



Volume 27 Number 1 January 2002

For January 2002

Steelhead Time and Happy New Year!

Meanderings: Steve Tubbs

I hope that you all have had a splendid holiday with your family and friends.

As I write this, amidst piles of wrapping paper and the last minute preparations for Christmas, I look ahead to the New Year and to the many events that await the RRF in 2002.

Speakers

Our Program Director, Joe Banovich, has completed the speaker line-up for almost all of 2002, beginning with **Mike Kuscynski**, from the Eureka Fly Shop, on January 9th. Mike is no stranger to many of us, but it has been a few years since we've shared his experiences on our north coast steelhead rivers. Mike guides extensively on the Klamath River and his steelhead expertise has enticed many RRF members to explore that river with him. His knowledge of the Eel, Mad, Smith and Trinity Rivers is also extensive. As we are approaching the heart of the steelhead season, this is a great way to open the New Year! Mike's shows are always a pleasure, so please make plans to join us.

Also, watch for a complete listing of the upcoming programs in *The Cast*. If it doesn't appear in this issue, it will be in the next (March). Joe has taken the initiative to book speakers that coincide with the fishing opportunities that are available to us at the times they will be speaking. I think that you will be impressed and excited by the programs he has selected for our next year.

February Dinner Meeting

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 2nd, and the annual RRF Dinner Meeting. Better yet, make reservations *right now* as seating is limited to 125 RRF members and guests on a "first come, first serve" basis. This event has been moved from its former position in early December to reduce expenses and to avoid conflicts with the holiday season. The dinner will be the same weekend as the ISE show in San Mateo; so top off your day in San Mateo with an evening shared with RRF friends at a "family-style" Crab Cioppino feed prepared by Life Member Scotty Broome, Dave Franzman and Marji Major (assisted by other members of your Board of Directors). This will

be a "signature event" of year 2002, so make your reservations early! There will be an outstanding speaker, a terrific meal (those of you who have experienced Scotty's culinary prowess know what I mean), a fantastic raffle, fly fishing trips and the traditional "good cheer" that always seems to mark our times together. I know I'm heavy on the adjectives, but it is always a worthwhile evening.

We have had a speaker change for this event. **Mike Fong**, noted fly-fishing author and speaker, will take time from his appearances at the International Sportsmen's Exposition in San Mateo to once again visit our club and share his steelhead experiences on our Northern California and Southern Oregon coastal rivers. It has been over ten years since Mike has visited our club. He is an excellent speaker and his shows are always in high demand. Mike has been a featured speaker at the ISE since its inception twenty years ago and his *Inside Angler* fly fishing newsletter is an industry standard. For more information about Mike and Christine Fong, you can

visit their website at
www.insideangler.com.

General Activities

I would like to thank Scott Broome for his excellent presentation on the Russian River at our December General Meeting. For those of you who missed it, Scotty covered a lot of basic information regarding access points and the Russian River fishery in general, and yet barely scratched the surface of his knowledge of our home waters. Watch for a follow-up river outing (weather and schedules permitting) at which Scotty plans to continue his introduction to the Russian by taking RRFF members "on the water" for some first-hand experience. For those of you new to the sport, or to the Russian River, this is a great opportunity to learn the basics of "where to go" and "what to do".

Speaking of membership, we have had an influx of new members in recent months. "Welcome" to all of you and if you have any questions about anything regarding our club, please contact me (or any of the board members) with your inquiries. We have some private "club waters" for your enjoyment and a number of events throughout the year that you may wish to be a part of.

There are also a number of members who still haven't renewed their memberships. If you know someone who is complaining that they haven't received the last few issues of *The Cast*, tell them to make sure that they have

paid their membership dues. They can contact me with inquiries.

We are crossing our fingers that the Post Office will rectify our P.O. Box problems with the coming of the New Year. They have indicated that this is their current plan. Thanks to Paul and Marji Major for having all of our RRFF mail forwarded to their own P.O. Box in the meantime, and especially to Marji for staying on top of this issue and keeping it on the front burner at the Post Office. Her attention to this issue will be the reason that our original P.O. Box will eventually be returned to us. Please accept our apologies if you have experienced any problems with contacting the RRFF via the mail service.

In another four months, the annual trout season opener will once again be upon us. In the meantime, satisfy your trout fixes at Putah Creek, our local fly fishing trout fishery, where 20" plus fish are not uncommon. Putah Creek is "fly fishing only" through the winter months, and an amazing fishery that is less than an hour away. If the weather cooperates, you may also be able to tempt a Russian River steelhead this winter. Although the instances are few at present (and the window of opportunity small), I've heard reports of a few nice fish (10 lbs.) taken in the Dry Creek area between storms.

We've had another memorable year. I would personally like to thank the Board of Directors for all of their hard work in

2001. We had some great club outings and events this past year, and our success is the measure of the quality of our membership. I would like to thank all of our members for being part of that success.

There will be no newsletter in February. Our *Cast* editor, John Iding, will be plying the waters of New Zealand for summer trout (let's all say "Poor John!"). As the dinner meeting takes place on the 2nd, the board decided to give the newsletter a month off. Watch for your next issue in early March.

Well...it's time to finish the Christmas preparations. Tomorrow (Christmas Eve), I will be leaving for Lewiston and our Christmas celebration with my friend Pam's family. Unfortunately, Nick won't be accompanying me to Lewiston, staying instead with his mom's family, but we will unite on the 27th, when my family will converge on Sonoma for our own Christmas celebration. Then, on the opening days of the New Year (when you're reading this), I'll hopefully be back up at Lewiston fishing the Trinity River with Paul Major and Ernie Dennison, providing the river hasn't flooded by then. I don't believe it, I've already purchased next years fishing license!

Here's to a great New Year and I hope to see all of you on January 9th.



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is now available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. We currently have 21 members getting the CAST by e-mail ... it works great join the group now! ... The Editor

2001/2002 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Secretary: Andy Mazzanti (795-3532)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)
Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)
Youth Activities: Shawn Montoya (763-1489)
Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)
Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (535-0331)
Vice President: Rick Baker (545-8860)
Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)
Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)
Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)
Membership Coordinator: Rick Baker (545-8860)
Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)
Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

January General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Mike Kuczynski : Fly Fishing the Klamath

The Klamath river has a reputation for some of the finest steelheading in the world. The fall run begins to enter the lower river in mid-July and runs through October. This is an ideal time for the fly fisher: the weather is mild, the river low, and the fish eager. Mike's program takes anglers through a systematic approach to the methods and techniques to experience this world class fishery. Mike is the owner of the Eureka Fly Shop and fishes extensively throughout the west in pursuit of a variety of species from Montana rainbows to coastal kings. He specializes in dry line steelhead technique, and is one of the pioneers of flyfishing for rockfish and surfperch.

Wednesday, January 9th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Coming Events

January

Membership Meeting - 1/9
Board Meeting - 1/16
Fly Tying Meeting - 1/23
Casting Clinic Sundays - 12-2 pm

February

Dinner Meeting - 2/2
Membership Meeting - None
Board Meeting - 2/20
Fly Tying Meeting - 2/27
Casting Clinic Sundays 12-2 pm
Note: There will be no CAST in February

Youth Program

The RRFF will be re-activating the youth program soon and would like to begin by inviting any member's children or grandchildren to participate. Also, we would like to ask any members who have fly tying materials and/or tools to donate to the youth program to bring them to the next meeting or contact me. There will be additional information about the youth program in future *CASTS*.

Shawn Montoya Youth Activities Director

Club Dinner - Saturday evening, February 2, 2002

Our fantastic Club Cioppino feed at the Druids Hall needs your reservations now. Space is absolutely limited so don't be disappointed. Scott Broome and I are still looking for helpers. Call us.

The speaker for this event will be **Mike Fong** with a program featuring steelhead and salmon in southern Oregon and northern California. Mike says "with the strong runs of last year and this year, we'll show opportunities that are worth considering by flyfishers who seek some of the best flyfishing the West has to offer. The Smith will certainly be one of the streams featured." Mike and his wife Chris can be seen regularly on syndicated TV channels in segments of Charles West's Outdoor Gazette and on ESPN in Charles West's Backcountry. Mike is a contributing editor to *Fly Fisherman Magazine* and was a former editor of *The Flyfisher*. They currently spend most of their time fishing and producing The Inside Angler, a flyfishing newsletter that reports on the most productive public and private flyfishing destinations in the western north America.

Menu: Antipasto, salad, crab cioppino, bread and dessert. Wine and coffee will be served and a no-host bar will be provided.

Price: \$35 per person

Reservations: Send your name _____

phone number _____

number of attendees _____ x \$35

Make check payable to RRFF and send to: M. Major
1029 Jack London Ct.
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Send those checks in now (they will not be deposited until 1/15)

Marji Major, Events Chairperson

CLASSIFIED

8 Ft. Fiberglass Skiff (Columbia)

New oars and dolly

\$300

Call Scott @ (707) 527-9168

or E-mail slewis95407@msn.com

Scotty strong arm downrigger

model 1085 complete ... \$60

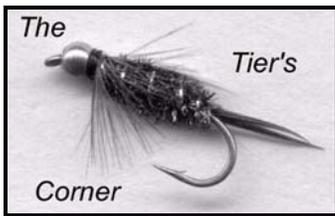
Midland C.B. radio 40 channel with Firestick antenna \$50

Call Fred Pedersen @ (707) 542-5296

Sage 7'-6" DS2 4 wt 2 pc Fly Rod

Pristine Condition \$120

Call Duncan Gasiewicz @ 431-1007



Attrac-Attack



Materials Needed:

- Hook: 37890 size 2 to 8
- Thread: Monofilament
- Eyes: Bead-chain
- Body: Diamond braid in pearl, red, orange, green
- Tail: Holographic pearl flash
- Wing: Holographic pearl flash
- Thorax: Chenille medium in red or orange

Tying Instructions:

1. Put hook in vise. Start thread at eye, wrap back to bend of hook. Tie in 1/2" length Holographic Flash. I take the full length and hang 1/2" inch out over bend of hook and make three wraps, Then bring the full length of flash out back of bend, tie down at tie in point, cutting the flash off same length as the original piece. Makes for a thicker tail.
2. Tie in Diamond Braid, wrap around hook shank, toward eye, keeping the wraps close together, stopping 2-1/2 eye lengths from eye. Tie off with three wrap whip tie or half hitches.
3. Tie in bead-chain eyes 2-1/2 eye length from eye. Take the chenille and wrap once around hook back of bead chain eyes, up and to the far side of hook around in back of eyes back through eyes to the right tiers side, back around behind eyes and up through and between eyes, tie off in front of eyes. Whip finish.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

Fly Tying Meetings!

Beginning January of 2002, the Club will be having a separate meeting for fly tiers on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the home of one of our members, Tom Campbell. The first meeting will begin at 6:00 PM, on January 23rd. Tiers should bring directional lamps as well as the usual paraphernalia. Normally this will be an informal tying session while occasionally class-like activities will be held. Any questions may be directed to Tom at 576-0284 or Terry Faris at 539-4354.

Directions

From 101 North, take the Guerneville Road-Steele Lane exit. Try to get in the center lane which makes a wide left turn (it will keep you out of the Coddington Mall traffic). Go west and eventually you will reach Fulton Road. This will be signaled by a stop light as well as the Rotten Robbie station on the far side of the road.

Continue straight ahead (west) for approximately .9 of a mile. Shortly after the sign "Willowside Meats" (right side of road), take a right turn onto Lupine Drive. The house is the second one on the left side. The address is 1475 Lupine Drive and the telephone number is 707-576-0284.

On-street parking is non-existent. There are two driveways on either side of the house. Either one is fine, but drive back as far as you can, so as to accommodate the most folks possible. Car pooling is encouraged.

Year 2002 Photo Contest

Back by popular demand, the RRFF Club will sponsor a photo contest for the year 2002! Deadline for submitting photos is December 31st, 2002. So you have a full year to work on those award winning pictures!

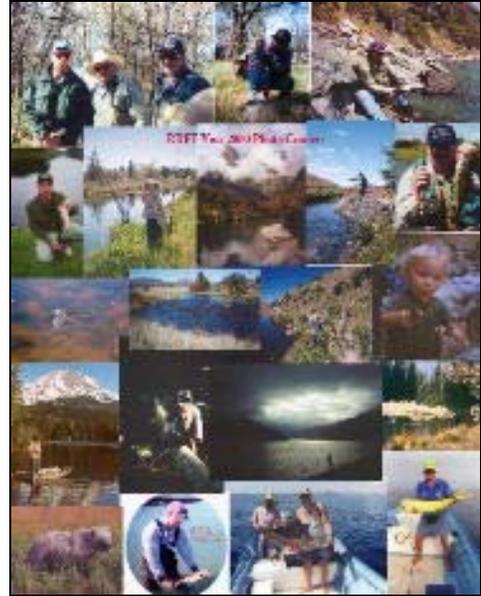


Photo Contest General Rules:

- Photos should be taken by club members or be a picture of club member taken by others
- Awards will be given for best overall picture ... most humorous picture ... and best fish picture ... with special recognition for a picture of a fish airborne
- When submitting photos ... be sure to include your name and a small caption about where the photo was taken or if for humorous category ... an appropriate comment
- For digital photos ... the jpg format is preferred
- Photos will be returned upon request
- If we end up with a lot of photos ... we may limit the number of entries per member (member can select best 6 of 10 for example)
- Winners will be selected by the membership at the Feb 2003 Dinner Meeting and announced in the March CAST
- Photos should be submitted to John Iding at club meetings or by e-mail at jfinet@vom.com
- Deadline for entries is December 31st 2002
- Photos submitted for contest may be used for the CAST at the editor's discretion (unless specifically requested otherwise)
- Most important rule Have fun

Membership

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

George Gittleman, Gary Hansen, Ralph Lassa, Jude Radeski, Walt Robinson and Ellie Trussell

If you would like a new membership card let me know. If you're planning on up to the Club's River access or Club Lake for piscatorial pursuits, you'll need one.

Tight Lines!

Rick Baker



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Mail for RFFF (and Dues)

Please note that the Club P.O. Box address is not collected daily or on any regular schedule. If you have timely correspondence or information for the CAST, please mail material directly to the member in charge, not to the Club P.O. Box address. If your check for dues has been returned ... please re-submit the checks ... we are having significant problems with the post office which we are working to resolve soon ... Thanks.

Members who use e-mail!

We are compiling a list of members with e-mail addresses to be used for club announcements. If you would like to be included on this list, send an e-mail message to Scott Lewis (slewis95407@msn.com). Scott will periodically send out an updated list to the group ... save the message and use it to 'reply to all' ... when you have an announcement for membership ... Editor

RFFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html or www.rfff.tsx.org

Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee.

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

Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- ___(Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- ___(Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- ___(Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- ___(Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- ___(Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
- ___(Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

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

The CAST

Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 27 Number 3 March 2002

For March 2002

Season Opener is Coming Up!

Meanderings: Steve Tubbs

Once again, brevity is the requirement. Since we did not publish a newsletter last month, John's return from New Zealand finds him awash with club information that he's attempting to include in this issue. I have only a few items to mention.

A well deserved round of applause to the board of directors for all of their work providing (and preparing) the February Dinner Meeting. Special "thanks" to the Event Chairperson's, Scotty Broome and Marji Major, who organized everything beautifully and to the all of the other RRFF members who assisted as well. As this event is covered elsewhere in this issue, I will say nothing more than "It was a great evening and I had a blast!" (That Cioppino was something else!)

Our next General Meeting is March 13 and features Jim Roberts. I understand

that Jim will be bringing us the view from the other end of our fly lines; with a show that features underwater photography and scenes from the fishes perspective. Sounds like an interesting evening, so please join us at 7:00 PM for the festivities. Fly tying begins at 6:00 PM.

I would like to extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of RRFF Life Member Ben Cummings, who passed away on Saturday, February 16, at the age of 92. Regretfully, I did not know Ben well. I remember him now from various club functions he attended in recent years, where I often had opportunity to speak with him. I remember his beautiful painting...specifically a river scene that he donated to the RRFF about 10 years ago for a special raffle. I learned, then, that Ben was a nationally known landscape artist. His contributions to our club were many, perhaps the most visible found in the RRFF Casting Pond

at Dan Galvin Park. Ben played a significant role in the design, fund-raising and building of that facility. His dedication and hard work is one of the reasons that our club is one of the strongest in Northern California. We will all miss him.

Take advantage of the weather, open those small windows of opportunity and hit our coastal rivers for some steelhead. The Russian, the Gualala, and the Garcia...the fish are there (in good number) and some are being caught. I've heard reports, but just can't seem to climb through the window myself yet. There is still time...

See you all on the 13th.



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

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Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

CAST by e-mail

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March General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Jim Roberts: Nymphing

Jim Roberts is a guide out of the Roseville area. He has developed a nymphing system that consistently works on any river. The presentation includes slides, handouts, and many opportunities for questions to increase retention of covered techniques. The presentation covers the following topics:

The importance of nymphs as a food source
Stream hydrodynamics
Insect concentrations at various depths of river
The Strike Zone
Tackle set up
Presentation

Wednesday, March 13th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Coming Events

March

Membership Meeting - 3/13
Board Meeting - 3/20
Fly Tying Meeting - 3/27
Casting Clinic Sundays - 12-2 pm

April

Membership Meeting - 4/10
Board Meeting - 4/17
Fly Tying Meeting - 4/24
Casting Clinic Sundays 12-2 pm
Club Season Opener (FUN!!!) - 4/25-28

A Note From Scotty...

For those of you who did not come to the dinner meeting on February 2nd, you really missed out on a grand affair...the raffle, speaker and dinner could not have been better! Larry Johnson was the big winner in the raffle, a \$500.00 float trip on the Klamath River. I've never seen so many great items on the raffle table: rods, reels, flies, trips and some great art. Steve Tubbs and Lee Smith put together one of the finest raffles we've had in years. The raffle was run by the e-board; "thanks" to all those who helped.

Joe Banovich did a great job getting Mike Fong and his wife, Chris, as our speaker. The pictures were fantastic! A special thanks goes out to Marji Major, for without her the job just doesn't get done. The cooking crew (Lee Smith, Dave Franzman, Dale Cheli, Nick Morello, Ken Magoon and Tim Reuling) put out some of the best Crab Cioppino I've ever had. Around a dozen or so calls have already come for the recipe. I would like to take credit for the sauce, but that goes to Lee Smith. "Great Job" to all and many thanks! Good food, great time, good speaker and fantastic raffle...and we made money! Mark your calendars and be there next year.

Okay, so you missed the dinner. You can't miss the **Opener. April 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th**, on **Hat Creek**, is the place to be for the trout opener. The club will put on the usual great show. We take over the Cassel Campground and fish Baum Lake on the 25th and 26th, then on Saturday it's off to Hat Creek and other waters for the trout opener. Look for directions in the April Cast. The club will provide food and campsites for the small fee of \$30.00 per person for the four days. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Thursday and Friday, with just lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast only on Sunday. Saturday morning the club supports the local Fireman's Breakfast in Cassel. The locals love to see us, and their breakfast is great! I would love to get a head count, so please call Scotty Broome (707-575-5993) or sign up at the next meeting.

Tight Lines, Scotty Broome

DISTANCE CASTING ACHIEVEMENT QUALIFIERS

60' CLUB

- #77. Mike Metzler (8Wt. SH) (6/2000)
- #78. Rick Jorgensen (10Wt. SH) (10/2001)

80' CLUB

- #73. Mike Metzler (8Wt. SH) (6/2000)
- #74. Rick Jorgensen (10Wt. SH) (10/2001)

100' CLUB

- #52. Mike Metzler (8Wt. SH) (6/2000)
- #53. Rick Jorgensen (10Wt. SH) (10/2001)

120' CLUB

- #31. Rick Jorgensen (10Wt. SH) (10/2001)
- #32. Leath Sanchez-Hoxie (10Wt. SH) (10/2001)

Hello again folks.

Please don't forget our casting pond is considered one of the top five in the country by two of our National and International casting champions. This is based on the quality of the pond, its superb setting and its super attractive surroundings. Come out and use it. In addition, everyone owes our outstanding Casting Pond Coordinator, Scotty Broome, a **BIG ONE** for successfully dealing with the dog problem. It no longer exists.

Beginning next month, I will once again begin to try to convince all of you that distance casting is just one more important level on your personal casting ability ladder and not a completely separate activity.

Bob Sisson Distance Casting Instructor

DINNER MEETING RAFFLE: Steve Tubbs

Our RRFF dinner meeting, held on February 2, was an outstanding success! Once again, we had approximately 90 members and guests who enjoyed a wonderful Crab Cioppino dinner, great camaraderie and perhaps the most impressive raffle I have ever seen at any RRFF event.

There are a number of people who donated items for this year's raffle and I would like to extend each of them my thanks on behalf of the Russian River Fly Fishers.

Ron Abbey	Dyna-King vise
Steven Bouchard	\$100.00 Cash Donation
Jim Cramer	JW Outfitters Pontoon Boat and a wrapped "Mystery gift"
Ken Elie (Outdoor Pro Shop)	3 - \$25.00 gift certificates to Outdoor Pro Shop
Christine Fong	Black & White Fine Art Print of the Trinity River (limited edition by Christine Fong)
Mike Fong	Beautiful wood fly box of Umpqua Flies and a 1-year subscription to Inside Angler newsletter
Paul Major	A fly box of beautifully hand-tied flies (by Paul) and a complete Shooting Head system
Bruce Slightom	Guided fishing trip on the Klamath River for two anglers
Fernando & Liz Tabor	Orvis Trident Fly Rod and an Elkhorn rod building (Fly Fishing, Etc.) kit
Steve Tubbs	Big Chief Electric Smoker

These were the items that were donated specifically for the dinner meeting in addition to the purchased raffle merchandise. Other items on the raffle table included: A Woodriver float tube, two Scott fly rods, two reels, gear bags, a rod tube, an Exstream water purifier and assorted fly fishing paraphernalia.

Again, thank you to everyone who generously donated to this event. Your generosity and support helped make this dinner meeting raffle one of our best ever. Additionally, I would like to thank Fly Fishing Etc., Outdoor Pro Shop and Western Sport Shop for all of the support and the discounts that they provide the RRFF for all of our raffles throughout the year.

SOME THOUGHTS ON INDICATOR FISHING: Paul Major

During a recent steelhead foray to the Trinity River, Steve Tubbs, Ernie Denison and I had some lively conversation on the subject of the use of indicators when fishing nymphs. Ernie Denison, for those who don't know him, is The Fly Shop's senior guide and is widely held to be one of the best fishermen ever to pick up a fly rod. Ernie is also a rock-ribbed, foursquare, etc., proponent of indicator fishing and has done as much as anyone to develop and refine the technique to the current state of the art. He's also the guy who taught me how.

What started the conversation wasn't any question on our part about whether or not to use indicators; if you're fishing with Ernie you WILL be fishing indicators, period, end of discussion. (Although if you wanted to shell out three-fifty a day to disregard the advice of the best guide in Northern California, I suppose he'd be willing to just shut up, row the boat, and let you fish any way you chose...). We were discussing the fact that the guides from the Trinity River Fly Shop do not and will not use indicators. It seems to be almost a matter of principle or doctrine for them. To me that seems odd, although I have over the years met more than a few flyfishers who were similarly doctrinaire about various ways of presenting flies to trout. I suppose it goes back as far as the nineteenth century English chalkstream orthodoxy that the dry fly presented upstream to sighted fish was the only "proper" way to fish. I still know a couple of guys who are adamant that "If I can't catch 'em on a dry I don't want to catch 'em"; and I also know a few who, to paraphrase James Thurber, would "As likely Simonize their Grandmother" as be found fishing with an indicator tied to their flyline, no "bobber fishing" for them by god!

Now, I must say that I would much rather take fish on the surface with a dry fly or just below the surface with a cripple or emerger and no split shot on the line to impede the grace and beauty of the aerial cast. But I also like to hook fish, and the reality is that the occasions when fish are feeding at the surface are relatively infrequent, (some say as little as ten percent of trout diet involves insects on or at the surface), and therefore most of the fish to be taken must be taken on sunken flies, one way or another.

So now we're fishing sunken flies, let's use the term "nymph" generically, about ninety percent of the time and we're looking for the most effective way to present these nymphs, right? I have always been given to understand that most nymphs are taken by trout while the bugs are in a "drift" mode low in the water column, i.e., when the nymph, having come adrift from whatever they've been clinging to, is simply at the mercy of the current, usually pretty close to the bottom. This is the state of "dead drift" that we hear so much about and that we're urged to simulate with our presentation.

Which brings me to my most important point; which is that indicators are often thought of as just a thingy that allows us to "see" a "bite" when the trout takes our fly, just a "bobber", as it were. Sure, the visual indication of a take is a cool deal, but I really believe that perhaps a more important function of a properly rigged indicator is that it allows the closest thing to a perfect dead drift and, properly managed, and incredibly long dead drift.

So what do I mean when I say “properly rigged” and “properly managed”...? Well, properly rigged is easy; I use the common “ninety-degree” rig, which consists of three feet of leader butt material (I use .021”), which terminates in a “puffball” indicator of polypro yarn in the color of your choice. Just above the indicator attach your tippet (usually 3X or 4X) by simply using an improved clinch knot around the leader butt. From this heavier tippet, go to about 18” of 1X lighter tippet to which you attach your lead fly. Off the bend of the lead fly tie another 18” of lighter tippet, which terminates in the dropper fly if desired (which it almost always is). The overall length of this rig, from the indicator, should usually be at least a foot or two longer than the depth of the water you’ll be fishing; on the lower Sac the dropper fly ends up about eight feet below the indicator.

“Properly managed” is not so simple; to present nymphs dead drift below an indicator is at least as demanding of technique as is presenting a perfectly drag-free dry fly. Mending is the name of the game and by that I don’t mean throw it out there, mend once and forget it. A good drift requires that the leader butt and fly line remain essentially directly up-current from the indicator and exert NO pull or drag whatsoever. That indicator should be floating on the current as though it were a free-floating piece of flotsam not attached to anything at all. Done right it’s quite possible to achieve a fifty to sixty-foot drift when wading, and more than a fly line’s worth from a boat (although with your indicator a hundred feet down stream achieving a hook set is another matter entirely).

Achieving these long perfect drifts requires some fast and fancy mending and line-feeding techniques. Forget the usual broad arc movement so often seen; all that will do is cause the indicator to jerk and ruin your drift. You’ve got to be able to send line out forty or fifty feet without moving the indicator and that’s done with what the good guys call a “power mend”. Adequately describing a power mend in words is beyond me, as close as I can come is to say that the rod arm and shoulder are lifted high with the rod held almost horizontal. The casting stroke is short, almost a “thrust” of the rod accompanied by a quick “haul” with the line hand.

Done right this will throw a rolling loop of slack line out fifty or sixty feet allowing you to feed line directly up-current from an indicator that’s twenty or thirty feet cross current from your position. I’ve been working on this for over ten years and I’d call myself just about adequate at it...I still get hollered at by the guides...”mendit, mendit, too much drag...”, but not as often as I used to.

Bottom line, as it were, it’s possible that some of those who slander and demean indicator fishing as “bobber fishing” or “cheating” may be those who have not learned what it’s really about. I’ve found indicator fishing, done right, to be extremely demanding technically, and certainly more productive of tight lines than almost any other approach. When I’m fishing small pocket-water streams I’ll just high-stick and/or use a bit of strike putty, and on larger water like Fall River or Hat Creek when there’s an active emergence in progress I love to fish nymphs on the swing with long leaders and one tiny split shot, but on medium to large water, most of the time, the dead-drift indicator game is the best game in town.

THE ROD IS A REAL SHOCKER

(Reprinted from the Gordon’s Quill, the newsletter of the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. of New York..... Bob Sisson).

The weather forecast called for afternoon rain and possible thunderstorms, bass fishing got slower as the front approached and we heard a faint roll of thunder in the distance.

As clouds began to build, I became aware of a strange squeaking sound that continued to grow in volume until I finally stopped fishing and searched for the source.

The strange sound turned out to be coming from my graphite rod as I held it high for the cast. I twitched the rod back and forth and was able to make the rod sing a squeaky tune.

The incident was discussed with Major Austin Chapelle, a physics instructor and a consultant to the Navy in Electromagnetics. “You guys came pretty close. Those graphite rods were acting as lightning rods since they are good electrical conductors,” he told them.

“The squeaking noise was produced by charges building up on the rods that caused the rotation of dipolar molecules of the graphite fibers. The fibers were being physically moved by the electromagnetic field developing around the rod,” Chapelle said.

“Electrical charges were building in the clouds and, as the high point on the water surface, you were gradually developing an opposite charge. Some of the charges were leaking off the rod – that is why Chad felt a shock when he touched his reel. If the clouds had built up a strong electric field, electricity would have been discharged from the sky to the water through a path of least resistance, which would have been you. This high voltage could have killed you with no lightning ever striking anyone.”

Major Chapelle advises fishermen to lay their boron and graphite rods on the bottom of the boat to maintain a low profile as you quickly (with a lot of emphasis on quickly) get off the water.

For those of you that have graphite rods, if your dipolar molecules begin to rotate, remember the emphasis is on “quick” before Mother Nature lights up your life in the worst way.

IN MEMORY

Ben Cummings has left us and gone to a better place. Ben and I along with other club members went to many very neat places and had many neat experiences. Memories flood back.

The time, on a club outing, when Ben's rubber boat was pulled up on the shore at Indian Valley Lake, sat in the sun for a while and exploded. This was the same rubber boat that Ben and I had hauled to Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana in the back of my little yellow Volvo wagon. Ben painted from 35MM slides and took a photo of me in his rubber boat on the Bighorn. When he did the painting the rubber boat became a wooden rowboat, artists license in the extreme..

Ben and I were both early members of the RRFF, our first close contact came when Ben announced at a meeting that he was looking for a backpacking companion to traverse the Tehipite Valley. I'd never heard of it, but I approached Ben and said I was interested. He looked at me sternly and said " HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HEART ATTACK" He almost gave me one, but I confessed that up to that point I had been lucky. Imagine, he was about 18 years older than I.. The trip was planned and I found out that the Tehipite Valley traverses the Middle Fork of the King's River and is the most remote valley in the Sierra., about 65 miles from entrance to exit. It isn't quite as grand as Yosemite, but similar and without people. At the time we walked it, July 1979, only about 50 people a year did so and due to the low traffic the Forest Service had given up on maintaining the trails. It was full of rattlers and bears. Our cars were 135 miles apart by road when we started.

We fished, hiked and camped in many other beautiful places; our own Russian River, the Gualala, Garcia, Klamath, Trinity, Thousand Lakes Wilderness, Yellow Creek, Fall River, McCloud, the Pit River, Hat Creek, and more remotely, Pyramid Lake, the Madison, Yellowstone, Big Horn and Snake rivers come to mind, surely many do not come to mind at this moment.

Ben is the father of our casting pond. He worked tirelessly along with some other RRFF heroes, to get the city to allocate the land, do the design, help with the fundraisers, donate paintings for the auctions, get his friend Mr. Millerick, Sonoma Counties marvelous woodcarver, to do the excavation and landscaping.

The casting pond at Galvin Park is an eternal memorial to Ben Cummings. We are so fortunate to have it, but even more fortunate to have had Ben.

Ciao for now, old friend, Charlie Schelter

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Scotty strong arm downrigger
model 1085 complete ... \$60
Midland C.B. radio 40 channel with Firestick antenna \$50
Call Fred Pedersen @ (707) 542-5296

Help Wanted Preserving "The Cast" Newsletter Archives

Membership

RRFF Life Member Bob Sisson has compiled the nearest thing we have to a complete record of *The Cast*, our monthly newsletter. His collection spans the last 2 1/2 years and accounts for almost every issue that has been published. Bob has volunteered his time to help someone transfer this collection to a computer so that these documents can be safely stored on CD and made available as a reference source for the Board of Directors.

If you would like a new membership card let me know. If you're planning on up to the Club's River access or Club Lake for the Board of Directors you will need one. The Board of Directors has given Bob an honorary board position as Director of *The Cast* Archives. If you have the time, computer skills and a scanner, Bob would like your help. There are approximately 2,000 pages that will need to be scanned and indexed in order to successfully transfer *The Cast* to computer. Bob does not have computer experience, but wishes to be involved in the transfer of the documents. These newsletters are an important resource and our only historical record of club activities. Information from past newsletters proved very valuable when dealing with the recent Dog Park and Casting Pond issues.

If you have an interest in helping with this project, please contact Steve Tubbs (707-765-1787) for more information.

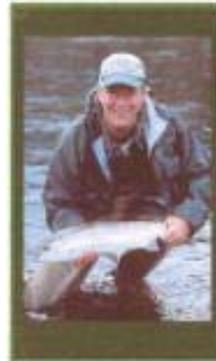


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4841 Cummings Road
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cheryls@humboldt1.com

Members who use e-mail!

We are compiling a list of members with e-mail addresses to be used for club announcements. If you would like to be included on this list, send an e-mail message to Scott Lewis (slewis95407@msn.com). Scott will periodically send out an updated list to the group ... save the message and use it to 'reply to all' ... when you have an announcement for membership ... Editor

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html or www.rrff.tsx.org

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

Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

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



Volume 27 Number 4 April 2002

For April 2002

Season Opener at Hat Creek!

Meanderings: Steve Tubbs

I love it! The days are getting longer, the trees are budding...spring is once again painting Sonoma County green as winter seemingly slips out the back door. In only a few weeks, Daylight Savings Time will be back...and my favorite time of year will officially invite me to don shorts and sandals as another trout season looms on the horizon.

The Russian River Fly Fishers Trout Season Opener at Hat Creek

PG&E Campground – Cassel, California.

If you're a regular...just start nodding your head in agreement with what I'm about to write. If you're new to the RRFF, or just haven't yet made that commitment to attend the Opener (thinking "maybe next year"), now's the time to quit procrastinating and to treat yourself to what is surely the "social fishing outing of the season".

A few years ago, this wasn't as big a deal. The hardy "regulars" would show up on Thursday evening, set up camp and celebrate into the wee hours providing the "storm of storms" wasn't creating havoc overhead. Enter "the culinary arts of Mr. Scotty Broome"! Now "**The Opener**" has hit the big time (deserving bold type face) and the last few years have found it getting

bigger...and bigger...until now it starts on Wednesday evenings and the crowd generally takes up an entire loop at the Cassel PG&E Campground (with the overflow spilling well into the adjacent loop). But what a party! Sure it's a social event...sure the fishing will likely be much better a month later...but where else can you spend time with such an outstanding group of people and just enjoy being together?

If you're new to fly fishing...don't worry! This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of some of the truly talented members of this club and to learn anything from the basics to some of the more sophisticated techniques. Everyone's relaxed and celebrating the beginning of a new trout season...and very willing to lend a hand or mentor a novice in the sport. And the food! Each year the menu grows...Scotty always pushes the limits of gourmet meals prepared over open flame and charcoal briquettes. You will not go hungry! And, at \$30.00 per person for the weekend – which includes your camping and meals for Thursday, Friday, Saturday (excluding breakfast) and Sunday morning – you could not ask for a better deal.

Decide now...contact Scotty...tell him "This year I'm coming to the Opener!" Bring your camping gear, be prepared for all weather contingencies (it can snow, sleet, pour buckets, blow your tent down and be 85 degrees the following

day!) and consider a flotation device (float tube, pontoon boat, pram, small boat, canoe...) if you're planning to fish Baum Lake on Thursday and Friday. Trout Season opens on Saturday, April 27 (after breakfast at the Cassel Volunteer Fire Department, of course). Bring a folding chair if you want to be comfortable around the campfire and bring your own "poison" if you're really planning to test your limits. You won't regret being part of this event.

April General Meeting – Nelson Ishiyama, Henry's Fork Lodge

This month's RRFF General Meeting brings us a treat! Please join us Wednesday, April 10, for a presentation by Nelson Ishiyama, proprietor of the Henry's Fork Lodge on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. Nelson will be speaking of the magnificent trout fishing opportunities in Eastern Idaho. This should be a great show. Many of you may have spoken with Nelson at the San Mateo or San Rafael Fly Fishing Shows this year and he is a sought-after speaker on the Bay Area fly fishing club circuit. If you've never been to his area of the country, definitely stop by and see some of the legendary trout waters of the west.

Board of Directors – Elections in May

Election time is here again, and as always we're looking for some new blood to infuse the board of directors

with energy and brilliance. Some of us have been on the board a long time (Paul Major and I both attended a RRFF board meeting – and were assigned jobs - before our first General Meeting...even before we had officially joined the RRFF). Good ol' Dwight.

Seriously, there is no better way to experience this club and to get the most out of your membership than by serving on the board of directors. It doesn't take a vast amount of time, we meet once a month (usually the week after the General Meeting) and, depending on the job you've selected, will require maybe a few additional hours of preparation each month to keep your duties running smoothly. Some of my best friends and favorite fishing partners are people I've met on this board of directors.

If you would like to give back something to the RRFF, or get "the biggest bang for your buck", volunteer to serve on the

board. The official ballot will be printed in the May Cast. Talk to any of the board members, give them your name and tell them you would like to help out. They will make sure your name gets on the ballot. Each board member serves a two-year term, except the President and Vice President who are elected yearly.

Video Library

So you would like to help out, but are afraid you don't have enough time to serve on the board? How about this? Susan Bennett has served the last two years as our Video Librarian and has turned in her ledger...it's time for someone else to step up and bring that stuff to our General Meetings! It's a great resource...and only requires that you keep track of who's borrowed what...(and occasionally hunt them down if they forget to return it!). What could be easier? Susan did a terrific job (thank you again, Susan) but we need a

new volunteer! Please contact me if you would like to help out.

And that's it! I'm sure there are a few other things that I should have mentioned, but I trust that the rest of the BOD to pick up what's left. The steelhead season's winding down and another season of trout is around the corner. The shad should be nosing around before long, and the bass will soon be on their beds and terrorizing the shallows! What a great time of year...so many prospects...anticipation building with every sun-filled day...I can't help but feel excited! (And then there's those tarpon this May...)

See you all on April 10.



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2001/2002 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787) steve@kresky.com

Secretary: Marji Major (539-5437)

Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)

Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116) jfinet@vom.com

Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)

Youth Activities: Shawn Montoya (763-1489)

Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)

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Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)

Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)

Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)

Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)

Membership Coordinator: Rick Baker (545-8860)

Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is now available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. I notice that several of you are on our e-mail list but have not tried the CAST by e-mail ... try it ... you'll be glad you did. The Editor

A Word From Our VP: Rick Baker

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the our new members Richard Hunter, Timothy McCallister, Jon & Joyce Petri and Michael Regan.

There are some fantastic people in this organization who truly love this sport and who work very hard to ensure the success of your club. I would recommend that, to achieve the full benefit of your membership, you become an active participant and possibly volunteer on the Board of Directors; or actively participate in the various

programs that the club sponsors. There is no better way to meet our members and to experience the many aspects that make the RRRFF such a dynamic group of fly fishing enthusiasts.

If you are a new member and have not received a welcome packet either at the Monthly General Meeting or via mail; feel free to contact me so that I can get one to you promptly.

On a different note; join us at the Eighth Annual Fly Fishing Fair being held by the Western Sport Shop in Santa Rosa on May 4th from 10:00 a.m-4:00p.m.

The club will have a table set up for this event to meet the public and promote the club to the general community. Stop by and say Hi. The event promises to be a fun time with fly-casting demonstrations, rod manufacture rep's, and a large raffle that I hear is superb.

Hopefully I will be able to get from under a mound of paperwork to see everyone at the Club Opener at Hat Creek. As Scotty mentioned at the meeting last month, it is an event that welcomes all levels of fly fishers. So until then.... Tight Lines!

April General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Fishing the Henry's Fork Area

The Henry's Fork is famous for the miles of spring creek fishing stretching from Last Chance through the Railroad Ranch and down to Henry's Fork Lodge. It's also deservedly famous for the abundant and well fed rainbows of the rugged Box Canyon. Those are the places that made the Henry's Fork the #1 river in the U.S. in a recent survey of Trout Unlimited's membership.

Did you know that those stretches are only about 1/4 of the good fishing water on the Henry's Fork? The river has miles of outstanding lesser known water, much of it lightly fished, and all with wild trout. With at least 50 miles of quality water and 10 different sections to float, the entire Henry's Fork is known to only a few anglers. It offers a variety of water – from spring creek flats to bouldery canyon water and braided cottonwood river bottoms – that is likely unmatched by any other river in the country. Even the guides and locals are just beginning to learn about parts of the river that have long been overlooked.

Nelson Ishiyama will show us the where's and how-to's of the Henry's Fork, including some of those out-of-the-way places. We will also visit some of the other rivers in the Henry's Fork/Yellowstone area and have a look at Henry's Fork Lodge

Wednesday, April 10th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Coming Events

April

Membership Meeting - 4/10
Board Meeting - 4/17
Fly Tying Meeting - 4/24
Opener - 4/25-28
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm after Daylight
Savings Time

May

Membership Meeting - 5/8
Board Meeting - 5/15
Fly Tying Meeting - 5/22
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm
Annual Picnic - 6/15

Casting Pond

With Daylight Savings Time beginning in early April, it's time to once again start the Thursday afternoon casting sessions. This is a great opportunity to learn to cast if you are new to the sport, or to just improve your casting. The pond is in good shape, so let's use it! Times tend to vary a little, but generally someone will be there between 4 pm and 6 pm. The Editor

Picnic's A Coming

Saturday June 15 from 11 am to 4 pm

BBQ served from noon to 1 pm ... family fun Free food and drinks ... raffle ... friendly casting competitions ... we can use some volunteers so please call or contact Marji Major.

Greetings from Arch

Hi Friends! Well, Gayle and I have finally settled into our new home (kinda.) I wanted to let the club members know where I am.

My new address is:

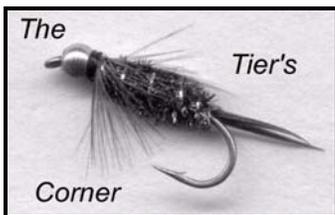
William (Bill) Archuleta
Archuleta's Reel Works
733 Detrick Dr.
Grants Pass, OR 97527

Phones:

Home (541) 956-9191
Business (541) 956-1691
FAX (541) 955-6663
Toll Free (888) 332-7335

I haven't been able to get an e-mail address yet, so please use Gayle's which is "gaylearchuleta@hotmail.com". I'll let you know when I have one of my own. Hope to see you at "Openers."

-arch-



Llama Baby



Materials Needed:

- Hook: 8 to 7/0 (pictured fly was tied on a size 6)
- Thread: Clear mono sewing thread
- Eyes: Adhesive holographic ¼ to 5/16
- Body: Llama and polarfiber
- Wing: Holographic pearl flash
-

Tying Instructions:

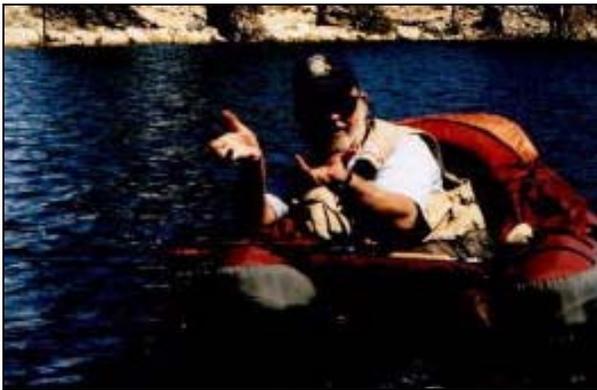
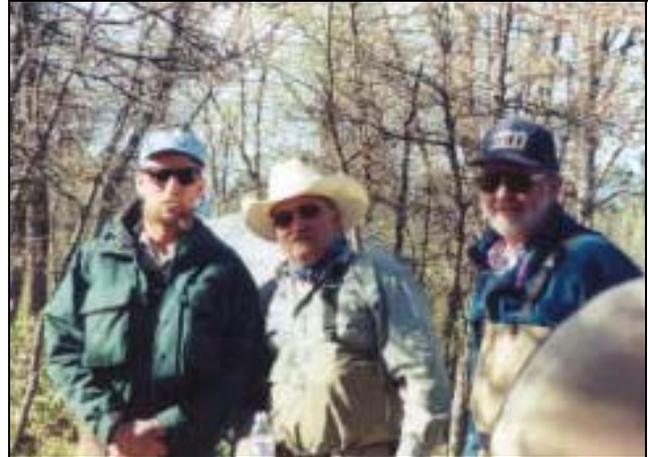
The method I used is a double wire base with the material pinched or spun between the wire into a dubbed brush. Starting just at the hook bend, tie in dubbed "brush", brushing material toward the back of the fly as you continually wrap the "brush" forward toward the eye. Stop one eye length behind the eye of the hook, tie off and cement wraps. Put a dab of Pearl colored E-Z Shape Sparkle Body on the back of one of the holographic eyes. Attach the back of the eye to a toothpick, turn the eye facing you and attach eye to the fly a hair length up from the center of the hook and back of the eye of the hook one holographic eye length. Put your finger on the holographic eye and slide the toothpick from behind the eye. Do the same with the other eye, being careful not to move the other eye on the other side. Put a little E-Z Sparkle Body on the threads at the head of the fly. The beauty of this fly is that if it is too long, just pull material off the back end until you get it to where the fish like it!

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

Fly Tying Meetings Every 3rd Weds of the Month

If you are interested in participating in the tying meetings, all you have to do is go! The meetings are informal and lots of fly tying and chatting goes on. If you are new to tying, it's a great way to watch and learn and to get some hands on experience. We have some great tiers in the club, and they are always willing to share their expertise. If you are interested, contact either Terry Faris (539-4354) or Tom Campbell (576-0284).

**Remembering Past Openers
Don't Miss This Year's!**



Year 2002 Photo Contest

Spring is here and it's time to get the cameras out and take some photos for the Year 2002 RRFF Photo Contest! Submitted pictures will be posted on the Club web page for viewing. Deadline for submitting photos is December 31st, 2002. So you have a full year to work on those award winning pictures!

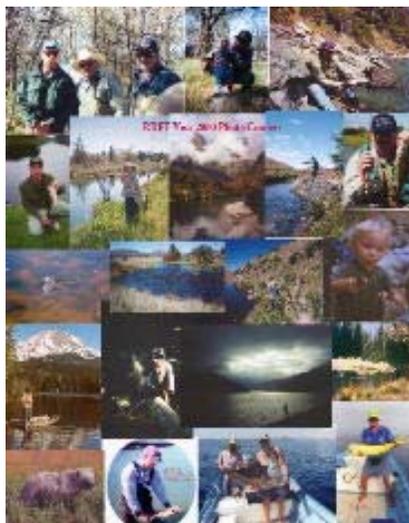


Photo Contest General Rules:

- Photos should be taken by club members or be a picture of club member taken by others
- Awards will be given for best overall picture ... most humorous picture ... and best fish picture ... with special recognition for a picture of a fish airborne
- When submitting photos ... be sure to include your name and a small caption about where the photo was taken or if for humorous category ... an appropriate comment
- For digital photos ... the jpg format is preferred
- Photos will be returned upon request
- If we end up with a lot of photos ... we may limit the number of entries per member (member can select best 6 of 10 for example)
- Winners will be selected by the membership at the Jan 2003 Dinner Meeting and announced in the Feb CAST
- Photos should be submitted to John Iding at club meetings or by e-mail at jfinet@vom.com
- Deadline for entries is December 31st 2002
- Photos submitted for contest may be used for the CAST at the editor's discretion (unless specifically requested otherwise)
- Most important rule Have fun and take lots of pictures!

Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

CLASSIFIED

Sage 7'-6" DS2 4 wt 2 pc Fly Rod
Pristine Condition \$120
Call Duncan Gasiewicz @ 431-1007

Scotty strong arm downrigger
model 1085 complete ... \$60
Midland C.B. radio 40 channel with Firestick antenna \$50
Call Fred Pedersen @ (707) 542-5296

Help Wanted Preserving "The Cast" Newsletter Archives

RRFF Life Member Bob Sisson has compiled the nearest thing we have to a complete record of *The Cast*, our monthly newsletter. His collection spans the last 24 ½ years and accounts for almost every issue that has been published. Bob has volunteered his time to help someone transfer this collection to a computer so that these documents can be safely stored on CD and made available as a reference source for the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has given Bob an honorary board position as Director of *The Cast* Archives. If you have the time, computer skills and a scanner, Bob would like your help. There are approximately 2,000 pages that will need to be scanned and indexed in order to successfully transfer *The Cast* to computer. Bob does not have computer experience, but wishes to be involved in the transfer of the documents. These newsletters are an important resource and our only historical record of club activities. Information from past newsletters proved very valuable when dealing with the recent Dog Park and Casting Pond issues.

If you have an interest in helping with this project, please contact Steve Tubbs (707-765-1787) for more information.



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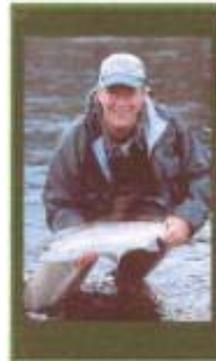


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Members who use e-mail!

We are compiling a list of members with e-mail addresses to be used for club announcements. If you would like to be included on this list, send an e-mail message to Scott Lewis (slewis95407@msn.com). Scott will periodically send out an updated list to the group ... save the message and use it to 'reply to all' ... when you have an announcement for membership ... Editor

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html or www.rrff.tsx.org
Have you looked at the web site recently? Check it out ... Scottie has done a great job!

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
 (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
 (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
 (Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
 (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal year's dues.
Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

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

The CAST

Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 27 Number 5 May 2002

For May 2002

June Picnic Coming Up!

Meanderings: Steve Tubbs

Well, the 2002 Opener is past, fitfully ending another season of trout anticipation with the warm promise of the real thing...our annual "call to action". Ushered in by cold winds, sleet, rain and occasional patches of sunshine, Saturday's trout homage and "kick-off" party found well over 50 RRFF members and their guests huddled around the campfire, vying for a dry spot under tarpaulin roofs or simply "waterproofed" in waders and rain jackets as they recounted the days events. It was a good thing Scotty and Lee had enough foresight to bring the canopy, as its shelter at least provided a dry staging area for the culinary adventures they had planned for our stay. The wind blew, the rain fell and the temperatures dropped. And yet...listening to the tales, seeing the smiling faces, noting the dancing eyes and the sunny dispositions peaking out from those layers of fleece, Gore-Tex and neoprene...one knew that weather was not a factor. No one was here for the weather. Another trout season had descended upon us and we basked in the splendor of its promise.

Are you saying, "Good thing I skipped it this year. Sounds as if everyone was cold and wet and the conditions were horrible!?" Let me recount some of the highlights.

When Nick and I arrived on Wednesday evening, there were already over 20 chairs circling the campfire and ample

(very cheerful and only a little "unsteady") assistance to help us with our tent-pitching chores. The drive up had been beautiful, as had the day in the Cassel area we were told, and the full moon lit up the campsite as we noted absolutely clear skies overhead. It was shorts and t-shirt weather! I personally rejoiced, those clothing items being my preferred wardrobe and having a prominent place in what I had packed for this outing. We got organized, greeted those we hadn't seen for a time (Arch, Cowboy, Dick Betts...) as well as those we share this sport with every month, mixed some favorite libations and made plans for the morning assault of Baum Lake.

The morning breakfast was a tribute to American cooking – a cholesterol feast of sausage, bacon, potatoes and eggs that gave new definition to the term "heartly". Clear skies beckoned and the breakfast crowd took care of business quickly. Before long, Nick and I were the only one's left at camp – waiting for my parents to arrive from Arcata to join us. Throughout the morning and afternoon, we directed traffic as more RRFF members rolled in. Thursday evening's barbecued rib dinner, featuring Lee Smith's outstanding homemade dippin' sauce, fed nearly 35 eager mouth's – some of which were also engaged in the tale-telling of the day's good dry fly fishing on Baum Lake and of similar exploits at Bidwell Ranch. A few of us held counsel into the late hours of another (nearly clear) night, but by the time the lanterns were

extinguished, high clouds were already dimming the moonlight. Sometime in the early morning, sleet pummeled our tent as lightening flashed and the distant rumbling of thunder answered. One forgets how loud that can be when you're camping. I began to wonder about shorts and t-shirts...

Not to be daunted, Friday morning still found me clad in "island wear" although it was easily 15 degrees cooler than the day before. We replenished our low cholesterol levels with another hearty American breakfast and made a dash for the lake under "partly sunny skies" (note the optimism). The boat launch was crowded with RRFF members. Paul Major and Dick Betts managed to get on the water first and proceeded straight to a "double hook-up" that inspired a little more haste in the rest of us. Nick and I launched our canoe and proceeded through the thick weed beds to the tulle island (after a brief excursion down to the dam and back). The water levels were lower than in previous years. We finally anchored off of rising fish and spent a fun afternoon dry fly fishing – Nick landing a nice rainbow of about 16" (that jumped a number of times) and a smaller one while I did almost the same thing with a couple of nice browns. We missed numerous other strikes as well, so by the time the wind came up (around 2:00 PM) and curtailed the rising trout, we felt good about our exploits. Nick was especially pleased in that he had finally caught his first Hat Creek/Baum Lake fish on a dry fly.

By Friday evening's barbecued chicken, potato salad and hot pot of beans (followed by an assortment of pies) feast, our ranks had swelled to more than 50. Light sprinkles and cold winds teased us as the campfire grew to a couple of rows deep. I went in search of my sweatpants, reluctantly retiring my shorts and sandals for Micro-fleece and heavy wool socks. It was getting cold. Our group continued to grow as the evening progressed.

By Saturday morning, nearly every level spot in our loop at the PG&E campground sported a tent and cars were sandwiched into the parking areas and in every pullout nearby. We descended (in waves) on the Cassel Volunteer Fire Department pancake breakfast; Leslie, Nick, my parents and I assured repeatedly that there was no food left as we made our way to breakfast. When we found our way back to camp there were only a few people remaining. As the day was a bit blustery, quite chilly and rain looked imminent, I decided to take our group on a tour of the fishing access points along Hat Creek before ending up ultimately at Powerhouse 2, where Nick wanted to revisit the "toilet bowl" below the powerhouse. I thought it might be nice to walk the west side of Hat Creek afterward, starting from the powerhouse parking lot. That way, at least if the fishing conditions proved miserable we would have a nice hike along the river.

We arrived at the "toilet bowl" around noon, and Nick proceeded to catch 4 fish in the space of about 45 minutes, the largest of which was a beautiful 18" brown trout that I thankfully managed to net (I know, I know...please allow me a little vindication for last year's "whopper brown trout mishap"!).

Feeling good...we hiked off down river as the wind formed white caps that moved upstream to greet us. We got as far as Carbon Bridge without any

prospects that looked tempting enough to consider actually fishing. As the afternoon skies darkened under threatening clouds, we decided to go see Burney Falls and Burney Creek, as none of us were familiar with that area. It proved to be a beautiful way to conclude the afternoon; the falls were quite spectacular and although the rain finally did come, it held off long enough for us to enjoy that unique area.

It was raining hard by dinnertime, but the rib-eye steak, mashed potatoes and gravy and coleslaw celebration that awaited us was not hampered by the fact that most of us had to stand to consume it. Thankfully, the heavy rains passed quickly and the rest of the evening and night brought only light showers before the temperatures dropped further as the skies began to clear. Sunday morning was misty as the early sun rose. It was evident that most of the storm had passed during the night.

After Sunday morning's traditional Mexican breakfast of chorizo, egg and potato burritos (thanks to Carlos Tamayo – we missed you this year!), doctored with virtually everything that was left over from the various meals of the past days, most of the club members broke camp and headed home - or for a last shot at a favorite location before a later departure. We fished the shore of Baum Lake for a few hours, taunted continuously by rising fish that were just out of our reach, before taking our leave. Sunday was beautiful...considerably milder weather-wise and getting more so as we drove south that afternoon. The fresh snow at Lassen was a final reminder of the unsettled conditions that had characterized much of the weekend.

And that was it...from my perspective, anyway. There are at least 50 other versions and the same number of different experiences. But when all was done, everyone I spoke with had a great time and was glad that they had braved

the conditions to join us. Each year our Opener seems to start a little bit earlier and get a little bit bigger. That anticipation captures more of us and draws us north. If you missed it, you missed a shining example of the camaraderie that makes any good club worthwhile.

I would like to thank a few people for their outstanding contributions to this year's Opener. Scott Broome and Lee Smith, for organizing the menus and overseeing the transport and set-up of everything that was needed for this event...Bill Archuleta, for acting as treasurer and taking care of all of the financial concerns associated with 50-plus people camping together...Rick "Cowboy" Norris, for providing all of the firewood...Joe Craig for bringing Jackie, who took over the kitchen on the final days and really got things cooking...Tim Reuling for bringing a bunch of wine for all of us...and to everyone in attendance who helped with the cooking and clean-up after each meal and provided the experiences that helped make this event such a success. It is a pleasure sharing these times with all of you. We truly have some great club members.

Please join us Wednesday, May 8th for our next General Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Building. For all of our new members, hopefully Rick will have your membership packets ready and your nametags prepared. We've had 20 new members join the RRFF in just the last two months and, as a result, we're a little bit behind. Also, please remember to turn your ballots in for the Board of Directors elections this month...you can bring them to the meeting if you wish.

Let's go fishing...

Steve Tubbs



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2001/2002 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787) steve@kresky.com
Secretary: Marji Major (539-5437)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)
Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)
Youth Activities: Shawn Montoya (763-1489)
Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)
Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (535-0331)
Vice President: Rick Baker (545-8860)
Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)
Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)
Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)
Membership Coordinator: Rick Baker (545-8860)
Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)
Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)
Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is now available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. I notice that several of you are on our e-mail list but have not tried the CAST by e-mail ... try it ... you'll be glad you did. The Editor

May General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

DAVE SIMMONS Shad Fishing

Dave Simmons is a lifelong outdoorsman with an expertise in both fly fishing and fly tying. Dave lives on the banks of the Sacramento River near Orland and guides throughout Northern California, providing services in either his 21' Jetcraft or his 17' driftboat. Dave's career as a guide spans over 20 years, while his love affair with fly fishing has existed for over 30 years. As a master teacher, Dave gives seminars on casting, tying and fishing flies. As a featured guest speaker and fly tier, Dave appears at International Sportsmen's Expositions and Fly Fishing Federation Conclaves throughout California. Dave offers proven techniques, that catch fish! A devoted professional, Dave has served on the Fly Fishing Federation's instructor advisory committee since 1993. Dave's pro staff positions include Thomas & Thomas Flyrods, Umpqua Feather Merchants(contract tier), Ross Reels, and Simms Fishing Products. When not actually fishing, Dave's favorite activity is talking about fishing. He is happy to talk fishing with you at any time, and his sportfishing tips for American Shad, King Salmon, Steelhead, Striped Bass, and Trophy Rainbows are always fun, informative and exciting!

Wednesday, May 8th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm
The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Vet's Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Santa Rosa, CA

Coming Events

May

Membership Meeting - 5/8
Board Meeting - 5/15
Fly Tying Meeting - 5/22
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

June

Membership Meeting - 6/12
Board Meeting - 6/19
Fly Tying Meeting - 6/26
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm
Annual Picnic - 6/15
Season Closer - 10/11-13th

Picnic's A Coming

Saturday June 15 at Casting Pond from 11 am to 4 pm

Free BBQ, free beverages, family fun! BBQ served noon to one. Come on out and enjoy the afternoon seen. Bring your own chair. Bring your family and kids. Bring a lawn game to share. Reservations not necessary but if you let me know how many are coming, we can plan a better picnic. Call me ... Marji Major 529-5437 evenings.

New Members

I would like to welcome the following new members:

Dick & Linda Aal, LJ & Jazzper Denney, Dean Garzot, Roger Hull, David Jones, Wally LeBaron, Evgeny Piperskih, Mike Toupin, James Batchelder, David King, Don Price, Mike Davis, Ed Hudson, Larry Kovi, Jeff Price; and the Marroquin Family; Jose, Carmen, Agustin, and Carmine Marroquin.

Hopefully, by the time your reading this I will have gotten a chance to see you all again at the Season Opener. For those of you who missed the Opener; Let me just say.... I'm sure your going to have missed a grand time! I foresee myself eating way too much....and fishing A LOT!

Tight Lines,
Rick Baker

OFFICIAL BALLOT

2002 Russian River Fly Fishers Club Officers and Board of Directors

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

President

1. Rick Baker
2. _____

Vice-President

1. Margi Major
2. _____

New Board Members & Expiring 2-Term Members

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Scottie Broome | 2. John Iding |
| 3. Rodger Magill | 4. Lee Smith |
| 5. Terry Faris | 6. Pat Gibbard |
| 7. Ken Magoon | 8. Tom Campbell |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 12. _____ |

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

You may either mail in the ballot or bring it to our next monthly meeting

MAX GASIEWICZ

On March 18 Max Gasiewicz, a member of the club, died. His death came as a shock to all the people who knew him.

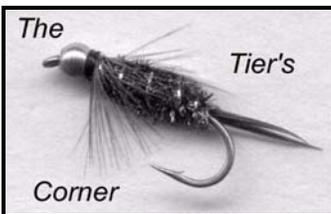
Max loved fly-fishing, especially with his son Duncan (who is also a member). Every year the two of them would head out west for 2 or 3 weeks of camping and fishing. Additionally, both he and Duncan worked for some time at the fly fishing shop in Santa Rosa. You could also find him fishing on the Russian River, working on his casting at the club's pond or trying his luck at different local fishing spots.

Several year's ago Max survived a major illness, as a result he lived life enjoying each day, devoted to his children (Duncan and Molly) and just being a better person (something we all take a look at once in a while). I know him as a patient and kind man, who was always willing to help others and tried hard to help me with my fishing skills. Max was not a person who would come to the meetings and make his presence known. Instead he would quietly go around the room, speaking to the people he knew.

I'm glad that I can remember the times we went fishing together. Our last fishing trip was up to the great spots around Truckee. We camped out, and fished as many of the rivers as we could fit into our schedule. We didn't have much luck catching fish, but the beauty of the area, the joy of sleeping outdoors and just standing in that water with the sun on us and our fly rods in hand was great. One of the great things about Max was that he enjoyed the "moment" so much.

I know that every time I think of fly fishing, Max will come to my mind. Also, when I look around my house and see the projects he helped me with, though he is dead, his love and warmth will still be close at hand.

We should take a moment to honor a club member who has died, and when you bring in that next big fish say a quiet "here's one for you Max".



Surf Candy

Materials Needed:

- **HOOK:** Mustad, 34007, 8 to 3/0
- **THREAD:** Monofilament from sewing dept. of craft stores or fly shops
- **BODY:** Polarfiber, in white, found in Western Angler or any white tying material, crystal flash in colors, deer tail hair, Mylar for over wrap or sleeve
- **EYES:** Stick on eyes of your choice, sized to the hook. Z-POXY, Two part, 5 minute drying time. Or SOFTBODY which is water based, no fumes, dries crystal clear
- **USED to CATCH:** All species of fish including TROUT.

Recipe:

Put hook in vise and start thread one eye length from eye. Tie-in white polarflash sized to the hook, in this case, I tied the candy on a size 4 mustad 37004 stainless steel hook. Tie-in a little crystal flash on top of polarflash and deer tail hair tied on top of crystal flash. Only tie materials back from the eye of the hook 1/4 inch. Half hitch or whip finish the head of the fly and cut thread. Take a 3/4 inch piece of mylar tubing (I use the smallest in the small flies, about 1/8 inch stuff), remove the core and slide the material over the head and re-tie thread around mylar tubing leaving 1/4 inch of tubing over eye of hook, 1/4 inch back from eye of hook. Wrap three times and pull the material that is out over the hook back over itself and wrap thread toward the eye of the hook to cover the mylar, making a nice head. Tie off. Take an eye, crease it a little so it will fit around body of the fly, and put a little GOOP on the back of the eye with a toothpick, leaving the eye on the end of the toothpick. Lay the eye about 1/4 inch back from the eye of the hook putting it where you want it to go and press down on eye lightly, just enough to hold it in position so you can slide the toothpick from back of the eye. Turn fly over and do the other side the same way. Mix up the two part Z-POXY in equal amounts, mixing slowly so as not to introduce bubbles into the epoxy. Coat the fly and try not to get any in the eye of the hook, if you do, take a hackle feather and run it through the eye to clean it up. The Soft Body is used right out of the jar, no mixing. Both of these methods take a fly turner if you are doing more than one fly, otherwise you are going to turn the hook by hand, around and around and back and forth and away we go. A fly like this or a Clouser will catch a variety of fish. I fished the Texas coast two years ago with a 1-1/2 inch fly, tied on a size 8

hook, fishing in stained water, couldn't see more than four inches deep, in four feet of water catching and landing specs, (Speckle trout) to 24 inches and hooked and lost two reds because of the small fly, I could feel the hook slipping in their mouth.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Both new and experienced tyers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie.

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashon@sbcglobal.net.

Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. If you like to tie flies and want to donate some flies, that's a great donation. If you have a business you would like to advertise, like rod building, then donations will provide exposure. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

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Scott 'slewis95407@msn.com' or 527-9168

Scotty strong arm downrigger

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Midland C.B. radio 40 channel with Firestick antenna \$50

Call Fred Pedersen @ (707) 542-5296





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e-mail-ftabor7657@aol.com • web-FlyFishingEtc.Com
Fernando and Elizabeth Jabor, (owners)

Casting Pond

With daylight savings there will be scheduled casting instruction from 4:30 to 6:30 every Thursday evening for all those interested. This is an excellent opportunity to get out and work on your casting, and to visit with other club members. Come on out! Feel free to give Rick Jorgensen a call to confirm other times. Home - 535-0331; work - 523-1010

Members who use e-mail!

We are compiling a list of members with e-mail addresses to be used for club announcements. If you would like to be included on this list, send an e-mail message to Scott Lewis (slewis95407@msn.com). Scott will periodically send out an updated list to the group ... save the message and use it to 'reply to all' ... when you have an announcement for membership ... Editor

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Have you looked at the web site recently? The Year 2002 Photo Contest pictures are there!

Opener Thanks

I just wanted extend a special thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped to make the RRFF Opener a very special event. It seems that each year the event gets better; people show up earlier and stay longer. The warmth of the group exceeded the warmth of the campfire, and I think everyone had a good time. Jackie was a very special new guest (thanks Joe) and she took charge of many of the cooking duties and helped supervise others. She is certainly comfortable handling large quantities of food and was a valuable addition to the Scottie and Lee combo who planned the meals and lead the cooking crew. Funny how the Opener is almost more about good food and socializing than the actual fishing. There sure was a fine selection of cigars being smoked along with some very nice wines. I still crack up thinking about how everyone around the campfire ran for cover when the hail storm hit, it was a funny sight and I hope someone got a picture of it. Speaking of pictures, don't forget to enter your best Opener photos in the photo contest! Send them to me by e-mail or pass them along at a meeting. I think there will be some good ones. I heard that someone may have the picture of a fish in the air, which of course wins a special photo contest award (if the picture comes out!). Mark your calendars for the Season Closer, scheduled for October 11-13th. The location is still being worked out, but it will be in the Upper Sac area somewhere. The Editor

Lost

If anyone found a journal (8-1/2x11) at our last general meeting, please call Greg Jacobs at 823-7341. Thanks.

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
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- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

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

The CAST

Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 27 Number 6 June 2002

For June 2002

Don't miss the Picnic!

Meanderings: Steve Tubbs

Well, this is it! Another year has passed and a new president is about to take over the helm and guide us onward. Having held the job for a couple of terms now, I know that it is somewhat time consuming and a crucial part of keeping the RRFF on track, although I have also been fortunate to have an excellent Board of Directors who have all committed their time and efforts to ensure that our club runs smoothly. The Board is the one reason that we have grown so tremendously in the past few years. They are the heart of this club. They all deserve our appreciation for the tremendous contributions of time and talent that they have made.

But before I give them my thanks, let's take care of some other club business...

RRFF Club Picnic – June 15th – Casting Pond, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

There will be no General Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Building in June. Instead, please join us out at the Casting Pond (Dan Galvin Park) on Saturday, June 15th for our annual barbecue and picnic. Bring the family, bring your fly rods, bring games for the kids, bring your lawn chairs or picnic blankets. Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 1:00 and it won't cost you a thing! This is our traditional summer kick-off and is always a great social event. There will be a raffle...you'll meet your new Board of Directors...and that will be about it for club business. It's a great opportunity to get your casting arm back in shape for the summer fishing trips you've planned and a good occasion to spend time with some of the great people that belong to our club. I hope to see you there!

July Fly-Tying Meeting – Wednesday, July 10th – Veteran's Memorial

Our July General Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 10th, at the Veteran's Memorial Building. For a number of years now, this meeting has showcased some of the outstanding fly tiers that are members of the RRFF. This is a perfect opportunity to find out what fly tying is all about - or to just come and see some truly talented tiers whip up some of their favorite creations. As always, festivities begin at 7:00 PM. If you're interested in tying, please contact our Fly Tying Chairman, Terry Faris (539-4354), and let him know that you would like to participate. This is a demonstration (not a fly tying class) and a great chance to see some of the more sophisticated techniques utilized in this aspect of our sport.

Board of Directors – Election Results

In July, your new Board of Directors moves into place. The candidate slate was elected (45 in favor, 0 against) as presented on last month's ballot. Your new president is Rick Baker and your new vice president is Marji Major. The newly elected board (two-year term) consists of Scott Broome, Rodger Magill, Terry Faris, Ken Magoon, John Iding, Lee Smith, Pat Gibbard and Tom Campbell. Returning board members (beginning the second year of their two year terms) are Paul Major, Rick Jorgensen, Joe Banovich, Tom Lynn, Tim Reuling and Steve Tubbs. There is also an honorary board position (Director of the Cast Archives) held by Bob Sisson. "Welcome" to all new board members and "Welcome Back" to those of you who just can't seem to get away! We've been reading many of these same names for a number of years now...they thankfully keep their names in the hat!

And now I'm back to thanking those people that have made my term as president so enjoyable. There are a number of people who have been fixtures on this board pretty much since they have become active in the RRFF. Scott Lewis is leaving the board after serving for a time as our Outings Chairman, then as The Cast editor and later as the RRFF Webmaster (after he created our website). He will continue as our Webmaster until a volunteer comes forward to replace him. Thank you Scott, for all of your work over the past years. Also, two other board members were required to leave the board prematurely this year – Andy Mazzanti and Shawn

Montoya. I would like to extend my thanks to both of them for the work they did before their departures.

Then there's Paul Major, who stepped forward last year and assumed the presidency after the death of our elected president and friend, Bob Neill. Paul has been on the board for as long as I have, serving two terms as president as well as in a number of other positions over the years. John Iding has been doing a tremendous job with *The Cast*; Lee Smith has been running our raffles for so many years now I've lost count; past (two-term) president Scotty Broome has been continuing in his capacity as Pond Captain and Outings Chairman and has been a major factor in the rising popularity of our club outings; Marji Major has been serving as treasurer, secretary and Special Events Coordinator; Tom Lynn has been finding (and seeking) fishing access for the club and monitoring the access programs at both Lytton Springs and at the Rio Lindo Academy on the Russian River; Terry Faris has been recruiting fly-tiers before each of our General Meetings and is often early to each meeting and tying himself; Joe Banovich has taken the Program Director position and really put together a fantastic line-up of speakers that already extends well into the next year; Rick Jorgensen has taken our casting instruction program and organized it into a cohesive group of instructor volunteers; Rodger Magill has continued his role of many years as our conservation liaison with the NCCFFF and Tim Reuling has helped out with the planning and "behind the scenes" necessities of many of the events that have

transpired over the past year. Also, Bob Sisson rejoined us in an effort to get the Cast Archives transferred to an electronic format and Tom Campbell offered his workshop as a location for our new monthly fly-tying meetings. Finally, your new president, Rick Baker, served the last two years as our Membership Coordinator, working closely with me as I continued to maintain the RRFF database.

It's a long list. These are the people that make this club work. I sincerely thank each of them for making my job this past year an easy one. I look forward to continuing to work with all of them, and with the new board members, in the years ahead. I've always maintained that there is no better way to get the most out of this club than to serve on the board of directors. I have found some great friends here...

And so we move into another year. Membership dues will be collected soon as our new fiscal year begins July 1. I am anticipating the coming months...while, at the same time, reflecting on my first tarpon trip that concluded only two days ago...a fantastic week that is still gelling and settling inside me...its highlights playing through my mind and firing my imagination. But that's another story...

I'll see you at the picnic...and I hope all of you have a great summer.



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2001/2002 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Steve Tubbs (765-1787) steve@kresky.com

Secretary: Marji Major (539-5437)

Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)

Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)

Treasurer: Paul Major (539-5437)

Youth Activities: Shawn Montoya (763-1489)

Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)

Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (535-0331)

Vice President: Rick Baker (545-8860)

Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)

Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)

Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)

Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)

Membership Coordinator: Rick Baker (545-8860)

Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

June Picnic! Don't miss this event!

Saturday June 15 at Casting Pond from 11 am to 4 pm

Free BBQ/beverages and family fun! The BBQ will be served from noon to one. Come on out and enjoy the afternoon. **Bring your own chair.** Bring your family and kids. Raffle! Bring a lawn game to share. Reservations not necessary but if you let me know how many are coming, we can plan a better picnic. Call me ... Marji Major 529-5437 evenings.

July 10th Membership Meeting Fly Tying!

Mark your calendars for the traditional July Fly Tying Meeting. There will be many tiers demonstrating their skills and sharing tricks and tips. Knot tying will also be demonstrated at this meeting. If you or someone you know are interested in learning to tie, come out for this meeting. Instruction will be available. If you have some tying materials you never use, and want to share or trade, bring them! This will be great fun!

Terry Faris



RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Have you looked at the web site recently? The Year 2002 Photo Contest pictures are there!

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Both new and experienced tyers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie.

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashton@sbcglobal.net.

Coming Events

June

Membership Meeting - None
Annual Picnic - 6/15
Board Meeting - 6/19
Fly Tying Meeting - 6/26
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

July

Membership Meeting - 7/10 Tying Meeting
Board Meeting - 7/17
Fly Tying Meeting - 7/24
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Season Closer - 10/11-13th

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is now available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. I notice that several of you are on our e-mail list but have not tried the CAST by e-mail ... try it ... you'll be glad you did. The Editor

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Ted Capellos, Shawn Coulter, Margaret Gaffney, Henry Hernandez, Phillip & Leigh Heyer, Greg Myers, Filmore & Mildred Turner, Anne Vitale, Bob Vogenthaler and Tim Wong

Welcome aboard! Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have.



Shad



Materials Needed:

- HOOK: Mustad 6-4
- THREAD: Monofilament or nylon
- BODY: Edge Glow in orange, red, green, chartreuse or white
- EYES: Bead-chain sized for the hook
- FLASH OVER BACK AND UNDER BELLY: Krystal Flash in colors of body
- COLLAR BEHIND BEAD-CHAIN EYES: Black Marabou

Recipe:

Put hook in vise and tie in thread mid point of hook, wrap to bend, and cut Edge Glow to 1/8 inch wide. Taper the end of the Edge Glow and tie in at the bend by laying it right on top of hook shank. Then wrap Edge Glow over your tie in point, spiraling the Edge Glow around the hook and leaving about 1/16th of the Edge Glow showing as you wrap forward to the eye of the hook. 3/16 back from the eye of the hook, tie on the bead-chain eyes. Put a little head cement on to lock them into place. For the next step, I even up about 15 strands of the ends of Krystal Flash (not cutting any from the package) and tie in flash behind the bead-chain eyes so ends of the flash stop at the bend of the hook. Bring the flash forward, between the eyes down and over the eye of the hook and back under the hook between the eyes and tie off behind eyes, cutting the flash a little before the bend of the hook. Wrap a collar of black marabou behind bead-chain eyes and tie off. Put some head cement on the thread wraps and you are done. If you have any questions e-mail me at 'T68rock@aol.com'.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. If you like to tie flies and want to donate some flies, that's a great donation. If you have a business you would like to advertise, like rod building, then donations will provide exposure. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

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model 1085 complete ... \$60

Midland C.B. radio 40 channel with Firestick antenna \$50

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Casting Pond

Summer schedule - there will be scheduled casting instruction from 4:30 to 6:30 every Thursday evening for all those interested. This is an excellent opportunity to get out and work on your casting, and to visit with other club members. Come on out! Feel free to give Rick Jorgensen a call to confirm other times. Home: 535-0331; Work: 523-1010

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

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

The CAST

Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 27 Number 7 July 2002

For July 2002

Fly Tying Meeting This Month!

Ramblings: Rick Baker

Greetings to all! The beginning of July annually marks the beginning of a new year for the club. Not only does it signify the shifting of gears for the fishing seasons; it is also the time of year when the newly elected Board of Directors takes the helm. I'd like to thank Steve and the rest of the board members for the great job they have done over the past year. I would also like to welcome the new additions to the board, as well as all of the new members to the club that we have had over the past couple of months. I feel honored and bewildered at having been selected to serve as President for the next year.

Having only been a member of the club for a little over three years, and fly fishing for four; I feel that I am a "greenhorn" at all this "stuff", but am confident that all will go well and all of us will have another banner year.

The Annual picnic last month was a lot of fun. We had about 30 members and guests in attendance. A Big Thanks to Marji Major for coordinating all the food, a thanks to Scott & Pam Lewis for manning the grills, and a thanks to all who help set everything up and clean-up afterwards. I imagine I should also extend a thanks to my son, Ricky, for helping on the raffle. He incidentally drew his own ticket for the grand prize rod. Despite the groans of all present, it

was indeed a fair draw. Both of us have had a lot of fun with it since.

Our monthly meeting this month is our Annual Fly Tying Meeting. I'm sure that there will be more on the event within following pages but I would like to extend an invitation to one and all to come out and join us on July 10th to watch some of the clubs best tiers spin the old fin-n-feather.



That about wraps it up for now. I hope everyone has been able to scratch their piscatorial itch and will have great tales to share at our next meeting. So until then, Tight Lines!

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Secretary: Open
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Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)
Treasurer: Pat Gibbard (578-6115)
Youth Activities: Open
Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)
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Membership Coordinator: Ken Magoon (527-8376)
Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)
Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976
Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)
Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Dues are Due

Just a reminder that dues are due as the new fiscal year starts July 1st ... mail those checks now and save the club some postage ... renewal forms are on last page of CAST ... The Editor

July 10th Membership Meeting Fly Tying!

Don't miss the July Fly Tying Meeting. There will be 10+ tiers demonstrating their skills and sharing tricks and tips. Knot tying will also be demonstrated at this meeting. If you or someone you know are interested in learning to tie, come out for this meeting. Instruction will be available. If you have some tying materials you never use, and want to share or trade, bring them! This will be great fun! The Editor



Coming Events

July

Membership Meeting - 7/10 (Fly Tying)
Board Meeting - None
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm
July 4th will not be a clinic day
Fly Tying Meeting - 7/24

August

Membership Meeting - 8/14
Board Meeting - 8/21
Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm
Fly Tying Meeting - 8/28
Season Closer - 10/11-13th

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Have you looked at the web site recently? The Year 2002 Photo Contest pictures are there!

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Both new and experienced tyers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie.

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashton@sbcglobal.net.

Photo Contest

We have some very nice pictures entered in the Year 2002 Photo Contest! I know some of you have taken some great pictures and have just not had time to enter them yet. Who was taking pictures at the Opener? Submit your photos either by e-mail in .jpg format to jfinet@vom.com or at one of the membership meetings. The pictures get posted to our web site so those who use the web can view them. We'll start bringing the pictures to the membership meetings as soon as we have a good group of them. Didn't someone have a picture of a fish out of the water for the special award? The Editor

The Learning Curve

I don't fish enough. . .surely nowhere near enough to be labeled a "fishing bum", or to even be considered a "serious fisherman" by many of those who practice this sport. My flyfishing trips are "events" in my year, one or two week stretches that occur periodically and find me, for their duration, intently focused on fishing (and my surroundings) while happily immersed in that activity. The frequency of these trips closely correlates with my vacation time and rarely extends beyond that. I don't find myself on many weekend trips to favorite waters, or sneaking off early from work to spend an evening on a local pond. I don't tie flies, unless I am going on a trip that requires flies that I can't buy and then I only do it because of necessity. There are just too many other things that hold my interest, too many pleasant distractions that fill my days when I am away from the office and take my time away from being on the water.

I have fished for most of my life. There were times when I fished fanatically, when fishing provided something to hold on to and gladly demanded my complete attention. The conclusion of my marriage, my separation and eventual divorce, was one such time; flyfishing becoming a consuming passion that took me away from the conflicts at home and connected me with a larger world that often made my problems seem small. I embraced it completely, reading book after book, working on my casting abilities and taking weekend day trips into the Sierra's. Maybe then I could have been considered a "fishing bum", but only by those who saw me on those rivers and lakes weekend after weekend. I was "hooked solid" on the beautiful environments that produce fish, and found myself craving those magical locations and my complete immersion in their solace. Through flyfishing, I was able to find a quiet perspective for those uneasy areas of my life.

In recent years, I continue to fish, but now the time consists of only a few weeks each year. . .maybe, if accumulated, totaling perhaps one month of twelve. That is what now constitutes my physical time on the water. Yet I often think of fishing. . .and those trips that mark my fishing calendar provide me with months of anticipation and

years of memories when they are finally completed. I plan them, I prepare for them, I write of them, I share them with friends and I revisit their sparkling waters in vivid recollections while spending that other eight or nine months behind a desk. It's a wonderful process. . .the anticipation that translates into physical action and results in vivid memories. I find myself, nearly everyday, thinking at some point about fishing. I am skeptical about doing more of it than I already do; somehow suspecting that part of its allure for me is in the enjoyment of all of its parts. I realize that it's not just the actual fishing that interests me. It has as much to do with the romance and beauty of the location, the anticipation of new places and the complete appreciation of the interaction of those elements with the physical time spent on the water. I find that I savor the process of fishing. . .at least some parts of the process anyway.

Last January, when a good fisherman and friend of mine asked if I would like to accompany him to Marathon Key in May for the annual migration of big tarpon, my interest was quick. After all, this was one of my "dream trips", having religiously watched Flip Pallot and Lefty Kreh pole the flats of The Walker's Cay Chronicles for many years on ESPN. My hesitation lasted only part of an afternoon before I accepted his offer. The anticipation began immediately after sending my response.

Binky Castleberry is an excellent fisherman (maybe the best fishermen I know) and he definitely puts in his time on the water. I have been fortunate to fish with him on a number of occasions in Baja, initially meeting him on our first RFFF club outing to Loreto where we shared a ponga, guide and room for the week. Under his tutelage, I have managed to hook sailfish and dorado on poppers cast into brilliantly neon-lit schools of feeding fish, watching them rise like giant trout to inhale the fly. As yet, I've picked up only a little of what he has learned from his many years fishing in Baja. The benefit of his experience and knowledge definitely accelerated my own learning curve and resulted in some incredibly memorable trips. Now, a similar opportunity had presented itself for the Florida Keys. Binky had been making this annual tarpon trip for a few years already and knew pretty much what to expect and

what we'd need, readily sharing that information with me. We would be fishing with Albert, one of the best guides in that area. I realized that I was indeed fortunate.

I was told that the rod of choice was a 12-weight, throwing a 13-weight floating line with a clear sink tip. I was advised to bring 3 rods with good reels; two for the boat and one for back-up. The flies were large; with deer hair heads, weighted just enough to sink very slowly when left to their own devices. "Don't worry about flies," Binky said. "Our guide prefers we use his!" He tied a number of them anyway, gave me a couple to use as patterns (if I was inclined to tie some as well) and used his own the entire trip. . .some of them inspiring our guide to include their colorations in his own patterns for next year. The leaders were 11 feet, consisting of a 40 lbs section tied to a 25 lbs breaker and ending with an 80 lbs "bite tippet".

I had read (over the years) and seen often on TV, the various idiosyncrasies of tarpon fishing. I knew that one had to be able to cast quickly, beginning with the fly held in your hand, and that false casting should be kept to an absolute minimum. This requires that the angler be able to shoot a considerable distance of line with only one or two false casts. I knew that accuracy was paramount and that it is often necessary to cast to fish that are on the move. I had heard how important it is to make each shot count. . .that there quite possibly would only be a few opportunities each day to cast to fish and that one had to make the most of them. I had heard that the guides could be quite intense and that yelling was often a way to let off frustration. . .typically their frustrations at the incompetent angler on their casting deck. I went to the casting pond. Casting the 12-weight, I imagined incoming fish and practiced delivering a foam and feather monstrosity (a "feathered chicken leg") with quick precision. One. . .two. . .shoot. . .the splat of my "fly" consistently landing at over 50 feet. "That should do it," I thought. I was mistaken.

On May 19th, as we drove from Miami to our motel in Marathon, thunderstorms raced across the sky - dumping so much rain at times that we were forced to creep along A1A for lack of visibility.

We would be on the water in the morning. The thunderstorms flashed through the night, dawn bringing overcast skies with patches of rain visible on the horizon. We met Albert for breakfast before heading to the marina; his 16' flats boat launched and ready to go in a matter of minutes. The wind was up as we ran out to the flats near Pigeon Key, joining a line-up of two other flats boats staked out and waiting for the tide change. "Watch this area," Albert directed, outlining its parameters with his hands. "The tarpon will move onto the flat from the channel. Watch for fins, tails and moving fish!" Visibility was poor with the cloud cover, and the wind was already kicking up small whitecaps. We were third in line.

As the tide changed, the current shifted into the wind and the channels traversing the flats became full of nervous water. Pelican's dive-bombed baitfish from the sky and small barracuda chased smaller bait across the surface. We scanned the edges of the flat, where the lighter grays of the shallow water fell off into the deeper gray of the channel, attention focused on an area 100 to 150 yards ahead of us. "Keep an eye out to the sides of us as well," Albert instructed. "Sometimes they go around."

The number one boat pulled its pole and the guide moved quickly to the poling platform. Ahead of him we could see the heavy splashes of a large school of "happy" fish, moving slowly onto the flat. "Maybe a hundred fish in that one," Albert mused as he moved forward to grab his pole. The second boat was already in action, having spotted a second school moving to the inside of us. Albert ascended the platform as Binky checked the line loosely coiled at his feet and took his position on the casting deck, fly in hand. We spotted a third school swinging way to the outside and Albert gave chase.

That first morning was incredible. Being new to this game, within moments I witnessed all three boats hooked up simultaneously to leaping tarpon, all of which were better than 70 lbs. As we closed in on our school, intercepting them and maintaining their pace, Binky cast his fly to the outside of the moving fish and began to swim it through them, the fly moving with them. There were some big fish. "He's got it!" Albert yelled, witnessing the take from his

height advantage on the poling platform. The line ripped through Binky's hands as the strip strike hit home and the water exploded in front of us. Fish on!

Tarpon fishing is a tough game and I found that it has spawned its own criteria for keeping track and measuring success. Tarpon have bony mouths and there are only a few areas that the hook will actually penetrate. Because of this, it is a frequent occurrence for the hook to become dislodged during one of aerial acrobatic displays that accompany a tarpon attached to a fly line. Also, these tarpon are big fish, and the guides prefer to not handle them whenever possible. The fish is counted as "landed" when the leader knots are in the guides. At this point, the guide will attempt to remove the fly from the fish, but often the 25 lbs "breaker" section of the leader will give way in the process and the fish will be broken off.

Because the fish are difficult to hook, this leads to a measure of success that includes; "eats" – where the fish takes the fly into his mouth but lets it go again before you can set the hook and before he jumps, "jumped fish" – when the fish is hooked well enough that he actually jumps before becoming unbuttoned from the fly, "break-offs" – where the fish is hooked well and during the course of the fight is lost because the line separates (usually because of poor knot tying or abrasion) and finally "landed fish" – counted when the leader knot is finally within the guides and the fish is beside the boat. If you're new to the experience, there may also be the obligatory "tarpon pic" where you get the chance to prove that you actually caught one of these things. Otherwise, pictures tend to be attempts at trying to get those elusive shots where both the angler and airborne fish are framed and caught mid-flight. There's also the "hero shot", when you happen to land a big tarpon in water so shallow that you can jump in and have your picture taken holding the fish in his element.

Binky landed his fish, applying low angles of pressure, rod tip nearly in the water, while constantly changing its direction, working the fish hard. After the release, it was my turn on the casting deck. We moved back into position, this time in the first spot as both of the other boats were still with their fish.

It wasn't long before another school appeared, this time quite close to the boat when we saw them and moving directly at us. As they closed, my knees began to shake as I readied my fly line. There is something about seeing big fish coming at me that literally brings my heart to my throat and leaves me trying to remember the various instructions that have been suggested for their capture. "Now," said Albert. "Put it on the far side, right in front of them."

I sprang into action, immediately realizing that I hadn't accounted for enough leader in my casting practice. The fly plopped down in front of them...short. "More distance," barked Albert. "Pick it up and do it again."

I lifted the fly from the water, the rod loading nicely this time and the fly delivered on target. "Good! Bring in the slack." We watched as the fly drifted among the fish. "He's got it!" Albert yelled, as I simultaneously felt a sharp tug and immediately struck with the rod. The fish flashed briefly as it turned, nothing! "Don't EVER strike with the rod!" Albert reprimanded. "Strip strike! Keep the rod pointed at the fish! Now, leave it there and let it drift...get ready." The fly continued moving, the school catching up to it, and suddenly the line was screaming through my fingers. Reacting without thinking, I hauled back with the rod again, this time the hook biting and the fish immediately exploding from the water. Just as quickly, he was gone. "DON'T STRIKE WITH THE ROD!" Albert bellowed. "Every time you do that, you move the fly out of position! If you strip strike, and you miss the fish, the fly is still in the school and fishing! Binky, you're up!"

The morning and afternoon continued, fish spilling in schools onto the flat where we would intercept them and swim the fly through their midst. Binky hooked and landed his second fish and I was soon back on the casting deck. This time, I made a number of casts as we moved with the school, a large fish finally inhaling the fly while I remembered to "strip strike" with barely a coil of line between the reel and my hand. The fish was instantly on the reel and hooked solidly, jumping once before ripping into my backing and jumping again perhaps 50 yards from the boat. "Big fish," Albert commented, "Good

job, let's land this one." We did, finally bringing him alongside the boat, Albert toying with the idea of that obligatory "tarpon pic" but not too anxious to handle this particular fish. "Around 80 lbs," he estimated. The breaker section of my leader gave way before serious consideration of lifting the fish was required. Regardless, I had landed my first tarpon.

Morning turned to afternoon and we relocated further west along the flat, off of Molasses Key, to intercept the schools again as they continued their journey toward deeper water. The action was constant, short periods of rest for us between schools, but numerous "happy" fish that were willing to play when we cast to them. By days end, we had done very well; "jumping" six more fish, "breaking off" a couple more and having a number of other "eats". Albert was pleased with our first day, as were we. "You did pretty well for your first time," he said to me as we headed for the marina. Binky and I were optimistic about the week ahead.

The wind picked up overnight, and stayed with us for the rest of the week. The skies cleared considerably, but with the flags snapping nearly straight out from the marina flagpole each morning, we knew we were in for a ride. The next 5 days were rough, the fish hard to spot in the wind chop, white caps nearly constant. The opportunities for fish dwindled considerably as the schools from our first day were no longer apparent. On the plus side, with clear skies it was easier to spot the fish, as they appeared reddish brown against the turquoise sands and the darker patches of grass.

But the 25 to 35 MPH winds made casting another matter entirely. Whereas it had been tough to get the 11-foot leader (and fly) airborne and the rod loaded to shoot 30 or 40 feet of line (with only two false casts) before the wind picked up, it was now nearly impossible. The rougher water conditions also found us spotting fish when they were much closer to the boat, decreasing the amount of reaction time to deliver the fly. To complicate matters, most of the required casts were directly into the wind and they needed to be delivered within 5 to 10 seconds, otherwise the fish would have already

passed us by. The game had gotten a bit more serious.

It wasn't only harder on us. Albert was having quite a time trying to control the boat, and stay on the poling platform, as he chased the fish. A couple of days, when the winds were at their worst, it was physically impossible for him to pole after them. Those days found us often fishing from the cockpit, the casting deck pretty much a springboard that threatened to launch us overboard as it pitched with the waves. One afternoon, we staked out at the edge of a sandy flat and simply waited for tarpon to swim by...hoping to see them in time to cast to them. We rarely did, the wind a little too much to overcome.

Unlike our first day, we suddenly found ourselves hunting for fish, sometimes going as long as 5 hours without spotting a school. When we did find one, Albert began his now difficult task of running them down as we struggled to keep our balance in the pitching boat. It was also getting increasingly harder for Albert to maintain our position as the wind was often pushing us right over the top of the school. "Now," he would yell, "And don't cast too far in front of them!"

I would respond, beginning my casting stroke and trying to drive 11 feet of leader into the wind while shooting line into the cast. The wind often knocked the big hair fly back down in front of me. "C'mon Steve, GIVE ME SOMETHING!" I'd water haul, to at least load the rod a bit. "Not far enough...you've GOT to give me MORE!" Albert would pole frantically to catch up with the school. "Not so many false casts...deliver the fly on the second cast. Drop it! NOW! Ahhhhh...C'MON!" Expletives erupting from the back of the boat, my shaking knees giving way to a cringe.

I did find that once the line was off the deck and on the water it was a little better, the water helping to load the rod and giving some power to drive the fly into the wind. Albert continued coaching, "Good. Leave it. Feed some line. Take in the slack. It's not fishing, it's not fishing! Try again...don't lead them so far! Wait! Hold it! Let it swing through them! GOOD! Hold it! HE'S GOT IT!" Despite the conditions, we still found fish. Although the opportunities were fewer, we seemed to make the most of them and every day

had something to show for our efforts. It was rare that we let a school go by where we didn't at least get an "eat". We took turns getting yelled at, although Binky's technique was decidedly more polished and not as open to derision. The casting platform was a little less vocal when he was on the deck. "Yell at the new guy" Binky kidded. It was intense fishing...challenging and exciting...and when the elements were finally beaten back (and I managed somehow to do it all right), it was very rewarding.

By the end of the week, we were pretty beat up; Binky nursing a pulled bicep and I convinced I should get back into golf. Things had been getting progressively worse for most of the other boats, so on our final day we found ourselves alone on the flats at Pigeon Key with only the wind and whitecaps. I don't know if we were just getting used to things or if there were actually more fish that day, but we managed to intercept 5 schools, landing 3 fish (the largest at about 100 lbs). We "jumped" two more and had a couple more "eats". I also finally got my "tarpon pic", a nice shot of my last "landed" fish (perhaps the smallest of our trip) at about 60 lbs. Albert agreed to handle that one, hoisting it for the quick grin before we set it free. It was the way to end things, on a high note, bracketing our days on the water with a fantastic start and a respectable finish. We weren't complaining; we'd managed a very good week of tarpon fishing...despite the conditions.

So where am I going with this...what is my point? I guess it just boils down to simply urging all of you to take those "dream trips", book those guides and by doing so accelerate your own learning curve. The next time I go tarpon fishing, I'll have a little bit better handle on what is needed to be successful. I now know exactly what to expect when casting for tarpon and I definitely have a better idea of how that game is played. I wouldn't know any of this if there hadn't been a first time, if I hadn't been "the new guy" who was doing it all wrong, if I hadn't, at times, wondered why I was even standing on that deck holding a fly rod. It is a humbling experience. But when I think back on what I learned during that one week, its value far outweighs the bruises to my ego.

That last evening in Marathon, Albert invited Binky and I to his home for dinner with his wife and young son. We had a great evening, relaxing and enjoying their pleasant company. I had caught glimpses of Albert's mellow side on the boat...he wasn't always

yelling...and already suspected that his excitability was the reason he guides 300 days each year. He gets as caught up in the game as each of us do...and wants us desperately to do it right and to catch fish. "Practice shooting that backcast,"

he grinned at me as we were leaving. He mentioned nothing about the wind.

Steve Tubbs

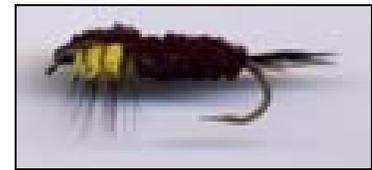
New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Beckie Simmie, Alan Campbell and Gregg Wrisley

Welcome aboard! Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have. The Editor



Montana - A Modern Nymph



Materials Needed:

- HOOK: Long shank nymph hook size 6 to 12
- THREAD: Black 6/0 ... change to fluorescent red or yellow for head
- WEIGHT: Optional ... 0.015" diameter lead wire
- ABDOMEN: Black chenille ... the modern tie in still waters is with yellow/grn/fl or
- WINGCASE: Black chenille
- THORAX: Yellow chenille
- HACKLE: Dyed black cock hackle

Recipe:

STEP ONE;

Set hook in vise at the bend of the hook. 1/8" back from the eye of the hook, lock end of thread and wrap the thread in touching turns to a point above the barb. If a weighted version of the fly is required, bring the thread back to the front, 1/8" from the eye and tie in a length of 0.015" diameter round lead wire. Wind the thread back to the rear position above the barb, followed by the lead wire in close turns. Tie off with a few turns of thread and remove the waste of lead wire.

STEP TWO;

Now tie in three hackle tips for the tail. They should extend 2/3rds of the hook length from the tie in point. I set mine to the hook gape width, it's about the same. The broad base of the hackle should lie on top of the hook shank. Don't cut off the waste ends as it will leave a step in the body. The waste ends will be tied down when you wind the hackle forward. The hackle tips should be spread out fanwise but if you can't do it don't worry, it's not important.

STEP THREE;

Tie in a length of black chenille. (I don't like to cut lengths off my chenille, as your going to have a bunch of little snippets of chenille that you can't use that will go to the waste basket.) Strip away the outer coating to expose the core for about 1/4 inch. I like to catch about 1/8 of the core and wind the thread right up to the tie in point above the hook barb and back down to the 1/8 tie in point and bring the end of the core back toward the end of the fly to lock the core end from being pulled out. Bring the thread forward in close turns to about 2/3rds of the way along the shank. STEP FOUR; Wind the chenille forwards in close turns to the same point as the thread and secure with two wraps of thread at the top of the hook shank. DO NOT CUT OFF THE EXCESS CHENILLE AT THIS POINT. At this point tie in a black cock hackle. The barbs should be a little longer than the hook gape. The base of the hackle barbs or flue should be striped away. Now, tie in the yellow chenille and secure like the black hackle.

STEP FIVE;

Wrap the tying thread forward to the starting point near the eye and wind the yellow chenille forward in close turns to 1/8" from the eye and tie off with two turns of thread. Cut excess yellow chenille. This is the thorax.

STEP SIX;

Take the tip of the black hackle in hackle pliers and wind it forward in open turns (about three turns should be enough) over the yellow chenille. When you reach the front, tie off the hackle with another two turns of thread and cut away the waste.

STEP SEVEN;

Take hold of the black chenille that you haven't cut off as yet, lay it across the top of the yellow thorax, this will part and flatten the hackle fibers that are pointing upwards. Stretch the chenille forward and at the tie in point take several turns of thread to lock it down then cut off the waste.

STEP EIGHT;

Build up a small head of tying thread, half hitch or whip finish and apply some head cement.

This fly was first tied by Lew Oatman of New York as an imitation of an American stone fly, a creature of fast flowing freestone rivers that are found in Montana. It can also be used on lakes. It is a good fly for rainbow trout.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris



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Casting Pond

Summer schedule - there will be scheduled casting instruction from 4:30 to 6:30 every Thursday evening for all those interested. This is an excellent opportunity to get out and work on your casting, and to visit with other club members. Come on out! Feel free to give Rick Jorgensen a call to confirm other times. Home: 535-0331; Work: 523-1010



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Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

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- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

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Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to:

Russian River Fly Fishers, 1029 Jack London Dr, Santa Rosa, CA 95409



Volume 27 Number 8 August 2002

For August 2002

Hope everyone is out there fishing!

The Reel Deal: Rick Baker

Hello one and all. I hope the last month has found you all out plying the waters for your fish of choice. I've been doing a lot of sneaking around the local waters in search of everything from stingrays in Tomales Bay to the scrappy smallies in our own Russian River. They haven't been big trips but sure have provided a lot of fun and interesting experiences.

This past month, in July, we had our Annual Fly Tying Meeting. Although attendance was a bit lighter than last year it was still a lot of fun. Many great tying tips were freely given out by our ten or so tiers. Bob Sisson was also on hand to demonstrate and instruct members on proper knot tying and when to utilize them. If you're kicking yourself at missing

this event, never fear! Come out and join us at our monthly fly tying meetings held the 4th Wednesday of every month. Our tying instructors Tom and Terry have done a great deal to get us set up for these meetings and are always willing to demonstrate various flies and give out tying tips.

I'd like to remind all the members that we will not be having a general membership meeting in August. August is generally a "holiday" month for the club; with members usually being away on trips with their families; or even searching the waters further north for the first couple of runs of salmon and steelhead. So save those great trip stories until our next meeting to be held on September 11th. Also, while out on those trips, don't forget your cameras! The club is sponsoring another photo contest this year, with lot's of great prizes being given out in various categories.

Take a look further in the CAST for more information.

Last but not least, mark your calendars right now for our Annual Season Closer. "The Closer" as it is normally referred to is similar to our Opener but marks the closing of the General Trout Season for the club. The grand date is set for October 11th-13th. Right now it appears that we will fish the waters in the greater Upper Sacramento River area. The actual location of the campground that we will be "occupying" has yet to be determined but stay tuned. This is a great time to witness the prolific October Caddis hatch that is on during this time of year. I can vouch for a lot of jumping fish in the evenings as they try to hammer as many of these huge bugs as they can before winter sets in. I hooked up with the largest, most beautiful McCloud River rainbow that I have ever caught last year. So if you

attended the Opener, you'll know what to expect for the Closer. It will be a lot of fun!

That's it from this end for now. Tight Lines and have fun out there!



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

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Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)

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Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Dues are Due

Just a reminder that dues are due as the new fiscal year starts July 1st ... mail those checks now and save the club some postage ... renewal forms are on last page of the CAST ... The Editor

Coming Events

August

Membership Meeting - None

Board Meeting - 8/21

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 8/28

September

Membership Meeting - 9/11

Board Meeting - 9/18

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 9/25

Season Closer - 10/11-13th

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Both new and experienced tiers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie.

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashton@sbcglobal.net. Go west on Gurneville Road out of Santa Rosa and one block past Willowside Meats, turn right at Lupine Dr.

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Have you looked at the web site recently? The Year 2002 Photo Contest pictures are there!

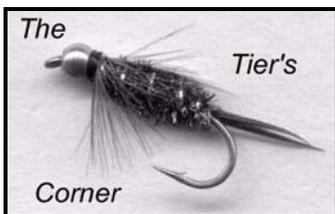
Photo Contest

We have some very nice pictures entered in the Year 2002 Photo Contest! I know some of you have taken some great pictures and have just not had time to enter them yet. Who was taking pictures at the Opener? Submit your photos either by e-mail in .jpg format to jfinet@vom.com or at one of the membership meetings. The pictures get posted to our web site so those who use the web can view them. We'll start bringing the pictures to the membership meetings as soon as we have a good group of them. Send in those pictures soon!
The Editor

New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Jamee Carleto, Bud Dimock and David Smith

Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have. See you at the meetings or at the casting pond! Welcome aboard. The Editor



Deceiver



Materials Needed:

- HOOK: TMC 811S or 800S; Mustad 7066SS sizes 2-5/0
- THREAD: Danville's flat waxed nylon, white
- WEED GUARD: 30 lb monofilament, about 5"
- BELLY: White bucktail
- BODY: Bill's Bodi-Braid
- COLLAR: Danville's flat waxed nylon, fluorescent orange
- HEAD AND EYE: Any color of prismatic eye, size 2.5mm

Recipe:

STEP ONE;

Place hook in vise and cover entire hook shank with tying thread, starting at the eye and wrapping to the bend

and back to above the eye. Tie in one end of the mono weedguard just back of the eye and wrap thread, keeping the mono on top of the hook past the bend, down the curve till the mono is pointing about 45 degrees down. This prevents the mono from sliding off the top of the hook. Let it hang there as it will be the last thing you will tie in. Now tie three white saddle hackles about 4 times the length of the hook shank of a size 1/0 hook (that's about 3-1/2 inches) on the near side and three more on the far side of the hook. The points of the hackle should be even as they are the rudders of this fly (tied praying hands style, curving in). Take your time and do not to let the feathers roll, or they will fight the keeling action of the fly. (I have a little secret in how to make them behave. If you want to know it, come and see how it's done, Wednesday, July 24th, at the monthly tying meeting at Tom's Place. The address is elsewhere in the CAST. If you decide to come, please call me, so I'll have enough material for you. 539-4354) Place a drop of head cement at the tie in point of the hackle stems. Not too much.

STEP TWO;

Tie in a strip of Bodi-Braid over the hackle stems and wrap it forward to the hook eye, covering the whole hook shank. Cut off the bodi-Braid. Bodi-Briad is preferable over tinsel as it doesn't tarnish in salt water. Back from the eye 3/8ths of an inch, tie in about 1-1/2 times the thickness of the hook shank of bucktail and tie it in as the belly. The bucktail should be twice the length of the hook shank. It's not a lot. Don't stack the bucktail, only pull out any shorter or softer fibers before tying in. Don't be afraid of exerting some pressure on the tying thread. Put some head cement on the thread to make it more durable.

STEP THREE;

Tie in six to eight strands of pearl Polarflash or a combination of pearl and silver Flashabou or Krystal Flash. You're going to tie in half of the flash, then fold the other half over itself on top. Then tie in a small amount of light blue bucktail and top of that with dark blue Poly Bear, Polafiber, Fluoro Fiber or dark olive bucktail or dark blue bucktail. Peacock herl is used as a wing sometime but it isn't as durable. The wing can be as long as the belly bucktail. The Polarflash material can be tied to the end of the saddle hackles.

STEP FOUR;

Continue to put a drop of head cement as you tie in your wing materials. When your head is a nice bullet shape, whip finish and tie off the thread. Back about 3/8 of an inch from the head, tie on some hot orange or red thread and tie on a thin collar. Use just a few wraps and keep the tying thread flat. Whip finish the orange/red thread. Check the eye of the hook, if there are any bucktail fibers clogging the eye, they can be burned off with a hot needle. Now attach your prismatic eye or paint on an eye. Mix a small amount of five minute epoxy and coat the entire head with a very thin coat. Rotate the fly till the epoxy has cured. Now go out and fool some fish. Attention trout fisherman, this is a streamer fly. It can be tied in any color combination that you can think up. It can be tied sparse or full, short or long. The fly has been used to imitate herring, spearing, bunker, alewives, mullet, anchovy and shad. It has caught fish in every body of water in the world.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. You can forward a copy to a friend who may be interested in having join the club. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. You can always try it ... and if you don't like it ... we'll put you back on the mail version. The Editor

Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. If you like to tie flies and want to donate some flies, that's a great donation. If you have a business you would like to advertise, like rod building, then donations will provide exposure. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

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Casting Pond

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Volume 27 Number 9 September 2002

For September 2002

Season Closer is Coming Up!

Fish Tails: Rick Baker

Hello one and all! Well...I had hoped to have a stellar Albie trip to report. It was still a good trip but sure didn't turn out like we had hoped. Of course...any day one can get out and fish is a good day in my book! The short story is that we ended up with two Albies to 20 pounds, a surprising salmon @ 13 pounds (my first salmon!) and a couple of decent Blues (rockfish.) To hear the long version you'll have to join us on September 11th at our monthly general meeting. This was just a teaser to get you there...and yes, the intent was to fish the long rod with flies for these bullets. If ya haven't hooked into an Albie and watched all your line scream off your reel in milliseconds you're missing out! What a hoot!

How about some club news huh? I imagine that some of you have been perplexed at not being able to gain access to the Casting Pond on days other than our usual Thursday evening clinics. We've had some problems with the gate locks walking away so we've had to change the combination. If club members would like to go out to the casting pond and not walk across the soccer fields; give our Pond Captain, Scott Broome a call. He will be more than happy to give you the combination.

If you ask real nice, he may even be persuaded to come out and give you some of his expert tutelage.

Have you been thinking about getting started down the fly tying path? Just wondered how it's done and thought about giving it a try? Or even wanted to pick up a few pointers? Terry Faris has put together an excellent tying program held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, along with help from Tom Campbell. Each month Terry has a fly featured here in the pages of the CAST. At the tying meetings he also has kits available, which include: hooks, materials, tying instructions and tips on how to fish the featured fly. The flies are tied step by step and you will go away with several completed flies and enough "stuff" to tie your own at home. At a low cost, these kits are a bargain! This past month kits were available for \$3 which included everything to tie up ten (10) flies...I'll let you do the math...you can't beat it! Of course, price and quantity of the kits varies with the fly being tied. Be sure to call Terry before the meetings to let him know you are coming so he'll have enough kits to go around. Just imagine; you're out on your favorite stretch of water, conditions are just "perfect" and you hook into the fish of a lifetime with a fly that you created yourself. Doesn't get any better

than that eh? Thanks for all your hard work Terry!

Are you Web savvy? Were looking for someone to take over the duties of Club Webmaster for Scott Lewis. Scott has done a great job of developing our Club's website and keeping it up-to-date. He has also developed a message board for us to chat, swap lies (Ha, Ha) and ask pointers from some of the club pro's. Scott is always available there to key ya in on what the smallies have been hitting on, John is always running off somewhere in the mountains, and Steve...well Steve just keeps us envious of all the big salty fish tales. But anyway, thanks for all your work on the site Scott! If anyone out there would like to take it over let him know.

Well, that's all for now. Don't forget to sign-up for the Season Closer at our September 11th meeting. We're going to be at Lake Siskiyou again this year on the headwaters of the Upper Sacramento River. It will be a good time to fish the plethora of waters available in the area as the fish start their yearly gorging on the October Caddis hatch in preparation for another long winter.

Till then...Tight Lines!



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Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Time is Running Out – Only One More CAST!

If you haven't renewed your membership for fiscal year 2002-2003, you will be receiving a bill for your dues during the first week of September. ***Please remit your dues payment by September 30th in order to remain active in the RRFF.*** If you do not receive a bill, then our records show that your dues are current.

In early October, I will remove all unpaid members from the active roster. If you haven't paid by that time, this will remove you from the mailing list and you will no longer receive The CAST. To insure that you remain an active RRFF supporter, please take a moment to send your payment in now. An application is included in every issue of this newsletter.

As we are still having problems with our PO Box address, all dues payments should be remitted to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**, c/o Steve Tubbs, 511 I Street, Petaluma, CA 94952. A pre-addressed envelope will be provided with your bill. This will assure that your payment is noted in the club database. If you have any questions, please contact Steve at 765-1787. Make sure that your check is made out to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**.

Remember, your membership dues enable us to have the great programs, raffles, outings and events that we all look forward to each year. We also support various conservation organizations (as a club) and are a member club of the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The RRFF is a non-profit organization.

Please take a moment to renew your membership now! Steve Tubbs - Membership Database Coordinator

Coming Events

September

Membership Meeting - 9/11

Board Meeting - 9/18

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 9/25

October

Membership Meeting - 10/9

Board Meeting - 10/16

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 10/23

Season Closer - 10/11-13th

September General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Michael Swaney

Bass Fishing on the Russian River

Mike Swaney guides throughout Northern California with both conventional and fly fishing gear. He has been written up in such magazines as *Inside Angler* and *Bass Masters*. Mike is the State Conservation Chairman for Trout Unlimited and is a member of the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout.

Mike's fishing season starts in January on the California Coast for steelhead, then up to the Smith River. March starts the season for strippers and trout on the Stanislaus River. During the summer, Mike fishes lakes and the Stanislaus for bass. October is the time he goes for salmon on the Smith River. He has spent a lot of time on the Smith over the past five years.

Wednesday, September 11th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Both new and experienced tiers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie. Call first so you can get one of the kits Terry Faris puts together which includes the materials necessary to tie the fly of the evening (\$3 to \$5 for 10 flies depending on the fly ... this is a great deal!).

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashton@sbcglobal.net. Go west on Gurneville Road out of Santa Rosa and one block past Willowside Meats, turn right at Lupine Dr.

Season Closer!

This year's Season Closer will be held October 11th to 13th at Lake Siskiyou Campground. This is the same location as last year and there is plenty of fishing water in this area. As is often the custom with the Closer, the Club will not be providing food so you will need to bring your own vittles. Bring warm clothes as it can be cold already by early October. The fishing can be really great in October, so don't miss this event! Be sure to sign up at the September General Meeting so we will be able to arrange for a group camping stop. If you have any questions regarding the Closer ... contact Scottie Broome ... The Editor

Amended Lines - Rodger Magill

Dennis McEwan, Supervisor of the Native Anadromous Fish Team, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, announced a Final Rule that extends the steelhead protection borders (formerly only south to Malibu Creek) to the U.S.- Mexican Border. With recent sightings of anadromous (goes to the sea during the life cycle then returns to fresh water to spawn) *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (rainbow trout) in these southern streams, these waters will now have protection from incidental takes. This will affect how the lands adjacent to the waters are used and the use of the water in the streams. Diversions can be affected by these rulings. Guaranteed flows must be maintained in order to sustain the fisheries year round.

In early May a shut-down of the flows in the Klamath River, (due to irrigation diversions) resulted in the stranding of hundreds of juvenile Salmon. Biologists rescued about 300 fish from two locations near the Oregon border. Earlier U.S. Forest Service employees and biologists for the Yurok tribe rescued about 130 fish, including 100 rare coho salmon. It remains to be seen if this water diversion can be seen as harassment toward these protected species.

Smith River Rancheria. Earlier this year there was a move by Native Americans to initiate the idea of developing gillnetting on the Smith. This quickly raised the interest of a diversified group of people all prepared to fight this possibility. Ben Taylor of Kenwood was involved with this effort. The Northern California Federation of Fly Fishers sent several letters of recommendation to the local municipalities, Fish and Game, etc. Fortunately local writers such as Jennifer Grimes of the Daily Triplicate in Crescent City reported these proceedings. In March local guides took Fish and Game officials on a drift to experience the river and get a feel for the fishery. At this point it is safe to say that any gillnetting efforts on this system will take an act of Congress to implement. It has been assured to conservationist and fishermen that there is no precedent of this on the Smith and that new acts such as this in the present atmosphere of protecting endangered species would not be allowed to occur.

I believe at this point that there may be more access coming on the Fall River. The Wildlife Conservation Board is going to put up the funds. This will have frontage on the Tule River also. Some increased boat access may accompany this acquisition. It will also give us a chance to involve ourselves with conservation efforts on the Fall. There has been a lot of siltation and bank erosion over the years. Many ranchers have fenced their cattle to save the rivers edge. Fluorocarbon leaders have also been mentioned as part of the degradation of some of these fisheries as these leaders take much longer to degrade (if they do at all) . Concerns have been raised about gas (mostly two-stroke) engines on this system.

More motions have been filed by groups to guarantee the proper use of the diversion pumps in the Delta to prevent the further degradation of the fisheries. State and Federal agencies have been accused of kill-offs of these fish in the recent past. Diversions of flow from the Calaveras resulted in a large kill-off of steelhead in the 2000. Sometimes it takes a loss like this to prove that these fish exist here.

In April of 2002 I wrote several agencies to protest the taking of 50,000 cu. yd.. of gravel from the lower reaches of Austin Creek. I do not know if the application was granted.

Placer County is now processing applications for the building of 7500 homes and golf courses in the surrounding area of Martis Lake. There is no mention of the sport fishery that exists in that lake. The water take from the streams that supply Martis along with the pollution and run-off is surely bound to harm that system.

Listing of some species of Rockfish is certainly bound to change the fishing regulations on our local coastline. These fisheries have taken quite a hit in the last few years and some protection is needed to save declining stocks.

Lastly I have to mourn the loss of one of the flyfishing greats, Mike Fong. I first met Mike on the North Umqua on a RRRFF outing for summer steelhead. It was in the high 90's and there was nothing happening on the water. With people like Mike and his wife Christine we enjoyed many hours without fishing! I remember how nicely they had their van fixed up to live, write, and fish in. My son and I teathed on his programs with Fishing the West on Saturday mornings.

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Have you looked at the web site recently? The Year 2002 Photo Contest pictures are there!

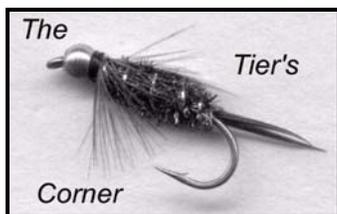
Photo Contest

With four contributors and a dozen pictures so far... the Year 2002 Photo Contest is struggling to be an event ... if we don't enjoy a stronger showing of picture contributions in the next couple months ... we may have to let the Photo Contest die a quiet death. The Club membership speaks ... and we listen. The Editor

New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Jim Dreisback, Robert Greenberg, Matthew Schaeztle and David Welch

Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have. See you at the meetings or at the casting pond! Welcome aboard. The Editor



Lytton Springs Toadfrog

Materials Needed:

- **HOOK:** Mustad 3704, 37004, size 1/0 - 10 or 3904B, 3904, size 8-12
- **THREAD:** Danville flat waxed nylon or Flymaster Plus
- **WEED GUARD:** 30 lb monofilament, about 5"
- **EYES:** ¼ inch - diameter, closed-cell foam cylinder in tail colors
- **BODY:** Two strands ostrich herl, one hackle feather or marabou in tail colors
- **TAIL:** Bucktail or marabou in yellow, green, chartreuse, red or blue

Recipe:

STEP 1: Put hook in vise and wrap a layer of thread from the eye back about 1/4 inch and back to the eye of the hook. Take a small amount of bucktail or marabou, sized for the hook (in this case I'm tying on a 3906 size 10 hook with bucktail). Tie on 15 strands, letting it hang out pass the bend of the hook 1-1/2 hook shank lengths, for the legs of the toadfrog. Tie in at the bend of the hook. Before cutting the end of the bucktail, lay the cut end 1/4 inch, back from the eye of hook, clip off, tying in the bucktail on top of the hook shank. Put a drop of CA glue on thread.

STEP 2: Tie in the closed-cell foam crosswise on top of the hook, in one of the colors to match the color of the tail, just behind the eye of the hook on your side. Bring the thread from behind the eye of the hook on the side closest to you, over

the top of the foam, to in back of the foam. Bringing the thread around the bottom of the hook and back to the eye on your side of the foam. Make three wraps, keeping the foam centered on the hook (not too tight or you'll cut the foam). After making the last wrap from in back of the foam, bring the thread around the bottom of the hook in back of the foam, cross over the top of the foam, to the eye, on the far side, make three wraps, bring the thread back around to back of the foam and make four wraps around the foam between the foam and the hook. Put a drop of CA glue on wraps. Take the thread to the bend of the tie in point, tie in the hackle, bring the thread to back of foam, wrap hackle around hook, tie off behind foam. Your done. Go fish.

LYTTON SPRINGS TOADFROG TIPS

The buoyant toadfrog is fished on a 1-5 sinking or floating line. With the sinking line, each strip, the fly is pulled underwater and then it rises back up. This is a trout-fishing tactic. When using the floating line, I like to fish the fly on the surface, where it provokes violent strikes. The way this fly floats is pure frogginess, head up, eyes poking out of the water and legs dangling down behind. With each strip of line, the fly rocks back and forth, making it one deadly fly pattern, I've let the fly sit more than swimming. It drives the fish nuts. I've seen the fish come from two feet away, making a bow wave, to get it before something else does. I haven't had a chance to troll the fly, but if you wanted to check on new waters, troll the fly on the surface along the shoreline or around points, slowly, and look out. It will sound like the bottom dropped out of a drum when the fish hit it. Give this fly a try. It really works.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. You can forward a copy to a friend who may be interested in having join the club. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. You can always try it ... and if you don't like it ... we'll put you back on the mail version. The Editor

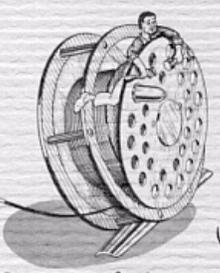
Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. If you like to tie flies and want to donate some flies, that's a great donation. If you have a business you would like to advertise, like rod building, then donations will provide exposure. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

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Fernando and Elizabeth Jabor, (owners)

Casting Pond

Summer schedule - there will be scheduled casting instruction from 4:30 to 6:30 every Thursday evening for all those interested. This is an excellent opportunity to get out and work on your casting, and to visit with other club members. Come on out! Feel free to give Rick Jorgensen a call to confirm other times. Home: 535-0331; Work: 523-1010



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Self contained, heater, 3 way refrig, queen and dbl beds,
boat
rack, awning - \$4950
Contact Pat Gibbard @ 578-6115 or 'pfgibbard@aol.com'

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

Dues, paid by a new member joining the RRF after March 30th, will cover the balance of the current fiscal year and also the following fiscal year's dues. Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

**Please mail this application and your check payable to:
Russian River Fly Fishers, 1029 Jack London Dr, Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

Russian River Fly Fishers



The CAST

Volume 27 Number 10 October 2002

For October 2002

Season Closer is Coming Up!

Trout Time: Rick Baker

Whoa, has it been a month already. Time sure has been flying by. Which one of you out there has stolen my summer? I haven't done much fishing this past month. Just a trip to the Russian for a beautiful sunset, some scrappy squawfish and great company with Lee Soares and a quick trip or two to a local pond with my son. The powers at large have all but killed the fish out of the pond so now it contains an over abundance of crawdads which have been providing us a lot of fun ... besides, it doesn't get much better than hitting the water with a 3 1/2 year old to dink around. They sure can broaden your horizons depending on your point of view.

On the club front I would like to extend big kudos to a couple of our members. The first round of thanks goes out to Nathan Welch. Nathan is a member of the Boy Scouts and has volunteered to build a bench for us out at the clubs river access. He is doing this in part to fulfill the requirements needed to achieve Eagle Scout. Thanks a million Nathan! The club as well as the members of the Rio Lindo Academy

really appreciate your efforts! Second I would like to thank Beckie Simmie for taking over the duties of maintaining the video library that we have available to members. It's a tough, demanding job...especially with this crew. Just kidding, but thanks for stepping up and taking over Beckie!

As well as being late dues renewal time, October marks the time to renew your placard for access to the club lake out at Lytton Springs and the river access at the Rio Lindo Academy. Tom Lynn will be available to handle this at the October General Meeting. We would also like to ask that if you are not planning on renewing your placard that you turn yours in to be re-distributed to other members who would like to take advantage of these pieces of water.

Last but not least...it's getting pretty close to the time to pack up a couple of bug boxes, the 3wt, and head off to the mountains for a bit of trout snooping; a.k.a. the Season Closer. It has sounded like many of you have had a lot of great trips up in the "hills" this past summer. For me, the

Season Closer marks one of the two times a year that I'm able to get away and get up there. The dates are October 11th, 12th, and 13th with the rally point being at the Lake Siskiyou Campground at the headwaters of the Upper Sacramento River. As of right now, we have not reserved the group campground. The plan is going to be similar to that of the Opener in that we will try to find camping spots that are in close proximity to one another and even share spots. I will have my River Access Placard in the window of my truck as well as the club banner to mark a rallying point. Unlike the Opener, all meals will be "pot-luck" style. Everyone bring a bit of this and a bit of that and we will all get together and cook-up what we have and share. Of course if we don't want to do this we don't have to. Also, if someone would like to organize a group meal, say on Sat. night let me know. We can work out the details. I'll be bringing a bit of wood but if each person could bring a little bit themselves we shouldn't get too cold in the evenings. If you have any questions or would like more information, give me a call. Remember...the participants who

attend the Season Closer get to
choose the location for the following
Closer.
Until Then....Tight Lines



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2002/2003 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Rick Baker (545-8860)

Secretary: Open

Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)

Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)

Treasurer: Pat Gibbard (578-6115)

Youth Activities: Open

Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)

Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)

Director at Large: Tom Campbell (576-3936)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (987-8764)

Vice President: Marji Major (539-5437)

Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)

Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)

Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)

Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)

Membership Coordinator: Ken Magoon (527-8376)

Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Membership Dues!

In early October, we will remove all unpaid members from the active roster. If you haven't paid by that time, this will remove you from the mailing list and you will no longer receive The CAST. To insure that you remain an active RRFF supporter, please take a moment to send your payment in now. An application is included in every issue of this newsletter. Thanks. Steve Tubbs - Membership Database Director

Coming Events

October

Membership Meeting - 10/9

Board Meeting - 10/16

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 10/23

Season Closer - 10/11-13th

November

Membership Meeting - 11/13

Board Meeting - 11/20

Casting Clinic - Thursdays 4-6 pm

Fly Tying Meeting - 11/27

The CAST

Just in case any of our membership was not aware of this, you are all potential contributors to our newsletter! If you have a particularly fun story to tell about your fishing adventures or secret waters, please feel free to type it up and submit your work to the CAST Editor. When we have space after the usual Club business, those articles will be featured. Was Mark Twain a flyfisherman? He must have been, although I'm not sure what he would have caught on the Mississippi! Send contributions to jfinet@vom.com or submit them to John Iding at any Membership Meeting. Deadline for material for the CAST is 5 days after the Board Meeting. The Editor

October General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Mike Foster

Fishing the Eel River

Mike plans to address the current fishing on the Eel by comparing it to years past. This will include the good of early years, the bad of the 90's and the recent return of some decent runs of fish. He will also include some discussion of different areas of the drainage, various techniques, and successful fly patterns.

Born and raised in Sebastopol, Mike Foster started tying flies fifty-three years ago. He caught his first steelhead on a fly fifty years ago and began fishing the Eel River thirty-eight years ago. Mike spends most of his summers in Montana on the Madison River. He has been a professional casting instructor since 1975; first, with the Fenwick Fly Schools and then with Mel Krieger Flyfishing Schools. He has written for *Angler*, *Fly Tyer*, and *Flyfishing the West*. Currently he is a regional editor for *Flyfishing and Tying Journal*.

Mike is a retired high school teacher. In addition to assignments in science, history, and physical education, he developed one of, if not the first in California, class in flycasting and tying for high school students. Hundreds of students learned the art of fishing and the importance of water ecology over the twenty years the class was offered.

Mike lives in Miranda, CA, on the South Fork of the Eel with this wife. They have three grown children, all of whom flyfish

Wednesday, October 9th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

RRFF Website

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www.members.tripod.com/~RRFFisher/index.html

Thanks for all the work keeping the web site current Scott ... and if anyone is interested in participating in the maintenance of the web sit ... please give Scott Lewis a call. He is warming up to the idea of retiring and taking off into the wild blue yonder!

Terry Faris puts together which includes the materials necessary to tie the fly of the evening (\$3 to \$5 for 10 flies depending on the fly ... this is a great deal!).

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New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Jerry Arrigoni and Mike Kast.

Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have. See you at the meetings or at the casting pond! Welcome aboard. The Editor

Season Closer!

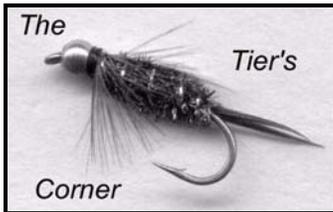
This year's Season Closer will be held October 11-13th at Lake Siskiyou Campground. This is the same location as last year and there is plenty of fishing water in the area. As is often the custom with the Closer, the Club will not be providing food so you will need to bring your own vittles. Also bring warm clothes as it can be cold already by early October. The fishing can be really great in October, so don't miss this event! Our very own President will be hosting this year's event, so if you have any questions, give Rick a call. The Lake Siskiyou Campground website is at 'www.lakesis.com'. Bodies of water nearby include the Upper Sac, the McCloud River, the Trinity River, and Castle Lake. Rick Baker



Central Mt. Shasta I-5 exit.
West to stop at Old Stage Rd.
Turn left. Go 1/4 mile to fork.
At fork stay to the right.
At W. Ream Ave. stop go straight.
Past golf course, over the dam and
continue on W.A. Barr Rd. 1.5 miles
to Lake Siskiyou Camp-Resort.

map is not to scale





SARPS SEDUCER



Materials Needed:

- HOOK: Mustad 3704, 37004, 36890 size 1-5/0
- THREAD: Monofilament
- EYES: Large silver bead chain
- LEAD: Round 0.020
- BODY: Flat pearl fireweed or pearl mylar tubing that I pick up at the fabric store, remove the cotton core
- TAIL: Pearl flashabou
- UNDERWING: Red marabou
- MIDWING: Black marabou
- OVERWING: Electric blue flashabou or tinsel flash marabou in blue-black

Recipe:

This is an easy fly to tie. Just remember your proportions for the size of the hook. I'm tying on a Mustad, size 5/0 hook.

STEP 1: Lock thread in and wrap thread from front to right above the hook point and back to the front four times. Tie in the lead wire starting at the tie in point right above the hook point and wrap to three hook eye lengths back from the eye. Wrap thread over the lead three or four times.

STEP 2: Tie in about an inch of the tailing pearl flashabou right behind the lead wire tie in point. To bullet proof the tailing material, half the tailing material and lay half out over the bend of the hook and the other half out toward the eye on top of the hook. Then make three wraps, bring the half out toward the eye back out over the bend and tie off. **DON'T CUT THREAD.** Wrap thread to eye.

STEP 3: Now tie in the bead chain eyes right up against the eye of the hook. Cross wrap several times locking the eyes in. Wrap thread back to the tie in point.

STEP 4: Take the pearl mylar tubing, remove the cotton core and tie in just above the Hook point leaving a small tag. Before wrapping the pearl mylar tubing forward, fray the small tag end so there won't be a lump and wrap over itself a small amount to the eye. Then tie it off and let the bobbin hang. Put a drop of "Hard as Nails" nail polish right at the tie in point and a drop on the bead chain eyes. Let dry.

STEP 5: When dry, tie in two red marabou feather tips about two eye lengths behind the eye. On top of the red, tie in three black marabou just a little ahead of the red. Back wrap over the red to lock in the material. Tie in quite a bit of the tinsel blue-black flashabou if you don't have the electric blue flashabou. Roll the flashabou over so there is an equal amount on top and the sides. Finish tying down and whip finish. Put a drop of "Hard as Nails" on the wraps and you are done.

Some Tips:

If water is low and clear, fish are holding and they need some agitation, so use a large bulky fly. In colored water with 3 to 4 feet of visibility, use same hook but tie hook sparse.

Presenting the Fly:

Use a 8-9 weight rod with twenty pound backing on the reel. The line setup consists of a spool of floating running line looped to an 18 foot section of 10 weight level floating line. This is then looped to a section of scientific Deep-water Express sinking line ranging from two to eight feet, depending on water speed and depth. The sinking sections have loops on each end so it will be easy to make changes that become necessary from pool to pool. The leader consists of two sections of mono, a 20 inch butt of .024" tied with a surgeon's loop and a 20 inch tippet of 15- 20 pound Maxima. A short

leader makes the fly swim deeper.

Casting this setup is like casting LC13. Cast and duck on delivery. The deep-water Express tip sinks rapidly, while the 10 weight level floating line allows mending at great distances. With this setup, a fly can be kept in the zone for long periods or move it at will by mending up or downstream with the sink tip. This technique is usually used for slots and smaller areas that hold fish near fast water. I'm looking forward to another steelhead season. Maybe this will be my "lucky" year.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. You can forward a copy to a friend who you may be interested in having join the club. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. You can always try it ... and if you don't like it ... we'll put you back on the mail version. The Editor

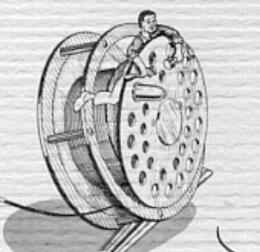
Raffle Donations

We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing the raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment for these raffles. If you like to tie flies and want to donate some flies, that's a great donation. If you have a business you would like to advertise, like rod building, then donations will provide exposure. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

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Casting Pond

Summer schedule continues until the time changes with scheduled casting instruction from 4:30 to 6:30 every Thursday evening for all those interested. This is an excellent opportunity to get out and work on your casting, and to visit with other club members. Come on out! Feel free to give Rick Jorgensen a call to confirm other times. Home: 987-8764; Work: 523-1010. The Editor



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<p>Scott Eclipse Series 4wt 6 pc 9' new \$400 St. Croix Imperial 8 wt 4 pc 9' \$100 Call Duncan @ 431-1007</p>	<p>8' pram or dingy \$350 Contact Stan Mead @ 546-0678 or 'segmead@aol.com'</p>
	<p>Interphase Echo 200 LCD Fishfinder & Depthfinder \$50 G. Loomis Rod Graphite F114 8-9 wt line 2 pc 9'6" Like new \$50 Contact Fred Pedersen @542-5296</p>

Year 2002 Photo Contest

Entries are coming in now for the Year 2002 RRFF Photo Contest, so take a few minutes and look over your photos for the year and send them in. The membership gets to vote on the entries at the February Dinner Meeting and prizes are given out at the March General Meeting. Send photos to jfnet@vom.com in .jpg format or hand them over at a membership meeting to John Iding. We'll start showing the pictures at the November or December Membership Meeting ... so get you entries in now! The cover photo and mailing label photo on this month's CAST are entries from Nick and George ... good job! See the rules for the contest on the Club web site. The Editor

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues payable July 1st)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues payable July 1st)

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to:

Russian River Fly Fishers, 1029 Jack London Dr, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

The CAST

Russian River Fly Fishers

Volume 27 Number 11 November 2002

For November 2002

The Steelies are coming!

There's water in them thar' hills....must be sum' fish? Rick Baker

Wow Nelly, has the last month ever blitzed on by!? Well the only significant fishing I've done in the past month has been a full moon float on a local salt pond and a great trip up to Lake Siskiyou for the Club's Season Closer.

The Closer was a lot of fun. Lots of great food was shared and the campgrounds "ban on fires" didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the 14 or so members we had in attendance. This year we were accompanied by Bill Archuleta (a Life Member who has moved to Grants Pass, Oregon) and Rick Norris (AKA...Cowboy) accompanied by his wife Mary Jo from Susanville. It was good to see all of you! This year we set out in groups of 2-4 and concentrated on the Upper Sac to ply the waters. I think everyone was able to get into some fish, or at least had fooled them enough to get them to swipe at their fly. The October Caddis Hatch was coming off but not as prolific as the previous year. The trout seemed to be keying in on the nymphs rather than the adults. Maybe it was the cold weather that seemed to keep the fish from biting

more. It did get down to 32 one morning ... *yeah...too cold...that's my story and I'm sticking to it.* But boy, it sure was nice and toasty in the Taj Ma-Lewis.

The highlight of the trip for me was being asked to tag along on a float down the Lower Sac. with Mr. Scotty Broome on Friday. I've never floated the Lower Sac but have heard many a tall-tale of some of the nice trout that inhabit the river in the greater metro Redding area. Let me tell ya....the tall-tales....they're true! What a healthy eco-system! We were able to get into 20 very nice fish along with 5 bonus salmon that Scott "hooked". He was hootin'-n-giggin' like a schoolboy with those buggers pulling on his 5wt. I landed the largest trout I've landed to date. It went an easy 20", fat as a football, and with shoulders of a defensive tackle. Scott seems to think it was 23" but I'm not sure. I do know that it was almost as long as the guide's cooler and a good 8" thick. What a beauty of a brute! When one gets a fish on like that all the points of failure start running through your mind...*Did I tie the knot right? What size tippet do I have on? Is the drag set right? Scotty, move your line ... Please don't break, please don't break, please don't break ...* It's one of those situations when time

almost stands still and you can't hear a thing going on around you. I love it when that happens! Thanks again Scott!

Well I'm burning valuable club business space. I believe that the important club doings should be covered in this month's issue. Some of the highlights that I would recommend you check out is the hard work that Scott has put forth in working with the City of Santa Rosa to gain Club access to Fountain Grove Lake. Also, our Conservation Director Rodger Magill is putting together a program to monitor the Russian River Watershed for any fish barriers that may be present; prohibiting returning native salmon and steelhead from reaching prime "wild" spawning grounds. I encourage all out there to take a look and give it some consideration. It is a pretty interesting and will take up very little of your time other than just being a bit more aware of your surroundings as you're driving around the county. It's pretty important stuff especially since there are reports that we've got around 1200 returning salmon so far this year. Well enough from me ... I hope all have a great Halloween and ... Tight Lines!

Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2002/2003 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Rick Baker (545-8860)

Secretary: Tom Campbell (576-3936)

Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)

Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)

Treasurer: Pat Gibbard (578-6115)

Youth Activities: Open

Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)

Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)

Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)

Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (987-8764)

Vice President: Marji Major (539-5437)

Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)

Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)

Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)

Webmaster: Scott Lewis (527-9168)

Membership Coordinator: Ken Magoon (527-8376)

Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)

Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976

Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Coming Events

November

Membership Meeting - 11/13

Board Meeting - 11/20

Casting Clinic - Sundays by Appointment

Fly Tying Meeting - 11/27

December

Membership Meeting - 12/11

Board Meeting - 12/18

Casting Clinic - Sundays by Appointment

Fly Tying Meeting - 12/25

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Thanks for all the work keeping the web site current Scott ... and if anyone is interested in participating in the maintenance of the web sit ... please give Scott Lewis a call. He is warming up to the idea of retiring and taking off into the wild blue yonder!

Club Waters

The time has come to renew the placards that allow us to go onto the private accesses. We have 2003 stickers available for these placards and you will need the stickers for the placards to be valid. Please see Tom Lynn at the next membership meeting if you haven't already renewed your placard. There is a shortage of placards, so please return yours if you are not planning to renew it.

Tom Lynn

New Members

Welcome to the following new members: Dan & Judith Goodman, Bill Key, Kim Orloff and Michael Wrisley

Don't hesitate to contact any of the board members with questions you may have. See you at the meetings or at the casting pond!

Welcome aboard. **The Editor**

CAST by e-mail

The CAST is available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. You can forward a copy to a friend who you may be interested in having join the club. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format. You can always try it ... and if you don't like it ... we'll put you back on the mail version. **The Editor**

November General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Andy Burk

“Fishing with Andy”

Andy Burk’s talk will cover trout, steelhead, stripers, warm water and some saltwater fishing. He will provide a combination of anecdotes, humor and slides. Don’t miss this program!

Andy Burk was born in Redding, California on August 3, 1966. Raised in Susanville, California Andy was instilled with a love of the outdoors early in life. Andy’s first fishing trips were forays to Eagle Lake located near Susanville with his Father at the ripe old age of three. Many family camping trips kept him in the outdoors and on the water.

At the age of ten he started tying flies with thread pilfered from his mothers sewing area and feathers that he found in the huge orchard located behind their family home in Susanville. He says these first attempts at fly tying were crude but something about the act of tying flies struck a chord deep inside him that remains to this day. At the age of fourteen he started tying flies for a local sporting goods store in Susanville. A year later Andy was working in that very same store and fishing at every opportunity. Once summer vacation began he would fish every single day, constantly experimenting and learning about the world of fly-tying and fly fishing.

Upon graduating from high school Andy was offered a job in Burney, California on two of California’s legendary Spring Creeks; Hat Creek and Fall River. He began working at a small fly shop called Spring Creek Anglers and this was where his fly fishing and tying skills really blossomed. He was able to spend every day of the trout season tying, testing and learning from some of the most demanding and rewarding fisheries that the Golden state has to offer. Andy was able to try new fly designs and test them on some of the toughest to catch trout in the West. After three years in the Burney area Andy was able to secure a job at the Fly Shop in Redding, California where he spent the next ten years. During this time he began to write extensively in the industry and grew as a fly tier and angler. New experiences and the opportunity to travel opened new horizons and offered new fly tying and fly fishing problems for him to solve. Andy also was exposed to many other great fly tiers and anglers during this time. After ten years at the Fly Shop it was once again time to expand his horizons and stretch the boundaries of his fly tying and fishing. Andy moved to Reno, Nevada and began working for Dave Stanley at the Reno Fly Shop and their satellite store Truckee River Outfitters in Truckee, California, where he is currently employed.

Fly tying and fly fishing are Andy’s true passion and life pursuit. He is driven to fish and much of that drive comes from the desire to create and design new flies that will be more effective than flies he has previously designed or fished. Given his choice he would rather fish with a fly of his own design rather than one of the old standards. “It may seem egotistical to take this approach”, he says, “but I don’t think it is ego, more than that it is the desire to try something new and different. In fly tying and fishing you should always stretch boundaries and constantly experiment.”

Wednesday, November 13th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm

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

Joe Banovich

The North Umpqua - Trip Notes

My first trip to the North Umpqua was very memorable. The unequaled beauty of the canyon, the pleasant campgrounds (with cut flowers in the restroom, yet!) and the clarity of the stream making it possible to view the steelhead from the bridges all added up to a great weekend. Of course, the camaraderie is something I always look forward to on these trips. Paul, Dick,

John, Charlie, Steve and Leslie helped me to enjoy the event even more with Paul acting as guide driving me around and explaining the access points.

I feel the most memorable moment was when Paul took me up to Steamboat Creek to view the holding steelhead. Lee Spencer of "Fishwatch" was a pleasant host explaining how the fish behave over the period they are in residence. We stayed for about a half-hour, and the whole experience was almost emotional.

Since the river is only an hour and a half from my home, I will be returning many times. I can even enjoy a full day of fishing and viewing and be back in time for dinner. Who could ask for more?

Bill Archuleta

John, my campsite neighbor at Susan Creek this year, is a spare white-haired man I would estimate to be in his late seventies. He has been fishing the North Umpqua every year for forty years, and for the last twenty years he has spent the

entire month of September on the river. To some that may seem to be an excess of devotion to one river; I understand it perfectly and deeply regret that I didn't discover the North Umpqua until 1996 when Joe Craig and Scotty Broome introduced us. Since then I have returned every year, alas not for a month but only a week, which doesn't ever seem long enough. I doubt that the allure of the North Umpqua can be adequately explained, I can only recommend that any of you who love beautiful rivers and fly fishing for steelhead go experience it and be prepared to find it on your annual calendar thereafter. **Paul Major**

Excitement mounted after we left Roseburg and traveled east on the highway towards the North Umpqua. There is an element of anticipation and thrill that accompanies every outing to a new or "long absent from" location. You know what to expect and yet you don't. First sight of the North Umpqua was not at all disappointing. Rushing waters filling chasms of rock, long flowing pools and riffles, and unsurpassed beauty all led to anxiety and yearning to be on the water. After an evening of relaxation with Paul, Dick, Leslie and her friend Steve, John and I headed for dreamland and were awake and ready to go the next morning. The next seven days were filled with travel up and down the river, constant casting, treacherous wading, exploration, fine food and drink, and camaraderie. The fishing was slow with only a few "pulls" and only one fish brought to hand. That didn't matter for some reason. This is one river where I was alert and full of expectation on every cast, just knowing that sometime during the swing of the fly it would be intercepted by a silver bullet ready to do battle. I can't remember ever being so convinced on every cast that a fish would strike. Will I return? You bet I will and with the same anticipation and enthusiasm. See you there if you can make it. You won't regret the time and energy. **Charlie Schillinsky**

It was one of those perfect days, still overcast after the previous day's rain. It was the rain that we had hoped for to help the fish get inspired about moving, and maybe even being aggressive. I was up very early wanting to be the first one at my favorite run, to offer the first fly the fish would see that day. The path through the woods to 'the spot' was well worn after my many visits during the week. I could find my way in the dark with only one small confrontation with a bush that had moved. I lit a cigar as much to warm me up as to cast a good luck spell. Slowly I moved to the head of the run as the first light cast a glow in the cloudy sky. My 'Charlie Special' was already tied on with fresh tippet and all knots checked. The cold water engulfed my legs as the cigar smoke wafted in the cool morning air. It was time for the first cast, and I held my breath as the fly slowly swam across the shallow run. I worked slowly down the run casting and casting, trying to remember to breathe. When the tug came, it was strong and firm, and I knew it was the steelie I was hoping for. The confirmation came as the fish jumped clear of the water and then made the first of several runs, testing my resolve. God I love the sound of the reel singing! We did battle for what seemed like 20 minutes but was surely only 5. I brought the wild male fish into the shallow water and admired it's beauty while reaching for the tail and gently removing the fly. I paused to soak it all up, zzzzz ... *"John ... are you getting up this morning!" I slowly awoke shaking my head and wanting coffee. It was another beautiful day on the North Umpqua.*

John Iding

Ahhhh...the North Umpqua! Steep, forested hillsides of pine, fir, spruce and cedar, plunging into a magnificently blue sparkling watercourse lined with yellow, orange and red splashes of color that highlight the streamside alders and maples showing the first touches of Fall. Crystal water cascading over bedrock ledges, through jagged chutes of rock in roiling masses of foam and spray, spilling into pools that move from

turquoise to deep blue as the sun reflects from a bottom of submerged ledges as rock strewn (and treacherous to wade) as the rugged banks are to navigate at water's edge. It is a wild, beautiful river of big water. Viewed from the shaded, sun dappled river bed, beneath a canopy of light green leaves backlit by the afternoon sun; or as the evening shadows lengthen, the river dark passing beneath the moss-covered cliffs where, with a quickening heart, the promise of a jolting strike from a large steelhead seems nearly inevitable; it is a pleasurable barrage of the senses, tugging at the desire to stand in its midst and become part of it while the water surges around trembling legs and the fly swings across the current.

There is no place quite like it. Its most famous parts; with names like "Surveyor", "Sawtooth", "Sweetheart", "Station", "The Boat Pool", "Upper Mott, Middle Mott and Lower Mott", "The Fighting Hole", "Kitchen", "The Glory Hole", "Takahashi" and "Knouse"; designations of unique stretches of beauty named only for the convenience of those who peacefully haunt it still. Major Jordan Lawrence Mott, Zane Grey, Stan Knouse, Clarence Gordon, and Jack Hemingway, early devotees to a river that holds their memories as a part of its unsurpassed natural beauty, that speaks their stories in the ever-changing voice of its waters. And its caretaker, atop a steep bluff overlooking some of its grandest water, The Steamboat Inn, serving as the meeting place and quiet guardian for those who today work to continue the North Umpqua legacy and are ever-vigilant to preserve its wonder.

Words are a poor expression for something that touches so profoundly on all levels. The North Umpqua is a wondrous experience, one that can be appreciated only by immersion in its swift currents and wild beauty. It is far beyond words... **Steve Tubbs**

Conservation News

On the weekend of September 7th the conservation boards of directors (of affiliated clubs of the Federation of Fly Fishers) met at the Pit River Lodge for the second meeting this year. We began with a guest lecturer covering the California Wild Heritage Act. A slide presentation of the proposed and existing wild and scenic areas was very informative and promising. It is rewarding to see such incredible vistas that could possibly be preserved for all to see and appreciate years in the future. Acquisitions such as these have been the hallmark of Presidents and politicians for the entire history of the United States. Places such as Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, etc. are preserved in a relatively natural condition because of these acts. Venturing into the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Feather River would convince the greatest of skeptics of why we should set aside these incredible places in nature. I often try to imagine what the headwaters to the mouth of the Russian River looked like before man began to change it. It must have been incredible.

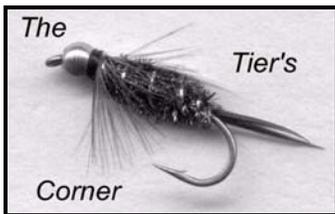
One of the interesting topics that was covered in the meeting was *barriers*: dams, spillways, culverts, and widened sections all contribute to the inability of fish to move about the river and survive. A term new to me was a "perched culvert". This is a concrete passage across a stream, usually for the purpose of autos (also foot, animal and utilities) through which passes a culvert pipe spilling from some elevation above the stream, etc., after passing under the roadway or path. Getting the water past the road was the primary concern.

As we learn more about the habitat of fish and other creatures that live in or around the streams, the more we realize that these barriers are not above fish zones and hence create a barrier. I remember a customer of mine mentioning this very thing during a conversation at my shop years ago. She told me of how there were steelhead in her creek until the road department came in and created culverts for the passage of water. She was quite disturbed about the change. She had grown to love the creek and the fish. I would like to begin a program within our club to investigate the some 2500 known barriers on the Russian River. Though I would like to start out with the Warm Springs dam on Dry Creek (good name), or Coyote dam on the east fork, I will be glad to start with culverts, etc. that can be identified and find funding and services to do the work. I would imagine that club members have some of these abilities, knowledge or equipment to do this type of restoration. Those that have some time to donate to this type of work are welcomed to contact me. Suggestions for any work of this sort or perhaps other systems can also be considered. Recently the state legislature passed Assembly member Virginia Strom-Martin's (D-Duncan Mills) AB 2783 providing additional funding to monitor, restore, and enhance steelhead trout throughout California. The Catch Report-Restoration Card bill was sponsored by Cal Trout. The million plus dollars raised are badly needed for this type of work.

Recently there were two derailments of UP trains near the Upper Sacramento River. They fortunately did not contain hazardous material as they did several years ago at the Cantera Loop. Wake-up call. UP does not even have to report these derailments to the CPUC !

Meanwhile, it is too much water released into the Russian River (recent article in the Press Democrat quoting a federal study the suggests that the flows may be too high causing harm to the fishery), then... too little in the Klamath. In July, 2002 I reported the decrease flows (thirty percent less than 2001) in the Klamath resulted in hundreds of fish deaths including one hundred rare coho salmon. Forest Service employees were able to rescue hundreds of fish near the Oregon border. This was due to the mandated agricultural diversions. Farmers at one point last year had violated orders and opened the diversion valves during protests. Now we hear of 30,000 adult Chinook dying in the lower reaches of the system. Thirty and forty pound adults that will not spawn. Low flows seem to have concentrated the Chinook Salmon in such a way as to cause the rapid spread of a disease of the gills called "gill rot". It is often the result of high organic pollution, high nitrate levels, elevated water temperatures and reduce oxygen levels. I am told that if the water temp is too high the fish will go back out of the system. Tests will help to determine what was the cause of the mass kill-off.

I see in the Press Democrat October 19, 2002 a photo of a Fish and Game employee tossing a bucket of rainbow trout into a stream, where it is quite shallow, landing haphazardously from a height of about seven feet. I was told many years ago not to throw fish into the water because the shock can kill them. It is not the same as them jumping on their own. Landing in shallow water surly will result in the fish striking rocks, an almost certain death. Mixed messages. We forget humans learn by example. This summer a sewer pipeline broke in Sebastopol spilling perhaps thousands of gallons of untreated waste into the Laguna, a tributary to the Russian River. 650,000 gallons a day pass through the old pipe. Officials stated they did not believe that much had spilled! A hunt has begun for the millions of dollars to replace the aging line. **Rodger Magill**



Bass Bug Popper

Materials Needed:

- HOOK: Mustad 3366 #10 to 2/0
- THREAD: 6/0 in black, brown, olive or clear mono
- EYES: Doll eyes
- BODY: Deerhair spun and clipped
- TAIL: Bucktail saddle hackles and Flashabou
- COLLAR: Two saddle hackles wound together
- WEED GUARD: 25 # test for larger flies ... 15# for medium ... 6# for small

Recipe:

Step 1 - Weedguard: Tie-in the mono thread or 6/0 thread right above the hook point. Slightly mash one end of the 25 # mono and with needle nose pliers. Tie flattened end above the hook point, winding the mono thread back over the mono weedguard. Pull the mono weedguard slightly back toward the rear of the hook so it will stay on top of the hook shank. Keep the thread wraps tight and continue winding the mono over the weedguard to about a third of the way into the bend of the hook, then wind back up right above the hook point. For the tail section use black, brown or olive.

Step 2 - Tail: Select two colors, in this case chartreuse and white bucktail. Clip a match stick sized bundle of white bucktail, even up the ends by hand, pulling out the longer hairs replacing them into the clump at the correct length, leave the tips slightly uneven. Measure the white bucktail against the hook shank about a shank and half long. Tie in right above the hook point and wrap mono back over deerhair to the start of the bend and back to right above the hook point. To do this, pinch the bundle and the hook together, and do the pinch technique of bringing the thread or mono up between your thumb and first finger, wrap over deerhair twice, then pull straight down. To keep the hair from rolling over on the side of the hook shank, make four or five more wraps in front of the first two wraps to secure. Now do the same with the chartreuse deerhair. This part of the fly keeps the tail hackle apart and gives a flat surface to tie the hackle in on the side of the hook. Lift up the butt ends of the white and chartreuse deerhair that are pointing toward the eye of the hook at a forty-five degree angle to the shank and clip off with scissors parallel to the shank. This gives a nice taper to the deerhair butt ends. Do not cover the ends, leave them. Tie in the flashabou right above the hook point and let it hang out behind the hook about one inch and a half. Select six wide saddle hackle to use for the tail on this 2/0 hook size. Tie three hackles to each side of the hook (chartreuse, black and yellow grizzly). The inner hackle needs to be three and one half hook shank lengths long. The two outer hackles need to be three hook shanks long. Take a hackle in your right hand and lay it on top of the hook shank with the tip of the hackle at the bend, lightly pinch with your left hand the hackle just behind the eye of the hook. Move your left hand, while still lightly pinching the hackle, to the start of the bend of the hook, bring your right hand up to the eye of the hook and lightly pinch the hackle and move both hands back to the bend of the hook. Continue doing this till you have three and one half inches of hackle. If it is too long cut the butt of the hackle to three and one half inches. Now, do the same with the outside shorter hackle. Take your measured hackle feathers and lay them on your knee making sure the butt ends are aligned (the longer one first with ends curved up and then the two shorter feathers on top of the longer one). Take all three to the near side, your side of hook shank and tie them in together, right where you tied off your deerhair tail. Then tie the other three hackle to the far side of the hook. When you look at the back of your fly the hackle should look splayed out.

Step 3 - Collar: Take two chartreuse hackles parallel to the hook shank where the tail hackle are tied above the hook point. Then wrap the two hackle together around the hook shank only advancing, up to the hook point.

Step 4 - Spinning Deerhair Body: Take a pencil bunch of deerhair and pull or comb out the fuzz at the butt where you cut the deerhair from the hide. Take two wraps of thread over and around the deerhair and the hook shank, pull the mono thread straight down (keep holding on to the deerhair). As the mono starts tightening, slowly loosen your left hand and the deerhair will start to flare, keep tightening the thread and let go of the deerhair in your left hand and the hair will spin around the hook. Take three wraps through the deerhair and with your right hand thumb, first and second finger ends, push and wiggle the deerhair toward the tail (push as hard as you can using the packer). Continue spinning and flaring deerhair to the hook shank until you get to two hook eye lengths from the eye of the hook. Half hitch or whip finish the fly. Don't tie in the weed guard at this time. Take the fly out of the vise, trim the fly flat on the bottom, so there won't be any hair in the way of setting the hook. Clip the hair in front, in a half moon shape, leaving the front big and the back toward the bend clipped at an angle and smaller. After you have the deerhair clipped to your satisfaction, put it back in the vise and bring the Mono weed guard up thru the eye of the hook and tie off, making sure to keep the mono weed guard in line with the hook point. Whip finish or half hitch and put a drop of hard as nails finger nail polish on the mono weed guard wraps.

Step 5 - Doll Eyes: Goop is a trade name for a rubber type cement. Use it to put the doll eyes on the side of the flared hair, close to

the front of the fly, one on each side.

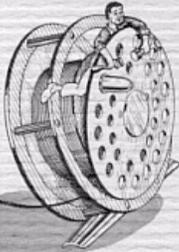
How to Fish:

This bug can be fished on a floating line and you cast back into the weediest cover that you can find, or fish it with a leadcore and jig the fly back to the boat. After you tie this pattern, you'll be surprised how light this bug is to cast. Enjoy and go fish.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris

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<p>Scott Eclipse Series 4wt 6 pc 9' new \$400 St. Croix Imperial 8 wt 4 pc 9' \$100 Call Duncan @ 431-1007</p>	<p>8' pram or dingy \$350 Contact Stan Mead @ 546-0678 or 'segmead@aol.com'</p>
<p>Cane Rod 7' 5 wt 2 pc in perfect condition \$550 Birds eye maple reel seat with silver sliding bands, engraving on ferrule of adult and nymph insects, with sock and hexagon shaped wood rod tube Contact Charlie Schillinsky @ 468-1678</p>	<p>Interphase Echo 200 LCD Fishfinder & Depthfinder \$50 Contact Fred Pedersen @542-5296</p>
<p>12 Ft Smoker Craft (Sea King) Aluminum Boat \$350 Contact Tom Lynn @538-4366</p>	

Year 2002 Photo Contest

Entries are coming in now for the Year 2002 RRFF Photo Contest, so take a few minutes and look over your photos for the year and send them in. The membership gets to vote on the entries at the February Dinner Meeting and prizes are given out at the March General Meeting. Send photos to jfinet@vom.com in .jpg format or hand them over at a membership meeting to John Iding. We'll start showing the pictures at the November or December Membership Meeting ... so get you entries in now! See the rules for the contest on the Club web site. **The Editor**

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member:

- (Single membership - \$40 annual dues)
- (Family membership - \$45 annual dues)
- (Junior membership - \$25 annual dues)

Existing membership renewal:

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

Dues run from July 1st to June 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to:

Russian River Fly Fishers, 1029 Jack London Dr, Santa Rosa, CA 95409



Volume 27 Number 12 December 2002

For December 2002

Enjoy the Holidays!

Happy Holidays - Rick Baker

Hello one and all, I guess we are now finding ourselves smack dab in the middle of the holiday season. I wish you all the best and hope the holidays treat you well!

Well, I have been starting out giving a brief synopsis of my snooping adventures for the last month. Things seem to have really wound up on my end, so the piscatorial pursuits have had to take a back seat for a short while. I did manage to get out and hunt down some of the salmon that came into the river in October. Those buggers sure did hold-up in the middle/lower section of the river for a while. The first rain of the season dirtied and raised the river just enough to get them on the move. I was lucky and was able to get out and see some of them taking advantage of the inclement weather and really move. I chased them for a couple of days but that was about it. Believe it or not, I hardly even

wetted a line. It's pretty cool watching those buggers! You can learn a lot about fish behavior if you just pay attention and watch them for a while! But then again, that's just me. I think I could watch them for hours; actually I have. These West Coast runs of fish are pretty darn cool. I sure do wish that they were here locally in the present as they were...oh say...in the numbers during the 50-60's. It's a shame they're gone, and it's great they're coming back. Really though, that's a subject that I would like to openly discuss with everyone in the near future.

We have a couple of dates for you to mark down in the near future. On Dec. 11th at our General meeting; Scott Broome, Rodger Magill and Tom Lynn will be speaking on fishing the Russian River. This should be an interesting meeting with some of the clubs more experienced members sharing a bit of knowledge on chasing the local fish. Also, mark your calendars for the Dinner

meeting to be held in February. Joe Banovich and Scott Broome have promised a pretty interesting speaker along with some great food once again this year. Please read on further within these pages to find out a bit more on both events.

That's all I've got folks. I'm heading back to the wily Midwest for the turkey day. Hopefully at the Dec. meeting I will return with a couple of fox squirrel tails and be able to entertain you with a story or two of chasing some late season crappies...don't count on it though.

Tight Lines



Attention

The deadline for submission of newsletter material, classifieds, etc., is **5 days** after the date of the Board Meeting. Board members and interested guests note that the Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm, Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village, unless notified otherwise.

2002/2003 Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors

President: Rick Baker (545-8860)
Secretary: Tom Campbell (576-3936)
Membership Database: Steve Tubbs (765-1787)
Casting Pond: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Newsletter Editor: John Iding (938-4116 jfinet@vom.com)
Treasurer: Pat Gibbard (578-6115)
Youth Activities: Open
Outings: Scott Broome (575-5993)
Conservation: Rodger Magill (876-3308)
Raffle Chairperson: Lee Smith (538-0706)
Director at Large: Paul Major (539-5437)

Casting Instruction: Rick Jorgensen (987-8764)
Vice President: Marji Major (539-5437)
Program Director: Joe Banovich (526-6015)
Special Events Chairperson: Marji Major (539-5437)
Lake Captain: Tom Lynn (538-4366)
Webmaster: John Iding (938-4116)
Membership Coordinator: Ken Magoon (527-8376)
Fly Tying: Terry Faris (539-4354)
Director of CAST Archives: Bob Sisson 525-1976
Club e-mail List: Scott Lewis (527-9168)
Director at Large: Tim Reuling (887-9734)

Coming Events

December

Membership Meeting - 12/11
Board Meeting - 12/18
Casting Clinic - Sundays by Appointment
Fly Tying Meeting - **12/17** Note date change!

January

Membership Meeting - 1/8
Board Meeting - 1/15
Casting Clinic - Sundays by Appointment
Fly Tying Meeting - 1/22
Dinner Meeting - 2/8

December General Meeting

RRFF Presents:

Scott Broome

Tom Lynn

Rodger Magill

“Fly Fishing the Club Accesses”

Board members Scott, Tom and Rodger invite you to the December presentation of “Fly Fishing the Club Accesses”. The meeting will start with fly tying geared toward fishing the Club Accesses. Featured fly tiers will be Terry Ferris, Tom Lynn and Rodger Magill.

Rodger Magill will start the meeting with a slide presentation on trophy fly fishing for Largemouth Bass. Rodger has fished Northern California for trophy bass for many years and will share his expertise.

Scott Broome will follow with a presentation on bass fishing and steelhead fishing on the private Club access. He will also briefly talk about his new project: Club Access at Fountain Grove Lake.

Tom Lynn will talk about fishing the Club access for smallmouth and largemouth bass. Tom’s presentation will include maps, flies, tips and equipment on how to successfully fish the Club Accesses. He will also briefly talk about rules, check in policies and parking.

At the end of the presentations, there will be an opportunity for questions and answers for all three presenters.

Wednesday, December 11th

Bring a Friend

Fly Tying at 6 pm General Meeting at 7 pm
The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Vet’s Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Santa Rosa, CA
Joe Banovich - Program Director

Announcing the RRF Annual Dinner Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2003 - Druids Hall in Santa Rosa

Broome's Cioppino Feed Plus - Great Raffle - Speaker Hal Janssan

This will be a "don't miss" evening

Seating will be limited - get your reservation in early

Send your reservation with name and number in party (\$35/person) to:

Marji Major

1029 Jack London Ct.

Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Any questions? Call 579-0990 weekdays / 539-5437 evenings - Look for more information in future CASTs - **Marji Major**

A Day on Putah Creek

Brian and I got on the water around 10:30 am and started working just up from the bridge below the damn...er dam...though "damn" would turn out to be the operative word of the day! I could see the trout but nothing would hit either of our flies. Brian tried about 9 different bugs, nymphs of all colors and even some dries. I worked some midges, cripples when the small hatch started, and even some ants but nothing, not even a refusal. Brian finally hooked up after lunch with a nice 12" as we worked down stream. BUT, nothing came my way but some tangles, air knots that made the Guinness Record book and a couple of snags on my back cast. I was one frustrated fly fisherman! Can I even call myself that, with nothing to show for my efforts I wondered. My only solace was that only one angler besides Brian got anything either and hey, "quality time on the water" so I focused on just practicing my cast. The other fisherman present were great to talk to and provided some good insight into this body of water. Funny how the effort makes friends of strangers.

Along about 4:00 pm I headed back upstream figuring by now the fish I had put down with my rookie casts had settled down from their fright <grin>. I wanted to try just one more time before the sun set.

I had been using black and olive all day so this time I tried a Fox pupa with some orange and black, about a 18-20 I recall (its gone now so I can't say for certain).

I found a nice drop off of some deep water right where the dry creek bed dumps into Putah, rather narrow, but some nice weeds and branches along the opposite side. I got set up and made my cast upstream, mended just right and BOOM...just a bump...but there were obviously fish here. I jumped on the radio to tell Brian and continued my casting. BOOM... another nudge...maybe even a bite but I had too much slack to say for sure! The excitement mounts, maybe this time???

Brian arrives and starts working upstream from me and I throw the perfect cast...mend like a champ... keep the slack in control and WHAM.. I get a certain bite. I set (without ripping the lips off) and the fight is on. MY FIRST FREAKING FISH ON A FLY!!!! He dives for the tree stumps across the creek but I am able to keep him away from the certain tangle there. I work him feverishly, I am going to get this guy in come hell or high water! Brian comes over to help but I want to land this baby by myself. I give a moments thought to the camera around my neck and the perfect picture this will make. You all know the one. The gorgeous fish laying on the net with the rod and reel above. I think, I may even put it in for display on the website. Now, finally I can be part of the club (you know where this is going right?).

I reach back and grab my landing net as the most beautiful rainbow ever seen by man rolls near the service and shows us gorgeous coloring with vibrant reds and greens, a nice 16" for sure. I ready the net, pull back the rod behind me, and what the heck? Brian reaches over to grab the line! Later I find out he is afraid that the roll has wrapped it around a fin but suddenly, ITS GONE!!!! NO.. Say it isn't so. The only tension on the line is Brian's fist around my leader and a shocked look as I realize his grab has broken the line and my prize, this gorgeous fish, the product of all this fishing, over a year of casting practice, lessons, and expenses is swimming happily away!

A few moments of silence pass as we look at each other, my eyes wide and eyebrows raised, broken first by Brian; "Dude, I am SO sorry!" I have to laugh. This story will be worth WAY more in how much grief I can give my best friend over YEARS to come at knocking this first trout off my line. By now the sun is all but down, we have to get going and the whole ride home Brian apologizes. Unlike the fish, I can't possibly "catch and release" this one, he owes me. Later there will be explanations of line friction on the knots and all manner of excuses. But bottom line, HE knocked it off. Even though I haven't landed one (yet) the experience is there. The camaraderie I have found with the club, the excitement of hooking a wild trout, and the story...oh the story! **Ed Hudson**

Monthly Fly Tying Meeting

Our Fly Tying meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at Tom Campbell's home: 1475 Lupine Drive, Santa Rosa. Please note that for December only, the tying meeting will be moved to Tuesday December 17th. Both new and experienced tiers meet to share information and techniques. Bring your tying gear, a directional lamp, and a desire for sharing, learning and general camaraderie. Call first so you can get one of the kits Terry Faris puts together which includes the materials necessary to tie the fly of the evening (\$3 or so). There are vises and other equipment available for those who are just starting, but do call first to make sure equipment will be available for you and also call to cancel if you can't make it so someone else can fill that spot.

Call Tom Campbell (576-0284), or Terry Faris (539-4354) for information. Should you have email and would like to get information about what is happening, please drop a note to Tom tashton@sbcglobal.net. Go west on Gurneville Road out of Santa Rosa and one block past Willowside Meats, turn right at Lupine Dr.

CAST by e-mail (Now also available in PDF format!)

The CAST is available by e-mail. The e-mail version is in color so those pictures really look nice. You can read the CAST online or print it out on your printer. You can forward a copy to a friend who you may be interested in having join the club. Savings to the Club are significant as more and more members receive their CAST by e-mail. If you would like to receive the CAST by e-mail, send me a message at jfinet@vom.com and I will put you on the distribution list. You will receive a compressed ZIP file with the CAST in Word format or it can also be made available in the PDF format (need Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.1 which is free online). You can always try it ... and if you don't like it ... we'll put you back on the mail version.

RRFF Website

www.members.tripod.com/~RRFlyFisher/index.html

Many thanks to Scott Lewis for starting and then maintaining the Club web site since it's inception! Scott has recently taken a deep breathe and has passed the responsibility to another Club member. Great job Scott! The web site has a slightly new look ... and the newsletter is available in PDF format now ... you can view the current newsletter from the web site ... stop by and have a look!

The Editor

New Members

Welcome to the following new member: Craig Jordan

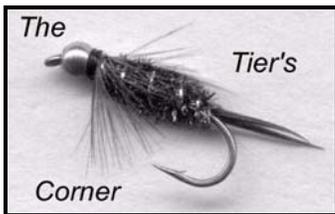
Don't hesitate to contact any of the Board members with questions you may have. See you at the meetings or at the casting pond!

Welcome aboard. **The Editor**

Name Tags

The RRFF membership has expanded beyond our supply of plastic name tags that I bring in the big old case to club meetings. Please check to see if you have duplicate tags at home and bring them to the next meeting, so we can reissue them to new members. The name tags are very difficult to duplicate so we want to try to keep the original tags if possible. If you are a member in a far flung location, and loyally renew your membership but never attend meetings, rest assured that we have your tag preserved for you. So please send along any extra tags to me, Ken Magoon, 5294 Arnica Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Ken Magoon Membership Coordinator (email: MAGOON5294@aol.com)



Egg Sucking Leech

Materials Needed:

- HOOK: 36890, sizes #8 to #2/0
- THREAD: Clear nylon sewing thread
- WEIGHT: Non-lead wire .015
- BODY: Black chenille
- TAIL: Marabou in black and chartreuse
- FLASH: Silver krystal flash
- HACKLE: Black cape
- HEAD: Red, chartreuse, or orange chenille

Recipe:

STEP 1: Put hook in vise and start thread mid shank, leaving a six inch tag end of thread hanging out the back of the bend of the hook. It will be used to tie down the krystal flash later. Wrap the thread back to one eye length in front of the hook point. Tie in weight (non-lead) wire, leave bobbin hanging at tie in point. Wrap lead wire in close wraps to one eye length from the return of the eye (wire end) and clip off excess lead wire. Wrap bobbin thread over lead wire forward and back four times, ending above hook point.

STEP 2: Take a small bunch of chartreuse marabou, making it a little less than the hook shank in length so there won't be any short strikes. Tie-in above hook point and wrap marabou ends and thread to just behind the wire and cut excess marabou. Take a little larger bunch of black marabou making it a little less than the hook shank in length and tie on top of the chartreuse and wrap back to just above the hook point. Cut excess marabou. Take a needle and put a very small drop of head cement on it and put it on the wraps of the chenille ends so you won't ruin the marabou or tie a couple half or whip hitches. Take the black hackle and tie-in the tip of the hackle above the hook point. Tie-in the black chenille, scraping some of the chenille off the end so it won't be bulky and tie in above hook point. Wrap the thread forward, stopping at the end of the lead wire. Take the black chenille and wrap in close turns to the end of the lead wire. When I started out tying, I would end up putting on so much material, that I had no room for tying off the head. That is why we are stopping at this point.

STEP 3: Tie in two krystal flash pieces (halved, not cut) half on far side of fly and the other half on near side of fly where the black chenille stops. Bring the krystal flash ends back to where the chenille was tied off. Now there are loops at the rear of the fly near the end of the marabou tail (Don't cut loops just yet). Make a couple wraps so this side will be tied down and do the same to the far side. Now we have two loops of four pieces of krystal flash on both sides of the fly. Take the end of the thread that was left there at the beginning of the tie and wrap the thread around the far side of the four krystal flash strands and wrap on around capturing the four strands on the side closest to you two times. Then wrap the end thread forward over the krystal flash in spiraling turns (the krystal flash should be centered on each the side of the body) on both sides of the fly to the stopping point of the chenille. Tie off the thread with the bobbin thread, wrapping over that thread about an 1/8 inch. Pull back and wrap over again, then forward, really locking the ends down. Cut the end thread, NOT the bobbin thread.

STEP 4: Take the black hackle that was tied in earlier and wrap in spiraling turns toward the eye of the hook. The hackle should follow the chenille trench. Tie off the hackle where the chenille stopped. Put a small drop of head cement there.

STEP 5: Take the red chenille, and tie off where the black hackle and black chenille stopped. Wrap the red chenille around the hook, trying to form a ball, or look like a fish egg. Tie off end of chenille and half hitch or whip finish and put a drop of head cement on the wraps. Now cut the krystal flash loops. Your fly is finished.

TIP: BRIGHT DAY---BRIGHT FLY. DARK DAY---DARK FLY.

SOME POINTS ON HOW TO USE THIS FLY: This fly can be fished with a floating line and leader depending on the depth of the river or it can be fished with heads from #1 to #5. Some times it can be fished with LC13 shooting head, depending on water velocity. Favored presentations cover every potential depth and current combination. Beginning at the head of a run, make a series of casts, sweeping all likely looking water. Pay particular attention to natural current breaks such as rocks and boulders. Try to get the fly as deep as possible in order to bounce the fly down the steelheads throat. Changes, due to casualties, (flies) and few fish, that's winter steelheading. This fly can be tied in purple, olive, blood (red), hot pink, peach. It can be tied with a dubbed collar replacing the chenille head to make the fly pulse and breathe from head to tail. Tie up some and go fish!!!! The fly tying meeting will be held DECEMBER 17, on a TUESDAY at 7:00 PM. Call for details.

Questions or requests? Contact Terry Faris



Raffle Donations

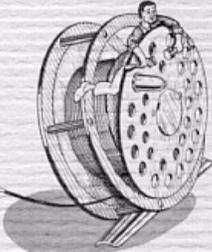
We all enjoy the Club raffles at the monthly meetings and we thank Lee Smith for organizing these raffles. This is just a reminder that we can always use donations of equipment or just about anything for these raffles. All donations are welcome. Please submit your donation items to Lee Smith.

Members who use e-mail!

We have been compiling a list of members with e-mail addresses to be used for Club announcements. If you would like to be included on this list, send an e-mail message to Scott Lewis (slewis95407@msn.com). Scott will periodically send out an updated list to the group ... save the message and use it to 'reply to all' ... when you have an announcement for membership.

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This is your last chance to participate in the Year 2002 Photo Contest ... so get those pictures in now! Deadline for submitting pictures is December 31st. The membership (and guests) get to vote on the entries at the February Dinner Meeting and prizes will be given out at the March General Meeting. Prizes will be given for the best overall picture, best fish picture, and most humorous picture. Send photos to jfinet@vom.com in .jpg format or hand them over at a membership meeting to John Iding. We'll start showing the pictures at the December Membership Meeting ... so get you entries in now!

- Photos should be taken by club members or be a picture of club member taken by others
- Awards will be given for best overall picture most humorous picture and best fish picture with special recognition for a picture of a fish airborne
- When submitting photos be sure to include your name and a small caption about where the photo was taken or if for humorous category an appropriate comment
- For digital photos the jpg format is preferred
- Photos will be returned upon request
- If we end up with a lot of photos we may limit the number of entries per member (member can select best 6 of 10 for example)
- Winners will be selected by the membership at the Feb 2003 Dinner Meeting and announced in the March CAST
- Photos should be submitted to John Iding at club meetings or by e-mail at jfinet@vom.com
- Deadline for entries is December 31st 2002
- Photos submitted for contest may be used for the CAST at the editor's discretion (unless specifically requested otherwise)
- Most important rule . Have fun

Club Waters

The time has come to renew the placards that allow us to go onto the private accesses. We have 2003 stickers available for these placards and you will need the stickers for the placards to be valid. Please see Tom Lynn at the next membership meeting if you haven't already renewed your placard. There is a shortage of placards, so please return yours if you are not planning to renew it.

Rules for River Access

(No Saturday fishing at any time or on designated dates - check calendar)

- Must be a member with current membership dues paid.
- Must have a valid California fishing license and abide by current regulations.
- Use proper access roads only - shut all gates and park a minimum of 250 feet from water. No parking on Campus.
- No 4-wheel driving and no driving off of access roads.
- No alcohol
- No smoking
- No firearms
- No littering
- No camping
- No fishing at night
- No using Campus facilities (i.e. pool, locker room, sports facilities etc)
- No vehicles in the water
- Cartop water craft launching only (no trailered boats)
- **Guest:** One per member only - more than one guest per member must be approved by the Board. All guests must abide by all rules.
- All guests must abide by the rules and regulations of the property owners.
- Must wear club ID (same manner as a fishing license; not in conjunction with your fishing license).
- Must have club vehicle placard (current year) displayed from rear view mirror.
- Upon leaving the river, please be sure to pack your trash out as there are no receptacles provided. Please leave the river cleaner than you found it.
- **Remember**, we are guests and please do not disturb the business or occupants of the "Campus".

Tom Lynn

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



Address correction requested

Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Signature _____



Please mark one of the following categories:

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