

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Lochsa River, Idaho Cutthroat On Grasshopper Pattern

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California
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President's Message

Cooler Waters Ahead...

As I write this article, the weather forecast for next weekend is for highs in the upper 90's. That's not too unusual for Santa Rosa in late September, but you may also have felt some cooler morning temperatures lately. The change might be too subtle for an Easterner to notice, but for those of us who have lived in Northern California for more than a few years, it's beginning to feel a lot like fall. This is even more noticeable at the higher elevations. At our Manzanita Lake outing last month, I measured surface temperatures of 55F in the morning, only rising to 61F at midday. That's within the "happy zone" for trout, and on Manzanita at 5900 feet, the hatches and rises were mostly around noon. As the

season progresses, more and more of our lower elevation waters will become fishable again. Good times are on the way!

With that exciting prospect in mind, you might want to drop by one of our Thursday evening casting clinics at the pond in Galvin Park soon. Our club's dedicated (and talented) casting instructors will be on hand to teach new techniques (like mastering that new spey or switch rod you recently purchased), or to help you improve your existing casting methods. Plus it's another chance to hang out with your fly fishing cohorts and shoot the breeze (as well as lines). The clinics will continue on Thursdays from 4PM till dusk, and then switch over to every other Saturday after Daylight Savings ends on November 6.

And if you haven't made your own fishing expedition plans for this fall, check out our club's upcoming

outings. With trips to Lewiston Reservoir in October and the Trinity River in November, we've got good reasons to get up off that couch and experience the changing of the seasons.

Don't let this one pass without wetting a line...

~ Ed Barich

Russian River Fly Fishers Tour of Idaho Fisheries August 2017

Karl Joost, Doug MacKay, and I joined Mike Spurlock and his wife Lynn in their motor home for two weeks of fishing four of Idaho's prime fly fishing waters. We left home on Saturday, August 20th and arrived on the confluence of the middle and north forks of the Boise river where we dry camped (boil water and dig a hole for certain functions) for several nights. Mike and Karl led the way by landing many nice fish.



Doug, Karl, Mike, Bill - Boise North and Middle Forks

From there we traveled to central Idaho to the two tavern town of Yellow Pine (population, less than 50) where we observed spawning salmon and fished Johnson Creek.

We also met Sally, the local bar maid, who recently moved from Alaska. Not a true Alaskan which she said requires three criteria: pissing in the Yukon, fooling around with an Eskimo, and killing a Grizzly bear. She only admitted to two of the three, and catching lots of west slope cutthroat trout. After that we headed up Hwy 12 and 13 past Kooskia and

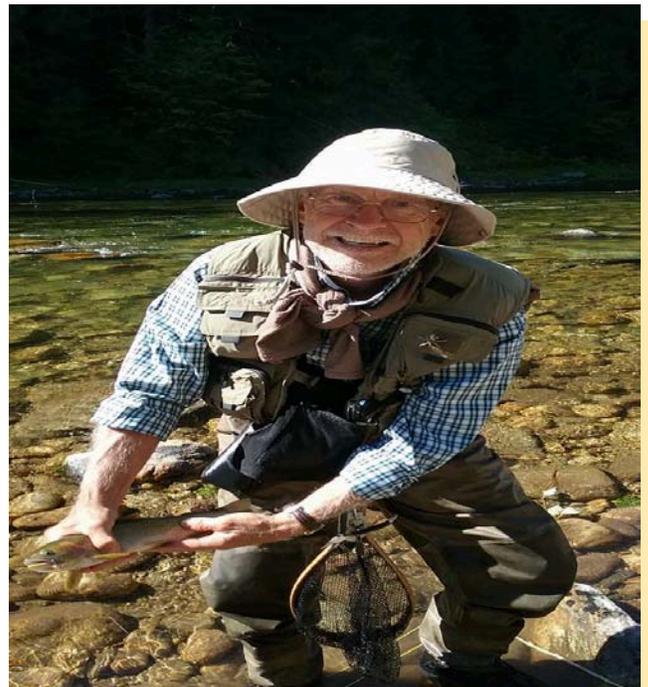


Bill and Doug, in front of Sally's in Yellow Pine

Lowell to the upper part of the Lochsa River for more dry camping.

In transit from the Lochsa to Kelly Creek/N Fork Clearwater, we crossed into Montana and spent a night visiting Karl's previous neighbors on Petty Creek Road, and treated them to a dinner at "The Jack", a local hangout.

From there we headed north past Missoula to Superior, Montana where we dropped down to the confluence of Kelly Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater River, again in Idaho. We had more great fishing for cutthroat trout and a bull trout caught by Doug.



Karl with 16" Cutthroat on Clearwater

We also observed hundreds of red bodied Kokanee Salmon, landlocked from the downstream reservoir. On our final day we woke up to rain, packed up and drove twelve plus hours to Winnemucca, NV and home the next day, Sept 4th. Doug Mackay I (along with Karl in my truck) traveled 2,352 miles which must have included over 300 miles of dirt roads. Truly a great fishing experience.

Here is Mike's fishing report:

- I caught about 10-15 or more fish each day fished.
- Johnson Creek, Yellow Pine (6-9 inches, rainbow and brook trout)
 - North and Middle Fork of Boise River (6-13 inches, cutthroat and rainbow)
 - Lochsa River (11-17 inches cutthroat and rainbow)
 - North Fork of Clearwater River and Kelly Creek (9-14" cutthroat and rainbow)

I mostly used a 10 ft 4 wt, 6-8 lb test, 9-12 ft leaders, all dry flies (hoppers, adams and humpies). The fish are not leader shy and don't seem to be very fly selective.



Mike - Cutthroat on Lochsa, Tenkara Rod

I was able to make a first test drive of my 10 ft 6" Tenkara rod and catch a 13 and 17" cutthroat.

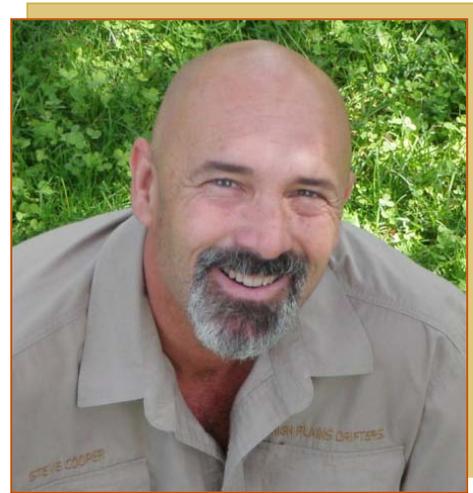
Wading requires climbing banks and navigating big rocks using felt boots with studs and a wading stick. Access to all rivers is by road, paved and gravel. Plenty of stream side camping - official camps and dispersed un-official. There were lots of forest fires in Idaho but we managed to avoid them although we had some smoky areas.

Talk has already begun for an early return trip to missed opportunities in fabulous Idaho. ~ Bill Laurie

Steve Cooper

Bronze Back Fever- Following The Road Less Traveled In Search Of Smallmouth Bass

Steve documents chasing what he calls "the most overlooked game fish in the West". An arm chair adventure through the Great Northwest, fishing for one of the most fierce fresh water predators in America. In addition to information on the West's best Smallmouth Bass fishing opportunities, Steve also has promised a quick sneak preview of what he calls the new frontier for Smallmouth Bass.



Steve was born and raised in Stockton, California, where he lives today with his wife and youngest son. Growing up in a fishing family his passion for angling began at a very early age. His father, Carl, helped pioneer the Monterey Bay blue shark fishery in the early sixties. Steve, a fly fisher at heart, began to develop salt water fly fishing strategies and by the mid eighties, Steve owned his own boat and was guiding for a number of off shore species. Recently retired, Steve is taking the roads less traveled exploring rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, potholes and puddles often overlooked by the general angling population. In spite of himself, every now and then, he stumbles onto some great fishing!

"Bronze Back Fever" will cover A to Z on fishing for Smallmouth Bass. The program covers how to have fun fishing for bass while catching a few fish in the process and will be packed with travel information that covers some of the best rivers in the West including the Umpqua , John Day, Yakima and his

favorite, the Grande Ronde. It will include tips on reading water, tackle selection, flies, and proven techniques. It's my hope that after this program everyone will be excited about Bass fishing and ready to embark on a new world of fly fishing experiences.

Please Join me in welcoming Steve at the **Wednesday, October 12 General Meeting.**

~ Joe Banovich

RRFF Program and Speaker Chairman

2016 Russian River Watershed Cleanup

September 17 was the day of the annual Russian River Watershed Cleanup, organized by the Russian RiverKeeper organization. Derek Campbell selected this as our first RRFF conservation outing of the year, collecting members to assist in the cleanup. New member Karl Joost joined a shore party to pick up trash near the Alexander Valley Bridge. The rest of our crew (Ed Barich, Mike and Lynn Spurlock, Chris Castellucci, Doug Mackay, Bill Laurie, Don Shaw, and Ken Young) joined the "cleanup navy" in canoes provided by River's Edge Outfitters to cover the river from Alexander Valley Bridge to a take-out at Rio Lindo.



Volunteers meet in Healdsburg

The total river distance we covered was about 10 miles – a long paddle even for a down-river run. Along the way we had views of sections of the Russian that most people rarely ever see. The water was clear with active mayfly hatches and schools of



foot-long fish that we could not identify. We pushed a brilliantly white egret down the river as we cruised along. At times we could not tell if we were on the Russian or some less urban water such as the Trinity.

Because this was a less-visited part of the river, the amount of trash we picked up was relatively small. Each boat gathered a minor collection of bottles, cans and plastic along the way. Mike Spurlock had the catch of the day by finding an old tire. It was actually encouraging to see how little help the Russian needed in this section.

We all got lots of practice in piloting canoes on moving water. Most of the runs were benign, with the exception of a few nasty "sweepers" where we were caught under overhanging willows and high-sided until our boats took on water. A few items (including ourselves) got soaked, but we were able to pull our boats to shore, bail them out, and continue our journey. We slept well that night, with visions of clear-flowing Russian River water coursing through our dreams.

~ Ed Barich

English 'n Irish Trout

My husband, Richard, and I were fortunate to be invited to a castle wedding in Ireland. We have relatives in England who offered to tote us around in their rural homeland of thatched roof cottages before we set off to the wedding. Knowing that I love fly fishing, we drove to Mottisfont in Hampshire, England. Mottisfont is situated along the beautiful River Test where you can see countless

large trout in the clear water just waiting for their food to approach them.

One of the first men to “invent” dry fly fishing had built a sort of “hut” along the river which served the purpose to come in for a pot of tea and rest. The idea caught on rapidly. You will see the large imitation flies hanging on the ceiling, as well as the man who built the hut.



The River Test is amazing and literally flows right in some people’s back yard about 2 feet away from their door. Fishing in England requires you reserve a “beat” in advance which I had not done to my regret.

British fly fishing developed rapidly in the 19th century with the development of fly fishing clubs. We visited the first ever Orvis store (1800’s) and the fishing “pubs” and “hotels” where the royal family frequent when they come to fish.

Richard and I had booked a guide in Ireland on the River Liffey before we arrived. For someone who rarely catches fish (that would be me), I was the lucky one that day with a total count of 20 small brown trout. I must have been in the Honey Hole. They were the most beautiful fish I have ever seen.

~ Christie Geernaert



~ Kendjam ~

In July, 2016 I went on a fishing trip to Brazil. In 2015, the Kayapo tribe (~9000 people) began to allow groups of six anglers to come for 5 weeks to one of their villages (Kendjam, ~200 people) to fly fish the numerous species in the Iriri River, a tributary to the Amazon River. The Kayapo are known as fierce protectors of their environment and have successfully fought off efforts to mine, log and build dams in their territory. They protect their customs and culture and strictly allow no alcohol in their territory. They speak their own language and most speak some Portuguese.

To get there, I flew from SFO to Panama City, Panama and then to Manaus, Brazil for an overnight at a hotel. Then we flew 4-5 hours east in a Cessna to a dirt strip at Kendjam village.



Iriri River, dirt airstrip, Kendjam village (huts in a circle)

Many from the village turned out to meet us.



After being welcomed by the main chief and the Kayapo guides in the central village hut, we walked down to the river and were then transported to the lodge by boat, a 3-4 hour ride downstream. The lodge was very comfortable and food was excellent.



The Lodge on a platform with sleeping tent rooms

The Kayapo support personnel from the village had a camp nearby, off-limits to us.

We fished each day from 7 am to 5 pm with a Brazilian or Argentinian guide and two Kayapo boat men for every two anglers. We took a lunch break each day on the river. Fishing was casting from the boat as well as walk and wade. River is very rocky and studded felt was essential. Water was very clear and there were perhaps 10 species of fish to catch. We used 7 or 8 weight rods, floating lines, 30 lb test tippet (+wire depending on the target species). For most species, we used 3-4" streamers.



Wolf fish, some up to 20 lbs, wire tippet required...

Other fish species included piranha, jacunda, payara and bicuda. In addition to the fish, critters we saw (or heard) included several types of stingrays, caiman, electric eels, jaguar, wild pigs, capybara, howler and spider monkeys and many birds

including the uncommon hyacinth macaw. There were very few biting insects.



Getting my face painted by Kokotikti, a Kayapo lady. I was wondering whether it would ever come off.



It was nice to be able to cool off in the river every day

Fishing was very good and it was an adventure.

~ Mike Spurlock

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **754 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>

***Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers
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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.

October

20 – 23 Lewiston Lake Lakeview Terrace Resort. Trout and Steelhead (E. Barich)

November

10 – 13 Trinity River Indian Creek Lodge. Steelhead. (B. Laurie)

December

3 Steelhead Clinic

January

12 – 15 Gualala River (B. Laurie)
19 – 22 Sacramento ISE

RRFF Board of Directors

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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 [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**