



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

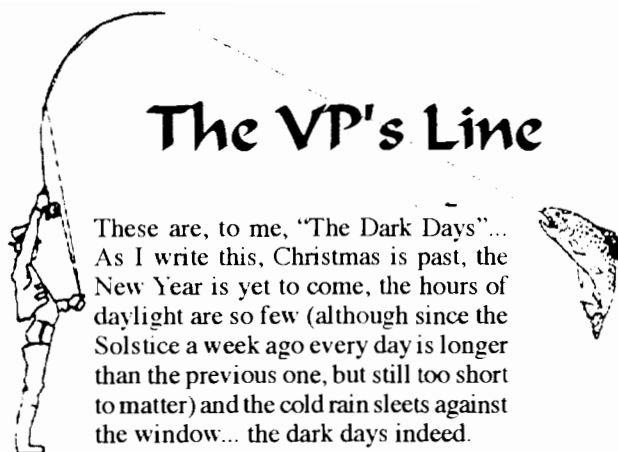
1996-97 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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)
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 Magill (876-3308)
At Large: Ted Adkins (763-4440)



The VP's Line

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 upcoming 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

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 ducs 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.

The tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



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.



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-\$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- ☐ (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

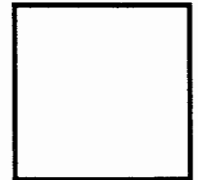
Address

Name

Date

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

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



Address correction requested.



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 22
Number 2
Feb. 1997

The Pres sez:

Priming the Pump

Here I am again, last minute, scrambling to provide *something* for this month's *Cast*. It hardly seems like a month has passed.

I can remember swollen rivers; the Mad River, on New Year's Day, spread wide across the fields of the Arcata bottoms, ringed only by the dunes of Mad River beach and the bluffs of McKinleyville. I had never seen that river so big, the bike path across the old railroad trestle rising out of the waters and completely inaccessible, except by boat. Then there was the Trinity River, roaring down through Willow Creek, churning along Highway 299 as we took the only available route back to Petaluma. Weaver Creek, just east of Weaverville, had washed out the highway in four places, and provided us over an hour of nap time as we waited to caravan through the construction zone. And when we finally reached Redding, and Interstate 5, the mighty Sacramento roiled beside us as the light faded, making full use of the flood controls that line its banks. We had heard that the Klamath River had flooded, and that swollen Panther Creek had closed Highway 101 at Requa. Slides along the Eel River had closed Highway 101 to the south. All of this in the first few days of the new year. I was glad I hadn't packed my fly rods, like last year when I had entertained a notion to finish out 1995 steelheading on the Mad. Last year, too, found the river at flood stage on New Years Day, and my fly rods stayed in their tubes in my car. This year, with a family reunion in the works, and a tropical storm in the forecast, I hadn't even bothered.

We had been, for five days, confined to the rooms of my parents house in Arcata. A spacious house for two, a little tight for seventeen. The storm turned out to be everything promised. The kids were bouncing off the walls, but were still doing remarkably well (there were only seven of them). The rest of us - well, by the time I heard the news that 299 had been reopened to controlled traffic, I was all too happy to make a day of it and get on the road. Cabin fever had

joined us by then, and the house had suddenly grown even smaller.

But as we traveled 299, I couldn't help but marvel at the aftermath of only five days of Mother Nature. Everywhere around us water cascaded down the mountain sides and pooled alongside the road, waiting its turn to crash from the drain pipes to the river below. The creeks were all rivers, the rivers were formidable, surging torrents of muddied water blasting their way over riverbeds that I used to know, assuring me that what I thought I knew was no longer true. The power behind the water was incredible, and only the product of a few days of rain. I can't help but think that at times we are awfully arrogant and give ourselves far too much credit for being able to affect our environment. A few days of rain and snow, a slap from the forces of nature, and the entire west coast of the country becomes a disaster area. To me, that power makes our own seem inconsequential. It seems almost as if, when the earth finally tires of us, she can simply wipe the slate clean and continue on.

I think of these things when nature is prevalent. The power and beauty of our environment often makes me feel insignificant in comparison. Whether I'm on a lake in the high sierras, or the close quarters of an overgrown stream, the permanence of my surroundings affects me. The subtle changes that will find these places in the coming decades will be nothing compared to the changes that will befall me. Time does not have the same meaning for a mountain, or a river. They continue, they rejuvenate, showing change slowly, erasing our blunders and mistakes casually yet always seeming to surprise us with the speed of their recovery. And the recovery is always complete.

This last month has been a testimony to the power of nature. The rivers throughout our state are still swollen from the rains and melting snow. I haven't had any time to fish, but it has been on my mind a lot lately. I find myself looking forward to the trout opener and our traditional club outing to Hat Creek. Work is getting busy again, and my schedule is about to be shaken up by another year of coaching Little League Baseball. I am planning a few trips though. It looks

like Yellowstone National Park will be one of my destinations this year, for some back country fishing away from the crowds on some beautiful rivers that I'm beginning to feel familiar with. But, there was a time, not too long ago, when the Trinity River was just as familiar.

There are a few things happening with the Russian River Fly Fishers that need your attention. The Board of Directors is preparing the candidate slate for the upcoming election this June. It looks as if there will be 6 - 8 positions opening up on the board and we are in desperate need for some new blood! There are a few board members who will be leaving and a few others who wish to continue to help the RRFF as they are able but who will not be able to serve in the capacities that they have in the past. We need help! If you are interested in joining the board, please contact one of the current board members for inclusion on the candidate slate. I have been a board member for four years now and it has been completely worthwhile. You get out of the club what you are willing to put in. The more active you become, the more satisfaction you will receive. That has proven to be the case for me, anyway, and I have met and worked with some great club members and friends over the past few years.

Mike Swaney will be our speaker and guest fly tier on Wednesday, February 11, and will be speaking about bass fishing in our local area. The meeting will be at the Lodge Room of the Veteran's Memorial Building with fly tying beginning at 6:30 P.M. Mike is a RRFF member, an excellent fly tier and the president of the Redwood Empire Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He is active with many conservation issues and projects on the Russian River and in Sonoma County. If you haven't had a chance to hear Mike speak, his shows are always informative and interesting. Mike guides on the Russian River, the Stanislaus River and at Lake Sonoma. For those of you who remember his show on striped bass fishing in the Stanislaus River, you can expect another fun evening of fishing and conservation - but this time on waters closer to home. Mike is once again donating his evening to the club and I strongly urge everyone to come out and support the RRFF. I don't think you'll be disappointed. Thank you Mike, for your continued support of the RRFF and for your generous contribution.

Please welcome Marji Major to the Board of Directors. Marji was appointed to the board as Events Chairperson and will be continuing her work on the dinner meetings and special events. She is replacing Scott Broome, who will continue to lend a helping hand but will be centering his attention on club outings. Also, thanks to Tim Grogan for stepping up as Raffle Chairman. Dwight's work schedule is forcing him to miss our next few meetings and Tim has volunteered to take over the raffle duties.

That's about it for club news. Our last meeting, with Dave Simmons, was a great show and a fantastic turnout. Let's continue that support next Wednesday. Hope to see you there!

Wet Lines,

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



The casting pond is in good shape, the ranges are ready and the coaching is there for the asking. There will be a beginner session at 10 A.M. before the regular members clinic and the young peoples Discovery Group activity from noon on. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in the early session and needs equipment, have them contact Brian Wong at Lyle's Tackle and Travel. Brian can be reached at 572-9887.

We were lucky with the weather in January and let's hope we will be again this month. If we are still catching the almost never rains again the event will be postponed until March.

The next clinic will be held March 16th.

Bob Sisson 1977

Steelhead at Dawn

Midnight finds me at my desk listening to some extraordinary Jazz on our last great radio station. The only other sound audible is the steady patter of rainfall on the roof. My fingers tie trout nymphs as if storing away interest bearing accounts for that soon to come trout season. I'm putting all the "English" I can on them...I want to trick lots of big trout this year. My mind wanders kindly back to the beginning of winter this year. It found me carefully noting the rainfall each day and watching the tides, the moon, my patience. It was a calculated risk, but it was also Saturday and I had gone to bed early for a Friday nite. There's only a couple of things that will get me up at five A.M. and BIG FISH is number one.

While watching the speed sign and familiar landmarks on the way to the fishing hole I picture in my mind the perfect scenario, and wonder...will they be in? Finally, waders and rain gear on and me wet before sun-up. Rigged with a fast sink shooting head for the high water, the ritual begins...cast, drift, cast, drift.

Just after seven enough light bounces off the sky to allow me a glimpse of the landscape, and life beginning for the day. It is raining, the water is dark and moving well. I've picked my spot, and there is no one else to be seen. The wind is causing some chop and white caps on the water. I check my landmarks up to my waist in very cold water. Summer homes now lived in year round start to come into focus. I dial in my choice of flies, beg enough for the mud, the right tint for the morning, and some weight for the roily waters. Slap, slap, slap, I wonder how many hours of casting will be required before a bite, or until I leave without a sign of fish? I count down the sink to occupy my mind, five, six, seven. With my, "mind in China", and my eyes on a big sea of choppy water, a strange feeling comes out-of-the- blue...my line leaving my stripping hand! Whoa...what's this? Then fifteen feet from where my fly was a wide silvery steelhead clears the water. As I raise my rod high, she pulls out my small pile of red Amnesia from the water and I feel the tension on my reel. Then she is out of the water again, flipping in jackknife fashion, I crank, she runs again, Zzzzzzzzzzzzzz. The sound most loved by fisherman, a reel yielding line to the incredible pull of a fish, like the hiss of that first beer of the day being opened, or the recess bell in the days of grade school. Then she is out of the water again, after which my senses tell me that she is coming at me full speed. I crank as fast as possible to keep up, to find her now turning and running.

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzz....Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. What a spirit, again, Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz, out of the water, rod tip bowing, the reel gives more line.

Momentarily I try to get a count of her jumps out of that

cold water, more jumps than I can remember of fish in the past. I love the feel of the stretch on the line, leader and Amnesia as she pulls hard against me amazing me of the strength of knots and lines, almost uttering a prayer that they hold up.

Finally she turns, slowing, tiring, giving in a little. I look to my side wondering if any of the house lights have come on, possibly someone has vicariously lived this beside me, one light, probably not. The steelhead comes in with beautiful wakes as she will do dater in some narrow tailout far from this place. The barbless hook almost falls out to my touch, I couldn't imagine need in a hemostat. I quickly direct her back towards the center of the water. A twenty-seven inch hen with just a slight blush of red to her cheeks swims off with strength and determination, with better things to do, deadlines to keep, friends to meet.

Inside a voice asks...Did this really happen? Only seven-thirty and you've caught a fish. The textbook play, the quick release. shortly thereafter I walked towards my truck, thankful, overjoyed. Binding my friend I had seen in almost a year, like a chance occurrence of old friends in some distant airport, unexpected, too good to be true, as if beating the giant progressive slot at Vegas, finding a lost contact lens.

As the rain lets up a little, while studying my nymphs, I feel that brain-stomach feedback loop again, kind of like that early winter morning surprise, knowing that these nymphs gotta catch some beautiful fish. Will I be taken again by surprise when I least suspect? You bet!

Original manuscript by Roger Magill, Ed.



Bass Class
Noon O'clock
Saturday, Mar. 15, 1967

Roger Magill will be giving a class on equipment, presentation, various retrieves and fly selection at the north end of the dam on Spring Lake. The lake is ringed by tules in the area of the presentation so a float tube or pram is necessary to benefit fully from the class. There will be an evening get together during the week before the class so all participants can assemble the necessary flies, rods and other equipment necessary for the outing. If you're interested in signing up for the class give Roger a call at 578-8819 or 876-3308. *Ed.*

The Conservation *Line* **Raising Hackles**

Included in my initiation rites as a new board member was the selection on my duties. Like all rites and rituals, a certain amount of fun was derived in doing this, plus I seem to bring this out in people. I've always enjoyed writing and took several semesters of journalism in high school and mentioned this to the board since Chuck Perry had time coming when he would be unable to put out *The Cast*. The board agreed that they had found a spot for me and also solved an age old problem. More duties were dished-out, then the topic of conservation came up, bringing-up memories of our last board member to this post: Harry, my friend and estranged club member, (having been displaced to Monterey, where the women and jobs are better than the fishing!). I got to going over some of my pet peeves concerning streams when Tim Grogan lights up, a smile from ear to ear and brows raising his already pulled back ball cap, "Wait a minute, (almost chuckling), Roger, you're on conservation, someone else can do the paper..." and thus it was born, a ranting and raving journalist with a deep love for nature and flyfishing.

Before I write one more word of what I hope to be a long and beneficial relationship, I must give kudos to our club and the people that encourage others to be the best that they can. Thanks.

Mush stuff aside, let's get down to the topic. I was in the Angler the other day stocking up some supplies for my trek to Oregon when I met a fellow from Bozeman, Montana. I asked what type of work he did there to which he answered working on a cattle ranch. Concerning the relationship of cows on streams versus the survival of fish, (my pet peeve number one!), he explained that if you fence the cattle off the stream the deer will take over and intimated in so many words that it was a draw either way.

All the way home I could not get my mind off that conversation, even with the knowledge that I was now in possession of the last piece of the formula for, (finally), being successful on Oregon's tough rivers.

My thoughts are as follows. Number one: I think a cow weighs a significant amount more than a deer and hence caves in a lot more bank, widening and thinning out the water with resultant siltation. If you've watched a herd of cattle near a stream, and a herd of deer you will notice quite a difference. The deer move carefully and rather delicately, alert to danger at all times. They do not hang

around casually. They cone down and drink, I seem to recall they do not usually get their feet wet), and get back to cover. One need only look at the tracks left behind to, "weigh", the harm. Number two: a cow produces 70 pounds of manure and 36 pounds of urine daily, deer a fraction of that. Farming animals, almost by definition, seeks to raise more animals on a space than it would be capable of naturally. In waster basins this may ultimately mean more nitrates in the streams. Number three: this reason may seem rather philosophical but, deer are natural and native to the area. The balance of nature should regulate their domain. The cows, however, are regulated by profit. Man has some choice in how he regulates himself and his exploitations, but clearly nature has no choice.

In the distance a buzzer sounds: Deer 3; Cows 0.

Original manuscript by Roger Magil, Ed.



Coming Events

Feb. 12, 1997	RRFF General Meeting
Feb. 15, 1997	Garcia, Gualala, Alder Creek Exploratory Day * (Scotty Broome (575-5993))
Mar 3, 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. The rivers may be interchanged if conditions demand it.

General Meeting

with

Mike "Bernard" Swaney

Mike is a long time Sebastopol resident and has guided forever on the Russian and on Lake Sonoma since it filled during the Valentine's Day storm some years back. He is the president of the local TU chapter and has some interesting new information about access to the Russian resulting from TU's law suit against the state of California. If you want to fish locally, this is your best chance to get first hand information on the how and where.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Feb 12th, 1997
Santa Rosa Vet's. Building

Fly tying 6:30 P.M.
General Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Got A Minute?

Actually we need a little more time than a minute, but a couple of hours of your time would be a big help. The Discovery Center in conjunction with the RRFF is giving some youngsters a chance to be introduced to our sport, fly fishing. Those children interested will be attending the casting clinic on February 16th, 1997. Bob Sisson has asked for some help in coaching these beginners. If you have a couple of hours you are willing to spend at the casting pond giving instructions, give Bob a call at 545-3721. The RRFF has a number of outfits we can use for this introduction but if you have a suitable rod & reel and wouldn't mind loaning it to a child for a few casts we might have a real need for it. At the time of this writing the number of children participating is not available.

Jim Cramer is planning to spend a few hours introducing interested children to the fly tying aspects of our sport. More volunteers would be appreciated. Give Steve Tubbs a call at 765-1787 if you can help out with this effort. Your help would be greatly appreciated. *Ed.*

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)
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 Magill (876-3308)
At Large: Ted Adkins (763-4440)

The tier's Corner

Jim Cramer

Threads, threads and more threads. A recent article listed some 66 different options and they even missed a few of the newer ones. As I mentioned in a previous column I believe that today's threads and genetic hackle are the two greatest advancements for today's tiers. Years ago silk was the material of choice, although I started with my mom's cotton sewing thread because I didn't know any better. Silk had some major disadvantages, namely it rotted and changed color when wet. Next came nylon and the early versions were nothing more than thin versions of rod winding thread.

The next big advancement as I recall was a thread called Nymo. It was a strong thread with a slight twist that was easy to use and came in a multitude of colors. Size "A" which was the most common was too heavy for the real small stuff but was great for the larger wets and steelhead patterns. I still have a supply of Nymo on wooden spools. One spool is stamped 19 cents!

Today we have nylon and polyester as the two most common threads, followed by Kevlar, monofilament, gel-spun polyethylene and, of course, silk is still available. Nylon has more stretch than polyester. I don't know if this is a plus or a minus; you can put a awful lot of pressure on something by wrapping it with a rubber band. Both nylon and polyester are available in a wide choice of colors, sizes and types of thread which I'll cover in a minute. Kevlar and gel-spun polyethylene are stronger, more expensive and provide fewer color choices. Monofilament threads come in two sizes, fine and ultra-fine and two colors, clear and smoke.

After the material choices there are four construction choices. Threads are available in flat or untwisted, simple twist, rope twist and round only in the monofilament threads. The rope twist is like rod winding thread and is not used much today except on salt water jigs, deer hair popper construction etc. Its construction makes for a strong thread for the diameter but it doesn't lie flat and make a smooth looking fly. As far as flat vs. simple twist I don't find a lot of difference. The mere act of wrapping the thread around the hook will but a clock-wise twist in it. Which brings up the first tip. To get smoother heads on your flies give your bobbin a good counter clock-wise spin (as viewed from the top) to remove the thread twist before making the final wraps and whip finish. One application where I really do insist on the flat thread is when covering lead wire wraps. I use heavy thread and I take care by

spinning the bobbin to get a nice flat covering over the lead.

The next choice about threads is waxed or unwaxed. I can't see a whole lot of difference as there is so little wax used. One could argue minute pros and cons but it is not worth the effort. For my touch method of dubbing I always add wax anyway and it's a must when dubbing on mono thread.

Now a few comments about thread usage. We all break thread now and again. Sometimes we snag it on the hook point or a burr on the eye of the hook. Sometimes when we are pulling the whip finish closed the twist in the thread will cause it to wad up and break. I once had an old bobbin that I could find nothing wrong with but it consistently broke my thread. Fly tying is supposed to be fun and breaking thread is not fun so I tossed it. End of problem. Once in a great while you may get a spool of bad thread. If you are sure it is not your technique the best solution may be to toss it also. Most thread breakage however, is the result of too much tension by the tier. If you are a new tier or using a strange thread I recommend that you calibrate yourself and the thread by wrapping it around the hook and breaking it several times before you get started. It takes only a couple of minutes and it's easier than when you are in the middle of a fly. In general you will want to tie at near the maximum strength of the thread for the most durable flies. There are some exceptions to this, for example, to keep deer hair tails from flaring you need to ease up on the thread tension as you near the base of the tail and tighten as you wrap forward over the butts.

To get the most from your threads use the type that is most appropriate for the task at hand even if it means changing threads during the course of tying a fly. You can also color code your flies to indicate the amount of lead wire you used to weight them by adding a small band of color on the head. For example; red, (3 letters) not much lead; blue, (4 letters) medium lead; green, (5 letters) heavy lead.

Thread size is another topic to be covered another time.



RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 P.M., Monday, Mar. 3, 1997

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

Stream Etiquette

Basic stream etiquette is really nothing more than simple courtesy - the same as obeying "traffic laws" is simple courtesy. Following are a few of the more common "traffic laws" that should be obeyed on the stream.

RIGHT OF WAY: When fishing downstream, yield the right-of-way to another angler working upstream. By wading downstream, you are more likely to ruin the water for the fisherman working upstream than vice versa. Although this old rule originated in the days when a dry fly was fished upstream and a wet fly was fished down, the rule still applies today.

GO AROUND: When fishing along a stream and you come upon another angler, head for the bank and walk around him so as to avoid spooking his fish. Give the other angler plenty of room.

DON'T CROWD: An angler always has the right to fish his spot unmolested. It is NEVER acceptable to cast to another angler's fish, even if he's fishing your favorite spot!

RESTING THE WATER: If you come upon a fisherman sitting on the bank or merely standing in the water, ask if he's "resting the water," before you fish it yourself. Remember: resting or stalking a fish is just the same as casting to it.

DON'T LITTER: don't throw candy wrappers, beer cans, etc. either in the stream or on the bank. "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footsteps," is a good adage to follow.

DON'T TRESPASS: If you are given permission to cross private land in order to reach a stream, be sure you close gates behind you, don't build unauthorized fires and carry out your trash when you leave.

OBEY ALL FISHING REGULATIONS: Besides practicing the simple rules of courtesy, be sure you obey all fishing regulations.

NEVER BREAK A CONFIDENCE: When someone tells you about a "secret spot," it's assumed that you won't tell anyone else without permission.

USE BARBLESS HOOKS—PRACTICE, "CATCH AND RELEASE"

(By Norm Stevenson, Diablo Fly Fisherman)

Did'ya Know?

Our local public TV station, Channel 22, KRCB, has a 1/2 hour weekly program on fly tying featuring Dave Engerbretson and Leroy (?). The program is titled, "Fly Tying, The Angler's Art". Broadcast time is Saturday afternoon at 3:30 PM. My sister was channel surfing on Friday, 1/24/97, saw the program and hollered at me to, "Come see". I called KRCB and was given the Saturday afternoon time as the programs regular broadcast time. The three flies tied during the segment I watched were the Woolly Worm, Woolly Bugger and Montana Nymph. The programs are available, three to a tape for \$22.95 plus \$3.95(?) shipping and handling. The number to call is 1-(800)-883-0124 if you would like to order any of the tapes. If you have additional details on this series, give me a call, fill me in and I'll get the info into a future edition of *The Cast*.

If you know about other programs of this ilk let me know and I'll spread the word. *Ed*



Know This Member?

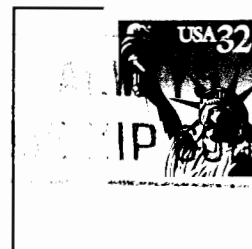
Are you an active member
the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that
your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and
mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay home and criticize and
knock?
Do you take an active part to help the
work along?
Do you push the cause and make things
really tick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk
about the "clique"?
Think this over, member, you know
right from wrong.
Are you an "active" member
or do you "just belong"?

Anonymous

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 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 3
Mar. 1997

The Pres sez: Spring tease...

Haven't I been here before? Teased...tantalized...tempted...by an apparition of Spring dancing before me...inviting me to put away my winter thoughts and turn my attentions to the sun. It's a cruel game, one I play warily, being one who prefers sunshine, warmth, cloudless skies and the comfort of shorts and T-shirts. Already the first buds are appearing on the trees, recruited in this attempt to catch me off guard, along with the roses and their impressive display of new growth. It seems as if every morning, lately, the song birds announce the rising of the sun in a crisp, clear blue sky. The moon has been lingering as well, in no hurry to give up the dawn but content to fade away in the building daylight. I've watched it, this past week, every morning. Sitting on the deck with my coffee, wondering if I dare give in just yet, knowing that it could just be a tease. And yet the anticipation builds. I'm trying not to look over my shoulder. I'm happy with the sun. I will suspend time, forget the fact that March has just begun, in my longing for the sun to stay.

There have been some absolutely gorgeous days lately. And somehow these days have even found the weekends, linking one beautiful week with another, instead of succumbing to that other teasing game that so often marks this time of year. Rainy weekends have joined the allies, I suspect, in trying to convince me that Nature is through with winter, and wetness, this year and that the sun is worthy of my trust. Yet I remain skeptical. The past two years haunt me. I had hoped early on then too. But this year...

Today, I'm beginning to think that I may have been wise to hold out. The clouds have silently returned, ushered by a chill on a breeze that is becoming a little more than slight. When silhouetted against that familiar white, the bare branches of the neighborhood trees bring winter alive again. Without the sun, the birds seem quieter and the chill lingers. The windows have been closed. The heater is on. Only the fact that the days are longer now takes issue with this being

any day in January. That, and the feeling that the clouds above me don't quite have their heart in winter either. At least so far. As night fell, they still appeared undecided, patchy, with hints of the clear blue above them peeking slightly through and splashed with tinges of orange almost strong enough to hit the earth with setting sun.

But Spring is close. Whether I'm being set-up or not, every day of sunshine brings it closer. In their attempts to trick me, the conspirators risk more with each beautiful day. I'll hold out! There is a point, I think, where the sun's hold becomes strong enough to become *my* ally. That point where "Spring has sprung". Little League baseball begins tomorrow, our first practice of a new season, dependent only on a chance of rain. I prefer to look at it as a local groundhog day. If it rains, maybe I'll postpone my anticipation and pursuit of the sun and resign myself to another year like last year and the year before. But it's been so nice! Perhaps a day or two of "unsettled" weather are not enough to suspend hope. Perhaps I should wait before throwing in the towel. Beautiful days seem to have a way of building on each other, and my desire for the sun is strong.

Fishing has not been far from my thoughts, and it has found it's way into my dreams frequently the past two months. I've not had a lot of time to indulge my pastime lately, and now, with baseball (coaching) getting underway, the familiar juggling act adds another ball. My thoughts move forward to the trout opener next month, our RRFF end of April jaunt to Hat Creek and surrounding waters. Last years trip was great, blessed with sunny skies, good fishing and about 18 club members sharing five adjoining campsites at the Cassel PG&E campground. Start making your plans now to attend this event. There is so much water to fish, in the Hat Creek / Fall River area, that opening day crowds can be avoided if you wish. Or you can stand shoulder to shoulder at the Powderhouse riffle, if that's what turns you on. Lee Smith and I spent last year's opening day on a small spring creek and saw only two other anglers for the entire time we were there! I will again be one of the hosts for this club outing, so if you have any questions about it you can call me. We will be talking about it at our general meetings as well.

This month's general meeting, Wednesday, March 12, features Ken Hanley and his program on Western Bass Fishing. Bob Neill and I had a chance to see this show up at the NCCFFF Conclave at Lake Tahoe last fall and it is excellent. Ken is a dynamic speaker and his love for this sport is apparent in his presentations. Some of you may remember the last time he spoke to the RRFF on fly fishing for sharks in Monterey Bay. His Western Bass program explores many of the topics put forth in his recent book *Ken Hanley's Fly Fishing Afoot for Western Bass*. This is a great show and an excellent primer for our local spring bass fishing. Join us at the Lodge Room of the Veteran's Memorial Building - fly tying begins at 6:30 P.M.

The Candidate Slate for the upcoming election of club officers and board members is printed in this issue. If you wish to serve on the board, and your name is not already on the slate, please contact one of the current board members with your desire. We are looking for new input. If you would like to get the most out of your RRFF membership, help out on the board. I joined the board four years ago after being a RRFF member for only one year. There is no better way to gain full benefit of your membership. The board meets once a month, other than the general meetings, and as needed to cover any special events that may arise.

With this beautiful weather, I know there are at least a few club members who are fishing. I've heard a few tales already. Bring your fishing reports Wednesday and we'll continue to fuel this spring fever. Hope to see all of you there.

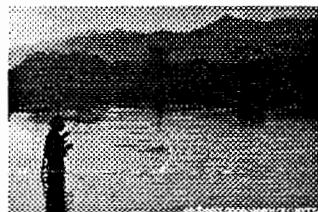
Clear skies and screamin' reels,

Steve Tubbs

Date: SUNDAY, Mar 16, 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**



The pond and the pond area continue to be in first class shape. All practice and instructional set-ups are awaiting your use. there will be a beginners session at 10 A.M. if there are people who sign up. The regular members clinic will begin at noon. If you know of someone who would like to participate in the early session and who may need equipment, have them contact Brian Wong at Lyle's Tackle and Travel. Brian can be reached at 572-9987. If anyone would like to use the club equipment, contact president Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

the weather for the February clinic was as good as anyone could ask for. Let's hope it will be more of the same for the March event. If the rains have returned or are forecast to on the 16th. the clinic will be postponed until April.

the next scheduled clinic will be held April 20th.

Bob Sisson 1977

Swap 'N Shop

At the February meeting the RRFF board decided to provide a "Swap and Shop," table at the general meetings on the 2nd Wednesdays. Members can bring any fishing related items they no longer want for sale or trade to others attending the general meeting. The security of all items is the responsibility of the owners. No one is assigned the responsibility of overseeing the table so it would be a good idea to tag any items you might bring with your name and its asking price. Owners must remove any unsold items at the end of the meeting as the RRFF has no place to store any unsold items.

Ed.

Russian River Fly Fishers 1997 Candidate Slate

Following is the list of returning board members and nominees to be included on the 1997 ballot for the May election of officers and board members for the Russian River Fly Fishers. The offices of President and Vice President are elected each year by the membership to serve a one year term. The remaining board positions are elected for a two year term. Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the board, as are the various duties of each of the board members.

1997 Candidate Slate

President

1. Paul Major
- 2.

Vice President

1. Scott Broome
- 2.

New Board Members

1. Lori Nyholm
2. Noel Plumb
3. Larry Johnson
4. Bob Sisson (incumbent)
5. Steve Tubbs (incumbent)
- 6.
- 7.

Returning Board Members (serving second year of current term)

1. Lee Smith
2. Tim Barrett
3. Dwight Longuevan
4. Tim Grogan
5. Marji Major (first year by appointment)
6. Rodger Magill
7. Mike Nyholm
8. Bob Neill
9. Shawn Kempkes

Nominations will be accepted and included on the ballot if received before the March 31st Board of Directors meeting. Submit inclusions to any of the current board members or officers.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a great way to get the maximum benefit and enjoyment out of the Russian River Fly Fishers. The board meets monthly, the Monday prior to the week of the general meeting. Board members establish programs, plan special events, organize club outings and determine policy when necessary. Each board member has

a specific area(s) of club activity that they take responsibility for, and they serve as the coordinator or chairperson for that activity, recruiting and organizing additional help from the general club membership or from other board members as needed. If you would like to be involved in setting the course that our club will be taking in the future, submit your name for inclusion on the ballot. You get out of the club what you're willing to contribute to it. We have been extremely fortunate to have had some truly devoted individuals these past few years who have worked very hard to make our club the strong and successful organization that it is. With your help, we can continue in this positive direction, strengthening the RRFF with new ideas and energy. In return for your time, you will get the chance to work with some outstanding individuals (and fisherman) who truly love this sport that has brought us all together.

Shad Scenario

Bill Adelman is doing a shad presentation at the Outdoor Pro Shop in Rohnert Park on Saturday, March 29, 1997 at 10 A.M. The cost of admission is \$5 with proceeds going to benefit the United Anglers, a group that has worked long and hard to improve our local striper populations.

Bill Adelman guides for shad on the Sacramento, American, Yuba and Feather rivers. I heard his presentation at the last San Mateo Expo and learned more in a half hour than I had deduced in several years of shad fishing. This could be a real positive learning experience if you're into shad fishing or "wanabe", into it. *Ed.*

Bargain Buys

I talked to Mike Lisignoli recently. Mike was a member of the RRFF in the early days and was a professional tier before the club made its debut on the local scene. Mike was a unique combination of talents and skills. He tied flies professionally yet didn't fly fish. He raised his own birds to produce necks in the days before Hoffman, Metz and the other producers got into the game. Mike no longer ties flies and has decided to clear out his collection of books, materials and memorabilia. If you're interested in seeing what his collection contains you can reach him at 542-7725. *Ed.*

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 P.M., Monday, Mar. 31, 1997
Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza
2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA

General Meeting with Ken Hanley

Among other things Ken is an educator, West Coast Editor for *Saltwater Fly Fishing Magazine*, a columnist and Contributing Editor for *California Fly Fisher* and *California Angler* and author of the *California Fly Tying and Fishing Guide*. Come listen to him expound on *Catching Western Bass*.

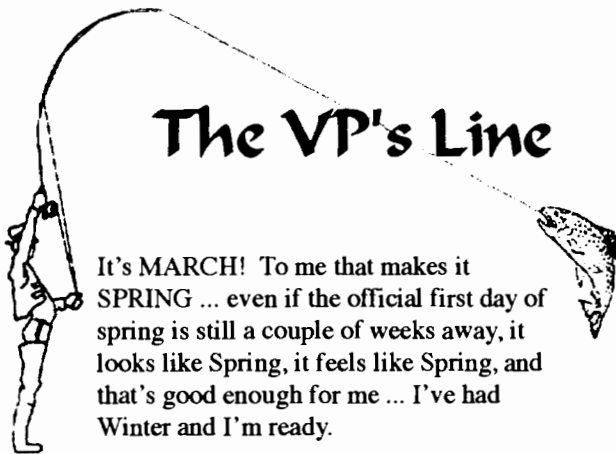
COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Mar 12th, 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



It's MARCH! To me that makes it SPRING ... even if the official first day of spring is still a couple of weeks away, it looks like Spring, it feels like Spring, and that's good enough for me ... I've had Winter and I'm ready.

It's time to get the boat out from under the winter tarp, get the batteries charged, and go see if the Lake Sonoma bass have begun to move up out of their deep water winter hang-outs.

It's time to take the four-weight down to the casting pond and try to get the light rod timing back after four months of seven- and eight-weights. Getting those 15-foot leaders to turn over is SO different after a season of shooting heads and weighted flies.

It's time to sit down and start cranking out some of the amazing spring creek flies that Bob Norman has been teaching us to tie in the class he's currently conducting down at West-

ern Angler. Bob's spinners and loopwing drys, which is what we've covered so far, are just incredible patterns; easy to tie and, in my opinion, as much an advancement over other patterns as were the "new" parachutes, comparaduns, etc. over the traditional Catskill patterns. I'm hoping to prevail on Bob to demonstrate his techniques again this year at our fly tying meeting, and if you ever have a chance to take a class from Bob I recommend that you jump all over it!

It's also time to start recruiting talent for our April Fly Tying Meeting ... the famous Tie-O-Rama! I'll be wheedling and arm-twisting some of the same great tyers we had last year, but I'm also looking for fresh meat, as it were. I'm particularly hot to get someone to demonstrate spun hair-bodied flies, whether bass bugs or steelhead drys ... is there anyone out there who would share their technique with fellow members? If you're out there, PLEASE get in touch with me ... I'm also looking for any RRFF member who has any technique, pattern, or particular type of fly they would like to teach to the rest of us. Let's not be hiding our lights under the bushel, guys.

It's also time to start thinking seriously about joining the gang on some of our upcoming Club Outings such as the opening-day Bash at Hat Creek, the Road 48 Shad trip, or the American River/Goethe Park Exploratory.

God, but I do love Springtime!

WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN A ROSS REEL • WIN A AFLOAT TUBE • WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN

3rd annual

FREE!!



FLY FISHING FAIR

AND 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday • May 17th • 10am to 5pm

WESTERN SPORT SHOP

902 THIRD STREET • SAN RAFAEL, CA

meet in person!

Lani Waller

Dave Whitlock • Andy Burk

Ken Hanley • Seth Norman • John McKim

let the pros show you how & where

New Products Demonstrations • Free Casting Lessons

Meet the Reps for all Major Brands & Test the Latest from:

Sage • Scott • Loomis • Powell • Winston • Reddington • St Croix

Check out the newest in:

Reels • Clothing • Tying Vices • Waders • Boots • Flies • Tools

Float Tubes • Tying Materials • Accessories & More!

Fly Tying Demonstrations & Workshops

Travel • Guides • Book Signings



902 THIRD STREET

SAN RAFAEL, CA

(415) 456-5454

• WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN A ROSS REEL • WIN A AFLOAT TUBE • WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN

WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN A ROSS REEL • WIN A AFLOAT TUBE • WIN A SAGE ROD • WIN

What's New at Western Angler?

532 College Avenue, Santa Rosa

(707) 542-4432

Get Ready for a Great Time... Lefty Kreh to Appear at Western, San Rafael

If we were you, we'd start thinking *now* of a good excuse to leave work early on Thursday, January 28, 1998. (Luckily, we don't have to.) Why? It will be a rare chance to "set a spell" and visit one-on-one with flyfishing legend Lefty Kreh.

Oh, you can always count on Lefty to make an appearance at the International Sportsman's Exhibition *and a few thousand other people there to see him.*

The difference is that Lefty will be doing an afternoon full of activities just for customers of Western. What, for instance? He'll do workshops on **knot tying, fly tying and outdoor photography.**

After that, we'll take a dinner break (about 6 to 7:30) and Lefty will conduct a **casting workshop** (indoors-due to darkness and weather) in a nearby auditorium.

If you haven't had a chance to speak with this warm, humorous and extremely knowledgeable icon, stay tuned for more details as we approach **January, 1998.** (Think it's kind of early to be talking about it already? Just think, we had to make the arrangements *last year!*)

Norman's Class a Home Run! Bob Signs On for a Double Header...

If you missed Bob Norman's excellent tying class in February, demand has required us to add another set of 3 classes during March.

The set of three classes will be on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 on March 11, 18 & 25.

This will be the last go-around for Bob on these particular patterns for awhile. If you want to sign up, give the shop a call (542-4432) and get on the list right away!

New Materials Arrive

Western Angler is now carrying the outstanding materials by Nature's Spirit including **Turkey Biot Quils and Flats, Cul de Canard, Campara Dun Hair, Micro Fibits and Darlon.** Excellent quality! Come on in and check 'em out.

Thinking about Fishin' ? Think about Safety, too!

With the season fast approaching and fast water also in the foreseeable future, don't forget to get as geared up for living 'til the next season as you are for fishing during this season. Inflatable SOSpenders, if you're not aware of them, are available at Western and we'd be pleased to show you how they're used.

Many lake managers are now requiring a personal floatation device for float tubers and these qualify.

Consider, too, the addition of a wading belt when venturing into major rivers. We've heard a number of accounts of close-calls from customers during the past year and the investment may save your life. Don't be a victim of "It won't happen to me" thinking. We need you. So does your family.

Book Review..

Just Released!

Seth Norman's "Fly Fisher's Guide to Northern California"

If you're interested in learning more about quality flyfishing opportunities within easy driving range, this new volume by Seth Norman is just the ticket for you. The author of the well-received "Meanderings of a Fly Fisherman" has just released his most recent work and it is *flying* off the shelf in both our stores. We'd guess it's because it the first comprehensive edition to be attempted by a nationally known author.

Covered are major waters such as the Sacramento, Yuba, Fall, McCloud and Trinity as well as spring creeks, ponds and private waters. And Norman provides detailed maps for each showing mileage, access and camping facilities. In addition, he also provides clues on techniques and timing, tackle, hatches and the most useful fly patterns. This 368 page book will save you years of trial and error whether you're a veteran or a novice. (\$26.95)

Once you've had a chance to spend some time with it, be sure to bring it to our 3rd Annual Fly Fishing Fair, along with any questions. Seth has said he will be happy to sign any copies Fair attendees bring or purchase at the Fair (May 17, 1997).

Don't Miss Western's 3rd Annual Fly Fishing Fair - May 17
Turn over for the details
Next Month-The Event/Seminar Schedule

JOIN FISHING INTERNATIONAL FOR SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING FISHING & HUNTING IN THE WORLD!

FLY RODDING FOR ALASKA'S "WILD" STEELHEAD

COOK S INLET, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 1997

6 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS FISHING

6 Anglers

Escorted by Bob Norman, veteran hunting & fly fishing guide in Northern California for 17 years. An avid Salt Water fly fisher, Bob has fished the flats in the Bahamas, Florida Key, Yucatan and Belize.

Alaska offers some of the best steelhead fishing in the world. Fishing International has reserved an absolute prime time for some real exiting steelhead fishing. The three rivers we will be fishing are small, easy wading, have good access and "sight" fishing primarily with floating lines.

If that is not enough....There is "trophy" rainbow fishing available on the upper Kenai River.

Rate per person is \$ 2850.00

UPLAND BIRD HUNTING & STEELHEAD FISHING OREGON

NOVEMBER 1 - 8, 1997

5 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS HUNTING & FISHING

4 People

Escorted by Bob Norman, veteran hunting & fly fishing guide in Northern California for 17 years. An avid Salt Water fly fisher, Bob has fished the flats in the Bahamas, Florida Key, Yucatan and Belize.

This trip offers fantastic upland bird hunting for wild chukar, hungarian partridge, rough grouse & quail. You'll be hunting with professional guides over well trained bird dogs on privately leased land, and BLM land.

The steelhead fishing on the Grande Ronde River is legendary, offering anglers a rare opportunity to catch steelhead on a fly. The river is easily waded, and the fish are aggressive to the fly.

Rate per person is \$1500.00.

SAILFISH ON THE FLY ROD ZIHUATANEJO - MEXICO

NOVEMBER 1- 8, 1997

7 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS FISHING

10 Anglers

Escorted by Didier Van der Veecken, veteran salt water fly fishing guide for billfish in Baja. Didier guided in Cabo San Lucas for 9 years, specializing in billfishing with fly rod. Prior to Mexico, Didier was captain for 8 years in the Seychelles Islands, Indian Ocean.

Zihuatanejo offers the best opportunity to catch sailfish using a fly rod. This little fishing harbor has kept the charm of "Old Mexico".

Anglers fish two per 25ft. Mexican Panga and will be accommodated at the Hotel Sotavento at "Playa La Ropa", two people per Ocean View Terrace Suite.

Rate per person is \$1225.00

FLY FISHING THE "REMOTE" FLATS OF CROOKED ISLAND BAHAMAS

MAY 24 - 31, 1997

6 Anglers

Escorted by Bob Norman, veteran hunting & fly fishing guide in Northern California for 17 years. An avid Salt Water fly fisher, Bob has fished the flats in the Bahamas, Florida Key, Yucatan and Belize.

The hundreds of square miles of virgin flats are comprised of crystal clear water, mangrove cays, patches of turtle grass and white sandy (hard bottom) flats known as the "Bight of Acklins".

The bonefishing is described by the few anglers that have fished these flats, as "unbelievable!" Schools of 200 to 300 bonefish are common with a lot of singles and pairs to cast too. The average size bonefish is 5 pounds!! With lots of 10 pounders, and singles to test your skills! There is also a good population of permit, tarpon and monster "cudas."

The "mother ship", a 48 ft. catamaran will accommodate 6 people. The guides are extremely knowledgeable and hard working. Anglers fish two per 16ft. flats skiffs. About 95% of the fishing will be wading.

Rate per person is \$ 2275.00

We cover the World of Fishing...

ALASKA: Five species of Pacific salmon, (king, silver, sockeye, pink, & chum), halibut, rockfish, northern pike, grayling, rainbow trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden, cut-throat trout, lake trout, & steelhead (stream, river, lake and saltwater fishing). Deluxe Fly-out lodges, wilderness camps, float trips, non fly-out operations, corporate retreats, big game & waterfowl hunting, Eco tours.

ARGENTINA & CHILE: Rainbow trout, brown trout, sea-run brown trout, freshwater dorado, waterfowl & upland hunting. Deluxe lodges, float trips, wilderness camps. Patagonia, Tierra Del Fuego, Buenos Aires, Parana River.

AUSTRALIA: 1000 pound black marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, tuna, dolphin, wahoo, barramundi. Gameboat charters, private yachts, live aboards, Lizard Island. Freshwater/estuary fishing, float trips, helicopter fishing. New Guinea, Papuan Black Bass.

BAHAMAS: Bonefish, tarpon, permit, barracuda, jacks, snapper, blue marlin, sailfish, wahoo, tuna dorado. Flats fishing lodges, private yacht live aboards, gameboat charters.

BELIZE: Bonefish, tarpon, permit, snook, barracuda, jacks, snapper, diving, snorkeling, jungle excursions, Mayan ruin exploration. Flats fishing lodges, dive/fish combo lodges, private yacht live aboards, jungle lodges, Eco lodges.

BERMUDA: blue marlin, wahoo, tuna. Private gameboat charters

BRAZIL: Amazon River fishing for peacock bass. River boat programs.

CANADA: Five species of Pacific salmon, (king, silver, sockeye, pink, & chum), halibut, rockfish, northern pike, grayling, rainbow trout, Arctic char, Dolly Varden, cut-throat trout, lake trout, steelhead, walleye, smallmouth bass, New Brunswick Atlantic Salmon, Nova Scotia Bluefin Tuna (stream, river, lake and saltwater fishing) Deluxe Fly-out lodges, wilderness camps, float trips, non fly-out operations, & corporate retreats, big game & waterfowl hunting.

COSTA RICA: Tarpon, snook, jacks, guapote, mojarra, sailfish, marlin, tuna, dorado, roosterfish, snapper. Pacific Coast Lodges, Private gameboats, Live aboards, deluxe hotels (Quepos - Golfito) East Coast Lodges, (Rio Colorado, Rio Parismina, Tortuguero), Heavy-tackle, light-tackle, & fly-fishing. Eco tours, National Parks, sightseeing, white water river rafting trips, jungle treks, flight seeing.

GUATEMALA: World's BEST Sailfishing! Private gameboats, hotels, private guides offering personal attention.

HONDURAS: Cannon Island Tarpon & Snook Ranch. Posada Del Sol, bonefish, permit. Diving & snorkeling.

MEXICO, Eastern: Ascension Bay Bonefish Club, bonefish, permit, tarpon, snook, jacks, and barracuda. Cancun & Cozumel, Atlantic sailfish, blue marlin, broadbill, tuna, dorado, bonefish, tarpon, snook, & permit. Gameboat charters, back country & flats fishing, deluxe hotels & resorts.

MEXICO, Western: Marlin, sailfish, broadbill, wahoo, tuna, dorado, roosterfish, jacks, snapper, grouper. Cabo San Lucas, East Cape, Sea of Cortez, Loreto, La Paz, Mazatlan, Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa. Deluxe resorts & hotels, private gameboats, watersports. Mexican Black Bass Camps, Lake Guerrero, Lake El Salto, Lake Baccarac.

NEW ZEALAND: Rainbow & brown trout fishing, North & South Islands. Classic lodge stays, fishing trains, helicopter fishing, bed & breakfasts, farm stays, waterfowl hunting. North Island, big game fishing out of Bay of Islands. Combination sightseeing & fishing itineraries.

RUSSIA: Kola Peninsula, Atlantic Salmon...BEST in the World! Kamchatka Peninsula, salmon, trout & steelhead.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Christmas Island, bonefish. Fiji, Big Game Fishing, tropical resorts. Hawaii, private off-shore charter boats.

VENEZUELA: La Guaira: Blue marlin, white marlin, broadbill, sailfish, dolphin, tuna Billfish Grand Slam! Rio Chico: Tarpon & snook. Los Roques: Bonefish atoll. Lake Guri: Peacock Bass. Rio Paragua: Peacock Bass, GIANT Payara.

UNITED STATES: Florida: Off-shore, flats, bass, & reef fishing. California: trout and private waters. Oregon: salmon sturgeon, steelhead, smallmouth bass • Utah: Green River • Colorado: Lee's Ferry & Elk Trout Lodge • Idaho: Salmon River • New Mexico: San Juan River • Montana: trout fishing, Big Horn River, Paradise Valley, spring creeks • Pennsylvania: Delaware River & more....

For information or reservations contact:

FISHING INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

4775 Sonoma Highway

Santa Rosa, California 95409

TEL (707) 539-3366 ~ FAX (707) 539-1320

Toll Free (800) 950-4242

* CST 1010581-10 *

E mail: fishint@WCO.com ~ www.fishinginternational.com

EVENTS

Please take a few minutes to answer the Dinner Survey. In an attempt to involve more members in our social activities, we would like to get your input. Remember, if you don't speak up, you won't be heard. You can deposit your survey in the box at the meeting or mail it to the RRFF P.O. box.

Our next dinner meeting is scheduled for June 7. The speaker will be John Shewey but the location has yet to be determined. The sign-up for the dinner will be in the next Cast.

The annual picnic will be July 12th at the casting pond. This is a family outing and is FREE to all members. The club provides hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, beans, sodas, etc. and a great opportunity to socialize. There will be a raffle and possibly games for the younger set. It is also a great time to bring your gear and toss a few lines. If you are interested in helping, please feel free to call me. I am particularly looking for someone who will not burn the buns.

RRFF DINNER SURVEY

Have you attended Club dinners? Yes ____ No ____ If not, why? _____

Date/Time ____ Price ____ Location ____ No Interest ____

Other _____

If you attend, why? Speaker/Program ____ Social ____

Other _____

If we had no speaker/program, would you attend? Yes ____ No ____

Other programs of interest _____

Please rank in order of importance to you:

_____ Raffle	Suggestions: _____
_____ Speaker/Program	_____
_____ Ambiance	_____
_____ Food	_____
_____ Location	_____
_____ Price	_____
_____ Other _____	Interest in helping? _____

Name/phone # for contact _____ (or call Marji Major at 539-5437 or 579-0990)

Thank You Mike Swaney

If you were among the minority that missed Mike's presentation at our February meeting, kick yourself-hard. Mike gave some intimate details on catching Lake Sonoma bass, exposed some hitherto little know facts on Lake Mendocino's stripers and put forth a time table for striped bass in the Mokelumne River. To top it all off, Mike did it all for free.

A sincere thanks Mike from all the members of the RRFF.

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: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)

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)

Events Chairwoman: Marji Major 539-5437

Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)

Club Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)



Beadhead flies took the U.S. fly fishing world by storm a few years ago. A high number of fly fishermen were introduced to them by guides in the Rocky Mountain states and they in turn carried them home while singing their praises. All sorts of reasons were given for their success, some valid and some almost ludicrous (I say 'almost' because in fishing one should always leave themselves a little slack).

Anyway let's back up and look at the picture a little closer. First beadheads are not all

that new. European and Japanese fly fishermen have been using them for a few hundred years. The U.S. fly fishermen were just way behind the times. I have in my collection about a dozen Japanese flies my uncle brought home from Japan at the end of WW II. They are very small, tied on gut snells and each is finished off with a very small gold bead head. The head may be made of lacquer but it has the appearance of a gold bead. And the reason that so many fishermen were introduced to beadheads by their Rocky Mountain guides was that they could put their clients into more fish. In the fast waters of those mountain areas the flies got down to where the fish were holding. Ergo, more fish and more happy clients. The guides being no dummies had learned a new trick from their visitors from overseas. Of course a number of the guides and more than a few outdoor writers tried to add a bit of glamor and mystic to the beadhead fly. You know, like, "the bead represents the air bubble that the insect carries down in the water with him", or "the flash of the bead triggers the strike". Balderdash!, but more socially acceptable to high minded flyfishers than to to explain it as a fancy brass sinker on the head of the fly. But things are changing; now it seems that everyone is using strike indicators, aka, bobbers, and split shot in a multitude of sizes to fish a nymph like we used to fish worms and salmon eggs as kids. The special skill of drifting an unweighted wet fly or nymph through a run and being in touch with it to the point you sense a take almost without feel or sight takes years of dedicated practice. I fear that it is fast becoming a lost art. The modern angler who fishes only once or twice a year doesn't have the time to develop this touch so we bait fish with a fly. Back to beadheads, I have a love-hate relationship with them. I don't find them pretty, they are not fun to tie, they are more difficult to cast, but on the other hand they are so effective. Even my heavy weighted flies couldn't match them in certain waters which bothered me. My powder scale provided the answer. A bare Mustad #9671, number 12 weighted 0.8 grains. The same hook with ten wraps of .015 lead wire weighed only 1.2 grains, and with ten wraps of .020 wire an even 2.0 grains total. So each wrap of .020 lead wire was equal to .12 grains, $[(2.0 - 0.8)/10]$. Note: Changing to a hook with a larger diameter shank will significantly change the weight per wrap.

Then I started weighing beads. The following table shows the results of my scales:

Bead Size	Ave bead	Equiv. wraps of .020 weight lead wire on #12 hook grains
1/16	0.7	5.8
1/16 soldered	1.12	9.3
1/8	1.27	10.5
1/8 soldered	2.44	20.3
5/32	2.86	23
5/32 soldered	3.91	32.6

Next I checked some other weights.

1/8" lead eyes	3.0 grains	25
5/32" lead eyes	6.47	54
3/16" lead eyes	11.68	97.3
7/32" Dazl eyes*	14.7	122.5
1/8" bead chain	2.24	18
3/16" bead chain	6.8	57

*(A brass dumbbell eye by Spirit River inc.)

Of course one would never use these larger weights on a size 12 hook and if one went to a larger hook they would most likely increase the wire diameter, but it does make the point that there are more effective ways to put weight on your flies than lead wire if you need to dredge the bottom.

This little experiment really opened my eyes. I had always assumed that 5 or 6 wraps of .020 wire under the thorax of of my nymphs was the equivalent of a 5/32" bead at the head. Twenty-three wraps is just about the maximum one can put

on a size 12, #9671 hook and 32 wraps would mean a double layer, a real pain with .020 wire. Am I going to quit using wire? Of course not! One does not always want their fly to sink like an anchor. But in very fast water it looks like beadheads and lead barbell eyes are the answer. Make your own opinions on the bead chain eyes.

Two things I always disliked about tying beadheads was the way the bead always covered part of the eye and I never felt that the bead was securely anchored to the hook shank. The recommended practice of forcing a few wraps of lead wire into the rear of the bead never worked too well for me. I solved both of these problems as well as adding more weight by soldering the bead to the hook. The process was simple. After putting the bead on the hook, place the eye of the hook in your vice jaws. Rotate the jaws so the hook shank is vertical and apply the solder iron (mine is an inexpensive pencil type 40 watt iron) to the bead. Using the thinnest rosin core solder you can find, feed it into the expanded hole at the back of the bead. Stop when the hole is full and let the solder set up before moving. I was worried at first that I would over heat the vice jaws so I used my old Thompsons vise. Nothing to worry about, the jaws didn't even get warm but watch out for those beads, they can really retain the heat. It is really quite a quick process once you get the hang of it.

Next I tried to solder some bead chain eyes on some Mustad #3407 hooks in preparation for tying some crazy Charlies. My efforts met with very limited success. If any of you readers can solve this problem I would like to hear about it. Now it is time to go tie some bead head Prince Nymphs.

Youth Corner

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself and the youth program to the general members. I have spoken briefly at some meetings, but I think an occasional article will help keep you up on events.

Dwight Longuevan and I have introduced a Boy Scout merit badge program to local Boy Scout Troop 121. What makes this unique is that while there is a fishing program, there isn't a Fly Fishing Merit Badge available. What we hope to do is similar to the rifle shooting merit badge. They later introduced a shot-gun program to the rifle badge and we would like to introduce a similar spin-off.

We have been approved as counselors to lead this program by the Boy Scouts of America after personal background checks. This is important in that whenever a session is taught, at least 2 parents must be present to help. This insures personal safety to the Scouts and maintains a high quality of leadership. I feel confident that with Dwight's experience in the industry and mine on the Little League fields coaching, we can develop an organized program that kids are enthusiastic about.

We have introduced fly-tying first and have had three classes averaging eight scouts and fathers each. Woolly Worms and Buggers were Step 1, then Step 2 will include either Elk Hair Caddis or Adams and a Zug Bug. The kids have turned out some fantastic work and we've been asked to perform and help teach at the Discovery Center on March 8th from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M.. I would also like to thank Doug Grutacao for his generous help in putting together six fly-tying kits with vises, thread and supplies.

As the youth director, the task at hand is to introduce the many aspects of fly fishing to kids in a simple and

organized manner with the right balance of enthusiasm and entertainment. It's a lot like Little League, you don't want to lose them in fundamentals, rather give them some knowledge and let them run with it.

What we are doing is laying a foundation to the Youth Program that can be built upon and passed on instead of over. If this Scout program works, it has to be made available to every Scout troop in every town, in every state. This might mean that some you you might be asked to help or lead in the future. It is something good to be a part of. We now have the rods and reels, the fly tying kits and the casting pond, now if we only had a place to teach....

Mike Nyholm and Dwight Longuevan

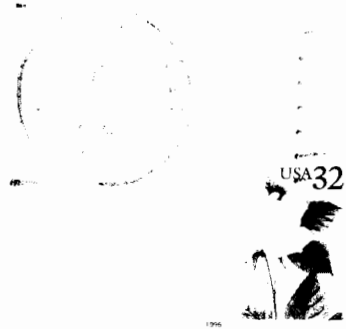
Fishing Fair

Western Sport Shop is doing a 3rd annual Fly Fishing Fair on Saturday May 17th, 1997 at their parent shop in San Rafael, 902 Third St. Featured at this event, among others will be Dave Whitlock, Lani Waller, (recent inductee into NCCFFF Hall of Fame, and Mel Kreiger. They set up a casting pond across the street so you can cast any of their rods, talk to fishing reps and enjoy a day of "talkin' fishin'". It's all free so y'all come!.

Bass Class

Roger Magill will be orchestrating his approach to fly fishing for bass at Spring Lake in Santa Rosa on Saturday March 15th at noon o'clock. Call him during the day at 578-8819 or evenings at 876-3308 to sign up and be notified of the pre-outing meeting.

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.

95404/6206 07



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 RRRF 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 4
Apr. 1997

The Pres sez: by Steve Tubbs

Let's Go Fishin' Now,...

Well... you may have heard by now that you missed it! If you gave up at our last general meeting, and let a little thing like a power outage force you home early, then you failed to enjoy a great slide program from one of the best speakers in our sport today.

I know it was a scramble. Thanks to Mike Neiters (for locating a suitable alternate site) - and a special thanks to Tony's Cafe (corner of Cleveland Ave. and Russell Ave.) for the use of their banquet room and the last minute hors d'oeuvres - Ken Hanley managed to deliver as promised. You would be hard pressed to find a speaker who shows more enthusiasm for our sport. We were treated to an hour in the bass world, where Ken shared his knowledge of stillwaters and bass habitat with the 40 (or so) die-hards that refused to quit early and had followed him over to Tony's. It was a great show! No matter how many times I've seen Ken speak, his excitement, knowledge and humor always bring a special life to his presentations. You *know* how much he loves fly fishing. You experience first hand his enthusiasm. He makes you want to be out there, to wade the shallows while launching "bow and arrow" casts into the tiniest cracks of tangled cover through which you see a bass suspended beneath the surface. I'm pumped! I'm ready! Let's go bassin'!

I know, you probably thought we'd postpone Ken's show

for a later date - but we had to get it in! We couldn't reschedule (well, we could have if we waited four months or so) and besides, the timing was right for a bass program. Rodger Magill followed Ken's show with an opportunity to satisfy your "bass fever" as he hosted a club bass outing at Spring Lake on March 15. There are some *big bass* waters locally, Spring Lake being one of them, and Rodger has spent a lot of time floating them. Remember the paper bag prop at one of our recent general meetings? And a story about a huge *bucketmouth* (remember the bag) caught out of a certain mysterious "couldn't drag it out of him" local water? Two parts of that puzzle were solved if you attended this outing! I haven't heard how it all turned out, but I'm sure that anyone who attended had a great time. Hopefully we'll get an update at our next general meeting on April 9th.

Which brings me to another club outing, our traditional Opening Day jaunt to Hat Creek and vicinity on April 26th and 27th. RRFF Outings Director Scott Broome and I will be hosting this year's trout opener, and we'll be hoping to "one-up" the great time we had last year. Once again we'll be staying at the Cassel PG&E campground, which provides a great base from which we can explore any (or all) of the local trout waters. The RRFF will be providing the traditional Saturday night steak and potato feed, to celebrate our opening day success, but otherwise bring everything you need to camp and live comfortably, rain or shine!

At present, we have five RRFF members making the trek to Cassel on Thursday morning, April 24th. Between us, we hope to nail down enough campsites to accommodate everyone and then plan to fish Baum Lake Thursday evening

1996-97 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Dwight Longuevan (537-0382)
NCCFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan

Vice President: Paul Major (539-5437)
Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)
The Cast Editor: Chuck Perry (823-2029)
Events Chairwoman: Marji Major 539-5437
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

and Friday. By Friday evening, most of our RRFF group has usually arrived and is busy setting up camp. Fishing on Saturday and Sunday is pretty much wide open to whatever suits your fancy. If you want to team up with a couple of people, or go it alone, there's a lot of water to fish. A few members even stayed over Sunday night last year and returned home on Monday. If you plan to join us, please contact Scott Broome or myself so that we can be sure to bring enough steaks and get enough campsites.

Additional notes: Last years' outing found us with 5 campsites and about 18 members in attendance. We had great weather for the duration and some good fishing, especially the evening hatches on Hat Creek. Be prepared for rain, however, as two years ago it dumped 4-5 inches over the opening weekend. Be self sufficient, bring everything you need to be comfortable - no matter what wrinkle nature presents. If you have attended club outings in the past, you probably found that we tend to have a great time regardless of the severity of the weather, or the quality of the fishing conditions. A lot of that has to do with the liquid refreshments that tend to accompany us, and I'm not referring to standing waist deep in a river (although that is most definitely refreshing!). Come out and join us. If you've never attended a club outing, this is the perfect opportunity to find out what you've been missing and to meet some of the other members of our club. That's what it's all about, after all! Scott Broome has already hinted that he may conduct "some type of seminar" on Saturday morning for anyone who's interested. Probably something along the lines of how to make gin fizzes or bloody mary's, if last year is any indication of how he'll be feeling by Saturday. (If you can stomach food Saturday morning, the Cassel Fire Department does host a pancake breakfast that you can stagger over to once your head stops pounding!)

Our next general meeting, Wednesday, April 9th, is our second annual fly tying seminar, wherein a number of RRFF members share their considerable fly tying expertise while tying some of their favorite patterns. We have some excellent tyers in this club and there will be a wide range of flies presented, from saltwater patterns to dry flies, including special techniques for hair bodies and another presentation on fishing knots by Bob Sisson. This is a pretty informal meeting, lots of time to socialize, and an opportunity to cruise from table to table and pick up some pointers to augment your own tying skills. There will be a short meeting before-hand, to handle club business, and the raffle will "cap off" the evening. Hope to see everyone there. Come on out and support the club.

Elections are coming up! The final candidate slate appears in this issue of *The Cast*. Ballots will be mailed to the membership by the end of the month and must be returned with your selections by the June Dinner Meeting. The new board becomes active at the dinner meeting. If there are any changes to the candidate slate, please contact me so that they can be made before the ballots are printed.

That's about it for club news. It looks as if my concern about how long this fantastic weather would hold was unnecessary. Spring has definitely blazed in with the sun, and seems to be strengthening its hold with each passing day. I'm not complaining. Shorts and T-shirts - here I come! I know that there's been some great fishing on the Russian River and I'm looking forward to hearing some fishing reports on Wednesday night. Bring those stories! Charge us up! Let us live vicariously through your adventures. Did you get that carp yet Scotty?

Sunny skies and blue water.

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.)

For Sale: Sage RPL 790 (9' 7Wt) Low mileage, always garaged. \$250
Paul Major 579-0990 (W) 539-5437 (H)

For Sale: Sage GFL 586 DS (8' 6" 5 Wt Graphite 2) \$155
Lloyd Vod Der Mehden 542-8470

Russian River Fly Fishers 1997 Final Candidate Slate

Following is the final candidate slate for the Russian River Fly Fishers 1997 election for board members and club officers. If there are any changes to this slate as presented, please inform president Steve Tubbs (765-1787) immediately so that they can be corrected before the ballots are printed.

President

1. Paul Major
- 2.

Vice President

1. Scott Broome
- 2.

New Board Members

1. Lori Nyholm
2. Noel Plumb
3. Larry Johnson
4. Bob Sisson (incumbent)
5. Steve Tubbs (incumbent)
6. Jim Cramer
7. Richard Hollingshead

Returning Members (second year of current term)

1. Lee Smith
2. Tim Barrett
3. Dwight Longuevan
4. Tim Grogan
5. Marji Major (first year by appointment)
6. Rodger Magill
7. Mike Nyholm
8. Bob Neill
9. Shawn Kempkes

Ballots will be mailed May 1st to the general membership and must be returned by the June Dinner Meeting to be counted. The new board of directors will be introduced at the dinner meeting.



#%!@&^*#\$!!

Doug Grutacao, mentioned in the *Youth Corner* article in last month's issue of *The Cast*, was in fact Doug Brutacao. You already knew that but I had to set the record straight. Sorry Doug! Ed.

REMEMBRANCES OF TIMES PAST

Reliving the good times of the past are sometimes more fun than the first time around. Reviewing my old fishing journals always brings back warm memories no matter how cold, wet and miserable the weather was.

Case in point - I was reviewing my old fishing logs in preparation for the club's opening day fishout. My entry for one particular year gave me the following information. An extremely heavy rain the night before had made the rivers unfishable so we all had gathered at Baum Lake. Despite the weather the trout were cooperating nicely for the members of the RRFF that day as five of them had interesting stories to reel off at the campfire that night.

If memory and the yellow pages of my fish log serves me it seems that Steve Tubbs, Scott Broome and Bob Sisson were in one boat and were fishing on the whack-up plan which gave each man one third of the boat's catch. Tim Grogan and Paul Major in the other boat likewise agreed to divide their catch equally.

At the end of the day's sport when the divisions were made as agreed, each of the sports received the same number of fish. If you would care to hear more of this piscatorial outing, here are the finny facts that make quite a respectable puzzle. Grogan and Tubbs together caught 21 fish; Tubbs and Broome caught 30 together; Broome and Sisson together 27; and Sisson and Major together, 18.

Now the bottom part of that page is almost too tattered to read since my labrador pup got hold of it so your challenge is to figure out if you can just how many fish each member caught and who was high rod for the day. (The hot fly for the day was a #6, dark olive leech on a slow sink line.)

Jim Cramer

Coming Events

Apr. 9, 1997	RRFF General Meeting (fly tying)
Apr 28, 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



As promised, the RRFF April Club Meeting (April 9) will be our second annual TIE-O-RAMA. For those of you who missed last year's event, the entire meeting will be dedicated to the art of fly tying with a stellar group of experts demonstrating a wide range of techniques for tying a dazzling variety of flies...this is an opportunity not to be missed!

At this moment, our roster - all of whom have very generously volunteered to spend the evening sharing their expertise with us - include:

DOUG BRUTOCAO: CALLIBAETIS PATTERNS ... Doug is, of course, the proprietor of "Doug's Bugs," the source of most of the neat fly tying materials we all use. Doug will be tying his favorite Callibaetis patterns, both dry and subsurface.

DAN FISCHER: SPINNING HAIR BODIES ... Although Dan disputes that he is an expert at tying hair-bodied flies, he seems to be the only one who does; in addition to conducting a hands-on seminar on hair-spinning, Dan is going to donate some of his vast collection of hair and fur material to be sold at the meeting. The proceeds will be earmarked to further support the Boy Scout Fly Tying project currently being conducted by RRFF Board Members Mike Nyholm and Dwight Longuevan.

JIM CRAMER: EPOXY FLIES ... Our Perennial Master Tyer, Jim will be tying a selection of "Mother of Epoxy" bodied flies. Jim's techniques are always well worth learning.

TOM LYNN: SHAD FLIES ... Tom is reputed to be a true whiz-bang at knocking out these quick-to-tie flashy little devils. With the shad season almost upon us (and promising to arrive early if this weather continues) Tom's patterns should be of immediate use for all of us.

BOB NORMAN: NORMAN'S LOOPWINGS & SPINNERS ... As those of you who were at last year's Tie-O-Rama, or who recently took Bob's tying class at Western Angler will testify, Bob's unique spring creek patterns will

really turn your head around. His flies are currently being commercially produced, but here's your chance to learn how to tie them from the creator himself!

STEVEN TUBBS: SALTWATER BAITFISH PATTERNS ... Our very own Club President ties truly beautiful saltwater streamers ... and judging from his success rate in Baja, they're also very effective. Last year Steve showed us how to tie foam poppers for the salt, and now for something different....

BOB SISSON: FISHING KNOTS ... What can I say? This is the guy who knows how to tie 'em all. If you don't see what you want, just ask ... anything from the dread Bimini to 8X tippet attachment. That's the lineup ... I can't think where else, even including the big fly fishing "Expo," that you can have the opportunity to see so many great tyers working their magic all at the same time and place. Last year's event was somewhat lightly attended due mainly to the unfortunate fact that the meeting night was the occasion of the damndest frog-strangling, gully-washing rain storm of the entire season ... I hope that won't happen this year and you'll all turn out for this super meeting.

We will take a break from the tying to conduct our usual club meeting activities including fishing reports and the raffle, but we'll try to have the tyers up and running by about 6:30, so it should be a full evening for all of us.

Flea Market Table

Got something you'd like to sell, trade, barter or swap? We'll be setting up a FLEAMARKET TABLE as a regular feature of our monthly meetings. I think most of have something in our tackle/gear inventory that we'd like to either sell or swap for something else we really need/want. Just dig the stuff out and bring it to the meeting along with a 3X5 card (or something) where you can write down who it belong to and what you want for it. Remember, if you haven't used it for two years you don't need it! Bring it to the meeting and convert it to cash or swap for something you do need. Paul Major

**RRFF Board of Directors
Meeting
7 P.M., Monday, April 28, 1997
Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza
2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA**

General Meeting
with
**Our own outstanding members tying
unique patterns & demonstrating
intricate techniques.**

Many of our own members are as proficient at tying as the folks demonstrating on the professional circuit. Dan Fisher will let you sit down at a vise and practice stacking deer hair. Bob Sisson will give you "hands on," with just about any knot.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Mar 12th, 1997
Santa Rosa Vet's. Building

Fly tying 6:30 P.M.

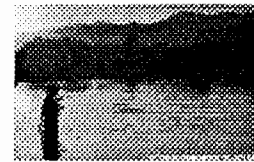
General Meeting 7:30 P.M.

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

Date: SUNDAY, Apr 20, 1997

Time: 11 A.M. until 1 P.M.

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



Shad season is now upon us and every year it never fails. There are several fly casters with whom I find myself sharing the river who keep telling the rest of us about how they are about to leave for the northern part of the state to pursue ten inch, planted rainbows, while they are having it out with a three, four or five pound shad that is punishing their knuckles with the reel handle as they run into the backing and all of this practically in their own backyard. The shad is a poorly regarded gamefish that gets little respect from either some fishermen or The Department of Fish and Game. A twenty five fish limit is ridiculous in this day and age: to allow dip netting in some waters is even worse. Their fighting qualities, often with long runs and occasional jumps rival any other moving water species for a great fight. Shad deserve better than to be dragged out on the hot gravel and then kicked two or three feet back into the river. Catch and release at its best.

This is shooting system fishing, folks, using preferably 5 or 6 weight outfits. It often requires casts over 80 feet to reach the holding areas. Using shooting heads on light outfits is somewhat different than it is with 8 or 9 weight rods. The pond is just the place to get yourself ready for some first class fun with a great gamefish. If anyone would like to use the club's equipment, contact president Steve Tubbs at 765-1787.

We lost the March clinic to the only significant rain of the month. Perhaps April will be our friend. If not, the clinic will be postponed until May.

The next scheduled clinic will be on May 18th.

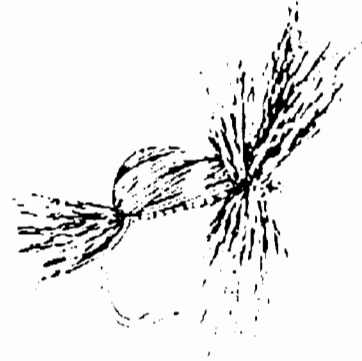
Bob Sisson 1977



After last month's piece on bead heads and relative weights I decided to carry the research a step farther. I was curious as to how much the weight would change as I changed the diameter of the lead wire so I conducted a little experiment. I marked off exactly one inch on the shank of a number 6, Mustad 3665A hook (a long shanked Limerick) and wrapped it with one layer of thread. Then I covered it with lead wire with diameters ranging from 0.010 to 0.035 inches. I counted the number of wraps it took to fill the one inch space and then weighed the lead. The results are

tabulated below. Weight units are grains.

Lead Dia	Wraps per 1"	Weight per wrap
0.010	73	0.058 grains
0.015	61	0.090
0.020	45	0.184*
0.025	37	0.278
0.030	30	0.460
0.035	27	0.600



* Note: when making measurements last month, I determined that one wrap of 0.020 lead wire around a Mustad 9671, # 12 hook weighed only 0.120 grains. So hook diameter does make a big difference and these numbers only illustrate the effect of changing wire diameters.

What I found interesting was that I could not put the calculated number of wraps in the one inch space with the smaller diameters of wire. Theoretically one should be able to get close to 100 wraps of 0.010 wire in a one inch space; I could get only 73. With the larger diameters it came close. Anyway the results should be taken only as general guide lines because they will vary as soon as you change hooks and the diameter of the hook shank. It does dramatically point out however, that you don't get much weight out of the smaller diameter wires compared to the larger sizes, which should be no surprise to anyone. The general rule of thumb when using lead wire is that it should approximate the diameter of the bare hook shank.

Almost everyone has their own technique of adding lead wire to the hook. Many wrap it on the bare hook shank then use a dike of thread at both ends to keep it in place. To me this has never seemed like a very secure base on which to build the rest of the fly, sort of like building a house on a sand dune. The way I recommend is as follows. Lay down a smooth thread base over the area that you intend to wrap the lead. Use a heavy flat thread as you want to cover thing fast. Leave your bobbin hanging at the rear of the fly. Now starting at the rear and holding a very short tag end with your left hand wrap the lead forward counter-clockwise. When you reach the last wrap that you want just use your right thumb nail to cut the lead against the hook. Use your left thumb nail in the same manner to cut off the tag end at the rear (with smaller diameters of wire you can use the first wrap of thread to cut the thread.) Your bobbin was hanging at the rear where it was out of the way as you wrapped the lead forward. Now give it a good spin in a counter clock-wise direction as viewed from the top. This will untwist the thread and allow it to lay flat for smoother and better coverage. Wrap the thread forward over the lead wire. Note that because you wrapped the lead counter clock-wise going forward you are now cross wrapping with this first layer of thread. Do not wrap this first layer too tight as you don't the thread to separate the lead wraps. When you reach the front of the lead build a little tapered dike in front of the lead, return the thread to the rear and do the same thing. The heavier thread provides good coverage over the lead and makes the tapers at each end a quick operation. Throw a half- hitch or two, cut off the heavy thread and apply a coat of super glue to the thread covered lead. You now have a solid base that won't twist as you construct the rest of your fly.

Another method that is sometimes used with flat bodied nymphs is to tie a piece of lead wire along each side of the hook shank.

JUNE BANQUET & MEETING

Saturday, June 7, 1997

I am pleased to announce that our dinner will be held at the Los Robles Lodge in Santa Rosa. The facilities are inviting and spacious and the menu looks scrumptious. The Lodge has been a Santa Rosa landmark for many years and is very conveniently located near Highway 101, on Cleveland Avenue just north of the Coddington Center.

We have limited seating so I suggest you check your calendar NOW and get your reservation in as soon as possible. Please do not wait until the last minute because we have a deadline to reserve our dinner choices.

The speaker - John Shewey.

The menu - in addition to a salad of leaf spinach with Granny Smith apples, red onions and walnuts and a yummy dessert of New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce, you will have a choice of Chardonnay poached salmon with dill butter sauce or grilled New York steak with Maitre d' butter, both served with potatoes, vegetables, sourdough french bread and butter. We are planning to provide wine with dinner and tea or coffee will also be available. A no-host bar is also planned.

Name _____

Dinner Choice: Salmon _____ Steak _____

Amount Enclosed (\$35 per person) _____

I highly recommend Sonoma Preferred Caterers if the occasion arises that any of you need a caterer. Amber does an exceptional job preparing and presenting meals and if we were able to secure a suitable hall or facility (or we had our own facility), Sonoma Preferred would be my first choice. I think that anyone who attended the two dinners that Amber catered for us would agree that what we ate was exceptional and the high point of the evening.

Marji Major

Super-Gold

I find myself in debt to someone and at this point I'm not sure who. I've been tying up some salt water flies in recent days. In the process I've been using cyanoacrylate, "Superglue," instead of head cement. I've always avoided the stuff in the past because it always hardens in the "pot," and after one session of tying, two at the most, I'd have to throw out most of the bottle. I came across, "Super-Gold," at Hangar One Hobbies in Rohnert Park in June of '96 while getting ready for a last minute (?) trip to Baja. I recently grabbed hold of this stuff, which had been sitting open on my tying bench for over six months, shook the 1/2 oz. bottle and it was still liquid! I snipped off the tip of the application tube and I've tied another couple of dozen flies with that six month old bottle and the stuff is just great.

Super-Gold is a thin glue that sets-up in 5 - 10 seconds. It is available with a small plastic tube that slips into the normal bottle tip. I don't know the secret of why the glue doesn't harden in the tube during the tying session but it doesn't. On returning to the bench after a two or three day break, pull a 1/2 inch section of the tube out of the bottle, (I use a pair of pliers to do this), snip off the very tip of the tube and you're back in business. By the way, Dave Whitlock uses a super-glue whip finish - when done with a fly, he puts a drop of glue on the tying thread next to the finished head, makes two or three additional turns of thread, lets the bobbin hang long enough to pick up his scissors, cuts off the thread and, "finito."

Hangar One Hobbies is located 5350 Commerce Blvd. in Rohnert Park, (585-3170). I think the small diameter tubing is an extra cost item and you may even have to ask for it but if so it is certainly worth the extra effort and the extra cost.
Ed.

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 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 RRF 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 5
May 1997

The Pres sez: by Steve Tubbs Just Another Outing...

It has begun...trout season...and in the beginning, twenty of us were there to welcome it. Converging in waves on the tiny town of Cassel, we secured an entire loop at the PG&E campground, from which we could pay homage to opening day, elusive trout and various liquid refreshments.

The Russian River Fly Fishers traditional opening jaunt. Just the fact that this was yet another "club outing" held promise. Veteran's of recent "outings" knew that no matter what the conditions, (poor fishing or inclement weather) the event would turn out to be a smashing ("smashed?") success, characterized by a dull pounding around the temples, insatiable thirst, aching muscles and slow, deliberate motions, especially in early morning. It was. First-timers caught on quickly, even if the "catching" had little to do with trout. And when all was said and done, I think everyone had a great time. Once again, the "outing" ended up taking on a life of its own. We celebrated another season of trout fishing, "toasted" the coming summer and welcomed the promise of delicate presentations, multiple hatches and bucking fly rods triggered by screaming reels.

Opening day at Hat Creek! As Paul Major puts it best, "What do people do who don't hunt or fish?" Whether sitting around a campfire under starlit skies, or watching a bald eagle skim the tree tops directly above your campsite, it's easy to see both the beauty and tragedy of that question. As we are

touched by the beauty of nature in the places we go to fish, we realize that there are people who never experience the solitude of a night outdoors, the smell of a campfire, the chill of the early morning air and the warmth of the sunrise. There are people who never experience rivers, lakes, mountains and forests. The thought of being so far removed from "life" is tragic, for I feel that it is in nature that we glimpse reality and the true energy of life. In nature, everything is "real" and exists as part of, and in relation to, everything else. When man creates environments, he creates another reality to replace the natural one, thereby exerting temporary control over his world. When confined only to those environments, his link to the balance and energy of nature is diminished. Through camping, fishing and hunting, we can experience again the harmony of nature as it exists beyond the controls we impose. We can appreciate the "life" that resonates within us when we reenter the natural world. It feels so good to us because we again remember our place in nature and in the intricate balance of the world around us.

We had a blast! Eight of us arrived on Thursday and claimed our campsites. Friday found us on Baum Lake, searching for fish and battling the occasional wind gusts. There wasn't a lot of action, very little surface activity and only a few bugs. I happened to be in the right spot when a fish started sporadically rising about 30 feet away from my pontoon boat. Switching rods, I took my 3 wt. and a #16 callibaetis cripple and made one cast, which netted a 14" rainbow that was beautifully marked and quite fat. I saw few other rises. Campfire fishing reports, as the rest of our group arrived, proved that my day had been the standard fare - and that actually landing a fish may have been a bonus. Save for the

1996-97 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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

Vice President: Paul Major (539-5437)
Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Shawn Kempkes (546-2014)
The Cast Editor: Chuck Perry (823-2029)
Events Chairwoman: Marji Major 539-5437
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

flurry of activity with the hardware crowd, when the hatchery truck pulled out on the point and dumped dinner, the fishing was slow for everyone we talked to.

Late afternoon found our numbers doubled and Scotty cooking spaghetti, in hopes of eating early and getting back out on the water for the evening action. After dinner, Scott and Joe got into a few fish up near the powerhouse, and some of the rest of us replayed our earlier forays under a setting sun. The results were about the same. Very little surface activity and minimal hatches. Few fish caught. By sunset, the spaghetti was getting another go, and strategies were being laid for opening day.

There were a lot of fishermen in the Hat Creek area this year. Saturday morning, after a delicious pancake feed at the Cassel Fire Department, we split up to explore our options. Paul Major, Dick Betts and I decided to fish the lower trophy trout section above Lake Britton, along with about 20 - 30 other anglers who had the same idea. Nymphing was the name of the game, but after awhile I switched to a Stimulator and managed to rob the cradle of a couple of 6" - 8" juveniles that chased away the big donut hole! I figured I'd rather "not catch" fish on the surface, than "not catch" them nymphing (Paul's terminology). In general, fishing was slow for nearly everybody in the lower section. Around 3:00 PM, I headed over to Powerhouse 2 to check out the line-up. There wasn't even a place to park!

Which brings us to the second annual "Scott Broome Steak and Potato Feed". The RRFF provided the amenities, Scotty provided the labor and an impressive bar appeared to help take the edge off. There were a lot of edges! By the time everyone had reached their limits (okay...there were a few people who may have *slightly* exceeded their limit), the general consensus was that the Hat Creek Opener was another "outing to remember".

Sunday dawned cold and overcast, with rain looking likely. Most of us decided to break camp early, before the rain started, and to worry about any fishing plans after everything was dry and loaded up. The few die-hards who were staying on until Monday, disappeared on various fishing excursions. I decided to head down to Manzanita Lake and to also check out a little spring creek I enjoy along the way. Both looked inviting, although it was raining slightly at Manzanita, but after a couple of hours of exploring, I was ready to return to Petaluma. One note on Manzanita Lake: the stream bed has changed and now enters the lake at the edge of the parking lot (where you would normally launch your floatation devices). It remains to be seen whether the new bed will be conducive to spawning in the future, but it is certain that this years spawn did not occur.

And so it ended. I would like to specially thank Scott Broome for all of his hard work in planning and organizing this out-

ing. I would also like to thank Lee, Scott (Lewis), Paul, Dick, Dan and Monty for coming up early on Thursday and securing the campsites. The efforts of all of these people helped to ensure that this outing was successful.

I would also like to again thank the RRFF'ers who participated as fly tiers at our last general meeting: Bob Norman, Dan Fischer, Jim Cramer, Tom Lynn, Doug Brutocao and Bob Sisson. All of these members donated their time to provide us with a showcase of some of the talent in our own club. The meeting was well attended and Dan Fischer donated \$25.00 to the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (currently being developed by Mike Nyholm and Dwight Longuevan) from the proceeds he collected from the sale of his deer hair. Thanks Dan.

Please take a few moments to cast your ballot for the 1997 Club Officers and new Board Members. The ballot appears in this issue of *The Cast*. All ballots must be received by May 27th, 1997 to be counted. Election results will be announced when the new board is introduced at our June Dinner Meeting.

Okay...no more excuses! Get out there, wet some lines and rip some lips!

Steve Tubbs

Date: SUNDAY, May 18, 1997

Time: 11 A.M. until 1 P.M.

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



The Pond is in good shape and all practice and instructional set-ups await your use. Coaching for any problem areas where you feel you could use some help is there for the asking. There will also be practice time and space available for those of you who have indicated your willingness to participate in the Santa Rosa Parks and Recreation Department event scheduled for May 31st, 1997. If any of you would like to use the club equipment, contact Mike Nyholm at 538-5163.

We should be past the rainout time of the year, however if the weather fails us, the clinic will be postponed until June.

The next scheduled clinic will be held on June 15th, 1997.

Bob Sisson 1997

OFFICIAL BALLOT

1997 Russian River Fly Fishers Club Officers and Board of Directors

Please choose to accept the entire ballot as presented, or circle
your individual selections below.

President

1. Paul Major
2. _____

Vice President

1. _____ Scott Broome
2. _____

New Board Members

1. Bob Sisson (incumbent)
2. Steve Tubbs (incumbent)
3. Lori Nyholm
4. Noel Plumb
5. Larry Johnson
6. Jim Cramer
7. Richard Hollingshead
8. Scott Lewis
9. _____
10. _____

_____ I accept this ballot as presented and choose to elect all nominees.

Please mail all ballots to: **Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.** Ballots must be received by the May 27, 1997 Board of Directors Meeting. Results will be announced, with the introduction of the new board, at our June 7th, 1997 dinner meeting.

The Conservation Line



Roger Magill

Raising Hackles

Conservation, as defined by Webster is the practice of, "conserving, protection from loss, waste, etc." In the biggest picture, one must consider conservation of fisheries from a whole earth perspective.

Four factors seem to bear most directly on the survival of a species of fish: the media in which they reside, the bordering lands, the atmosphere surrounding the land and water and lastly, the angler, (one who schemes, or uses tricks so as to get something), and the fish.

The catch and release fly fisherman interacts with the game fish in three phases; making a presentation in such a manner so as to guile the fish into taking the artificial, successfully playing the fish to hand or net, and lastly the reviving and release that will guarantee the survival of the fish after the angling process. Considering the first phase, one must design the fly to discriminate in terms of the size and species that will be attracted and taken. In terms of conservation, we should seek to attract only the size that is acceptable to hook, as well as the selected species. In particular the size of the fly should not attract and hook juveniles nor should our presentation attract every species in the stream.

Successfully playing the fish is two-fold. The proper rod, line and leader is the preliminary and the landing a matter of method. One should always use an acceptable weight system for the species sought. For example large mouth bass and steelhead, use nothing less than a seven weight rod and respective line. The leader could consist of 12 to 16 inches of .020 or .025 Maxima nail-knotted to line for a butt and 18 to 36 inches of eight pound Maxima to butt with a double surgeons knot. The fly may be attached with a Turle or improved clinch knot. This system guarantees that most steelhead will be held and brought in with little chance of break-offs. They are not leader shy.. Prolonging the play of a fish increases the stress on the fish and resultant mortality. Once we have fooled the fish with our fly, it is our duty to quickly land and release him, so that he or she may proceed on to spawn or return to the ocean. Constant pressure must be put on the fish to bring it to hand. Do not allow the fish to hold or rest. Lower your rod to a position parallel to the water and at a 45degree angle to the fish, pull and crank down, as the fish moves in that direction, flip your rod 180 degrees to your other side

and once again, add pressure, as he comes that way turn again, forcing him to follow you. Should the fish exhibit a burst of energy and speed you can decide if the drag system will be best relied on-then your tactics of pressure applied once more. Rarely does it take more than a few minutes to land a fish this way. Steelhead, in general, grab a fly and turn, hooking themselves. At the sign of any funny business, lift your rod and he's on! You do not need to herniate your lumbar region, or his. All this serves to do is injure and madden the fish, (which is why some do this), possibly adding to the mortality factor. If a fish is foul-hooked it serves only to make a bad situation worse. The term, "set the hook," is a little overworked on fishing programs. I understand this is different with salmon. With large mouth bass raise the rod firmly and strip in quickly, give nothing and do not put the fish on the reel as you would always try to do with steelhead. Bass should be stripped-in hard and quickly to be grabbed by the lower lip freezing them, making for easy release.

Releasing the fish may be the single most important factor in our equation. Try not to bring a fish out of water up onto the bank, or even into shallow water if the fish may flail itself on subsurface rocks. Fish cannot survive blows such as this. Often one may bring the fish into arms reach and take the fly in hand and back it out allowing the fish to swim away unharmed. Shad, in particular, should be handled as little as possible, loss of scales, it has been reported, may result in death. If you must handle the fish, wet your hands first. Steelhead may be grabbed by the area ahead of the tail and supported at the belly. Fish have a slime that protects them from infection and rubbing this off may cause their eventual death.

If we are sportsmen with fishing skill, we do not need barbs. 'Barbs were designed to guarantee any fish fooled will be unable to free himself even if the angler is sleeping at the rod. They are also a guarantee that dinner will be on the table tonight. There was a day when Man's survival meant bringing home the catch. For most of us today, it is not our intention. Too many times I have turned to shore to find fisherman struggling to free a fish because of barbed hooks. I hear guys say, "I want my fly back." The life of this marvelous creature is being compromised because of a ten cent hook, or because the man at the rod didn't tie enough flies for the outing. Hemostats, and linemans' pliers come out and flesh is ripped, and flies destroyed at their grip. Before that hook is secured in the vise, debarb it with round nose pliers or similar tool. Proper fishing skills, not barbs, should land your fish. Some will say these fish are too hard to come by and they don't want to loose any. I can say from experience the following: Last year I caught 160 fish of various species, 96 were large mouths, (one a possible world-record fish!). I did loose some fish, though in was inattention, or negligence on my part, not the always barbless fly. Remember, the least challenging and cunning method of

take to bury a barbed hook in a fish's natural food and above that is any presentation with a barbed hook.

In closing, I must address the revival after unhooking the fish. Always keep the fish in the water!! This fish has just expelled its stores of energy fighting for its life, it is, (in our world), "breathing had and short of breath." When held out of water it cannot breath and is suffering greatly. Fishermen like to get the photos, but the life of that fish is more important. Great photos may be taken with the fishes' gills still in water. Lifting the fish up and standing for the photo opportunity is reckless. If the fish flips out of your grasp and hits the rocks or even the water, injury and death may ensue. Crouch down, keeping the fish partially submersed. A better photo will be the result! If you hold your breath when the fish is taken out of the water, it will give you an idea of what that fish may be experiencing, except that he is exhausted and you are not. When you run out of air, you can be assured that the fish has also. When a fish shows signs of exhaustion, support his body facing into the current, in slower currents it may be necessary to move the fish forward and back, forcing oxygenated water through it's gills. Allow the fish to swim away; on his own, "steam," and not until. Last year

I caught a fish that was in particularly bad shape at the time it was hooked. It took 45 minutes to adequately revive that fish. It would have died with less attention. Once a person finds fish, (step One), the last thing we would want to do is put down the rest of the fish or spoil the hole. Releasing a less traumatized fish has got to be advantageous. Stirring up a hole with less play may also result in more fishing at the time in that location. Following these guidelines can only result in more fish for the future...*An original manuscript by Roger Magill*

Coming Events

May 5, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
May 14, 1997	RRFF General Meeting
May 15, 1997	Time to pay RRFF dues
May 17, 1997	Road 48 shad trip (Bob Neill 542-6723)
June 2, 1997	RRFF Board Meeting
June 7, 1997	RRFF dinner meeting
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

JUNE BANQUET & MEETING

Saturday, June 7, 1997

PLEASE, do not wait until the last minute to send in your reservation. Our dinner will be held at the Los Robles Lodge in Santa Rosa. The facilities are inviting and spacious and the menu looks scrumptious. The Lodge has been a Santa Rosa landmark for many years and is very conveniently located near Highway 101, on Cleveland Avenue just north of the Coddington Center.

We have limited seating so I suggest you check your calendar NOW and get your reservation in as soon as possible. The speaker will be John Shewey and the raffle will be something special.

The menu - in addition to a salad of leaf spinach with Granny Smith apples, red onions and walnuts and a yummy dessert of New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce, you will have a choice of Chardonnay poached salmon with dill butter sauce or grilled New York steak with Maitre d' butter, both served with potatoes, vegetables, sourdough french bread and butter. We are planning to provide wine with dinner and tea or coffee will also be available.

Dinner will be served at 7:00pm // no-host bar from 6:00pm.

Name _____

Dinner Choice: Salmon _____ Steak _____

Amount Enclosed (\$35 per person) _____

Send reservation to RRFF, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405



After last month's piece on bead heads and relative weights I decided to carry the research a step farther. I was curious as to how much the weight would change as I changed the diameter of the lead wire so I conducted a little experiment. I marked off exactly one inch on the shank of a number 6, Mustad 3665A hook (a long shanked Limerick) and wrapped it with one layer of thread. Then I covered it with lead wire with diameters ranging from 0.010 to 0.035 inches. I counted the number of wraps it took to fill the one inch space and then weighed the lead. The results are tabulated below. Weight units are grains.

Lead Dia	Wraps per 1"	Weight per wrap
0.010	73	0.058 grains
0.015	61	0.090
0.020	45	0.184*
0.025	37	0.278
0.030	30	0.460
0.035	27	0.600

* Note: when making measurements last month, I determined that one wrap of 0.020 lead wire around a Mustad 9671, # 12 hook weighed only 0.120 grains. So hook diameter does make a big difference and these numbers only illustrate the effect of changing wire diameters.

What I found interesting was that I could not put the calculated number of wraps in the one inch space with the smaller diameters of wire. Theoretically one should be able to get close to 100 wraps of 0.010 wire in a one inch space; I could get only 73. With the larger diameters it came close. Anyway the results should be taken only as general guide lines because they will vary as soon as you change hooks and the diameter of the hook shank. It does dramatically point out however, that you don't get much weight out of the smaller diameter wires compared to the larger sizes, which should be no surprise to anyone. The general rule of thumb when using lead wire is that it should approximate the diameter of the bare hook shank.

Almost everyone has their own technique of adding lead

wire to the hook. Many wrap it on the bare hook shank then use a dike of thread at both ends to keep it in place. To me this has never seemed like a very secure base on which to build the rest of the fly, sort of like building a house on a sand dune. The way I recommend is as follows. Lay down a smooth thread base over the area that you intend to wrap the lead. Use a heavy flat thread as you want to cover thing fast. Leave your bobbin hanging at the rear of the fly. Now starting at the rear and holding a very short tag end with your left hand wrap the lead forward counter-clockwise. When you reach the last wrap that you want just use your right thumb nail to cut the lead against the hook. Use your left thumb nail in the same manner to cut off the tag end at the rear (with smaller diameters of wire you can use the first wrap of thread to cut the thread.) Your bobbin was hanging at the rear where it was out of the way as you wrapped the lead forward. Now give it a good spin in a counter clock-wise direction as viewed from the top. This will untwist the thread and allow it to lay flat for smoother and better coverage. Wrap the thread forward over the lead wire. Note that because you wrapped the lead counter clock-wise going forward you are now cross wrapping with this first layer of thread. Do not wrap this first layer too tight as you don't the thread to separate the lead wraps. When you reach the front of the lead build a little tapered dike in front of the lead, return the thread to the rear and do the same thing. The heavier thread provides good coverage over the lead and makes the tapers at each end a quick operation. Throw a half- hitch or two, cut off the heavy thread and apply a coat of super glue to the thread covered lead. You now have a solid base that won't twist as you construct the rest of your fly.

Another method that is sometimes used with flat bodied nymphs is to tie a piece of lead wire along each side of the hook shank.



Counter Wrapped Bodies

When counter wrapping fragile bodies such as peacock herl or pheasant tail, the initial wrap of body material will sometimes push the tail out of alignment. To avoid this problem, secure the counter wrap of material on the near side of the hook and the body material on the far side of the hook. This begins the first wrap of body material under the hook and toward you so that it is properly seated as it comes over the top near the tail. When the counter wrap material is wound, it will go under the hook and away from you so that once again the tail is not pushed out of position.

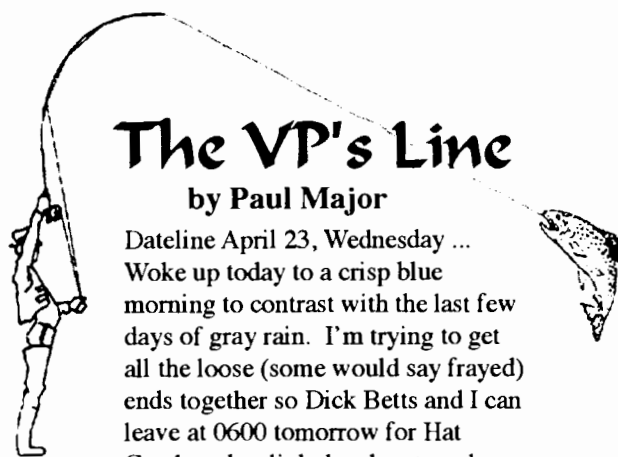
General Meeting
with
Pete Bauer
of
Angler's Edge Fly Shop
Minden, Nevada
Come and learn the flies, fish and access points on the
Carson, Walker and Owens rivers
BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, May 14th, 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



The VP's Line

by Paul Major

Dateline April 23, Wednesday ...
Woke up today to a crisp blue morning to contrast with the last few days of gray rain. I'm trying to get all the loose (some would say frayed) ends together so Dick Betts and I can leave at 0600 tomorrow for Hat Creek and a slight headstart on the

RRFF Club Outing for OPENING DAY OF TROUT SEASON!! Hallaluja, I thought it would never come!

We'll be part of the "Thursday Contingent" who will get to the PG&E campground at Cassel early to nail down enough campsites to accommodate those with less flexible schedules who won't be able to come up until Friday after work ... of course we'll take a moment or two off from the nailing down drudgery to go fish Baum Lake Thursday afternoon and Friday.

What will be happening on Hat, the Fall, Lost Creek,

and environs on opening day? Well, the experts agree that the one hatch you can count on is the fisherman hatch (oops, fisherpersons hatch - had to amend that before the PC patrol nabs me - again). But despite the crowds (who knew there were that many Jeep Cherokees in California), Opening Day is something special and not to be missed for those of us who basically just tolerate the months of November through early April and spend the winter tying probably way too many size 18 dry flies and cripples.

So ... I'll see you all (I hope) at the RRFF meeting on May 14 and we'll exchange tales about our adventures and misadventures on the Opening Day Outing..

I'd also like to offer my personal thanks, on behalf of RRFF and all its members, to the guys who made our April Fly Tying Meeting such a success. (It didn't rain, the lights didn't go out, and we had over fifty people in attendance.) Thanks to Doug Brutocao, Jim Cramer, Dan Fisher, Tom Lynn, Bob Norman, Steven Tubbs and Bob Sisson ... you were all terrific!

RRFF Board of Directors
Meeting
7 P.M., Tuesday, May 27, 1997
Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza
2424 Macgowan Dr., Santa Rosa, CA

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 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



The Cast

Volume 22
Number 7
July 1997

The Pres sez: by Steve Tubbs

Vacation Plans . . .

All right, I'm ready. The light of summer beckons, resonating with heat and promise, drawing me from a tunnel of obligations that seem to be concluding all at once. With the end of the school year, Little League baseball turns toward the playoffs and the promise of a "single elimination" tournament. Practice has naturally lost its allure, for the players as well as the coaches, and the prospect of adding the three baseball days each week back into the "I'm free — I might be able to go fishing!" column seems almost too good to be true. Nicholas is bouncing off the walls, caroming through his last week of school with attention already focused on his summer excursions. This year, he accompanies me for two weeks to Yellowstone National Park, where we will embark on a "journey of reacquaintance" with the streams and rivers that we've missed the past two summers, and where he is sure to receive his most intensive fly fishing exposure to date. He's already talking about it, and my anticipation builds with his excitement.

Also concluded is my year as your RRFF president. I am excited by the prospect of eliminating the late night last minute labors over my column for *The Cast* and look forward to writing the occasional article as the mood hits. I might even be able to include something about fishing now and then! I look forward to the relative anonymity of running the RRFF database and hope for more time on the water. It was a great year! Thanks to the hard work of the board of directors, and the fantastic support of the general membership, the RRFF continues the growth that Dwight Longuevan initiated three years ago. We are extremely fortunate to have found such a dynamic group of people that share our love of this sport.

I would especially like to thank a few people who made my term as president enjoyable. Your new RRFF president, Paul Major, was always there to help me while serving in the "easiest job

in the club" (vice president) and also as treasurer for the past two years. I'm sure Paul will continue his valuable input and dedication to the RRFF in his year as president. I would like to thank the indefatigable Scott Broome, who worked himself right into that "easiest job," for his energy and initiative this last year as Events Coordinator and for his valuable help in nearly every other project that came along. Scotty will surely be a very active vice president and I am confident he will be an excellent president as well

(Whoa, Paul — in another year or so!).

The board will deeply feel the loss of Chuck Perry, who has decided to actually go fishing and enjoy some of the magnificent country that we all dream about. For the past two years, Chuck has

edited and coordinated our RRFF newsletter, *The Cast*. Having held the job just before him, I can't tell you how thankful I was when Chuck took it over, freeing me for my term as vice president. The newsletter is a time-consuming job and an incredibly important source of communication for our club. Our RRFF newsletter has developed a standard of excellence that re-



1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Paul Major (539-5437)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Noel Plumb (766-8790)
NCCFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan

Vice President: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Treasurer: Dick Hollingshead (538-8760)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Scott Broome (575-5993)
The Cast Editor: Larry Johnson (571-8078)
Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: TBA

flected greatly the amount of time and effort that Chuck contributed and made it extremely enjoyable to read. I sincerely wish to thank Chuck Perry for the fantastic job that he did, and I don't know of anyone at the June dinner meeting who deserved to win the Sage 490LL more!

And there are others. The entire board of directors does an outstanding job and are the reason our organization is enjoying a membership boom and taking a variety of directions. Thanks to Shawn Kempkes for his last three years as Program Director and for lining up an incredible array of shows. Thanks to Dwight Longuevan for his work as Raffle Chairman, even with all the pressures of his new job and his serious time constraints. Thanks to Tim Grogan, who left me his presidency and a strong club to begin my term. Thanks also to Life Members Bill Archuleta and Bob Sisson for their continued support and to Mike Neiters (who handles our refreshments at each general meeting), Tom Lynn (for assisting with the RRFF Library) and Jim Hakel (comedian and occasional guest raffle host). I could go on, but this isn't "Oscar" night and I've got a lot more to cover. Thanks to all of

you for your support and for making my year an enjoyable one.

But let's get back to the June dinner meeting! If you were unable to attend, you missed what I thought was one of our best dinner meetings in the past two years. The Los Robles Lodge was a great setting, the food was good, and John Shewey provided an entertaining hour of Pacific Northwest fishing that took us from the Rockies to the ocean and covered both saltwater and freshwater along with stories about young boys, B-B guns and livestock. It was a great evening! The raffle marked the debut of our new raffle chairman, newly-elected board member Noel Plumb (yes, *the* Noel Plumb!) and a fantastic array of goodies that included a Sage 490LL, a Buck's Bag U-boat float tube, a hand-carved fly fishing mirror, signed book donations by John Shewey, hand-tied (as opposed to foot-tied) flies donated by John Shewey, Jim Cramer and Paul Major, \$100 in gift certificates donated by the Outdoor Pro Shop, a stripping basket donated by Moreda's Sporting Goods in Petaluma, and Archuleta T-shirts, RRFF caps, puzzles, soup mugs, a fantastic trip to the Bidwell Ponds (at Bidwell Ranch) for two

days of monster trout fishing with Brian Kempkes (donated by Wilderness Unlimited), and various other doo-hickeys and thing-a-ma-jigs. Thanks to everyone who made donations; your support is truly appreciated. (There is currently a motion before the board to start a BINGO night, or possibly a fly fishing game show with Noel — yes, *the* Noel Plumb — serving as host. Anyone at the dinner meeting will know the reasoning behind this.) A very special thanks to our Events Chairperson, Marji Major, for organizing this meeting and making it happen. I had a blast!

The dinner meeting also welcomed our newly-elected RRFF board members and marked with finality their recruitment. Congratulations to Bob Sisson, Lori Nyholm, Noel Plumb, Larry Johnson, Jim Cramer, Dick Hollingshead, Scott Lewis and myself. It might be appropriate to reiterate that IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW!!! The next board meeting is Monday, June 30, 7:00 P.M. at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza (meeting room) in Santa Rosa. (I'll be fishing in Yellowstone!).

Coming up: the RRFF Family Barbecue and Picnic at the Casting Pond. Bring your loved ones and your fly rods to this yearly event, compliments of the RRFF. Time, date and particulars are elsewhere in this issue.

There is still more, but the time has come for me to let go and leave all of this to Paul Major. Thanks again for your support, and I look forward to the continued growth of the Russian River Fly Fishers.

Screaming reels,
Steve Tubbs

Casting Instruction

Date: July 12

Time: Noon to 5 P.M.

PLACE: Casting Pond,

Dan Galvin Park

at the intersection of

Bennett Valley Road

and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

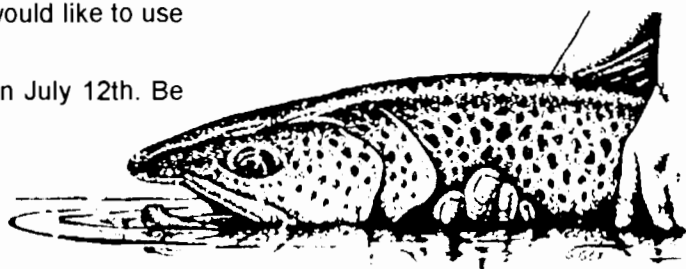


The pond has recently been cleaned and is in good shape. All practice and instructional set-ups await your use. Coaching for any problem areas where you can use some help is there for the asking. If any of you would like to use the club equipment, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163.

The next pond event will be the club picnic and barbeque on July 12th. Be sure to sign up to participate at your earliest opportunity!

The next pond event will be the BBQ on July 12th.

Bob Sisson 1977



Fishing? Nevada?

You thought the only fishing in Nevada was in Pyramid Lake? If you made the May meeting of the RRFF you were disabused of that idea. **Pete Bauer**, owner of the **Angler's Edge Fly Shop** in Gardnerville, Nevada, talked for an hour on the areas to the east, west and south of Minden. Minden, for you souls unfamiliar with Nevada's geography, is a few miles south of Reno.

The Carson, Walker, and many stillwater areas I hadn't heard of before were covered in Pete's presentation. The area has good golden, brown and rainbow areas. You can pick your species and your time if you want to fish while your significant other gambles (gambols?).

Give Pete a call at (702) 782-4734 and enjoy yourself.

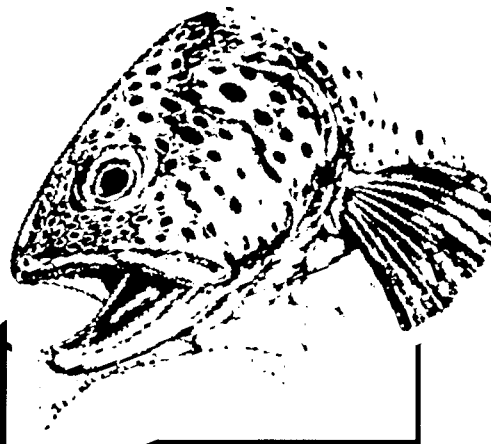
If you're one of those organized souls who wants to write ahead for information, the address is:

Anglers Edge
1420 A Highway 395
Gardnerville, Nevada 89410

Thanks, Pete, for an informative program!!

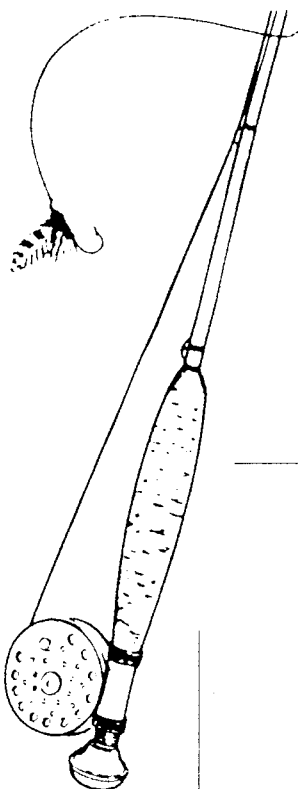
— Chuck

Tip Your Hat



Next time you hook up with a steelhead in the Eel, give a hearty thanks to the Ukiah Rod & Gun Club, Salmon Unlimited, Americorp, California Conservation Corp., Northern California River Guide Association, and California Trout. Members of these organizations recently marked 20,000 steelhead at Warm Springs Dam for release in the Eel River. Volunteering for projects like this is one of the important ways of preserving our anadromous fish for our fishing future!

— Chuck



COMING EVENTS:

June 21 & 22, 1997:

**Fall River trout trip
(Shawn Kempkes
546-2014)**

July 12, 1997

**RRFF BBQ at the
pond**

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 P.M., Monday, June 30, 1997

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

The Changing of the Guard

Two years ago I blithely accepted the challenge of editing *The Cast* for the RRFF. The previous editor, Steve Tubbs, left some mighty big shoes to fill in terms of content, appearance and getting each issue into the readers' hands at an appropriate time. Steve was a big help in getting out those first issues. He held my hand, wiped the sweat off my brow, and led me gently through a thousand and one panic attacks. Many thanks, Steve!!

Steve has also been a major contributor to *The Cast*. He was responsible for *The VP's Line* last year and this year put out *The Prez Sez*. Tim Grogan also deserves a vote of thanks for writing *The Prez Sez* column that first year. Paul Major has a wondrous sense of humor and combines that with a major writing talent. Of course, you're aware of

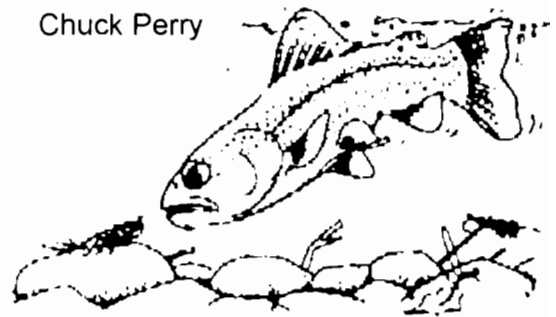
that from this year's version of *The VP's Line*. Bob Sisson is as steady as a rock. His material for *The Casting Pond* has always been on time. Jim Cramer was the find of a lifetime. I have been putting his column, *The Tyer's Corner*, in monthly for almost the whole two years and I still have several columns for upcoming issues to pass on to the new editor. Many thanks, guys!! I'll be forever in your debt.

Thanks also to those members who could be counted on for a monthly get-together to sip a few brews, collate, fold, tape and stamp each new issue of *The Cast*: Steve Tubbs, Scott Broome, Paul and Marji Major, Dwight Longuevan, Mike and Lori Nyholm. I'm sure I have overlooked a number who have helped during the last two years. My memory was a little cloudy after some of those get-

togethers. They sometimes gave new meaning to the word "workparty." Work . . . Party . . . Ah well! I'm sure you understand.

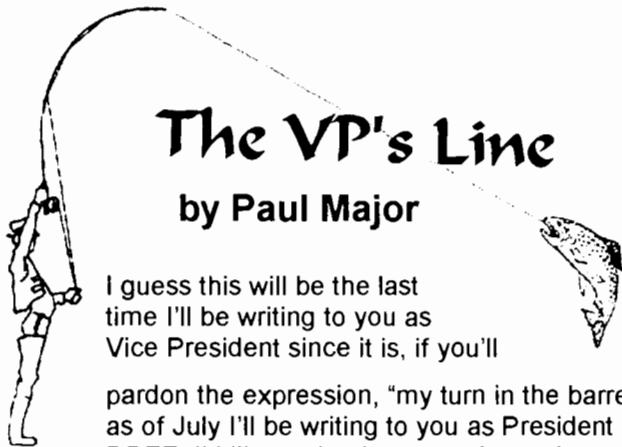
Larry Johnson is now stepping into the breach as the new editor. He has the daunting task of switching all the computer operations from my Mac to his IBM compatible operation. I'm sure he has new ideas on what he thinks *The Cast* should look like in terms of formatting, new columns, etc. Good luck, Larry. May your contributors be as dependable as mine have been.

Chuck Perry



The VP's Line

by Paul Major



I guess this will be the last time I'll be writing to you as Vice President since it is, if you'll

pardon the expression, "my turn in the barrel" and as of July I'll be writing to you as President of RRFF. I'd like to thank all members who took the time to send in your ballots unanimously supporting the candidate slate as presented, including yours truly. I believe that we have a great group of people working on the Board of Directors to keep RRFF growing and improving.

I particularly want to welcome newly elected Board Members Lori Nyholm (now our second woman Director), Noel Plumb, Larry

Johnson, Jim Cramer, Dick Hollingshead, and Scott Lewis. We've already put them to work, with Dick taking over as Treasurer, Noel as Raffle Chairman (from his performance at the Dinner Meeting I think we have a worthy successor to Hackel and Longuevan), Larry will be the new *Cast* editor which I assure you is the toughest job in the Club, and Jim will be the Fly Tying Chairman, which means we finally have someone in the job who's qualified to do it. We haven't managed to corner Lori and Scott yet, but believe me, we will . . .

Those fifty-seven of you who made it to the Dinner Meeting on June 7 will, I'm sure, agree with me that it was one of our best ever! Los Robles Lodge provided us with a beautiful dining room and a super meal. John Shewey put on one of the most entertaining programs I can remember, and Noel and his charming assistant Stephani (who we all agree is obviously too good for him) conducted a really fun raffle of the goodies provided through the great generosity and support of Outdoor Pro Shop and Western Angler,

cont. page 5

The VP's Line *continued*

among others. I wonder if Noel can do it sober? And, of course, many thanks to Marji Major, our Dinner Chairman, for organizing the whole thing so beautifully.

Another highlight of the evening was Hackel and Grogan's show-and-tell report on their annual Florida Tarpon trip . . . jeez, these guys have WAY too much fun! Maybe next year we'll skip the formal speaker program and just pour a couple of cocktails into them and have the "Jim and Tim show" as the evening's entertainment.

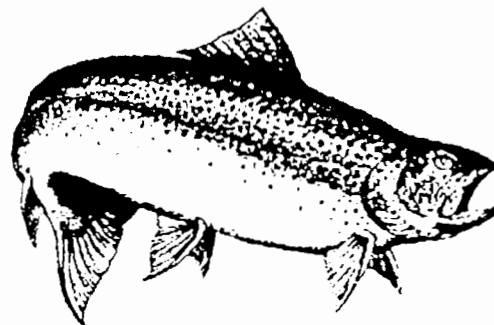
At any rate, right now it looks as if we'll be going back to Los Robles for the December Dinner Meeting . . . tentative date 12/6, tentative speaker Andy Burke

with a brand-new program on stream fishing. Remember that date!

Finally, don't miss the July Picnic and Barbeque at the Casting Pond on July 12, details elsewhere in this issue. The past picnics have been great fun, and a wonderful chance to spend some truly kicked-back time with your fellow club members and their families, including the kids, wives and significant others whom we don't usually get to see at evening meetings. There will be a raffle, and the picnic is FREE! Please come, bring your family and guests, and have some fun in the sun.

I hope to see you all on July 12, and if you can't be there, have a

wonderful summer, and I'll see you at our next regular meeting on the second Wednesday of September. And remember, to loosely quote John Shewey, "Every day you don't go fishing is another day when you won't have gone fishing . . ." (or words to that effect . . . maybe you had to be there, but it seemed profound at the time).



JULY GENERAL MEETING

Free Picnic & Barbecue

Saturday, July 12, Noon to 5 P.M.

Dan Galvin Park

at the intersection of

Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Road

FREE FOOD

Hamburgers - Hotdogs - More Fabulous Beans - Soft Drinks

Casting Clinic

Fabulous Raffle Prizes

**Wives, significant others, & children are cordially invited!!
(Bring your own lawn chairs)**

**If you are available to help with cooking,
cleanup or any of the many myriad tasks involved in the picnic,
give Marji Major a call at 539-5437 (home) or 579-0990 (work).**

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated June 11, 1997), 1404 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 510-526-1937.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Hat Creek - Lower (PH-2 to Pit River)	Low flow, clear, mid 50s F.	Fishing is good to very good. Trout are keying in on the rusty and tan spinner falls in the morning. Tricos are also showing. PMD hatch starts midmorning to early afternoon, depending on air temperature. Caddis, creamy orange mayflies, and rusty spinners are hatching in the evening. Good numbers of trout rising in the flats from HWY 299 bridge upstreast to the PH #2 riffly during the hatches. Bring a good variety of imitations for best success.	Cooler weather will delay hatches for a few hours. Also check out the fish barrier. Gnats are really bad -- face netting is a good idea.
Fall River	Clear, normal flows, low to mid 50s F. Weeds are growing in fast.	Fishing is good to very good. BWO hatch starts midmorning, and is very strong on overcast days. PMD hatch follows around 11 A.M. Trout are eating both the nymphs and dries. The key is to find the pools of the larger fish as you motor upstream, and fish for them later in the day. When the action subsides, around 2 P.M., go to nymphs or streamers on a sinktip or Stillwater sinking lines. Watch for a caddis hatch in the evening; try swinging an emerging pupa. Fish from Cal Trout to Zug Bug alley.	A boat is needed to access this fishery. The Hex hatch is started, and will continue to get stronger in the next couple of weeks. Motor downstream from Cal Trout and fish from 7 P.M. to dark. Some very large trout are caught on this #6 bug.
McCloud River	Very clear, low 50s F. Normal flows (210 cfs at Ah-Di-Nah)	Fishing is good to very good. Indicator nymph with the 2-fly method (a golden stonefly nymph with a small beadhead dropper). Best action is early and late in the day; fish the deeper runs when the sun is out. Stoneflies, little yellow stones, PED, and caddis are hatching from 7 P.M. to dark. If trout are not rising in the pools, fish dries blind in fishy-looking areas. Streamers on sinktips also producing. Ah-Di-Nah, Ash Camp, and the Conservancy are fishing well.	The angler willing to walk can get away from the crowds. The Conservancy has five unreserved rod spots per day, but you have to get there early to get on.
Pit River	Normal flow 150 cfs release from Lake Britton, normal green clarity, mid to upper 50s F.	Fishing is good to very good. Best action is from first light to noon, and again from 6 P.M. to dark. Afternoon fishing slows, but is still worthwhile. Indicator nymph using a beadhead litebrite prince nymph and a smaller mayfly or caddis dropper. Use lots of weight. The trout are starting to key in on the caddis and smaller mayfly nymphs. Creamy mayflies (#14) and caddis are out in the evening, with good dry fly fishing from 7 P.M. to dark.	Stoneflies are still around, but are dying out. To wade the Pit, you must have a staff; stream cleats or studded boots are also advisable. The aggressive wader catches the most fish on the Pit.
Sacramento River (Upper), above Lake Shasta	Moderate flow (530 cfs at Dog Creek), clear, mid 50s F.	Fishing is good, with a mixture of 10-13" and a decent number of 15-17" trout showing. Indicator nymph with a beadhead nymph and a smaller, more realistic (#16-18) dropper; most trout are grabbing the smaller flies. Best action is from 6 A.M. to noon, and again from 6 P.M. to dark. Most consistent stretch is from Box Canyon downstream to Soda Creek. Good dry fly fishing late in the evening with PED, small caddis, and attractor dries. Some fish are working rusty spinners and "garbage" early in the morning. A few stoneflies are still out, but the hatch is slowing.	The lower sections (Iamoiné, Dog Creek, and Gibson) are also fishing well, but hatches are not as consistent.

The Tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer

Would you make a deal with the devil if you could catch big fish, not the little dinks everyone else is catching, but the really big fish?

You've spent big bucks on your rods, reels, and other tackle and traveled to far away expensive spots to achieve that end, have you not? So what's it worth to you to start catching larger fish closer to home? I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to tell you about some flies and the method to fish them that will increase the size of your catch and it is not going to cost you a cent. All I ask in return is that you give me feedback on your successes.

The secret fly has no standard dressing, it isn't very pretty, it's not found in many pattern books, and it is easy to tie with inexpensive materials. It imitates a major food source for large trout and bass and is generally found the same place the larger members of the tribe are found. The fish and fishermen don't have to rely on a hatch schedule as this food source is available almost year around. In case you don't have it yet, the answer is "leeches"! Also known as aquatic bloodsucking or carnivorous annelid worms of the class Hirudinea. Sounds like a mouthful of protein if I ever heard of one. Must be why they are so popular with the big fish.

How do you tie a leech? We want to copy a worm that moves slowly through the water, contracting and extending as it moves. I thought the word I wanted was "ungulate" until I looked it up in the dictionary and found it applied to animals having hoofs. The word I wanted was "undulate." Anyway, it wiggles slowly through the water and we

want to try to duplicate that motion with our fly. Most leech imitations are tied on 2XL or 3XL hooks with a flexible tail of maribou or rabbit hair (or rabbit strip for larger patterns). I like to lightly weight the fly near the eye to provide an up and down jiggling motion as the fly is retrieved. Some tiers are using bead heads to achieve this. I believe that having the correct amount of weight is very important to the success of this pattern. You don't want the fly to dive to the bottom on every hesitation but to sink slowly head first. *Leeches are not noted for their speed. This means: fish them slowly!*

My favorite leech pattern is extremely simple. After weighting the front of the hook, move to the rear and tie in a maribou plume by the tip, letting the tip extend to the rear to form the tail. Keep the tail sparse and relatively short, say about 1.5 times the hook gap. You don't want a big puff of maribou developing every time you twitch the fly. Now take the base of the maribou plume, give it a twist or two and wrap it forward to the eye and tie off. Whip finish and you are done.

An even simpler pattern is just a leech yarn body frizzed out. The body material can be as simple as just a chenille wrap; however, the fuzzier body materials seem to work better. Besides maribou, leeches can be tied with mohair, rabbit, or soft dubbing. Hal Janssen ties a series of maribou wings on top of the hook on his leech pattern. Another variation is to tie the fuzzy butt of a saddle hackle on top of the hook like a

horizontal matuka wing. This has some merit, as a good number of leeches have a flat body. I will sometimes add one turn of soft hackle at the eye of the hook and/or one or two pieces of Krystal Flash to each side of the tail. Most leech patterns are over dressed; don't overdo.

Pattern color can be very important. Early season leeches are predominantly olive, brown, black, or a mottled green and black. Late in the season claret, crimson, purple, gold and grey produce well. I have had good success with dark grey and especially dark blood colors.

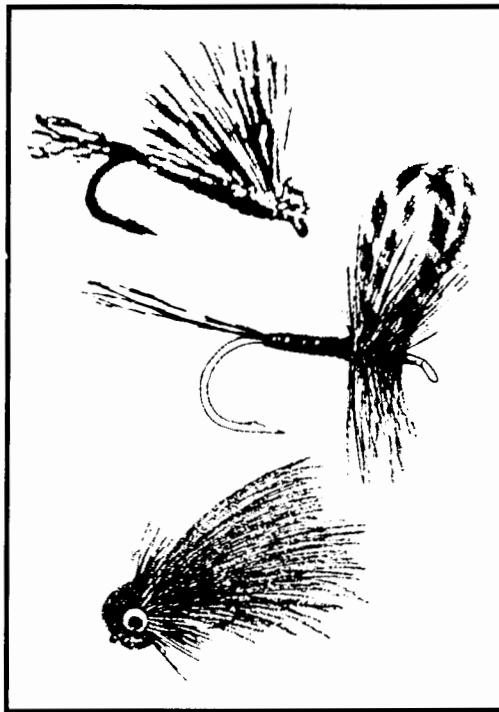
When fully extended, leeches can attain lengths of six inches, but the one to two inch lengths and even smaller sizes seem to be the best producers. A

well-stocked leech box will have sizes running from #2 to #14.

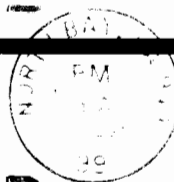
Fish the leech in the deeper, slower waters of the rivers and around the weed beds in the lakes and ponds. Low light conditions are best, so fish early morning and late evening.

This means that you can probably get by with a heavier leader than normal which is great for the heavier fish. The heavier leader also makes it easier to tie when

you can't see clearly. I prefer to use a small loop knot as it lets the leech have more action. Use an intermediate sink or slow sink line to keep your leech in the feeding zone as long as possible. After casting, keep increasing your count-down until you feel the fly just ticking the weed tops. Retrieve in slow pulls of two to six inches until you find what works that day. Keep your rod tip pointed at the fly and stay ready.



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 Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 RRF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal year's 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

the RRF

Volume 22
Number 8
September 1997

Major Notes by Paul Major

"What?" Labor Day already?" It sometimes seems that Opening Day of trout season and Opening Day of dove season (September 1) are consecutive weekends; the summer goes so quickly.

As usual, I didn't fish as much as I had hoped to, but that's normal. . . I don't think I have ever fished as much as I had hoped to even during seasons when I've fished really a lot. I tend to dream big.

Marji and I did spend the third week of July on Fall River, sharing The Fly Shop's beautiful Riverside house with Jerry and Joan Luedke. The fishing was tough but productive; hot weather knocked the hatches down and we had to rely on nymphing and leeches for most of our fish, but we caught the tag end of the Hex hatch for some fairly good evening dry fly fishing. Also took some great afternoon naps, saw several pairs of Sandhill

Cranes, taught my Lab pup to water-retrieve, and generally had a hell of a good time.

Jerry and Joan, by the way, have relocated from Petaluma to Orange County. They send their best to all their friends in RRFF, and we'll miss them at our meetings in coming months.

So . . . off we go on another year in the life of the Russian River Fly Fishers! Scotty Broome, our new VP and Program Chairman, is putting together a very interesting list of speakers and programs for the regular meetings (details to follow), and we've already booked Andy Burke for our December Dinner Meeting, so you can mark December 6 on your calendar right now.

And remember: our monthly meetings are on the SECOND Wednesday of every month in the Lodge Room at Vets' Memorial. I know a lot of us had trouble making the transition from the third Wednesday to the

second Wednesday last year, but we've had a year to get it straight, so "I forgot which week it was" will no longer be

accepted as an excuse for missing a meeting. Demerits will be handed out unless you bring a note from your mother.

So . . . hope to see y'all at the next meeting on September 10. Don't forget to pony up your club membership dues for '97-'98 – by now you've gotten the reminder in the mail – and let's make the coming year another great one for RRFF!

IN THIS ISSUE

	<i>Page</i>
Announcements	2-4
VP's Line	4
What's hot . . .	5
The Tyer's Corner	6
Outdoors	7



1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President Paul Major (539-5437)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Noel Plumb (766-8790)
NCCFFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Members at Large: Lori Nyholm (538-5163) and Jim Cramer

Vice President: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Treasurer: Dick Hollingshead (538-8760)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Scott Broome (575-5993)
The Cast Editor: Larry Johnson (571-8078)
Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, September 21

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

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

This is the time of year to begin getting serious about the Salmon and Steel-head runs. There are already Kings and half pounders in the northern rivers, and if you listen to the network pseudo-meteorologists, there may be a few Albacore and Barracuda in there with them. In any event, you will be doing yourself a favor if you work the kinks out of your shooting system casting at the pond, where you will not be bothered by some fish interfering with your casting practice. The pond awaits your presence. Coaching will be there for the asking. The opportunity also exists to test yourself against the distance course and get up to the level of Bob Norman and Jim Hake.

The next clinic will be October 19th.

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

**7 p.m., Monday,
September 29, 1997**

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

DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

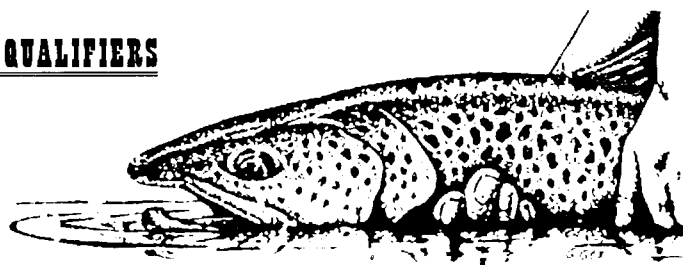
July pond picnic

120' Club:

#18. Bob Norman (10Wt.SH)

135' Club:

#12. Jim Hake (10Wt.SH)



— Bob Sisson 1977

Picnic 1997

July 12, 1997, was a very good day to have a picnic. We even found some shade and a cool breeze out at the casting pond! The turnout, however, was light, although those who showed up had a great time, great food, and a lot of fun.

I want to thank Tim Grogan and Scott Lewis for their masterful job at the grills, and thanks to Dan and Betty Briggs for volunteering to chop onions for me (I cried a lot last year).

Thanks also to Bob Sisson for bringing the garbage cans, and thanks to everyone who pitched in to leave the area squeaky clean. I do apologize to those who arrived late for not having specified a "feeding time."

The board has decided that next year's picnic and barbecue will be in June, rather than July, and if any club members would like to help, you will be welcome!

— Marji Major

FIRST ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC

SEPTEMBER 25-28

Terrestrial Season

Ants
Beatles
Termites
Midges

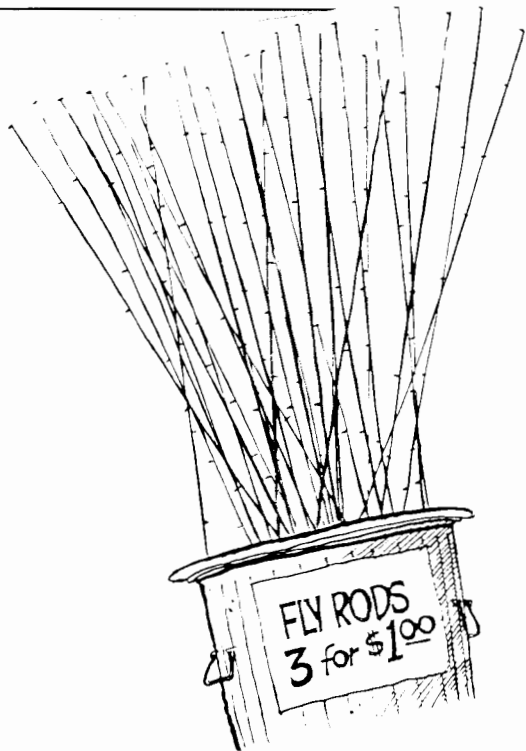
Contact

Scott Lewis
Outings Director
588-9220



FLEAMARKET OR FLYMARKET?

The Fleamarket table will be a standard fixture at all of our regular meetings in the upcoming year, so . . . any gear you would like to sell or swap, bring it to the meeting and be prepared to wheel and deal.



Classified Section

Please note that "The Cast" is still offering free ad space for members. If you have a fly rod, reel or any hunting & fishing equipment for sale, contact the Editor.

Fax: 707-571-7919
Work: 707-571-8078

General Meeting

Speaker for September 10, 1997:

Herb Burton of Trinity Fly Shop, Lewiston, CA

Topic: "Fall and Winter Steelhead of the Trinity System"

Herb has been a guide for over twenty-five years on the Trinity, fishing for steelhead, salmon, trout and shad. His program will cover Fall and Winter steelhead. This is a great program to kick off our September meeting, so don't forget to mark your calendars.

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

Fly tying 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting 7:30 p.m.

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



The VP's Line

by Scott Broome

"Dunkin' a Worm." There is nothing I find more challenging than a new piece of water. This year the annual Broome vacation was spent on the Snake River, Yellowstone Lake, Jenney Lake, and the Missouri River.

I didn't get in as much fishing as I would have liked, but the fishing I did was just spectacular. Deb and I spent three days on Snake River, which is just about on top of the south entrance to Yellowstone. Our cabin had the most majestic views to the Tetons and I could spit into the Snake River. I always find myself with some sort of pre-ordained idea of how I am going to fish some new place. I was very much surprised at what I found -- lots of water, very high and off color. I was home. It was steelhead water.

Away the floating lines, away the dries -- sinking lines and big leech bunny patterns were in order.

It took me a day to find the right combination and it was a bait fisherman who put me on to my first strike. I saw him land a couple of fish and I asked him what he was using. He told me he was "dunkin' a worm," so the sinking line went on with a nice San Juan worm and bingo! I hooked the largest German Brown trout of my life! After a long distance release I broke out a flybox which I had lifted from Mr. Robert Norman and used some of Bob's great leech patterns which put me on the fish. I caught and released about five fish with two that went about 20".

Deb and I left the Teton Yellowstone area and went through the Big Horns and on into the Black Hills. I made a mental note of some great areas to fish.

We spent the last five days of our vacation with family along the Missouri River at the Broome family reunion. A great time was had by all. The Broomes of South Dakota really showed me what hospitality is, and they really know how to dunk a worm and cook the fish.

Oh, by the way, can anybody tell me what Rocky Mountain oysters are? They're great . . .

Let's go fishing.

— *Scotty*

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated August 27, 1997), 1404 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 510-526-1937.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Klamath River	Clear, low 60s F (2500 cls at Orleans)	Fishing is good. Half pound steelies are in the system in good numbers. Recent rain has made them active. Fish from the mouth to Witchepek. Average catch rates on these 12 20" supercharged chromers are running 10-15 fish per day. Also, a few 4-7 lb. adult steelies are mixed in. Use brindle bugs, mossbacks, and skunks on floating lines in the morning and evening. Switch to 5' sink tips in the afternoon.	Flies: brindle bugs, mossbacks, and skunks (#4, 8)
Manzanita Lake, Lassen Park	Clear, cool	Fishing is fair. Look for fishing to pick up with recent cooling spell. Morning and evening midge batch is producing most consistent dry action. Callibatis hatch from midday to 3 p.m. is sporadic, but can be good on some days. Walk the shoreline and look for cruising fish. Damsel and callibatis nymphs also produce; use a Stillwater or very slow sinking line with a slow retrieve near bushes in the water. The 15-20" rainbows and browns are very selective; use long leaders and 7x tippet.	Terrestrials (ants, beetles) also produce, especially when wind comes up. Action expected to pick up Sept. 25-28.
Fall River	Clear, normal flows; low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is good. For some reason it's not the dog days of summer here, and the trout are very willing. BWO, along with a few tricos, are hatching early morning. Get on the water by 7 a.m. to have a shot at some dry fly fishing. PMD hatch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., but is sporadic. Indicator nymphing with a small PMD nymph under an indicator on 7x tippet is very consistent. Your best bet to catch larger trout is fishing sinking lines with dark streamers in the deep holes. Best fishing of the day is the evening caddis rise from 7 p.m. to dark; try swinging an emerging pupa. Best weed growth is in Christensen's upstream to Zug Bug Alley.	A boat is needed to access this fishery.
Hot Creek	Mid to high 50s F. Water is clearing; weeds are thick.	Fishing is very good. Indicator nymphing with small (#18 20) mayfly nymphs or midge pupa on 7x tippet is consistent all day. Accurate casts are needed to place your fly into the slots in between the weedbeds, especially during the afternoon wind. Dry fly fishing with small caddis emergers and PMD ripples is very productive in the morning and evening. Grasshopper patterns are very productive, especially on windy days.	Long fine leaders and stealth are needed to fool these wary rainbows and browns. Keep wading to a minimum to save this fragile watershed.
Sacramento River (Lower Redding to Anderson)	Clear, 8500 cls. Low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is fair and improving. Water levels are dropping, making wading easier (6500 cls or less is ideal). Indicator nymph with a large caddis pupa and a smaller caddis pupa dropper. Rainbows are running 14-20" and are hot. Good runs of salmon are being reported, but they will not be spawning for a few more weeks.	For wading access, try Turtle Bay, Posse Grounds, and Knighton Road.

The above listings are a mere fraction of the total report provided by the folks at Fish First! Our thanks for allowing us to reprint this information.

The tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



This month I'll be discussing one of the most basic steps in fly tying, the attaching of material to the hook with thread. Such a simple process on the surface; just pinch or lay the material on the hook at the point you want and wrap the thread around it. But are the tail fibers right on top of the hook shank, or have they slipped around to the side? Have the fibers flared out or remained neatly bunched together? Does the material continue to move around the hook as you add tightening wraps? Are your wings slightly off center or cocked at odd angles?

If this ever happens to you, then as Prof. Hill says, "You've got problems in River City."

Don't despair, most of the problems are caused by thread tension and thread torque. By thread torque I am referring to the tendency of the thread to carry the material around the hook shank as you tighten it. Some materials, like hard or stiff hair, are more prone to this than others.

Proper technique will allow a tyer to either take advantage of thread tension and torque, or to counter the effect if need be. For example, when spinning deer hair, the tyer is taking advantage of thread torque, and when stacking a bucktail Whistler wing he is countering it. The same applies to thread tension.

Let's start first with taking advantage of thread torque when tying in hackle fiber tails. After wrapping the thread base, place the hackle fiber clump against the rear side of the hook at about a 45 degree angle (butts pointing down) and make your first wrap of thread around them. The tension should be

light until it gets to the far side and starts down. At this point, tighten up on the thread and immediately make two more tight wraps in front of the first. It is very important that the first wrap you make around the tail fibers lies directly on top of the last wrap of the thread base. If it slips to the bare hook, you will be kinking the fibers into the step between the thread base and the bare hook. This will cause all sorts of undesirable things to happen, such as flared fibers and the wrong angle. If you move forward on the thread base, it will show up as sloppy work. If you have done everything correctly, the thread will have rolled the fibers to the top of the hook into the correct position. This is the time to carefully check your results and redo if necessary.

There are two ways that I know of to counter thread torque. The one most often described in text is the loop method, sometimes called a soft loop. It is very effective for installing wings and is done as follows:

Place your thread at the exact point you want the tie down to start. Measure your wings and place them over the hook. Now bring

the thread straight up between your thumb and the material, then, leaving a slack loop at the top, bring the thread down the far side between your fingertip and the material. (At this point some writers advise to tighten up on the thread, I don't.)

Continuing on, bring the thread straight up between the thumb and the material. Now pull straight up on the thread and as soon as it comes tight, immediately take several more wraps directly behind the first with

each wrap lying tight against the wrap before it. This is a very basic technique that is worth perfecting to the point that it is second nature. Your flies will show the results.

The second way of countering the torque effect is so simple-minded that no one ever discusses it. All you do is to continue to hold onto the material until you finish tying it in. Just say no to letting it twist around the hook. Sometimes you need to pull it slightly to your side of the hook to counter the torque of the thread as you wrap. This works well with long materials like marabou and bucktail.

With thread tension one should generally tie with as much as the thread will take, but there are occasions when this can cause problems. Take for example deer hair

tails on dry flies, or bucktail wings on streamers; the hair will flair if tied with too much pressure. The solution is to back off of the pressure at the rear and increase as you move forward. (A way to cheat on this is to stroke in a drop of head cement or super glue.)

It is sometimes necessary when building a steeply sloping head to reduce the thread tension at the rear of the head to keep the thread from

slipping down the slope. In general, however, thread tension is most important in controlling the flair of compressible materials.

— Hey, Guys — I have been doing this article for over a year and am getting no feedback from any of you. Is the information of any value to you? Do you want more or less detail? Do you want info on new patterns??? If you don't see me at the meeting, you can call me at 875-2912. All input would be appreciated.

—Jim



TOM STIENSTRA OUTDOORS

Tahoe Forest holds jewel of a getaway

A LOT of people complain about this planet, but if you look at the choices, hey, it's still the best one around.

If you have any doubts, let me tell you about a special place in the heart of the Sierra Nevada, where anybody of any age can visit and experience the full exhilaration of the great outdoors.

It is called the Grouse Lakes Area, an 18,000-acre wildland in Tahoe National Forest, featuring 125 lakes sprinkled in a mountain landscape of granite and pines. It is 40 miles east of Auburn off Interstate 80 near Yuba Gap, with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 7,500 feet, all of it sculptured in classic Sierra beauty.

It is accessible to anybody for hiking, camping, boating with a raft or canoe, biking, backpacking, fishing, or just driving here for a picnic, leaning against a big pine and watching the chipmunks. It is a great destination for stellar day hikes, heading to excellent drive-to campgrounds, or strapping on a backpack and venturing to the beyond, discovering lake after lake on trails that are as easy as anywhere in the Sierra.

On my visit this past week, after pulling into camp, the first thing I noticed was the smell, the scent of pine duff in the air, and it took me back to my first visit here 25 years ago. It was just the same then, and I remembered the initial excitement of the chance of discovering so many beautiful places within such close reach.

The drive in provides dozens of options to start your trip. From I-80 at Yuba Gap, you take the Highway 20 exit and drive to Bowman Road. From here, it's a right turn and then entry into your destined wonderland.

Bowman Road and its spur roads provide drive-to access to a series of lakes, including Weaver Lake, McMurray Lake, Bowman Lake, Sawmill Lake, Faucherie Lake, Catfish Lake, Jackson Lake, French Lake, Meadow Lake, Fuller Lake, Lindsey Lake, Carr Lake and Feeley Lake.

Many of these lakes are small, beautiful and perfect for plopping in an inflatable raft or kayak, or a canoe, and just paddling around or fishing for trout. Most also have small campgrounds, as well as trailheads that provide easy access for hiking or biking to many other nearby lakes.

After parking at Carr Lake, we hiked past Feeley Lake and Hidden Lake for a picnic at Island Lake, a clear, deep blue lake, set in a mountain bowl of sheet-smooth, glacial-carved granite. Guess how long it took to get there? Three days? 12 hours? Would you believe about 45 minutes?

There are a lot of bonuses as well. Unlike land governed by state or national parks, you can bring your dog on your walks, and for my little bear-like pup, Bartolius Fluffbucket Snowpuff Bart-Dog, it was his first hike in the Sierra. Unlike the south Sierra, known for dramatic canyons and high ridges, the trails here are relatively flat, making the trip pretty easy, especially for multiple-day backpack trips. And unlike anywhere else, there is the beauty of the pristine lakes of the Sierra.

There are many stellar hiking trips available in the area. Hiking Grouse Ridge provides access to a series of small but gorgeous lakes – Sawmill Lake, Rock Lake, Middle Lake, Crooked Lakes and Milk Lake, and sweeping views of the Sierra's high granite beauty. Milk Lake is an

awesome sight, as deep a blue as at Lake Tahoe, but many of the lakes are tinted azure blue from their extreme clarity.

Although the area is not designated wilderness, it does have wilderness-like qualities. For back-packers, one of the better trips is to take off from Grouse ridge and hike east on Sand Ridge for about five miles to the Five Lakes Basin, which is sprinkled with a series of these tiny but gorgeous little lakes.

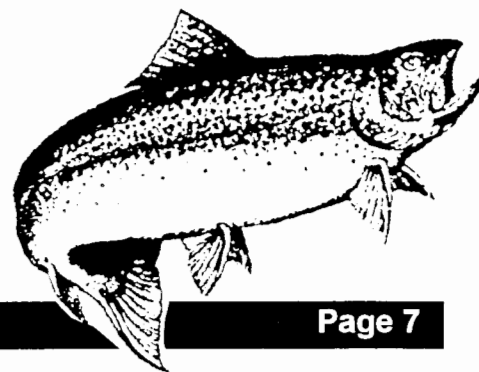
For the most part, the fishing is OK for small brook trout and rainbow trout across the Grouse Lakes Area, with the best prospects in the region at Bowman Lake, Fuller Lake and Faucherie Lake. Since insects, not minnows, provide the primary forage in these stark, clear lakes, flyfishing or using a fly with a bobber gets far better results than using small lures or bait.

For families, what often works best is just playing on the water, especially with inflatables or car-top boats at one of the drive-to lakes. Because there are no boat ramps, it is ideal for those looking for quiet waters, floating and paddling about, without any Jet Ski-type personal watercraft or ski boats around to worry over.

But when you're out in this kind of beauty, with so many pretty lakes and easy hiking trails nearby, it can be difficult to worry about anything.

To obtain recreation fliers on the area, write Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City Ranger District, P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City, CA 95959.

[Reprinted with permission from The San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, August 10, 1997, p. C-12.]



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 Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 year's 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 8
October 1997

Major Notes by Paul Major

A few weeks ago Noel Plumb, my good friend and manager of Western Angler, invited me to join him for a day's drift boat trip on the lower Sacramento with guide Ernie Dennison pulling the oars.

There are many, and you may count me among them, who consider Ernie D. to be the finest Lower Sac guide in the business. I have fished with him several times in the past few years and it took me about a New York second to jump on the chance to do it again with Noel.

We made the drag up to Redding on Saturday evening after Noel closed the Angler, got a good night's sleep in my trailer at Sacramento RV Park and met Ernie and Angie, his wife and shuttle driver, the next morning at The Fly Shop. By Ten O'Clock we were on the river, and at 10:01 Noel was into the first fish of the day! We launched at Sac RV, about a quarter mile above the I-Five bridge, and by the time we

reached the bridge we had hooked ten fish (none of which we netted, but that's another story).

And that's the way it went for the rest of the day...Ernie put us over more fish than we could possibly keep track of, and by the time we hauled out in the dark at Balls Ferry, both Noel and I had hooked and fought so many big wild rainbows that we could barely close our hands on the rod grips any longer...it was a day that I know I will never forget; memorable is not a strong enough

word, but it will do.

Late that night, (when you fish with Ernie Dennison, you best bring a flashlight 'cause you'll be on the water 'til it's too dark to see your rod tip), Noel and I sat outside in the balmy Redding

evening. We were way full of my wife's good pasta sauce, working on the second or third glass of wine, and I thought back to all the great days I've had fishing with professional guides on some of the great Western rivers:

...With dry-witted J.D. Love on the

Madison on a day when every time my eyes wandered to the irresistible beauty of mountain peaks the trout chose that exact moment to take my dry fly; we finally resorted to a team effort...J.D. watched my fly while I gawked about and when he yelled "strike" I lifted the rod tip...it actually worked pretty well...we giggled a lot and also caught some fish.

(continued on page 5)



IN THIS ISSUE

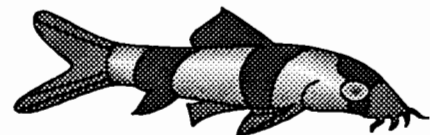
	<i>Page</i>
Announcements	2-4
General Meeting	4
VP's Line	4
What's hot . . .	6
The Tyer's Corner	7

1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President Paul Major (539-5437)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Noel Plumb (766-8790)
NCCFFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Members at Large: Lori Nyholm (538-5163)
Fly Tying Chairman: Jim Cramer (875-2912)

Vice President: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Treasurer: Dick Hollingshead (538-8760)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Scott Broome (575-5993)
The Cast Editor: Larry Johnson (571-8078)
Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

CASTING POND CLINIC



Date: Sunday, October 19

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

If you have found you may need to work a few more kinks out of your casting or you are just interested in finding out how good you can be if you really try, the pond awaits your presence.

There will be a beginners introductory session starting at 10am. If you know someone who might be interested and does not have the needed equipment, Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle has a number of outfits to loan on a reservation basis. Brian can be reached at 572-9887.

Instruction and coaching will be available for the asking until noon or for as long as you can last if the session begins before noon. The pond, of course, is open seven days a week for as long as you can see to use it.

The next clinic will be November 16th.

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
October 27, 1997

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

Bob Sisson 1977

CLUB OUTING

"Putah Creek Day Trip"

Oct. 25

Flies: Cream & Black A.P.
Hares Ear
Pheasant Tail
Red Worms
Size 14-18

Extras: Wading staff
Cleated wading boots

Outing Director: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

Trip Sponsor: Tom Lynn (523-1302)

- please no calls after 8pm

•Russian River Steelhead Expo•

Attention: Anglers, Fly-Fisherman, and River lovers

[Guerneville]—Fly-casting demonstrations and lectures by world renowned Lani Waller and Mike Fong will be some of the events taking place at the Russian River Steelhead Expo on Saturday, October 25 & Sunday, October 26, 1997. Events and demonstrations on Johnson's Beach in Guerneville will start at 8:30am and continue throughout the day until 4:30pm. Spend a beautiful day on the Russian River doing what you do best - learning from the best how to fish and what it will take to save the world famous Russian River Fishery. Attend the slideshow by river and fishery experts and find out what it takes to save this beautiful fish habitat. Sit in on the lectures by knowledgeable local guides and river environment experts to learn why we care about what affects the fish. Demonstration lessons on conventional casting and fly tying for steelhead techniques will be taking place throughout the day and sales booths will be showing the latest and greatest in fishing gear. Join the town of Guerneville in the "Fall Fling" Celebration which is a planned family activity of entertainment and events.

(contacts are Mike Swaney - 829-3580, or Steve Jackson - 869-2156)

Event is sponsored by Friends of the Russian River, Trout Unlimited, and the Sierra Club Hunter-Angler Funds. All proceeds will be used for the Russian River

Proposed Club Outing

"Frank's Tract"

**We are planning a
late November trip
in search of STRIPERS.**

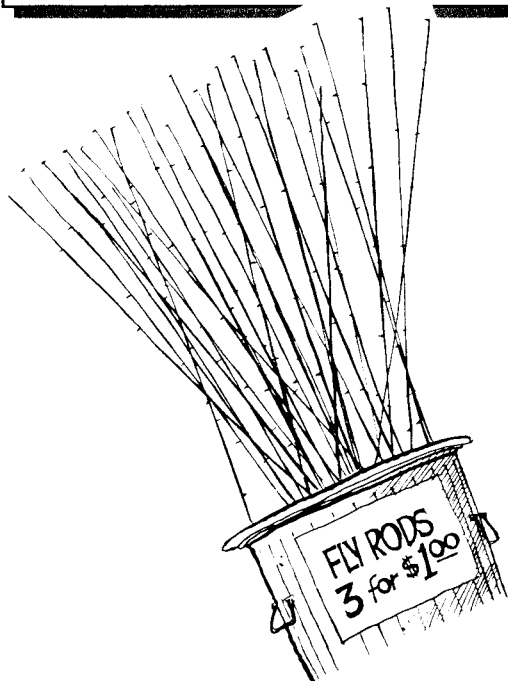
**We will require a deposit
for a shared houseboat**

Outings Director

**Scott Lewis
588-9220**

FLEAMARKET OR FLYMARKET?

The Fleamarket table will be a standard fixture at all of our regular meetings in the upcoming year, so . . . any gear you would like to sell or swap, bring it to the meeting and be prepared to wheel and deal.



Classified Section

8' Aluminum Pram Santa Rosa Boat (Builder)
custom w/wheels & oars - \$600

Custom Float Tube, never used, call for info - \$100

Dale Cheli (546-6599)

General Meeting

Fishing the Keys

Big Tarpon
on the Fly
with
Jim Hakel & Co.

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

Fly tying 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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



The VP's Line

by Scott Broome

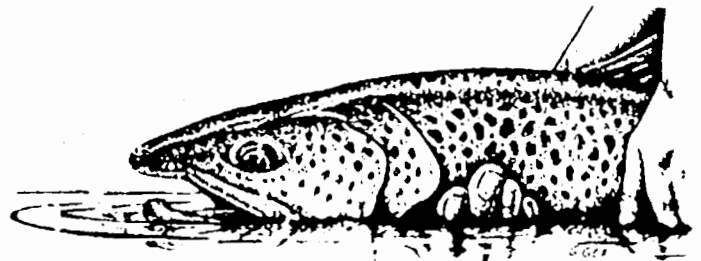
It was great seeing everyone at the last meeting. If you didn't make it, the speaker was Herb Burton, who I thought did a great program on the Trinity River system. For all those members who couldn't make it, please block out the second Wednesday of every month on your calendar, so we can see ya.

On the fishing front, I've been fishing the lower Russian a lot the last few weeks. The mouth has been open and a few fish, kings and half-pounders, have been seen and landed. Last week, I hooked and landed one half-pounder and lost a nice king at Vacation Beach. Remember that all the summer dams must come down by the 15th of October, so in the next few weeks, the fishing should really improve.

Fall on the Russian can be a gas. Usually it's low water conditions and you can use floating lines with long leaders in great water conditions. I have a feeling that this year we will see a lot more half-pounders. The only negative thing I've seen is that there are great quantities of trash fish in the river. I've been catching about 30 to 1 squaw to salmonid; but with nothing better to do, the squaws can be fun. If anyone needs any info on the Russian River, please call me. I am also planning on doing an outing on the Russian, so call if you're interested.

So....let's go fishing!

— *Scotty*



(continued from page 1)

...Two days with jolly, barrel-chested Doug Barton on the Green below Flaming Gorge...big browns on big Trudes plus the amazing sight of dozens of huge trout swarming to eat macaroni salad at our lunch stop, (no, Doug wouldn't let us bait a hook with macaroni even though we pleaded).

...Many days with salty old Bud McClean on his incredible Chilko River in B.C., (yes, IT IS Bud's river...Bud turned seventy last year and has been guiding on the Chilko for almost forty years...but he still loves to share it with the right people). Put your size-four Stimulator where Bud tells you to and you WILL catch fish. I'll always remember every detail of one afternoon, fishing alone with Bud, when we brought thirty-something trout into the boat in two hours...and the Rainbows on the Chilko average better than 18"!...

...My first day on Fall River was with Bob Norman; we not only caught fish...my first BIG trout on a three-weight and 7X tippet...but in a few hours Bob transformed that enigmatic stream, for me, into an understandable river ecosystem that has, in the years since, become my favorite trout river. Bob and I haven't fished together since then, but we're friends to this day...

The thing that virtually every guide I have been privileged to fish with has in common, in addition to being good companions for a day on the water and good fish-finders, is that they are talented and generous teachers. I cannot recall one guided trip I've taken that I didn't come away feeling that I'd taken a giant step forward in my skills and understanding of this complex sport.

...Many of my favorite and most productive fly patterns were taught to me by guides; particularly Bob Norman's Fall River patterns and Ernie Dennison's Sac River Caddis

patterns...

...I have learned more practical casting skills, (presentation skills would actually be the better term), from guides than from any other source. Do you think your drag-free presentations are perfect?...spend a day with a good guide and you're likely to be in for a rude awakening...I once asked Ernie if he ever woke up in the night repeating "mend, mend, mend" in his sleep. These guys really want you to catch fish, and the good ones will help you (and nag you) until you get it right!

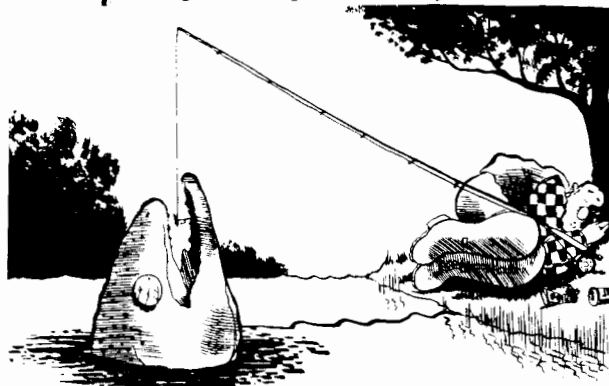
And knowing the bugs as well as we know our kids is a guide's stock in trade...if you don't come off a guided day on the water knowing a huge amount more about the aquatic insects in the water than you did, then either you hired a lemon or you just weren't paying attention...

Or...maybe you gave the guy the impression that you're already the World's Leading Expert and there's nothing he can teach you...

I've seen guys come off like that, trying to impress the guide with what great fishermen they were, with nothing left to learn, and I've seen the guide eventually give up on them and turn his full attention to me in the other end of the boat...what a great deal for me! Just remember that no matter how many years you've finished in your spare time and on vacation, it's damned unlikely that you know everything, and very damned unlikely that you know as much about a given piece of water as a guide who fishes that water as much as two hundred days a year, year in year out. Put your ego away and let your guide do his thing and I guarantee you'll learn something, probably a lot! Remember that the really good

guides love to teach and consider it part of what you're paying them for...it's really foolish not to take advantage of that deal.

I suppose the point of all this meandering on my part is to urge any of you who haven't had the experience of a guided trip to seriously consider



doing it. I know that at the going rate for guides of around \$250 a day, not all of us can afford to do it very often; I know I can't. But when you consider how much it costs just to go fishing on your own someplace neat these days, (my big Chevy burns \$85 worth of gas on a round-trip to Redding), then two-fifty for a guide, split with a buddy, seems to me like a relative bargain, particularly if it turns a trip into one of those memories of a lifetime.

I know that, speaking for myself, the few hundred dollars I've spent on guides over the years looks to me like one of the best deals I've ever made when I think of the great days on the water, and the growth of my understanding and skill which has enhanced all my fishing days on my own. I have often thought that fishing guides are the most underpaid people in the workforce, but most of them have a true love for what they do, (do you know what guides most often do on their days off?...they go FISHING...), and the good ones also love to share and teach all that they know. I can tell you that every time I get a few bucks ahead, I'll seriously consider spending some of it on a guided trip.

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid September, 1997), 1404 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 510-526-1937.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Klamath River	Clear, low 60s F (2500 cfs at Orleans)	Fishing is good. Half pound steelies are in the system in good numbers. Recent rain has made them active. Fish from the mouth to Witchepek. Average catch rates on these 12 20" supercharged chromers are running 10-15 fish per day. Also, a few 4-7 lb. adult steelies are mixed in. Use brindle bugs, mossbacks, and skunks on floating lines in the morning and evening. Switch to 5' sink tips in the afternoon.	Flies: brindle bugs, mossbacks, and skunks (#4, 8)
Manzanita Lake, Lassen Park	Clear, cool	Fishing is fair. Look for fishing to pick up with recent cooling spell. Morning and evening midge batch is producing most consistent dry action. Callibatis hatch from midday to 3 p.m. is sporadic, but can be good on some days. Walk the shoreline and look for cruising fish. Damsel and callibatis nymphs also produce; use a Stillwater or very slow sinking line with a slow retrieve near bushes in the water. The 15-20" rainbows and browns are very selective; use long leaders and 7x tippet.	Terrestrials (ants, beetles) also produce, especially when wind comes up.
Walker River, East Fork (below Bridgeport Reservoir)	Moderate flow (280 cfs from Bridgeport), mid 50s F, clearing.	Fishing is very good. Water levels are down (hopefully to stay), making access easier. Indicator nymph using large beadheads and stonefly nymphs with lots of shot. Smaller mayfly nymphs and caddis pupa also producing. Dark streamers also produce. Dry fly fishing is very good above Hwy 182 bridge with PMD's, caddis, and grasshoppers during most of the day. Browns and rainbows average 10 - 15", with some fish pushing 20".	Use a wading staff and stream cleats.
McCloud River	Milky green/brown, mid 50s F. Normal flows (210 cfs at Ah-Di-Nah).	Fishing is fair to good. Best action for larger lake run browns is early and late in the day with dark streamers fished in the tailouts of pools. Indicator nymphing with the 2 fly rig (a beadhead lite brite prince nymph with a small mayfly or caddis pupa dropper) is consistent for average size trout. Small flies are producing more fish. Little yellow stones, PED, and caddis are hatching from 6pm to dark, with sporadic risers in the runs and pools. Also try fishing dries blind in fishy looking areas. A few cold fronts will turn the bite on.	Remember: 4-6 ft deep runs generally hold the larger fish. Ahi-Di-Nah, Ash Camp, and the Conservancy are fishing well. The Conservancy has five unreserved rod spots per day, but you have to get there early to get one.
Pit River	Normal flow (150 cfs release from Lake Britton), normal green clarity, low 60s F.	Fishing is fair to good. The isonychia hatch has started, and the trout are on the nymphs. Indicator nymph using an isonychia nymph and a smaller mayfly or caddis dropper; use lots of weight and fish the fast water. Best action is in morning and evening, but afternoon fishing is improving with cooler weather (plus the isonychia nymph grab is best in the afternoon). Creamy mayflies (#16) and caddis are out in the evening, with sporadic dry fly fishing from 6pm to dark. A few days of cool weather will turn the bite on.	Pit #3 reach is the most consistent producer because the water stays cooler than farther downstream. To wade the Pit, you must have a staff; stream cleats or studded boots are also advisable.

The above listings are a mere fraction of the total report provided by the folks at Fish First! Our thanks for allowing us to reprint this information.

The tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



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 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 some mighty poor ones. (That may be a subject for a future article)

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. Wet flies, nymphs and streamers are another matter.

There are several producers of genetic hackle. Metx, Hoffman,

Herbert, 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 feather 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 a 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 Woolly 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 Herbert'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 lesser grade. One can tie an awful lot of flies from a single cape or saddle patch.

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!

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



ALWAYS
USE ZIP CODE

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

Address correction requested.

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 \$20 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 year's dues.

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

Major Notes by Paul Major

Marji and I just got home from a few days camping with our trailer in Southern Oregon. We like to get away for a few days in October when we can; although it's a bit risky, weather wise, we usually find mid-October to be fairly reliable with crisp clear days, chilly nights, beautiful fall foliage, and no mosquitos.

But the very best thing about October is the total absence of the summer crowds. We spent one night at the Picnic Grounds at Castle Crags State Park on the upper Sac...alone, nobody else there.

Then we went up to Collier State Park on the Williamson River above Chiloquin...again, almost nobody there except the campground hosts, and in three days fishing on the Williamson and Spring Creek, I didn't see a single fisherman! Had the place to ourselves.

Dick and Vivian Betts drove up to join us, and Dick and I booked a guide for our first day on the Williamson.

Randy Rigdon, who books through Williamson River Anglers Flyshop at Chiloquin gave us a great day on the lower section (Chiloquin to Agency Lake).

The temperature was in the low twenties in the morning, so we worked full sinking lines with leeches, sculpin patterns, and the like, and both Dick and I got good fish. Dick's best was five-six pounds, mine a bit smaller but still a hog by my standards.

As the morning warmed, the bugs (little Olives and Red Quills) appeared and the fish started looking up. We fished the rest of the day with dries and rose a bunch, hooked a bunch, and even netted a few. Nice fish too...although the fabled Williamson

monsters (Randy's best fish this season was 34" long, 18" girth, and an estimated 15 pounds) are seldom caught on the surface, we were rising fish in the 16"-20" range and had a ball with them.

The next day I launched my pon-

toon boat at Collier and floated the "upper section" from Collier to Chiloquin (about six miles). Whereas the lower section can be fished from a boat, this upper section has regs similar to the upper Deschutes; no fishing from a watercraft. Randy had warned me that it could be tough; as he put it, "you have to wade your elbows and cast a hundred feet...", and he wasn't kidding! I spent the day pushing my

(continued on page 2)



IN THIS ISSUE

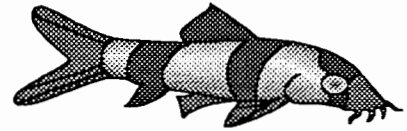
	<i>Page</i>
Announcements	2, 4
The Tier's Corner	3
VP's Line	4
What's hot . . .	5
The Boyscout Program	6, 7

1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President Paul Major (539-5437)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Noel Plumb (766-8790)
NCCFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Members at Large: Lori Nyholm (538-5163)
Fly Tying Chairman: Jim Cramer (875-2912)

Vice President: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Treasurer: Dick Hollingshead (538-8760)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Scott Broome (575-5993)
The Cast Editor: Larry Johnson (571-8078)
Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

CASTING POND CLINIC



Date: Sunday, November 16, 1997

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Instruction and coaching will be available for the asking for as long as you feel up to it if the session begins before noon. The pond is open all the time if you urge to use it.

If any of you wish to use the Club's equipment, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me. There will be an introduction to fly casting session beginning at 10am and lasting until around noon. This session is a joint venture with Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle and the Russian River Fly Fishers. Brian has a limited supply of equipment to loan on a reservation basis by calling 572-9887.

We will be approaching the time of the year when weather can be a limiting factor. If the rains have come as of the 16th, the clinic will be postponed until after the first of the year.

There will be no clinic during December.

The next scheduled clinic will be January 18th, 1998.

Bob Sisson 1977

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
November 24, 1997

Scott Broome's home
1760 Windrose Court
Santa Rosa

575-5993

December Dinner

Saturday, December 6, 1997

6:00pm - No Host Bar

7:00pm - Dinner

Los Robles Lodge, Santa Rosa

Reservation Form will be mailed



(continued from page 1)

Bronco through the frog-water stretches, wading to my elbows, and trying to make full-line perfect presentations to those very picky rainbows...these are one-shot fish, for the most part. You get one shot at the perfect presentation and if you don't hit it, they're gone!

Well, I ain't that good, so I cast to a lot of fish, rose a couple, and caught none...and had a wonderful time doing it! In retrospect, I should have taken a sinking line with me 'cause I saw hundreds of very large trout in the deep runs that I could have reached with a sinker, but oh well...

This was our first experience on the Williamson, but it won't be the last. It's a beautiful and challenging stream; although be forewarned that, like the Fall River, access is just about zip without a boat and I very strongly recommend booking a guide for your first day. It's not an easy river to read and the big trout do not hang out where you would expect them to be.

Our guide, Randy Rigdon, will be our speaker at our January meeting. He's a very personable and knowledgeable guy and he'll be doing a slide show and program on fishing the Williamson, the Wood River, and Agency Lake. It should be entertaining and educational evening, so make your plans now and don't miss it!

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



This month we'll be covering the posting of wings and parachute hackles. In the dark ages when I started, very little was written about such exotic practices. As a consequence, I thought that my wings were good enough without posting and that parachute hackling was just an exotic fad. With the passing of years, the gaining of wisdom, and the desire to become a more proficient tier, I have done a 180 on both of these items. Posted wings are better than those not posted and parachute hackled flies certainly add to one's fishing pleasure.

Let us cover wing posting first. For those who may not be familiar with them, "posting" is simply a technique of wrapping the base of the wing, usually hair or synthetic, to make it stiffer or post-like. For starters, it is not difficult as many would have you believe. You do not need three or more hands and you certainly do not need any of the fancy spring loaded gadgets that so many shops and catalogs would love to sell you.

I recommend that you practice posting wings without tying a complete fly until you become comfortable with the technique. That way, you will waste little time and material and won't end up with as many "learner flies" in your box. Learner flies will catch fish, but they just aren't as pretty as your better flies. Let me walk you through the process the way I do it. There may be other ways but this works for me.

We'll start with synthetic wing material as we can use a longer piece and it is easier to control. Take a piece of wing material about 1 1/2 inches long (this is more than you actually need and you will be able to deal with shorter pieces later) and divide it into half of what you will need for a completed wing. Tie the material down on top of the hook at its midpoint; take both ends of the material and pull straight up as you tighten the thread, now take one wrap of thread around the hook shank in front of the wing. You will find this a much stronger and neater method of tying synthetic material than to tie in a full wing and then trim the butts. The posting of the wing is now done by wrapping the thread around just the base of the wing. Start at the bottom and wrap up and then back down in close wraps of the thread and immediately take a wrap around the hook shank. The actual distance up the wing you need to cover will depend on the fly design and its size. If, for

more wraps on top of it doesn't solve the problem and just adds bulk. The solution is to firmly hold it in position while you bind it down with the needed wraps, then take one wrap off of the hair and around just the hook shank. A second example, is if you try to tighten up on your thread after posting the wing without the wrap around the hook, the wing will often bend down and all of your posting wraps will slip off the top.

Back to the posting and the little details that will make it easier for you. I generally wrap the post counter-clockwise as viewed from the top, but this is not a hard and fast rule. Try both and do whatever is easiest for you. Now for the actual wrapping; first, shorten up on the thread so only an inch or so is outside the bobbin, then grasp the top of the wing with your left thumb and forefinger and pull up slightly, keeping it taut during the posting. With your right hand, start the bobbin around the wing base until

you are just past center on the far side. At this point, transfer the bobbin to the remaining fingers of your left

Frank's Tract Club Outing

This house boating event has been cancelled due to a lack of participation.

example, you are tying a parachute pattern with a dubbed thorax around the wing base, you will need to allow for that with a little extra posting.

At this point, many of you sharp eyed readers may be asking, "why this extra wrap around the hook shank?". The extra wrap tends to lock in the thread and firmly terminates the prior operation. Let me give a couple of examples. Often, when tying in stiff hair, it will want to move around the hook shank as you wrap it. Adding

hand and use them to bring it across the back of the vise to the near side where your right hand picks it up and continues the motion. With just a little practice, this becomes almost second nature. This is one of the few times where all the fingers get into action.

Well, looks like I ran out of space so I'll cover parachute hackling another time!

GENERAL MEETING

"WHAT TO DO WHEN THE FISH DON'T SHOW"

with

BILL ARCHULETA & MARK PARKER

Together, they will explain how anyone can put together a fishing trip to Southeast Alaska for a week for around \$900. They will offer phone numbers, Guide services, suggested gear lists, and the whole ball of wax.

Since the silver salmon never came in this year, they will also offer suggestions as to "What To Do When The Fish Don't Show" and still save the trip.

This is a very easy and affordable fishing adventure that just about anyone can do!

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

Fly tying 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

The VP's Line

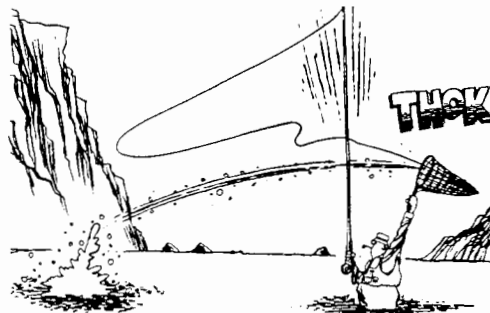
by Scott Broome

A glass of wine, tossed green salad with fresh tomatoes, pasta in a three cheese sauce, and top sirloin steaks barbequed to perfection was what those of you missed who didn't come to the outing at Manzanita Lake. The fishing was fair, and almost everyone who came landed a few fish. The big fish of the weekend goes to Dale Cheli who caught a beautiful three to four pound rainbow fish from shore on a dry. I would like to thank all of the members who made the trip, and a big "Job well done!" to Scott Lewis, our program director who set up everything. If you have never been on a trip with the club, you are truly losing out on a great opportunity to meet people and learn about this great sport of fly fishing from some of the best.

Speaking of the best, last month's speakers, Jim Hakel and Randy White, put on the best program I've ever seen. The photography and the information on tarpon fishing were spectacular! If you missed the program and the meeting, you missed out! So, again, please mark the second Wednesday of November at 7pm and bring a friend! As to other fishing news on the local front: the Russian River is producing some fish (kings and halfpounders). Most of the summer dams are down and the mouth has been opening about once a week. So get out there and wet a line!

So....let's go fishing!

— *Scotty*



What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid October 1997), 1404 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 510-526-1937.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Frank's Tract (Delta)	Slightly off color, mid 60s F.	Fishing is fair to good. Good numbers of 6-14" stripers are showing, with decent numbers of 3-8 lbbers around. Frank's Tract & Mildred Island are the hot spots this last week. The stripers are moving a lot. You need to keep moving also to run into the fish. Use an 8 wt rod with a fast sink shooting head or leadcore. The key is to have a very fast, long strip. Both incoming and outgoing tides are producing, but be sure to fish near current areas.	Fish Frank's Tract, Mildred Island, Big Break, Sherman Island, & adjoining sloughs. Boat needed; Chuck's Bait on Bethel Island rents boats.
Fall River	Clear, normal flows, low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is very good. Fall hatches are on and the wind is laying down, which means dry fly fishing. BWO hatch starts around 10 am and continues throughout the day. If the weather is overcast or rainy, the BWO hatch is great. Indicator nymphing with small mayfly nymphs on 7x tippet is very consistent. PMD hatch is midday (but most trout are keying in on the BWO). Your best bet to catch larger trout is fishing sinking lines with dark streamers in the deep holes. Fish from Caltrout upstream, and keep moving; the ponds of fish are spread out.	A boat is needed to access this fishery.
Sacramento River Lower (Redding to Anderson)	Clear, low flow (4200 cfs from Keswick), low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is spotty to good. Salmon are spawning, with the rainbows eating the eggs. Indicator nymph with caddis pupa and small (#14-16) glo bug dropper. Look for pawning salmon and cast upstream of them, letting your fly dead drift below them. The hot rainbows are running 15-20"; don't use tippet lighter than 4x. BWO and caddis are hatching in the afternoon, and if you are not around spawning salmon, the nymphs are producing. Using enough weight and getting a dead drift is critical for success. Best to fish during the week; fishing pressure slows action on weekends.	For wading access, try Turtle Bay, Posse Grounds, & Knighton Road. Use caution and do not wade the salmon redds (redds are small circular depressions made to hold the eggs during the spawn).
Sacramento River Upper (above Lake Shasta)	Normal flow (180 cfs at Dog Creek), clear, mid 50s F to mid 60s F.	Fishing is good. Fishing this October is better than it has been for the last couple of falls. October caddis hatch is in full swing. Indicator nymph with an october caddis and a small (#16-20) mayfly nymph dropper. Midge pupa also produce. Use 6x tippet. BWO and october caddis dries are producing fish in the afternoon and evening. A decent number of rainbows from 14-16" are showing. Most consistent dry fly stretch is from Box Canyon downstream to Sims. The indicator nymphing in the lower river near Dog Creek has been very good, but dry fly fishing is sporadic.	Rumor has it Union Pacific is enforcing no trespassing on the railroad tracks. Stay tuned.
Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa	Pretty clear, 50cfs, low 50sF.	Fishing is fair, & improving. Indicator nymph with small caddis & BWO nymphs in the deeper runs. Trout are finicky; be sure to use 6 or 7x tippet. Best action is from 10am on. Some dry fly fishing in the late afternoon with BWO dries; keep looking for the sporadic risers. A few trout to 20" have been reported.	Access at any of the day use areas.

The above listings are a mere fraction of the total report provided by the folks at Fish First! Our thanks for allowing us to reprint this information.

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

It's Saturday, September 20th and I've just gotten a sandwich and drink for lunch during a Boy Scout Leadership Training Program. They are just getting ready to show a safety movie when I slowly realize that they could be describing me. I could fit that profile and not even know it. Merit badge counselors are chosen because they have an interest in the various programs available and an ability to convey or teach the subjects with enthusiasm. "But beware of anybody who appears overly eager, for if it appears too good to be true, we have to be suspicious." One of the "buzz words" in scouting is to make a "safe haven" for the kids and the movie we are to watch is how to recognize and deal with child abuse. There are policies that help insure a child's safety and they are there to protect the youth as well as the adult. These policies include the obvious, as well as the lesser know, like, in any situation there is to be two registered adults present. So imagine my surprise when looking through the current list of present local merit badge counselors, my name and Dwight's were not listed. My mind races forward : should I report this? Now racing back, I realize Dwight and I have broken a major rule. My mind plows back even further, and I begin to count. Eight scouts, three unregistered dads, isolated times alone

with kids, mending drifts, untying knots, etc. Dwight driving back kids in a vehicle with no insurance on file with the scouts. In the 30 seconds all this has taken place, I decided not to speak up. For all they know, Dwight and I have done a tri-fecta of felonies with scouting. Don't even bring up the fly tying at night.

Now I'm feeling some bitterness and grow defensive. I know these adult leaders are grateful that we are here, and I appreciate the time they donate to train us. But, all we want to do is learn the best way to connect with the scouts. It is frustrating to have so many rules to follow. We are used to being able to leave at a moment's notice. Now, a tour permit is required, insurance administrated, adults registered, and pediatric information carried. But I realize that these rules are necessary to protect the scouts as well as the leaders. I decide to join in and become a part of the process.

October 3, 1997. I have 6 boys and a registered dad when we arrive at Hat Creek Friday night. I am officially an assistant scout master and this is my first legitimate fishing trip with these scouts who were promised a fall trip. I'm full of enthusiasm and newly learned "buzz words" and new teaching techniques. I'll note and follow scouting methods

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 8)

from here on out. Example: "If you make a promise to a scout, keep it." I'm "2 deep in leadership" and our campsites were reserved for us by a guide friend who shows up to talk to the kids about stream etiquette and behavior. Of course, it's filled with stories and tips and the boys look entranced around the campfire. It's really working!

"Scouting is about three things: fun, values, and learning. Fun is the game, values are the purposes, and learning is the process." I know this sounds corny, but think about it. Who else really tries to instill the outdoor code: "Be clean in my outdoor manner, careful with fire, considerate in the outdoors and conservation minded."? Our job as parents and leaders is to expose these kids to the outdoors as a "safe haven". To best describe a "safe haven", imagine an outdoor environment where we set an example for others where everyone should feel physically and emotionally secure. A place where instead of worrying about whether or not the camp gear is safe, and wondering if the truck is still on the side of the road, we can concentrate on the fishing. I really want these boys to experience fishing and nature in its purest form. I want them to realize how lucky they are to be able to experience the outdoors without having to worry about anything. But I know that this is something that will come later. My guide friend, Chris Smith, told me how great it was to talk to these kids, and I know just how he feels. After fishing the PG&E canal at Cassel, we headed to Burney Creek above the falls for recent planters and native browns. There were 4 cars in the entire park and the kids split up nymphs and humpies. I took the watch above the falls (safe haven) when I heard a scout call out up stream... "Mr. Nyholm, Mr. Nyholm!". My mind raced. Was somebody in trouble in the water, or foul-hooked?... "Mr. Nyholm, we need the net!"

Nirvana.....

Three days later at our general meeting, I asked Bob Neal about the conclave in September. He looked at me and then realized that I didn't know. Our youth program was recognized as the best in

Northern California! This fantastic news was just the encouragement I needed. I have officially applied to the director of advancement of the B.S.A. in Texas to develop a fly fishing program. My letter of request was endorsed by the NCFFF and, of course, our local scouting officials. I have asked them to allow us to develop the manual based on our successful program. So, now you are up to date on the youth program. I would like to thank everyone that has helped make this program so successful, from donations of money and equipment, to the time invested by Lori and Dwight. Thanks again!

- Mike



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 Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 \$20 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 year's 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

the RRFF

Volume 22
Number 12
December 1997

Major Notes by Paul Major

Well gang, this month's notes are going to be brief (applause noted)...I haven't had a rod in hand since October, so I can't talk about fishing; I caught "The Cold From Hell" and missed the November Club



Meeting, so I can't say anything about that, (although I hear that Arch and Mark put on a great show); I haven't even heard any good jokes lately...

With the river too muddy to fish and no reports of fish being there in any case, the

only really bright spot on the horizon is the RRFF December Dinner Meeting on the sixth at Los Robles Restaurant. We're looking forward to a super evening of good food and drink, Andy Burk's new slide show, and our usual killer raffle. I'm looking forward to seeing you there for the evening that's always the highlight of our club's year.

In the meantime, Marji and I would like to wish all of our fellow RRFF members a very happy Holiday Season and tight lines and prosperity in the coming year!

IN THIS ISSUE

	<i>Page</i>
The Tier's Corner	2
Announcements	3
VP's Line	3
Giving Thanks...	4
Raising Hackles	4-5
What's Hot	5

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
December 29, 1997

Montgomery Village
Round Table Pizza
2424 MacGowan Drive

1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President Paul Major (539-5437)
Secretary: Lee Smith (537-1421)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: Noel Plumb (766-8790)
NCCFFF Representative: Bob Neill (542-6723)
Youth Activities: Mike Nyholm (538-5163)
Members at Large: Lori Nyholm (538-5163)
Fly Tying Chairman: Jim Cramer (875-2912)

Vice President: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Treasurer: Dick Hollingshead (538-8760)
Membership Coordinator: Tim Barrett (538-5009)
Program Director: Scott Broome (575-5993)
The Cast Editor: Larry Johnson (571-8078)
Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Special Projects: Tim Grogan
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



Last month we talked about posting of wings but we ran out of space before we got to parachute hackling, so that is what we'll cover this month. Before we get into that subject, let me go back to posting for just a moment to give you a tip to use when tying on bead chain or lead eyes. After making your cross wraps over the eyes, make a few posting style wraps around the eyes (but not around the hook). These posting wraps will pull in on the cross wraps; tightening them and providing a more secure set of eyes.

Many tiers avoid tying parachute hackled flies because they believe them to be too difficult. If you have a good base around which to wrap the hackle, you should have no problems with parachute hackles after a little practice. Posted wings provide a solid platform for parachute hackles. I have seen some authors who recommend using the butt of the hackle feather as the post. While it sounds like a good idea, I can't recommend it because the best feathers to use for parachute hackles are those with a very fine center stem which is not what you want for your post. If you want a parachute hackle without wings, try a piece of monofilament. There are at least two ways to do this. One is the method Bob Norman has demonstrated at the club. Another way is to take a short piece of monofilament and tie an overhand knot in the center. Not tie it in as you would an upright wing with the knot positioned above the hook where you expect the top wrap of

hackle to end. The monofilament is clipped off above the knot after the fly is completed and the knot keeps the hackle from slipping off the post.

In selecting hackle for parachutes, select feathers with fine stems and little to no web. Because you need only three or four wraps of hackle, you can utilize all those feathers that are too short for your standard patterns. Select a feather sized for a standard pattern one size larger. For example, a size 16 parachute would take a hackle suitable for a size 14 standard hackled fly.

Now comes the tying in and wrapping of the hackle. I am going to tell you how I do it and why. A lot of other big names do it differently and the reason they give is "habit" or "that's just the way I do it". Take your choice, it's your fly.

Prepare the hackle by stripping off the soft fuzz and webby hackle at the base. Some claim that you should trim the fibers off of the stubs to insure a more secure tie down. My experience is that trimming takes a lot of time and I have never had a well secured butt stem pull loose. With the feather glossy side up, strip off a few more fibers on the left side than on the right, the reason for this will be discussed on a moment. I tie in the hackle before I construct the body. I believe this is especially important when the pattern calls for a dubbed body and thorax. I want the stem tied down on a firm foundation, not on top of some soft dubbing (one would not build a house with a foundation on soft sand if he could just as easily built it on rock). Furthermore, why would you want to wrap over and compress a perfectly good thorax, and dubbing in a thorax on a parachute pattern is much easier if done before you wrap the hackle than afterward!

So, before tying in the body, tie in the hackle on the top near side of the hook, tip pointing forward, and glossy side up. The stripped section on the right side of the feather should end just forward of the post. My reasons for this

is as follows. The hackle is going to be wrapped in a counter-clockwise direction viewed from the top and with the tip pointing forward, the stem does not have to reverse direction which reduces the chance of breakage. The glossy side is up so that the natural curvature of the hackle fibers will be downward when you are complete. The positioning of the stripped portion of the hackle relative to the post allows you to start the hackle wraps with a minimum of tied down fibers. At this point the hackle has been tied in but not yet wrapped.

Now go ahead and complete the body and thorax if the pattern calls for it. If you are dubbing, use a thread color to match the dubbing. At the end of this step, the thread should be hanging from a point immediately in front of the post. The hackle is wrapped in a counter-clockwise direction with the first wrap at the top and each succeeding wrap below it. The reason we stripped more fibers from the left side of the feather was to allow us to start that first wrap without tying down a bunch of fibers resulting in an erratic looking hackle.

On the last wrap of the hackle, bring a feather down the far side of the hook, under the thread (which is hanging right in front of the post) from back to front; then bring the feather back up to a horizontal position on the far side of the hook. Transfer the feather to your left hand and with your right hand, make a quarter wrap in the normal fashion with the thread. If you have done everything right so far, the hackle should be locked in place at the base of the post. You can now turn loose of the hackle tip and, using your left hand, stroke back the forward pointing hackle fibers exposing the hackled tip around which you make 3 or 4 more thread wraps. Really quite simple and not really as difficult as some would have you believe. Out of space so if you have any problems, see me at the meeting.



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING



Randy Rigdon
"Wild Sport Services"

Chiloquin, OR, will present slide show:
*"Fishing the Williamson, Wood River, and
 Agency Lakes"*

BRING A FRIEND!!
Wednesday, January 14, 1998
Santa Rosa Vets' Building

Fly tying 6:00 p.m.

General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

The VP's Line

by Scott Broome

My time of year is here at last! Steelies are in the northern California rivers. Bob Norman and I spent the weekend of November 8th and 9th on the Feather River. It was my first trip to the Feather and Bob hadn't fished it for some time. Saturday we spent most of the day fishing below the forebay. Every riffle in that section of the fast water had hundreds of kings on the spawn. There were fish everywhere! Bob and I were indicator fishing with six weights for half-pounders. The steelies were working the pockets below the salmon. We were using a two fly system, both egg patterns. On Saturday, it was a great learning experience just trying to keep the salmon off our lines. When you hook a thirty pound spent salmon on a six weight after a few minutes, you

realize that he has you, not vice-versa! On Sunday, we fished the slow water above the forebay and again there were salmon in every riffle. Bob hooked and lost some nice fish in the morning. We moved upstream just below the 162 Highway bridge. Bob and I got in line with about twenty other people (boy did Norman turn some heads!). In one thirty minute span, Bob hooked four or five steelies, landing a nice fish weighing about seven pounds. All this time, I was still hooking salmon and a very nice wading staff.

'Till then, tight lines & let's go fishing!!

— *Scotty Broome*



Giving Thanks...

As we approach the holiday season, and reflect once again on the many things we have to be thankful for, let us remember and acknowledge some of the people that have made the Russian River Fly Fishers the organization that we all enjoy today. As with any club, there are certain individuals whose constant efforts provide us with the basic amenities that we share: our monthly meetings, dinners, club outings, newsletters, and all of the things that make the RRFF such a dynamic organization! These individuals serve as our Club Officers and our Board of Directors. Without the commitment and energies of these members, we certainly would not experience the continued success and growth that has characterized our club over recent years. We are lucky to have such a dedicated core of people who truly care about the RRFF and the sport of fly fishing.

But as important as our Officers and Board of Directors are to our continued success, there are other members whose contributions have profoundly affected the directions our club has taken and directly influenced the position we are in today. Many of these members also served (in some cases for many years and repeated terms) as board members and club officers. Some were involved with our earliest beginnings, laying the foundations and groundwork, and through their efforts attracted a membership of like-minded individuals who would continue what they started. Others stepped in during the lean times and revitalized the membership, bringing in new energy and new directions. Each of these people contributed, and continue to contribute, a vitality that has carried our club successfully for over twenty years. They are the deeper reasons that our club continues to flourish. Their constant efforts have brought all of us together, and their work inspires all of us to continue what they started. To show our appreciation, we honor these individuals as our Life Members.

Last June, Ted Olson and Fred Pedersen became our newest Life Member honorees. Both men were original founders of the RRFF and have been involved with our club ever since. Their contributions of time, money, and whatever else was needed, helped see the RRFF through its early years and continue to this day. Their dedication to the success of the Russian River Fly Fishers reflects the vitality and spirit that continues to attract new members to our club; quality members who are interested in promoting that spirit in our future growth.

Please join me in thanking all of our Life Members. Their efforts have provided the benefits of the strong club that we all enjoy. Take a moment at our next meeting to wish them "Happy Holidays" or just to say "Hello". When you do, you will know why these individuals are "Life Members" and you will see the dedication that they share for our club. It is hard not to be inspired by their commitment. Our deepest gratitude to each of you...and our very best wishes.

— Steve Tubbs

RRFF Life Members

1. R.W. "Wiff" Achor
2. William Archuleta
3. Ben Cummings
4. Liz Flynn
5. Betty King
6. Bob Nauheim
7. Theodore Olson
8. Fred Pederson
9. Bob Sisson
10. Bob Wray

(Deceased)

1. Norman Sutcliffe
 2. Grant King
-

Raising Hackles

by Rodger Magill

November 23, 1997

We are ardent lovers of taking steelhead on the fly. Our home stream, the once fabulous Russian River, played host to perhaps one of the largest runs of native steelhead on the west coast.

Now, if I am to believe what I have heard, this may all come to a screeching halt. My fears arrive from conversations with Chris Mobley and Jim Bibe of the National Marine Fisheries Service. I have attended several meetings held by NMFS to collect public input on the listing of native steelhead. These meetings came before and after the listing of "threatened" for the district extending from Monterey to the Russian River.

Under the Endangered Species Act, a species listed as threatened may "not be harassed". Chris Mobley explains that this requires that the fed issue a "no take" rule meaning...no fishing. With regards to hatchery fishing, since there will not be marked fish for two to four years, there is no discussion. Further, Mr. Mobley explains that unless the hatcheries can be shown to only release marked native brodstock, their releases will be in violation of the no take as these fish will be competing for survival with native fish. Even as marked natives, they compete from smolt to adult.

With regards to the Memorandum of Understanding, the state or private parties may file Section 10 recovery plans. This gives the entity filing the opportunity to direct their own fate, so to speak. Otherwise, the

(continued on next page)

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated late November 1997), 1404 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 510-526-1937.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Frank's Tract (Delta)	Slightly off color, mid 50s F.	Fishing is good to very good. 2-6 lb stripers are in the system, with some fish to 10 lbs. Be sure to hit a lot of different areas; the stripers are moving a lot. Use an 8 or 9 wt. rod with a leadcore shooting head. The key is to have a long strip with pauses, try both fast and slow retrieves until you find the right combination. Both incoming and outgoing tides are producing; slack tide is tough. Fish near current areas and weedbeds. Try Little Franks, Franks, and Mildred.	Boat needed; Chuck's Bait on Bethel Island rents boats. A fish/depth finder is a valuable tool in finding dropoffs and weedbed lines.
Eagle Lake	COLD	Fishing is fair. These hot 2-5 lb rainbows are in the shallow water, looking for food. Fish slow sinking lines with sparsley tied leeches on a slow retrieve. Look for the shallow water coves near tules. Best action is from mid-morning on.	Boat is advised. Bring plenty of warm clothing. Good areas are Pelican Point, Boy Scout Camp, and Rocky Point.
Pyramid Lake (outside Reno)	Clear, cold.	Fishing is fair. Shooting head system with medium sink rate head is the drill here for the large Lahotan cutthroats. Best action is with darker streamers fished with a slow, twitchy retrieve from midmorning on. Most fish are running 15-20", but the 10 lb monster is always lurking.	Areas to fish are the nets, Thunderbolt Bay, and Warrior Point.
Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa	Pretty clear, 60cfs, low 50sF.	Fishing is fair to good. Indicator nymph with small caddis pupa, midge pupa, and BWO nymphs in the deeper runs. Soft hackles are working well. Trout are finicky; be sure to use 6 or 7x tippet. Best action is from midday on. Good BWO hatch in afternoon, with a few sporadic risers in the runs and tailouts. Rainbows and browns are averaging 10-13", with a few trout to 18".	Access at the day use areas and near the dam.

The above listings are a mere fraction of the total report provided by the folks at Fish First! Our thanks for allowing us to reprint this information.

(Raising Hackles, cont.)

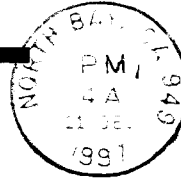
feds come in and do it. The State of California's Department of Fish and Game had an opportunity to do this very thing on the seventh of November in a meeting with NMFS in Redding. Instead of sitting on the bank of the river, they chose to sit on their thumbs! They (in order to save native steelhead) kept the same one over, one under (22 inches) per day, no fish taken under eight inches, and to begin the marking of smolt. They just don't get it. A more realistic appeal to NMFS would be all catch and release fisheries until native stocks rebound.

If you care about this, you may write or call:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Pete Wilson 415-703-2218
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814 | 4) Frank Riggs 707-254-7308
1700 2nd St, #378
Napa, CA 94559 |
| 2) Barbara Boxer 415-403-0100
1700 Montgomery St, #240
San Francisco, CA 94111 | 5) Lynn C. Woolsey 707-542-7182
1101 College Ave, #200
Santa Rosa, CA 95404 |
| 3) Dianne Feinstein 415-536-6868
525 Market St, #3670
San Francisco, CA 94105 | 6) NMFS 707-575-6052
7) CDFG 707-528-0336 |

A record of the number of calls is actually kept. Please speak up or we may have to change the name of our club!

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



PLEASE MAIL
EARLY FOR
CHRISTMAS

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

Address correction requested.

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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 \$20 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 year's dues.

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