

**GPFF Club Eel/ Mattole/Mad River Steelhead Trip March 2-6, 2018** Southern Humboldt County gives us three rivers to consider as we chase the elusive steelhead. The plan is to let the town of Garberville be our base for lodging and dining as we will fish along the South Fork of the Eel along the Avenue of the Giants near the town of Miranda. As an option not too far away and depending on conditions some or all of us can access the Mattole not far from Garberville. Also further north on 101 the Mad River at Blue Lake, CA is good to fish when the fish are moving up. These coastal rivers react quickly to rain so be prepared for changes. Basic plan is to meet on eve of March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the **Calicos Café** about 6:30 PM to discuss the fishing plan. Lodging is best in Garberville as there are plenty of motels but do book ahead the day you are departing. If we or some of us would like to travel up to the Mad River I suggest staying in Arcata at the Super 8 or Red Roof Inn both off HWY 101. Fishing the Mad would take you below the Mad River Hatchery. Drive to the hatchery and walk and fish down the river. There is a great beer brewery and café there in Blue Lake called the Mad River Brewery. Lots of locals and fishermen collect there. For river information call the Mad River Tackle Shop, (707) 826-7201. 1264 Giuntoli Lane, Arcata, CA. Plenty of tackle and little fly's but lots of good fishing information.

**Regarding Equipment:** 6-7 weight rods single or double hand rods. Swing, strip or nymph. Not sure what will work best regarding fly fishing so try them all. As far as fly's I'd hold up until we /I get more information about what is happening. Eggs were working last time I fished up there in March. Sink tips S2 thru S6 or for spey rigs T8 thru T14.

**Clothing & Safety:** Figure cold and wet weather so warm undies and poly fibers clothing. Dress in layers with breathable waterproof shell. Also make sure you pack and bring along a set of replacement clothing in case you go swimming unexpectedly. Wading staff and whistle as well as 2018 Fishing License with Steelhead Report Card and are required. Fishing maps by Stream Time are helpful and the club will provide walkie talkie's and First Aid Kit.

**Regarding Food:** Mc Kinleyville and Arcata have plenty of places to eat. Supermarkets in McKinleyville have deli's so you are covered there for a sandwich.

**Requests:** Please do give me your transportation and lodging plans as well as what days you will be spending in this envelope of time between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>st</sup>. After signing up let me know your plans and transportation needs or plans and phone number. Any questions let me know. [edwardbeggs@comcast.net](mailto:edwardbeggs@comcast.net) (510) 418-3861.

**Additional Information:** Seems like plenty of motels to choose from in Garberville. Give it a google for your choice. My choice is **Motel Garberville** 948 Redwood Drive, Garberville, CA (707) 923-2422. If you like to camp there is a place called **Giant Redwoods RV & Camp**, 400 Myers Ave, Myers Flat near Boy Scout road. (707) 943-9999. If you like to camp near the Mattole there is a BLM campground called **Honey Dew Campground**. <https://www.blm.gov/visit/honeydew-campground>

Some tips on flys from my readings are the **Boss** and **Comet** as they are traditional flys for the coastal rivers notably the Eel. The California Fly Fisher magazine has some good articles on winter steelhead fishing in the December 2017 issue and some perspective on the Eel River in the February 2018 issue. The most local Fly shop is inside the **Mad River Tackle Shop** 1264 Giuntoli Ln, Suite A located near Arcata near the Mad River. Call (707) 826-7201. <http://madrivertackle.com/> River Flow conditions: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/river/rivcond.html> (use MRD code for SF of Eel). Weather conditions: <https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?site=EKA&textField1=40.1003&textField2=-123.794&e=0>.

