

The Cast



First Pyramid Lake Lahontan ~ Maria Hamm ~

Sonoma County California
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- H. Hamm photo

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Headwaters...

The RRF Pyram Lake Outing is in the books. Once again we were entertained by spectacular weather, warm days with little wind, the absolute worst conditions for a lake whose fish thrive on cold, blustery days. The fishing was slow, although the South Nets seemed to be the most consistently productive, especially in the early morning. Yet even with the tee shirt weather, fish were caught. We watched as hopeful spawners cruised the shoreline, close-mouthed to our offerings. It was the ones you couldn't see who would occasionally take the fly. Water levels were significantly lower than last year and the snowless mountain tops surrounding the lake promise no relief.

About 25 - 30 RRF members and guests joined us for prime rib on Saturday evening at the Big House, a half dozen more than for the barbecued chicken on Friday. Besides acknowledging Ken Magoon for setting everything up for the weekend and handling the outing reservations, I would like to thank John

Frenzel, Heather Hamm, Kelly Ames and Steve Tubbs for putting together the excellent group dinners, the nominal fee charged for the meals hardly indicative of the high quality fare. Thanks as well to all who brought appetizers and desserts and helped with the clean-up each evening. Our housemates Lee Soares and Susan Bostwick assisted with handling the dinner aftermath and boisterous laughter was the norm.

The low waters of Pyramid Lake were further reflected in the dry conditions and absent snowpack along the I-80 corridor. We stopped at a few places on the Truckee River, marveling at how the river levels looked like late fall conditions and wondering what the next few months will bring. Already cut-off from Lake Tahoe because of drought low-water levels, the Truckee River terminates in Pyramid Lake. At one time Lahontan cutthroat trout could be found throughout the system. Now they are artificially raised at the hatchery on the Paiute Reservation at Pyramid and planted in the lake. The upper Truckee River, above Lake Tahoe, does have native Lahontan

cutthroat and is one of the few headwaters in California where this fish can be caught for the Heritage Trout Challenge.

Our next big RRF Outing will be the Opener at Lake Siskiyou near Mt. Shasta. We moved the dates back a week (Thursday, April 30th to Sunday, May 3rd) so the entire area will be open to fishing for the duration of our visit. The RRF will provide our Friday and Saturday group dinners, once again hosted by John, Heather, Kelly and Steve. If you wish to attend, please add your name to our sign-up sheet and let us know if you will bring a RV, trailer or will be tent camping. The Lake Siskiyou Resort and RV Park has reserved a number of campsites for our use and these will be assigned to those attending. The resort is quite large and will have ample room for all who wish to attend. There are also cabins that are available for rent if you do not want to camp. Additional information for this outing/event can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Additionally, new RRF member Leafa Fiore has offered her home in Dunsmuir for a "meet and greet" for RRF members attending the Opener...a wonderful gesture on her part that truly reflects our RRF spirit of giving.

Our busy fund-raising dinner season is over, with both the RRF Cioppino Dinner and the RRWS Gathering of Great Steelheaders both successful and supported by many of our club members. Both events set new records for revenue and we are grateful to all of the RRF members who gave their support. I would once again like to thank RRF vice president Ken Magoon for his valuable assistance at both events.

We need to find a new Raffle Chairman for our monthly meetings. Please consider assisting the board with this endeavor, perhaps even sharing the responsibility with one or two other club members. It will require procuring raffle prizes for each meeting (you will have a monthly budget), selling raffle tickets and holding the drawing at the end of the evening. You do not need to be a board member to serve as raffle chairman. Please contact me, or any of the board members, if you can assist.

It looks as if the next couple of months will be the most viable for our fishing season this year. Low water levels throughout the state will bring stressful conditions for our trout fisheries as the water warms moving toward summer. Forecasts are dire and it is

predicted that California has one year of water left...the seriousness of this seemingly above the radar of much of our population. Perhaps this is indicative of the disconnection of so many people from our natural world? The man-made artificial environments of our big cities, and the virtual worlds created by our technologies, have fostered this disconnect. We mistakenly assume that we will not be affected, that our vast capabilities will rescue us and that we control the world around us. There is nothing like a violent storm, more prominent now with our changing weather patterns, to bring humility to our narrow viewpoints and narcissistic assumptions. The storm is coming...

I will see you at our General Meeting on Wednesday, April 8th.

~ Steve Tubbs

RRFF Find Rainbows on the Lower Yuba River

March 6-7 was the second annual RRF outing on the Yuba River near Marysville, CA. By participating in a multi-club lottery, we were able to secure exclusive use of the University of California-Davis property that borders one of the best wild rainbow trout fisheries on the West Coast. Our party included Derek Campbell, Chris Castellucci, Don Duffala, Brian Hartley, Walt Kruse, Bill Laurie, Doug Mackay, Ken Magoon, Howard Nakagawa, James Orosz, Arienne Prange, Don Shaw, Terry Slocum, Mike Spurlock, Ken Young and Ed Barich.



On the day before our allotted Saturday on the UC property, we attended an afternoon riverside seminar given by Clay Hash, a noted guide and fly

fishing expert on the Lower Yuba runs. Clay gave us the lowdown on the best flies and techniques for Yuba rainbows in early March. He also used a hand-drawn map of the UC property river section to show us where the pools, riffles and crossings could be accessed. Since many of our group had never fished the Yuba before, we found that Clay's knowledge allowed us to make the best use of our day on the property.

In contrast to last year's day on the Yuba (the biggest downpour of that winter), this year's outing was all blue skies and wild flowers. Also in contrast to last year, the fish were considerably more cooperative for our anglers – almost everyone had action and most were able to land one or more of the normally selective Yuba trout. The warm spring weather brought out hatches of March Browns and the tail end of the annual Skwala stonefly hatch. Below surface nymphing is generally the most effective technique on the Yuba, but about half of the fish caught that day were taken on dry flies, proving the wisdom of moving our outing from last year's soggy February to a more balmy March date.

After a day of hiking over the Yuba River softball-sized cobbles, a lunch of hot dogs with chili, and wading through 700cfs waters, our tired company headed home with daydreams of the time had with the fighting rainbows of the Yuba. We can't wait for next year's outing.



~ Ed Barich



Fly Fishing Freestones

Craig Nielsen



Craig Nielsen is the owner and operator of Shasta Trout and a Northern California native who has been chasing trout with a fly rod for over 50 years and guiding professionally since 1992.

Craig will present a multimedia presentation surveying successful techniques, tactics and tips refined on freestones in the shadow of Mount Shasta which includes the McCloud, Upper Sacramento and Pit Rivers.

Fly Fishing Freestones is designed for novice and seasoned anglers with concepts offered in a light and spirited informative manner.

Audience participation is encouraged and expected and Craig uses humor and down to earth descriptions to demystify successful strategies and tactics that will both increase an angler's catch as well as their enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing.

Please join me in welcoming our guest speaker at the Wednesday, April 8 general meeting.

~ Joe Banovich

RRFF Program and Speaker Chairman

RRFF Pyramid Lake Trip

March 26 - 29

Twenty-seven Russian River Fly Fishers attended the delicious prime rib dinner prepared by John Frenzel and company on Saturday. Their meals and the evening socializing were possibly the highlight of the outing for many of us due to the fishing being slow.

Oh, there were good numbers of big cutthroats swimming near us, presumably waiting for the hatchery to open and fulfill their annual reproduction cycle, but they weren't too interested in grabbing our excellent fly presentations. We mainly had flurries of action prior to dawn and at sunset, but the bright calm mid-days brought the fishing doldrums.

On Saturday, a northeast wind created a steady flow of some large waves and all of us at the "South Nets" landed fish. Several RRFF members who fished the ladder line-up for the first time: Alan Cason, Rod Jamieson, Tom Magliulo and Larry Henzerling, landed fish during those ideal Pyramid Lake fishing conditions. I believe Rod caught 8 fish, which may be a "first-timer" record for our club. Other experienced Pyramid outing RRFFers: Doug Mackay, Chris Castellucci, Bill Laurie, Ed Barich, Walt Kruse, Don Shaw, Ted Morrison, Jack Vallerga and I also hooked fish that afternoon.

The rest of the group: John Frenzel, Heather Hamm, Kelly Ames, Steve Tubbs, Lee Soares, Susan Bostwick, Lorrin Ngum and Maria Hamm mostly fished "Block House". Maria, who was on her first Pyramid trip landed a couple fish. They were joined by Christie and Rich Geernaert, Rob and Sheryl Fitzgerald, Joe Craig and Dick Betts on Saturday. This group reported less success compared to those at the Nets, but they could cast to the drop off while staying safe and dry on the banks.

Bill Laurie learned about the potential hazards of fishing from a ladder. He fell off and couldn't get back on his feet. Larry Henzerling went to his aid and saved Bill from a possible drowning! We're all thankful for his quick action and as Susan mentioned, we should have a club rule that everyone have a "fishing buddy" on our club outings.

My thanks to folks who expressed appreciation for my setting up this Pyramid Lake outing. We

already have reservations for our next outing at Crosby's Lodge for **March 17, 2016!**

Ken Magoon



"Chef" Frenzel - ladder or chair at Sand Hole?



Lorrin Ngum - 27 inch Lahontan from Pelican Point



Lee Soares - Lahontan from Block House

. . . and some action at the South Nets



Rod Jamieson



Ed Barich



Chris Castellucci

RRFF Opener! - Lake

Siskiyou Camp Resort

Thursday, April 30th to Sunday, May 3rd

Please join us for our biggest outing of the year! We've changed the venue and the dates, opting this year for the **Lake Siskiyou Camp Resort and RV Park** (<http://reynoldsresorts.com/LakeSiskiyou.html>) at 4239 W. A. Barr Road, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067. Phone toll free: 888-926-2618.

Opener Dates: Thursday, April 30th to Sunday, May 3rd. Arriving early should not be a problem as the resort usually has plenty of space this time of year.

This is the first time we've held the Opener at Lake Siskiyou, although we have held our closing outing there a few times in October's past. The resort has set aside 11 RV sites and 6 tent sites for our use, all conveniently located in close proximity to each other. The tent sites will accommodate up to thirty campers total, which should be more than enough for our purposes. This campground will put us within easy access of a number of area lakes, the Upper Sac, the McCloud River, Trout Creek, and (if you're willing to drive 1 hour) Hat Creek, Baum Lake, Pit River, Fall River and all of our traditional opening waters. The trout season will already be open, so all of the waters will be accessible for our entire visit.

Rates: RV Sites are \$29.00 per night (2 people, 1 vehicle). Tent sites are \$20.00 per night (2 people, 1 vehicle). Extra persons are \$5.00 per night per person. Sites will be assigned prior to the event, so it is important that we know whether you will be tent camping or bringing a trailer or RV.

Lake Siskiyou Camp Resort also offers cabins, if you would like to make things easy. Cabin rates are: Small Cabin (1 room) @ \$107.50 per night, Large Cabin (2 rooms) @ \$152.50 per night.

All attendees must arrange for their own campsites or cabins. Please let the Lake Siskiyou Resort know that you are with the Russian River Fly Fishers group so that you will be assigned to the appropriate area. I have been told that there should be plenty of room this time of year, so overflow should not be a problem. Please work out your fee payments with those members who will share your site.

As always, the RRFF will provide dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings, prepared by our renowned cooking crew of John Frenzel, Heather Hamm, Kelly Ames and Steve Tubbs. Your help with food prep and meal clean-up will be gratefully accepted. There is also a small fee that will be charged if the costs of the dinners exceed our RRFF budget (this is usually about \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person

for the weekend). Also, your help with set-up for the group site and clean-up on Sunday morning is expected and appreciated.

I will head up to the Lake Siskiyou Resort in the next couple of weeks to finalize preparations for our outing. At that point, I hope to have maps and anything else we need to know prior to the event, which I will share with those who have signed up via email.

Traditionally, this is our biggest event of the year. I look forward to sharing another Opener with all of you.

Steve Tubbs (Co-host)

Casting About...

Thank You!

I would like to extend an apology and hearty thank you to James Wurts for his assistance with last month's annual Cioppino Dinner. As predicted, I did not quite cover everybody with last month's appreciation. Sometimes it is those persons in closest proximity that are most easily overlooked.

Thank you James!

~ Steve Tubbs

Welcome New Members...

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome new member Mike Kangrga.

You should receive your new member information within the next few weeks and our RRFF newsletter, *The CAST*, will be sent to you via email. If you have any questions about our club, please contact one of our RRFF board members. All contact information is listed in the newsletter, as well as information regarding upcoming events, outings and meetings.

Our monthly General Meeting is always the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lodge Room of the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building. To receive the most benefit from your RRFF membership, we encourage you to join us at the Casting Pond and on our monthly fishing outings. Your participation in our activities will determine what you receive from our club.

Our new Membership Database Director is Ken Young (539-9649). If you have membership questions, please contact him.

Welcome Aboard!

RRFF Raffle Chairman

We're looking for a new raffle chairman!

Ideally, this position could be shared by two or three club members to ensure that all of our meetings are covered. It involves purchasing raffle items each month (the RRFF has a monthly budget), selling raffle tickets and calling out the numbers at our monthly meetings. You will also have to keep track of the raffle items. This is not necessarily a board position, although your participation at our board meetings is certainly welcome.

The position would require a few hours each month and attendance at our monthly club meetings on the second Wednesday. Please contact Steve Tubbs (steve@kresky.com or 765-1787) if you can assist.

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics...

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.

The Casting Pond was built by the Russian River Fly Fishers and donated to the City of Santa Rosa in 1986. It is one of only four casting venues in the state and the only casting facility north of the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in Golden Gate Park. You may practice at the pond at any time during regular Dan Galvin Park hours. Please remember that we do not use hooks while practicing. Either cut off your hook at the bend, or utilize a small piece of yarn to simulate a fly.

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.

Calendar of Events

Casting Pond - Every Thursday evening 4:30PM - 7:00PM
(weather permitting)

April

8 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
30 - May 3 **RRFF TROUT OPENER - LAKE
SISKIYOU**

May

13 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
21 - 24 RRFF Outing to Sacramento River at Verona

June

6 RRFF Outing to Digger Creek Ranch - \$100 per
angler. Maximum fourteen.
10 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM

July

8 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
17 - 19 RRFF Outing to San Joaquin River Delta for Stripers
and Bass

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RRFF Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter materials are due by the
fourth Monday of each month.

Please email submissions as an MSWord doc
to our newsletter editor:

Lorrin Ngum - lorrinn@aol.com

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Steve Tubbs**
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Secretary: **Greg Jacobs**
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Member at Large: **Tom Lynn**
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Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**
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Member at Large: **Paul Matzen**
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575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**
527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

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
 Family membership – \$55 annual dues
 Junior membership – \$25 annual dues

- Existing membership renewal:** Single membership – \$50 annual dues
 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 30th

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