belief that it is always necessary to leave something undiscovered. Something to come back to. Unexplored options that taunt and tease you with their questions and mysteries. A reason to return. It was a good presentation for an early summer's evening. With our own hopes for explorations looming ahead with the summer, Dave's portrait of the *estancia* helped fuel our anticipation for our own plans, setting us once again to day dreaming and thinking of summer.

All in all, the June dinner meeting was quite a success. Although the accommodations weren't quite as nice as some of our other meetings, the food was outstanding and the rest of the meeting was as good or better than many of the dinner meetings I've attended. This time of year is always tough, as far as attendance goes, because many of our club members are out of town. Considering this, attendance was comparable to past years June meetings.

Our next club general meeting will take place on Saturday, July 27, at the casting pond. This is our annual family barbecue, hosted by the club, so bring your families, maybe a

few fly rods, and join us for dinner and some fun. Last years barbecue was outstanding. We've moved this event to the 27th because of the Loreto, Baja club outing that will be taking place from July 13 - 20. Also, make plans now to join us on December 7th, for our dinner meeting featuring Jim Teeny. Preferred Sonoma Caterers will once again provide the catering service at a location to be announced. Watch *the Cast* for further details.

Steve Tubbs



A couple of months ago when I was tying at the club meeting I realized that there was another tool in my collection that I use all the time and so do most other good tiers but it is seldom recognized or discussed. I'm talking about one's finger and thumb nails. I don't know how I would tie without them and I pity the nervous tier that chews his to the quick. This month I'll discuss some of the many ways that these homegrown tools can be used.

I have mentioned earlier how one can maintain the measured tie-in point on a bunch of tail or wing material while transferring it from one hand to the other by placing the thumb nails together at the measured point.

The thumb nail on the off hand ( the off hand is the one not doing the wrapping) can be used as a guide to place the thread or the material exactly where you want it. Just pinch at the point you want the thread, then as you wrap let the thread slide down the nail and off the end at the right point. Use the same technique when wrapping hackle to get the stem right where you want it. When I was tying Humpies at the March meeting I unconsciously used this technique when posting the near side wing and when making the first wrap of hackle in front of the wing to get it as close as possible to the wing base to avoid any unsightly gaps. Some things we do as habit without thinking. It wasn't until later that I realized that I had not clearly demonstrated the process. I also know how hard it is to pick up the details when sitting across the table from a tier. My apologies and I'll try to pay more attention to what I'm doing and explain as I go.

Another use of the nails which I did point out to a few of the observers but most did not see. A common fault/ flaw that plagues novice tiers and once in a while the more advanced ones is crowding the eye of the hook, especially on the smaller flies. There are two problems here. Most of us think we leave enough room when we tie in the wings. We leave the thread hanging at the exact tie in point for the wings, but when it comes to the actual lashing down of the wing material we get sloppy, just forget, or

don't see and add a few too many turns forward. The result is that the base of the wings are too far forward, not where they should be. The solution is either to retie the wings or sometimes we can move the entire wing, *en masse* to the rear. Do this by pinching you thumb and finger nails against the shank in front of the wings and forcing the assembly to the rear. Support the hook at the bend with your left hand while you do this. The second problem is that the thread wraps just seem to creep forward and cover the rear half of the eye, then we pay for our mistake when we try to run that extra fine tippet through it just before dark. Before doing the whip finish use your thumb and finger nails together to force the thread back off of the rear of the eye of the hook. By pinching them together you can often force the thread back a smidgen and clear the eye. Then on all following flies leave yourself a bit more space at the head and sin no more.

One more application of the ever useful nail comes in the winging procedure for upright wings. Most books tell you to tie in the butts then pull the tips into the upright position and make a few wraps in front to hold them in position. You can do it this way and it will work, but a better way in my opinion is as follows. After tying in the butts pull the tips to the upright position then force the thumb or finger nail on your other hand firmly against the wing material at its base, back against wraps you just made over the butt ends. Rock your nail side to side slightly to make sure that all the fibers in the wing get some of this attitude adjustment ( Hey, that was an accidental pun.) This will put a slight bend or crimp it the wing material and help the wraps to follow to hold it in its final position.

One last use of the thumb nail that comes to mind as I write this, is using it to get a more even distribution of material around the hook after you have made the initial tie in wraps. Deer hair collars are an example. Just work your nail against the material to redistribute it under the wraps.



**General Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 27th**  
**Casting Pond**  
**Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa**

**Come and hear wild stories of Dorado and Sails in Loreto!**

**Eat sausage and burgers with all the fixins!**

**Look for pertinent details in the July *Cast*!**

**The Valley of the Moon Flyfishers has been invited to join us 'en masse'. Come, learn who the other guys are in the local shad holes!**

**RRFF Board of Directors Meeting**

**7 P.M., Tuesday, June 18th, 1996**

**Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza**  
**2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA**

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## **AMAZING!**

I really increased the enormity of my mistakes in the May issue of *The Cast* and only three people pointed out the error of my ways to me. I'm assuming the rest of you were just too polite and didn't want to embarrass me. I really didn't expect many readers to catch the errors in the masthead. It was the May issue, really it was, only the masthead said August.

The second error and one I expected to get a really large number of calls about was my plaintive wail for all present members to prepay their 96-97 RRFF dues using the application on the last page of *The Cast*. Can you believe I only got one call?? Either you are all exceedingly polite, didn't read my pleas for early payment, or were too busy with graduations, weddings, vacations, etc., to answer the call. By the by, the renewal application didn't make the last page of the May issue of *The Cast*.

I won't make the same mistake twice! There will be a form you can use for your dues on the back of this issue. Remember the RRFF does operate on a fiscal year dues basis that runs from July 1 through June 30th. If you go ahead and pay it now you won't have to worry about frittering your dues dollars away on mundane things like food, gasoline, rent or even more esoteric things like beer, flies, new reels or fishing vacations. At any rate \$35 is a bargain price for 11 fun filled events spaced throughout the year to relieve the unending pressures of the daily grind. In addition to that we send you *The Cast* by 1st class mail so you don't confuse it with all the junk mail that gets stuffed in your box. Don't say we aren't considerate of our readers!

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## **HOT STUFF**

I've been getting back into tying flies lately. I moved my tying stuff out from my closet under the stairs. I took an old door, set it up on sawhorses in the basement and luxuriated in all the new space. In the closet I had to open the door to blow my nose. Everything went well till I picked up a cup of unexpectedly cold coffee and almost spewed it over everything in sight!!! I went searching for a cup warmer and found several different models available. The one I settled on is made by Mister Coffee of coffee maker fame. It has a pressure sensitive switch that turns the warmer off and on as the mug is placed on it or removed from it and an automatic timer that turns the unit off if the cup is not lifted for a 30 minute period. Quite a deal for \$12. The only place I was able to find this particular unit was at Thrifty Drug in Sebastopol but most stores of this type will have some style of cup/mug warmer but I haven't found any as convenient as my Mr. Coffee unit. (Ed.)

# The Conservation Angle

The guys in Sacramento are at it again. The following are bills that will have varying impacts on our fishing in years to come. Read the synopses, get copies of the bills you are particularly interested in and hammer your state representatives and senators about them. Notice the special interest groups are attacking on five different fronts!

## Fish and Game Department

Assembly Bill 165 (Rep. Bernie Richter, R Chico)—Reduces DFG's ability to insert habitat protection in general plans in rural counties in California. Pending in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Senate Bill X1 12 (Sen Maurice Johannessen, R Redding) Reduces authority of the DFG to regulate alterations to streams. Pending in Senate Natural Resources Committee.

## Rivers

Senate Bill 649 (Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno) Removes a legal standard that protects rivers from oil spills. This bill passed the Senate and being reviewed in the Assembly.

Assembly bill 1359 (Rep. David Knowles, R Cameron Park) Authorizes construction of the Auburn Dam. This will flood roughly 34 miles of the north and middle forks of the American River

Senate Bill 859 (Rep. Don Rogers, R-Palmdale) Creates an Owens Lake and Owens River Restoration Fund and a restoration oversight panel. Pending in the Senate Government Organization Committee. *(Maybe this is worth of support-can't tell from the information I have)*

## Habitat Restoration

Senate Bill 73 (Johannesen) Creates a Sacramento River Valley Riparian Lands Commission to do restoration projects in the watershed. Awaiting hearings before the Senate Natural Resources Committee

Senate Bill 1280 (Sen. Jack O'Connell, D-Santa Barbara) Creates the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1995. Passed by Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee but returned to committee for amendments.

Assembly Bill 1550 (Rep. Byron Sher, D-Palo Alto) Provides tax credit for money spent for stream restoration projects. Failed in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee but can be reconsidered.

Senate Bill 1268-Costa Creates an Orange County Resource Conservation District and clarifies the definition of RCDs as non-profit organization. Resource Conservation Districts have been increasingly important in watershed planning and restoration. Pending in Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Assembly Bill 1057 (Richter)—Repeals a law passed by

last year's legislature that taxes raw logs sent to other states and earmarks the funds (\$500,000 annually) for watershed restoration. Pending in Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

## Fisheries Protection

Senate Bill 1255 (Senate Natural Resources Committee)—Requires the DFG give the committee an update on their policy that most of the state's salmon and steelhead resources be produced naturally. Pending in Assembly Water Parks, and Wildlife Committee.

Senate Bill 1254 (Senate Natural Resources Committee)—Adds language to the law that says fish and wildlife have aesthetic in addition to economic value to the state. Pending in Assembly Water Parks, and Wildlife Committee.

## Forestry and Watersheds

Senate Bill 626 (Johannesen, Assembly Bill 931 (Richter), Assembly Bill 1357—Exempts logging for fire protection or other general purposes from Timber Harvest Plans or any review of environmental impacts. Requires a one-page application. Bills are pending before the Assembly or Senate natural resource committees.

Assembly Bill 169 (Richter) — Allows timber companies to clear-cut forests, then not replant stands for 17 years. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee has this one. *(Sounds close to highway robbery to me. Ed)*

Assembly Bill 1385 (Rep. Tom Woods, R-Redding) Exempts all logging from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. In Assembly Natural Resources Committee. *Don't like the sound of this one either. El..*

Senate Bill 624 (Johannesen)—Requires that public interest groups file a bond of up to \$500,000 before filing a lawsuit challenging a timber harvest plan In Senate Natural Resources Committee.

## FOR COPIES OF ANY OF THESE BILLS:

Write the author at State Capitol, Sacramento, 95814, or call the bill room at (916) 445-2323. Copies of the bills and their amendments, their status and committee reports are available of the Internet at the State Senate World Wide Web page. The address for the Web site is: <http://www.sen.ca.gov/www/leginfo/SearchText.html>.

*Bill Archuleta supplied the information about the bills mentioned above. Many thanks to him for keeping us up to date in this important area. The original article was written by Tom Martens.*

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)

**Existing membership renewal**

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

**Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current year and also the following years dues.**



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# the RRF



Volume 22  
Number 7  
July, 1996

## The Pres sez: Fishing at "Not Fishing"

The slow bake. White concrete grabbing sunlight, sending it blistering through the balls of my feet to slowly engulf me with its heat. With the thermometer reading 98° in the shade, I stand, lightly shifting my weight from foot to foot, as water pools on the cement below me. The water should help, at least cool it down a bit. I drip, already feeling the energy-sapping toll demanded by the afternoon sun. It's a "cooker". The water beneath my feet seems to be getting warmer, nearly as uncomfortable as standing on the dry concrete around it. It won't be long before I rejoin Nick in the pool, the bottoms of my feet raw from the hot cement. The summer rituals - afternoons at the pool, swimming lessons and water fights. Baseball has ended for another year and already the soccer balls have replaced batting helmets. Hot days, evening breezes and faces flushed from too much sun. It has arrived. Summer.

Hope some of you are fishing. I know a lot of you are vacationing, and hopefully that involves wetting a line somewhere. For me, work has again picked up and things are a little hectic around the office. Past weeks have found me with little time to fish. To actually get out on the water somewhere and attempt to fool something. I haven't *gone* fishing recently, but I am *going* fishing soon - and that brings me to one of the most satisfying aspects of my favorite sport. *Getting ready!*

I find that although my fishing opportunities are seldom these days, I do schedule a few trips each year and preparing for these adventures finds me immersed in fly fishing matters for weeks and even months prior. This year I was lucky enough to schedule two trips - the first with Tim Grogan and Binky Castleberry for my second visit to Loreto, Baja and the pursuit of dorado and sailfish. There goes a week in July! My second excursion finds Nicholas and I heading up to Kodiak Island, Alaska for 10 days of salmon fishing in mid August. There goes a big chunk of August! Judging by all the grumbling and dirty looks I keep getting at the office, you'd think I do this stuff all the time.

With Loreto looming quickly on the horizon, I find that my time is at a definite premium. Replenishing last years supply of poppers and streamers has taken top priority on my evening "to do" list. Production line assembly of the mylar poppers saves me a little time, but my streamer patterns take nearly as long to tie and as departure day approaches (only two weeks now) my nights get later and I get a little anxious. And the tackle considerations - extra fly lines, backing, leaders, rods - do I bring the 7 wt. this year or just stick with the heavy artillery? I'm spending some time at the casting pond, working out the arm, and even more time in a large field closer to my house, casting hookless poppers to clumps of weeds. My neighbors really seem to enjoy this, a phenomenon I'm sure any of you who've practiced your fly casting in a residential city park are familiar with.

But what really has me scrambling is August in Alaska. Realizing that I absolutely will not have time to tie Alaska salmon patterns until after returning from Baja, I know there will be some frantic fly tying and last minute gear scrambling in that three week window between trips. Add to this the factor of my 8 year old son, and the spin fishing gear and various clothing items, etc. that he'll require, I can't help but feel that the real fun hasn't even started yet! The general apprehension of the first trip to any new location, and the fact that Kodiak Island is a hell of a long way from anywhere, has only spiced up the preparations. There are some evenings I really look forward to September.

And that's what I have been, and will be doing, on my summer vacation. Hopefully, there will be numerous trips into the Sierra's as well, weekend jaunts to some of my favorite waters. As the river and stream levels drop, it should be another excellent year for fall fly fishing. Then there's always the NCCFFF Conclave up at Kings Beach, and....

Our next general meeting will be the RRFF Barbecue out at the casting pond in Dan Galvin Park on Saturday, July 27th. The RRFF will be providing the food, so bring your families and fly rods for an afternoon/evening of casting and fun. We have invited a few of the local area fly fishing clubs to attend and will also be inviting the local fly shops as well. This is a low-key social event and it really is a good time.

Once again, Scotty Broome is putting together the menu and has a committee that is striving hard to outdo last year's inaugural event. Hope to see you there!

August is our "down" month, as traditionally a majority of the membership seems to be off fishing somewhere for most of that time, so all of you that had planned August fishing trips (like me) won't have to fret any more about missing a RRFF meeting because there won't be one! The Board of Directors will meet, however, so you board members should probably plan your trips in the August 10th - 20th time slot (that's what I did!) so you won't miss anything momentous (Right!). The September general meeting will begin on our new meeting night, the *second Wednesday* of the month, in our new room, the *Lodge Room*, across the hall from the North Room at the Veteran's Memorial building. That date will be Wednesday, September 11. Be sure to mark your calendars.

A final note. July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for the Russian River Fly Fishers. Your membership dues are greatly needed, especially if you want to continue to see the excellent array of speakers and programs that have highlighted our meetings of the last few years. These programs are not free! Please take a moment to renew your membership in the RRFF and support us for another year of perhaps the best fly fishing programs of any Bay Area fly fishing club.

See you after Baja!  
Steve Tubbs

---

**4 P.M.  
July 27, 1996  
July General Meeting  
Barbecue at the Pond**

**Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park  
at the intersection on Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa  
Free Food!**

**Hamburgers! Sausage! Beans! Beverages!  
Bring chairs, fly rods, families and significant others!**

*(Interesting isn't it, that Scotty chose his own birthday for this meeting-maybe he thinks we'll assume all this fun is his gift to us. Happy birthday, Scotty!)*

---

**RRFF Board of Directors Meeting**

**7 P.M., Monday, July 22, 1996  
Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza  
2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA**

---

**The Casting Pond**

No clinic this month! Enjoy and support the Club's free barbecue; 4 P.M. July 27th at the pond. Bob 1977



## The tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



There is a spot on the rear end of a duck about the size of my thumb nail that yields some most interesting feathers for the dry fly tier and fisherman. I'm referring to the Cul de Canard, CDC, feathers which is the name given to the preen feathers that surround the oil gland. These are small fragile feathers that somewhat resemble down but aren't down and shouldn't be confused with it. I just finished plucking CDC feathers from seventeen wild duck butts furnished by a friend. The butts yielded less than 100 feathers per bird with the longest feathers being about one and one-half inches long and most of them about 3/4 inch.

CDC feathers are relatively new to the American waters but have been used in Europe for a hundred years or more. The CDC feathers have some unique features not found in other materials which make them especially interesting and useful. Mother nature designed the feathers to act as a wick to transfer oil from the gland to the ducks bill by capillary action. There are not as many barbs coming from the stem as on a high quality hackle but each barb is covered with countless microscopic barbules that hold the natural oil and trap air. This combination of embedded oil and feather structure makes the CDC extremely water resistant and buoyant. A false cast or two and the CDC fly is high and dry again. Don't use paste or other floatant on these flies as it will only degrade the natural flotation.

There are three different types of CDC feathers. Surrounding the oil gland are the stemmed feathers which have either long or short barbs. The long barbs can be almost the length of the feather itself. These stemmed feathers are the most abundant and the ones that you see advertised on the market. The third type of CDC feather is the very small stemless nipple plume. These oily little feathers are recommended for trailing shucks, microcaddis wings,

Caenis and Trico spinner wings. Unfortunately I have never seen these feathers offered on the market so if you want to try them you will have to pluck a duck.

With the good comes a little bad. The feathers are fragile compared with high grade hackle, they are not very large, and many of the stems have a pronounced taper which makes wrapping them in a conventional manner somewhat difficult. (Also, on a per ounce basis they are quite expensive, but a ounce of CDC feathers is one heck of a lot of feathers.) The only thing that all this means is that we might have to vary our technique a bit. The Swiss and the French have been perfecting CDC techniques for a hundred years so we can just borrow from them and add some of our own stuff.

CDC can be used for all parts of our flies; trailing shucks, bodies wings and hackles. Bodies can be made by dubbing the CDC to the tying thread. The CDC barbs are cut from the stem and dubbed directly on the thread or first put in a blender and chopped before dubbing. Another method is to tie in a single CDC feather by its tip and then twist it like a yarn as you wrap forward. CDC hackle can be wrapped in the conventional manner or the barbs can be stripped and tied in as bunch which is then flared to give the right effect. One nice thing about CDC is that the barbs can be trimmed to length and still maintain the natural tip look. A very durable hackle can be made with a dubbing loop and the CDC barbs. The most common wings are made using bunches of the barbs but loopwings are possible using whole feathers. The easy way to get enough CDC barbs in a single bunch without losing control is to align three feathers with their stems together and using the thumb and forefinger strip the barbs from one side of all three feathers at once. Then keeping the barbs bunched in your finger and thumb, rotate the feathers to the other side, align the stripped butts with the stems and strip the other side.

Emergers and other patterns that float in the surface film are naturals for the CDC as all you have to do is adjust the amount of CDC to achieve the buoyance and flotation you want.

Jim

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

**President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Secretary:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Vice President:** Paul Major (539-5437)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)  
**Raffle Chairman:** Dwight Longuevan (537-0382)  
**NCCFFF Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)  
**Youth Activities:** Mike Nyholm (538-5163)  
**Special Projects:** Tim Grogan

**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)  
**The Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
**Conservation:** Joe Craig (525-8948)  
**Library/Conservation:** Roger Mabill (876-3308)  
**At Large:** Ted Adkins (763-4440)

Address correction requested.

Bob Sisson  
3607 Green Hill Dr.  
Santa Rosa CA 95404



**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:**

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

## The Pres sez:

### On Vacation From Vacation

It seems a little funny. A short while ago, with one trip just completed and a second looming only a week away, I found myself looking forward to September. My last president's message lamented the fact that, with only a two week window between my two major fishing excursions of the summer, I wasn't going to find any time to tie flies for Alaska, the second and longer of my adventures. Not that you ever had a chance to see that last message. With August traditionally finding a "GONE FISHING" sign hung on the door of the Russian River Fly Fishers, we decided early in the month to extend the vacation to our *Cast* editor as well, thereby giving Chuck Perry a chance to go fishing with the rest of us.

And now I find myself at the end of August. Suddenly, there are no trip preparations to devour my evenings. No flies demanding to be tied, no tackle adjustments, no last minute checklists and hurried packing. I find myself unpacking, slowly, cleaning reels, waxing rods and avoiding the huge pile of work on my desk resulting from my 17 day absence from the office.

July 13th - 20th found me sweating down in Baja with Tim Grogan, Binky Castleberry and the RRFF club outing to

Loreto. More than a dozen of the 20 participants in this years "south of the border" excursion were members of the Russian River Fly Fishers. Although the fishing was a little off this year, following an unseasonably dry winter and the almost complete lack of *sargasso*, everyone who hoped to catch a sailfish was satisfied. The huge schools of dorado were non-existent, but smaller schools were scattered around if you were lucky enough to have a guide "in the know". That proved to be a problem for most of us. Ted "Jake" Adkins and I finally fired our guide after our fourth day of fishing, actually after *one* day of fishing and three days of "boat rides". It really became apparent on this trip how important having a good guide can be when presented with few fish and limited opportunities to catch them. With the booming squid fishery in the straits between Isla Carmen, Isla Coronado and Loreto, we found that the better skippers had given up guiding the *touristas* and switched to nighttime fishing for the more lucrative *calamar*.

Not that we didn't have a great time anyway. I first-hand witnessed the beginning of what could have been an epic struggle, as "Jake" attempted to fight a marlin without the benefit of a drag! After a resounding thwacking of his legs and palms from an out-of-control reel handle, and after melting part of a rubber boat glove to the rim of the reel (it was desperately being used as a brake), the marlin was nice enough to let go of Ted's 10 lb. dorado and give him (Ted, primarily) a rest. And, also, there was the giant dorado that smashed one of my flies while we were trolling. After a

*See Prez Pg. 2*

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Prez, Cont

series of leaps, and exclamations of *muy grande* from our guide (a term I'm using loosely - boat driver might be better), my 40 lb. tippet proved no match as he cut it clean on his way to Isla Carmen. It was a big dorado, easily 40 lbs., and one of the few fish we saw that day. Finally, on our last day, we found the sailfish, and Ted landed his first on a fly rod while I broke off another. We saw 6 *pez vella* that day, and a few small schools of dorado, and finished our week on a successful note.

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend an RRFF club outing, I would highly recommend it. We have a number of outstanding people (and fishermen) in our club, and our club outings are a great chance to get to know some of them and to share something beyond the monthly general meetings. Even if the fishing is lousy, we still manage to have a memorable time. In fact, some of our best club outings sported absolutely horrendous fishing and found us scrambling to salvage something of worth from the weekend. Fortunately, we have a few members who are very adept at finding other worthwhile things to do when the fishing is sour, and it's usually those things that end up being the highlight of the trip anyway.

Our last general meeting, the RRFF Club barbecue at the casting pond, was a great success thanks to the hard work of Scott Broome and Margie Major. Scott shared his birthday cake with the 70 or so in attendance and we all enjoyed a pleasant evening and some great food. Dwight Longuevan took up the role of entertainment director and kept all the kids happy with a variety of games and prizes. He then proceeded with another great raffle (especially so for a couple of new members) and finished with a rousing recital of my July President's Message, "*The slow bake...*". When it was all done, I think everyone had a great time.

Our next general meeting will be Wednesday, September 11, in the Lodge Room of the Veteran's Memorial Building. This will mark the beginning of our new schedule - meeting on the second Wednesday of the month - and will also be our first meeting in the larger Lodge Room. I hope everyone can attend and I look forward to hearing a few fish stories from all of those August vacations. The Board of Directors will meet on Monday, September 9, at the Round Table Pizza in Montgomery Village. This will also be the board's first meeting on the second Monday of the month.

Loreto, Baja was the first of my summer fishing trips this year. August found my son, Nicholas, and I on Kodiak Island, Alaska and the Pasagshak River where we camped and fished for 10 days with a few other members of my family. Needless to say, we had a great time and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. But that deserves a little more than a few sentences, so I'll come back to those adventures later.

The NCCFFF Conclave at King's Beach, Lake Tahoe is coming up the weekend of September 20-22. This is always a good time and the fall fishing in the Sierras is usually excellent. As usual, a few of us will be making the trek again this year. If you're interested in attending, contact our club NCCFFF representative, Bob Neill (542-6723), for more information.

Hope to see all of you on the 11th.

Tight knots,

Steve Tubbs

---

## PICNIC July 27, 1996

I know the Olympics were on TV as well as the pre-season Dallas/Raider game (fly fishermen watch football?). I know the fair might have attracted some. And even the weather may have been a factor in your decision to stay home. But those of us who made the right choice had a great afternoon. The club provided hamburgers, polish dogs and hot links with all the trimmings, salad, beans, beverages and birthday cake. The weather was a little on the muggy side and some of the buns were a little burned; otherwise a good time was had by about 65 members and their families.

Dwight Longuevan put together a full table of goodies which were divided by Paul Major and newest RRFF member Tom Holuba plus a couple of others. New this year, Dwight also organized games for the kids complete with great prizes. Thanks, Dwight.

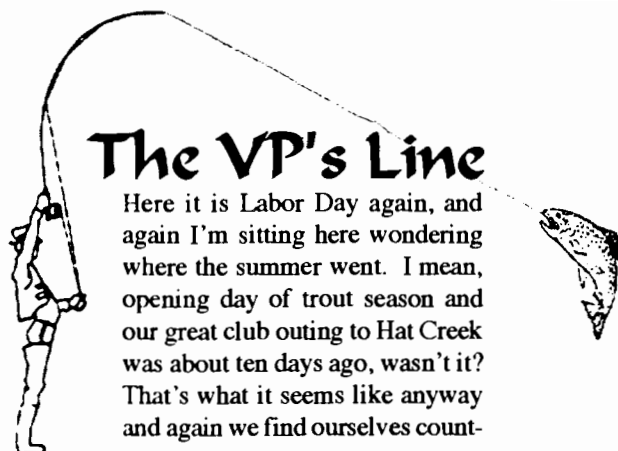
Thanks also to Steve Tubbs and Tim Grogan for handling the BBQs (it was a hot job but somebody had to do it), to Debbie Broome for the pot'o'beans, to \_\_\_\_\_ for the generous donation of all the buns, to Bob Sisson and his helpers on the clean-up detail, and to bun-cooker Paul Major who is determined not to burn any next year. And thanks, I think, to the beer-tender who shall remain nameless for reasons known only to those who were there. And special thanks to my mentor Scott Broome.

Hope to see more of you out at the pond next year.

Marji Major.

## Future Programs

October '96      Jay Murakoshi, Salinas  
CA,.....O'Neill Forebay striper fishing  
December '96      Dinner meeting, Jim Teeny (*Oh Boy!, Oh Boy!, Oh Boy!*)



## The VP's Line

Here it is Labor Day again, and again I'm sitting here wondering where the summer went. I mean, opening day of trout season and our great club outing to Hat Creek was about ten days ago, wasn't it? That's what it seems like anyway and again we find ourselves count-

ing the fishing trips that did happen and comparing that list to the "wish list" we made up during the first warm green breaths of spring...so many trout streams, so little time.

Not that we didn't have any fun this summer; opening weekend found a bunch of RRFFers terrorizing the trout of Lassen County from the bottom of Hat Creek to the upper stretches of Lost Creek with very little water in between left uncovered. The weather was windy and the hatches a bit sparse, but most of us caught some fish and I think all of us had fun, which is really what it's all about, after all.

Then the May rains blew out most of the Central Valley shad rivers right at the height of the run, but all was not lost and some shad got shafted between downpours. Scotty Broome, Joe Craig and I had one pretty decent day on the American at least, and word has it that Binky Castleberry kicked butt up at Mile 48 on several occasions. There was a group outing being organized for Mile 48 over Memorial Day weekend, but the monsoon put that one six feet under...wait til next year!

Middle of June seven of us, Marji and myself, Tom and Fay Holuba, Jerry and Joan Luedke, and "Batchelor Joe" Craig, rented the Redding Fly Shop's "River House" on the Fall River for four days and had a marvellous good time. Although the fishing was a bit on the ho-hum side (too early for the Hex hatch this year) the house was To Die For! Situated right on the river just below Island Bridge/Cal Trout (I wonder if that's why they call it "River House"?) with private dock complete with four prams, the house is huge, beautifully furnished, and would be worth spending time in even if there were no trout right out the front door. We're already plotting to go back again next year only this time maybe for a week!

Then there was Loreto for a week in July (I'm sure someone else will be covering that in more detail so I'll leave them to it) and a couple of short trips to local waters in August...and it's Labor Day!

Like I said, so many trout streams (and lakes, and oceans)...so

little time.

But here we are, September, and after the summer hiatus the Club schedule is off and running again. I'm looking forward to my year as Vice President (LBJ said the office of VP "Isn't worth a bucket of warm spit...", but I think it's the cushiest job in the club) and I'll continue to coordinate the Fly Tying Clinics until I get a volunteer to take over. Speaking of which...at this moment we still don't have a firm commitment from anyone to do the Clinic at the September meeting on the 11th, but there will be a clinic starting at 6:30, and I promise you it will be well worth showing up early for. I'm hoping that David Howard, our speaker for the evening, will be demonstrating some of his steelhead patterns, but that isn't firmed up as of this writing. See you September 11th! *(I have talked to Paul since he wrote the original article. David Howard will definitely be there at 6:30 P.M. tying steelhead flies. Ed.)*

Paul Major

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members are always welcome and we want to extend a cordial hello to our newest members: Shawn & Denise Widick, Dr. Stan Davis, Nathan Wallin, L. J. Denney, Stan, Lee & Ted Davis, Mark and Roberta Parker, Bob Walther, Robert Norman, Bob Hand, D.R. Griggs, Dr. Bob Creasy, Ken Elie, and Scott Carey. Ken Elie owns The Outdoor Pro Shop. Scott Carey is one of his able assistants and fly fishes as often as his days off come around. Welcome aboard everyone. We hope you will find us a cordial and compatible group!

## CONCLAVE '96

Bob Neill is the RRFF point man for the upcoming Conclave at King's Beach, CA on Sept. 20, 21, and 22. His favorite place to stay, Sand Lodge, is right next door to the convention center. It's "totally convenient, Man!" and the parking is, "right there." The phone number for Sand Lodge is 916-546-2515. Bob and Steve, Just Back from Alaska, Tubbs will both be making the trek to Kings Beach, CA for the NCCFF Conclave. If things go as planned there will be registration forms and fliers for this event at the Sept. RRFF meeting. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION REGARDING THE CONCLAVE OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR DAUNTLESS DUO AT THE CONCLAVE, contact Bob Neill at work, 588-6722 or at home, 542-6723.

# The tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



"Where do I start?" is a question all tiers should ask themselves when starting to tie a new fly. The answer is

not always the same and not always obvious. This month I'll address this question as well as some of the problems tiers often have. The opinions expressed herein are my own and may differ from those of other experts and sometimes I don't even follow my own advice.

The answer to the first question is, "It depends." Let me start with a standard type dry trout fly. Many manuals would have you start with the wings then proceed to the tail, body, and hackle. An equal number would start with the tail first then the body, wings, and hackle. Both could be correct or with pattern variations both could be wrong. First I'll tell you how I do it for a typical dry fly and my reasons, then I'll discuss some of the many exceptions.

I generally always start my thread a heads length behind the eye of the hook and wrap to the rear. Why? Habit mostly, but the rational is that it gives me a good thread base and by not laying down extra thread at the head location I'll end up with a smaller neater head. Many years ago a professional tier that supplied most of the shops of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado ask me why I wasted all that time wrapping the shank. He recommended starting at the rear of the hook as the shank would automatically get covered as you worked forward. Since he and all the Navajo ladies that tied for him all winter long tied a lot more flies than I did he probably had a point. Never the less, I still generally start at the front.

I almost always tie the tail in as the next step. There are three reasons for this. The first is that the hook is bare of other items, notably the wings, so it can be tied in without the other parts getting in the way. Second, the length of the tail often establishes the proportion for other parts of the fly, and third the tail is already on and out of the way when the wings are tied in.

The next step I often vary. Sometimes I will tie in the body material and ribbing if it is called for but not wrap it forward until after I have tied in the wings. Other times I will immediately follow the tail with the wings and then move back to complete the body. I especially use this sequence if I am dubbing the body. There is an important exception to this sequence that I need to mention here as it applies to hackle and dubbed bodies and thoraxes. I will almost always tie in the hackle stem before applying a dubbed body and always if I am going to dub a thorax around the wing base. The reason for this is that I don't want to tie in a hackle stem on a base of dubbing. It is not

as secure and it compresses the dubbing which defeats the purpose. If I am not dubbing a thorax and the body will have a well defined stopping point I may tie in the hackle after completing the body.

With parachute flies I always tie in the hackle immediately after posting the wing and I tie it in so that the hackle tip is extending forward with the butt to the rear and the stem is on the near side of the wing post. This allows the body and thorax material, generally dubbing, to cover the hackle tie in point. **Important point here** - Stop thorax construction with the thread against the front of the wing post. The dubbing will extend forward of that point to form the head, but the thread should finish directly in front of the wing in preparation for tying off the parachute hackle. **Next important point** - (and I'll have to thank Tim Grogan for pointing out the error of my ways on this) - assuming that the hackle will be tied off in front of the wing it should be wrapped around the wing post in a counter clockwise motion. This will assure that the thread will have a tightening effect on the hackle stem as it is tied off.

Let me comment on some variations to the classic style dry fly and the changes to the tying sequence. On palmered hackled bodied flies I tie in the body material immediately after the tail (but don't wrap it yet) followed by the hackle. With the body material tied in first it will facilitate making one or more wraps to the rear of the hackle before moving forward. This makes a much neater fly than if the hackle exits the body material right at the tail. Down winged dries such as caddis patterns and grasshoppers can have the wings tied in either before or after the hackle depending upon the effect you want. There are other sequence variation that can occur with special patterns such as Loopwings, Sparkle Caddis Emergers, CDC patterns etc, etc but I'll not go into that now.

Wet flies and nymphs can also offer a multitude of sequence variations. One point, however, I feel very strongly about is the application of bead chain eyes, lead eyes, plain beads, and lead wire weighting of flies. **The more securely you fasten these items to the hook the better your fly!** With this thought in mind I always mount them on the hook as a separate step. Before I start tying a bunch of shad flies, Crazy Charlies, bead heads or what have you, I'll prepare as many hooks in advance as I'll need. Bead chain and lead eyes are cross wrapped and then wrapped with a post type wrap to tighten the previous wraps before applying super glue. Likewise, lead wire wraps are compressed with the thumb nails before receiving thread overwraps and one or more coats of super glue. On regular bead heads I wrap a thread head at the eye to force the bead against, then if I want a little more weight I may force a few wraps of lead wire into the cavity at the rear of the bead with of course more super glue. I have heard of a fellow, now deceased, who soldered bead chain eyes to his shad fly hooks. If I could figure out a way to do

this neatly I would give it a try.

There are more ways to tie a fly than there are to skin a cat and I urge each of you to really think about the process before you put the hook in the vise. Think about each step and how they go together to make the finished fly there may be a faster better way than you have been doing out of habit all these years.

Jim

---

## **General Meeting** with **Dave Howard**

**Dave guides for Bob Bonslett Sportfishing in Sacramento.**

**Come & learn what you need to know about  
shad and steelhead in the**

**Sac & American rivers.**

**Dave's program will also include info on the  
Gualala, Yuba, upper Rogue and Trinity rivers.**

**Wednesday, Sept. 11  
Santa Rosa Vet's. Building**

**Fly tying 6:30 P.M.**

**General Meeting 7:30 P.M.**

**The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Vet's. Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA**

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## **RUSSIAN RIVER CLEANUP**

I received a call today from an extremely nice lady whom I have not yet met. But she is asking for some help on a matter that should be near and dear to the heart of every RRFF member. Debbie Fudge works for PG&E and is coordinating the

### **9TH ANNUAL RUSSIAN RIVER CLEANUP.**

This effort is sponsored by the Sequoia Paddling Club and PG&E. The CLEANUP will take place on SATURDAY, OCT. 5TH, 1996 but to allow all the administrative support for this to take place you must

**SIGN UP by SEPT.. 27TH.**

The Russian will be divided into two sections for this effort. A group working on the upper Russian will meet in Healdsburg, the group working on the lower river will meet in Guerneville. Bob Trowbridge will be donating the use of his canoes and everyone participating will receive a hat and free barbecue, (3 to 6 P.M.) for their efforts at a local vineyard. Minimum age to participate is 12. Block out SATURDAY, OCT. 5TH, 1996, NOW!!! As a club we should really get behind and participate in this cleanup of our namesake river. Tons of trash and hundreds of tires are removed annually in this effort. It sure makes for more pleasant use of the Russian River! Please give Debbie a call and sign up for this important event!!!

**Debbie Fudge's number-577-7151.**



**Date: SUNDAY, Sept.. 15th**  
**Time: 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. or so.**  
**PLACE: Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park**  
**at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road**  
**and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa**



"Time flies when you're havin' fun," as the saying goes. We now know that there are still tarpon to be found at the Florida Keys; dorado and sails off Baja; rather large and numerous Lake Trout and together with equally large pike in the Yukon; silvers roaming the waters of Kodiak Island; stripers all over the Bay; giant sea trout in the Argentine Pampas; and many other finned life forms corralled but yet unreported. The successful pursuit of all of the above share the common bond of requiring an ability to cast well if you are using a fly in their pursuit. The casting pond begs your company if you would like to improve your technique and be able to reach just a little farther and/or present your fly with just a little more accuracy. The pond is there, the ranges are there and the coaching is also there if needed. Come out at noon and help me achieve my goal of seeing all of you raise your distance ability to the consistent 100 foot mark. Getting out even a little farther is fun too.

The pond has a changed and much improved appearance. In mid June our delightful after dark visitors, who usually only strew garbage around and break glass bottles in the never used casting pit, discovered they could pull up the protective fences from around the pit and throw them in the pond. We were fortunate that the fences landed sideways and did not damage the lining of the pond. This fence incident was repeated a second time. That, coupled with our concern about the soccer players', "poco ninos," possibly falling into the pit led to the decision that filling the pit would be the best solution. Tim Grogan accepted the lead in coordinating the, "how and when," with the park superintendent and the job was done within a week. Many thanks to Tim, Dwight Longuevan, Lee Smith and Patrick Grogan for their invaluable help on a hot Saturday morning. We now have four full sides of the pond to work with and, in my opinion, a much better looking pond.

There will be a beginners session Sunday morning from 10 A.M. till noon. If you know anyone who may be interested in learning to fly cast and needs equipment, Brian Wong has outfits to loan. Have any interested folks contact Brian at Lyle's Tackle, 527-9887. If any members wish to use the RRFF's equipment, particularly the shooting systems, call president Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

The next clinic is planned for October 20th.

Bob Sisson

1977

## **DISTANCE CASTING QUALIFIERS**

60'

#58 Scott Broome (10 Wt. SH)

#59 Joe Craig (10 Wt. SH)

80'

#53 Scott Broome (10 Wt. SH)

#54 Joe Craig (10 Wt. SH)

100'

#34 Scott Broome (10 Wt. SH)

#35 Joe Craig (10 Wt. SH)

120'

#16 Joe Craig (10 Wt. SH)

## **RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS**

If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get you 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! Ads will run one time only unless renewed by owner/member. (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing.)

Seal-Dry waders, Size M, never worn, \$50  
Linn Drafton 773-4835

## Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers

New features are planned for this great fly fishing event in 1996. Come and share some of the new programs, as well as, your old favorites like fishing northern California waters. More hands on activities for the young and experienced. Join us **September 20,21,22 at Tahoe** for a great time.

# *A Festival of Fly Fishing*

Conclave '96

*A 3 day event featuring:*

- Friday Evening Cocktail Reception
- Saturday Evening Banquet, Live Auction, Raffle
- Youth program including beginning casting and fly-tying
- Premier Fly Tiers: Over 40 tiers will be on hand to show you tips and short cuts on tying flies.
- Exhibitors including: manufacturers, guides, wildlife artists and lodges.
- Beginning to advanced fly tying instruction and programs
- Rod building instruction
- Guides will tell you some of their favorite out of the way places to fish.
- Casting instruction. Improve your cast or learn how to cast the right way.
- Silent Auction and General Raffle
- Everyone is welcome. Bring family and friends to this one of a kind event.

*The Fly Fishing Festival offers something for everyone.*

## *September 20, 21 & 22 1996*

### North Tahoe Conference Kings Beach, California



For More Information call or write:

Dan McDaniel 1287 Greeley Way Stockton, CA 95207 n (209) 951-7900



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

Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal years dues.

- ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues payable July 1st.)
- ☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)
- ☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee plus \$20 annual dues)
- ☐ (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)

Existing membership renewal

I apply as a new member:

Please mark one of the following categories.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

**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 10  
October 1996

## The Pres sez:

### The Pres Sez:...

Wow!...It's already that time again!

It didn't really occur to me until this afternoon that I needed to get this month's *Cast* contribution completed and E-mailed to Chuck (Perry) - *tonight!* At the time, I was about midway through an intensive scrubbing of the hardwood floors in my bedroom. With the contents of that room strewn throughout the house, and the prospect of waxing and buffing the floor in my immediate future, the idea of sitting down in front of the computer was not high on my list of priorities. Yet here I am. The floors aren't waxed yet, the house is now even more cluttered, and Nicholas has had to make his bed on the couch. I knew there were reasons why I don't get remodeling urges very often.

I can't stand the mess! A few weeks ago, I did a little furniture shopping, something I'd been needing to do for a couple of years now. And then, with the purchase of a bedroom set (Boy,... it'll sure be nice to put that suitcase I've been living out of away - although it *will* take me a little longer to pack for my fishing trips!) came the realization that it probably was time to repaint the walls in the bedroom and, while I was at it, refinish the floors. So the past week has found me scrambling. There is no longer anywhere to sit in my house (excluding the bathroom) and every room has its share of my now empty bedroom (again, excluding the bathroom). On Friday, the new furniture arrived, so that has been as-

signed temporary quarters as well. For the most part, that means Nick's room, which is now inaccessible and which was also unfortunately full before everything had found a place. The remaining stuff is stacked, stuffed and draped throughout my living area. I know what you're thinking. Sounds like a great time to go fishing!

I haven't been. Since Nick and I returned from Kodiak last month, I haven't "wet a line" in pursuit of fish. There was a casting clinic out at the pond on the 15th, and it was well attended by a number of RRFF'ers. A few members broke the 100 foot barrier and the day turned out to be quite nice, despite the early morning rain showers that had me convinced no one would show. Brian Wong held his introductory clinic for a group of about 10 women and about that many club members showed up for the afternoon practice session. If you've never been to a casting clinic, the pond is an excellent facility and the clinics are a great way to improve your casting. Instruction is available, if you wish, but everything is pretty low-key and most of the time the sessions find us trying to better our distance marks or just working on the accuracy rings. The club has a few shooting head outfits and 5 wt. floating line outfits for use by members and guests on a reservation basis. Call me if you have a friend who would like to get started or if you would simply like to try casting a different rod or line system from what you may be used to.

I did *try* to go fishing in September. Bob Neill and I made our annual trek to Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe for the 1996 Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) Conclave (Sept. 20 - 22). This was Bob's seventh year and my fourth, and we've always had a great

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## 1996-97 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Secretary:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Vice President:** Paul Major (539-5437)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
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**The Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
**Conservation:** Joe Craig (525-8948)  
**Library/Conservation:** Roger Magill (876-3308)  
**At Large:** Ted Adkins (763-4440)

time and usually get to fish somewhere while we're there. But, as luck (and a very windy Saturday afternoon and evening) would have it, this was one of the first times that the boats remained in the van. The conclave was great - with the usual assortment of slide presentations, casting seminars, games and, of course, the talented fly-tying demonstrations by some of Northern California's most prolific fly tyers. Attendance appeared to be a little bit off this year, but that translated into more comfort in the seminars and around the fly tying tables.

Bob and I arrived with the sunset on Friday night, stopping off at Martis Creek Lake to watch the last 15 minutes of the evening hatch. Fishing was good, and the few minutes we watched convinced us that we should come back on Saturday. The lake looked good, no algae bloom, and the fish were active. We had planned on an earlier arrival, but a last minute work problem on my end kept us in Petaluma until about 3:00 P.M. We ended up trading off some good fishing for some pretty good meals, however, so at least we were compensated a little bit for our late start. Try *Gar Woods*, in Carnelian Bay, if you like nice restaurants on the water. We had a great dinner there on Saturday during the evening wind fest.

A few other Russian River Fly Fishers also attended this years conclave. Bob and Nina Ordway were once again present as were Mike and Lori Nyholm and family. Lori helped Lisa Cutter instruct a woman-only fly fishing clinic on the Truckee River on Saturday morning, and, judging from the things I heard afterward, that seminar may have been the most successful, and definitely one of the most heavily attended, events of the weekend. Mike Neiters also made it back again this year and even managed to win a pair of Orvis wading boots in the raffle (I'm holding them for you, Mike). They are a size 14, but if you wear enough socks...? (I managed to win a Columbia fly fishing vest in a men's small. I'm sorry, but I don't think I can lose *that* much weight.)

October 9th is the date for our next general meeting in the Lodge Room at the Vet's building. The new room is great, plenty big and not stuffy. As of this writing, our guest speaker is still to be determined. Jay Murakoshi, who is an excellent fly tyer and fisherman, was scheduled to speak but was forced to cancel a few weeks ago. Bob and I saw Jay's slide presentation, on "Fly Fishing for Barred Surf Perch", at the conclave and it was quite interesting and relevant for our local waters (Jay fishes the Salinas/Monterey Bay area primarily). Hopefully we can have him reschedule at a later time. Meanwhile, the board is scrambling for a speaker. Anybody want to share what they did on their summer vacation?

I don't know what happened last month, but there must have been an awful lot of members still on vacation. About 40 members attended our kick-off meeting on the *second*

*Wednesday* of the month at the new meeting room. (The Lodge Room is just down the hall from the North Room. Use the same door, walk down the hall, make the turn (to the right) and the first door you come to is the Lodge Room.) Invite your friends. We've got plenty of room now and some great speakers coming up!

One last thing. **PAY YOUR DUES NOW!!!** If you haven't renewed your membership yet, you are now **past due!** Your membership dues make it possible for the RRFF to provide speakers and programs for our membership. Our speakers are not free! Your dues also go toward the publication of our monthly newsletter. Without your support, we cannot continue to provide the shows and activities that have made this club grow in recent years. **PLEASE...**take a moment to update your membership now.

Hope to see you all on the 9th for our mystery speaker. Let's have a great Fall, fishing!

Steve Tubbs

## DISTANCE CASTING QUALIFIERS

60'

#60 Joseph Berenyi (7 Wt. SH)

80'

#55 Joseph Berenyi (7 Wt. SH)

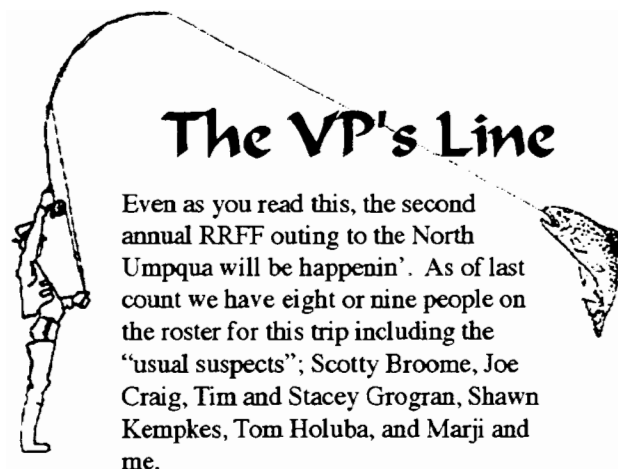
100'

#36 Joseph Berenyi (7 Wt. SH)

#37 Mike Nyholm (10 Wt. SH)

## Dun Time

The RRFF operates on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending the following June 30th. If you paid your RRFF dues since March 30th, 1996, you are a member in good standing. If you haven't, your membership has lapsed and among other things, this is the last issue of *The Cast* you will receive 'till you pay up. About 90% of our members renew on an annual basis after joining the club. At this point in time about 75% have renewed their membership. If you are among the 15% who will eventually renew, why not do it now? The RRFF makes annual donations to many national organizations that work and lobby in our behalf of our fishing and conservation interests. Your dues are what make those donations possible. So before the holiday season puts a crimp in your style, why not write your \$35 dues check to the RRFF. You can use the handy application on the last page of this issue! Thanks!!



Even as you read this, the second annual RRFF outing to the North Umpqua will be happenin'. As of last count we have eight or nine people on the roster for this trip including the "usual suspects"; Scotty Broome, Joe Craig, Tim and Stacey Grogan, Shawn Kempkes, Tom Holuba, and Marji and me.

We're looking forward to a week of fishing and camping on one of the most beautiful rivers on the west coast. The word from my old friend Jim Van Loan, proprietor with his wife Sharon of the Steamboat Inn on the Umpqua, is that the river has been fishing well with dry flies and skaters, and that prospect has me all a twitter! As some of you may know, I am not what you would call a huge fan of "heavy metal" shooting heads and cannon ball flies; I'll bottom-dredge when I have to, but I don't enjoy it, and the chance to fish for steelhead with the dry line and have some tangible chance of success just gives me goosebumps.

The only downside to the steelhead-on-the-surface thing is that most of the so-called "skater" flies are tied with a spun hair body and my experience with tying hair-bodied flies has been, shall we say, not pretty. (Ugly, tragic, bloody frustrating, laughable, futile, all of the above, would really be more accurately descriptive.) Do we have any club members who tie spun-hair flies well and enjoy doing it? If you're out there and would be willing to show us how, please get in touch with me with the view of possible doing a little clinic for those of us (and I think that includes most of us) who don't have a clue, and would rather Simonize our Grandmothers than tie hair flies.

But I digress ... I started out to talk about our Club Outings, e.g. the trip to the Umpqua. Since I joined RRFF I have greatly enjoyed the monthly meetings, the dinners, the picnics, the fly tying clinics, the visiting experts, and the good fellowship I've found at all of those events. But what I have found most valuable and cherished (I would say "precious" but I know Dwight would tease me) are the friends and fishing buddies I have made by joining in the club fishing trips. The club outings are actually a double-bonus bargain deal; you get to hang out with some really neat people who tend to make every trip fun regardless of the fishing, and you also get some expert "guiding" from the people who are more expert than you may be concerning the particular water, conditions, etc, that you encounter. The upcoming trip to the Umpqua is a case in point;

I've never fished there, and I've never fished Summer Steelhead before, but I'll be there with several guys who have done it for years and are totally generous and forthcoming in sharing their expertise about fly choice, technique, water, and all the stuff that can be so mysterious when you're new to the scene. If I went there alone I could spend my whole week groping around with both hands and never locate my butt, but going with my gang who have already seen the elephant will allow me to start out way up on the learning curve (I may even catch my first Summer Steelhead on a fly). What a deal!

We may even consider another club outing to Frank's Tract for striper sometime this fall, although we'll have to find someone other than Tim Grogan to lead it ... we've gone to Frank's Tract twice now with Tim at the point, and both times we ended up being blown off the water by gale force winds with no fish caught (no, I take that back - Steve Tubbs caught a fourteen-incher out of my boat on the first trip). Of course we held Tim personally responsible for the weather, and he refuses to be put in that position again ... what a wimp! However, to reiterate my earlier point, both of these trips were salvaged by the fact that were there as a group and we ended up having a blast in spite of the miserable conditions (I won't go into details of our apres-fishing activities, some things are better left to the imagination...).

So, anyway ... those of us who are going to the Umpqua will miss seeing the rest of you at the October meeting, but we'll be thinking of you (yeah, right), you'll hear all about it in November, and do consider jumping at the next chance at a club outing yourself ... you'll be glad you did.

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!

Jim Teeney will be the guest speaker at the December dinner meeting. If you're not already aware, Jim is a fabulous author, an expert fisherman, inventive fly tier and has developed and markets his own brand of fly lines. He is in great demand on the speaker's circuit and the RRFF caught a real break when we landed him for our December dinner meeting. The dinner will be Dec. 7th at Willowside Hall in west Santa Rosa. The catering will be done by Sonoma Preferred Catering. This is the same gal that did the June dinner meeting and her FOOD IS SUPERB.

All fly clubs in our area will be invited to attend this dinner meeting. With limited seating, superb food, a \$35 per person price tag and Jim Teeney's great popularity, this meeting should sell out early. To be sure of a seat NOW is not to early to contact Scotty Broome at 575-5993.

**Date: SUNDAY, Oct. 20th**  
**Time: 11 A.M. until 2 P.M. or so.**  
**PLACE: Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park**  
**at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road**  
**and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa**



Steelhead time is fast approaching and the best place to practice is at the pond not on the rivers where your full attention should be on tracking your fly through the drift, not on trying to get your fly out where the fish are holding. The pond is full, the practice ranges are ready to use and the coaching is also there to use on request.

Please note the starting time is 11 A.M. for this month. If any of you need equipment you do not have, the club's gear is available by calling President Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

The next clinic will be November 17th, 1976.

Bob Sisson

1977

## **General Meeting**

with

Dwight Longuevan

Dwight Longuevan

## **Dwight Longuevan**

Come, let him regale you with a whale of a tale  
told as only he can quip, jest and wail.

Hear tales of salmon and steelhead and maybe a bone or two.

**REMEMBER BOTH THE TIME AND THE PLACE ARE NEW!!**

## **Wednesday, Oct. 9th**

### **Santa Rosa Vet's. Building**

Fly tying 6:30 P.M.

with Doug Brutacao

General Meeting 7:30 P.M.

The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Vet's. Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

## **RRFF Board of Directors Special Meeting**

**Nov. 18, 1996**

**Calendar of Events**

1760 Windrose Ln., Santa Rosa, CA

## **RRFF Board of Directors November Meeting**

Monday, Nov. 4th

7 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Round Table Pizza

**6314 Commerce Blvd, Rohnert Park, CA**

**Note Change of meeting place!!**

## **Welcome**

Richard Fee was accepted for membership in the RRFF by the board of directors at its October meeting. Richard lives at 3705 Deauville Place, SR 95403. You can reach him at 541-7203. Welcome to the Club!!

## **Thanks Gail & Bob**

Gail & Bob Wobser's names were left out of *The Cast* in the last issue due to a glitch in my understanding of PageMaker. They supplied the buns that we wrapped around burgers and dogs at the July picnic. Many thanks and my apologies! Chuck



Its mid-morn and I'm sitting here in front of the computer trying to get the creative juices flowing so I won't feel so guilty about not getting up and working on all those chores that need to be done around the house. ....OK — It is now some time later and I'm ready to go. There is a Benchley's Corollary, "Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn't the work he's supposed to be doing at that moment." I have been researching and practicing the techniques of folding (or doubling) of hackle for the past hour so I could report my finding to you.

A while back at one of our tying sessions I was asked to demonstrate how to fold hackle. The results turned out alright but I realized the technique was not the best. Now I've done my homework so lets go over it again.

Folding hackle is a technique of stroking the hackle feather prior to wrapping it in so that all the fibers lie on one side of the stem. It is used only on wet flies to the best of my knowledge and when done properly results in all the hackle fibers slanting slightly to the rear. The finished result is a fly is both classic and classy in appearance. It looks especially good on steelhead patterns.

The technique that works best after some practice is as follows. First stroke the fibers towards the butt to get them to stand out at right angles to the stem. Then with the shiny side of the feather facing you grasp the butt of the feather between the middle and ring finger of your left hand. Hold the tip of the hackle with your right thumb and forefinger. Keeping the feather taut, extend your left thumb up towards your right thumb and place the pad against the feather. Then use your left forefinger to stroke down and to the rear across the hackle fibers as close to the butt as your finger mobility will allow. Done correctly this will fold all of the fibers to one side of the stem. Moistening your left thumb and forefinger will help as will a little stroking action with your left thumb if needed. Keep the feather taut and use as much force as needed with the left thumb and forefinger without stripping the fibers or breaking the stem. Don't ever let your materials give you a hard time, you are the boss. To complete the job tie the hackle in at the tip where the folded portion starts with the tip extending out over the eye of the hook. Clip the excess tip and carefully wrap the hackle forward so each wrap lies directly ahead of the previous one. Stroke any wild fibers to the rear as you wrap, it fact just stroke them all to the rear as you wrap, it helps. Two more little tips; when you tie in the hackle at the tip - tie it in with the folded fibers pointing down. And second as you wrap the hackle you may have to twist the stem slightly to keep the fibers oriented to the rear. Oh, one more point, you can fold you hackle in advance so you won't have to stop and lay down your tools each time - one more thing to speed up your tying.

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## In the Pasagshak

*Pasagshak River State Park, Kodiak Island, Alaska - August 10 - 20, 1996*

"I'm sorry sir. But we've rented your mini van. All we have left are two sedans."

And so ended nine hours of travel to the Emerald Isle. But by this point we had already resigned ourselves to the fact that we weren't going to quite make our final destination this evening. Following our 10:00 P.M. arrival at the Kodiak airport, the rumors that our luggage had never left Anchorage were confirmed. "20 minutes between flights doesn't give us enough time" the flight attendant with ERA Aviation had told us. "You were lucky you made your connection."

So there we were. My parents were off at the end of the road somewhere, campground hosts at Pasagshak State Park. No phones, no way to get in touch with them. My sister, a friend of hers, Nicholas and myself - freshly arrived for our first visit to Kodiak - no luggage, no camping gear and no mini

van.

"What do you mean there's no mini van?" I queried. "We had a confirmed reservation."

"I hate when they do this" moaned the attendant. "You did have a reservation but somebody else rented out your vehicle this afternoon. Can you use a sedan?"

"We're camping out at Pasagshak. We have to be able to transport six people and all of our luggage for the next ten days" I returned. "I think we need a mini van."

"I hate this!" moaned the attendant.

It had been raining when we arrived at Kodiak airport. We'd had a beautiful trip north, right up until the time we started our descent into Anchorage. Then the rains started. But we were expecting rain and were prepared. As the realities of our arrival began to sink in, it became apparent that we would have to spend the night in Kodiak City and return the following morning to hopefully claim our missing luggage. It had just got dark and was already midnight. The moaning desk clerk for BUDGET RENT-A-CAR (make a note here),



had managed to round up a very dirty Chevy Lumina van that had the added amenities of only one working door, and a few other attributes we would find out about over the next few days. "Next time you're in town, stop by and we'll trade you for an upgrade" he said. Right!

We hit town, grabbed a room at the Shelikof Lodge, and cramped into a couple of beds for the night. A few hours later we were back at the airport. Unfortunately, only a portion of our luggage awaited us. "The next flight from Anchorage will arrive at 10:45. Maybe it'll be on that one" came the hopeful response from the service manager. "It" referred to a tent and specifically the camping gear. We figured it might be wise to head back into town and procure our fishing licenses, and maybe grab some breakfast, before returning to the airport. "No van's yet!" the Budget attendant piped out as we opened our one working door.

The 10:45 arrival united us with the remainder of our luggage and cemented us to a dirty Chevy Lumina van with only one working door. By noon we were on the road to Pasagshak. Pasagshak State Park is just about at the end of the longest section of road on Kodiak Island. Forty miles from Kodiak City, 32 miles of which is dirt road, the mouth of the Pasagshak River empties into the Pasagshak Bay almost due east from Karluck on the opposite side of the island. The river is noted for its silver run, particularly because of the size of the fish that enter the river. Although we were a little early for the main part of it, the silvers had been showing in small numbers and there were still a few red salmon and dogs that could all be caught, holdovers from the larger runs of a few weeks prior. We were a little excited.

That first evening found us fishing the outgoing and incoming tide. My parents, in their sixth week on the Pasagshak, had picked up the local methods for productive fishing. This involved using a fly, a spinning or fly rod, a couple of split shot and about 10 feet of line. As the fish moved into the runs we would stalk them, continuously "plunking" the fly in front of their noses as the fish moved through. The idea was to hopefully make one of them mad enough to eat the fly. It was a little tricky. The water depth varied from a foot deep to maybe 4-5 feet in the deeper runs. How much distance to lead the fish was quite important. Also, there weren't a lot of fish and the fish that were there were skittish and on the move. Split shot were crucial as the fly had to get down quick to intercept the moving fish. It was a lot of fun.

The first few days provided us with some good fishing. All of us caught some fish and you could expect to maybe hook 5 or 6 a day. The tides were such that the best fishing was from about 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and then in the evening from about 7:00 P.M. until the light failed, usually around 11:00. The silvers were there, a few of them, as were the reds and dogs. On my second day I was lucky enough to land a 15 lb. coho that took me down river 100 yds. and back to the ocean before I was able to land him. One of the local

guys we met, James Nixon, landed a 21 lb. 4 oz. silver on our second day, a feat he followed by putting his picture with it in the Kodiak paper while at the same time promoting the excellent fishing on the river, a self indulgence we thanked him profusely for as the hordes moved in on the weekend. There were times when the river was crowded with anglers, and other times when you pretty much had it all to yourself.

As the week progressed, the fishing slowed. Hardware anglers choked the mouth as word got out that a few big fish were already showing. This effectively kept the salmon out of the river until the tide got so high that stalking them with flies was out of the question. We would then hike, smoke the morning catch in Dad's crude but effective smoker, or nap until the water was fishable again. On the fourth day, we found out just how isolated we were.

After the morning fishing, the unanimous feeling was for an excursion into Kodiak City for some sight-seeing, shopping and dinner. We began the 40 mile trek with our one working door, after charging the dead battery. And that was what eventually got us. The one working door was not the tailgate, without whose operation one could not access the spare tire. As we waited alongside the road (for a couple of hours), a friendly local drove my sister, son and friend to the airport rental agency where they finally found another mini van. But by the time we were all reunited, and had returned again to the rental agency for another spare tire (for the new van), it was already 6:00 P.M. and our day in Kodiak City had become pizza at the local Pizza Hut (with cheese in the crust!). We slowly made the trip back to Pasagshak, this time with a full repertoire of working doors and a great spare. It wasn't long before we were well into the margaritas. (After all, it was a fishing trip!)

We decided afterward that it might be prudent to stay at Pasagshak and avoid any more trips to Budget Rent-A-Heap. We did, continuing to fish mornings and evenings, adjusting our fishing with the tide. A few nights would be great, with few anglers and plenty of fish. Other evenings were slow. There were even a few tides when we were all skunked. The weekend, and James 21 lb. silver, brought the crowds and likewise kept the fish out of the mouth. The fish would start in, only to be bombarded by pixies and spinners, and quickly turn around and take their chances with the seals. A river otter also took up residence in our favorite pool, making the skittish salmon even more so as he futilely chased them through the runs. We hiked.

Dog Salmon Creek, approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Pasagshak River, was one of our destinations. We saw no one, but upon arriving at the creek, the first pool (about 50 yds. from the ocean) was teeming with about 50 pink salmon and dog salmon, fresh in from the surf. We fished until we were tired of catching them. I caught somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 fish (at least) in about 2 hours. Average size

about 6 - 8 pounds, with some of the bigger dogs up around 10 - 12 pounds. It was about 50/50 as far as fair hooking versus foul. Throwing a fly into a huge school of moving fish was bound to hook a few fins and tails, but it was a lot of fun. I even got Nick into the act, hooking up fish on my fly rod and letting him haul them in. He landed one incredibly ugly dog of about 12 lbs., with huge canine teeth and a large kype, and refused to touch it. I held it up in front of him for a picture. It was as close as we came to what I imagined fishing the height of a run would be like.

We had no more car problems, a fact we made sure of because we left the car alone. We fished and ate salmon. Nicholas became the master "ugly" catcher, often taking over 50 of these bull-head fish in a day on his *one* fly. Once he figured it out, he was hauling them in on almost every cast. We all caught salmon, and over the course of the 8 days of fishing, we each landed at least one coho exceeding 10 lbs. It rained 4 of the 8 days, but there were a couple of spectacular days in the mid 70's that tempted one to pack it all up and move to the Emerald Isle permanently. And on our last day it rained, but only while we were packing the tent and loading our gear.

Kodiak Island is a beautiful place. The jagged peaks, and sheer cliffs plunging into the sea, reminded me of Hawaii. It was the same topography minus the tropical rain forest. Every evening the bald eagle, nesting on the hill behind us, soared out over the river to fish. The otter gorged himself on starry flounder as they moved into the river on the tide. The magpies raided the campsites, bringing to mind our own California jays, as they fought over whatever they could find. In all, it was a memorable vacation. The fishing was great, even though the large runs were not in full force, and the rain and various hardships were not insurmountable and turned out to be worth it anyway.

We returned home without incident. No flat tires, no lost luggage. Budget let us have the dirty Chevy Lumina van with only one working door for free, although we were leaning toward having them pay us for storing it for them for four days. At 80 bucks a day, we felt a little bit compensated for our trouble. They also rented us the Plymouth Voyager at a discount so we only ended up spending \$460.00 for our car rental. That was at least bearable. Nicholas and I arrived in San Francisco at 8:00 P.M., exactly 12 hours after leaving Kodiak, to a beautiful sunset and clear skies. We were ready to be home.

Steve Tubbs



## Casting About

Every once in a while there is room in *The Cast* to catch up with some of the happenings that aren't generally known outside of the board meeting. It's not that anyone is trying to hide anything or that these items aren't important to the operation of the RRFF. The items just get pushed back and don't get reported on.

A tip of the hat to **Tim Grogan**, last years president, for a job well done! Business pressures have gotten to Tim over the last couple of months and many of the fun things he was able to do with and for the RRFF have been pushed down on his priority list. We hope he finds time to get back to fishing in the near future.

Also thanks to **Jim Hakel**. Jim ran our raffle for the main part of last year. Again, job pressures got to Jim. Being a small business man, as my Dad used to say, is buying the right to work 80 hours a week for 40 hours pay if you can collect the pay.

**Scotty, "Iron Man," Broome** also deserves a lot of credit. He routinely takes care of the dinner meetings and the annual barbecue. No mean feat! He is also on a county board working to gain access to some of the currently locked river areas. This is in the very early stages of negotiation. More on this if Scotty is able to work something out with the county.

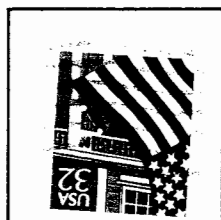
After a protracted struggle, **Dwight Longuevan** has come up with a new club logo that met with approval by a majority of the people involved. The hats have been ordered and should arrive in time for the next general meeting. Several colors and patterns are available. All of them are winners. The new patches are still in limbo! The samples came in but weren't up to specs. Back they went! They are still in process, maybe 6 to 8 weeks off! By the by, did you notice the new approach to winners selecting raffle items. You get to pick what you want except for the really big ticket items. Makes winning something you need or can use a whole lot easier.

**Dwight** and new board member, **Mike Nyholm**, are up to their elbows in trying to develop a merit badge in fly fishing with and for the Boy Scouts. This is in the preliminary stages and will require a lot of time to develop!

**Bob Sisson** is also due a great vote of thanks for his unflinching dedication to the casting pond. Because of his perseverance there is never a doubt that the casting clinics will take place and that any necessary maintenance of the casting pond will get done. He also maintains a close liaison with the powers that be in city government. Any thing that affects the pond get close scrutiny by him.

Address correction requested.

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



R. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS**

## 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)

**Existing membership renewal**



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

**Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal years dues.**

**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 22  
Number 11  
Nov. 1996

## The Pres sez:

### Battling the Chill

The weeks move on...

I can't help but feel a heaviness of spirit. The nights have turned cold. The chill that arrived a few weeks ago now lingers into morning and I find myself reaching for the heater. On those days when the wind comes, more frequently now, the leaves rattle across the driveways, down the streets and pile in big drifts against the house. On those days, the chill hangs on, defying the fading sun, enjoying its sudden strength over the warmth and light of summer.

Everything is slowing down. Time has shortened with the daylight. I still have too much to do, too many projects unfinished, too many "irons in the fire". Now the weeknights mean nothing, and the projects pile up for the weekends, which still bring soccer and the various activities of my eight year old son. "Fall" is an appropriate name, I think, for that is what happens to my spirit as I am torn from the brightness of summer.

I know that I am happiest in the summer. I am drawn to the heat and light, warm nights, bright, hot days and cool evenings with a touch of breeze. Shorts and a T-shirt are my preferred outer wear, not the jackets and jeans that I find myself in now. Already I miss the warmth. Already I long for spring. I look forward to the anticipation, to the promise and to the return of the light.

In only a couple of weeks, the trout season closes for most of the rivers in the state. I think back to past years, to the last minute, end of the season fishing trips designed to take advantage of those final days. One trip, a few years ago, stands out. A November 13 - 14 trip to Pleasant Valley Creek, near Markleeville, where I fished from snow banks and saw only one other fisherman in the course of two days. Mornings found it nearly impossible to keep my guides from freezing up, and the edges of the creek were always lined with ice. I caught only two fish on that trip, the first a 12" rainbow that hit a #14 Stimulator in the white water of a small riffle. That fish made my trip as it surged from the water and smashed my fly with an energy that reminded me of summer. The second fish was taken on a #18 Royal Wulf, fished wet, under the granite boulders of the pocket water. That second rainbow is the biggest trout I have ever taken on a fly - 24" long, approximately 6 1/2 pounds, and way too big for the pool that I took him from. He was thick, and after I released him, he held for a minute in the current, looking every bit like a steelhead, before slowly returning to his position under the rocks. *One day* before the end of trout season. A fantastic way to close a year. A testament to fall fishing.

There are other trout trips that come to mind as well. Trips in late September and October. Martis Creek Lake, Wright's Lake. Remembering them, I realize that I don't get chances to fish a lot in the fall, but the memories of those trips often prove to be the highlights over even my summer ventures to the same places. The experience is always more elemental; it is physically colder, there are fewer people, the changing seasons present new challenges and the entire trip becomes more of an "experience". Generally the action is slower, but success, for me, has never been measured in quantity. If I can get one fish to take, or to refuse, or maybe if I can just find a fish to fish for, my trip will be a success and the adventure worthwhile.

I find that in recent years I am going fishing more for the "experience". To get out of town and away from the everyday "stuff". I go somewhere beautiful; with moving water and granite peaks, with mountains and valleys, meadows and forests. I go to recharge, to enjoy the scenery and the beauty as much as the fishing, to find solitude and to touch that part of me that

is rejuvenated by mountains, streams, lakes and forests. I always try to catch fish. I always attempt to figure out the game, looking for that connection with the environment that is only transmitted by a fish on the end of a fly rod. But when I don't connect with the fish, there is always the "fishing". And that connection is always achieved, a cleansing of the spirit born from the act itself and the places I go to participate in it. *That* is the reason I fish.

We are now fast into fall. My busy schedule has kept me off the streams and lakes for the past two months. I have fished less this year than in any year of the past five. But then, I've had some great fishing and trips to both Mexico and Alaska - seemingly making a trade-off for quality over quantity. I'm considering a last minute, end of the season, excursion to the mountains. But there's that "time" problem and all of those projects that haunt my weekends.

I hope some of you are getting in some good fall fishing, a last "hoorah" before everything slows down for the winter. The weather is turning colder already. Some days already feel like January. The skies are wild with storm clouds and spectacular sunsets, the air is charged with energy as the thunderclouds race overhead, laden with rain. The sun reaches out only feebly now, its warmth a mere suggestion of its summer glory. I dread what's coming. Already it's dark too early. A part of me readies itself for hibernation.

Our next general meeting is Wednesday, November 13, at the Lodge Room of the Veteran's Memorial Building. Our guest speaker is Bob Norman, of Fishing International, and he will be presenting summer sun and tropic heat from the Ascension Bay Bonefish Club. Come warm yourselves in the sun.

Steve Tubbs

*(Ed.'s note: Joe Segura of Ascension Bay Bonefish Club was unable to make this meeting, so Bob Norman will be doing the program on the Fall River area.)*

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## New Hogan Reservoir

My wife and I were in Sacramento the second week of August baby sitting our grandchildren. I abandoned the effort long enough to have lunch with an old fly fishing friend who works for the State in downtown Sac. We BSed our way through a long lunch, talked about old times and lamented over the fact we never seemed to get together anymore. One word led to another and a date was set for the following week to fish the striper boils on New Hogan Reservoir east of Stockton.

A check of the map when I got home told me I was in for a three hour trip. It turned out to be 141 miles from my front door to the launch ramp. Fortunately, this was not an early morning fishery. I left my home in Sebastopol at 6 A.M., picked up Highway 12 off I80 in Fairfield and stayed on 12 all the way to the reservoir. Leon and I hooked up in Clements where I bought a deli sandwich at a the supermarket where we left Leon's pickup. Another half an hour put us on the lake. By the way there are two nice launch ramps at the lake located about 100 yards from each other. The more northerly of the two seems to be less crowded and has a fish cleaning station. The parking lot is close and only a little up hill, unlike Lake Sonoma where you have to have the endurance of a marathon runner to get to the parking lot!

New Hogan is about the size of Lake Mendocino and like Mendocino doesn't have much variety in terms of terrain. The lake sits in a bowl and there aren't many places that

look fishy. The trick we developed for spotting the "boils", was to sit off a point so we could see down the lake on both sides of the point. The striped bass would chase the shad to the surface and slash through the schools of bait killing and maiming as they went. The activity would last from 45 seconds to maybe as much as four or five minutes. Typically, we would see the boils, fire the engine and run full tilt for the fish. The trick was to stop the boat broadside to the boils and close enough so that both Leon and I could get a cast into the area before the fish sounded. I think the most casts we ever got into one striper school was three or four apiece. We happened to be setting in just the right spot for one of these fish frenzies. The fun started a long cast from my Whaler, moved toward us and beyond us before stopping. We each got one fish on that attack.

The area around Whiskey Creek and another area at the far end of the lake called the Narrows had the most significant activity the day we were there. There was another boil right at the launch ramp as we were leaving about 5 P.M. but that is not an area known to have frequent action. We probably got to 20 boils between 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. when we finally got off the lake. We landed four striped bass to about 5 lbs. and did "long distance releases" on several more. One word of caution on this type of action! Some of the other fishermen get as frenzied as the fish. One guy in an 18' IO was particularly dangerous and bore careful watching. An 18 footer going by at full throttle within 10' to 20' of my 17 footer really got my attention! (Con't Pg.6 .. Hogan)

**Date: SUNDAY, Nov. 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**



There is still time to get in some productive practice before the steelhead runs begin in earnest. The pond awaits your presence, the practice ranges are ready to use and the coaching is there for the asking. If you would like to use the club's equipment call Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

There will be a beginners session at 10 A.M. before the regular members period which will begin at noon. The November beginners group will probably be all ladies. If you know of any interested women, there may be enough equipment available from Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel at 527-9887.

This is the time of year that weather can be a limiting factor. If we are having a significant storm the clinic will be postponed until December.

The next clinic is planned for December 15th.

Bob Sisson

1977

## Fishing International Comes Through Again!!!

Bob Nauheim, owner of Fishing International is a long time member of the RRFF and has donated many fabulous prizes to the club over the years. Last year it was a weekend trip to Lava Creek Lodge. This year his generosity has exceeded all bounds. **FI has donated a 7 day fishing trip to Loreto, Baja, Mexico.** This trip includes 6 days guided fishing, two to a boat; seven nights lodging, double occupancy; three meals per day for the six days you are there and all taxes and transfer fees. This is the same package that the RRFF has booked through FI for the past two years and for many of us it was the trip of a lifetime!! Last years thrill for me was landing a 60 lb. sailfish. Tim Grogan landed a 42 lb. dorado out of our boat on the same day!! **THIS IS A FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE.** This trip will be raffled off at the RRFF's annual Christmas dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7th at Willowside Hall in west Santa Rosa. If you thought this kind of an experience would never come your way, think again. Anyone can afford a \$10 raffle ticket for a shot at this kind of an opportunity! Call Scotty Broome at 575-5993 NOW to reserve your seat at our Christmas Dinner with Jim Teeney!!

## RRFF CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a recreation related item that you wish to list in the RRFF Classified Ads, get you 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! Ads will run one time only unless renewed by owner/member. (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing.)

Sage RPL+ 9' 7 Wt. 4 piece	\$275
St. Croix Imperial 9' 8-9 Wt. 4 piece	\$95
Fisher 10' 8 Wt. 2 piece	\$90
Contact: Mark Parker	433-4967

## **Second Chance**

We told you in the last issue of *The Cast* that the upcoming December dinner meeting with Jim Teeney was going to be a very popular item and that the seating at Willowside Hall was somewhat limited. Fishing International's donation of the Baja trip to this gala fete was not yet public knowledge at that time but it has certainly added immensely to the popularity of the occasion. Jim Teeney, our featured speaker, is world renowned for his ability as a fisherman. He has produced his own videos, developed his own brand of fly lines in conjunction with 3M and manufactures and distributes his own brand of "Teeney Nymphs" through Umpqua Feather Merchants. Jim is in great demand on the speaker's circuit and we had to contract him nearly a year in advance for this occasion. **THIS DINNER WILL BE A SELL OUT!!** Scotty Broome managed to hold the price to \$35 per plate again this year and that is a fantastic bargain. If you don't agree just look at the menu for the dinner published below. The food is furnished by Preferred Sonoma Caterers and what they do with fillets, viands and hors d'oeuvres defies superlatives! Additionally there will wine served with dinner and a no host bar available throughout the evening.

Don't be a Johnny Come Lately and decide to go at the last minute. You might just be too late!! Give Scott Broome a call and reserve your spot at the table. 575-5993 will put you in line for a ticket!!!

## **Sonoma Preferred Caterers**

### **Russian River Fly Fishers Dinner Saturday, Dec. 7, 1996 Willowside Hall**

**5299 Hall Road,  
Santa Rosa, CA**

**Caesar Salad  
Italian Antipasto Pasta Salad  
Roasted Baby Potatoes  
Steamed Asparagus Tips with Red Pepper Butter  
Carved Prime Rib with Au Jus and Horseradish  
Herb Crusted Salmon Fillets with Lime Butter  
Dessert Buffet  
Bread and Butter  
Coffee & Tea**

**Hors d'oeuvres  
roasted Garlic Baked Brie with Baguettes  
Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese Terrine  
with Mini Bagels  
Fresh fruit**





In the past months I now and again make suggestions on shortcuts and how you can increase your speed at the vise.

This month's column is devoted to that subject.

We often watch an accomplished tier and we are amazed at how quickly the flies come out of their vise. Unfortunately, most often even when we get to watch a fast tier, we only get to watch at slow speed because they are generally demonstrating a special technique or pattern and are talking their audience through the process. Even worst they are often demonstrating several different patterns and we never get to see them in their rhythm at production speed.

We know they are fast, but somehow we just can't put our finger on the what he or she is doing that makes them that fast so we chalk it up to lots of experience or practice. Both experience and practice help but they are not the total answer as we know lots of tiers with plenty of both that are so slow that one can take a short nap between flies.

The answer is a combination of many small things which all add up to shave time off of each fly. Here are some recommendations that should help. Most of these are from my own experience.

1. As I have said before, sort your materials, especially the hackles, and organize your work space before you start. Get in the habit of having your wax, cement, tools and any other essentials at the same spot on the work table. Lay out all the materials you need for the specific pattern that you are going to tie. Clean the left-overs from your previous sessions off of the table top. Put away all that material you won't need for this session.

2. Establish a rhythm to your tying. You can most easily accomplish this by tying only one size and pattern when you sit down at your vise. As a good rhythm develops you will find yourself using the same number of wraps without counting them as you did on the prior fly at each step, your thread will be hanging at the same spot when you have to let go of the bobbin, and you can pick up the next piece of material almost without looking.

3. Cut off enough material at one time to tie several flies but not so much that you loose control or that it hinders your tying. For example, cut off enough chenille for a half dozen flies at one time, not only is this faster but there is less waste of material. Another example, when cutting and stacking hair for wings, cut as much as your stacker can effectively handle at one time. After stacking, separate what you need and leave the rest in the stacker for the next few flies or carefully lay it on the edge of your

table where it won't get knocked off and you can just pick up what you need for the next fly.

4. Avoid handling of materials more than necessary. This is especially true of loose materials like deer hair and bucktail that you have just stacked. Always try to take it out of the stacker in such a manner as to reduce the amount of transferring from hand to hand. Not only will you save time but you avoid loosing control of the material.

5. Eliminate unnecessary steps from your tying where ever possible. Some examples of this are:

A. Don't set your scissors down unless you have to.

B. Whenever feasible cut the butt end of your material before you tie it in rather than afterward. (Many materials can be tied in with very short butts or can be pulled back slightly after the first couple of wraps to avoid the post wrap-in trim).

C. The nature of many materials allows the excess to be snapped off rather than resorting to the scissors. The tag end of the tying thread when starting a fly, single and double peacock herl stems when used for butts and heads and some hackles can be treated in this manner.

6. Learn to work with a short amount of thread outside the bobbin. Small circles are faster to make than large ones.

7. This one may be hard for some tiers because old habits are hard to break, but keep your hands at the fly. You have tied in the tail, the ribbing material, wrapped the body and cutoff the excess material; now instead of lowering your hands and admiring your work as you may have done between each of the previous steps keep your hands at the fly and start wrapping the ribbing! You will be amazed at how much the elimination of this simple non-productive act will speed your tying.

8. Many steps are best done as a separate step from the routine tying process of the individual fly. I cement all the heads at one time after a tying session rather than after each fly. If the pattern calls for bead chain or lead eyes, or a weighted body I will prepare the hooks in advance so the cement will have a chance to dry.

9. Last but not least, really think about what you are doing, how the fly is assembled, and what changes you might make without sacrificing quality. Is there a better order for tying in the materials, is there a better spot at which to tie them in or tie them off?



# Super Raffle

The

## WESTERN ANGLER

fly shop has once again shown its generosity to the RRFF. I just got off the phone with Noel at the shop. The Western Angler is donating an Adventurer to the RRFF for the club's Christmas dinner. What a great prize for an evening that promises to be a great kickoff for the holiday season.

The ADVENTURER is one of the new series of pontoon boats manufactured by J. W. Outfitters. It is 6'8" long and weighs a mere 18 lbs with urethane bladders, Tough Hide covering, self-deflating valves and a carrying capacity of 250 lbs. It comes complete with an oar kit and foot rests. The retail price of this superlative craft is usually \$550. You can have a shot at it during our raffle, 8 chances for a mere \$5. (*This was my pick of all the float tubes and pontoon boats that were available at Western Angler's Float Tube day earlier this year. Ed.*) In addition to the Adventurer, Noel and his crew are also contributing two of Rose Creek's high quality wooden fly boxes and a fishing shirt by Columbia. In addition to these great prizes the Western Angler is also donating four hundred dollars worth of gift certificates to the raffle.

Thanks Noel and Gary for your generous support. I am sure the members of the RRFF will respond by continuing to buy locally for their angling needs!!

## DISTANCE CASTING QUALIFIERS

120'

#17 Lee Smith (10 Wt. SH)

(Hogan Con't)

According to the information I received this action should have already been over for the season but as I sit writing this, (the last week of August), the action is still continuing. To take advantage of this type of fishing you need a reasonably quick boat. I don't think my previous boat, a 15' aluminum with 15 hp outboard, would have been quick enough to consistently get to the fish before the action was over. We were using spinning and bait casting gear with 10 lb. lines and lures in the 1 oz to 1 1/2 oz range. I think you could be successful with a fly rod for the guy in the front of the boat using the techniques they use for tarpon, ie, line stripped off the reel and ready to cast. I don't think the guy running the boat can get a fly rod ready quickly enough to get into the typical boil before the fish head down off the surface and disappear.

At any rate it is exciting fishing! New Hogan is freshwater, the fish have no contaminants and I do like fresh striper! I have heard that this same type of fishing takes place on Lake Mendocino. I have never witnessed it but if it does happen Lake Mendocino is a lot closer to home than New Hogan! I definitely will make room on my calendar next year for a couple of trips after these fresh water stripers.

Chuck Perry  
(I included this article so you could start planning now for next year. Try it, you'll like it! Ed.)

## Board of Directors Special Meeting

Monday, Nov. 18th, 1996

at

Scott Broome's

1760 Windrose Lane

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

575-5993

The Outing's Calendar for the RRFF will be discussed, destinations agreed on, dates selected, and outings chairmen recruited. If you have any input on these topics, call a member of the board of directors, listed on the first page of *The Cast*, and pass along your choices

# Escape to where the sun is warm and the fish are eager

**New Zealand:** We have put together a fascinating book, *New Zealand, Land of Fishing Legends*, which includes details about both North and South Island fishing, entomology, the lodges, plus many action filled, affordable itineraries to choose from. Ask for Mary Smiley for your free copy.

**The Flats:** Belize, Venezuela, the Bahamas, Yucatan, the Florida Keys and more are all detailed in our new *Fishing International Flats Fishing Guide*. Bonefish, tarpon, permit and a myriad of other species are discussed. You'll know where to go when you read this! Ask for Bob Norman for your free copy.

**Mexico:** Be sure to call or come by for your copy of *Mexico Salt Water Fishing Guide*. It will give you all the up-to-date destinations in Mexico, best boats and skippers, the times you want to be there, and the great fishing hotels from Cancun to Cabo San Lucas and all stops in between. Call Chris Steiner or Mary Smiley for your free copy.

**Ascension Bay Bonefish Club:** If you are looking for some place warm where the water is clear and teams with battalions of bonefish you should consider this club in January. Small and intimate, well run and well guided, the club sits on the edge of a bay which has no equal in the salt water fly fishing world. This is serious grand slam territory where permit abound and tarpon are found and snook and barracuda hide in the mangroves. A fishing International exclusive. Call Bob Norman for information

**Argentina's Rio Grande:** We are sold out for this coming season however every salmon or steelheader worth his salt should try to make it to this awesome river at least once. Bob Nauheim and Bob Norman will be leading groups south again this season. Fishing International's waters are on both the Despodida and Maria Behety Estancias, 14 prime pools lying between the Rio McLennon and the Rio Menendes. Last season Frank Lloyd, Bob Nauheim, and Bob Grayson took 99 hefty sea run brown trout, fresh shining silver from the South Atlantic. The largest weighed 25 pounds. Talk with Bob Norman, Bob Nauheim or Mary Smiley for more info about this heady stuff.

**Argentina and Chile:** We have premier trout fishing available in the San Martin and Esquel area of Argentina as well as Chile's Puerto Montt, Chaiten, Coihaique and points south. This is very exciting trout waters. Talk with Bob Norman, Mary Smiley or Bob Nauheim for more info.

**Mexican Black Bass,** Australian light tackle, South American peacock bass, Argentina sight casting for golden dorado, or Loreto yellow tail. Call Mary Smiley

## FISHING INTERNATIONAL

4775 Sonoma Highway  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Local tel: 539-3366 Fax 707-539-1320 Toll free 800 950-4242

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

Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRF after March 30th, will cover  
the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal years dues.

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

Existing membership renewal

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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 apply as a new member:

Please mark one of the following categories.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip code  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

**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.

**Special Christmas Dinner  
Edition!!**



# RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

# *the Cast*



Volume 22  
Number 1  
Dec. 96, Jan. 97

## The Pres sez:

Happy Holidays -

*Who's been fishing?*

Here it is, December 27th, and I'm still wrapping presents in preparation for a family reunion that begins tomorrow up in Arcata. Christmas really tends to drag on in the Tubbs family. Last year, I hoped to sneak in one last shot at steelhead on the Mad River before the year end, and arrived in town just in time to watch the river spill its banks and flood the Arcata bottoms. Judging by the weather this past week, my fishing gear won't even be making the trip this year.

I'd like to start off by thanking Paul Major for reminding me about my contribution to *the Cast* this month. With my brother and his family due to arrive here any minute from southern California, this promises to be a quick one. If it hadn't been for Paul, I would have found myself spending the next five days up north developing an acute case of cabin fever - at least until the realization that I'd forgotten this little item worked itself into my consciousness. Then I would have been stuck! Thanks Paul! (no...really!)

With the continual wet weather, there's really no point in even talking about the fishing. Throw in the holidays and our familial obligations, it's a wonder that at this time of year anything concerning the RRFF gets done at all. November ended with a special board meeting and the creation of a club outings and activities calendar that will carry us through the next six months. Pending some final adjustments, this calendar will be appearing in *the Cast* very soon (maybe this issue?). We've got some great outings planned for 1997 so for all of you who've been complaining "We never go anywhere!" - here's your chance. Club outings are a great opportunity to really get to know some of the other members in our club. You know, the one's who *fish!* (drink!). Even when the fishing's lousy, we still manage to have "one helluva good time". *After all, it is a fishing trip!*

December 7th brought our RRFF Christmas Dinner with Jim Teeny. I had a great time. For the 90 plus in attendance, the Willowside Hall proved to be just big enough and was actually quite comfortable. Amber Balshaw, and her company (Preferred Sonoma Caterers), once again did an excellent job and there was the usual overabundance of delicious entrees and her incredible dessert buffet. Jim's show sported numerous slides of huge salmon and steelhead, and although it was by no means a "how to" seminar, it was still interesting and covered a lot of rivers in the Pacific northwest. The raffle was incredible - the best I have seen since I've been involved with the club. The door prizes and the special grand prize drawing for the week of fishing in Loreto, Baja added to the festivities and made this meeting one of the more memorable.

There are a lot of people who are responsible for the success of our dinner meetings and our raffles. We were extremely fortunate this year when RRFF life member Bob Nauheim donated the week of fishing in Loreto (through *Fishing International*) as a special grand prize drawing and fund-raiser to benefit our club. We were likewise fortunate when Gary van Antwerp (through *The Western Angler*) donated the J.W. Outfitters Adventurer pontoon boat as the top prize for our general raffle. These donations were incredibly generous, and reflect the support and commitment that both *Fishing International* and *The Western Angler* have made to the Russian River Fly Fishers. A special thanks to both. As RRFF members, I strongly suggest that we acknowledge this generosity by returning the favor and supporting the businesses that support us!

There are always board members that put forth special efforts in all of our successful dinner meetings. I would like, once again, to thank Scott Broome for all his work in organizing *everything*, Shawn Kempkes for his work on the program, Margie Major for all of her organizational help and for selling tickets at the door, and Bob Neill for tending bar. Also, RRFF life member Bill Archuleta and Jim Hakel deserve a special thanks for filling in for raffle chairman Dwight Longuevan, who was unable to attend but still managed to put together an outstanding array of raffle items. Thanks

Bill, Jim and Dwight. The Grand Prize drawing was hosted by Tim Grogan - who pushed raffle tickets for most of the evening - and deserves our gratitude as well. It seems like many of the same names keep popping up whenever we acknowledge club members for their efforts. These members are the reason that we are successful and their contributions reflect the strength of our club.

Behind the scenes, I would like to acknowledge Chuck Perry for the efforts he put forth to make sure Jim Teeny had transportation to and from the airport and who took Jim to breakfast Saturday morning. Chuck accompanied me to the airport to meet Jim on Friday, took him to breakfast on Saturday, and, when he found out that Jim had purchased Airporter tickets to get back to the airport Sunday morning (early), insisted on driving him back to the airport instead. Thanks Chuck!

These are just some of the club members who contributed to making this years Christmas dinner meeting a success. If you missed it, you missed a good time and a wonderful opportunity to show your support for the RRFF. If you were unable to attend this time, we look forward to seeing you at our next dinner meeting in June. Watch for more details in coming months!

And that's about it for now. My brother has arrived and I find my attention wandering to other things. I hope every one has a happy and safe holiday, and that the new year finds you well and into fish!

See you all at our next general meeting, January 8th.

Steve Tubbs

**Date: SUNDAY, Jan. 19, 1997**  
**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**



We should be in the middle of the best steelhead runs. If you feel a little additional practice is in order, the pond is ready to use. The ranges are also ready and coaching is there for the asking. If you would like to try the clubs equipment, call Steve Tubbs at 765-1787. If you would like to test the best weight shooting head for your rod, I will have a selection of heads available that we can work with.

There will be a beginners session at 10 A.M. before the regular members clinic scheduled for noon. If you know of an interested person and they need an outfit to use, Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and Travel has some outfits to loan on a reservation basis. Brian can be reached at 527-9887.

Lets hope we do not have another rainout although the December clinic enjoyed beautiful weather. This clinic will be held unless we are in the middle of some serious rain or are looking at a bum forecast for Sunday.

The next clinic is scheduled for February 16th.

Bob Sisson  
1977

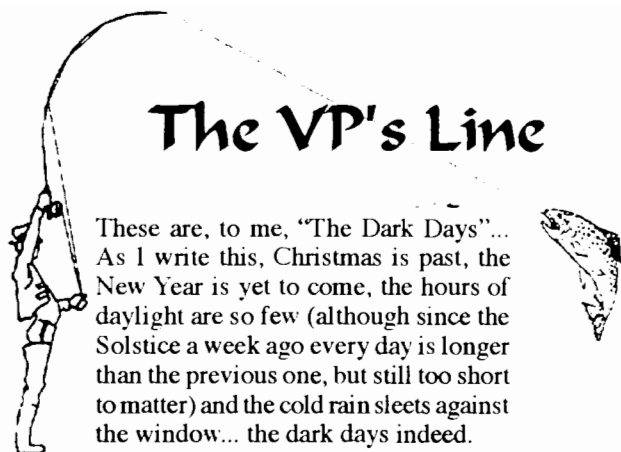
### 1996-97 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

**President:** Steve Tubbs (765-1787)  
**Secretary:** Lee Smith (537-1421)

**Vice President:** Paul Major (539-5437)  
**Treasurer:** Paul Major (539-5437)

**Membership Database:** Scott Broome (575-5993)  
**Casting Pond:** Bob Sisson (545-3721)  
**Raffle Chairman:** Dwight Longuevan (537-0382)  
**NCCFFF Representative:** Bob Neill (542-6723)  
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**Membership Coordinator:** Tim Barrett (538-5009)  
**Program Director:** Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)  
**The Cast Editor:** Chuck Perry (823-2029)  
**Conservation:** Joe Craig (525-8948)  
**Library/Conservation:** Roger Magill (876-3308)  
**At Large:** Ted Adkins (763-4440)



These are, to me, "The Dark Days"... As I write this, Christmas is past, the New Year is yet to come, the hours of daylight are so few (although since the Solstice a week ago every day is longer than the previous one, but still too short to matter) and the cold rain sleets against the window... the dark days indeed.

A week ago the river was beginning to clear and a few fish had been seen... but the weather report spoke of more rain, so I ditched work and parked at the Highway 128 bridge at foggy dawn. Half Pounders were jumping in the tailout of the bridge hole and I had the place to myself (or so it seemed, the fog was so thick another fisherman would have been invisible at fifty yards).

They call steelhead "The Fish of a Thousand Casts," so I got started on the shoot-mend-drift-strip routine that seems to define days on the river in the winter. A bump in the tailout (it might have been the bottom) kept me concentrating, then down into the head of the next run and the short cast - medium cast - long cast - step rhythm took over and carried me down the run almost hypnotically... until the guy with the bait rod waded in fifty feet below me and brought me back to the real world...

The real world, here in The Dark Days, is one in which the storms time themselves perfectly to keep the rivers high and muddy on what begins to seem like a permanent basis, with the few fishable days always falling mid-week when economic necessity has me pinned to the mat. Only those who are free to fish when the water is "right" get much T.O.W. (time-on-water) and the rest of us have to take whatever nature and our work schedules allow us, which too often ain't much.

But all is not Darkness... I'm cheered and energized by the uncoming RRFF meeting and activities scheduled to help keep us all going until spring. Elsewhere in this issue you should find a fairly complete calendar of activities for the first six months of '97, starting off with our January meeting on the 8th with Dave Simmons' program on the Lower Sac, which should be of immediate interest to all of us.

I'm particularly jazzed by our upcoming schedule of on-the-water events; if memory serves we're going to have a couple of Russian River sessions where we'll be on the river locating access points and demonstrating tackle and techniques. These should be great for those club members who are not already familiar with the river and winter steelhead fishing. (That includes me... this is my second season on the Russian, but there is still a lot I don't know about where and how to fish the river).

Later in the spring we'll be doing a session on shad fishing on the American River with a similar focus... where and how to fish the American River below Nimbus Dam. We're also going to try to put together one of these orientation trips to Putah Creek, but we need an old Putah Creek hand to lead it ... any volunteers?

These sessions are intended, as I said, to be orientation trips for those who are not familiar with the water and fishing approach to that water rather than being club "fishing trips." We'll be conducting the sessions on the scheduled date regardless of weather or fishing conditions with the goal of showing participants where the accesses are, where to park, where the runs and "holes" are located, etc., etc. After that you're "on your own" to return to the water and fish it on your own schedule, but I know that just having someone show me the accesses has helped me enormously with getting on the river and into the fishing.

We will, of course, be organizing regular "Club Outings" as we have in the past... we want to go to the Road 48 area of the Sac for spring shad, and our annual opening day outing to Hat Creek is a "for sure." Anyone who has ideas for other Club Outing destinations is welcome to suggest them, and we're always delighted to have club members volunteer to lead these sojourns. All that's required is that you be somewhat familiar with the water and be willing to share your knowledge with your fellow members... no one will expect you to guide them or hold their hands, and you won't be held responsible for anyone's lack of success on the trip (excluding Tim Grogan whom we hold personally culpable for high winds at Frank's Tract on two successive trips).

So... read and save the calendar, remember that the monthly meetings are on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month, come to the meetings, join in the fishing activities, show up for the casting clinics, and before you know it, the Dark Days will be in the past and we'll have survived them in style thanks to the Russian River Fly Fishers!

Paul Major

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## Not On the Roof!!

I was in the parking lot at Capel Cove on Lake Berryessa on a beautiful fall day last September. I had just gotten off the water after a shakedown cruise of a new to me fishin' rig. I pulled up the ramp, onto the apron and past a couple of bass boats whose owners were jawboning over the days events. I was climbing into my pickup when the first of the bass boats went hauling by me, made a quick turn to avoid a truck swallowin' pot hole and headed on out. I saw something slide off the roof of his Suburban when he took evasive action. I didn't even bother to pick up the camera. The tires of the bass boat had done it in!

A word of caution...if you have to put something down, PUT IT ON THE HOOD. That way you should see it before you move off.

## **General Meeting**

with

### **Dave Simmons**

Dave Simmons lives in Orland and is a longtime guide on the Sacramento River. His forte is the area between Redding and Anderson. The species of choice are trout and shad. The time is right to get ready for this year's seasons.

### **Bonus! Bonus! Bonus!**

**Dave does the California schools for Thomas & Thomas and is donating a gift certificate to the raffle. The lucky winner gets a Thomas & Thomas rod of his choice!**

**Wednesday, Jan. 8, 1997**

### **Santa Rosa Vet's. Building**

**Fly tying 6:30 P.M.**

**General Meeting 7:30 P.M.**

The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Vet's. Building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

### **RRFF Board of Directors Meeting**

**7 P.M., Monday, Feb. 3, 1997**

**Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza  
2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA**

## **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! Ads will run one time only unless renewed by owner/member. (The editor reserves the right to determine whether items submitted are appropriate for listing.)

New waders, neoprene with boots-small \$50  
Contact: Rodger Magill 876-3308

## BAJA, OLAY!!

The info for this years Baja trip just came off the wires. Our own fishing exemplar, Binky Castleberry, is leading the group this year. Binky has gone the last two years, staying two weeks on each trip. He and Tim Grogan made numerous trips to Loreto before that so Binky knows the ins and outs of the trip down about as well as he knows how to fish the Sea of Cortez. I've made this foray twice myself and it is a fabulous trip. Last year Tim Grogan and I boated a 43 lb. dorado and a sail that went about 60 lb. within one hour on the final day!

This years trip is a carbon copy of the last two trips. You leave Sat. July 19, 1997 and return Sat. July 26, 1997. Included are 6 days fishing, two anglers and guide per boat - 23' pongas with 50-75 horse outboards; three meals per day and seven days lodging in air conditioned comfort. The Oasis Hotel has a great bar, an English speaking bartender, swimming pool and tennis courts. The day starts with breakfast at 5 A.M., you hit the pongas at 6 A.M., fish until about 1 P.M., come home to lunch and relaxing in the bar and/or around the pool until dinner. 'S' wonderful! All of the above goes for \$995 plus air fare!

This year the RRFF gets only 10 spots and they should go early. You can get hold of Binky at 527-9607. If you need any encouragement or just want to get juiced about the trip, Binky will be happy to loan you a video of action shots taken out of his ponga over the last couple of years. If you're already dyin' to go you can call Fishing International at 539-3366. Ask for Mary Smiley. She'll be happy to take your deposit and send you out a packet of necessary details. *Ed.*

## Coming Events

Jan 6, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
Jan. 8, 1997	RRFF Jan. Meeting with Dave Simmons
Jan. 8-12, 1997	Sacramento Expo
Jan. 25, 1997	Russian River Exploratory Day * (Scotty Broome 575-5993)
Jan. 29-Feb 2, 1997	San Mateo Expo
Feb. 3, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
Feb. 12, 1997	RRFF General Meeting
Feb. 15, 1997	Garcia, Gualala, Alder Creek Exploratory Day * (Scotty Broome (575-5993)
Mar3, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
Mar. 12, 1997	RRFF General Meeting
Mar. 15, 1997	Spring Lake Exploratory Day (Roger Magill 876-3308)
Mar. 31, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
Apr. 9, 1997	RRFF General Meeting (fly tying)
May 5, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
May 14, 1997	RRFF General Meeting
May 15, 1997	Time to pay RRFF dues for next fiscal year
May 17, 1997	Road 48 shad trip (Bob Neill 542-6723)
June 2, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
June 7, 1997	RRFF dinner meeting (John Shewey)
June 14, 1997	American River shad outing
June 21 & 22, 1997	Fall River trout trip (Shawn Kempkes 546-2014)
July 12, 1997	RRFF BBQ at the pond

\*These trips are meant to be "exploratory" in nature. There may not be any fishing.

## San Mateo Expo

It's too early to be thinking about this but an ad in *FLY FISHERMAN* reminded me that the Expo has been moved up to January from March. There are actually two Expos in our area. The earlier one is the Sacramento Expo, Jan.8-12, at CAL-EXPO. Call (800)-545-6100 for more information. The San Mateo Expo is January 29-Feb 2 at the San Mateo Co Expo Center, (800)-545-6100. Both of these shows run Wednesday through Sunday.

I don't plan to go to the Sacramento show. I do intend to

go to San Mateo on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 29 & 30. I'll be happy to be the contact person for any of you who want to go to either Expo and would like to arrange car pools. Give me a call, Chuck Perry, at 823-2029. We'll have a RRFF club meeting between the time you get this issue of *The Cast* and the San Mateo Expo. There will be a sign-up at that RRFF meeting Jan. 8, 1997 for the San Mateo Expo if you would like to take care of arrangements that way. Note that this is the first day of the Sacramento Expo. It's a little late to be trying to put that one together.





With the popularity of fly tying has come material improvements only dreamed of by tiers of yesteryear. True, there were some materials that were

easier to obtain before words such as "endangered species" and "environmental protection" became common place in our vocabulary, but the trade-off for Mylar, Kevlar, etc, etc makes today's tier the hands down winner.

To illustrate how rough some of the old time tiers had it, I recently read of how the tiers of Atlantic salmon flies would often tie small rocks to the shanks of their hooks to give them weight. Now that is doing it the hard way, especially since they didn't have super glue! But we don't have to go that far back to recall that the only reliable way to assure oneself of quality hackle was to raise your own and some books even had chapters on that subject. And speaking of books, "**Buyer Beware**", there are some good ones on the market, but there are also so mighty poor ones.

Anyway, in my opinion the two greatest advances for today's tier are the genetic hackle and the modern threads now available. Let's discuss hackle this month. As in most things the quality of the finished product is directly proportional to the quality of the materials that went into it. Be it cooking, wine making or dry flies, the ingredients count. There was no way that the tiers of yesteryear with only the Chinese, Indian and "Barn-yard" capes could produce the quality dry flies we have today.

There are several producers of genetic hackle. Metz, Hoffman, Hebert, Keough are some of the most common names. Until recently most of them concentrated only on rooster hackle so let me discuss that and we'll cover hen hackle another time. Rooster hackle comes in two types, neck and saddle. Each has its own characteristics. The neck or capes as they are sometimes called come of course from the neck of the rooster. The feathers on a neck will vary in size allowing one to tie a range of fly sizes. The saddle or saddle patch comes from the flank of the bird and the feathers generally show much less spread in size. A point of clarification here: by size, I am referring to the size of fly for which the feather is suited, not the length of the feather. Saddle hackles almost without exception are longer than neck hackle.

Different breeders grade their hackle to different standards. Some stress uniform color, others may stress uniform size distribution or high feather count in the smaller sizes. The quality of the individual feather is always important: what is the useable length of the feather, how much web does it have, is the stem thin and flexible, and does it have a high barb count. On most of the modern

generic necks and saddles the quality of the individual feathers is high and generally not a concern. However, it is your money so check for yourself. The breeder's graders are human also and can make mistakes. Also what is important to a grader may not be important to you. For example, a grader may mark down a neck from grade 1 to grade 2 because it shows a slight variation in color which may not concern you. Without removing the feathers from the skin flex some of them and check the points above. The feathers should have a glossy not dull appearance. Also check that the barbs are straight and not curled, this sometimes happens on saddles and isn't caught by the breeder. Once in a while you will end up with a neck of feathers that just won't wrap right, they twist and turn and look like hell. I don't have an answer for this one, but fortunately it is not common problem. If you should end up with a neck like this return it. After all it is your money and at the price most quality necks are selling for a reputable shop will exchange it for you.

Immature feathers or broken ones lower the grade of the neck. On saddles the number and length of the feathers is important; how many flies will it produce? I once counted the number of quality feathers on some Grade 1, 2, and 3 Hoffman saddles. As I recall the feather count was roughly proportional to the cost with maybe a slight value advantage going to the higher grades.

Now for some of my own personal opinions on hackle. Hoffman produces the best **dry fly** quality **saddle** hackle available, none of the others can compare for quality or value. I have gotten as many as ten parachute flies from a single Hoffman saddle feather. One important point here, because the feathers are so long it is not uncommon for the size (hook) to vary over the length of the feather. This is not a major problem and easy to work around as long as you are aware of it. When the feather size changes just set it aside for the next size of flies. Don't buy Hoffman saddles for Wooly Buggers, wets and steelhead patterns, it's a waste of money and they won't work as well as a feather with more web. Other producers' provide saddles better suited for these purposes at far lower prices. For dry fly necks I prefer Hebert's because the feathers seem to be longer for any given size and the necks have a high feather count in the sizes I tie most. If I am buying a color that I use a lot such as grizzly or brown I may go for the highest grade I can afford, but if it's a color I don't use as much I'll opt for a lessor grade.

Selecting hackles for flies other than dries is much easier, mainly because feather quality is not as important and the price is much lower thus reducing your risk of an expensive mistake. The other advantage with wet fly quality hackle is the numerous ways that it can be used as discussed in a previous column.

One last note on hackle - protect your investment from the moths!

## You Missed It!

Many of you missed **Bob Norman's** presentation and slide show at the RRFF's November meeting.

Bob was a guide in northeastern California for 20 years before coming to Santa Rosa to become a major player for Fishing International. The show he did on Fall River, the Pit and the McCloud was spectacular from both a photographic and piscatorial standpoint. More of you would have been there for this show if you had known about the meeting. The reason you didn't know about the meeting? The announcement was left out of the November issue of *The Cast*!!

I'm sorry that many of you lost the opportunity to enjoy Bob's presentation and learn from it but even more important is a sincere apology to Bob Norman for my oversight. Bob was more than gracious in accepting my apology the night of the meeting. He offered to cancel his presentation, but when told the meeting was scheduled and many members would be there, he graciously went ahead with the show.

Many thanks Bob and again my apologies!!!

## Good Idea

Over the past several years I've developed the habit of watching for things that make my fishing and fly tying efforts easier, more productive or more enjoyable. Most anything you want is available commercially if you're willing and able to pay the price. Some home made tools, however, are just as effective as the commercial ones available and a whole lot cheaper.

Watching Jim Cramer tie the other day, I was taken by his bobbin threader. He had taken a needle, a darning needle I think-anyway a fairly large needle and filed a notch out of eye of the needle to allow the thread easy entry. He stuck a length of 1/4" dowel on the pointed end and voila!, a bobbin threader non pariel.

Push the needle through the tube of the bobbin 'til it arrives near the spool of thread, slip the thread through the notch filed in the eye of the needle, withdraw the bobbin-pulling the thread with it and you're done. No more inhaling 6 inches of thread trying to vacuum it through the tube!

## Still Looking!

My tenure as editor of *The Cast* is nearing its end. (Mercifully so after my Bob Norman gaffe.) It would be great if someone with past experience putting out a newsletter would step forward and volunteer to become the new editor. I've been putting out the newsletter the past year and a half using a Mac and Pagemaker 5.0. Steve Tubbs published *The Cast* before that using an IBM compatible and doing some, "cut and paste." Before computers were available, I watched school secretaries put out monthly newsletters using a typewriter and lots of, "cut and paste." The background needed can vary widely.

If you're a newcomer to the RRFF, there is no better way to get up to speed on what is going on in the club. If you're a long time member, this is an excellent way to forge new goals and missions for the RRFF and to make your views heard on what is near and dear to your heart.

Putting out a newsletter takes only a few hours each month. Other club officers and members do most of the necessary writing. The editor does have to master the routines involved in assembling, printing and mailing *The Cast*. I've put together small groups to help with the monthly chores. These have turned out to be great bull sessions and I really look forward to them.

If you have the necessary interest and skills give me, Chuck Perry, a call at 823-2029 or call Steve Tubbs at 765-1787. A few hours spent in advance of having to take full responsibility for publishing *The Cast* can save a lot of time and anxiety while putting out the first few issues. I'd normally wait and let this editorship issue resolve itself and then offer my help to the new editor. However that isn't possible. (I'm off on a three month jaunt to Alaska soon and I'd like to have this position filled before I leave but I am leaving, whether the position is filled or not.)

Ed.



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

Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal years dues.

- ☐ (Single membership-\$35 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Family membership-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)  
☐ (Junior membership-\$10 initiation fee plus \$20 annual dues)  
☐ (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)

Existing membership renewal

I apply as a new member:

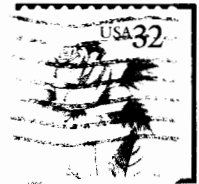
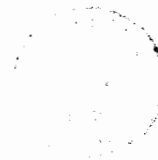
Please mark one of the following categories.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

### RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

P. O. Box 2673  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405



BOB SISSON  
3607 GREEN HILL DR  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

Address correction requested.