

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 44, Number 8
August 2017

Lee Soares' Birthday...and Trout!
Upper Sacramento River near Dunsmuir

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

President's Message

Happy New Year...

Well, not the calendar New Year, but July 1 was the start of our club's fiscal New Year. Because the RRFF board takes the month of July off, and we do not have a club general meeting in August, the summer is traditionally the beginning of planning for our yearly activities. It's also a time of reflection to tally up our accomplishments in FY2016/17:

- We had 8 General Meetings at the Vet's Hall from September to May, and had interesting speakers at each one of them (thanks to our Program Chair, Joe Banovich).
- We had weekly fly casting at our Galvin Park pond during the summer and bi-weekly during the winter (thanks to our Casting Chair, Steve Tubbs and his instructors, and our Pond Steward Doug Mackay).
- We put on another great Cioppino Dinner in February, providing good food and fellowship for our members, as well as raising funds for our club's operations (thanks to *many* club members who donated their time, talents and treasure!)
- We put on 9 club outings during the year including two big ones: the Pyramid Lake Outing (thanks to Ken Magoon, our outings coordinator), and the Opener at Baum Lake (thanks to Steve Tubbs).

- We held a Steelhead fishing clinic in December to introduce more anglers to the mysteries of these amazing fish.
- We published 12 issues of our CAST newsletter (thanks to our temporary editor Steve Tubbs and a host of members who wrote articles about their fly fishing adventures).
- We have one of the most useful and attractive fly club websites, that presents our club in a positive and informative way to folks who want to know who the Russian River Fly Fishers are (thanks to our webmaster, Mike Spurlock).

I probably missed some of the other activities our club is involved in, but that's still an impressive list. Our board will have its first meeting of the new year on August 16, where we will start planning to continue the traditional events, and maybe add some new ones (let us know if you have some ideas).

It takes a lot of work to keep a club successfully running, but with enough volunteers we can keep any one member from having to carry the full load. We presently have 13 board members, but we could add a couple more. We generally start new board members as "members at large", until they learn the ropes – the most important quality is willingness to help the club. If you're not interested in the board, we have other areas that need help (such as the need for a CAST editor). Whatever your talents, we welcome your involvement – it's your club.

~ Ed Barich

Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers on the Internet at

www.rrflyfisher.org

for outings information, RRF events, member news, photos and more!



Newsletter Editor
WANTED!!

Are you familiar with MS Word and Desktop Publishing, and do you have editing skills? Will help!

Please contact Steve Tubbs - steve@kresky.com

There is

NO RRF GENERAL MEETING
in August!

September RRF General Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th - 7:00 pm

The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building

See next month's newsletter for details. Come early to share your summer adventures and fishing exploits! Doors open at 6:00 pm...

Donate your extra fly fishing gear to our RRF Bargain Table (at every General Meeting). A fellow member could use it!

Welcome New Members

The RRF would like to welcome our newest members **Dan Barwick & Family, Abby Martin and Ron Stever & Family**. Our website @ www.rrflyfisher.org is your best resource to find our latest club news and a list of our monthly outings and events.

Please contact any board member if you have questions. **Welcome Aboard!**

Conservation Corner

Public Lands, Part 2 -



Back in March I wrote about concerns the broader outdoor sports community had, especially in the West, about political rhetoric around ownership of and access to our shared public lands. This was a theoretical concern at the time based on words. Unfortunately, the reality of that concern has come home as the new Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, [ordered a review](#) of the need for all National Monuments greater than 100,000 acres designated or increased since 1996. That includes 6 in California, the most in any state. The list includes Berryessa-Snow Mountain, Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and the San Gabriel Mountains. The order gave a public comment period that ended in July and a deadline for the response by late August.

While the expectation may have been that the public comments would show there wasn't local support for these National Monuments, almost 98% of the whopping 1.4 million(!) comments were in favor of keeping the monuments as they are (or expanding them). I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time and to take part in a march of nearly 3,000 members of the outdoor industry in Salt Lake City to stand up to Utah's governor and his regressive plans to sell off Utah public lands to mining interests. The message from

that rally and from the millions that have responded in favor of keeping public lands in public hands has cut across political parties, localities, demographics and user groups. Rarely these days do you see liberal and conservative voters, ORV'ers and vegan backpackers, ranchers and fishermen getting on the same page. But this issue has united them all.

So why does this matter to you, the Russian River fly fisher? Well, there are the aesthetic reasons given by many for keeping our most beautiful and sensitive natural places free from desecration. There is the huge economic benefit that is derived from communities around National Monuments and other public lands. There is balm to the soul of being able to visit these natural places and enjoy a brief respite from the immediateness of our urban landscapes.

And there is the access for fisher-folk, like us, to the places that we were lucky enough to have saved over 100 years ago by the likes of Teddy Roosevelt and the creators of the Antiquities Act. I've fished in the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument, and there is beauty and clean water and bright fish for us all to share. Without public access to streams and lakes, we would all be pressed into the few private waters that have already been set aside for fishing. Without public access to water with fish, we would be eliminating any hope that our cherished pastime would be adopted by the next generations or those unlucky enough to not have been born into the middle class. Without public access, we would never know what extractive industries were doing to our heritage until it was too late and the waters turned grey with pollution.



So please, pay attention to your birthright, and get involved where you can. This is going to be one of the defining conservation issues we face in our generation of anglers.

What can you do to get informed and involved?

- American citizens have shown support for public lands. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- The Conservation Alliance has approved nine emergency grants to support organizations working to defend our public lands. The grants, totaling \$110,000, come from the [Public Lands Defense Fund](#). Learn more [HERE](#).

"We opposes any effort to change the boundaries of existing national monuments through executive action. These monuments protect landscapes with important recreation, cultural, and habitat values," said John Sterling, executive director of *The Conservation Alliance*. *"We invested in the designation of these monuments, and we are proud to be in a position to fund the groups working to defend them."*

- Join the conversation with [#marchforpubliclands](#) [#keeppublicandspublic](#)
- **Take part in the National Public Lands Day on September 30th. This is a fee-free day** for all federal public lands and many state parks. Whether you volunteer on NPLD, enjoy some boating, hiking, fishing, or camping, or simply learn more about your public lands and the plants and wildlife that live there, **take this day to enjoy the great outdoors and celebrate the lands that give us so much.**

You can always reach me for comments, more information, or ideas for future articles at dcampbell00@hotmail.com.

~ Derek Campbell, RRFF Conservation Director

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **821 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>



Summer 2017 RRFF Outings

Russian River Small Mouth Bass - August 19th

Six RRFF'ers have signed up to float the Russian River from Johnson's Beach to Monte Rio on our own pontoon boats or kayaks. Sign-ups include Mike Samuelson, Charles Miller, Derek Campbell, Joe Banovich, Bob Perry and Bill Laurie. We should meet on the street above Johnson's Beach to organize shuttles between there and Monte Rio at 8:00 am. If anyone would prefer using a guide, Lucas Meeker (707-529-7096) has been recommended.

Contact leader Bill Laurie <blaurie120@att.net> for trip details.

Lake Alpine - August 24th -27th

We will be camping at the Pine Martin campground on the east side of Lake Alpine. This US Forest Service campground does not take reservations, but has first-come sites for \$25 per night. There is a small grocery store nearby at Lake Alpine Resort for supplies.

Lake Alpine is 60 miles east of Angels Camp on Highway 4 near Ebbetts Pass. The lake has 180 surface acres at 7388 feet elevation. There is a boat ramp and power boats are limited to 10 MPH. The lake is typically planted by the DFW with hundreds of

rainbow trout. Floatation (such as a pontoon, kayak or float tube) is required to fly fish the lake. I have found trolling a small wooly bugger behind a float tube to be very effective. Another popular pattern is the Sparrow Nymph, which is locally sold at The Trout Spot fly shop in Arnold. Also, there is often a dry fly bite in the morning before the afternoon winds come up. On our last trip, flying ant patterns were eagerly grabbed by the 12 to 14" rainbows.

Possible side-excursions include Kinney Lakes (hike-in/up for cutt-bow trout) or the Stanislaus River (pocket fishing for small rainbows, ala Tenkara-style).

Ed Barich <ebarich@sonic.net> will be trip leader.

Lake Davis, near Portola Station, CA – September 28th - October 1st

This will be the last tent and RV campout outing of the year. The lake is brim full now and we should have great fishing water for the outing. Your choice to walk and wade or float tube, pontoon boat, kayak, or motor boat to fish your favorite spots on the lake. There's easy lake access, with boat ramps on both the East and West shores, and numerous shore launches around the lake for your watercraft. Indicator with midges and nymphs, and stripping wooly buggers on intermediate lines are best for the 10 to 15 foot depths where fish hold. Grasshopper Flat, is the camp ground that will be open. (The "Reserve America" on-line booking site says that all sites are "walk-in".) Each person is responsible to get their own campsite, or you can team-up on sites to save costs. Potluck dinners are fun and can be arranged.

Chris Castellucci <chrslucci@aol.com> will be the trip leader if you have any questions.

Lewiston Lake - October 19th - 22nd

We will be reserving one or two cabins at [Lakeview Terrace Resort](#) on Lewiston Lake for 3 nights (Thur,Fri,Sat). Each cabin has a kitchen and dining room, along with beds for 5 adults. The resort will also reserve two aluminum boats with outboards. Since the lake is best fished from boats, other anglers will need to bring their own boats, pontoons or kayaks. Float tubes are not recommended, since the lake is fairly large. Additional powered boats can

be rented at Pine Cove Marina (<http://www.pine-cove-marina.com/>).

Since we will be after planted trout, I recommend 5 or 6 weight rods. Zebra midges under an indicator work well, and stripping a wooly bugger or leach pattern is also effective. The bite at Lewiston can be hit or miss, but last year at this time we had exceptionally good action. If all else fails, we are within a half hour of the Trinity River and steelhead runs. For that, bring a 7 or 8 weight rod and don't forget your steelhead report card. Click [Link](#) to November 2016 Cast, which has prior trip report.

Ed Barich <ebartich2sonic.net> will be organizing this trip.

~ Ken Magoon, RRFF Outings Director



This wild Alaskan rainbow displays what he was dining on before grabbing a fly! Mouse patterns can be very effective... ~ Mike Spurlock

Lake Almanor Hex Hatch Outing

It had been several years since the RRFF had an outing at Lake Almanor, and when I got an offer from guide Lance Gray to improve our skills on this large Northern California lake I made sure we added it to the 2017 calendar. On the weekend of June 22-25, Chris Castellucci, Walt Kruse, Don Shaw, Mike Spurlock, Ken Young and I fished Almanor and several other nearby waters. Mike had success with Lance last year during the Hex hatch, so all of us were hoping for a repeat performance.

For previous trips to Almanor we had used the South Almanor Forest Service campground, which is conveniently located near one of the best fishing areas. But that campground was closed this year due to dead tree removal, so we opted to camp four miles away at the Ponderosa Flat campground on Butt Valley Reservoir. This was not such a bad alternative, since this PG&E-owned site is shaded, close to the water and relatively peaceful. We even had a babbling brook coursing through our site.

With last winter's record high precipitation in the Sierras, conditions had changed considerably in the area compared to the past four years of drought. The sections of Lake Almanor where we fished years ago in 10 to 15 feet of water were now under 20 to 25 feet. The North Feather River bypass in Chester was roaring into the lake with snow melt from the Lassen area, but despite all this cold water coming in, the surface temperature on Almanor in the evenings was around 80F. According to Lance, the high water temperatures were caused by the newly flooded shallow bays that absorb the sun's rays, like a big solar collectors.

On Friday, Lance gave us his "Lake Almanor Tour", which consisted of him driving us around the lake to various access points, some of which could only be reached with a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Most of the spots pertained to the June Hex hatch, although he also showed us some that were best in early spring or late fall. Lance described the underwater contour of the spots and which techniques would be most effective. Later in the day, he checked our nymphing and dry fly rigs and showed us the latest version of flies that imitated the Hexagenia mayflies that the trout were keying on that time of the year. Some of these flies had changed considerably since the last time we had taken Lance's seminar – I guess that's evolution in action.

After serving us a tasty steak dinner, Lance got us out on the water in time for the evening hatch. He accompanied us in his pontoon boat, providing tips to us while using his sonar to call out the depth and number of fish below us as we paddled along. Years ago, the nymphing technique involved parking your boat on a drop-off and fan-casting with a slow retrieve. The new method promoted by Lance was to troll *really* slow using a full-sinking fly line – a method that is done most effectively in a float tube. Then at sunset, as the Hex duns would emerge on

the surface, we would switch to dry flies on floating lines.

Over the three evenings our group spent on Almanor, not a lot of fish were caught but they were all large, typically well over 20 inches. Most were caught on sinking Hex nymphs, since the dry fly period was so short and the fish often missed the fly. Walt and Don had the highest number of landings, and Don had the largest fish, a 28-inch brown. All the trout that were caught on Almanor had to be carefully revived before releasing, since the surface water temperature was easily 20 degrees higher than what these fish are acclimated to.

Most of the rest of our day was spent relaxing, although we did have a few daytime excursions. We tried fishing Butt Lake, with no success, although we ran into Gregg Wrisley at the campground and he told us there was also an evening Hex hatch going at Butt. One morning we tried a pretty little snowmelt pond out in the woods called Rock Lake, but found it to be virtually fishless. Don and Mike had better luck doing some afternoon pocket fishing on Butt Creek, where they were entertained by small resident browns.

All in all, it was a pleasant fly fishing weekend, but the thing that always impresses me most about Almanor is the "miracle of nature" aspect of the Hex hatch. As the sun sets, the wind dies and the water goes glassy smooth. And then almost instantaneously, inch-long brilliant yellow sailboats appear on the surface, practically one on every square yard of water. How all those bugs are timed to appear simultaneously is a true miracle.

~ Ed Barich



Nick & Haley - Upper Gibbon River, YNP...

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Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics

from 4:30 until 7:00 pm

every Thursday (weather permitting) at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

August

NO RRFF GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!!!

- 16 RRFF Board Meeting
19 Russian River Smallmouth Bass (Bill Laurie)
24 - 26 Alpine Lake Outing (Ed Barich)

September

- 13 RRFF General Meeting - 6:30 pm
16 Russian River Clean-up (Derek Campbell)
20 RRFF Board Meeting
28 to 10/1 Davis Lake Outing (Chris Castellucci)

Visit www.rrflyfisher.org for a complete list of upcoming events!

RRFF Board of Directors

President: Ed Barich

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Vice President: Doug Mackay

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Secretary and Outings Chairman: Ken Magoon

527-8376 magoon5294@aol.com

Treasurer & Webmaster: Mike Spurlock

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Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: Steve Tubbs

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Program Chairman: Joe Banovich

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Library Master: Don Shaw

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Member at Large: Mike Kast

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Membership Chairman: Doug Mackay

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Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: Paul Matzen

795-8885 ggbridgeman@att.net

Member at Large: Ken Young

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: Derek Campbell

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Raffle Coordinator: Gregg Wrisley

823-5572 gwriss@yahoo.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

292-1304 christiegeer@gmail.com

Casting Pond Stewards: Doug & Sage Mackay

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: Binky Castleberry

527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: Steve Tubbs (temporary)

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

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**