The Cast

American River Steelhead
(Alan Cason)

Sonoma County California
Volume 42 Number 2
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Since June 1977
Visit our website at
www.rrflyfisher.tripod.com

The RRFF Cioppino Dinner is our February General Meeting!

Headwaters…

Preparations are underway for our annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner on Saturday, February 28th. *The dinner will serve as our General Meeting for February, so this month we are not meeting in the Lodge Room on the second Wednesday.* As this is our only fundraising event for the year, your participation is necessary and will help guarantee its success. Besides joining us for the best Cioppino in Sonoma County, please consider making a donation to the fund-raising raffle and volunteering to help. Your fellow club members host the evening, prepare the Cioppino (and other entrees), stage the raffle and set up the dining room. Last year we enjoyed a full house with over 130 RRFF members and guests in attendance.

We are looking for a few people to check in our dinner guests, take payments and sell raffle tickets. If you can help with this, please contact Ken Young. Ideally, we would like to get as many dinner payments as possible before the event, preferably when you make your reservations. This makes the check-in process much easier. Please send me your reservation, dinner selections and payment using the flyer in this newsletter. We need to know who's attending by February 23rd.

The promise of another significant rain event looms on the horizon, after one of the driest January's on record. Our rivers are low, the Sierra snowpack wanting and our weather pattern reminiscent of last year's. That said, we have a number of outings planned over the next few months so there will be ample opportunity for spring fishing before our Northern California waters begin to heat up. We are listing the RRFF Outing notes again for your reference.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the dinner.

~ Steve Tubbs

American River Report
(and a Pyramid Lake Side Trip)

Reports on the steelhead run in the American River prior to January 15 were not encouraging, so some of us opted to head on up to Pyramid Lake mid-weekend.

Club members Bill Laurie, Alan Cason, Larry Henzerling, Ken Young, and myself were joined by Harry Schoenberg on Friday, to fish Sailor's Bar and the upper Sunrise stretches of the river. We did not see fish hooked and the group planned to head home Saturday.

Alan hooked several steelies Saturday morning using an Otter's Soft Egg pattern. He said he saw other fishermen hook-up and was disappointed the group was planning on leaving.

On Saturday Harry, who was a RRFF Board Member in the 90's, and I went to Pyramid. In a last minute non-plan, we joined up with Chris Castellucci, Walt Kruse, and Don Shaw to fish the South Nets.

Chris Castellucci At Pyramid Lake

The weather was warm and windless and we didn't get any fish until after 4PM as the sun was setting behind us. Then the action picked up with all of us hooking a couple of nice Cutthroat before the cold and darkness made it uncomfortable to be in the water. Black Sno-Cone and red Mahalo midges fished under indicators or stripped produced all our grabs.

Pyramid Lahontan - Ken Magoon

Ladders didn't provide any advantage other than keeping anglers higher out of the water and a bit warmer. Several of the fish were 5 to 8 pounds and in pre-spawn fighting condition, which is encouraging for our March 26 outing.

Hopefully, there will be more of them near shore with warming water.

~ Ken Magoon
VP and Outings Co-chairman

Please Donate Raffle Items for the upcoming Cioppino Dinner

on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Contact one of the following Board members to have your donation picked up. Please get your donations to one of us prior to the dinner.

- Ken Magoon, **magoon5294@aol.com** or 527-8376 (Santa Rosa)
- Greg Jacobs, **gjacobs48@gmail.com** or 823-7341 (Sebastopol)
- Paul Matzen, 795-8885 or 480-1057 (Petaluma)

Include donor's name and description of the item

donated. This will be a "can raffle" with participants putting tickets towards only those items they want to win.

All of the following raffle contributions are desirable:

- Fly fishing rods, reels, lines, nets, vests, flies and all types of fishing accessories and clothing. (Other types of fishing gear will also be appreciated)
- Fly tying vises, tools and materials.
- Prams, pontoons, float tubes and fins. (Preferably in very good and safe condition)
- All types of camping, outdoor and recreational equipment.
- Fishing, conservation, and nature related art work and books.
- Guided fishing trips or one day access to private fishing water.
- Weekend stays on a lake or river location.
- Products and services from your or a friend's business.
- Spa sessions or cosmetology services.
- Food items or wine.
- Tickets to sporting events.
- Dinners or stays at Bed and Breakfasts.
- Any one day family or group outing in a fun and unique location.

Thanks for your contributions,
Ken Magoon

Notes on 2015 RRFF Winter/Spring Outings

~ Gualala River, February 19 to 22

There should be good water and good numbers of steelhead in our coastal rivers this February if the recent storms continue in a pre-drought pattern through the rest of the winter

The Gualala River has a few miles of wadeable fishing water between Highway 1 and the North Fork Bridge. The Gualala is often a very crowded river in good years and for this reason, we recommend RRFF participants in this outing be confident in their casting skills and have a good knowledge of steelhead fishing etiquette.

We stayed at the **Surf Motel 707-884-3571** in 2013 which is one of the best values in town and includes a complimentary breakfast. Google Gualala Surf Motel for ads and rates. The sign-up sheet will available at the January 14 meeting.

~ March 2015 Outings

The two March outing sign-up sheets have filled up. While there's no room for more participants on the March 7 trip to the Yuba River, members may be added to the March 26 to 29 Pyramid Lake outing, because there are usually cancellations. Contact me or sign-up at future meetings.

~ The Opener in Early May

We are moving the RRFF Trout Season Opener to Lake Siskiyou, on April 30th to May 3rd. There's trout and bass fishing on the lake, plus wading the Upper Sacramento and McCloud Rivers. More information will be forthcoming from Steve Tubbs.

~ Memorial Weekend Sacramento River Shad, May 21 to 24

We camp at Verona, located at the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers. The area is grass covered with showers. Boats with motors are recommended as the current is swift. Contact Lee Soares (707-974-2651) for more information.

~ Digger Creek Ranch, June 6

This is a "pay to fish" for big trout on 3 private lakes and a couple of miles of Digger Creek. The Ranch is located in the Sierra foothills about 50 miles East of Redding near the town of Manton. We will get a group rate of $100 a person with 10 to 14 attending. Lincoln Gray promises to include a BBQ lunch. I will have handouts and a sign-up sheet at upcoming meetings.

~ Bass Fishing on the San Joaquin Delta July 17 to 19

Camping and fishing in the Delta for stripers and black bass. This outing requires a boat or inflatable. Sign up at upcoming meetings or contact me by phone (707) 527-8376 or emailing magoon5294@aol.com.

~ Ken Magoon
VP and Outings Co-chairman

A TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

My wife, Kathi, and I went to NZ this past October 14 and returned on November 10. While I missed the World Series, and in fact, could not get news of the Giant's win for several days, I did not miss beautiful scenery, wonderfully friendly people, or some great fishing.

I had planned for three days of fishing with guides, and actually got an extra day with a landowner who let me fish on his property. I got the names of guides for particular areas of both North and South Island mainly from the internet, and I really lucked out. All three guides were really excellent in their own way.

The first fishing I did was in the Tongariro River, a very famous trout river on the North Islands, that flows into Lake Taupo. Mike Hughes, the guide, had me fishing with 7 and 8 weight rods because of the size of the river, and the fish. I had a great day nymphing for some very nice Rainbows up to 4 lbs. In fact, there was a spawning run of Rainbows coming up the river from the lake, and I got to sight fish to them.

Then I fished in a guy's "backyard" pretty much on my own, and hooked two very large Brown trout. Of course, the biggest trout of my life got away, but I did get one nice one.

The second guided outing was on the South Island, near Queenstown. Craig Smith took me out on a medium sized stream, and we sight fished for both Rainbow and Browns. It was very interesting, not only to see large fish holding in shallow water only feet away, but then cast to them. I did pretty well after calming down. I had several fish over 20", and a number of others near 20. Although NZ is on the metric system, they still refer to fish in inches and pounds, (as well as newborn children!).

My third outing was up on the West Coast of the South Island, on Lake Brunner, at a small town named Moana. There I fished with Brent Beadle, who has guided on the lake for years. He had a small "camo" boat aptly named "Sneakuponim" with both outboard and oars. He would take me various spots on the lake with the outboard, and then row along the shore, sighting Browns. He knew the lake like the back of his hand, and we kept changing locations to avoid the every changing weather on the lake.

Again, I had a great time with all three guides, and despite pre-trip worries about catching fabled NZ trout, I did just fine. There is just so much uncrowded water, although I did go in their Spring, which is somewhat off-season there.

~ Greg Jacobs

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Please join us for the

Russian River Fly Fishers

CIOPPINO DINNER

An evening of fun, friendship and a fantastic raffle.
All profits will benefit our various RRFF Programs throughout the year.

$45.00 per person

($15.00 for children 12 and under)

Social from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM

Some wine will be served at each table and
you are welcome to bring a special wine of your choice.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM

Veteran's Memorial Hall - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

To donate raffle items, please contact Ken Magoon @ 527-8376.
For dinner information, please contact Art Carney @ 539-2545.

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We will also have alternate dinners available. Please let us know how many you will need.

Cioppino _____ Steak _____ Chicken _____

Name _____

How many will attend _____ Telephone Number _____

Amount Enclosed $ _____ Tickets are **$45.00 per person.**

Please send your reservation and payment to:

Russian River Fly Fishers - c/o Steve Tubbs, 511 "I" Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Make all checks payable to RRFF. For more information, call Steve @ 707-765-1787.

Calendar of Events

Winter Fly Casting Clinics are held 12:00 noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting) the first and third Saturday of each month.

February

11 **No General Meeting**
19 - 22 RRFF Outing to Gualala River
28 RRFF Annual Cioppino Dinner

March

6 - 7 RRFF Outing to Yuba River
11 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
13 - 14 Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy and Sporting Collectibles Show at Santa Rosa Vets Building
21 RRWSS Gathering of Great Steelheaders (at RRSC in Duncan's Mills)
26 - 29 RRFF Outing to Pyramid Lake

April

8 General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM

RRFF TROUT OPENER MOVED TO MAY AT LAKE SISKIYOU - APRIL 30th to MAY 3rd!!!

May

30 - 3 **RRFF Trout Season Opener at Lake Siskiyou**
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

Volunteers Needed for RRFF Cioppino Dinner

We can use your help! Our annual dinner will be held on Saturday, February 28th. This is an evening of fun and camaraderie hosted by the Russian River Fly Fishers. We cook, we clean, we set up, we tear down. This annual event is put on by your club, for your club.

If you would like to assist, please contact Art Carney, Ken Magoon or Ken Young and volunteer your services. Many hands make light work...

Also, donated items for the fundraising raffle are eagerly accepted!

RRFF Swap-Sell Table

Do you have lots of flyfishing gear that you know you will never use? How about extra rods, reels, fly lines, waders,...? Why not consider sharing your bounty with other RRFF members who are new to flyfishing or just getting started (with their own collections)?

Bring your surplus fly fishing stuff to any of our RRFF General Meetings and lay it out on a table. Have in mind what you would like to get for it and see if somebody else can use it. Perhaps you could even trade for that special item that has always eluded you...

It's a lot easier than searching Craig's List or EBay and your extra gear may be just what another RRFF member has been looking for!.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Our RRFF Facebook page now has 522 members! To see what you're missing, please join us at

http://www.facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers

WINTER FLY CASTING CLINICS

Our Winter Fly Casting Clinics are held on the first and third Saturday of each month at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park.

Clinics begin at noon (weather permitting) and run to around 2:30 pm. We do have some equipment available for your use if you do not have your own.

These clinics are FREE and open to the public!

We're Looking for New Members!
Tell your Friends about the RRFF...

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

Archuleta's Reel Works
Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.
733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541) 956-1691
Bill Archuleta, owner
www.archuletasreelworks.com

King's Sport and Tackle
Clothing, flies, rods, supplies, gear, accessories, instruction, guide service, and canoe rental. 16258 Main Street, Guerneville, CA 95446
(707) 869-2156
www.kingsrussianriver.com

Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.
Fishing gear, supplies, fly fishing, flies, rods and accessories.
412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931
(707) 588-8033
Fax (707) 588-8035
www.outdoorproshop.com

Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy, Sporting Collectible Show
Friday, March 13, 2015
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Show Hours -
Fri. 9 am to 5 pm & Sat. 8 am to 3 pm.
Santa Rosa Veterans Building
1351 Maple Avenue in Santa Rosa, off Hwy 12 across from the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.
For more information, call Red Johnson, 707-539-3662, cell: 707-888-7935
warrenjo@pacbell.net - www.redsshow.com

RRFF Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to contribute to the RRFF newsletter, submissions 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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974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

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(541) 218-2177 john4mykiss@gmail.com

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**
815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage Mackay**
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**