

The Cast



Sonoma County
California
Volume 43 Number 7

"Ride-A-Rig" Volunteers

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

President's Message

Hello fellow fly fishers! My name is Ed Barich and I have been elected to serve as President of the Russian River Fly Fishers, one of the best fly clubs in California. I am taking over for Steve Tubbs, who as you all know served the club admirably in this role for the past two years. With help from Steve and the rest of the RRFF board, I hope to get up to speed quickly and continue our objective of promoting the art, sportsmanship and outdoor experience of fly fishing for all our members.

Summer is typically a slow time for our club, allowing us to get out and vacation with friends and family (hopefully with some time to wet a line). While there will be no club general meeting in August, we will be having our July general meeting on Wednesday July

13 at the Galvin park casting pond starting at 6PM. The club will be serving BBQ dinner and we will be having a special casting demonstration by Floyd Dean. Bring your new fly rod for practice and get some casting tips from Floyd while enjoying fellowship and a fine Sonoma County summer evening at our club pond.

There are many elements that go into a successful fly fishing outing, but one of the essential items that has been in short supply in California for the last few years is water. Thanks to El Nino providing an "at least average" rain and snowfall last winter, most of our lakes and rivers are at near-normal levels. So don't let this summer slip by without being on or in our waters with a rod in hand. And when the bite calms down for a minute, take a minute or two to admire the scenic beauty of California.

~ Ed Barich

"Ride a Rig" Event

On Saturday, June 18th the Sonoma/Napa Junior League sponsored their "Ride a Rig" kid's event at Galvin Park. The event included fire trucks, police cars, a monster truck, an ATV, a garbage truck, an ambulance, many games and a bar-b-que. With eight instructors, ample tackle, and a steady stream of eager participants, the RRFV hosted a fly casting introduction and instruction session for about 100 kids and several of their parents. The kids were younger than we expected and brought high energy, a host of good questions and a surprising level of ability.



Many of the parents present were long time Santa Rosa residents, but very few knew that the pond even existed. We hope that our effort will lead to more (and younger) participants at our Thursday casting clinics.

Special thanks to the volunteer casting instructors who made this happen: Ken Young, Ken Magoon, Don Shaw, Roger White, Sage Mackay, Steve Tubbs and Randy Urry. The Junior League volunteers did a great job of organizing and herding. When I began to coordinate this event, I knew that although I didn't know how to do it, I would be very well supported.



~ Doug Mackay

Farmers and Fish – Can They Get Along?

As The Drought stretched into its fourth year in 2015, the response in the Central Valley became predictably harsh towards fish. As usual, scientists chose a small, non-photogenic species (the Delta Smelt) to base their dire concerns on. And predictably, farmers who felt they weren't getting their due water rights lashed out at the fish, and the government that supported the scientists' conclusions. During the height of the drought in 2014, former House Speaker John Boehner joined the host of visiting politicians to add his wisdom on the topic, "How you can favor fish over people is something people in my part of the world would



never understand." This oft-repeated sound bite paints an easily digestible picture that just doesn't match up with reality.

While that scenario has played out before in the West (Delta smelt, Colorado River squawfish), is it inevitable? And more to the point, must it come down to fish vs. farmers in the Russian River watershed? Loss of Habitat is the biggest threat to anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead) in the Russian. And lack of clean, cold water in the main stem and tributaries at the right times is one of the leading Habitat issues we face, especially during droughts. Farms use 80% of the developed water in California and also pull from groundwater sources, especially in dry times (Introduction to Water in California, Carle, 2009). Locally, the wine industry is by far the biggest water use segment of the agricultural industry. In the 1990's, total acreage of vineyards doubled in Sonoma County to 60,000 acres. Drought cycles are normal, but so far, no predictive models of climate change tell us that we will face *fewer*, weaker ones in the future. Quite the contrary. So we're going to have to face this issue. But is it destiny to devolve into the Central Valley squabble and fish-bashing for us? I don't think so.

First, what has been achieved so far. Several local, state, and national programs have recently been put into place that offer the opportunity to find that magical state of equilibrium where we can have both the water in our creeks and the wine in our glasses.

1. [Fish Friendly Farming/Ranching](#) Programs – The Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program is run by the California Land Stewardship Institute, a non-profit organization located in Napa County, California. FFF/R Certification Programs encourages growing practices that protect endangered Coho salmon and steelhead trout.

2. [Water & Wine Stewardship Program](#) – Trout Unlimited is building and expanding partnerships with grape growers in Wine Country to improve dry season streamflow for salmon and steelhead and improve water supply reliability for growers and vintners. Water and Wine is part of TU's larger Coastal Stream flows Restoration Project, and is dedicated to developing small-scale solutions for water supply management that help keep water in streams when salmon and steelhead most need it.

3. Local collaborations - The "Salmon Stewards of Dry Creek" including Martorama, Amista Vineyards, Dry Creek Vineyard, Seghesio, Rued Winery, Quivira Vineyards and Winery, and Yellow Dog Vineyard, have banded together to make a difference in their watershed. Since 2010, they have partnered with the Sonoma County Water Agency-led [Dry Creek Enhancement Project](#) to protect their streams, keep water in the creek and sediment out, and build refuges for young Coho and steelhead to survive high flows in Winter and low flows in Summer. In conjunction with the US Army Corp of Engineers and NOAA, this started with a Demonstration Project on one mile of habitat enhancement below Lambert Bridge. It will continue with five more miles of habitat enhancement starting this Summer. There are many more wineries on critical tributaries such as the Mark West, Mill, Green Valley, and Dutch Bill Creeks and the upper Russian main stem that this could serve as a model for.

4. Sonoma Resource Conservation District's [LandSmart On-the-Ground](#) Project - LandSmart On-the-Ground helps grape growers, ranchers and other land managers improve water quality and wildlife habitat on their property. LandSmart is a regional collaborative program that helps land managers meet their natural resource management goals while supporting productive lands and thriving streams. LandSmart was developed by the Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Gold Ridge RCDs in collaboration with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, land managers, and environmental agencies.

5. Sonoma County Water Agency – [Safe Harbor Agreement](#) – In March 2016, NOAA Fisheries and the Sonoma County Water Agency signed a first-ever agreement offering private landowners in the Russian River watershed incentives to restore, enhance, or maintain habitat for listed species on their property for the sake of federally protected salmon and steelhead. The agreement assures landowners that additional restrictions will not be placed upon their property should more of the listed species be attracted to their land as a result of the habitat improvements. Enrollment in the agreement is completely voluntary. Under the agreement, landowners who participate will not be penalized should there be incidental harm or mortality of fish due to the habitat improvements and will not be restricted in their routine viticulture activities, as

long as the agreed upon baseline conditions (*i.e.*, habitat conditions) for the property are maintained.

And now for the future. The word is Partnerships. And more of them. More partnerships between fishers, fisheries conservation folks and farmers. As an example, Cal Trout's Central California Conservation Director Jacob Katz, a Sonoma County local, has proposed an idea to restore the lower Russian River floodplains by using vineyards as fish nurseries and groundwater recharge ponds during the Winter ([Made Local Magazine, Sept/Oct. 2015](#)). This would build on the successful Cal Trout Nigiri Demonstration Project in the Central Valley where they demonstrated much higher Chinook salmon smolt growth in flooded rice paddies while maintaining traditional farming practices.

So maybe with some creative thinking you can have your glass and fishing too.

So what can YOU do?

1. If you are a landowner in the Russian River watershed, take advantage of the many opportunities and assistance programs to manage your land and water for fish AND farming.
2. Join organizations such as Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited, Cal Trout, and RRWSS that could lead future restoration and partnership projects.
3. Don't automatically dismiss government programs and projects just because they are slow, bureaucratic and sometimes a little ham-fisted. These organization, especially our local government, are sometimes the best option for gathering the funding required for partnerships that could lead to big improvements.

~ Derek Campbell, Conservation Chairman



This wine has been created using healthy agricultural practices that help keep our rivers clean enough for salmon to thrive.

~ Clearwater Lodge ~ Fall River Mills

I don't know where to begin, other than I had the most fantastic fishing experience yet at Clearwater Lodge in Fall River Mills. I say "yet" because I hope to return there for many years to come.

June was the women's annual IWFF outing in the Shasta area. Previous years the IWFF had stayed at the lovely Shasta Lodge B & B, which was recently sold to a new owner. The new owner raised the rates dramatically, and it forced the IWFF to look elsewhere for another retreat location. Additionally, the Shasta B & B lost the owner as an evening dinner and breakfast chef.

Nancy Morrow offered to spearhead the 2016 retreat, and found the Clearwater Lodge as a viable alternative. The more I looked at the pictures of the lodge, the more excited I became to go there. Let me tell you that the pictures cannot possibly capture the feeling I experienced when I drove up to the wide front steps of the lodge on my first evening. I felt like I was HOME about 80 years ago. I arrived a day early so that I could have a casting lesson and then fish with Mary Ann Dozer the next day. The rest of the club was to arrive the following day. There to greet me was an adorable two week old "mini donkey" named Churro. Churro actually wobbled over towards my car as if to say "Welcome". The story behind Churro was that her mother had picked her up by her nose when she was born (hence a scar) and threw her. Churro now belongs to Clearwater Lodge as their friendly greeter, along with Chester the adopted dog who thumps his tail on the floor as you walk near him --- just hoping for a quick pet.

The owner of Clearwater Lodge is named Michelle. A beautiful single woman who never knew how to even cast a fly rod, she bought the lodge 3 years ago. She was looking for a Dude Ranch, and ran across this instead. Michelle saw the possibilities with this lodge and took on the challenge. Nothing has been untouched. It is immaculate and caters to your every need from makeup remover pads to quality linen sheets and bedding. The cook at Clearwater, named Noelle, could put cooking shows to shame. Noelle managed to provide homemade delicacies at every meal. She had a sauce for each meat or vegetable. I couldn't wait to open the lunch cooler

to see what kind of unusual sandwich she made that day. Looking forward to dinner every day was a highlight. (I gained 2 pounds in 5 days...).

By the way, I should mention that Michelle offers unlimited top notch wines and beers every day you are there. Nothing is understated in the lodge itself or with Michelle as your host. Michelle and her expert guides eat breakfast and dinner with you, and “serve” you. At first it seemed awkward to me to have these hard working guides tote me around all day and then come home and buss my table. However, I grew to like it as it was a sense of community and I was fortunate enough to be included.

Clearwater Lodge has an onsite fly shop open for lodge guests only. If you need something and she doesn’t have it, Michelle lends you hers!! Michelle is the most generous, gracious hostess imaginable; and amazingly organized. I enjoyed immensely how the guides and staff talked about Michelle. They have the utmost respect for her and appreciate what Michelle has turned the lodge into. It is literally one big family.

Now, onto my fishing experience. I must admit that I was seriously considering giving up fishing after the first day at Clearwater; and the only thing keeping me from quitting was the investment I now have in all the gear! I couldn’t even catch bass this year on our home lakes...

My first day fishing from the Clearwater was The Fall River with Mary Ann Dozer. It was hot and we had a quiet, yet potent guide at the helm. Mary Ann brought in two nice trout; I brought in the big zero. I had several trout on but couldn’t manage my slack enough to catch them. I came back to the lodge feeling defeated, however Jason’s (my guide) words kept screaming in my mind. “Hit it!!!” Jason told me over and over that I was not setting fast enough. He pointed out that I had too much slack out, let alone between my reel and the first eye of my rod. I had a tendency to turn in a circle and wrap the slack around me when I had a fish on. I am happy to say I no longer do that. Jason and Mary Ann showed me in many ways how to grip that line and put the slack back into the rod hand. So much so that I had to wear a bandage and wrapping on my stripping finger the rest of the trip. That trout was staying with Mama...

The next day was a float and "walk and wade" on the Pitt River. I was literally “hooked”. I caught 7 or 8 beautiful 16 to 18” trout each day, as well as squaw fish and sucker or two; and I had learned to manage my line as well as could be expected – all thanks to my repetitive guides.

I learned many “tricks of the trade” in the art of floating and fishing. Now I just hope I can retain them.



~ Christie Geernaert

RRFF June Annual Picnic ~ An Epic Turnout

About 50 folks attended the RRFF Annual Picnic at the Casting Pond, Saturday June 4. Don Shaw was the guiding force to provide a BBQ of brauts with fixin’s and quartered rotisserie chicken. He also coordinated beverages with ice provided by Bill Laurie.



We hadn't had many folks indicate on the website that they would bring salads, side dishes and desserts, but as with all our club meals, we ended up with an abundance of food. Thank you all for your contributions.



Several Board and club members: Ed Barich, Derek Campbell, Mike Cast, Ken Young, Don Shaw, Bill Laurie, Howard Nakagawa, Terry Faris, Randy Urry, Matt Cardel, Doug and Sage Mackay, helped with the set-up and take down of the canopy, moving tables, decorations and clean up. Jan Shaw organized the food table presentation.



A special thanks to Doug and Sage Mackay, our pond monitors, who put in many hours clearing out the algae that accumulates in the summer. They are there at every Thursday Casting Clinic, as well.

See you all next June.

~ Ken Magoon



**Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers
on the Internet at
www.rrflyfisher.org**

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. ***You may renew your membership online at www.rrflyfisher.org*** or by US Mail. Please remit to: Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945 .

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

Your support is greatly appreciated and provides funds for our speakers, outings and special events throughout the year.

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

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **728 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>

JULY GENERAL MEETING - RRFF Casting Pond - featuring Floyd Dean.

Our July RRFF General Meeting will be held **Wednesday, July 13th**, at the **RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park**. It will begin at 6:00 pm. We will provide light barbecue fare - hot dogs, sausages, chips, potato salad and the like - and will enjoy a fly-casting presentation and instruction from FFF Certified Instructor, Floyd Dean. These July evenings are often quite pleasant and we look forward to sharing this one with all of you.

Bring a folding chair if you wish, your fly rods and any beverages you may wish to consume. This will be our last General Meeting until September.

NO RRFF GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!

Calendar of Events

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – From 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting). Held every Thursday at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa .

- July** **NO RRFF BOARD MEETING**
- 13 General Meeting – RRFF Casting Pond - 6:00 PM
- August -** **NO RRFF GENERAL MEETING!**
- 17 RRFF Board Meeting
- 21 – Sep 3
- Idaho, Montana Camping, Fishing, Float Trip.**
Maximum 10 RRFF members. Sign up now. This will be a two week trip through the great rivers, streams and lakes of Idaho and Montana. It will include an optional one to three day fishing float trip. Details to follow (B. Laurie)

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 [gjacob48@gmail.com](mailto: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**
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- 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**
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- Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**
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- Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wrisley**
823-5572 ggwris@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**
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- Newsletter: **Lorrin Ngum**
762-4652 lorrinn@aol.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**