



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS



Volume 23
Number 1
January 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

The date, as I write this, is December 29; winter is officially one week old and I'm already sick of it.

I am not a winter person. I no longer ski and I am a less than avid winter steelheader, so winter for me represents something to be survived through as emotionally intact as possible; generally speaking, I don't experience winter as a "fun" time.

All is not darkness, however. One of the winter activities that I look forward to with pleasure is the RRFF December Dinner meeting each year. This year was especially enjoyable for me in spite of the fact that, as Club President, I had to "preside" which seriously cut into my opportunity to socialize as much as I would have liked. Despite that, the meal served by Los Robles' Chef Klaus was outstanding, Andy Burke's slide show was really neat, (I particularly liked the shots of the midwinter float tubing in the snow...because I wasn't there and never will be), and the raffle was a great success...particularly for Galen Robertson's family who won everything, it seemed.

For me, however, the best part of the evening was the honor and privilege of representing the membership of the Russian River Fly Fishers and en-

dowing Dwight Longuevan as a Life Member of our club. Life Membership in the RRFF is, as I'm sure most members know, not something bought for by paying more dollar dues. Life Membership is bought, if you will, with something much more valuable to our club than money. Life Membership is an honor earned through a measure of commitment, effort, and service both to our organization and to our fellow members which is judged, by the Board of Directors, to be extraordinary and worthy of extraordinary recognition and honor.

Dwight served on the Board of Directors for five years, two of those in the office of Club President. During those years, the club blossomed and thrived, the membership more than tripled; as did attendance at regular meetings. These successes are certainly the result of the efforts of many, but those of us who served on the BOD during Dwight's tenure will testify that his unflagging energy and enthusiasm were often the wellspring of many of the good things which happened in the Russian River Fly Fishers in the last few years. Additionally, in his role as proprietor of King's Western Angler, until recently the only fly shop in town, Dwight "sold" RRFF with the same effectiveness that he sold rods, reels, and flies to everyone who walked through

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his door. I know that he was personally responsible for me becoming a club member, and I'm sure many of you would say the same.

Thanks Dwight!

Our upcoming regular meeting on January 14 (usual time and place) will feature a slide show and program on fishing the Williamson River, Wood River, and Agency Lake presented by guide Randy Rigdon. Dick Betts and I fished the Williamson with Randy in October, and I can vouch for the fact that he knows whereof he speaks, in addition to being a personable and intelligent guy. Randy also guides the Yuba during the winter season and Tarpon in the Keys during the spring, so y'all be sure to come meet him...I'm sure he'll provide an interesting evening for us.

Happy New Year!

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)

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)

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



Ah, those lovely dainty soft hackle flies, so simple and sparse, yet so effective. These flies tied with partridge and grouse are some of the oldest patterns of record and even today will often out-perform our more modern patterns. I have had enough good days with these flies in the past that I seldom venture forth on a trout stream without my supply of them.

The term 'soft hackle' could mean a rooster hackle with lots of web and a lot of good wet flies and steelhead patterns are more effective when tied with this type of feather rather than the stiffer dry

fly type of feather. But the term 'soft hackled fly' is generally reserved for those flies tied with partridge, grouse, starling, hen, hackle, and a few others that are mostly all web.

In their oldest and most simple form, these flies are tied with a very slim silk floss body and not more than two wraps of hackle. In the actual tying, the floss is usually tied in near the front of the hook and wrapped to the rear and then forward to achieve a very slender, smooth body. The hackle feather is tied by the butt with the natural bend of the feather pointing towards the bend. One or two wraps of the hackle and a small neat head complete the fly. The only difficulty one might have is breaking the fragile hackle which happens to all who tie this fly - join the club!

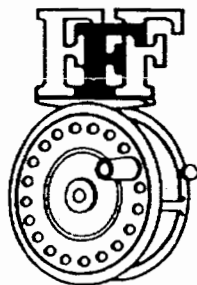
The most popular body colors are orange, yellow, or green. These three body colors tied with either grey or brown partridge hackle in sizes 10, 12, and 14 would give one the nucleus of a soft hackle collection. Tie these flies sans tail and with a thread to match the body color if you have some. On very small soft hackles, you can use the tying thread in

place of floss for the body.

The next step in complexity for the soft hackle is the adding of a thorax. In these patterns the rear two-thirds of the body is floss with the front third a soft fur dubbed thorax. Hare's mask is called for on many of the traditional patterns. The thorax adds a little bulk to the fly and I suspect that it may add some appeal to the fly by preventing the very soft hackle from completely collapsing around the hook shank. With this form it probably makes a better than average representation of an emerging caddis.

Soft hackles seem to work best where there is some current to give the fly some life. They are not as productive for me in still water conditions. In a current, the flies have enough action of their own that a dead drift works very well. Just watch that the flies don't drag and mend your line as necessary. The flies are so simple to tie that every trout fisherman should have a few in his vest.

Have a Happy New Year!



Federation of Fly Fishers Northern California Council

Russell Chatham and the late Bill Schaadt will be inducted into the Northern California Fly Fishing Hall of Fame for their life-long contributions to the world of fly fishing. The annual Hall of Fame Dinner will occur on Saturday, January 31, 1998 at the Holiday Inn, Foster City in conjunction with the San Mateo International Sportsmen's Exposition.

The Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to our sport. Past honorees include Jack Horner, E.C. Powell, Myron Gregory, Phil Miravalle, Cal Bird, Ted Fay, John Tarantino, Roy Haile, Fanny and Mel Krieger, Leo T. Cronin, Andre Puyans, Frank Matarelli, and Lani Waller.

Russell Chatham is a renown author, artist, and world class fly fisher. He was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, started painting at an early age, and became a well known local fly fisher as a teenager. His books will forever tie him to northern California.

The second induction will be posthumous to the legendary Bill Schaadt, a frequent character in the annals of north coast fly fishing. Bill passed away in January, 1995 at the age of 71. He devoted his life to mastering the fish and fishing on California's salmon and steelhead waters.

NCC/FFF is a regional council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The NCC/FFF is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and educating through fly fishing. The Council founded and continues to be a major sponsor of the California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance, a public trust advocate for fish and the habitat that sustains them.

For more information, call: Harold Patterson
(650)349-7922 (Home)
(650)365-0474 (Work)



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

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! A good time was had by all at the Broome house. If you have been one of the many that have been fishing the Russian as I, you know the conditions have been great, but where in the hell are the fish! People say that steelhead are fish of a thousand cast. Well, if that were so, there are two steelies with my name on them! We should have a great year with the club with many of the ex-board members really working hard to bring all of you some fun times in 1998. Paul and I hope to have some great news about obtaining

some of our own water. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag because all of the details have not been worked out. I also hear that Scott Lewis is planning some great club outing and if you have never been to the club opener at Hat Creek, you're really missing what this club is all about! I know that this is the time of year to give thanks, so I would like to thank all of the board members and our great Prez Paul for doing a job above and beyond the call of duty. I would also like to give thanks to all of you who have fished with me in the past year, and for those of you who haven't fished with old Scooter.....Let's Go Fishing!

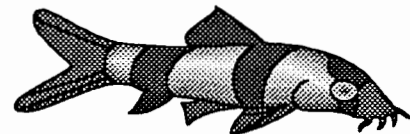
Tight Lines!

- Scotty B.

**I FISH.
 THEREFORE
 THEY EXIST.**



CASTING POND CLINIC



Date: Sunday, January 18 1998

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

A beginner's session is scheduled for the morning, weather permitting. Instruction and coaching will be available for the asking for as long as you can hold up if the session begins before noon. Remember the pond is open for use seven days a week from dawn till dark if you feel the urge to use it. If anyone wishes to use the club's equipment which includes both full line and shooting systems, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me. The early introductory session is a joint venture with Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle. Brian has a limited supply of equipment to loan on a reservation basis by calling 572-9887.

If the rains come on the scheduled date, the clinic will be postponed until February.

The next scheduled clinic will be February 15th.

Bob Sisson 1977

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
January 26, 1998

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

Holiday Dinner 1997

This year's Holiday Dinner was absolutely wonderful! Everyone I spoke with raved about the food, the beautifully decorated room, and the gracious and efficient service. Los Robles Restaurant is a winner!

Andy Burke's slide show was delightful. Personally, I enjoyed hearing about local areas that I have a chance of experiencing rather than some far away dream destination.

And what a raffle! - especially for Lee Smith and the Galen Robertson family. Lee won tickets to the 49er-Denver game with a six-pack of wine and a bright red float tube to keep him dry. Galen's grandson was the wide-eyed winner of the Sage rod after his grandpa had already won an Orvis CFO reel, a Sage gear bag, and several other goodies. Many thanks to Outdoor Pro Shop, Western Angler, Paul Dix, Scott Broome and all the others who donated prizes and thanks to Noel Plumb for coordinating the raffle and dazzling us with his presentation.

Last, but not least, "thanks" to my helpers - Scott Broome for the wine and speaker, Lee Smith for reminder calls after the reservation deadline, Stacy Grogan for check-in duties, and Vivian and Dick Betts for the surprise birthday cake for Paul.

- Marji Major, Events Coordinator



What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid December 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>
Baum Lake	Clear, cold.	Fishing is fair. Best Action is from midday on with midge pupa and BWO nymphs fished under an indicator. A few trout are working midge dries near the inlet from Crystal Lake down to the tule island. Streamers on floating or slow sink lines will also produce. Most rainbows and browns run 10-15", but 20" trout are possible.	Boat or float tube is needed. Bring plenty of warm clothing.
Sacramento River, Lower (Redding to Anderson).	Slightly off color, low flow (4200 cfs from Keswick), low to mid 50s F	Fishing is fair. Indicator nymph with caddis pupa or small (#14-16) glo bug and a BWO nymph dropper. Early morning fishing is slow, best action is from midmorning on. BWO hatch in afternoon is good, especially on cloudy days; be sure to fish the nymphs when hatch is on. Using enough weight and getting a dead drift is critical for success. The salmon spawn is about over, but a few fish are still milling around. These hot rainbows are running 15-20"; don't use tippet lighter than 4x.	Heavy rain can blow out the river. For wading access, try Turtle Bay, Posse Grounds, and Knighton Road. Do not wade the salmon redds (redds are small circular depressions made to hold the eggs during the spawn).
Trinity River	Slightly off color, 300 cfs from Lewiston Lake, low 50s F	Fishing is fair to good. Indicator nymph with a stonefly nymph and a glo bug dropper. Swinging both bright and dark flies on a sink tip is also producing. The adult steelhead are running 3-6lbs. Brown trout from 10-20" are also showing. Best action is from the Old Bridge in Lewiston downstream to Douglas City. The lower river is off color.	Bring plenty of warm clothing.
Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa	Pretty clear, 60cfs, low 50s F	Fishing is fair. 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. Some BWO are hatching 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.

Coming Events

January 1998

1/14/98 RRFF Meeting
1/18/98 Casting Clinic
1/26/98 Board Meeting
1/28/98 San Mateo Sportsmen's Exposition
Jan (tba) Russian River Outing

February 1998

2/11/98 RRFF Meeting
2/15/98 Casting Clinic
2/23/98 Board Meeting
Feb (tba) Gualala River Club Outing

March 1998

3/11/98 RRFF Meeting
3/15/98 Casting Clinic
3/23/98 Board Meeting
Mar (tba) Lewiston Lake

April 1998

4/08/98 RRFF Meeting
4/19/98 Casting Clinic
4/25/98 Hat Creek Opener
4/27/98 Board Meeting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220).
Specific dates will be reported when available.

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 _____

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



Volume 23
Number 2
February 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

As I write this, the cruel month of January has but another three days to live...the cold rain has stopped for the moment, but more is on the way...February doesn't seem to offer much hope at this point in time.

All the streams are blown out, and so are many of the lakes, muddied and murked with mud pouring in from the feeder streams, with the fish sulking in the depths. I can't even attempt to amuse myself or anyone else with fishing talk...fishing seems so remote this time of the year.

I've been filling some of this down time tying up my summer's supply of Kaufmann Stonefly Nymphs in size six. I only tie these things during the dark months because they take so much time, for me at any rate. I can do about four an hour if I'm crankin', and because they're fished right down in the bottom rocks, I seem to be able to lose them faster than I can tie them. But putting together a box full in various colors definitely serves to pass a lot of long winter weekend days while the storm rages without. (Without what, I've always wondered).

However, fear not, spring will soon be here (well, maybe not soon, but eventually...). One of the things we do every spring is nominate and elect Officers and members of the Board of Directors for the Russian River Flyfishers. The current BOD serves as the nominating committee, and I would like to urge any member of the RRF who would be willing to serve on the Board (the term is two years) to contact me, or any member of the current Board. To qualify as a candidate, you need only to be able to attend a monthly board meeting (normally held on Monday evening) and willing to pitch in to help with the work involved in keeping our club vital and growing.

If you are a relatively recent member, please don't feel that you haven't "been around" long enough to be a Director. This is not an "old boys" organization and, in any case, most of the old boys have already served their time and are quite happy to pass it on to fresh blood, as it were. I was elected to the Board in my first year as a member, and I found serving as a Director immediately put me right in the middle of all the fun to be found in this great club...I recommend it most highly.

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Also, although it might go without saying, this is an equal opportunity group; we currently have two women on the board. We have found their presence to be extremely valuable (not to mention civilizing) and would love to increase that number.

So...please give some consideration to stepping forward to serve your club and fellow members. I really believe that you would find it a rewarding responsibility as I have.

See you at our regular meeting on Wednesday, February 11th, at the usual time and place with our old friend and perennial favorite, Dan Blanton, presenting another great program.

1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



I have never been much into the dyeing of my own materials with one exception, which I'll get into a bit. I do, however, enjoy the blending of dubbing materials, especially some of the brighter synthetics. Two of my favorite materials with which to work are "Pseudo Seal" and "Polar Aire" both by Spirit River Inc. Pseudo Seal is a bright glossy material available in thirteen colors. The standard colors are solid colors which are O.K. for some applications but when blended, yield some absolutely spectacular combinations. Most food forms to my eye are a blend of several colors and tones. Maybe this is why grizzly hackle is so popular with both fish and fishermen. Polar Aire is bagged in long hanks, comes in seventeen colors, and is used primarily in wings and tails as a substitute for polar bear hair. When used in blended dubbing, it is chopped into short pieces.

Blending dubbing is a lot like mixing paint but a lot less messy and a whole lot more fun. There can be some real surprises too. I tried blending black and bright yellow Pseudo Seal a while back and ended up with a simply lovely olive. Mix black rabbit, mohair or Pseudo Seal with a bit of red and green Lite-Bright or Angel Hair and you have a super body mix for the Hairless Bugger or a great leach pattern.

I use the kitchen blender when I'm really serious about blending, but if you need only a

small amount, you can make do using two small blocks of wood with the hook portion of a Velcro strap glued to each. Use the blocks to comb the material back and forth until it is well mixed. With the blender, start out with a couple of good size wads of your base colors and materials and then start subdividing and adding more colors or different materials. In a short period, you'll have a lifetime supply of dubbing and may never again have to buy more. One of my favorite base materials to which I add the other ingredients is Australian opossum but any of the soft furs such as rabbit, beaver, or muskrat work well. If you want something with a bit more spike in it, use squirrel body hair hares mask.

Anyway, this was the column that I was going to tell you about onion skin dye. This is about the only dye you'll ever see me use. With this dye, I have been able to get everything from pale ginger to lemon woodduck, to a rich rust. I also use it almost exclusively on grizzly hackle. As you astute readers have been able to detect by this time, I'm not overly fond of dyeing, except for this onion skin dye. To make the dye, add a double handful or more of yellow onion skins to one quart of water and a cup of vinegar. Cover and let the mixture seep for several hours over very low heat. Strain off the skins and test the dye with a few test feathers. Wash your materials in a light detergent suds and rinse thoroughly before dyeing as they must be free of oil and any dirt. The dye should be quite warm but not so hot that it might damage the feathers. Do some trial runs with a few feathers to determine how long they should remain in the dye. I can't advise you on this because it depends on so many factors. The fortunate thing is that it is hard to go too wrong, almost any shade you end up with will be

useful. If you rinse the material briefly in a mild salt water solution, it seems to set the dye. Follow the salt water rinse with a good rinse in fresh water and then pat it dry between some paper towels or absorbent cloth and set it aside to air dry.

I prefer the lighter shades of grizzly as they seem to show off the effects of my labor better. The light grizzly dyed a woodduck lemon makes an absolutely beautiful mayfly. The dyed grizzly also makes a good substitute for cree hackle which is sometimes hard to find in the better grades.

Now, one would wonder that if yellow onion skins make a useful dye, what would you get with red or purple onion skins? The answer is nothing, nada, zip. Like many of my fly ideas, it seemed like a good idea but it just didn't work. Maybe some organic chemist can explain it to me someday.

There is one more natural dye that I have to try sometime and that is walnut. I don't have any directions for it but I remember that when I used to build gun stocks, the sawdust would stain my hands. Maybe we can come up with a good Coachman Brown. If any of my readers have some information on this, let me know.

Lewiston Lake Outing

March 26-29, 1998

I moved the date back two weeks as suggested by Herb Burton of the Trinity Fly Shop.

If you are interested, please call Scott Lewis @ 588-9220.

Need sponsor for Shad trip if anyone is interested.

- Scott

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, February 15th, 1998

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

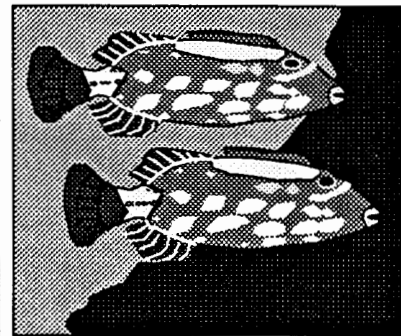
A beginner's session is scheduled for the morning, weather permitting. Instruction and coaching will be available for the asking for as long as you feel like working if the session begins before noon. Remember the pond is there for your use every day for as long as you can see and for after dark practice if you have an interest in night fishing too. If anyone wishes to use the club's equipment which includes both full line and shooting systems, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me. The early session is a joint venture with Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle. Brian has a limited supply of equipment to loan on a reservation basis by calling 572-9887.

If the rains are still causing something of a problem on the scheduled date, the clinic will be postponed until March.

The next scheduled clinic will be March 15th.

Bob Sisson 1977

Come out and see us!



RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

**7 p.m., Monday,
February 23, 1998**

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

The VP's Line

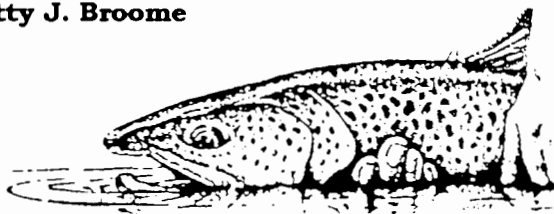
by Scott Broome

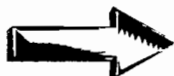
Well gang, here it is past the middle of January and nothing but rain, rain, and more rain. I haven't been fishing since New Year's day. Mark Parker and I had a great day steelheading on the Russian. No fish but we did see one caught. Maybe it's a sign of greater things to come. I have tied all of the flies I'll be tying for a while, fixed every piece of my gear that needed it, and I even finished that seven weight I've been working for two years, so there isn't much new fishing news I can give you. I heard that it got so bad this month that a couple of our outstanding members were caught with spinning outfits at

Doran Beach, surf perch fishing. I wish I could have been with them. I heard you guys really hammered them (Bill & Noel)! Dan Blanton will be our speaker at the February meeting. Dan has an updated program of his great striper fishing entitled "Fly Fishing California's Backcountry Stripers". So...mark your calendars for February 11th, 1998 at 7:00pm. Dan is also going to be fly tying before the meeting so show up a little early if you want to see him tie his great flies.

Tight lines, and.....let's go fishing!!

Scotty J. Broome





FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING



Dan Blanton has been photographing both the outdoors and fly fishing action for everything from panfish to billfish for more than 20 years. His slide presentations contain some of the most beautiful and action-packed images to be found in any show, world-wide. In addition to great photography, Dan's shows are expertly assembled to provide the viewer with easily assimilated information; information obtained and presented by one of the world's most diverse and experienced fly fishermen. The following are the details of Dan's superb slide presentation:

"Fly Fishing California's Backcountry Stripers"

Dan refers to the California Delta as "California Backcountry". To him, it engenders nostalgic recollections of other wonderful fly fishing places he's had the good fortune to fish. This vast area, encompassing more than 1,000 miles of navigable water-ways, sitting right smack in the middle of the din and urban sprawl of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton, has miraculously sustained its wildness, beauty and country charm. It is a combination of the jungle rivers of Costa Rica, the bayous of Louisiana, and the backcountry of the Florida Everglades. This presentation will take you to the Delta - California Backcountry - put you into Dan's boat and take you striper and largemouth bass fly fishing. It will show you how, when, and where to fish, along with what - all the right flies and gear. You'll learn how to do your own house boat trip; where to camp, and where to launch your boat, rent a boat, or hire a guide. You'll see lots of outstanding wildlife photography, fly-rod action - the works! California's Backcountry is a place that will become embedded in both your mind and heart as a very special fly angler's destination; and not just because it is possible to catch and release from 10 to more than 20 stripers and largemouth bass a day on fly. It will capture your heart because this is truly a marvelous place - a place frozen in time...for now. Don't miss this one!

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, February 11, 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



SUMMER PICNIC 1998

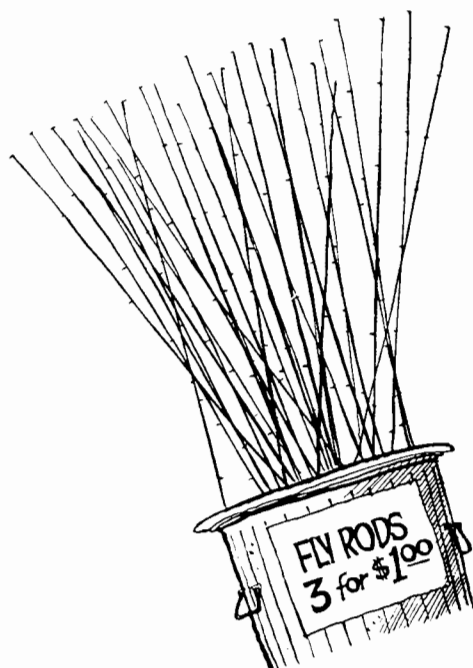
February is not too early . . .

. . . to start planning for the best RRFF Picnic ever! Your Board of Directors decided to cancel a June dinner and put our efforts into a whiz-bang, not-to-be-missed, family-welcome get together at the casting pond. A tentative date is Saturday, June 20.

Anyone wishing to get in on the planning and execution is invited to get in touch with me. Since we are getting such an early start, suggestions are welcome.

**Marji Major
Events Chairperson**

CLASSIFIEDS



For Sale:

Rotary nor'vise - was \$195 new - sell for **\$125** with \$10 valued instructional video included. Jim Cramer 875-2912.

Used sage 8wt, 9ft rod. Includes rod tube for **\$100** firm. Larry Johnson 571-8078 (wk) or 576-1745 (h).

Coming Events

February 1998

2/11/98 RRFF Meeting
2/15/98 Casting Clinic
2/23/98 Board Meeting
Feb (tba) Gualala River Club
Outing

March 1998

3/11/98 RRFF Meeting
3/15/98 Casting Clinic
3/23/98 Board Meeting
3/26-29 Lewiston Lake

April 1998

4/08/98 RRFF Meeting
4/19/98 Casting Clinic
4/25/98 Hat Creek Opener
4/27/98 Board Meeting

May 1998

5/13/98 RRFF Meeting
5/17/98 Casting Clinic
5/25/98 Board Meeting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220).
Specific dates will be reported when available.

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

BEN CUMMINGS
3340 MIRALOMA DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-1717

Address correction requested.

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Signature _____

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:

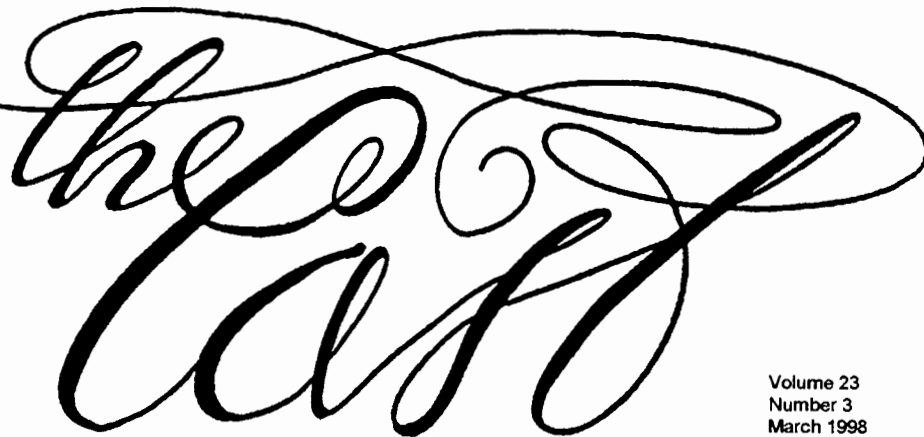
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Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal year's dues.

**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 23
Number 3
March 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

It is the latter part of the last week of February...to be hereafter referred to as The Month From Hell, or The Mother of All Februaries.

As I said last month, I've been tying A LOT of flies...got the stonefly box pretty well stocked, and now I'm trying to learn how to tie bass flies in anticipation of completing our deal for RRFF access to Lytton Springs Lake (which is imminent...we'll probably be fishing there by the end of March, God willing and the creeks don't...well, anyway...). Of course, bass flies and hair-bodied flies seem to be pretty much synonymous so I've been spending some time at the bench covered from guzzle to zorch with deer hair clippings. I've previously been pretty intimidated by the whole technique of spinning hair bodies, but I've persevered and some of my recent product had begun to cross the line from embarrassing to what may be politely termed "fishable". It's actually kind of fun once a few of the basics are in hand.

I've also been slowly working my way through Malcolm Knopp and Robert Cormier's recently published book untitled, simply and appropriately, "Mayflies". This thing is the first and last word on the species Ephemeroptera...365 large-format pages which at first glance is somewhat intimidating. However, once into it, the simple and logical layout leads one on fairly easily, and the abundant entomological detail is well balanced by ex-

remely useful detail aimed at the fly tyer and fisher.

"Mayflies" is both technical and encyclopedic; there's a lot more here than I want to know, but on the other hand, there's nothing that I could ever want to know about mayflies that isn't included. Every family and genus of mayfly is covered individually in terms of size, shape, color variation, nymphal behaviour, emergence, etc, etc, etc.. Additionally, there are excellent sections on fly design for nymphs, duns, spinners, emergers, etc. for every separate genus. I mean, this book covers all the grounds!

I've been particularly stunned by how much I didn't know about mayfly behavior. My level of insight was sort of "the eggs hatch, then the nymphs fool around underwater for awhile, then they swim to the surface, sprout wings, and fly off, then they come back, lay eggs, fall down and die...". But now I know, for instance, that Calibaetis nymphs spend about an hour immediately before emerging repeatedly swimming back and forth between the bottom and the surface...a useful thing to know it seems to me. Did you know that Baetis spinners do not lay eggs on the surface, but rather crawl or swim underwater in the same manner as many caddis? I didn't know that most burrowing nymphs, including Hexagenia, are almost totally nocturnal and spend daylight hours buried in their burrows...no wonder I've never had any success with Hex nymphs except in the evening, just

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before dark.

The list of new and useful information I've gleaned from "Mayflies" goes on and on. Some of it may be just incidental factoids that won't have any benefit to my catch ratio, but a bunch of it has turned on the proverbial lightbulb and I'm sure it will make me a better fisherman when mayflies are on the trout's menu.

"Mayflies" is the last and only book on the subject I will ever need, and I really believe that it belongs on the bookshelf of any serious trout fisherman and fly tyer alongside LaFontain's "Caddisflies" and Leiser's "Stoneflies for the Fisherman" although "Mayflies" is a considerably more useful book than either of those.

Well, that's it for the book report...pray for a break in the weather, and I'll look forward to seeing you at our next RRFF meeting on March 11th.

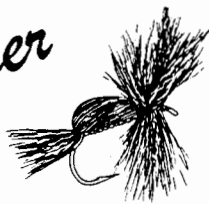
1997/98 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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The Tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



Have you ever noticed the “mystic” that some “gurus” try to introduce into their tying process, or the ultra realistic detail that others strive to get? It is almost as if you can’t become a member of their inner circle unless you buy into it. Don’t get me wrong on this; if that is what turns them or you on and you believe it helps you catch more fish, then I wish you happy tying and good fishing. I’ll be the first to agree that having confidence in one’s approach adds greatly to success on the water.

In my fifty-some-odd years of tying and fishing, I have taken a lot of wrong forks in the road and have had to back track many times (read that as: wishful thinking and good sounding theories that didn’t work). With the passage of years, I have developed my own philosophy of tying, which in turn affects the way I fish to a great extent. More on that later.

Anyway, back to the “mystic”. Fly tying isn’t really a mystery. It can vary from quite simple techniques to very complicated time consuming procedures. Both approaches work on occasion from the fishes’ viewpoint. If you are tying Atlantic salmon flies for show and art’s sake, you are surely stuck with the complicated time consuming procedures. I have seen some extremely realistic flies, especially some nymphs that were pieces of art. The tyers when questioned, would admit that each would spend the better part of an hour to several hours on each creation depending on the level of detail. In the 1950s, some very realistic plastic nymphs showed up on the market. They looked as if

they could crawl off the table and they were certainly more realistic than anything I could tie but they didn’t produce worth jack. That’s about the time I gave up on trying to make exact copies of bugs; besides, oh does it hurt to lose a fly in which you have so much time invested.

When you stop and think about it, the fly really only offers a visual stimulus to the fish. What’s Missing is the taste, smell, texture, and a host of other details about which we can only speculate. If the degree of exact duplication of an insect was the measure of success of a fly, then the entomologist had better start looking harder for that here-to-fore undiscovered insect species, “*Ephemeroptera, Distinctus, La Royal Coachman*”. On the other hand, fish have also been known to strike a lot of other items that to our eyes have no resemblance to fish food, for example cigarette butts and strike indicators.

I started this column with plans to discuss flies and patterns that can be tied very very quickly, say three to four dozen an hour for an accomplished amateur. But my train of thought is taking me elsewhere, so let’s go with the flow, and continue on tying philosophy. Some of my early fly tying books recommend half-hitching and cementing after every step and some very good tyers go to extra lengths to make sure their flies are very durable. Let me give some examples; now I’m not saying they are wrong, I just have a different point of view. It may be that they just do it the wrong way they were taught, accepted the reasons given for it at the time, and haven’t thought about it since. The first example of taking extra steps for durability’s sake is the twisting of the peacock herl and tying thread into a rope before wrapping it into a body. I know that many of you do it this way. My question is why? I can’t remember the last time I had a trout’s teeth shred a peacock herl body. The second example is using the loop method of dubbing almost exclusively. Sure it makes a durable body but is it really necessary? Have you ever had the dubbing come off of a fly made with dubbing a single waxed thread? The loop method has

its place for very bushy, heavy duty applications but I believe that it is over-used, especially on smaller trout flies, and you have to admit that compared to dubbing on a single thread, it is more time consuming.

Now here is one that is sure to raise some eyebrows. Is it really necessary to complete every fly with head cement? On some flies, especially the larger patterns with large heads, the heads can take a beating and in those cases, head cement is an asset. But how about those tiny dries, emergers, and nymphs, how much does cement add to a well tied whip finish? Remember the use of cement first started when the only threads we had were silk or other materials with a high rot factor. That’s not the case today. I have enough trouble trying to thread a fine leader tippet through the eye of a tiny fly without fighting cement.

Now many of you may be disagreeing with me at this point and that’s OK. From my experience, I rarely retire a fly because it came undone; it is much more likely that I’ll retire it on the the bottom of the river or donate it to the brush overhanging a promising pocket of water. With little time invested in the fly and another dozen in my vest, I don’t worry about losing flies. As a result, my casting may be more aggressive and I fish spots many others pass by. If I can entice a larger fish at the cost of a fly or two I figure I’m ahead. After all, I didn’t spend a lot of time at the vise on each one. Just food for thought - think about how you tie and why. Everyone who seriously ties and fishes long enough will develop his own theories and approaches. My point is that one should take the time to ask, “Why do we do it that way?”.

P.S. While I’m not an advocate for the super realistic fly, I do appreciate the craftsmanship and skill that goes into those creations. Some of them are things of beauty. I also feel strongly that shape, size, color, and proportions are important ingredients to a good looking, successful fly.



MARCH GENERAL MEETING



Trent Pridemore is a practicing dentist who resides in Pleasanton and Carnelian Bay, California. He has been a resident of Northern California since 1946 when he and his family emigrated from Fairbanks, Alaska. He journeyed to the University of California at Santa Barbara for a degree in Field Zoology. Several years were spent in Humboldt County as a timber cruiser. The Air Force sent him to the Philippines for a two year stint after graduation from UCSF.

Trent's zoological background stimulated an earlier interest in fly fishing that led him to an involvement in angling conservation. He was the Project Chairman of The Little Truckee River Trout Restoration Task Force put together by the Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs in the mid nineteen seventies and has had a love affair with the stream ever since doing the original feasibility study.

Other angling related activities include writing for several publications and guest appearances on Fish Talk Radio. He has taught classes on fly tying and angler's entomology. One of his main interests is stillwater angling for trout. Several years ago he formed Angler's Education Service to expand his lecturing activities.

“Fly Fishing the Lakes of the Western United States and Canada for Godzilla Trout”

“In the presentation, I journey to a series of lakes that have unique geography and that hold large populations of larger than average trout. I speak on biological and entomological factors that result in these unique fish populations. Areas visited include: Davis Lake, California, Mann Lake, Southeastern Oregon, Crane Prairie, Oregon, the Blackfoot Lakes of Northern Montana and the Kamloops region of British Columbia.

Stillwater techniques are explored including a good bit on fishing the damsel migration and midge phenomena.”

BRING A FRIEND!!
Wednesday, March 11th, 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,

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, March 15th, 1998

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m (weather permitting).

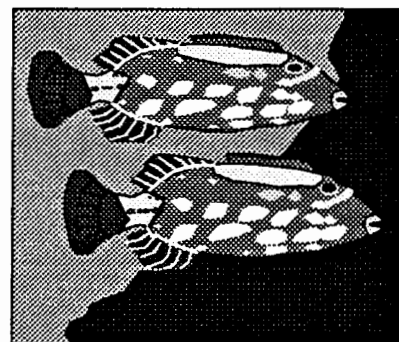
Place: Casting Pond, Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

A beginner's session is scheduled for the morning, weather permitting. Instruction and coaching will be available for the asking for as long as you feel like working if the session begins before noon. Remember the pond is there for your use every day for as long as you can see and for after dark practice if you have an interest in night fishing too. If anyone wishes to use the club's equipment which includes both full line and shooting systems, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me. The early session is a joint venture with Brian Wong of Lyle's Tackle. Brian has a limited supply of equipment to loan on a reservation basis by calling 572-9887.

If the rains are still causing something of a problem on the scheduled date, the clinic will be postponed until April.

Bob Sisson 1977

Come out and see us!



RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

**7 p.m., Monday,
March 23, 1998**

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

The VP's Line

by Scott Broome

Well gang, the rain is still coming down and I think we're all going to grow gills. The good news is that Lytton Lake is now ours to share with the wonderful people at the Salvation Army. The Administrator, Captain Clyde D. Curnow of the Adult Rehabilitation Center at Lytton Springs is the main man that allowed this all to happen. The Captain is not only doing God's work but is also a man that loves the great outdoors.

The E-Board and I have been working very hard to come up with a working plan for the Lake. We are very close to implementing the plan and it looks like we will be able to fish it after the next meeting. We plan to tell

all of the members how it is going to work at the next meeting which will be March 11, 1998. We will hold a meeting at 6:30pm for all of you that are interested about the Lake, its rules, and how the Club will implement it.

Now the great news is that I've fished the Lake about three times. The first time was with our new Lake Keeper, Mark Parker. Mark and I landed two largemouth apiece, and naturally, I lost one fish about five pounds. About a week later, Mark and I fished again and we landed over twelve fish between us in about two hours. Then, last Sunday, Paul Major, Scott Lewis, Larry Johnson, and I went to the Lake for about four hours. We all landed fish with the exception of Paul. So, please mark your calendars and come early to get all the info on the Lake.

Tight lines, and.....let's go fishing!!

Scooter

RRFF YOUTH PROGRAM

For the youth program, this is our busy time of year. Dwight, Tim Grogan, and I explained our program to another troop of boy scouts last Tuesday night and we were quickly accepted to introduce fly fishing to the entire troop as well as a few interested dads. It's really a great feeling to walk away from a group of kids who are full of enthusiasm, but at the same time, wondering to yourself if you can successfully get it across to the next group of kids. If you are not testing yourself by constantly trying to do better, you are always being tested by questions you never thought of or seeing equipment used in an unbearable manner.

Our latest dilemma started to surface that very night when a show of hands numbered eighteen or more interested in our program. With only six tying kits and four or five trout rods, we will have to be creative to say the least. The program is set up for three different flies to tie so we are looking at a lot of small classes. I started thinking about how we could do all this with our current resources and materials and came to the conclusion that we really needed to obtain more. But, before I could put the call out, multiple calls came to me!

At the general meeting, Scotty told me things were progressing well with the possible use of a private local pond (Lake)! Imagine a resource like this, so close, what a positive impact it could have on kids just starting out fly fishing. As the meeting progressed and new

business was made public, Bill Archuleta came forward with an announcement of a very generous donation from a fellow (non-member) fly fisher. The donator who wished to remain anonymous gave the youth program a vast array of fly tying materials, bags of dubbing, chenille, threads, hides, 4 different colors of #2 grade necks, tools, etc.. To whomever made the donation, I sincerely appreciate the quality and quantity of your generous gift. Please be assured that all of your collection will greatly enhance our efforts to educate the youth in this area. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As we develop the youth program, like anything in its earliest stages, new ideas are tried. Some are effective. The kids readily acknowledge these, and the rewards are easily seen. Other times the ideas stink. These are even easier to see. So, we hit a few bumps, struggle and try again, and life goes on. I think the one shared feeling by all is that this is a very worthwhile project and the success of it is directly related to the quality of resources we have.

Next month - a profile of a youth program class and a calendar of events.

Sincerely,
Mike Nyholm

From the desk of.....Scott Lewis, Club Outing Director

Lewiston Lake Outing

March 26-29, 1998

As of last report on February 21st, Lewiston Lake is sitting under 3 feet of snow. The lake is green in color but the rainbows have seen little action and are hungry. They have been a little small: 10-12". If it warms up, I will be at Cooper Gulch. If not, I will be staying at one of the Lakeview Terrace Cabins. This lake has a terrific calibaetis hatch from 11:00am - 2:00pm. Hope to see you there!

Lytton Springs Lake

April 4, 1998

Club Open House

Hat Creek (Opening Day)

April 23-26, 1998

Opening day at Cassel Campground. If you haven't been, you've missed a good one!

-Scott Lewis 588-9220

Coming Events

March 1998

3/11/98	RRFF Meeting
3/15/98	Casting Clinic
3/23/98	Board Meeting
3/26-29	Lewiston Lake

April 1998

4/04/98	Lytton Springs Lake Openhouse
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4/27/98	Board Meeting

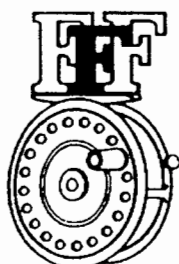
May 1998

5/13/98	RRFF Meeting
5/17/98	Casting Clinic
5/25/98	Board Meeting

June 1998

6/10/98	RRFF Meeting
6/21/98	Casting Clinic
6/29/98	Board Meeting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220).
Specific dates will be reported when available.



Federation of Fly Fishers

Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

Fly Tying Festival

You are invited to the largest fly tying show in Bay Area history. The Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers (NCC/FFF) is assembling the most tyers that the Bay Area has seen to date to demonstrate their skills and share their knowledge. The day-long event will take place on March 7, 1998 in San Francisco's Fort Mason Center. The exposition begins at 9:00am and will feature over fifty of the best Northern California Fly Tyers.

Fly fishers, from beginning to expert, are invited to learn more about this elegant sport. This is your opportunity to learn the latest patterns, tying and fishing techniques. Tyers include: Andre Puyans, Nelson Ishiyama, Bud Heintz, Mark Hoeser, Harry Mason, Jennifer Lee, Dorothy Zinky, Jeff Yamagata, Jack Johnson, Edie Mashiko, Gary Kaplan, Barry Glickman, Dave Krauss, and many others.

There will be a silent auction, featuring fly boxes from each of the

tyers, fishing gear, trips, and other fishing related items. Don't miss this opportunity to stock your fly boxes and be prepared for the season.

Why will over fifty top flyers from throughout the state share their skills and knowledge at this event? To save fish for California's anglers!

All proceeds benefit the Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance. NCC/FFF is a regional council of the Federation of Fly fishers. The NCC/FFF is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and educating through fly fishing. The Council founded and continues to be a major sponsor of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, a public trust advocate for fish and the habitat that sustains them.

Tickets are \$5/person.
Mark March 7 on your calendar!
Don't miss the event of the year!

For more information call:

Irmke Schoebel (415)661-7638
or Irmke@compuserve.com

Sheree Kajiware (650) 369-7228
or skajiware@earthlink.net

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 _____

I apply as a new member:

- ____ (Single membership \$10 initiation fee plus \$35 annual dues)
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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 Cast

Volume 23
Number 4
April 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

S Spring is now officially three days old and it is actually looking and feeling spring-like. My peach tree is in full bloom, the daffodils and freesias are popping open, and I heard a mockingbird in the neighborhood yesterday. All sure signs that the vernal equinox has arrived, even though there were moments in the last couple of months when we didn't believe it would ever really happen.



But best of all, it's time to start actually planning to go fishing! This coming weekend is the RRFF outing to Lewiston Lake, our open house outing to Lytton Springs is the following weekend, and the Great Annual Opening Day Outing to Hat Creek is just a month away

(that's a "don't miss", so...don't miss it!). Just be sure to let Scott Lewis know that you'll be there so we can plan plenty of food for the barbecue and nail down enough spaces at the PG&E campground to accommodate everyone.

I would especially like to encourage any new club members to join in the Opening Day Outing. We always have a great time around the campfire in the evenings; it's a great way to become better acquainted with a bunch of your fellow RRFF members, and if you're not already familiar with the Hat Creek area, you'll be able to take advantage of a lot of accumulated local knowledge from those who have been fishing the area for many years. It really is a hoot, and no matter what you may have heard about Scotty Broome, it is absolutely not a club regulation that you must have so much fun on Friday night that you miss opening day! Also, don't forget that Baum Lake, right there next to

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the PG&E campground, is open year-round, so if you want to come up Thursday or Friday you can get in some fishing prior to Saturday morning.

So...lots of good stuff coming up in the next few weeks. Hope you'll all take advantage of the opportunities, and I'll look forward to seeing you at the regular meetings on April 8th as well as at the outings.

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The Tyer's Corner

Jim Cramer



I have never met a tyer that wasn't always looking for a better way to tie flies. The experienced tyer has developed subtle techniques that help him or her avoid many of the pitfalls and common problems that plague the less experienced. This month, I'm going to discuss some of those tying problems that can cause so much frustration.

The most common problem that beginning tyers seem to have is the crowding of their heads, especially on dry flies. The head often covers half the eye of the hook. They are most often told to start further back and to leave more room. So, let us look a little deeper. Quite often the problem starts with the wings. You have the proper tie in spot which will leave sufficient room for the hackle and the head, but then things get screwed up because you add two or three more wraps to the front part of the tie down area. This little mistake moves the "bend up" area of the wings forward just a tad and you lose valuable space needed to complete the fly.

Beginners can sometimes recover a little head space by using their nails to force the material back slightly on the hook shank. This is not the ideal solution but it can remedy the problem without having to retie the whole fly.

While we are on the subject of heads, let's take a moment to talk about the whipfinish knot. Some threads when pulled back through the wraps at the completion of the knot, will twist up on themselves and either

not pull completely through or will break off, ruining the whipfinish. If you use your bodkin or scissor points to keep some tension on the loop of thread as you tighten the knot, you will avoid this problem. If you have the problem of the thread slipping off the head as you are tying the whipfinish, try using the tip of your left index finger to hold each wrap in position as you make the knot. And lastly, while it is not a big problem, you will have a neater head and knot if you will wrap the whipfinish from the rear forward instead of the opposite direction. Done in this manner, you will avoid having a short length of thread running over the whipfinish wraps before it disappears under them. Wrapped from rear to front the thread from the last wrap will immediately disappear under itself. Many tyers have problems tying small or sparse patterns. They tend to run out of room and their flies have the appearance of being overfed. There are generally two things happening here. First is the use of too much material and second, using too many thread wraps to secure it. For tiny and/or sparse flies, try using half the amount of material you think you need and only two or three wraps to secure it. One little trick used by the masters of the full dress Atlantic salmon fly is to unwrap a couple of thread turns just before tying in a new piece of material.

Many have problems with the durability of parachute hackled flies tied around a posted wing. The problem often can be traced to faulty posting of the wing itself. What happens here is that the wraps around the wing base have a gap between them or a gap at the very bottom of the post. When this occurs, there is a weak point in the wing post and under usage that weak point will tend to act as a hinge point. Pretty soon, everything starts to come apart even if you have used a liberal amount of cement.

Another problem often encountered with tails made of deer,

moose or other hollow hair is the splaying of the tail fibers as the hollow hair is compressed. This can be avoided by tying down the tail material from front to rear. The first thread wraps should be very tight and the last few wraps at the rear less tension to avoid crimping the hollow hair.

If you have the problem of the material continuing to twist around the hook shank as you tie it down, you probably are making either one of two common errors. If you just place the material in the proper position and start to tie it in place with a normal wrap, the thread will tend to carry the material around the hook shank. On tail fibers, you can take advantage of this by holding them at a 45 degree angle to the shank on the near side of the hook as you make your first wrap. Done properly, the thread will roll the fibers to the top of the hook as you continue your tie down. The better solution for all other situations is to use what is sometimes called the "soft loop". To accomplish this, pinch the materials and the hook shank at the tie in point, bring the thread up the near side, over the top and down the far side without putting any tension on it. Now pull the thread straight down while continuing to pinch the material. Repeat the soft loop wrap at least once more before releasing the pinch. With some materials, it is advantageous to use a soft loop and a half. To do this, simply bring the thread back up the near side before you tighten the thread by pulling straight up. Hold the pinch!

These are a few of the more common problems tyers sometimes have. Learn to correct these and you'll greatly reduce your frustrations. By far the easiest way to solve a particular problem is to ask for help from a friend who has already solved it.

Good Luck!



APRIL GENERAL MEETING



Our guest speaker for this April meeting is guide
and naturalist Mike Swaney.

His talk will be on the Russian River system.

Mike is an RRFF member and is active in Russian River policies.

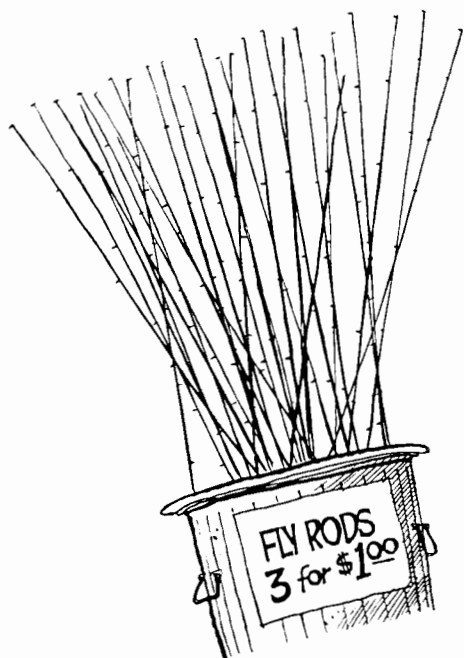
BRING A FRIEND!!

**Wednesday, April 8th, 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



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE:

**12' 1994 Willie Drift Boat & Accessories.
Also, Baker Trailer - \$1700
Call Bill Caddis: 542-2202**

WANTED:

**12 wt rod and/or reel.
Also, conventional rod/reel for Loreto!
Call Larry Johnson:
571-8078 or 576-1745**

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, April 19th, 1998

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m (weather permitting).

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

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
April 27, 1998

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

The VP's Line

by Scott Broome

After this issue, I hope everyone's questions will be answered on the Lytton Lake. The list of rules and the reservation information will be in this newsletter. Additionally, on the fourth of April, there will be an open house at the Lake. Mark Parker has been moving and by this note, his phone will back in service.

If any of you have any questions on Lake access or on fishing tips, please call me at 707-575-5593. The Lake has been fishing well with some member having great days. Steve Adams and a friend had over a hundred fish day. In May, there will be a biologist arriving to speak to us about the Lake and the great possibility it holds.

Tight lines!

-Scooter

Russian River Fly Fishers Fun Day & Picnic at the Casting Pond in Galvin Park

Saturday, June 20, 1998
11am - 4pm

Family Fun & Games
organized by Dwight & Mike

Free Food & Drinks
from noon - 1pm

Friendly Casting Competitions
& Casting Clinic
Raffles & Prizes

*Meet your new Officers
& Executive Board!*

CANDIDATE SLATE SET FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the RRFF Bylaws, the Board of Directors acting as nominating committee will put forth the following candidates for 1998-1999. All current members will receive an official ballot with the May issue of THE CAST. Ballots may either be mailed in or brought to the May membership meeting for submission.

President: Scotty Broome
Vice President: Bob Neil

Current Board Members whose two-year term is expiring:

Tim Barrett
Roger Magill
Mike Nyholm

Lee Smith
Steven Tubbs

First-time candidates: Ron Gustafson
Bob Norman
Mark Parker



The Board would like to thank these RRFF members for their willingness to serve the club for another two years.

Coming Events

April 1998

4/04/98 Lytton Springs Lake
Openhouse
4/08/98 RRFF Meeting
4/19/98 Casting Clinic
4/25/98 Hat Creek Opener

May 1998

5/13/98 RRFF Meeting
5/17/98 Casting Clinic
5/25/98 Board Meeting

June 1998

6/10/98 RRFF Meeting
6/21/98 Casting Clinic
6/20/98 Club Picnic
6/29/98 Board Meeting

July 1998

7/08/98 No Meeting
7/19/98 Casting Clinic
7/27/98 Board Meeting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220).
Specific dates will be reported when available.

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid March 1998), 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>
McCumber Lake	Clear, cold!	Fishing is good. The rainbows & browns are keying in on midge pupa - fished 3 feet under on indicator, or retrieve very slowly. Midge hatch is sporadic, but may have a few trout working the dries. Streamers and mayfly nymphs fished on a Stillwater line are also producing. The north side of the lake has been particularly productive. Look for callibaetis hatch to start soon.	McCumber is located just east of Shingletown on the way to Manzanita Lake. Float tube or boat needed.
Gualala River	Moderate flow & dropping, green	Steelhead are in the system. Use intermediate to 300 grain sink tips with dark leech & steelhead patterns. If water stays green, try smaller (#10) skunks & comets. Best access is from the Forks to Hwy 1 bridge, but it can get crowded. Try walking upstream of the Forks, or walking downstream from Annapolis Road.	
Garcia River	Moderate flow & dropping, green	Steelhead are in the system. One day the fishing is good and the next day it is lousy - but that's steelhead fishing. Use intermediate to 300 grain sink tips with dark leech and steelhead patterns. Steelhead average 3-8lbs, expect a mixture of fresh and spent fish. Fish both up & downstream of Hwy 1. On the upper river, try a leech with a large glo bug dropper.	
Frank's Tract (Delta)	2-3 ft visibility, high 50s F to low 60s F.	Fishing is good. 2-6 lb stripers are being found in good numbers in Frank's Tract, Mildred Island, & Sandmound Slough. With the warmer weather, the fish are getting hungry and aggressive, and when hooked, they are hot. Use an 8 or 9 wt. rod with a leadcore shooting head. Use a jerky retrieve with both fast and slow strips. Both small and large flies are producing. An added bonus: The largemouth bass spawn is starting, with fish from 2-5 lbs showing in the shallows. Keep your fingers crossed for the wind to stay down.	Boat needed; Chuck's Bait on Bethel Island rents boats. A fish/depth finder is a valuable tool in finding dropoffs and weedbed lines.
Eel River, S. Fork	Green, moderately high (1100cfs at Leggett)	Fishing is fair to good. Good numbers of steelhead are in the system. Use 200 and 300 grain sink tips with dark leech and steelhead patterns. Steelhead average 3-6 lbs, expect a mixture of fresh and spent fish. Access along Hwy 271, through the town of Leggett, and near Garberville. Keep moving as these fish tend to spread out.	Rain will easily blow out the South Fork. The lower river is blown out.

*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

by
Rodger Magill

The first few days of Spring find us emerging from one of the most tumultuous winters of weather and fishing regulations.

Many became confused, including the heads of the commissions in charge of the fishing rules and regulations. These are the "regs" as I see them today. All steelhead fishing will end March on 31 in anadromous streams from Russian Gulch (next system north from the Russian River) to Redwood Creek. These have now been designated single-barbless, catch and release of all wild fish. Warm Springs Hatchery marked 650,000 fish in October and November with adipose fin clips, according to Armando Quinones, Manager of hatchery operations.

Remaining open all year are the Russian River, Salmon Creek, and Walker Creek. One over and one under twenty-two inches may be taken daily. Here you see the incredible ignorance of the bureaucracy! The latter of the two streams is populated by only native fish! This in comparison to the systems north of the Russian River which are not listed with regards to steelhead under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and have regulations now protecting natives (many of those systems are unabled only by wild fish). Those south of the Russian Gulch are recognized by the EPA as having Evolutionary Significant Units (ESU's) and are officially listed as "Threatened", yet these natives are still allowed to be killed! These systems also remain open after March 31!

Charlie Beck (longtime fly-fisherman who lives in the community at the mouth of Salmon Creek), and I (I live on the mainstream very near the headwaters) have worked for two years to get some protection for these wild fish. In the last two weeks, he and I have spoken with many of the officials in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) from Yountville to Sacramento and officials in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from Long Beach to the offices here in Santa Rosa. It has been interesting and always informative. Being members of

large Federal and State Departments, these people are not always easy to reach, but almost always return our calls. This is reassuring. In general, the officials in these departments have been courteous and very willing to listen to and discuss our concerns. Captain Ed Nagel (CDFG) and I had a rather thorough discussion on the 24th of this month. A fellow flyfisherman of twenty-seven years service at CDFG, he shares most of our concerns regarding our local fisheries. Of particular note, he explained that officials are now walking streams in order to personally check obedience of fish and game regs. They are also going to begin to examine water usage, including pumping from streams. Of particular interest to him is the Dry creek Watershed.

I still await questions and conversations with: Dennis McKuen (CDFG), Dan Andrain (CDFG), and Patrick Rutten (NMFS). I am particularly interested in speaking with Mr. Rutten, as Charlie informs me that this NMFS official was positively disposed with regards to the signage I created at Salmon Creek suggesting catch and release of those native fish. County Parks and Recreation has allowed these signs to remain on State Property for the past year and a half (nothing less than unbelievable!). Jim Bibe (NMFS) was also supportive of the local action by our posting. The Feds do support community action. Charlie informs me that Dan may have some interest in our helping with the future posting and wording of the many signs that will need to be created once all the changes in regulations are made. This will be a great opportunity for our club volunteers to get out and help post the streams in California.

Lastly, the opening of trout season is, as always, the last Saturday in April, so I hope to see all fun-loving fishermen at the annual season opener at Hat Creek on April 25th! There is never a dull moment even when *Oncorhynchus Mykiss*, Ph.D. and *Salmo Trutta*, Ph.D. are completely on notice! My suggestions for success...homespun emergers and leeches, for dry and wet, respectively; persistence, and above all, avoid crowds!



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 _____

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



Volume 23
Number 5
May 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

I am writing this my first day back in the Real world after returning from our annual Hat Creek Opening Day Outing and I'm here to tell ya...it was another total success and an utter blast!

Those of us who went up Thursday to set up camp had to cope with rain and occasional sleet, on and off, through Friday evening, but it did clear up frequently between rain squalls, and we managed to get shelter tarps rigged over the cooking area where we could take refuge during the wet spells. In spite of the weather, we just went right ahead and had a good time, particularly when dinner hour rolled around on Thursday evening; Scotty stepped up to the new RRFF Deluxe Barbecue and produced roasted Cornish game hens, vegetable saute, and herb rice! Here we are camping out in the rain and the Broomester comes up with a meal that would do a three-star restaurant proud! What a guy!

Actually, most of the kudos for the success of the Outing go to Scotty. Pretty much single handedly, he planned the menu, bought the food, and then did most of the cooking for over twenty people for three days. I consider that above and beyond the normal call

of duty by about a mile! And with all that, he seemed to be having more fun than anybody...maybe we could all take a lesson here about the joys of serving, but I think it takes a very special person to pull it off in the grand Scotty Broome manner.

On Friday, the early arrivees fished Baum Lake, but Lee Smith was the only one who found the combination and caught fish. The afternoon hatch never happened, so most of us went back to camp and got a head start on the Friday evening festivities which featured a pizza and spaghetti feed (prepared by guess who?), a roaring campfire, adult beverages, and general hilarity which went on until much later in the evening than one would expect of serious flyfishers the night before opening day.

In spite of that, everyone rolled out early the next morning (you will note I didn't say Bright and Early!), went up to the Cassel Firehouse for breakfast, and then hit the stream. The day dawned clear, and it stayed that way for the rest of the weekend so all we had to cope with were the usual hordes of people fishing Hat Creek from one end of the Wild Trout Section to the other. My God there are a lot of flyfishers out there! In spite of

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the mob, the RRFF contingent had a lot of success on Saturday with Bob Norman leading the pack (to no one's surprise) with twelve fish to eighteen inches. I trailed Bob *slightly* with zero fish, my excuse being that I was seized with a spasm of purism and only carried my fourweight with a floating line while most of the fish were being caught with sinking lines tipped with leeches and woolly buggers (on Sunday I went back appropriately equipped with a sinktip and managed to catch a couple of nice fish and "long-line released" two or three more).

(continued next page)

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)

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: Scott Lewis (588-9220)

(continued from previous page)

What strikes me every time I find myself sharing a stream with large numbers of flyfishers, as we certainly did last weekend, is (a) how many folks are taking up our favorite sport, and (b) how few of them seem to have any clue about how trout are actually caught. At the end of the day, we all had stories of watching people wading the water they should have been casting to, and casting to the water they should have been wading in. I watched one guy at Teal Island repeatedly put down fish that were rising six feet from his bank by stepping on them and then making a fifty-foot cast to four inches of dead water on the far bank...enough to make ya crazy! Most of these folks seem to be well equipped and competent cast-

The Tier's Corner



Jim Cramer

I came across a neat fly on the internet that I have to share with you. In fact, I picked up more than one but the others will have to wait. This seems like the perfect fly for those of you having trouble with the standard parachute patterns. But first, before going on, let me give credit where credit is due. The fly which goes by the name "Para-Glen" first came from the vise of Al Beatty. Al says the name came from a bottle of 12 year old Glenlivet during a tying session with Lars-Ake Olsson, a European tier. Sounds like the perfect name to me.

The materials list for the Para-Glen is quite simple:

Hook: #10-#20 Tiemco 100 or 5210 or similar

Thread: 6/0 color to match body and wings

Wings: Pale gray poly yarn

Body: Pale gray poly yarn extended

Hackle Grizzly - several turns

Of course other colors can be used, just keep them coordinated.

The tying process is very simple with only one step in the process that may be new to some of you. So put your hook in the vise and let's get started. Fasten the thread to the hook with a short wrap directly behind the eye with four or five tight wraps of thread. The yarn is tied in so that it extends over the hook eye about 3/4's of an inch with the remainder extending to the rear. The thickness of the yarn is dependent on the size of hook you have selected. On the larger sizes, you can use a full strand and

ers...I guess what they're lacking is time on the water and/or the benefit of fishing with more experienced people, but geez, you'd think they could figure out for themselves that your fly goes where the fish are rising, not your boots...

Well, enough of that. Even the people who weren't catching fish seemed to be enjoying themselves, and that's really the point, isn't it? I'm sorry that the weather, I assume, kept so many of our club members home...we were expecting about forty at the Outing, and we ended up with twenty-odd (some odder than others!), but I'm sure those who were there will agree that it was an affair to remember. Thanks to all who came, and special thanks to all those who worked hard to make it happen!

on the smaller sizes, just a few fibers. You'll quickly zoom in on the right amount. Don't trim anything at this point. Now we are going to form a furled extended body. Don't panic, it's really quite simple. Attach your hackle pliers to the end of the yarn that extends to the rear and twist it until it is tight, eight or ten turns at least. Keep some tension on the yarn during the twisting and this next step. Pinch the yarn at point a body's length from the tie in point and fold the yarn forward pinching it down at the original tie in point. Let go of the yarn at the fold point. Now if you have done everything right so far, the two sides of the loop should twist together and resemble a loose rope. Holding everything together at the tie in point, secure the yarn directly over the hook eye to the length of the wings. In this pattern that is where they will remain, sticking straight out over the eye. Next, we will secure the extended body so that it stands at a right angle to the hook shank. The best way to do this is to bring the thread over the top of the hook, around the base of the body (counterclockwise), and back down the far side of the hook. In other words, make a figure eight wrap around the body. Do this two or three times and the thread acts as a rope on a tent post does when it's staked to the ground. Leave the thread hanging directly behind the body. Now tie in the hackle and whipfinish. I find it best on this fly if you whipfinish between the wings and the hackle rather than at the head where you will tend to displace the angle of the wings.

At first glance, this fly looks somewhat strange with the rear half of the hook completely bare, the wings extending forward over the eye, and the body perpendicular to the hook shank. All the important parts are there, they are just laid out a little different. It is an easy quick tie especially in the smallest sizes. I am anxious to give it a try this next season.



MAY GENERAL MEETING



RRFF Presents:

**Roger K. Bloom
CD&G Wild Trout Program**

Mr. Bloom will be reporting on our new Lytton springs Lake Fishery. His discussion will include: water quality, fish species composition, invertebrate composition, aquatic plant composition, growth rates and more. Learn the potential for salmonid survival and all the possibilities the lake holds.

**BRING A FRIEND!!
Wednesday, May 13th, 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

The opener at Hat Creek is a thing of the past...we all had a wonderful time and many lessons were learned. Sometimes we old-timers in the club forget what it was like to be a new member or someone who has never put a rod in their hand...or the time when you're just getting started and are afraid of asking a stupid question of just plain having one giant pain in the ass trying to cast that line when the guy next to you is throwing the perfect loop.

The Hat Creek trip was fun and I want to thank all those members who took time with all of us and taught something new. Bob Norman showed new members and old new techniques that landed many a fish on opening day.

Many members were ripping lips at Carbon Bridge. Joe Craig had a great knot tying class at the campfire on Saturday night, while others members took time with our first timers and

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

**7 p.m., Monday,
June 1., 1998**

**Montgomery Village
Round Table Pizza
2424 MacGowan Dr.**

spent the day giving casting and fishing lessons to our new people. On Saturday night, I saw Carlos Tamayo hook a great fish on a dry at Hat. This is Carlos' second trip with us; he's come a long way! I would also like to thank all those who helped with the set-up and meals...and for those who didn't make it, you missed one fine time...

Tight lines....Scooter



RRFF Youth Program

I can be included in the large group of people who have not yet had the fortune to fish our new "club water", but I am one of the lucky few who has had an opportunity to fish lately. Imagine leaving your job site, driving 2 blocks and releasing 3 trout in 35 minutes. Did I mention it's also lunch time, and fish are rising to Wonder Bread under a shaded branch of this lake? Or that I am under the watchful eye of the security guard that welcomed us as we approached? If you are wondering what I am talking about, we are finally exercising our negotiated rights to the D.S.C. corporate pond. Dwight and I met for a photo shoot and the day we picked was the worst weather of the week. But, for the jinxed scout who had never caught a fish, his second cast was all that it took. It is truly a sight to see kids fly casting for fish. For all this, we owe a special thanks to Lois Owens at D.S.C. Communications who has allowed us this privilege, and for also encouraging D.S.C. company employees to practice a catch and release policy on the pond.

But let's back up and see how these kids got this far. I promised a profile of our program and this is how it starts:

When we hear from a local scoutmaster who is interested in the program, we set up a schedule. We advise three nights for fly tying, 1 night for casting, and an early evening for fishing.

Let's review the flies:

1st night: wooly bugger - introduces all tools and materials and basic concepts.

2nd night: zug bug - smaller thread, hook size, beginning dubbing (using peacock hurl). The kids usually tie this fly well.

3rd night: elk hair - even smaller hook, introduces stacking hair and tight wraps are essential.

Here was the scene of the last Wooly Bugger session. With the introduction of the tools, thread, etc., we stressed key points such as materials that imitate body parts or movement, proportions, leaving room at the eye to finish off the fly, etc. So with the introduction of marabou, of course we commented on how it moves in the water and looks almost as fluffy or puffy as it does in your hand. now, we consider it an offhand compliment when the kids actually remember and recall topics discussed in the past, (hey, maybe they were listening!) so I was beaming with pride when these scouts took it to the next level and decided to test my statement about marabou in water, in the bathroom. I imagine that you already know where this is heading, but let me assure you that as an Assistant Scoutmaster, I have been trained to recognize and avoid any potentially dangerous, threatening or illegal situation. Which is why when I heard the shouts and running from down the hall, I quickly read the current fishing regulations and determined that, yes, you can mooch in a toilet if on

Coming Events

May 1998

5/13/98 RRFF Meeting
5/17/98 Casting Clinic

June 1998

~~6/01/98 RRFF Meeting~~
6/15/98 No ~~Board~~ Mtg. - Deadline
for RRFF materials
6/20/98 Club Picnic
6/21/98 Casting Clinic
6/29/98 Board Meeting

July 1998

7/08/98 RRFF Meeting
7/19/98 Casting Clinic
7/27/98 Board Meeting

August 1998

8/12/98 No Mtg. - gone fishin'
8/17/98 Board Meeting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220).
Specific dates will be reported when available.

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid April 1998), 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>
Hot Creek	Clear, mid 50s F, some weeds	Fishing is good. Warm weather this week will raise the flows, but shouldn't affect the clarity. Look for BWO and midge hatches mid day with fish working the dries. Brown caddis in size 16 are also taking a few fish. Nymph before and after the baetis hatch with small (#18-20) mayfly nymphs and midge pupa. Evenings have been cooling off quickly with less bug and fish activity. Early morning fishing is decent with streamers along the banks.	Expect crowds. Try to fish from the banks. This fragile spring creek does not tolerate wading. If you want to go against the grain, try using a San Juan worm in the morning.
Hat Creek Lower (PH-2 to Pit River)	Clear, cold, normal flows, weeds starting to show.	Fishing is good. The morning rust spinner fall is the main attraction. BWO and midges are also coming off and the trout are sporadically rising to them. If the weather is warm, there should be a decent micro caddis hatch (tan and brown) in the evening. Before and after the hatches, indicator nymphing (Powerhouse #2 riffle, or the lower section around the fish barrier) with a stonefly nymph and small mayfly or caddis dropper is productive. Decent number of fish were caught on the opener and Hat will continue to get better.	Expect crowds on the weekends. The flats from PH#2 to the Hwy 299 bridge is a good place to sight rising trout. Warmer weather should improve the fishing.
Burney Creek (below Burney Falls)	Clear, cold, normal flow.	Fishing is fair to good. The water is in good shape. Rainbows to 15" are being caught. Nymphing under an indicator with a beadhead nymph and a mayfly dropper is most productive. No surface activity has been reported. Some larger fish may show up in the next few weeks as they move out of Lake Britton to spawn.	Access from Burney Creek State Park. Fish downstream of the falls to the Lake.
Sonoma Lake	2-3ft visibility, high 60sF.	Fishing is good for black bass and bluegill. Warmer water has the bass coming into the shallows and the bluegill active in the Yorty Creek arm of the lake. Fish medium size poppers for bass in the shallows early and late in the day. Streamers on sinking lines are also productive. Rubberleg nymphs or small poppers are working well for bluegill. Fish among shoreline vegetation and structure.	Access the day use area at Yorty Creek from Hot Spring Road on the west side of Cloverdale. This is a 5mph zone - ideal for a tube, pram, or canoe. Shore fishing is limited.

*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.*

Possible Outing

We are in the planning stages of a group outing to Putah Creek in July.

Call Scott Lewis at 588-9220 or see him at the meeting
for a sign-up sheet.

CASTING POND CLINICS

Accuracy Casting Clinic

RRFF is pleased to report that we are holding accuracy casting clinics each Thursday from 4:00 - 6:00pm.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting, however, drop-ins are OK.

Please make use of our casting pond and attend. The first date is to be announced at the meeting.

Past President Ken Magoon is helping us on this new program.
His phone # is 527-8376

Advanced Casting Clinic with Brian Wong

If you've never casted a 12 weight and you're going to Loreto, you need some help!

Brian Wong is offering the clinic on 5/17/98.

There will be a 10:00 - Noon class and, if warranted, a 12:30 - 2:30pm class.
This is open to everybody.

The fee is \$25 pre-paid (RSVP by 5/13).
Call Brian at 527-9887 to register

Have you done it yet??

Have you marked your calendar for June 20th?

The Club Picnic at the Casting Pond is the place to be - 11am to 4pm - Free Free Free!

Reservations are not necessary but it would be a big help for the planner if you would call me at 539-5437 evening or drop me a note at P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, 95405 to let me know how many to expect.

If you have a special occasion, birthday, etc., I'm listening. Helpers welcome! Bring your own lawn chairs please.

Raffle - Kid's Games - Casting Tips - Friendly Competitions
(BBQ served Noon to 1pm)

- Marji Major

church property with a barbless hook.

Casting can be unpredictable. Maybe you're lucky and all the kids successfully roll cast and graduate to the overhead cast, or maybe they look like an audition for Pirates of the Caribbean with rods at all angles and you stick to roll casting...forrr...everrr. Anyway, after they have learned the basics, a class is scheduled to actually fish. We are using the lake at D.S.C. in Petaluma because I have caught fish there on everything. It's small and fishable, and so far only we can use it. A talk is given to the kids about behavior on the water, and we stress it's not a race to catch fish. We try to take the competition out of fishing and allow them to enjoy themselves. Maybe some kid's highlight will be casting and never needing help, or fixing his own knot, or simply kneeling by the water and watching his Woolly bugger looking puffy when he moves it along a bank. Sometimes you don't know what it is, but you can tell something connected.

The two things I've learned in this last session would be 1) If the kids seem to "get it", you need to anticipate and direct up a level to keep it interesting for them, 2) I've started using those twist-ties on the Wonder Bread wrappers as posts on my dry flies. These trout seem to key in on the opening of those loves of bread.

Our schedule at a glance shows rod building with last year's first ever class and two new troops in mid-session. In fact, April 30th is the fishing evening for the scout troop in Petaluma. I want to thank Steve Tubbs and Bill Archuleta and Noel Plumb for their help with this troop, and Bob Selwyn for materials provided. Dwight, Tim, Lori, and Scotty have helped with both troops in Santa Rosa. The looks on the faces of these kids when they pick up their finished rods after turning through the night is just



incredible. They carry them out in sections as if an offering to a god.

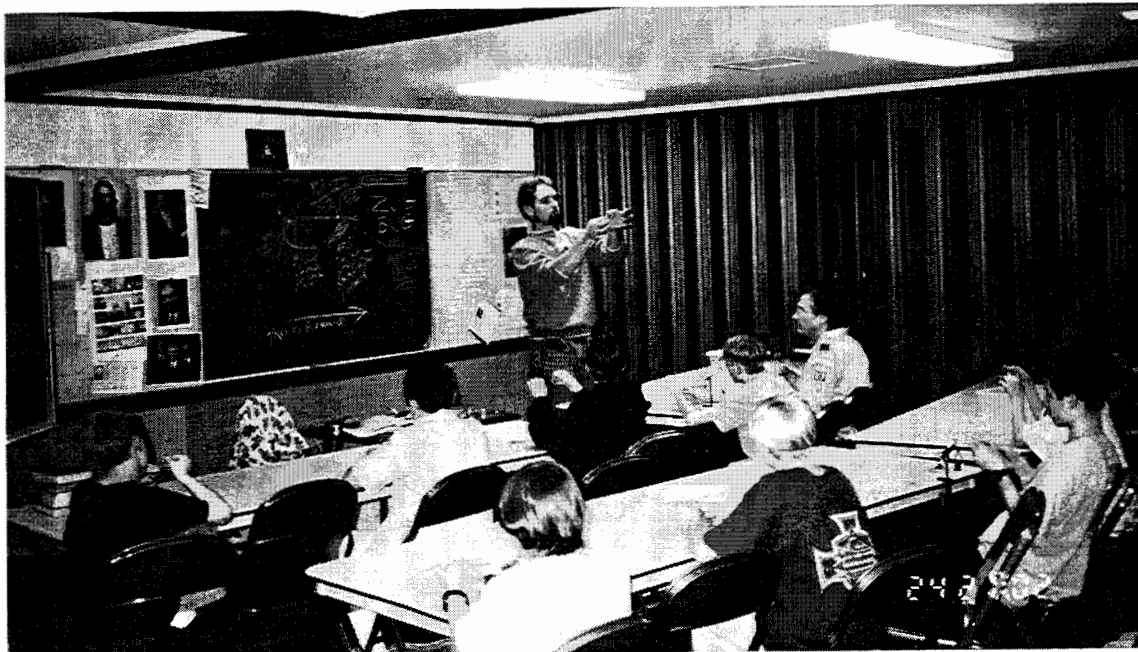
Future projects include talking with the Boys and Girls Club about three summer day outings at the casting pond. They would include tying, casting, and fishing in the afternoon. In May we will participate in the Santa Rosa & Recreation Outdoor Faire and the Finley Center like we did last year.

Make it a point to come to the June 20th picnic! We would like to see all of you and your families there. We will have some type of entertainment for everybody. There will be casting games for all ages and abilities. For non-casters I am thinking of a club trivia game. A sample question might be...What three things should you know if

you're fishing with Jim Hakel? Answer: 1) you'll be casting second, and 2) you'll be taking pictures of him first. The third thing you need to know if he should try to cut his finger off again, is where do you apply pressure to slow bleeding? We hope to see you there.

Thanks for your help and support,

- 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 _____

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



Volume 23
Number 6
June 1998

Major Notes by Paul Major

Well, gang...this will be my last contribution in this space as El Presidente of RRFF. The ballots are counted, and as of July 1st, Scotty Broome will have the helm firmly in grasp for the next year (or more if we can talk him into it!).

My year in office has been a memorable experience for me and I feel greatly rewarded by the growth and success our club has experienced this year and past. Our membership has grown dramatically, we've had some really wonderful programs at our monthly meetings, the annual dinner meeting was a smash, the Youth Program is an award-winner, our club outings have been bigger and better than ever, and we've got our own fishing hole...It's been a great year!

None of this would have been possible without the incredible work done by our Board of Directors. It has been a truly great privilege for me to have had the opportunity to work with this group. Vice-President Scott Broome's contributions are almost too numerous to list, but it's fair to say that Lytton Springs is Scotty's almost single-handed creation and that our Season Opener Outing would have

been just another fishing trip for me and for all of your fellow RRFF members! You've been a great VP and I'm looking forward to working with you in your well deserved term as President.

I would also like to thank every member of the BOD for their extraordinary efforts this year; Bob Sisson persevering with the casting pond through adversity; Larry Johnson for putting out "The Cast", even during tax season (he's a CPA); Mike Nyholm for creating the Youth Program we're all so proud of; Marji Major, Events Chairperson (and love of my life), for our wonderful picnics and dinners; Dick Hollingshead for putting our treasury in the best shape it's ever been; Lee Smith, our personal Club Secretary (it's a dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it); Roger Magill for building our neat library and keeping his finger on the conversation scene; Scott Barrett and Steve Tubbs for keeping the membership operation humming; Bob Neil, our new Vice-President, for his long service as our NCCFFF rep; Mark Parker for his labors as Lake Monitor; and also Noel Plumb for great raffles and Mike Neters for supplying us all with refresh-

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ments at our meetings.

These are the people who make it happen, and I'm sure I speak for every member of the Russian River Flyfishers when I offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all of them for a job magnificently done!

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to every member of this club for your great support of our organization and the many activities and programs we undertake to further our sport and the pleasure we all derive from flyfishing. I feel blessed and privileged to share this fellowship with all of you.

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)

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 Scott Lewis (588-9220)

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



This month we are going to cover a neat wing concept that looks much more difficult than it actually is. This particular style, sometimes called "Wonder Wings", has been around for a few years but in the history of fly tying, is relatively new. The wings that we will cover this month are made with common neck hackles or saddle hackles. The only prerequisite is that they should have relatively long fibers.

After laying down the thread base, select two hackles of approximately the same size. Cut off the tips by cutting the center stem without cutting the fibers. Place the two feathers back to back, glossy sides together. Now stroke the fibers on both feathers towards the tips and hold the fibers in that position. Now comes the tricky part. You want to tie the wings in short on top of the hook with three turns of thread with the butt of the hackle feather extending forward over the eye of the hook. Now carefully pull the feathers forward until the stems clear the three wraps of thread. Don't pull too far or you'll have to start all over. The newly formed wings should be long enough that the hackle stems are not tied to the shank. Now wrap four or five turns of thread to hold them in place. Don't wrap to the rear of the hook yet.

The reason for tying the wings in short and pulling them through to proper length is that it is the easiest way to control the hackle fibers. If you try to do otherwise, the thread torque will cause the fibers to twist over one another and you'll have a mess. The reason for tying the wings in by the fibers and not the stems is to keep the wings flexible. Stiff wings can cause the fly to spin, resulting in twisted leaders.

At this point, if we are lucky, we will have enough fibers of proper length pointing to the rear to form the tail. Trim out those that are too long or too short. Wrap the thread to the rear of the hook and back to the wings. Elevate and divide the wings and trim off the excess feather. Keep the excess you

trimmed off as you can usually get several flies out of each pair of feathers. Your wings should have a somewhat teardrop shape with the fibers forming the outline of the wings.

Complete the fly by dubbing the body of your choice and adding the hackle. You have another quick and easy fly to add to your collection.

RRFF 1998 Fly Tying Jubilee

Attention Tiers:

Anyone who wants to tie their favorite patterns at our annual club's Fly Tying Jubilee should contact me at 539-0773.

The format will stay the same for this year's event. Each tier will have their own table and should plan on bringing everything he or she needs including a light(s) and extension cord(s).

There is something new I'd like to try this year. For all tiers, please choose only 2 or 3 patterns to tie at the fair. Also, please include an instruction and materials sheet to cover each pattern you tie. This would be a great help to club members wanting to tie your patterns in the future. Thanks!

- Bob Norman

TRUE WET FLIES



Red October



Cement Overshoe



Titanic

The VP's Line by Scott Broome



The next time all of you hear from me, I guess it will be as the new President of the Russian River Fly Fishers. My turn in the barrel I guess??? Brother Paul will be able to retire to the back of the meeting with all of the other great Presidents we've had. I call it the Mt. Rushmore of the RRFF: Paul, Steve, Tim, and Ken. They all kind of glare, making sure things are done right and up to par. I hope I am up to the task. Paul has been a great President - leaving the club in great shape. The membership is up and the treasury looks fantastic. With new blood coming into the club and the E-Board, we should be in great shape for the 1998-99 year.

Paul is going to take over the programs for the monthly meetings and he has already booked some great presenters for next year's programs. I would love to see all of you out for the club's June Picnic on the 20th. The food and drink are free and it will give us all a chance to show our great appreciation to Paul for a job well done.

The terrific new membership responses due to the great article in the Press Democrat brings back a lot of memories of what it was like to be a new member and a new fly fisherman. I've come a long way from my first rod and old reel to the President of one of the finest group of fishermen and people I know. I want to thank all those members who helped me along the way and to Joe Craig, my brother, who was either going to shoot me or teach me to fly fish. Thanks Joe for not shooting. Now that I am President elect, I guess I can part with a little pearl of wisdom to some of our newer members - get involved, ask questions, ask for help, come to outings, and, most importantly...go fishing!

Tight Lines! - Scooter

RRFF Board of Directors Mtg.

7 p.m., Monday,
June 29, 1998

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

June Picnic

**Mark your calendar for
June 20th!**

**The annual club picnic
is from 11am-4pm with
the BBQ from noon - 1pm.
It's Free!!!**

**Reservations are not
necessary but it's a big
help in planning to call
Marji Major at 539-5437
and sign up.**

Bring lawn chairs.

**(Note: There will be no evening
General Meeting this month)**

Coming Events

June 1998

6/15/98 No Mtg.
6/20/98 Club Picnic & Casting Clinic
6/29/98 Board Meeting
Thursday evening casting

July 1998

7/08/98 RRFF Meeting
7/27/98 Board Meeting
Thursday evening casting

August 1998

8/12/98 No Mtg. - gone fishin'
8/17/98 Board Meeting
Thursday evening casting

Attention: For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (588-9220). Specific dates will be reported when available.

Pool Captain's Corner

CLUB PICNIC & CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Saturday, June 20, 1998

Time: 11am - 4pm

Place: Casting Pond. Dan Galvin
Park at intersection of
Bennett Valley Rd &
Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa

The combined Club Picnic and the regular
clinic will be the total of events scheduled for
the month.

THERE WILL NOT BE A CLINIC ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun and
casting. There will be an opportunity to test your
distance casting skills as well as your accuracy.

If you plan on attending the event, it would help
Marji Major, the planning coordinator for the
picnic, to give her a call her and let her know at
539-5437.

The Thursday evening sessions being coordinated
by Ken Magoon are great practice times and have
been well attended. There are also provisions for
coaching at all levels.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY
CLINICS IN JULY OR AUGUST.

There will be a major work party in August to
make repairs on the pond lining. Be prepared to be
asked to participate by President Scott Broome.

The next scheduled clinic will be in September.

Distance Casting Achievement Qualifiers

	60'	
62.	Bob Jones	(10 Wt.SH)(5/98)
	80'	
57.	Bob Jones	(10 Wt.SH)(5/98)
	100'	
39.	Mike Nyholm	(10 Wt.SH)(5/98)
	135'	
13.	Bob Norman	(10 Wt.SH)(5/98)

Wanted

The Club is looking for
a small trailer.

If you know of one or have
one that you might be
willing to donate or sell,
please call Scotty Broome
at 575-5993

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated late May 1998), 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)	Clear, normal flows, weeds are growing in nicely.	Fishing is good despite the weather. Wind has been a factor. Indicator nymphing from early morning through the afternoon at the Powerhouse #2 riffle with a caddis nymph and a small (#20-22) mayfly dropper is very productive. During periods of sunshine and warm air temperature, hatches of BWO and PMD mayflies and spinner flies are strong from 10am-3pm. Good numbers of little yellow stones are also present with some green drakes too, but the fish don't seem to be keying in on them yet. Caddis hatch in the evening is good when air temperature is warm enough. If the wind is up, try sight nymphing or swinging a soft hackle fly. Try fishing a streamer also.	To escape the crowds at the Ph-#2 riffle, try fishing the foundation and the barrier; use a large attractor stonefly dry fly and a mayfly dropper. Below the barrier is also worth checking out.
Fall River	Slightly off color, high, cold. Weeds are growing in down to Cal Trout.	Fishing is good despite the weather. Choose your method of fishing based on the weather. Wind has been a factor. Dry fly fishing is good when the wind is down and the hatches are on. Rainy, cold, overcast weather has strong hatches of BWOs, while good hatches of PMDs are occurring during patches of sunshine and warm air temperatures. Indicator nymph BWO and PMD nymphs on 7X tippet under an indicator during non-hatch conditions or when the wind is up. Also try fishing a slow sinking line with a leech or bugger early in the day or when the wind is up.	A boat is needed. Access from Cal Trout. Above Rick's Lodge continues to fish well with green drakes; boat launch fee required and rental boats are available. Weed growth has fish lower in river than normal. A short boat ride from Cal Trout access will put you over plenty of fish. Warning: high water is making passage under the bridges difficult. Also, the path at Cal Trout is very muddy.
Baum Lake	Good visibility, high 40s F, weeds.	Fishing is fair to good depending on weather. Wind and air temperature is a factor. During patches of sunshine, dry fly fishing with a callibaetis, BWO or PDM is good. Emergers and cripples work better than dry flies. Hatches are from mid-morning on. During non-hatch periods or when the wind is up nymph fish a BWO, PMD, or callibaetis nymph on 6X under an indicator. Midges are always present and fishing a dry fly or pupa will produce when nothing else is. Warmer air temperatures will bring back the caddis hatch in the evening and should also get the damsel and dragon flies active.	Shore access is very limited; best fished from a pram or float tube. The current is strong so it's best to use an anchor to control your drift. DFG stocks the lake weekly, so there are lots of fish to catch.
Hot Creek	Clear, normal flows, mid 50s F, weeds are growing in.	Fishing is good. Early morning fishing can be decent with streamers or san juan worms fished along the banks. BWO and midge hatches are providing good dry fly fishing mid-afternoon. Before and after the hatch, fish mayfly nymphs and midge pupa (#18-24) under a small yarn indicator. Make sure to use 6-7X tippet and go as small as you dare on the flies. Fish are starting to wise up, so clean drag free drifts are very important.	Fish from the banks; this fragile spring creek does not tolerate wading.

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What's Hot and What's Not

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Owens River Gorge (Crowley Dam to Pleasant Valley Dam)	Clear, mid 40s F, 26cfs.	Fishing is good. Trout in the gorge are not particularly large (6-10") or selective. Some surface activity is present with caddis out during the warmer part of the day. Midges are always present. Use caddis or attractor dry flies and generic beadhead nymphs fished under an indicator. Also, try using smaller midge pupa and dries. Keep fly sizes #16 and smaller.	Midges & caddis.
Kirman Lake	Clear, cold.	Fishing is very good. Best fishing is in the early morning hours before the sun hits the water. Use a floating or slow sinking line and fish streamers and small leech patterns. Fishing slows down once the sun hits the water. Evening fishing is good. Try using a midge pupa, scud, or caddis nymph under an indicator or streamers on a sinking line.	Float tube is needed. Access trail to Kirman from orange ladder off Hwy 108; 2.5 mile hike to the lake. Be sure to dress warmly under your waders, water is very cold.

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.

"Starting Out"

by Larry Johnson, Editor

Considering the large number of new members which have joined our club, I thought it would be helpful to pass along the best way for a new fly fisher to get up to speed. Since I have only been fly fishing for two years, it's still fresh in my memory.

Golf Lessons

By way of illustration, I took up golf when I was 35. When I turned 45, I decided to visit a golf pro. My fears were confirmed: I didn't have a clue about the right way to strike a golf ball!

You can cut down your learning time with fly fishing a number of ways. There are numerous videos and books on beginning fly

fishing. I prefer videos because I read too much anyway. Spend a few bucks and you'll be able to ask the right questions when you go on one of our club outings.

There are an amazing amount of fly fishing schools and this is where my golf comments come in: you learn a great deal in a short amount of time. In the magazine, "California Fly Fisher", the June 1998 issue lists no less than 75 places you can obtain intense instruction. To get a copy of this magazine, visit Sawyer's News Agency in downtown Santa Rosa or call the subscription department at (415)284-1313. You'll also note that the list of classes has a "North Bay" or local section.

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Deschutes River

My son and I chose the Kaufmann Fly Fishing School which was held on the Deschutes River in Maupin, Oregon. In retrospect, I would probably choose an on-stream class in California; however, make sure you put the Deschutes River on your list of places to fish.

We had only six people on our class. One attendee caught a fish on his back cast and yelled, "I caught it, I caught it! Now what do I do?". The instructor stopped short of swearing at us for laughing too hard!

You probably know by now that our club offers a variety of casting instruction free of charge. You get out of the club what you put in. The more people you know, the more help seems to come your way. That's where volunteering comes in. I'm generally the quiet type who sits in the back of the meeting; however, I have met a lot of great people since joining the board (I still sit in the back). You don't have to be a board member nor be an expert fly fisher to volunteer either.

Downtime

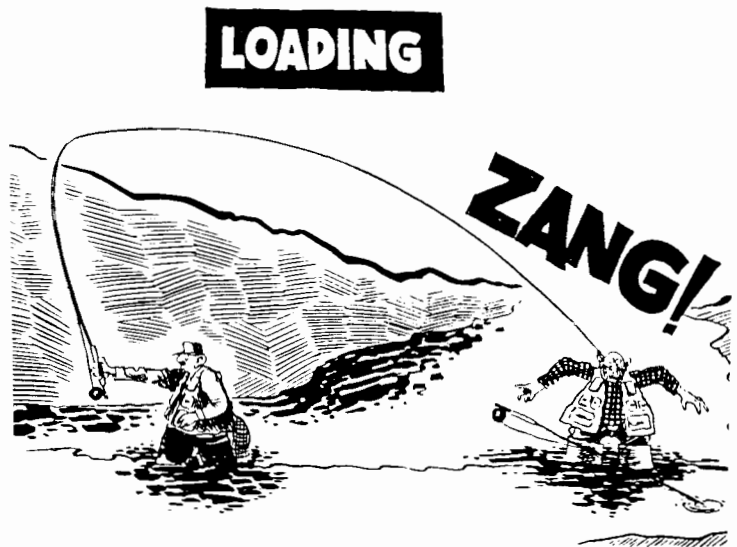
You've learned the basics, and it's time to hit the water. The first thing you'll do is forget how to cast and how to tie the knots. Take a deep breath, slow down your casts, and relax. Downtime means the more time you have to fly in or on the water, the better chance you have to catch fish. Therefore, you spend less time unhooking your fly from a tree or bush and don't do 50 false casts every time you pick up your line. It's common sense - if you want to cast 30 feet in front of you and a tree is 28 feet behind you...well, good luck.

Incidentally, I get great pleasure when watching people get hung up or whatever. When it's my turn to get hung up in a tree, I expect to get harassed. You dish it out; you get it back; nothing personal. Last year, I fell flat on my face in a creek, fell off a 10ft high rock while testing

my new studded shoes, and became close friends with a baby rattlesnake. More down time...

Buy a Guide

Our soon to be ex-President, Paul Major, is a proponent for hiring a guide. For beginners, this is a great way to learn on-stream and increase your chances of catching fish. For the experienced fly fisher, a guide can familiarize you with the area you're fishing and the methods employed to increase your success rate. The cost varies from \$250-\$350 a day for two people. Again, for a list of guides, the "California Fly Fisher" has an abundance of ads for them.



The only experience I had with a guide was on the Deschutes River. Basically, he stood up at roadside while you were 30 feet below at the river and told you where to cast: "Larry, see that white rock forty feet in front of you?" "Yeah." "Cast in that direction in 2 foot squares until you reach that spot." After hooking the fish... "Uh, Larry, you can set the hook now...Uh, Larry, anytime now...LARRY, SET THE DAMN HOOK!"

I can guarantee you one thing. Even though learning to fly fish can be frustrating, you'll completely forget how many times you previously got hung up when you finally get that fish on the line.

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



Volume 23
Number 7
July 1998

Scoop From Scott

Last week, before our great family day at the Casting Pond, I caught bass, trout, blue gill, and shad, all within the confines of Sonoma County.

Before we get into fishing, I would like to take this time to thank those people who put together our picnic: Marji Major, our Events Chairperson who gets my Blue Max Medal for a job well done; the set up crew - Bob Norman, Joe Craig, Lee Smith, Bob Sisson, and Ken Magoon; and a job well done to our great award winning youth activities rep - Mike Nyholm and his gang of Doug Brutocao and life member Dwight Longuevan, for putting together all the games for the children and adults alike. Also, a great "thanks" to the Grogans for bringing the tables and to Jim Cramer for bringing his pavilion. We had almost 100 people show up and they all had a great time. Even Ron Gustafson enjoyed my rendition of "Happy Birthday" to him.

Now...back to fishing. Joe Craig, Leon Pimental and I went shad fishing in the lower Russian a few Saturdays ago. I landed a fish at Va-

cation Beach on my second cast. The kiss of death. Not another hit for the rest of the day. From there, we went to fish the lake at Lytton Springs. The blue gill have been red hot! Steve Tubbs and his son were having a great time catching them up to half a pound. The three amigos caught both bass and blue gill while fishing with poppers. The bass were small for it seems the larger fish have moved into deeper waters. So everybody get your float tubes and have a go at it.

Now, the trout tales. On the Wednesday before the picnic, Paul Major and I went out to a private pond called Paradise Glen Trout Pond alongside beautiful Maacama Creek in Alexander Valley. It was my way of thanking Paul for a job well done and for a friendship I truly cherish. Paul and I fished for about three hours, landing over twenty five fish from 12 to 18 inches. These fish were fat, fun, and fighters. It was a blast! Anyone interested in fishing at Paradise Glenn Trout Pond can call (707) 433-7381 for information.

The Executive Board and I would like to welcome all of our new members. If any of you have prob-

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lems with anything, please call me or the appropriate person on the Board of Directors found on the first page of "The Cast". If you change your address or have not received your newsletter, call Steve Tubbs, our Database Chairman, and if you need a membership card or by-laws, call Membership Coordinator, Tim Barrett. If you want information on putting something in "The Cast", please call Larry Johnson. Anyone can write for "The Cast". If you have

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1998/99 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President Scott Broome (575-5993)
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Casting Pond: Bob Sisson (545-3721)
Raffle Chairman: TBA
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Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (588-9220)
Lake Monitor: Mark Parker (433-4967)

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a good story or have been somewhere interesting, let us know. If you need info on the Casting Pond Clinics, please call Bob Sisson at 545-3721 or Ken Magoon at 527-8376. For info on club outings, call Scott Lewis and remember that anyone can lead a club outing, so if you have a great place you'd like to share, let's get an outing together. We also have a book and tape library so if you need something from there, call Roger Magill. If you need info on our award winning youth programs, please call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163. Also, if anyone would like to present a subject, or just show up at an E-Board Meeting, it is open to

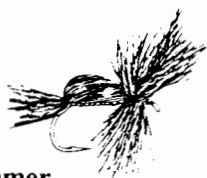
members. If you would like to present something to the E-Board, I would appreciate it if you would first call me to get your subject on the agenda. If you would like to go fishing at Lytton Springs or for more info on how to get there, please call Mark Parker at 433-4967.

Next month's meeting is our fly tying meeting. Anyone interested in tying, please call me or Bob Norman. The club is also going to have a flea market at the tying meeting on July 8th, so bring your used fishing equipment or your checkbook and make a deal. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting and remember...the dues are due.

Let's go fishing!.....Scotty Broome

The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



Hey! For all of you who had problems following the instructions for the hackle wings last month, I can certainly understand why.

Somehow, I really messed up the instructions starting with the second paragraph so let me try again and please accept my apologies.

1) Start with two large neck hackles with long fibers. Cut off the fuzzy butts and align the feathers glossy side to glossy side with the cut butt stems equal.

2) Hold the feathers about midpoint, and stroke the fibers at the butt ends down. Do this only over a section of the STEM equal length of the wing you wish to have (say 5/16ths for a size 14 or 16). It helps to dampen your fingertips to control the fibers. You don't just stroke the fibers to spread them but pull them all the way down so you can hold on to them below the end of the stem.

3) Keeping the feathers together with all the stroked fibers together, with the butt ends pointing to the rear and tips extending over the eye, place the feathers on top of the hook and tie them in place tie **THREE** wraps of thread. When you tie them in with the three wraps, make sure that you tie in a portion of the stem at the same time. Don't turn loose of the pinch point with your left hand just yet.

4) Now carefully pull the feathers forward until the stems just come out from under the wraps and the wings are tied in only by the fibers. Do not over pull for then you'll have to start all over. If you pull slowly and carefully, you can feel when the stems clear the wraps.

5) Now, make three or four more tight wraps to the rear over the fibers to lock them in place. Depending on the length of the hackle fibers and the size of the hook,

the fibers may be long enough to form the tail. If so, cut out the fibers that are too short or too long and continue wrapping to the rear to form the tail.

6) Return the thread to the wing position and make a few wraps in front of the wings to elevate them. When you are satisfied with their position then cut off the excess feather. Save the excess as you can usually tie several flies from one pair of hackle feathers.

Now, for a new trick to add to your tying bag. We'll just continue with the fly that we already have started in the vise.

7) Tie in a hackle by the butt just in front of the wings so that the tip extends out over the eye. Don't wrap the hackle at this point. The forward point of the tie-in of the hackle stem should be the width of the stem behind what will be the finished head of the fly.

8) Return the thread to the rear and complete the body. If you are using a dubbed body, dub the thorax around the base of the wings at the same time. Now, **IMPORTANT**, leave the thread hanging a short distance **BEHIND** the wings.

9) Wrap the hackle to the rear placing a few wraps in front of the wing and a few behind the wing. All wraps should progressively move to the rear! Note that with the thread at the rear, you don't have to dodge it as you wrap the hackle.

10) Tie off the hackle at the point you had left the thread hanging, that is, behind the wing. Now spiral the thread forward through the hackle and complete your fly with the smallest, neatest head you have ever made on a dy fly! The hackle has been reinforced by spiraling the thread through it giving you a stronger fly with little effort.

I want to give credit to my friend Hans Weilenmann, a.k.a. flytier, from the Netherlands for this hackling technique. "It is nice to have friends in low places." Credit for the wing technique goes to Al Beatty. Thanks all.



JULY GENERAL MEETING



RRFF Presents:

Annual Fly Tying Jubilee & Swap Meet

Expert flytiers from our club will present 2 or 3 of their favorite patterns. Material and instruction sheets will be provided to help you. Learn from the Best!!

Also, bring any of your gear to sell at the Flea Market table!

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, July 8th, 1998

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

7:00 p.m.

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

Greetings from Lytton Lake

First off, I would like to express my appreciation to Capt. Curnow of the Salvation Army for allowing the Russian River Fly Fishers to use Lytton Lake. Next, I want to compliment all of you who have fished the lake for following all the rules and being courteous to the Salvation Army Staff. Capt. Curnow was considering closing the lake to all fishing because of the problems they were experiencing. However, he pointed out to me and Scotty that our members had always been courteous and followed the rules. This is one of the main reasons that we continue to have the privilege of using the lake. It appears that the access problems that were evident earlier this year have been solved! If you fish the lake on a weekday, you will probably have it to yourself unless you bring someone with you.

This lake is a marvelous fishery! Those of you who haven't fished it yet are missing out. Yesterday, one of our members who shall remain nameless (because I forgot his name) fished Lytton for about 4 hours and caught 15 bass in the 14-16" range!! It appears that during the day, the larger fish are moving into about 10 or 15 feet of water. The hot fly of the day was a threadfin shad imitation. So bring your float tube or pontoon boat. Smaller bass and blue gill are still being

caught from the shore. For top water action, try a dragonfly - the bigger the better. I have seen several bass trying to catch the live ones as they land on the water.

If light lines and top water action are your cup of tea, try the corners and coves with small poppers and dry flies (size 10-12) for hand size blue gill. This is usually the best when the wind isn't blowing and from late afternoon on. I have been able to stalk rising fish with a 4 wt. just like I was trout fishing after the sun goes behind the hills. If you are going to eat them, please keep all the sunfish you catch. The lake has too many of them and we need to reduce their number. Remember, all bass are catch and release.

This is a great place to take your kids or grandkids and teach them how to fish. Just a reminder, there are no tackle restrictions on the lake with the exception of live bait. The only live bait that can be used are worms.

One final reminder, don't park on the frontage road by the CDF station. If you haven't been out to the lake, ask the guys at the front desk (where you check-in) how to get to the lake.

Good fishing!

Mark Parker
433-0592

THURSDAY EVENING CASTING POND CLINICS

Date: Every Thursday Evening
Time: 4pm - 6pm
Place: Casting Pond - Dan Galvin Park
at intersection of Bennett Valley
Road & Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa

New members as well as old are encouraged to develop their skills at our evening clinics. Get help from Ken Magoon, Joe Craig, Bob Sisson, Lee Smith, and others.

— Bob Sisson 1977

ARTICLES WANTED

I am trying to start a monthly feature entitled "River of the Month". If you have a favorite body of water you like to fish, I'd like to hear from you. I have a questionnaire package available so authors can simply answer questions if they're not inclined to write an article. Several months ago, the Board authorized \$15 in free raffle tickets to individuals who get their article published (no freebies to Board Members). Give me a call at 571-8078 (work) or 576-1745 (home).

— Editor

RRFF Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m., Monday,
August 17, 1998

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

Coming Events

July 1998

7/08/98 RRFF Meeting
Thursday Evening Casting Clinic

August 1998

8/12/98 No Mtg. - gone fishin'
8/17/98 Board Meeting
Thursday Evening Casting Clinic

September 1998

9/09/98 RRFF Meeting
TBA Board Meeting
9/98 Manzanita Trip TBA
Thursday Evening Casting Clinic

Attention

For specific info on club outings, call
Scott Lewis (588-9220). Specific dates
will be reported when available.

What's Hot and What's Not

The Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated mid June 1998), 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>
Fall River	Clear (not as clear as normal) slightly high, weeds are thick.	Fishing is very good. Dry fly fishing is very good in the morning. Hatches are starting earlier than previous weeks. BWOs are starting between 7am-9am (hot weather signals an earlier hatch) and fish are on them until the PMD hatch, 10am-2pm. Fish the edges and between the weedbeds on a long leader (12-14 feet) with a 6-7X tippet. Cripple and emerger patterns have been very productive. BWO and PMD nymphs fished under a small indicator (6-7X) consistently catch fish before and after the hatch. A small streamer or zug bug fished on a long leader and slow sinking line is also successful. Fishing drops off in the late afternoon, picking back up in the evening towards dark.	Access from Cal Trout; bring knee high boots, access is muddy. A boat is needed. A few Hex hatch has started in the lower river; should be around Red Barns area in the next week or so.
Hat Creek Lower (PH #2 to Pit River)	Clear, normal flows, good weed growth, thick at carbon flat.	Fishing is very good. Consistent spinner falls early morning and evening. Rusty and Trico spinners are starting 8am (earlier on hot days) and are over by 10am. Fish spinner patterns (#20-22) on long leaders (13-14') with 6-7X tippet. Nymphing the PH#2 riffle (7-8' leaders with 6-7X tippet) with small BWO, PMD, midge or caddis pupa first light to late morning is very productive. Little yellow stones are hatching throughout the day with some fish on the dries. Evening caddis hatch near the PH#2 riffle is strong; fish emerger and dry flies on long leaders (12-14 feet) with 6-7X tippet. Spinners and PEDs are out from 7pm till dark; fish the flat water downstream of the riffle and the carbon flats.	Attn: PG&E occasionally shuts down the PH#2 powerhouse, causing water to shoot out of the flume above the riffle, raising and dirtying the water. This lasts a very short time period and Hat returns to normal within 15-30 minutes.
Manzanita Lake (Lassen Park)	Off color (Manzanita Creek is dumping dirty water into the lake), cold!	Fishing is fair and improving Trout are most active from 11 am-5pm when the water is warmest. Wooly buggers fished on sinking lines are catching the majority of fish. Callibaetis nymphs and midge pupa fished 3-4ft under an indicator are also working well. Lots of midges are hatching mid-afternoon with some callibaetis and damsels, but the dry fly fishing has not picked up yet. No reports of dragonflies yet. Hatches and fishing should pick up soon with warmer weather.	Both float tubing and wade fishing is productive. Access from Hwy 89, near the junction of Hwy 44 & 89. This lake is known for its large and selective (16-20') rainbow and brown trout.
McCloud River	Milky from runoff, high 40sF, high (1025 cfs above Lake Shasta; 700cfs and below is considered a good fishable flow).	Fishing is good. Wading is limited. Nymph fishing with a large stonefly or beadhead nymph (#8-12) and a small beadhead or caddis dropper (#12-16) is consistently catching fish on the edges and reachable seams throughout the day. A few nice brown trout to 18" are being caught on streamers fished along the bank. Hatches of little yellow stones, golden stones, and PEDs are starting. High water is making the dry fly action tough. Hawkins Creek at Ash Camp is fishing well with attractor dries (#12-16) in the afternoon.	Bring a wading staff; stream cleats are useful. River is still too high to cross. Water at Ah Di Nah is NOT potable - do not drink or use for cooking without bringing to a rolling boil; camping is free.

*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.*

Women Behind the Reel

At the recent RRFF BBQ, a number of women were talking about the desire to either tune up our casting skills or learn how to fly fish.

Well, we have some great opportunities to do both. Every Thursday at the Casting Pond (where the BBQ was held), from 4pm-6pm, we can go to practice or be given instruction from some willing souls like Ken Magoon, Joe Craig, Bob Sisson, and Lee Smith. This is a drop-in clinic. Oh yeah, THANKS GUYS!

Lori Nyholm has graciously agreed to share her skills and knowledge with us on July 22nd. Lori has been actively fly fishing for over 6 years and has previously taught classes to women. We would like to invite you to Roberta Parker's home

in Healdsburg on the 22nd at 7:00pm. Lori will teach us how to tie the appropriate knots and how to begin to read the water along with knowing about the hatch

Then, to top this off, we'll meet on August 1st and take our newly developed skills and understanding and test them on the water. Lytton Springs will be ours for that morning!

Are you interested, curious, or just in need of fly fishing bonding??? Then come one, come all and let's see where this adventure takes us. Please call if you want information, directions and to RSVP for the class. See you there!

– Roberta Parker 433-4967
– Lori Nyholm 538-5163

Wow — What a Picnic!

Saturday, June 20, at the Galvin Park Casting Pond, was a great place to be. No one was able to get a final head count but Scott Broome got as high as 86 at one point. Moving the picnic to June and giving up the June dinner meeting seems to have been well accepted. The slight overcast in the morning made set-up and mid-morning casting practice very pleasant. All kinds of activities for all ages kept everyone entertained. I even heard rumors of a lady's auxillary group being formed. Sounds good to me!

Thanks to all of my helpers: Mike Nyholm organized lots of pond games for the young and old; Dwight Longuevan presented a very interesting trivia game; Jim Cramer surprised us with a great canopy which provided some shade for us non-sun lovers; Tim and Stacy Grogan provided the serving tables; Bob

Sisson provided the garbage cans (and then hauled them away); Joe Craig, Bob Norman, and my everloving partner, Paul, helped bring out all the "stuff" and stayed around to help haul it back home again; and last but certainly not least, "Scooter" Broome who not only sweated over a hot BBQ but also organized the raffle. Couldn't have done it without you, guys.

And one more thank you goes to Anna Gustafson for providing the huge birthday cake and letting us help celebrate Ron's birthday.

I had a good time and hope all of you did as well. Looking forward to next year.....

– Marji Major

P.S. Any and all suggestions and/or volunteers for next year will be gladly accepted.

Editor's Note – This is a reprint of last month's President's farewell message. Last month's newsletter contained some errors. I can assure you that Paul's writing skills exceed my proofreading ability. So here 'tis once more...

Major Notes by Paul Major



Well, gang...this will be my last contribution in this space as El Presidente of RRFF. The ballots are counted, and as of July 1st, Scotty Broome will have the helm firmly in grasp for the next year (or more if we can talk him into it!).

My year in office has been a memorable experience for me and I feel greatly rewarded by the growth and success our club has experienced this year and past. Our membership has grown dramatically, we've had some really wonderful programs at our monthly meetings, the annual dinner meeting was a smash, the Youth Program is an award-winner, our club outings have been bigger and better than ever, and we've got our own fishing hole...It's been a great year!

None of this would have been possible without the incredible work done by our Board of Directors. It has been a truly great privilege for me to have had the opportunity to work with this group. Vice-President Scott Broome's contributions are almost too numerous to list, but it's fair to say that Lytton Springs is Scotty's almost single-handed creation and that our Season Opener Outing would have been just another fishing trip without his efforts. Thanks, Scotty, for all you've done for me and for all of your fellow RRFF members! You've been a great VP and I'm looking forward to working with you in your well deserved term as our President.

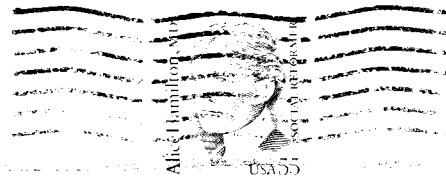
I would also like to thank every member of the BOD for their extraordinary efforts this

year; Bob Sisson persevering with the casting pond through adversity; Larry Johnson for putting out "The Cast", even during tax season (he's a CPA); Mike Nyholm for creating the Youth Program we're all so proud of; Marji Major, Events Chairperson (and love of my life), for our wonderful picnics and dinners; Dick Hollingshead for putting our treasury in the best shape it's ever been; Lee Smith, our perennial Club Secretary (it's a dirty job, but somebody's gotta do it); Roger Magill for building our neat library and keeping his finger on the conservation scene; Scott Lewis for fighting El Niño all year long as Outings Chairman; Tim Barrett and Steve Tubbs for keeping the membership operation humming; Bob Neill, our new Vice-President, for his long service as our NCCFFF rep; Mark Parker for his labors as Lake Monitor; and also Noel Plumb for great raffles and Mike Nieters for supplying us all with refreshments at our meetings.

These are the people who make it happen, and I'm sure I speak for every member of the Russian River Flyfishers when I offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all of them for a job magnificently done!

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to every member of this club for your great support of our organization and the many activities and programs we undertake to further our sport and the pleasure we all derive from flyfishing. I feel blessed and privileged to share this fellowship with all of you.

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 _____

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:

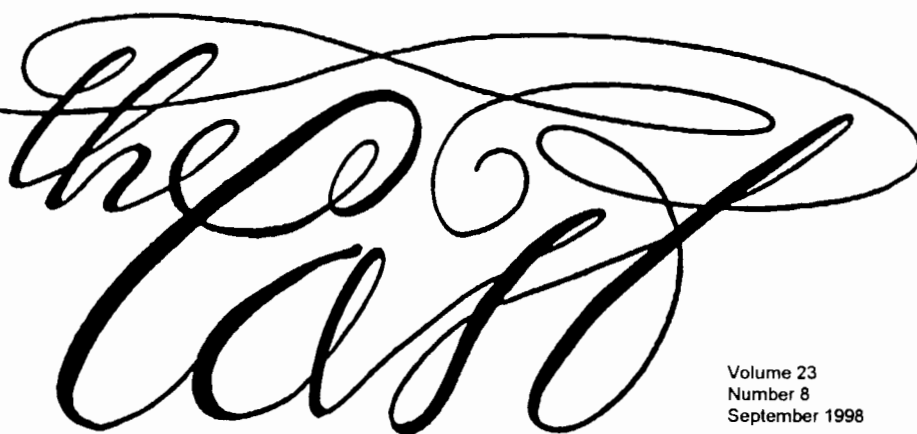
- ☐ (Single membership \$35 annual dues payable July 1st.)
- ☐ (Family membership \$40 annual dues payable July 1st.)
- ☐ (Junior membership \$20 annual dues payable July 1st.)

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



Volume 23
Number 8
September 1998

Scoop From Scott

I hope everyone had a great summer and that this note finds everyone well and happy. August is a dead month for the club, which means no monthly meeting. I heard through the grapevine that some of our members came out for a meeting on the second Wednesday of August. Sorry, but we all need to read "The Cast" more carefully. While you were out at some exciting place fishing, a few of the club members were busy working on the Casting Pond. Bob Sisson, Lee Smith, and Ken Magoon ramrodded the project.

We hope that we will all be able to use the pond again by the end of September. There will be installation of a new French drain under the existing liner. The sand will then be graded to the French drain. After that, a contractor will come in and add five feet of liner to two sides of the pond and reattach it to the cement walls. We should all thank Bob, Ken, Lee, and those members who have helped with this project.

I am happy to report that the Lake at Lytton Springs has been fishing well.

Joe Craig and I fished it once a week and around the first of August, I hooked and landed a fish about 5½ lbs. The

Lake is fishing very well with top water flies (poppers and bugs). The action is hot and heavy and very visual. Mark Parker will have more in his article, but we are planning to have Friday Night Fish-Outs at the Lake. So, come on out and bring a friend.

The speaker for the September meeting will be Steve Beck.

Steve is from Merced and will be doing a presentation on the Yosemite area. I hear his shows are not only very interesting, but also beautiful. This is a show that your wife would enjoy. So, bring the family and don't be late for the first general meeting of the year at the Vets' Building on Wednesday the 9th of September. Also, I would like to remind everyone to pay their dues for the year. Anyone who joined ninety days before July 1st is paid up for the new year which runs from July 1st, 1998 to June 30th, 1999.

On the fishing front... I, Carlos Tamayo, Bob Norman, Larry Johnson, Freeman Born, and friends went to Loreto, Mexico in search of fish on the fly. The search was long and hard but the trolling was great. We all became members of the Binky Castleberry "Big Eye Trolling Club". The bait was bigger than most trout that I have landed, but with big eyes comes huge rooster fish. The

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week we were there, fish up to sixty pounds were caught.

It was a test to all fishermen and equipment. I had the great pleasure of fishing with Bob Norman all week. Of all the things I learned, the most important thing was Bob's great patience. Bob and I had a blast. Fish were landed and lost, but the one thing we all agreed upon was that salt water fish pull real hard and for a long time. I suggest to all club members that a trip to Loreto be a must. I hope to see you all at the next meeting and remember...Let's go fishing!

- Scotty

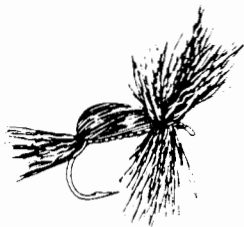
1998/99 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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Club Outings: Scott Lewis (527-9168)
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The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



I find it interesting to look in another fly tier's fly box, especially the fly box of someone who has been at the craft long enough to develop a style. To a non-discerning eye, their flies would not appear much different than the next tier's box except for the variation in patterns and sizes. If the styles are similar, the differences may be hard for a novice to detect; to a practiced eye, however, the differences are vast. The cock of the tail, the length of the body, the set of the wings, the shape of the head, are all hallmarks of an individual tier. The more experienced the tier, the more uniform the flies will be in his or her box. Both the good points and the flaws will be uniform, which sets that collection of flies apart from all others. If half a dozen accomplished tiers were each to tie a dozen flies of the same pattern and size, and then all the flies were mixed together, it would not be difficult to sort them out again. Each individual's output would reflect not only his style and skill but also his interpretation of the pattern.

I especially like to examine the boxes of the master tiers when I have the opportunity to do so. It is not so much the patterns but more their style and approach to tying that I find fascinating. The subtle differences in the individual parts of the fly and how they come together to make the completed whole is worth the time to study carefully.

It is also interesting to note how one's style will change over time and this is largely related to the amount of time one spends at the vise. One's style changes as his skill improves but also as he tries to emulate the work of other tiers that he admires. Many tiers tend to specialize in one type of fly, say low water steelhead flies, which tends to crystallize their individual style much quicker than a tier who generalizes with many types of flies. The generalist will also have his own style, it just may not be as apparent.

Regions also seem to develop particular styles of flies. This can almost always be traced to a well-known respected tier in that area. Two regions that immediately come to mind are the classic dry flies of the Catskill's and

the wet flies around Dunsmire, CA. The dries are characterized by their slim bodies and very small heads; the Dunsmire flies, on the other hand, have very chunky, thick bodies with prominent heads. Granted, they are two very different types of flies but the style of tying is still as different as night and day. Regional styles are not as well defined today as they were in yester-years before the time of the well traveled fly fisher. One only needs to look at some of the older plates and collections to really appreciate an individual tier's style.

I would encourage novice tiers to study carefully the different styles of flies they see and to choose those characteristics that they find pleasing for their own tying. Knowing the techniques used in a fly's construction isn't always necessary to appreciate and copy its style, but it helps if you can get such information. At the same time, one should strive to eliminate the technical flaws that he or she may unknowingly be introducing into their work. This sometimes can be difficult because it is hard to fix it if you don't know what's wrong.

By the way, I attended the Federation of Flyfishers annual conclave in Idaho Falls last month. For three days, I had the opportunity to observe 100+ tiers from around the globe displaying their skills at the tying tables. Yours truly did pick up some new tricks and techniques that I'll be sharing with you in the months to come. If any of you will be attending the show/conclave at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center at the end of September, stop by and say "Hi". I'll be tying on Friday the 25th, 3-5pm.



Club Outing Sponsors Needed

**If you're interested in being a
sponsor to a club outing,
please call Scott Lewis
at 707-527-9168**



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING



RRFF Presents:

Steve Beck

author of the newly published

Yosemite Trout Fishing Guide

(Frank Amato Publications, 1995)

has produced a slide show highlighting the hidden
treasures in the national park - wild trout!

Fishing Yosemite's Roadside Waters

This presentation appeals to those who are looking for relatively quick, close-by fishing spots while visiting the park. The best family fishing locations are covered, and many of these places enhance the enjoyment of the casual visitor to Yosemite who comes with a fishing rod as well as a camera. There are also waters near the road that challenge the most serious, accomplished angler. Fishing opportunities in world famous scenic spots such as Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows are among those covered, and serve as classic backdrops for the fishing photos.

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, September 9th, 1998

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

7:00 p.m.

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

Coming Events

September 1998

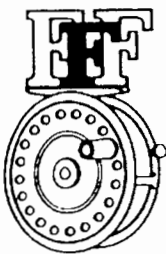
9/09/98 RRFF Meeting
9/21/98 Board Meeting

October 1998

10/14/98 RRFF Meeting
10/19/98 Board Meeting
10/9-10/11 Manzanita Trip

Attention

For specific info on club outings, call Scott Lewis (527-9168).
Specific dates will be reported when available.



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

Conserving – Restoring – Educating through Fly Fishing
Northern California Council

The Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers announces their Annual Conclave, *A Festival of Fly Fishing*, at the North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, California.

NCC/FFF Conclave '98...You Gotta Be There!!

Join us September 25 - 27 for Conclave '98 at the North Tahoe Conference Center on the shores of beautiful Lake Tahoe. New features and programs are planned for three fun-filled days of fly tying, presentations on fishing techniques, casting, conservation, and favorite fishing holes in Northern California and Nevada waters. Saturday evening's **Conclave Dinner** will be held at the Crystal Bay Club. There will be a **live auction** and **raffle** of fly fishing equipment, accessories, and artwork, including an **International Fly Plate**.

- Over 50 world class tiers demonstrate their techniques and creative ties on "**Fly Tying Avenue**".
- If you haven't attended Conclave before, you will not believe the incredible amount of expertly tied flies in our **Live and Silent Auctions**.
- Participate in the **casting games** and compete for **great prizes and trips**.
- Sign the kids up for "**Fly Fishing Camp**".
- Visit our **trade booths** and meet the pros. The latest in fly fishing equipment, fly tying materials, accessories and apparel will be there.
- **Raffles, Raffles, Raffles**. Buy a raffle ticket and get a chance at winning a **Don Hill 10ft fiberglass mini-drifter**. **Kids Raffle** for real fly fishing stuff. **General Raffle** for tons of prizes. Come to our **Dinner** at Crystal Bay Club Saturday night. Take the opportunity to acquire great stuff while supporting conservation efforts by participating in a **Special Raffle** and **Live Auction**.

Who can resist a full weekend immersed in the essence of fly fishing, and what better place than the pristine alpine setting on the shores of Lake Tahoe? Bring a friend. **You Gotta Be There!!**

The registration fee for Conclave '98 is \$25 per individual and \$35 per family. Daily entrance is \$10 for adults. Kids under 18 free. Friday cocktails and games \$7 per person. Dinner Saturday evening will be \$10 - advance reservations required.

For more information, contact:

Tom Smith, 1998 Conclave Chair, 1040 El Rancho Drive, Sparks, NV 89431 (702) 685-2383

Send checks to:

NCC/FFF Conclave, Attn: Ray Cole, Treasurer, 2874 Calariva Drive, Stockton, CA 95204

What's Hot and What's Not

THE Northern California Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated August 1998)
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>
Feather River, Middle Fork (from the confluence with Nelson Creek downstream through Wild and Scenic section)	Slightly off color, normal flow, mid-high 50s F.	Fishing is very good; access requires effort. Fishing is consistent throughout the day; best in the morning and evening. In the morning, fish beadhead nymphs (#12-18) under an indicator. Fish attractor dry flies and terrestrials once the sun hits the water (#12-16). Creamy mayflies and caddis (#16-18) have fish rising in the evening. Brown trout average 14-16" and rainbows 8-13"; all the trout are wild and hungry!	All trails are open in Wild and Scenic section; get a forest service map for access points. For small stream fishing, try Nelson Creek.
Sacramento River, Upper (above Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid-highs 60s F at Delta, high 50s F - low 60s F above Dunsmuir, (452 cfs at Dog Creek, Creek)	Fishing is good; dry fly fishing in the evening can be very good. In the morning, nymph fishing under an indicator is most productive. Use a searching nymph (#10-14) and a beadhead or caddis dropper (#14-16). If fishing lower down on the river (below Dunsmuir) try a dry fly also. From about 1-4pm the fishing shuts off; take a break and rest in the shade. Late afternoon and evening, fishing attractor dry flies (#12-16) and stimulators (#8-10) is very productive. Above Dunsmuir, creamy mayflies (#14-16), small yellow stones (#16), and caddis are hatching. Rainbows are averaging 10-14"; some lake bows 16"+ are being caught lower down on the river.	Lower on the river try Dog Creek, Gibson, Sim's, Sweetbriar, or Soda. Dunsmuir and above fish Scarlett Way to Mossbrae Falls, Cantara loop, and Ney Springs. Best dry fly fishing in the evening is from Dunsmuir to Ney Springs.
Pit River (Pit #3, #4 below Lake Britton)	Clear, mid 60s F, normal flows (150cfs from lake Britton)	Fishing is good. Indicator nymph with a beadhead, caddis, or mayfly nymph (#12-14) and a smaller dropper (#16-18) from first light to around noon. Fish the pockets in the fast water, 3ft and deeper, and the tails of the longer, deeper runs. Take a break from 1-5pm. Fishing picks up again from about 5pm to dark. If the weather cools, dry fly fishing with attractor patterns (#10-14) and light colored mayflies (#14-16) will be good in the evening.	Wading the Pitt is very difficult. Use a wading belt and a staff; stream cleats also help. Be sure to stay hydrated; drink lots of water before you start fishing and throughout the day. The aggressive wader catches the most fish.
McCloud River, Lower (below the McCloud Reservoir)	Normal clarity, mid to high 50s F, (423 cfs above Lake Shasta)	Fishing is good in the morning and evening. In the morning, indicator nymph with a large beadhead nymph (#8-12) and a small beadhead or caddis dropper (#14-18). The larger trout are holding at the heads of pools and in runs deeper than 5ft. Afternoon fishing slows due to hot weather (but trout can still be caught). Yellow stones, caddis, and PEDs are hatching from 7pm to dark with good dry fly fishing in the runs and pocket water. The best action is from Ash camp to the Conservancy.	Use a wading belt and staff; stream cleats are also useful. Water at Ah-Di-Nah is NOT potable, do not drink or use for cooking without bringing to a rolling boil; camping is free.

- Continued on next page -

- from previous page -

What's Hot and What's Not

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Water Conditions</u>	<u>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Truckee River (Lake Tahoe to stateline)	Clear, mid to high 60s F, moderate flow (293 cfs at Truckee).	Fishing is good; watch the water temperatures. Best action is early and late in the day. In the morning, fish a beadhead nymph (#10-16) with a caddis pupa dropper (#14-18) under an indicator. Afternoons have been hot and not very productive. Dry fly fishing is good in the evening. There is a good caddis hatch (#12-16) and a little yellow stone hatch (#16) from about 7:30pm till dark. Fish a caddis dry, cripple, or emergent sparkle pupa.	Access along Glenshire Road, at Boca, and along Hwy 80. Also, try fishing along Hirschdale Road and further down at the junkyard. Rainbows are averaging 10-12", with a few in the 15"+ range.
Yuba River, North Fork (Downieville to Sierra City)	Clear, mid 50s F, moderate flow (427 cfs at Goodyears Bar).	Fishing is very good. Indicator nymph in the morning with a bird's nest or beadhead nymph (#12-16). Dry fly fishing is good from 10am on; in the afternoon, try fishing shaded or pocket water areas. Use an attractor dry fly (#12-16). The best dry fly fishing is in the evening from 7:30pm till dark. Tan and olive caddis and little yellow stones are hatching in sizes 14-16. Use and elk hair caddis or sparkle pupa. Rainbows are averaging 7-13" with some browns mixed in.	Fishing is good from the Hwy 49 bridge to above Bassetts. The wild trout section runs from Lady Canyon to Sierra City. For good small stream fishing, try Lavazolla, Pauley, or Salmon Creeks.

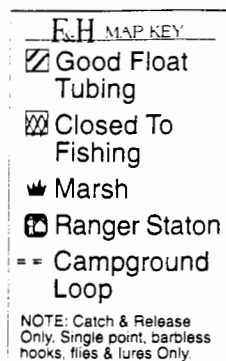
*The above listings are a mere fraction of the total report provided by the folks at Fish First!
Our thanks for allowing us to reprint this information.*

Club Outing October 9-11

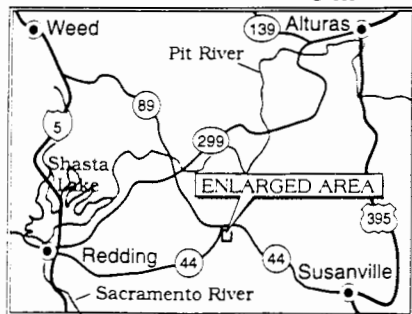
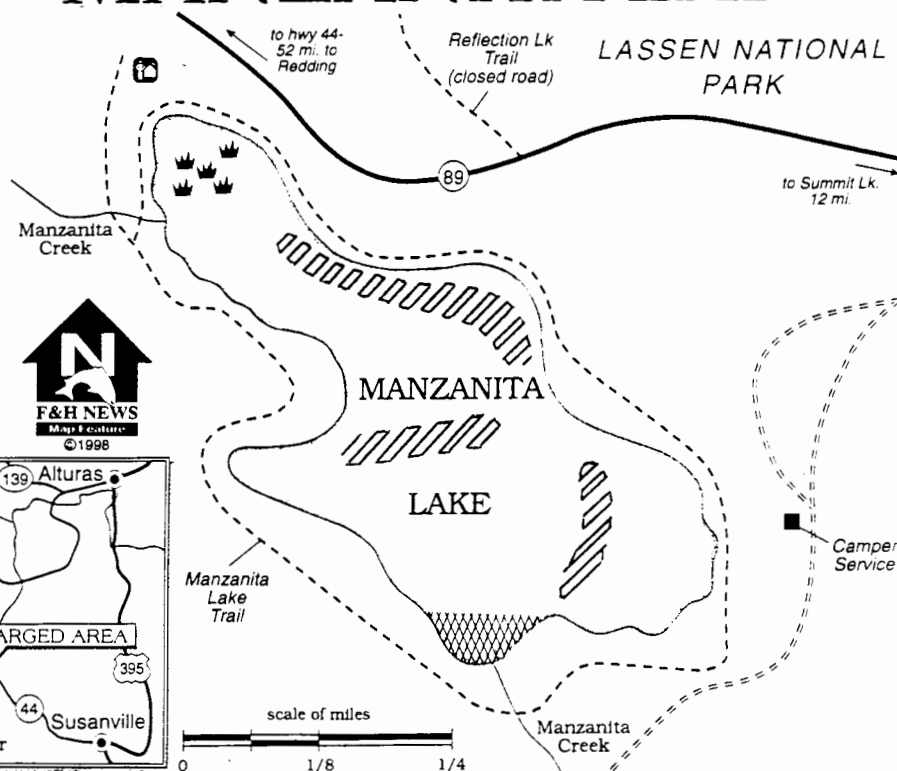
Please sign up
at the club
meeting or call
Scott Lewis at
527-9168.

We need a
head-count for
the Saturday
evening
barbeque.

(map reprinted with
permission from
Fishing & Hunting News)



MANZANITA LAKE



Fishing International News

Hello from the wonderful world of Fishing International! My name is Noel Plumb. Some of our members may know me as the past manager of Western Angler here in Santa

Rosa. Others will recognize me as "the redhead selling tickets" as the club's raffle chairman. Recently, I had the good fortune of going to work as a fishing travel specialist for Fishing International; which, translated into anglers terms, means I have a fisherman's dream job where I help anglers go on fishing adventures around the world and then get them back to show the photos. Many of our local anglers have already taken trips with us and some of you may not be familiar with our operation. We are one of the oldest, largest, and most respected fishing destination booking agents in the *world*. We are right here in Santa Rosa with our new corporate headquarters at 1825 Fourth St. (look for the leaping Blue Marlin at the corner of Fourth St. and Bryden Lane). Feel free to visit us anytime.

Each month, in this space we'll be chatting about our exciting fishing destinations all over the globe and special trip offers. We will be giving you updated fishing reports from Alaska to the the Bahamas and inside information on understanding the various sport fish, their seasons, location, and rigging to take them.

If you dream of an exotic fishing adventure or travel regularly, we'll do our best to advise you on how to book the right operator in the right location during the right time. Call us and we'll put you on our mailing list to receive our free newsletter or answer any questions you may have about booking a fishing trip. We'll be happy to help at:

1-800-950-4242

There are some exciting new destinations we're booking now through early 1999:

Xcalak Guide Service and Cabanas

Jan Isley, accomplished guide/fly tier and founder of Ascension Bay Bonefish Club, is at it again with his new destination at Xcalak, Mexico. This is one of the few places in the world that offers sight fishing for giant Tarpon. The flats, reefs, and bays around Xcalak are relatively untouched and teeming with Tarpon as well as good numbers of Bonefish and Permit. Jan takes only 2 to 4 anglers a week so this place will remain pristine and productive. 6 days/7 nights - \$1995.00.

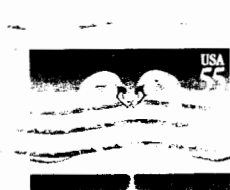
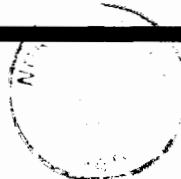
Australia-Gulf of Carpentaria

Live aboard the luxurious 65' Mother ship and fish Australia's beautiful northern territories. The air-conditioned Mother ship has four staterooms, each with private bathrooms. You then fish 2 to a boat in 16' outboard skiffs and cruise the nearby waters for nonstop fly rod action on Wahoo, Trevally, Baramundi, Queen fish and a myriad of other species. Very reasonable. Call for current pricing.

Lake Hultes Mexico Bass fishing

Experience the finest in Bass fishing in Mexico's history and the luxurious lodge of Campo Buena Vista. Until spring of 1997, no American had fished this tremendous reservoir 30 miles in length and full of pure Florida strain Large-mouth Bass. It's not uncommon to have 10 Bass at a time fighting for your Fly and 100 to 200 fish per boat per day. Average size is 3-4lbs. This is something every fly rodder should try. F.I. is putting a group together in March of 1999 and we would love to have you join us. 4 days/5 nights fishing is \$1545.00 which includes ground transportation from airport, lodging, two people per guided boat, all meals,, beer, margaritas, and soft drinks. Call us for info-details to follow.

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



ROBERT D NEILL JR
1510 RONNE DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-5705

Address correction requested.



Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Signature _____

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



Volume 23
Number 9
October 1998

October's Scoop From Scott

The first meeting after the summer break was a real hit...Steve Beck put on a great show, "Yosemite Trout Fishing Guide"...for those who missed the meeting, Steve's program was most informative and beautiful. The next meeting will feature Dave Simmons. Dave will inform us about steelhead on the Sac and Feather River systems. So don't be late and bring a friend! Please remember that there will be fly tying before the meeting at 6:00pm.

I've talked with a few members regarding your summer trips. It seems that a lot of you are world travelers. Leon Pimentel was in the Bahamas bone fishing. Steve Tubbs went to Yellowstone. Jim Cramer was in Africa. Mark Parker was in Alaska. Paul and Marji Major were in eastern Oregon. Bob Norman, Carlos Tamayo, Larry Johnson, Binky Castleberry, Freeman Born, and I went to Baja, Mexico.

I hope that by the time the next Cast is out, we will have started our Thursday Night Casting. The Casting Pond work will start by September

16th and should be done in about a week. Thanks to all who helped. The club is still looking for someone to help with The Cast newsletter...so if you're interested, please call me or Larry Johnson.

By the time you get this newsletter, our trip to Manzanita Lake for the trout closer will be happening!!! This is a trip you should not miss. The date is October 9 thru 11. For those who have never been on an outing with the club, you are really missing the boat. It's not only a party but also a good deal of fishing information changing hands...for this trip there are a few necessities that you must bring: warm clothes, sleeping bag, tent, a float tube and/or a pram. Fishing at this time can be great! On Saturday, the club puts on one giant feed and party. So, come one and come all. We do need a head-count so please call me or Scott Lewis for signup.

This is my favorite time of the year. Nights start getting cold, leaves start to turn, the grapes are harvested, and steelies and silvers start their runs up the north coast rivers. If this is a La Ninã year, the fishing should be fan-

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tastic on our local rivers. The Russian was red hot the last time that La Ninã appeared. So, get out and practice your double haul, buy those shooting heads and call me. I would really like to have some club outings on our local rivers. If you are interested, call me and we will organize an outing to the Russian or Gualala or Points North. See ya all at the next meeting and 'til then...let's go fishing!!

- *Scotty*

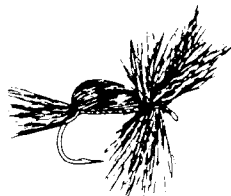
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The Tier's Corner

Jim Cramer



This month, the subject is quick ties and by that, I mean flies that can be tied very quickly, say a dozen an hour for the rank beginner and three dozen or more for the more advanced tier. Please make no mistake here. We'll be discussing flies that can hold their own with those that demand more time at the vise. Just because a fly is very elaborate and time consuming to tie doesn't guarantee its success on the water. All the flies I'll mention this month have proven themselves over the years.

OK, what are the prerequisites for a quick tie? Obviously it has to be simple but beyond that what else is required? Well, first and foremost, it must require a minimum of materials both in the amount of material and the number of different kinds. This rule eliminates almost all large flies, salt water or fresh. It takes time to prep and tie on great quantities of material. It also eliminates flies with more than three different materials. Sure there are tiers who can crank out three or more dozen flies an hour that exceed the limitations I've suggested here, but those are exceptional tiers and not the more average Joe to which we are referring. We can also eliminate most of the very, very small flies as they can be very demanding time-wise. So, for the most part, we are talking sizes 12 through 20. None of the flies are weighted unless you want to do the weighting as a separate step and not count it into your tying time. I don't care, nobody's counting.

All right, let's get down to some real quick patterns. All are tied on the appropriate sized hook of your choice with the largest thread with which you can neatly tie the fly.

No. 1: "Peacock" - from *Fly Patterns of the Yellowstone* by Craig Mathews and John Juracek

This is an old pattern that has been around for a long time. It is often overlooked and discounted because it is so simple. Tie in three to five strands of peacock herl behind the eye of the hook, wrap over the herl to the rear and back to the eye. Done properly, you'll have no butts to snip and a good underbody. Wrap the herl forward, tie off, cut, and whipfinish. Done! I personally don't take the time to reinforce the herl with the thread.

No. 2: "Fur Nymph" - from the above book and also in *The Art of Tying the Nymph* by Skip Morris and other books.

Tail - Three partridge fibers, not too long.

Body - Australian opossum, seal or other coarse dubbing to match naturals. Dark brown and pale olive recommended. The body should taper gradually from tail to head and also become quite fuzzy in the thorax area.

Thread - To match body. I especially like the mono thread, ultra fine size for this pattern and others with dubbed bodies as it takes dubbing very well and I can wrap over the existing body to compress it if necessary.

This fly can be treated with floatant and fished on the surface or fished in the film without.

No. 3: "Marabou Nymph"

There are several ways to tie this one. I personally like to tie this pattern with the barred marabou and always use the mono thread. To tie this one, wrap the thread to the rear of the hook, tie in a few strands of marabou, the amount depending on the hook size. The marabou should be tied in so the tips form a very short tail, then spin the remainder of the marabou around the thread like dubbing and wrap it forward keeping the body thin and the thorax thick as you do with the fur nymph. Now take another small bunch of marabou and tie it in very short to serve in the position of the wing case. For this last bunch of marabou, I like to use the part made up of fine straight tips with not much fuzz.

This is a very effective pattern, especially when tied with barred marabou dyed yellow, gold, or brown.

No. 4: "Marabou Damsel"

This one I tie on a long shank hook. The order of tying is quite different with this fly. Tie in the thread at the eye but do not wrap to the rear. Now take several strands of marabou, experience will guide you here, and tie them in by the butts just behind the eye with the tips extending forward. No need to clip the butts as you will be wrapping over them. Now back the thread to the rear about 5/32 inch and fold the marabou back to that point and tie it down again - but - don't pull the marabou tight before tying down! You want to form a bulge with it to emulate the enlarged head of the nymph. Try to make a little bubble with the marabou. Tie in the material with several wraps and throw a half-hitch. Now stroke the remaining marabou to the rear and spiral the thread over it as if ribbing from front to rear. When you reach the tail area, tie down tight with two close wraps and whipfinish (two wraps are enough because you are going to whipfinish right on top of it). Now pinch off the remaining marabou to form a short tail. This is a sparse pattern whose effectiveness belies its simplicity. Damsel flies are noted for their bulk.

No. 5: "Pheasant Tail Nymph"

Use the same pheasant fibers for tail, body, and wing case without cutting them from the hook until you tie off the wing case. Use two strands of peacock herl for the thorax.

Other patterns that can be quickly tied include: the San Juan and other worms, scuds in several versions, and midge pupa in several versions.

There are many more patterns that fill this niche but we are running out of space and I'm sure you get the picture. This is the way to fill your fly boxes with proven patterns so you'll never get caught short. Now you have no excuse for those trout trips.



OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING



RRFF Presents:

Dave Simmons

Dave is a popular guide in the lower Sacramento River and adjacent areas.
He is returning to speak to us by popular demand and will be
talking about steelhead fishing in his area.

BRING A FRIEND!!

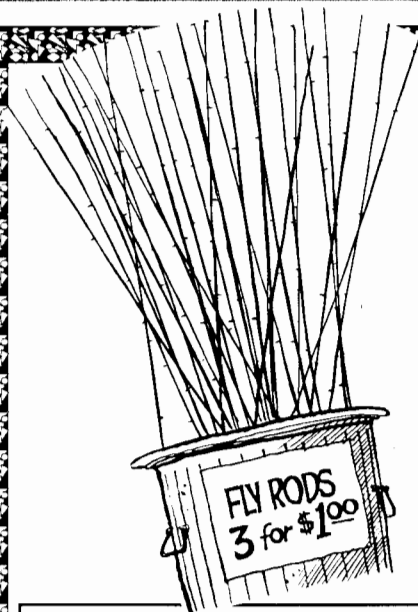
Wednesday, October 14th, 1998

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

Fly Tying 6:00pm

General Meeting 7:00pm

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



Parglass fishing boat
57" wide, 9 1/2 ft. long
excellent condition
\$395 or best offer

Call Dan Griggs @ 542-8359

Classifieds

Sage

1	RPLX	690	3pc.	(new)	\$350.00
1	RPLX	890	3pc.	(new)	\$350.00
1	RPLX	8100	10'8wt.	(new)	\$350.00
1	RPLX	990	3pc.	(used)	\$300.00
2	RPLXi	1090	3pc.	(new)	\$400.00

Loomis

1	12wt.	GLX	3pc.	(used)	\$450.00
1	10wt.	GLX	2pc.	(used)	\$300.00
2	9wt.	GLX	2pc.	(used)	\$325.00
1	9wt.	GL4	2pc.	(new)	\$240.00

Tibor - 2 (Riptide) Black new & used \$400.00
Abel 4N used \$425.00
Billy Pate (Salmon) A.R. \$300.00

Call Carl Blackledge @ 579-2224

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, October 18th, 1998

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

As everyone knows, the pond has been undergoing major repairs. These included the installation of drains to cure the problem of water bubbles during heavy rain periods and the addition of new perimeter sections to put the sides back straight up and down together with a redesign of the corners to make the cleaning process a whole lot easier. Hopefully, as you read this, the pond will once again be full and world class as a facility. The project was mainly completed due to the efforts of President Scotty, Lee Smith, and Ken Magoon. It will be nice to be back in business.

A beginners session may be scheduled in cooperation with Brian Wong and this will be a 10am start if it takes place. Individual member instruction and coaching will begin at 11am for those of you who are interested and will continue until 2pm plus if they are started before noon.

Remember, the pond is there for your use everyday for as long as you'd like. The Thursday evening sessions that have been headed up by Ken Magoon will resume and will continue until daylight savings time runs out. If any of you need to use the club's equipment which includes both full line and shooting system outfits, call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me. My number these days is 525-1976.

Last thought, the pond is a very fine place to get sharp for the fall surface bass fishing at the club's lake, available through the generosity of the Salvation Army headquarters north of Healdsburg.

The next scheduled clinic will be November 15th.

Bob Sisson 1977

Coming Events

October 1998

10/14/98 RRFF Meeting
10/19/98 Board Meeting
10/9-10/11 Manzanita Trip

November 1998

11/11/98 RRFF Meeting
11/23/98 Board Meeting

December 1998

12/05/98 Xmas Party
12/09/98 No RRFF Meeting
12/23/98 Board Meeting

Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc. is the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that board meetings are held at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza Parlor unless notified differently.

What's Hot and What's Not

THE Northern California Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated September 1998)
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>
Fall River	Clear, normal level, cold. Very few weeds above Whipple Ranch	Fishing is good. BWOs and PMDs and some mahogany duns are hatching from 10am-4pm with decent dry fly fishing. Look for the larger trout in the softer, shallow water near the banks. Use a long leader (12-14') with 7X tippet. Most consistent action is with small mayfly nymphs dead drifted under a small indicator before and after the hatch. Also, fishing a small streamer or zug bug in a long leader and slow sinking line between the weedbeds is productive throughout the day. BWO and mahogany dun hatches should improve with the cool, overcast weather.	A Boat is needed. Access from Cal Trout; access is dry and free of mud. Best fishing is over the weedbeds from Whipple Ranch downstream to Cal Trout access.
Klamath River	Clear, high 60sF, (4396 cfs at turwar)	Fishing is good. Lower river has a good number of 6-8 lb adult steelhead. Best fishing is near Klamath from Starwein riffle to Shangri La riffle. Also, some searun cutthroats to 25" are being caught. Some half pound steelies to 17" are also in the system in the upper Klamath from Orleans to Humboldt Riffle. Fish a floating line in the morning and evening swinging flies near the surface. Switch to a sinking line of sinktip line in the afternoon and used weighted flies.	No comments.
Pit River (Pit #3, #4, #5 below Lake Britton)	Clear, mid 60s F, normal flows (150cfs from lake Britton)	Fishing is good; isonymchia hatch is tapering off. Fish a beadhead nymph (#10-14) and a smaller mayfly or caddis dropper (#16-18) until late morning then switch to a #10 isonymchia or black AP for the isonymchia hatch from noon to 2pm. Fishing slows down little in the afternoon, but picks up again around 5pm til dark. Isonychia and black nymphs (#14-18) are working very well in the evening. October caddis should appear in the next week or so.	Wading the Pitt is very difficult. Use a wading belt and a staff; stream cleats also help. Crawling out of the Pit canyon at dark can be very unpleasant so leave enough time to get out of the canyon before it's too dark to see.
McCloud River, Lower (below the McCloud Reservoir)	Normal off color glacial tint, mid 50sF, (36 cfs above Lake Shasta)	Fishing is good, best fishing is in the afternoon. Indicator nymphing with a beadhead nymph (#10-16) and a small mayfly or midge dropper (#16-20) has been very productive. Also, try swinging soft hackles in the surface film. Look for BWOs hatching mid-afternoon with a few fish rising to the dries. Dry fly fishing in the evening can be good with caddis, midge, and PEDs (#14-18) hatching from 6pm to dark. Swinging streamer, sculpins, or wooley buggers early morning and evening can result in a trophy brown trout this time of year. October caddis should appear in the next week or so.	Water ar Ah Di Nah is now safe to drink and camping is \$8 per night. Look for more large lake run browns to show up over the next few weeks as the water cools down.

*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.*

Greetings From Lytton Lake

Paul Major and I were talking at the last club meeting and we discovered that we both were introduced to fishing in the same way. Both of us were born in the Midwest. Every small pond and many rivers have a species of small black catfish called a bullhead. A big bullhead is maybe 8-10" but if you find one, you have found a hundred. Typical tackle for this species is a 12ft. cane pole (I don't mean cane flyrod), a bobber, a small hook, and a gob of worms. This is tackle that Tom and Huck would find familiar. However, this sport has introduced literally thousands to a lifetime of fishing. A three year old child has all the necessary skills for catching bullheads (except maybe patience!). This is how I learned to love fishing.

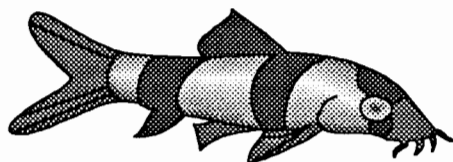
But what does this have to with flyfishing? Quite a lot, I think. There are a number of skills that need to be mastered before one ever picks up a flyrod. Kids need to catch fish when they go fishing and this rig is the right one to start small children off with. With the access that we have to Lytton Lake, we have a perfect place to teach our kids, our grandkids, or the kid next door.

There have been some changes relative to our access to Lytton Lake. You no longer need to call me to make reservations and the lake is now open 7 days a week with no maximum number of rods. In the beginning, we were worried that we would not put too much pressure on the lake but based

on our current usage, that hasn't been a problem. If in the future, we do have huge crowds of us flyfishers at the lake, we will reinstitute some limitations but for now, we're going to see what happens. Also, you no longer need to make a \$10 donation to the Salvation Army. The use of the lake is free. The Salvation Army never required a donation. The Board of Directors felt we needed to tangibly express our appreciation for the use of the lake. We have as a club donated a number of flyrod outfits to the Salvation Army for the use of their staff and the people in their rehab program. As in the past, you still need to check in and out of the lake. Captain Curnow has asked that we do not park on the dam but in that area right before you turn onto the dam. Just a note of caution: if you smoke, be very careful. The grass is extremely dry.

One of the reasons we removed the donation was to encourage more families to make use of the lake. Make a difference in a child's life...take them fishing!

Tight lines and good fishing,
Mark Parker



Christmas Dinner Host/Hostess Needed

~ A good way to get involved with your club! ~

Since I will be out of town December 5th (I have a new grandson due that week and I will be out of town - I do have my priorities), I need someone to be at the dinner to check reservations. All the preparations will be done. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested so we can discuss it further.

Marji Major
Events Chairperson

FLYFISHING PATAGONIA by Fishing International

Wouldn't it be great to have a time machine? Load it up with flyfishing gear and set the controls to take you back, oh say, 150 years?

Then land it on the banks of a wild, untouched western trout stream, teeming with large hungry fish that have never seen a fly? Well there is a place like this and you don't need H.G. Wells to get there. The Patagonian region of Argentina and Chile in South America has lured fly fishers to its remote and abundant waters with arguably the best trout fishing anywhere in the world.

Mysterious and unpolluted by development and overcrowding, the scenery here is spectacular. The great Andes mountain range looms over this enchanted land separating Argentina and Chile with its snow capped peaks. From these ancient heights, the melting snow forms rivulets that course down glacier carved valleys dotting the countryside with countless lakes and rivers filled with trout. Deep quiet pools, narrow runs, flats and bouldered pocket water offer the fly fisher a beautiful and diverse playground to chase his favorite prey. Rainbows and brown trout up to 30" are caught, with the average fish 18-22"; 20-40 trout per day in the 3-5lb class is not uncommon. Many I.G.F.A. records are attributed to these waters with Tierra del Fuego boasting a 30lb searun brown trout. Rainbows of 14lbs and brown trout of 16lbs have also been landed. There are strong populations of brook trout and landlocked salmon as well.

Quality and diversity make the fishing adventures in this region truly memorable. You may start your trip by fishing one of the many "largos" lakes and their "bocas" or river mouths with wet flies and streamers on a sinking line. You'll catch rainbow trout and browns in the 3-6lb range but be prepared to catch a record trophy trout of 14 plus lbs.

Then climb on horseback for a trip through virgin Andean rainforest to secluded streams to fish dry flies for wild rainbows in the 2lb class. The extinct volcanoes and flowering fuchsias create a magical backdrop for this trek.

Followed the next day by a 24km float down one of the larger rivers like the Rio Yelcho. The many islands and log jams make this a great river to drift. You'll see plenty of fish working so you can sight cast to hefty targets. When they take they are fast and strong putting you into your backing quickly.

Argentina and Chile are truly unique and wonderful places to fish, though they are not like Alaska where you'll be cranking in 15 pounders until your back hurts. It is, however, some of the best fishing for brown trout and rainbows available anywhere. It is for the fly fisher who loves fishing the American west but is sick of the crowds and the highways and dams.

The general fishing season is between November and April with prime-time in January, February, and March. Here is a sampling of the programs we offer:

The Paloma Lodge: This lodge in Coyhaique, Chile overlooks the beautiful Paloma River and is getting better year after year. There are 5 lakes and 6 outstanding rivers with many excellent "bocas" to fish. You can explore the vast triangle of rivers, lagoons, and streams of the Rio Paloma area or take a jet ride to access more distant locations. This is fishing for wild browns and rainbows with dry flies, large attractor patterns, beetles, and hoppers. All guides are professionally trained. Americans who know how to put you on fish. The accommodations are very comfortable with carpeted twin bedrooms and private bath. The cooking of owner Carlos Munõz is outstanding with international/European food served with award-winning Chilean Merlots and Cabernet Sauvignon.

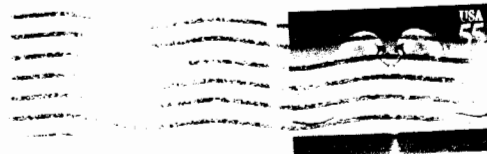
Patagonia Adventures with Kent Schoenauer: Kent is one of the finest flyfishing guides in South America. He takes you into Argentina's Alerces National Park with its majestic mountains and unspoiled natural beauty for some of the greatest and most consistent trout fishing in the Patagonia region. The Alerces system offers a tremendous variety of flyfishing water to match every skill level. Kent's inflatable jet boats are especially designed for flyfishing and drifting using platforms for sight casting. You fish 5 major lakes and 3 major rivers for rainbows, browns, brook trout, and landlock salmon as well as spring creeks. A different place to fish every day. The lodge on Lake Futalaufquen in the heart of the park is first rate with hearty meals served with wines of Argentine excellence.

Estancia San Jose: The southernmost tip of Argentina and Chile is separated from the mainland by the Magellan Strait forming a large island called Tierra del Fuego. Distant and mysterious, the wildlife here ranges from penguins, parrots, and flamingos to beavers and guanacos (the wild cousin to the llama). Fly fishers are attracted to this isolated jewel year after year by the incredible searun brown trout fishing in the Rio Grande River. Two I.G.F.A. records were set in 1990 and four more pending between 1991 and 1993 on this river. Sea trout between 20-30lbs are not uncommon here. Simply put, the Rio Grande is the best sea trout river in the world. The "Estancia" which is essentially a self-contained working ranch has its own power and communications systems. This is a necessity in this vast and remote part of the world. Guests stay in a comfortable eight bedroom-four bath house. The delicious food and attentive service typify the gracious hospitality traditional with Argentine estancia life.

Please call us for availability and 1998/1999 prices
at 1-800-950-4242.

Best Fishing...Noel Plumb

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



ROBERT D NEILL JR
1510 RONNE DR
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-5705

Address correction requested.

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Signature _____

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 CRF

Volume 23
Number 10
November 1998

November's Scoop From Scott

I hope this note finds all of our club members healthy, wealthy, and wise. I also hope that all of you have renewed your club dues for the upcoming year.

After November 1st, all members that have not renewed will be dropped from the roster. I am writing this note a week after our club's closure at Manzanita Lake. Around thirty of us dry-camped with a few of our luckier members bringing their campers and motorhomes. I call them "lucky" because the first two days at 5700 feet were very, very cold. I would like to thank Scott Lewis for sharing his beautiful new trailer and heater that worked like a charm. I also want to thank all of those members who showed up and all those who rolled up their sleeves and helped out. Bill, Marji, Scott, Lee, Paul, Bob, Paul, Lucy, Shay, and the rest of the gang. Fishing wasn't red hot but a few top anglers did real well. On Saturday, Paul Major caught and landed around eight nice

fish. Dale Cheli had the largest and also landed a beautiful brown. Tim Grogan had the lake to himself on Sunday morning and landed two fish while I was watching. Lucy Zorich, one of our newer members, caught and landed her first rainbow on a dry...Great job Lucy!!

Not all members caught fish but we all ate like kings. The next outing is going to be in November for stripers at Frank's Tract. I'll get the word out to all interested parties...so please plan on coming!

I would like to remind everyone that our Christmas Dinner is around the corner. There is limited seating so please call Marji Major and make you reservations. This year's speaker is Bob Nauheim - one of our life members. Bob is also the proprietor of Fishing International and a world class fly fisherman. Bob's stories and slide shows are fantastic. This year's raffle at the Christmas Dinner is going to be a killer, so make your reservations now.

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If you missed the October meeting, Dave Simmons put on a great program on the Feather and Sacramento River systems. Next month, two local heros, Dwight Longuevan and Bill Archuleta, are going to talk about the Green River. The Green is a great fishery and this is a must see program so don't be late and mark the calendar for November 11 at 7:00pm.

See you all soon!

- Scotty

1998/99 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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Library/Conservation: Roger Magill (876-3308)
Club Outings: Scott Lewis (527-9168)
Lake Monitor: Mark Parker (433-4967)

What's Hot and What's Not

THE Northern California Fishing Report from *Fish First!* (updated October 1998)
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>
Sacramento River, Lower (from Redding to Anderson)	Clear, mid 50sF (6250 cfs release from Keswick; scheduled to be lowered to 6000cfs Oct. 15). Good fishing flow is 6000cfs and below.	Fishing is good. Salmon are beginning to get on their redds. Indicator nymph with a glow bug and a tan or brown caddis pupa (#12-14) or small BWO dropper (#16-20). BWOs hatch in the afternoon and evening on overcast and cooler days have a few fish raising. Good tan/brown caddis hatch late afternoon to dark has the fish actively feeding on caddis pupas and emergers. Swinging a caddis emerger or soft hackle to rising fish can be very effective. Salmon spawn is about to start; look for excellent fishing soon.	The Lower Sac is known for native rainbows that commonly grow to over 20". Wade fish access at Posse Grounds, Turtle Bay, Anderson River Park. Be careful not to wade in the salmon redds.
Feather River (below Oroville dam).	Slightly off color (600cfs in low flow; 1900 cfs below thermalito afterbay), mid 50sF.	Fishing is fair. Some 2-5lb adult steelhead are in system. Indicator nymph with a small glo bug and large stonefly or beadhead dropper behind spawning salmon. Try swinging traditional steelhead flies or streamers on fast sink tip lines. Best action is during low light conditions. Most adult steelheads are from Palm Ave. through the low flow section.	Section above Hwy 70 bridge is closed to fishing. Access areas are at Palm Ave, Vancouver Ave, Oroville Wildlife Area, gravel plant, and Thermal Afterbay.
Pit River (Pit #3, #4, #5 below Lake Britton)	Clear, mid 60s F, normal flows (150cfs from lake Britton)	Fishing is good. Mornings and evenings are cold, but the fishing is strong all day. Isonymchia hatch is over, but fish are still keying on the nymph. Fishing an isonymchia, October caddis pupa, or black AP nymph (#6-10) and a smaller mayfly or caddis dropper (#16-18) under an indicator is very productive. Decent numbers of mayflies are out from 11am-2pm and the dry fly fishing can be decent on adams parachutes, cahills, or attractor dry flies (#12-16). Few reports of the October caddis hatch; look for it to start any day.	Wading the Pittis very difficult. Use a wading belt and a staff; stream cleats also help. Crawling out of the Pit canyon at dark can be very unpleasant so leave enough time to get out of the canyon before it's too dark to see.
McCloud River, Lower (below the McCloud Reservoir)	Normal off color glacial tint, mid 50sF, (301cfs above Lake Shasta)	Fishing is good, best fishing is in the afternoon and evening. Morning is cold and the fishing is slow. Indicator nymphing with an October caddis pupa (#6-10) and a beadhead or small mayfly is productive. Look for BWOs, smaller caddis (#16-18), and creamy mayflies hatching mid-afternoon with some fish rising to the dries. Some October caddis have started to hatch in the the evening, but the fish are mostly keyed into the emergent pupas and not the dries; look for the hatch to turn on any day. Swinging streamer, sculpins, or wooly buggers early morning and evening can result in a trophy brown trout this time of year.	Water at Ah Di Nah is now safe to drink and camping is \$8 per night. Look for more large lake run browns to show up over the next few weeks as the water cools down.

*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.*



NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

RRFF Presents:

Dwight Longuevan's & Bill Archuleta's
outstanding slide presentation

"The Green River Follies"

BRING A FRIEND!!

Wednesday, November 11th, 1998

Santa Rosa Vets' Building

General Meeting 7:00pm

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



Coming Events

November 1998

11/11/98 RRFF Meeting
11/15/98 Casting Instruction
11/23/98 Board Meeting

December 1998

12/05/98 XMAS Dinner
12/09/98 No RRFF Meeting
12/21/98 Board Meeting
12/23/98 Casting Instruction

January 1999

1/13/99 RRFF Meeting
1/17/99 Casting Instruction
1/19/99 Board Meeting

Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc. is the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that board meetings are held at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza Parlor unless notified differently.

Annual Christmas Dinner

~ Saturday, December 5, 1998~

Please, do not wait until the last minute to send in your reservation. 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 Bob Nauheim of Fishing International whose programs have always been extremely entertaining and we have over \$1,000 in raffle prizes just waiting for YOU!

No-Host bar from 6:00pm ~ Dinner will be served at 7:00pm

Christmas Dinner Reservation Form

Name _____

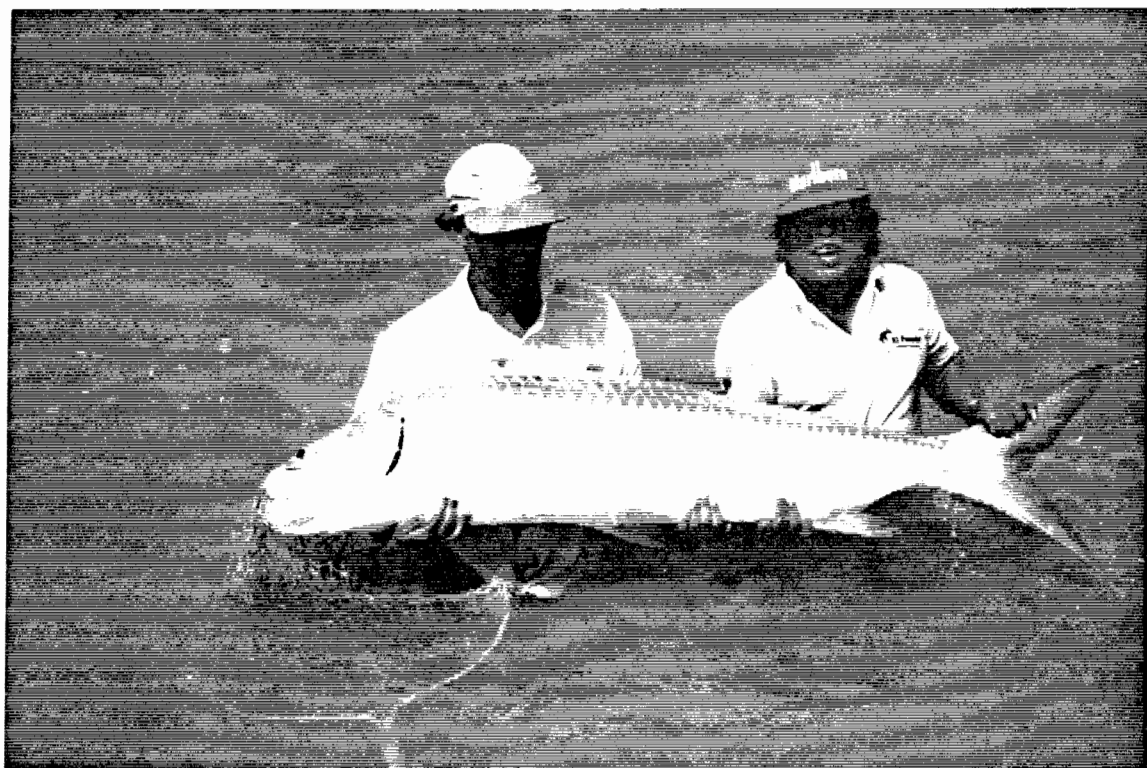
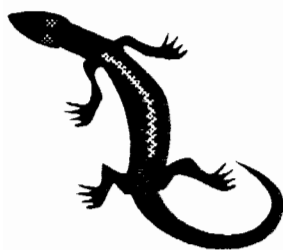
Dinner choice: Halibut _____ London Broil _____ Vegetarian _____

Amount enclosed: _____ payable to Russian River Fly Fishers
(\$35/member, \$25/each additional family member)

Send reservations to : Marji Major, 1029 Jack London Ct., Santa Rosa, 95409

See "Mexico
Giant Tarpon"
article on
next page.

Here's a sample!



MEXICO GIANT TARPON by *Fishing International*

I bet you have never heard of a place called Xcalak. If you're interested in saltwater fly fishing, you will. The adventurous among you may even try to pronounce it. If you are among this group, it kinda sounds as if you are saying "It's like" after far too many bourbons: "Ish-ca-lak".

However you pronounce it, this place is emerging as the most exciting new saltwater destination to be discovered in many years. Xcalak is located in Mexico on the Southern Yucatan Peninsula near Chetumal Bay. It is home to some of the most remote, unfished and productive flats and lagoons in the world. Roaming these waters, you will find Tarpon, Bonefish, Permit, Snook, Barracuda, Snapper, and Jack. These are the most thrilling species in all of saltwater fly fishing, but it's the large concentrations of giant Tarpon that have been discovered by veteran Key West guide, Jan Isley, that has the angling world buzzing with curiosity.

For those who do not know Jan, he started his guiding career in the Key West where he guided anglers for 10 years and was rated as one of the top guides in the Keys. He guided in many tournaments there before leaving for Mexico where he discovered Ascension Bay's great fishing and founded Ascension Bay Bonefish Club, the first important flats fishing club in the area. This guy has a knack for finding fish and knows how to put clients on them.

The Fish:

During his explorations in the winter of 1997/1998, Jan discovered large numbers of big Tarpon on the virtually untapped flats of Mexico's Chetumal Bay. He found places which the locals assured him had literally never seen a flats fisherman. "Our first encounter was on a flat deep in the bay where the local guide had told us no one had ever looked, and he had been fishing out of Xcalak for thirty years", Jan told us. "Within minutes, we jumped our first Tarpon, a 120 lbs plus fish! For the next hour and a half, we saw, casted to, and jumped Tarpon between 50 and 130 lbs plus. Large schools of permit were also seen on these vast flats."

Jan returned to make sure what he saw was not a fluke and again found equally good Tarpon fishing. He also spent time looking for Bonefish, many of the quieter backwaters had good numbers of Bonefish in the 3-5lb. range. The locals told Jan about a double figured bonefish they had caught. Snook and Barracuda are also plentiful. Some of the 'cudas are monsters, Jan told us.

The Fishing:

Xcalak Tarpon Camp's main focus is primarily catching big

Tarpon. Jan will be guiding and has hand-picked and trained some local guides as well. Mexican built skiffs have been rigged exclusively for flats fishing with large, comfortable seating, and a roomy casting platform. During your stay you will also be exploring the small bays, lagoons, and backwaters for big Bonefish.

One also wants to keep a Permit rig handy on the Tarpon flats, and you'll spend some time casting to these wary critters. When the wind blows from the North, as it often does in Mexico, the coastal flats of the Caribbean side are protected and support good numbers of Bonefish and Permit. You'll also get some shots at Tarpon here.

The Area:

Xcalak Tarpon camp is located near the tiny fishing village of Xcalak, on a peninsula formed by Chetumal Bay and the Caribbean Sea in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico. A picturesque beach, with colorful fishing boats, stretches the length of the town. You can catch some of the local flavor by visiting one of the small restaurants or cantinas in the village. The locals are very friendly and always have a ready smile to help the traveling angler. A few hundred yards to the East lies the second largest barrier reef in the world, great for diving and snorkeling.

The Accommodations:

Jan and his wife, Ina, are wonderful hosts. I recently had the opportunity to meet them personally and their friendly manner and easygoing style make them at once seem like old friends. Anglers stay in comfortable cabanas which are located 50 ft. from a perfect Bonefish flat. Each cabana has a bedroom with two double beds, reading lights, and overhead fan. There is a sitting room with a dining table, couch/bed, and chairs. A tiled wet bar sits in a complete kitchen. The large bathroom has hot and cold running water and a large shower. A front deck overlooks the Caribbean - a great place for evening cocktails. All meals are included. Ina Isley draws from local recipes which include fresh seafood to produce heart meals and Yucatan specialties. American style breakfasts are served and coolers full of deli sandwiches and cold soft drinks keep anglers happy for lunch while fishing.

If you're interested in finding out more about this incredible place, call us at *Fishing International* and we will give you the full scoop. **1-800-950-4242.**

Good fishing!

Noel Plumb



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

BOB SISSON
3400 HENDERSON CIRCLE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-

Address correction requested.

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Signature _____

I apply as a new member:

- ☐ (Single membership \$10 initiation fee plus \$35 annual dues)
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Please mail this application and your check payable to:
Russian River Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405



RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS

the RFR

Volume 23
Number 10
Nov. / Dec. 1998

Holiday Scoop From Scott

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone of you had as good a year as the Broomes. Since my last note, we've had our Christmas dinner. I would like to thank all those members who attended and a special thanks to Marji Major and Bob Neil. Bob put together a great raffle and Marji for putting together the dinner. I would also like to thank Ron Abbey, Jim Cramer, Bill Archuleta, Doug's Bugs, Dave Klein of Bucks Bags, Jeanie Griggs of G. Loomis, Mike and Lori Nyholm, Robert Norman, Michael Swaney, Bob Nauheim of Fishing International and the owner of Lyles' - Brian Wong, Judy Edgers of Western, and Ken Eley of the Outdoor Pro Shop, for supporting the Russian River Fly Fishers raffle. I also want to thank Robert Nauheim for his great story telling. Bob, you have truly been blessed with a great life and I thank you for sharing it with us.

On the fishing front, Paul Majors and I floated the lower Sac with guide

Ernie Dennison. It was my first trip, but it will not be my last. Paul and I hooked well over thirty fish for the day, with Paul fighting one giant rainbow well over ten pounds for over half an hour. The fish was lost at the boat with both fish and fisherman smiling. The smallest fish of the day was seventeen inches. The lower Sac is a great fishery and it gives all of us a chance to land that trophy rainbow. For information, call the Redding Fly Shop.

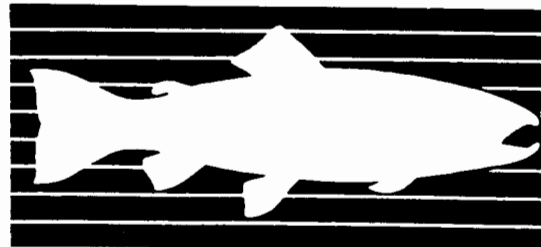
On the local front, the Russian has fish. Joe Craig and I on the first week-end of December fished above Wohler Bridge. I hooked and lost a king salmon. On the 19th of December, we fished all day with little action, but reports have fish being caught from the mouth to above Cloverdale. One report has a fish weighing in at eighteen pounds. The river looks great, the flow is up and the mouth is open, so get those new Christmas presents in action, and let's go fishing!

TIGHT LINES,

-Scotty

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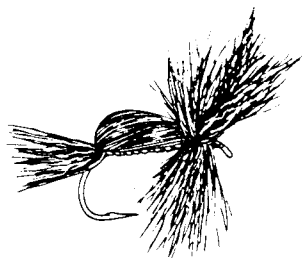


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The Tyer's Corner

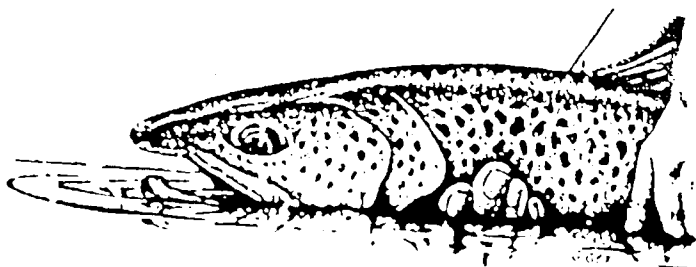


Jim Cramer

While at the National Federation of Fly Fisherman's conclave at Idaho falls in August, I had the opportunity to rub shoulders and observe a couple of hundred tiers from around the world. The tyers covered a broad spectrum of flies from the very simple to the complicated and exotic. Many were demonstrating their own specialty and a fair number were concentrating on Atlantic salmon flies, discussing the cock of the wing, or the specific use of a rare feather. Not being a tyer of these flies, and being an advocate of the school that believes that, "One should not spend more time tying a fly than the time it takes to lose it", (a semi-quote from my friend Hans Weilenmann of the Netherlands). I searched out tyers with that frame of mind.

One such tyers was Gordon Mankins of Phoenix Arizona who was demonstrating his Puff Paint Ants. This is another one of those patterns that was the product of a creative mind wandering about in an arts and crafts store. Unlike so many flies from that origin of birth, this fly has real merits. Besides, it looks like a fly should look.

Gordon produces his ant bodies in mass. Although it takes several days to produce the bodies, the actual time involved is very short; unless you count the time involved in watching the paint dry as productive time! Multiple ant bodies are produced on a string (Dacron backing is recommended) and cut off as needed when tying. To make the bodies, start with a piece of backing about 12 to 15 inches in length. Tie a series of overhand knots in it, spaced to represent the size of ant desires.



Using Tulip brand puff fabric paint, add a large drop of paint to each knot, and hang up the string to dry for three days. A skin will first form on the outside, but you need to let the paint dry thoroughly before proceeding. After the paint is dry, apply heat to the string of paint drops by which ever method suits you best.

I just hold them over the stove burner. The heat will cause the paint to puff, and viola!, you have a string of ant bodies ready to cut off and tie on the hook.

The remainder of the pattern can be completed in a variety of ways; legs can be made with a hackle, hair, or a number of other materials. Wings can be added for flying patterns. Gordon likes to add a couple of wraps of peacock herl in the center for a fuzzy ant effect.

There are a couple of simple tricks that I discovered in my first attempts. If you place a needle upright in your vise and slip the overhand knot over it before tightening, it is very easy to adjust the knot one way very other to obtain the right spacing. A second tip is to use a felt marking pen to color the backing before adding the puff paint. I doubt that it makes much difference to the fish, but it looks better to the angler.

The Puff Paint Ant is a very durable, high floating pattern that is quick and easy to tie. I certainly will be able to tie them faster than I can lose them. It will be a pattern that you'll find in my fly boxes.

Christmas Party Thanks!

From all accounts I have heard, the Christmas dinner was a success. My special thanks to all of you who helped make it so. Since I was not there, you will have to know who you were. The write up about the party is located elsewhere in this issue. I do wish to thank all of you who heeded my call and got your reservations in timely so that the Board didn't have to call you. To all of you who were waiting for the last minute call that didn't come, sorry you weren't there.

Marji Major, Events Chair



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING



RRFF Presents:

Trent Pridemore

"LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER - A SIERRA GEM"

This little known fishery in the Truckee Area is a very dynamic stream that can offer exceptional quality angling under the right conditions. I first visited the stream as a child in the fifties, camping with my family on the shores of Webber Lake. I became Project Chairman of the Little Truckee River Trout Restoration Task Force sponsored by the Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs in the mid 1970's and have had a love affair with the river ever since. The program touches on the fisheries conservation issues, habitat restoration efforts, as well as angling opportunities. I trace the flow of the river from its origins in Webber and Independence Lake, to its confluence with the main Truckee River below Boca Reservoir. The tailwater stretch between Stampede and Boca reservoirs is covered extensively.

BRING A FRIEND!

Wednesday, January 13th, 1999

Santa Rosa Vet's Building

General Meeting 7:00 pm

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

Classifieds

Sage Spay Rod Outfit
9 wt. 14 foot 4 piece graphite #3 rod,
Cortland magnum reel, windcutter
interchangeable tip line, used 3 times.

\$450.00

Call Noel At 836-8581

8' Aluminum Pram
"Metal Head" Like NEW!

\$750.00

Call Carl Blackledge 579-2224

			<u>Sage</u>		
1	RPLX	890	3 pc.	(new)	\$350.00
1	RPLX	8100	10'8 wt.	(new)	\$350.00
2	RPLXi	1090	3 pc.	(new)	\$400.00

			<u>Loomis</u>		
1	12 wt.	GLX	3 pc.	(used)	\$450.00
1	10 wt.	GLX	2 pc.	(used)	\$300.00
2	9 wt.	GLX	2 pc.	(used)	\$325.00
Billy Pate (Salmon) A.R.					\$300.00

Call Carl Blackledge @ 579-2224

CASTING POND CLINIC

Date: Sunday, January 17th, 1999
Time: 11 am to 2 PM
Place: Casting Pond. Dan Galvin Park at the intersection of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa.

A new year is at hand and this is your opportunity to begin to take the millennium out in style by raising your casting skills to a new and higher level. The casting facility, at your disposal seven days a week, 24 hours a day, has been described by two National and International casting champions, as one the the best locations in the United States. It deserves more use than it has been getting from the membership since day one. The face lifting that the pond received during the summer of 1998 has brought it up one notch higher in appearance and the setting is hard to beat. Best of all it costs you zero to enjoy its use. The Thursday evening sessions will be back on line with the arrival of daylite savings time later in the spring. The days are already getting longer.

The clinics are for the benefit of all levels of casters. If you wish to improve your accuracy the rings and coaches will be there. If you wish to improve your distance casting there will be coaching to help you do it. If you are just getting started we will help you reach a level that will make you a fly fisher. Ken Magoon has some inter-club just for fun competition in the planning stages for later in the spring. More about this later.

Come out and use Your pond.

If you need equipment to use until you acquire you own, the club has both full line and shooting system outfits for your use. If needed call Mike Nyholm at 538-5163 or call me at 525-1976.

Final thought. The pond is an excellent place to get sharp for the surface bass fishing at the club's Salvation Army lake north of Healdsburg. The ponds usually begin to get hot in March.

The clinic, as is usual this time of year, is at the mercy of the weather. If we are in the middle of a rainstorm the clinic will be postponed until February.

The next scheduled clinic will be February 21st.

Bob Sisson
1977

Coming Events

January

RRFF Meeting 1/13/99
Board Meeting 1/18/99
Casting Clinic 1/17/99

February

RRFF Meeting 2/10/99
Board Meeting 2/22/99
Casting Clinic 2/21/99

March

RRFF Meeting 3/10/99
Board Meeting 3/22/99
Casting Clinic 3/21/99

Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc. is the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that board meetings are held at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza Parlor unless notified differently.

Mark Your Calender: February 13, 1999

Fly Tying Festival and Hall of Fame Buffet

Presented by the Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers

The Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers (NCC/FFF) presents the most tyers that the Bay Area has ever seen to demonstrate their skills and share their knowledge. The day long event takes place on February 13, 1999 in San Francisco's Fort Mason center. The exposition begins at 9:00 a.m. and includes a delectable buffet, live auction, and Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Fly fishers, from beginning to expert, can take this opportunity to learn more about the elegant sport of fly fishing. Learn the latest patterns, tying, and fishing techniques. Join in a silent auction, live auction, and raffle - all featuring fly boxes from the tyers, fishing gear, trips, and other fishing related items. Now is the time to stock your fly boxes and prepare for the season.

Each year, the Hall of Fame dinner honors a man or woman in Northern California noted for life long contributions to the art, science and sport of fly fishing. This year's inductee is Bob Baiocchi, bulldog of fishery protection and enhancement, consultant to CSPA. Bob tirelessly monitors the activities of Federal and State trustee agencies, files protests and complaints, appears before Boards and Commissions, writes briefs and appears in court.

He is an expert on water rights and fights to ensure adequate flows for fish, restore degraded fisheries and guard against threats to what is left. CSPA was created to take back our rivers, and Bob's leadership has demonstrably furthered that cause. He now joins past inductees into the NCC/FFF Hall of Fame: Roy Haile, Ted Fay, Fanny and Mel Krieger, Andre Puyans, Frank Matarelli, and Lani Waller to name a few.

Why will over fifty top tyers from throughout the state share their skills and knowledge at this event? To save fish for California's anglers!

All proceeds benefit the Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance. NCC/FFF is a regional council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The NCC/FFF is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and educating through fly fishing. The Council founded and continues to be a major sponsor of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, a public trust advocate for fish and the habitat that sustains them.

Admission: Reservations required for evening event.

\$30/person or \$45/couple includes beverages, buffet and admission to daytime exhibition.

Day admission \$5/person at the door, under 12 free with paid admission.

For more information call: Sheree Kajiwarra 650.369.7228 skajiwarra@earthlink.net

BAHAMAS NEWS

During the month of October, two staff members from Fishing International once again spent 10 days touring and fishing the islands of the Bahamas. We met with old friends, discovered some new sights, and fell in love all over again with these amazing waters, as only an angler can. Many of you are already familiar with these wondrous islands of limestone and coral that stretch nearly 700 miles, from a point just off Florida to the coast of Haiti.

The aboriginal inhabitants welcomed the Bahamas' first visitors on October 12th, 1492 when Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador. This was Columbus' first stop in the new world, and if old Chris had been an avid fisherman he might not have made it any further.

The more than 700 islands that make up the Bahamas seem to have been created just for the angler. Remote and beautiful islands like Andros and Abaco are the main draw for fishing enthusiasts. These jewels are surrounded by hundreds of miles of soft and hard bottom flats, creek channels and ocean drop-offs. All these areas are rich with life, energy and an abundance of fish that can provide non-stop action for an angler's rod arm as well as his imagination.

Bonefish, permit, tarpon, barracuda, snapper and other game fish roam these waters, but without a doubt the bonefish is king. These silver gamesters hold a special place in the heart of anyone who has caught them. Few things in the sport of angling can match the excitement or challenge of stalking and casting to bonefish on the flats. Curious and at times elusive, these fish are eager to take flies and other artificials. Their reel busting runs after the take are legendary and often leave the angler looking at the line on his spool vanishing with a certain disbelief. Pound for pound no other fish can match the power, spunk and fun of the bonefish. The Bahamas have the greatest concentration and numbers of quality "bones" anywhere in the world, with 5 pounds a good average and 9 to 12 pound fish not uncommon. Heck, the money in the Bahamas even has bonefish on it. The Bahamian dime with it's unique scalloped edges has two bonefish feeding carved on the side. You've got to love this country!

The lodges we toured offer a wide range of accommodations, from the basic angler's lodge with comfortable rooms and home cooked meals, to the deluxe, with oceanside swimming pool and professional chef. All the guides are top quality and trained to work with fly fishers. Many are excellent casting instructors and eager to assist the newcomer. The guides are very courteous and knowledgeable. The 14 to 18 foot Dolphin and Back Country flats boats are equipped with casting platforms and well maintained Yamaha motors. These dependable fishing platforms are especially rigged to sneak up on spooky fish feeding on the flats.

On the next page are some of the vitals on three of our favorite bonefish lodges, Andros Island Bonefish Club and Moxy's on Andros Island and The Different of Abaco on Abaco Island. October through May are the prime months with bigger fish being targeted in January and February. All these months are very productive. Call us with any questions or for more specific information on any of our lodges, on our toll free number 1-800-950-42442.

Until then, good fishing and best wishes.

Noel Plumb
Fishing International

Andros Island Bonefish

Many claim that the vast flats surrounding Andros Island has the finest bone fishing in the world. This club puts you right in the middle of the action. The lodge and rooms have been beautifully renovated. Owner / Guide Rupert Leadon has assembled the island's best guides, flat boats and hired American Donna Teeny to oversee daily operations. This is a winning combination sure to please even the most traveled angler. **Cost:** \$2,205.00 for 7 nights and 6 days fishing. Double occupancy.

Moxy's Guest House and Bonefish Lodge

Located on remote Mangrove Cay, this classic angler's lodge offers guests a chance to fish southern Andros Island for trophy bonefish. These distant flats have very low if any fishing pressure and 10 to 12 lb. bonefish are not uncommon. Joel and Mindy Moxy make guests feel right at home. **Cost:** \$1,785.00 for 6 days and 7 nights. Double occupancy.

Nettle's Different of Abaco

Located on beautiful Abaco Island, owner Nettie Symonette has created a unique bonefishing lodge and bio-reserve that has great fishing as well as plenty of fun activities for non-angling guests. Fishing the Marls for "Bones" is very productive here. Shots at Permit are also common. Customer satisfaction is #1 at Nettie's and she delivers. Great food and accomodations. **Cost:** \$1,975.00 to \$2,255.00 (depending on accomodations) 7 nights 6 days fishing. Double occupancy.



Delta Striper Class



You've probably heard about this amazing and productive fishery, now it's your turn to experience it. Few things can match the tackle busting thrill of a Striped Bass on the fly rod. In this unique two part clinic, you will learn the strategies and techniques to successfully fly fish for Delta Stripers. We have an incredible resource in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. It's an easy day trip from anywhere in the Bay Area, and its vast waterways hold an abundance of Striped Bass, Black Bass, and other game fish. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn this incredible fishery. Your tuition includes:



One night of classroom instruction at Western Angler where we cover:



- 1 The nature and habitat of Striped Bass.
- 2 Proper tackle selection for chasing these finned fighters.
- 3 Specialty led core lines and how to make them.
- 4 Tying the deadly Delta Clouser.
- 5 Understanding the Delta's tides and seasons.



A day of fishing Franks Tract, giving you on the water experience in:



- 1 Specialty casting and stripping techniques.
- 2 Tide and Bass movement throughout the day.
- 3 Boat operation, use of drag chain, fish finder and trolling motor.
- 4 We show you our favorite spots and Stiper haunts.



Cost: \$150.00 per angler



Classes will be held in March, call Noel at Fishing International 542-4242 or Jim at Western Angler 542-4432 for more information and mailer with class dates.



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



BOB SISSON
3400 HENDERSON CIRCLE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-

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: