

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

### Greg Jacobs "fish-on" the Upper Sacramento

Sonoma County California  
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Since June 1977  
Visit our website at  
[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

## **NO AUGUST RRF GENERAL MEETING!**

### **Headwaters...**

I have been thinking about fishing. More accurately, I have been lamenting the dry conditions, our low water, rising water temperatures and the lack of Sierra snowpack that have combined to create a drought of fishing opportunities for us in Northern California. In past years my fishing days would count well into the forties by this time, over forty days spent on the water since the beginning of the new year. This year my fishing days in-state can be counted on two hands, just barely ahead of my time

pursuing tarpon in Florida. Although fishing in California has not been officially closed, those of us practicing "catch and release" understand that warm water temperatures are lethal for our cold water fisheries. It is the melting snow pack that usually keeps our waters cool as we move through the summer, and when that snowpack diminishes toward September and October, our water levels drop and water temperatures soar. With the absence this year of that melting snowpack, everything came early. Our mountain streams and lakes, our rivers and reservoirs, all began exhibiting typical late season conditions in June. As our summer progresses, conditions will only become more dire. Our forests are dried-out and burn as thunderstorms, and man's carelessness, ignite wildfires that are fueled by brittle undergrowth and

dry grass that is beyond golden. The "Golden State" is parched and brown, the sky hazy with smoke, and our hopes now turn toward, and pray for, a wet El Niño year. But last year was an El Niño as well...and turned out to be our driest ever recorded.

It is not just California. The entire Pacific Northwest is dry. Oregon, Washington, British Columbia are experiencing serious impacts to their coldwater fisheries as the crucial cooling snowpack has also eluded them this year and as forest fires take their toll on the dry landscape. Some fisheries alarmists are warning of the possibility of a "Mass Extinction Event". The seasons are also arriving early for the fisheries in Montana and Wyoming, the bare Rocky Mountain peaks providing no relief for mountain streams and rivers. Water levels are low and thunderstorms offer the only respite for rising water temperatures, although accompanying lightning strikes have a tendency to set the world on fire. Oregon and Washington have implemented stream and river fishing closures to mitigate the impact of fishermen on native fisheries. Dammed waterways receive renewed scrutiny for their roles in altering the natural behavior of rivers and in blocking the migration of anadromous fish, while water release practices are assessed for their potential to keep those rivers cooler as water temperatures rise. But these concerns compete with Ag interests and the water needs of humans over the long term. As no one knows just how long the current drought conditions will last, prudence dictates a careful monitoring of our water "reserves" and management aimed at minimizing economic impact for future dry years. Water rights have pushed to the forefront, casting a bright light on practices that have traditionally flown beneath the radar. Ground water depletion has finally attained a renewed importance in the interconnected web of water cycles and the flow of water from (and through) land to sea.

Many of us find solace and sustenance in those beautiful places that hold fish. Our souls are rejuvenated by those wild ecosystems that teem with the ongoing dance of life, where we can find the ability to stop the illusory human world that we create day to day and touch a world where every component is part of a greater whole. This natural world reminds us that everything is interconnected, a concept that we tend to forget in the self-referent

and separate worlds we seemingly inhabit as conscious individuals. In our human world, all is competition and a struggle to maintain what is "ours" in respect to what is "theirs". Us against them. We create false boundaries that separate our role in a greater whole into small parts that we claim for our own. In our hubris, we attempt to exert control on the world around us and believe that we are the masters of our destiny. We ignore the lessons of harmony and the complicity of the natural world while attempting to bend Nature to our own ends. Our understanding is myopic. Yet Nature always provides the opportunity to reunite our disparate understandings. I find, as I stand in the waters of wild locations and beautiful mystery, a world where all parts co-create the wonder before me. Where the smallest, invisible components interact to sustain a dynamic creation that constantly evolves, of which I, too, am a part. This creation is continually changing, its appearance a reflection of everything within it. "The Kingdom is within us, and all around us..." It is not something external or separate, but always right here, right now, existing beyond illusion and separation yet also including it. Paradise forever unfolding.

Fly fishing helps me to reunite my understanding of this world, to forget my illusions and to touch the ineffable mystery of All that is. Nature is an expression of complete interaction. For this reason, and because I can occasionally glimpse my place in this wondrous mystery, I choose not to participate as a fisherman when my actions could be less than sustainable for the natural world around me. We do have the potential to affect the mystery around us, just as the cells in our bodies affect our own health and well-being. "As above, so below". "As within, so without". Perhaps this is an indicator that I have reunited at least some parts of my own illusion of separation. Maybe it is nothing more than my ego trying to comprehend and understand. Yet our comprehension as human members of this interactive community is consequential to the unfolding of the mystery around us. Our choices affect the components of our world, and those choices are the Nature that is reflected back to us.

Our world is changing. Always. We could certainly use some rain.

~ *Steve Tubbs*

# SPRING – SUMMER FISHING 2015

**Fishing the heat in Northern California.** I should know that it is tough to catch lightning in a bottle, but twice forget it. Last year I made a great fishing trip in early June by connecting three destinations, and had great luck at each. I started at the Fall River, spent a couple of days at the Upper Sac, and then ended up on the Little Truckee—that last part involved a bit of a drive. I really did well each day.

This year, I planned something similar, with four days at the Fall River with three friends from Sebastopol. Then over to Dunsmuir to fish the Upper Sac, again, with a guide and another friend.

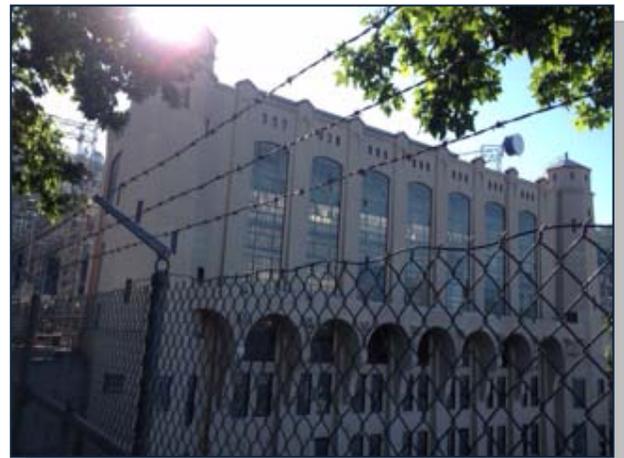
Then I spoiled myself with two nights at Clearwater Lodge and a guided drift on the Pit River below PH#1. Of course, I could not have predicted that the drought would be in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, and temperatures would be at record highs.

**The Fall River.** The trip to the Fall River began Wednesday night, June 3, with threatening weather. Thursday was unsettled all day long, with things getting out of control in the afternoon. We had a distant electrical storm, but windy and wet weather at Whipple Ranch after lunch. An old college buddy and I met up at Whipple Ranch to fish, and when we went out that first morning our electric motor burned out 5-feet away from the dock. No paddle in the boat. Fortunately, two guides from Clearwater Lodge, Mike Peters and Jason Cockrum, were making a pit stop at the Whipple dock, and Mike towed me back, even though it delayed his day a bit. Embarrassing. Got a new motor and went up river, but not too far until I tested the motor! Fishing was okay until the weather changed. Friday was a nicer day, and my classmate and I got into some fish, but the fishing was contained to a short stretch of the river, where we competed with the rest of the world. Saturday afternoon, after coming off the river, another guy staying at Whipple told me he had caught several trout with a PMD pattern. I admit I had not seen much of a hatch, but I believed him. Sunday, our last morning, I actually hooked a number of nice trout on a Sparkle Dun pattern.

**Upper Sacramento.** Later Sunday, after seeing two fishing friends off at the Fall River airport—they had flown up in one guy's plane—I headed over to the Upper Sac. Ken Magoon, Jack Vallerga, Walt Kruse, and Don Shaw took our places at Whipple Sunday afternoon. In 100 degree weather. On the Sac, I hoped to repeat the great success I had there last year at the same time. I met up with another Sebastopol friend and we went out Monday with Rick Cox, a local guide. It was again 100 degrees most of the day, and the fish behaved like it. Who would go out in the heat, except humans? I went out Tuesday morning, the 9<sup>th</sup> and actually caught some fish at the Conant access.



I drove over to Clearwater from Dunsmuir that afternoon in thundershowers, and lightning. What was going on? I did not feel too good about going out on the Pit the next day, but I was in for a surprise. Plus Jay Cockrum was guiding. Never count yourself out when he is guiding. He finds the fish, but I admit I don't always hook them.



The Pit River below PH#1 was fantastic. The morning was overcast and cool. We hooked fish immediately. The Pit comes out of a canyon near the powerhouse but still flows through a very rocky stretch. The slightly discolored water plunged over lots small drops, and the river was just full of little pockets. And if you are a birder, tons of orioles, grosbeaks, and warblers. It was not always easy, but we caught fish all day, using a Rubberlegs, and a sort of a Woolly Bugger under an indicator. And the ride was pretty wild at times. As Jay said, "Welcome to Disneyland"— To top it off, Jay took me out to the Hex hatch water that night, and I actually hooked two nice fish, and landed one. The hatch was pretty good despite a significant breeze.



**East Sierras bird migration.** Okay, so I added something this year. I returned home on June 11, and my wife and I began to ready for a little trip to the East Sierras. Not for fishing, but for birdwatching. This is the time of year that thousands of birds are migrating through the area around Lee Vining, particularly Mono Lake. We spent 6 days taking classes which took us to all the different habitat on the East side. We went to Devil's Postpile and the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus, then to Benton Springs out in the desert on Highway 120, east of Lee Vining. These were full day expeditions, and during another hot spell. High 80's at 7000 feet. We finally came home on Monday the 22nd. After a couple of days, and some babysitting of granddaughters (to pay some dues), I headed off again.



### **Upper Sacramento again – with Fred Gordon!**

I had purchased a day of guiding from Craig Nielsen back in December, and had arranged for him to take me to the McCloud on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Well, this time the guide had to miss. His recent back surgery took a turn for the worse, and he told me I could postpone, or he could get another guide. He offered Fred Gordon for the Upper Sac! Well first of all I had just bombed there two weeks earlier, so I was not hot to go back. But then I thought, hey Fred and Rick Cox were the ones who recommended a B and B for my wife and I when we went to NZ last fall. He praised the owner and the fishing, and he was accurate. And Fred was the inventor of the Gordon Prince Nymph. I figured let's give the Upper Sac one more chance. And I had made a date with Jay Cockrum on the following Monday to fish Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park, and did not want to miss that opportunity.

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

**[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)**



Fred was amazing. He has spent his life fishing the Upper Sac, and guiding on it. We fished Friday night when I got to Dunsmuir, until well after dark. We hooked some fish in an area I had never seen before. Amazing because he is 68 and does not use a wading stick on the Upper Sac; just some low-cut Simms wading shoes with metal strips for traction. While I carefully picked my way around in the river he was moving quickly out of sight. We went out early Saturday and checked a few spots in the lower river, but no dice. We fished the area around Sims flat, and although it was late morning, I had some very good fishing.



We used a nymphing rig of his own design, with a small bit of yarn as an indicator at a fixed distance from the first of two flies. It worked, of course. Fred showed me tactics which reminded me of fly fishing when I was 12. Like skittering the fly against the current, or just bouncing the fly in small side pockets. We went out at night again, but not much

luck. Sunday, however, I am proud to say that I went out to the same area myself, and did very well. I took another midday break in another 100 degree day and went back out at night. I had a really good time right at dark. Wherever I had fished without success early in the day, dozens of fish were rising at dark. Some very very large, but I could not hook them.

**Ahjumawi.** Okay, okay, now for the last day. I got up early Monday a.m. and drove an hour from Dunsmuir to Clearwater Lodge to meet with Jay. We headed out to the “Springs”, an area of Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park, where cold springs come through lava in several “ponds”, or small lakes. That’s where the “fatties” hang out, while just a few feet away, the water is much, much warmer. It took me awhile to get the hang of making long casts with a strike indicator, but I did hook some very nice trout. The largest broke the hook on the fly. I still have a way to go in casting technique, but we ended the day on Eastman Lake where the old Lava Creek Lodge lies boarded up. Jay anchored our boat where Lava Springs enters the lake—beautifully clear and beautifully cold. I cast an intermediate line, I drifted flies under an indicator, and then I actually still fished farther out in the lake. Again, with Jay, I had very good fishing. By now, however, I had been away from home for the better part of three weeks, in a lot of hot weather, and had fished my brains out. We skipped the Hex hatch. I went home the next day, still high from all of the great fishing.

~ Greg Jacobs

## ***Join the RRFF on Facebook***

We currently have **581 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>

***Pay Your RRFF Membership Dues***

***at***

***[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)***

# 2015 RRFF Fall Outings

To join us on any of these outings (except for the August 2015 trip) add your name to the signup sheets at the general meetings or go to our web site [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org).

## Lake Alpine, Stanislaus National Park August 27 to 31

In past years we stayed at the Pine Marten camp near Lake Alpine. Bill Laurie will post a sign at the turn off from Highway 4. It is a first come basis for sites. Fees are \$24, but since it's run by the U.S. Forest Service, I believe you may pay half price with a Golden Age Card. We cook in camp, but the Lake Alpine Lodge serves meals. You'll need a boat of some kind to fish the lakes. Good flies should be Buggers, midges, and ants.

Since there is no August general meeting you should go to the club website or email Bill Laurie at [blaurie120@att.net](mailto:blaurie120@att.net) if you want to join us.

## Manzanita Lake, Lassen National Park September 24 to 27

To date, we have reserved sites A25 and A30, which can accommodate 4 tents. We currently have 9 members signed up for this trip. You may contact Chris Castellucci or me to share those sites. You may also reserve your own site via internet at [recreation.gov/manzanitalakereservations](http://recreation.gov/manzanitalakereservations) then scroll down to Facility Details, to see availability of sites A22 to A29. Fees are \$24 per day, \$12 if you have a Golden Age Card.

Fishing is best from a boat, kayak, tube or 'toon' as bank fishing is limited (no motors allowed).

Productive fly patterns are: #6-10 olive buggers and damsel flies ; #14-16 callibaetis duns, nymphs and spinners; #18-20 midge pupa and duns (Griffith's Gnats); and have some #18 flying ants. I rig one 4 or 5 weight rod with a floating line and another with an intermediate sink line.

There's a camp store with a "short order grill", ice, firewood, and a decent beer selection.

## Davis Lake, near Portola Station, CA. October 22 to 25

Last year Ed Barich made reservations for eight of us at Lake Davis Resort and Motel. We stayed in 3

motel rooms, including the Suite with a kitchen and large room for group meals. It was comfortable for around \$50 per day each. Nearby, there's the J and J Grizzly Store and Resort with RV hook-ups. So far we have 10 RRFFers signed up.

Boats of some kind are essential. Motors allow greater fishing choices around the lake. This year I plan to fish from my 'toon and drive to various launch areas on the West and East shores. This will also allow me to fish the evening Blood Midge hatch using a floating line at Old Camp 5. Fishing blood midge pupas under indicators during the day are also good bets. Intermediate lines work best for zig-zag trolling of buggers and damsel nymphs at 10 feet depths.

If the predicted El Nino event starts early this year, the weather at Davis Lake may become windy, wet and cold in October. These conditions often improve the fishing.

## Trinity River Steelhead, Indian Creek Lodge November 12 to 15

Bill Laurie has hosted our annual Fall Trinity River steelhead outing for many years. This year he has reserved four rooms at the Indian Creek Lodge near Weaverville. I think they go on a first come basis, so you might phone (530) 623-6291 and tell them you're with Bill's RRFF party. You can also Google [iclodge.net](http://iclodge.net) to get details about the facilities, rooms and rates, which range from \$85 to \$135 (with kitchenettes). The Lodge is offering breakfast and lunch from 7AM to 2PM Wednesday to Sunday and perhaps dinners by November.

Most of us wade fish the Trinity. We swing traditional steelhead flies through and below riffles or drift golden stone fly nymphs with a dropper under indicators, in the deeper runs.

The guys who hire guides tend to hook more adult steelies. Contact the Trinity Fly Shop in Lewiston, the Fly Shop in Redding, or ask at the Lodge about booking a guide.

## Pyramid Lake, N.V., Crosby's Lodge November 12 to 15

During this year's March outing to Pyramid Lake, we talked to a local guide who recommended going there in November to try for the 15 - 20 lbs Pilot's Peak (or Summit) strain of Cutthroat trout. I

reserved two trailers that will sleep 14 people at Crosby's Lodge for the same weekend as the Trinity outing. To date there are nine members signed up for both outings. We also have a reservation at Crosby's Lodge in March 2016.

Some members will be staying in their RVs on the beach (no hook ups), which offers grand views of the night sky.

If you haven't gone with us to Pyramid, there's a detailed handout, which I'll bring to meetings.

~ Ken Magoon ([magoon5294@aol.com](mailto:magoon5294@aol.com))

## ***RRFF Membership Dues Renewal***

As of July 1st, your RRFF Membership Dues are due and payable. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. We appreciate your timely membership renewal and will continue to hold our dues at their current rates.

<b>Gold Member</b>	\$1,000.00 contribution (one-time)
<b>Family Member</b>	\$55.00 per year
<b>Single Member</b>	\$50.00 per year
<b>Junior Member</b>	\$25.00 per year (ages 16 to 18)

Please remit your dues renewal payments to:

Ken Young  
362 Singing Brook Circle  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

All checks must be made payable to the Russian River Fly Fishers.

## ***Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics***

Held every Thursday evening, from 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting). Please join us at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park for an enjoyable evening of casting practice and camaraderie.

Our Casting Clinics are always **FREE** and are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**BEGINNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** We do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own.

## **RRFF Board of Directors**

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591-5667 [dcampbell00@hotmail.com](mailto:dcampbell00@hotmail.com)

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Youth Instruction: **Travis Gianni**  
(Information Pending...)

## **Coordinators**

Day Fishers Coordinator: **Lee Soares**  
974-2651 [frommewee@comcast.net](mailto:frommewee@comcast.net)

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**  
815-5926 [shbgold@gmail.com](mailto:shbgold@gmail.com)

Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage Mackay**  
575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**  
527-9607 [fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net](mailto:fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net)

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



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## 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

**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

**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 30<sup>th</sup>

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