

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 43 Number 12
December 2016

Matt Cardle - Trinity Steelhead

Since June 1977
Visit our website at
www.rrflyfisher.org

President's Message

The Fish of a Thousand Casts...

That's the name given to our coastal steelhead by those who have pursued them and (hopefully) been able to finally land one. Fly fishing opportunities in Sonoma County tend to be few and far between compared to more rural areas, so maybe it's a good thing that catching our local number-one game fish is a genuine challenge. I know this to be true since I have hooked only one Russian River steelie in ten years, and I have yet to bring one to hand. Those who have been more successful than me have no doubt put in their thousand casts – the only proven method to make the magic happen.

The good news is that Mother Nature has smiled on us this fall and brought early rains to our drought-shrunken streams. I called the State Coastal Rivers Low Flow Hotline today (707-822-3164 for Mendocino

County and 707-944-5533 for Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties) and heard that the Russian and Gualala rivers are open for fishing. So watch the weather reports and the on-line stream flow gauges and wait for that "not too steelie-green" clearer water that works best for tempting our native trout that wanders the Pacific for years, but always comes back home to Sonoma County where it was born.

WANTED

RRFF Newsletter Editor

Must be familiar with MS Word and Desktop Publishing. Will help!

Please contact Lorrin Ngum - lorrinn@aol.com
or Steve Tubbs- steve@kresky.com

If you need to warm up to casting single-handed and spey rods in this cooler weather, our club is providing information and practice this month. Our annual **RRFF Steelhead Clinic** will be held 8AM Saturday, December 3, at the Galvin Park casting pond. The clinic provides tips on rigging and casting that are appropriate for our coastal rivers. Also our **Winter Saturday Casting Clinics**, held at the pond at 12:00 noon on the first and third Saturdays of the month (weather permitting), are a great opportunity to stretch those arm muscles that may not be used to the heavier gear necessary for steelhead fishing.

I wish you and your families the best for this holiday season and I hope that in the New Year you will enjoy all the adventure, beauty and peace that nature provides.

~ Ed Barich

RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, December 14th - 7:00 PM

Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building



~Dillon Renton~

Steelheading the North Umpqua and Deschutes Rivers

The Deschutes and North Umpqua are a couple of Oregon's most iconic and cherished rivers. Between the two drainages, an angler can find opportunities for both trout and steelhead year-round. With both winter and summer steelhead, the North Umpqua presents a great challenge with incredible reward. Wild native steelhead are in the river nearly year-round with some of Oregon's largest winter stock returning in the winter months. Summer steelhead are known for their surface aggression, often rising to skated flies.

Deep in an arid canyon to the east of the Cascades, the mighty Deschutes hosts both resident rainbow

trout and a run of summer steelhead. With over 100 miles of river, a number of great hatches, and more beautiful steelhead runs than imaginable, the Deschutes calls to both the trout and steelhead enthusiast alike.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 14th, to learn more about the Deschutes and North Umpqua rivers. We will be discussing opportunities through the calendar on both systems as well as various techniques and presentations. For anglers interested in guided trips to either or both rivers, there will be information available throughout the evening as well as in flyers.

~ Joe Banovich, Program Director

Conservation Corner

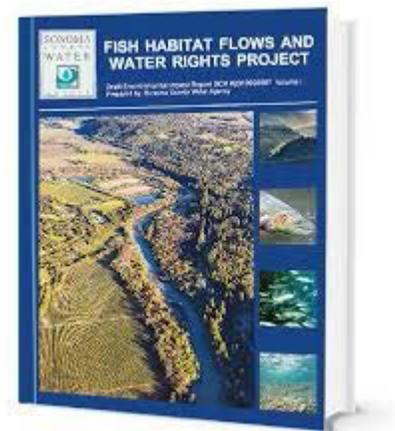
Oh, What a Tangled Web...

Back in August, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) released the [Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project](#) Draft Environmental

Impact Statement (DEIR) for public review. So far there have been 4 public workshops and a public

hearing before the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. I'm not going to pretend that I've read through the 3602 page PDF (frankly my computer pukes when I even try to download it) but there certainly have been some highlights that have raised different stakeholder's concerns.

Given that it's a government plan, it's a mix of pro-fish and pro-development proposals. For the



Join the RRFF on Facebook

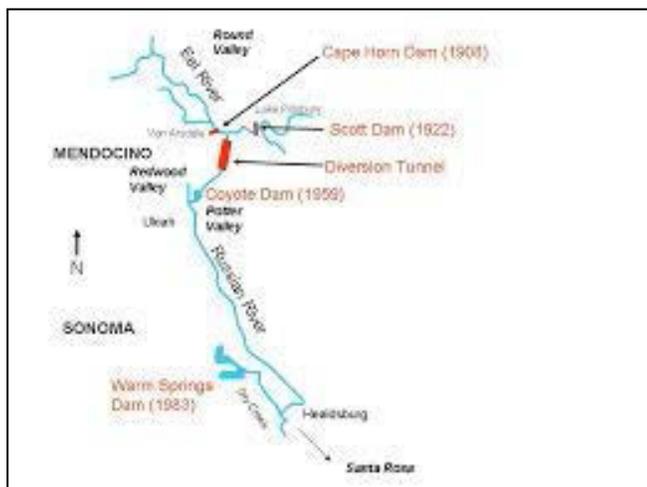
We currently have **778 members** on our RRFF Facebook page. You can keep up with the RRFF and our fly fishing and conservation community by joining us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers>

steelhead and Coho, there are lower flow regimes in Dry Creek that comply with the National Marine Fisheries Service's [Biological Opinion](#) (NMFS BiOp) on how to more naturally mimic summer flows. There is also more cold water from Lake Mendocino to improve the Fall Chinook spawning run and better measuring techniques to judge what real water conditions are like. For water users there would be the continuation of the annual diversion of 75,000 acre-feet for public water supplies until 2040. As with any public plan there are those that may not profit from the changes, even if everyone agrees the status quo is untenable. For those in the lower Russian River, this could lead to a loss in summer business due to lower flows that may restrict recreation and raise the potential for increased algae blooms.

It all sounds familiar, right? A change in regulations leads to winners and losers, depending on your perspective. Multiple stakeholders fight for a valuable slice of a disappearing pie. But unfortunately, this just gets more complex.

Our neighbors in the Eel River watershed have noticed that *lower* flows and better management in the Russian are being proposed to help the fish. And that brings to mind the fact that PG&E's Potter Valley Project (PVP) has been diverting an average of 159,000 acre-feet of upper Eel River water to the Russian since the building of Cape Horn Dam in 1908 (Introduction to Water in California, 2009). So if the Russian doesn't really need that water, why not keep it in the Eel? This November, The Friends of the Eel River [proposed just this](#) to SCWA.



It turns out that the newer, higher Scott Dam (Lake Pillsbury) doesn't have any fish passage. NOAA's release of the [Coastal Multispecies Final Recovery](#)

[Plan](#) in October cited extensive research over the past 4 years (led by CalTrout and the Native Fish Society, among others) that showed there are over 200 miles of potential habitat for wild steelhead above Scott Dam (compare that to PG&E's estimate of 35.7 miles). Critical summer flows of cold water come from above Scott Dam. And to make things even more complex, many fisheries biologists and conservation organizations view the Eel River watershed as much more amenable than the Russian to wild salmonid restoration because of the larger, colder, more pristine upper watershed.

The Eel River Forum, a multi-stakeholder group made up of conservation organizations, like CalTrout and the Salmonid Restoration Federation and Potter Valley Project, and supporters, like PG&E and the Potter Valley Irrigation District, have [proposed a number of actions](#) to study and improve habitat and flows in the Eel River watershed. The Potter Valley Project's FERC license expires in April 2022 and the relicensing process begins in 2017. The Forum has discussed The NMFS's Biological Opinion recommendation for decommissioning (removing) the Scott and Cape Horn Dams, and thus eliminating Russian River diversions, but this diverse group has not reached agreement on that approach. Russian River stakeholders on the Forum like the Sonoma County Water Agency have not agreed to giving up their Eel River water.

So where does that leave us, dear steelhead fishers of the Russian River? Give up on the Russian and throw all-in with a free-flowing Eel? Keep the PVP dams and some of their water for what's left of the Russian? Squabble among conservation organizations for tidbits that serve conflicting local needs? Or will we work together to brave the daunting complexities and find a magical middle way to save both the Russian and Eel wild salmonids? The latter is bound to be more difficult, more expensive and take a lot longer, but I for one am on board.

Hang on to your hats, the next several years should be interesting.

~ Derek Campbell, RRF Conservation Director

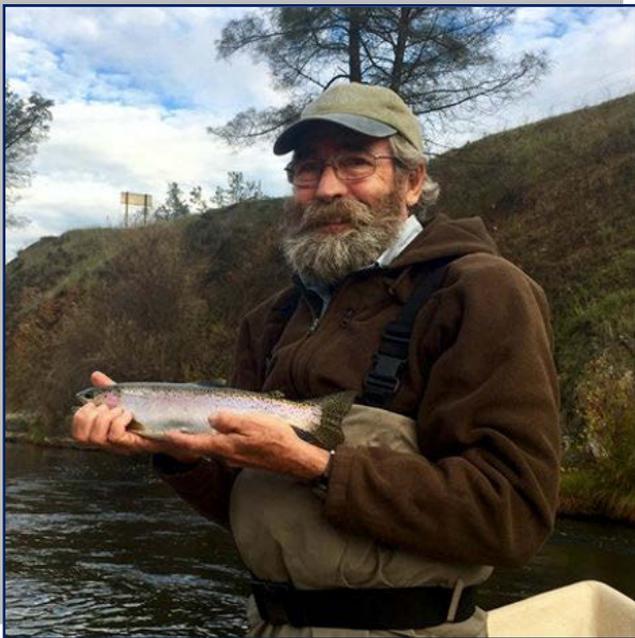
**Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers
on the Internet at**

www.rrflyfisher.org

Annual RRF Trinity River Outing

Twelve Russian River Fly Fishers trekked to the Trinity River between November 10th and 15th, chasing the elusive Steelhead Trout. Participants included Bill Laurie, Doug Mackay and Ed Barich in one room at the Indian Creek Lodge. Matt Cardle, Mike Samuelson, Mike Fitzgerald and his son, Sean, also stayed at the Lodge. Brian Hartley and James Orosz stayed at the 49er Gold Country Lodge in Weaverville, as did Ken Magoon and Greg Jacobs. Mike Kangrga and Mike Tibbet stayed at Big Foot RV Camp in Junction City.

Several of us fished with guides, but the steelies were just not in the Trinity in any numbers. Some successes to mention are: Doug Mackay landed his first steel head on a fly, and Matt Cardle and Mike Samuelson hooked a couple of adults Friday and several half-pounders" on Saturday. The Fitzgeralds said they had a similar fishing experience.



Doug Mackay's first steelhead...

Mike Kangrga reported that his friend Jo landed a native adult while wading. Mike went for a swim. Bill Laurie, Brian Hartley, James Orosz, Ken Magoon and Greg Jacobs had little success wade-fishing the Trinity, but they stayed dry. As Brian wrote, "Pretty tough fishing. We call it steelhead fishing."

On the advice of Anthony Carruesco (acflyfishing.com), Ken and Greg fished with him on the Sacramento River that Monday. Using his jet boat on many half-mile drifts out of Caldwell Park in

Redding, they had an estimated 50+ hook-ups of nice rainbow trout. (Greg had two for one of Ken's.)

~ Ken Magoon and Bill Laurie

Trout in Crooked River, OR & Lady Fish in Pensacola, FL



Christie's Rainbow...

Just when I think fishing should begin to become mundane at some point, it just keeps getting more interesting! While in Sisters, OR this September with the IWFF, Judith Brown and I had the pleasure of a guided trip by Mary Ann Dozer on the Crooked River. My husband, Richard, and I own a lot in Crooked River Ranch, and my parents reside part time in Crooked River in a home overlooking the golf course. Beautiful there if you have never been. Fishing holes everywhere!

I also managed to enjoy a guided float on the Lower Deschutes, but then had to cancel the remainder of the fishing trip due to a property purchase business endeavor I was helping my Father with. I missed out on a successful day on the Metolius River with my friend, Lyn Little; and another guided float day with Fanny Kreiger. There is always next year...

I arranged a last minute flight to Pensacola FL from the little airport in Redmond, OR to view a Zaxby's drive-through restaurant for my Father. (1031 Exchange to avoid Capital Gains Tax). In-between meeting with the sellers, I decided to Google "Fly Fishing in Pensacola" and found only one person listed as a guide. It was a Saturday night when I placed the call, and was delighted that Baz agreed to give up part of his Sunday to take me out. Baz said the fishing would most likely not be great because of the heat wave, but I was happy to just experience Florida fishing! The only question Baz asked me was "Do you double-haul?" I hesitantly answered that I was a "work in progress". I am happy to report that Baz was relieved that I did know at least something about the haul and managed to cast 60' for one lucky cast. "Yeah" to you teachers! So off to the store I went in search of

sunscreen, gloves and a hat to prepare for my first experience of fishing in Florida.

The water was so clear, and riding around in Baz's Hewes 18' Redfisher flats skiff, down the beach in 2-3 feet of water while sight-fishing for Pompano, was a blast. I enjoyed the wind running through me as I clung to the sissy bar, stopping long enough to play with the dolphins that came right up to the boat over and over again.

For those of you who like to fish the Florida waters, here is the technical information of what took place...

I landed a small Flounder on a grass bed in Santa Rosa Sound near the tip of the Gulf Breeze Peninsula. I was using a size 2 tan/white Clouser minnow. I lost a Spanish Mackerel -- and he kept ---an olive "surf candy" size 2 fly. It was determined then that I needed to learn to "strip set" instead of pulling the fly out of his mouth by setting upwards.

Then we went west of Pensacola Pass in the Gulf Islands National Seashore along Johnson Beach. We saw Bluefish but they weren't interested in our fly. However plenty of Ladyfish (Relatives of Tarpon) were happy to eat the tan/white Clouser. I was using a 9' leader that tapered down to 20# fluoro with a foot of 40# bite tippet. Per Baz, that leader and the 2.8 lb fish on the end of it would have qualified for the Women's World Record Ladyfish on a fly in the 20# class tippet category. Sounds stupid, I know, but Baz made me promise I'd tell you....



Ladyfish...

Those beautiful Ladyfish were very active and entertaining. I giggled in delight each time one did a cartwheel over the water, as if they just wanted to put on a show. I landed approximately 10 of them.

I hope to return to Florida one day and do some sight-fishing for Redfish!

~ Christie Geernaert



Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy, Sporting Collectible Show

Friday, March 10, 2017

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Show Hours -

Fri. 9 am to 5 pm & Sat. 8 am to 3 pm.

Santa Rosa Veterans Building

1351 Maple Avenue in Santa Rosa, off Hwy 12 across from the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.

For more information, call

Red Johnson,

707-539-3662, cell: 707-888-7935

email: warrenjo@pacbell.net

www.redsshow.com

DONATIONS NEEDED for **RRFF Cioppino Dinner Raffle and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 25, 2017.** Contact one of the following Board members to have your donation picked up. Please get your donations to one us at least a week prior to the dinner.

Ken Magoon, 527-8376 or magoon5294@aol.com
(Santa Rosa)

Gregg Wrisley, 823-5572 or ggwris@yahoo.com
(Sebastopol)

Paul Matzen, 795-8885 (Petaluma)

Doug Mackay, 575-5709 or demackay@sonic.net
(Santa Rosa)

All of the following contributions are desirable:

Fly Fishing Gear and all types of fishing accessories. (Other fishing gear welcomed.)

Fly Tying Vises and Tools.

Prams, Pontoons, or Float Tubes (Must be in very good and safe condition.)

Camping, Hiking, and Recreational Equipment.

Art Work and Books.

Products and services (from your or a friend's business.)

Guided Fishing Trips or access to private fishing water.

Spa Sessions or Cosmetology Services.

Food Items or Wine.

Tickets to Sporting Events or Souvenirs.

Dinners or stays at B and B's.

Fun Family Activities.

Include donor's name and description of the item donated. (Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept RV's, autos or large boats.)

~ 2017 RRF Dinner Donations Committee

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

Archuleta's Reel Works

Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.
733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541) 956-1691
Bill Archuleta, owner
www.archuletasreelworks.com

King's Sport and Tackle

Clothing, flies, rods, supplies, gear, accessories, instruction, guide service, and canoe rental. 16258 Main Street, Guerneville, CA 95446.
(707) 869-2156.
www.kingsrussianriver.com

Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.

Fishing gear, supplies, fly fishing, flies, rods and accessories.
412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.
(707) 588-8033,
fax (707) 588-8035
www.outdoorproshop.com

Calendar of Events

RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics – From noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting). Held on the first and third Saturday of each month at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

December

17 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm

January

7 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
12-15 **Gualala River Outing** (B. Laurie)
21 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
19-22 Sacramento ISE

Make plans now to attend the

RRFF Annual Cioppino Dinner

Saturday, February 25th, 2017
at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building.

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Vice President & Outings Co-Chairman: **Bill Laurie**

538-0399 blaurie120@att.net

Outings Co-Chairman: **Ken Magoon**

527- 8376 magoon5294@aol.com

Secretary: **Greg Jacobs**

823-7341 gjacobs48@gmail.com

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

(415)-599-6138 mikerrff@gmail.com

Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

526-6015 joebanovich@sonic.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Member at Large: **Chris Castellucci**

763-2017 chrslucci@aol.com

Member at Large: **Mike Kast**

538-9762 michaelrkast@gmail.com

Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: **Paul Matzen**

795-8885 gbridgeman@att.net

Member at Large: **Ken Young**

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**

591-5667 dcampbell00@hotmail.com

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

823-5572 gwris@gmail.com

Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**

815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

Raffle Coordinator: **Christie Geernaert**

Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Newsletter: **Lorrin Ngum**

762-4652 lorrinn@aol.com

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Please join us for our annual

Russian River Fly Fishers

CIOPPINO Fundraising Raffle DINNER

SILENT AUCTION

Join us for an evening of fun, friendship and our fund-raising raffle. All profits support various RFFF Programs throughout the year!

\$50.00 per person

(\$15.00 for children 12 and under)

Social from 5:00 until 7:00 PM

Wine will be offered with dinner and you are welcome to bring a special wine of your choice!

Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM

Veteran's Memorial Hall - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

Donations: rrflyfisher.org or contact: Ken Magoon 527-8376 magoon5294@aol.com (Santa Rosa), or Gregg Wisley 823-5572 gwrisk@yahoo.com (Sebastopol), or Doug Mackay 575-5709 demackay@sonic.net (Santa Rosa), or Paul Matzen 795-8885 (Petaluma).

FOR MORE INFORMATION or volunteer coordinator: rrflyfisher.org or Ed Barich 539-4608
shear along dotted line.

We will also have alternate dinners available. Please let us know how many you will need.

Cioppino _____ Steak _____ Chicken _____ Jackie's Thai _____

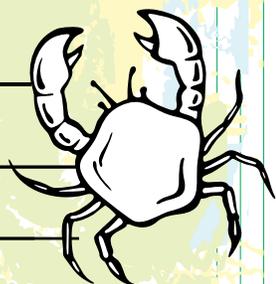
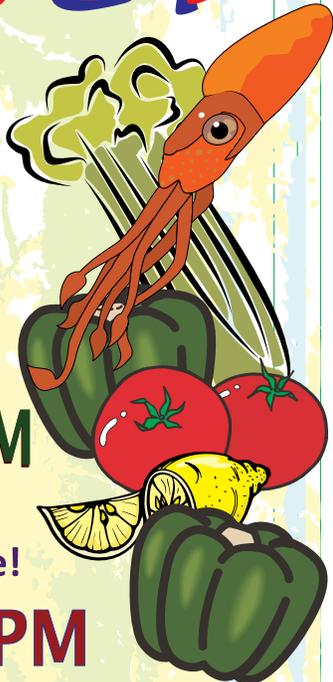
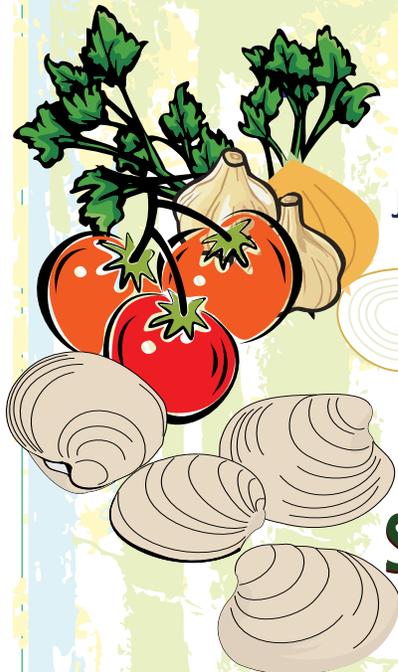
Name _____

How many will attend _____ Telephone Number _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Tickets are **\$50.00 per person**

Pay Online @ rrflyfisher.org or send payment to:

Russian River Fly Fishers - c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945



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



Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

I acknowledge in this agreement, and fully understand, that it is a release of liability. I further acknowledge that I am waiving any right that I may have to bring legal action or to assert a claim against Russian River Fly Fishers (RRFF) for its negligence. Any member who invites a non-member (including member's spouse and family) agrees that such guest is bound by the same conditions and agrees to so advise the guest. I have read this statement and agree to its terms as a condition of my membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers. This agreement is valid for all RRFF sanctioned events, (fishing outings, picnics, meetings).

Name _____ Date _____ Referred by _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail Address* _____

How Can You Help the RRFF? _____

Occupation _____ Signature _____

* Required for e-mail newsletter

Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member: **Single membership** – \$50 annual dues **Gold membership** - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Family membership – \$55 annual dues [JOIN ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

Junior membership – \$25 annual dues

Existing membership renewal: **Single membership** – \$50 annual dues **Gold membership** - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Family membership – \$55 annual dues [RENEW ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

Junior membership – \$25 annual dues

Dues paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 30th of any year will cover the balance of that year and also the membership dues for the following fiscal year. The RRFF fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**
c/o **Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945**