

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County
California
Volume 42 Number 7
July 2015

Ken Magoon at Digger Creek
Howard Nakagawa photo

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

Headwaters...

This morning is pleasantly quiet and overcast, the marine layer providing a hush after a few days of clear skies and soaring temperatures. One of the pluses of living in Sonoma County is that the cool air often sucks into our warm valleys as the sun sets, knocking down extended periods of heat. Although leisurely evenings outdoors often require extra layers, our proximity to the coast ensures the hot days and cool nights so crucial to many of our Sonoma County wine appellations. This natural air conditioning helps create a unique summer landscape of golden hills interspersed with evergreen forests; groves of redwoods and firs

surrounded by oaks, madrone, bay, manzanita and buckeye along with hillsides and valleys awash with vineyards. As a result, our cool evenings inspire some of California's finest wines.

The drought is getting serious. Normally, this time of year is still ripe with fishing opportunity, especially if one is willing to travel to the Sierra and the California high country. But over the last four years, the California snowpack has steadily diminished, as it has in much of the Pacific Northwest, and this year it was largely non-existent. This lack has removed the cold melt-off that keeps our streams and rivers cool as we move into summer and now, at the end of June, our Sierra waters appear as they usually do in September and October. Low water levels have

caused water temperatures to soar. Our California trout are stressed, and as catch and release fly fishermen we are now required to make hard choices to protect our fisheries.

Warm water contains less dissolved oxygen. That is why, as the fishing season progresses and water levels drop (accompanied by rising water temperatures), our late season trout seek out the white water of riffles and plunge pools. Churning white water contains more oxygen and provides cover and protection. As the water warms, trout become less active and more stressed. Their ability to recover and survive even after the most careful handling by a well-intentioned fly fisherman plummets dramatically. Already reports from the Truckee River and from Lake Davis indicate that water temperatures, especially moving into the afternoons and evenings, are too high to practice successful catch and release. Many released trout are unable to recover.

So what do we do? In these conditions, carrying a thermometer to measure water temperature is imperative. Water temperatures cool over night, and events like thunderstorms can also provide cooler run-off to lower temperatures (and sometimes blow-out streams and rivers). Perhaps we need to consider fishing only in the early mornings, before the temperatures warm with the heat of day. Trout prefer water temperatures in the upper 50 degree range. It is accepted by fisheries biologists that as temperatures approach 68 degrees, trout stress levels rise as the dissolved oxygen in the water diminishes. Water temperatures above 68 degrees seriously impede a trout's ability to recover once released and in fact make recovery unlikely. But we must note that 68 degrees is the high-end cut-off, above which catch and release fishing should not occur. Even water temperatures in the mid 60's are stressful for trout and their chances for survival diminish exponentially with each degree approaching that 68 degree cut-off.

Already there are indications the California Department of Fish and Wildlife may adopt emergency stream and river closures on waters influenced by rising temperatures. This is also happening in Oregon and Washington as troubled

trout and salmonid fisheries become impacted by warm water, and has been ongoing for years in places like Yellowstone National Park, where late season water temperatures often invoke temporary closures of rivers and streams to protect stressed trout fisheries. As fly fishermen, many of us care deeply for those beautiful areas that host our obsession and sustain their abundance, and we must decide at what point choosing not to fish is the prudent course of action. It is also important for us to help educate those who do not realize the severity that warm water temperatures impose on our wild trout fisheries. If we are to responsibly interact with our environment, we must take into account the interconnected nature of all things and reduce our detrimental impact whenever possible.

There is a long weekend coming up and we are deciding where to fish. Many of our usual waters are off the table, already too low and too warm. We look to the high country, research and gather reports, hoping to find cooler water and to replenish our spirits with beautiful vistas, some degree of solitude and the sustenance offered through casting a fly. Already it is difficult to fish responsibly. In this early season we can't help but wonder what the coming months will bring, as water conditions continue to deteriorate. This is a perilous year for our trout fisheries. The drought is getting serious.

~ Steve Tubbs

JULY GENERAL MEETING - RRF **Casting Pond**

Our July RRF General Meeting will be held **Wednesday, July 8th**, at the **RRF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park**. It will begin at 6:00 pm. We will enjoy light barbecue fare - hot dogs, sausages, chips, potato salad and the like - and will spend the evening practicing fly casting and socializing. 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, when we will welcome Ken Hanley as our special guest

speaker. Ken's shows are high energy and embody a love for fly fishing that is dynamic to watch. Make plans now to attend...both our barbecue in July and our September General Meeting (in the Lodge Room of the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building)...and consider bringing a friend or two.

NO RRFF GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!

~ Found and Lost? ~

Steve Tubbs, Ken Magoon, and Paul Matzen are looking for an extra chair, a gray hoody, and a tupperware bowl lid that are missing items from the June annual RRFF picnic.

Please return any of the aforementioned misplaced items.

~ Editor

RRFF Gold Membership

The RRFF Board of Directors has instituted a new level of membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers. We are pleased to announce **Jack Vallerga** as our first **RRFF Gold Member**. The Gold Membership level is awarded for a \$1,000.00 contribution to the RRFF and forgives all yearly dues thereafter. It acknowledges a significant financial contribution to our club and recognizes those members who wish to additionally support our efforts as we move ahead.

Jack is the oldest active RRFF member who still attends most of our club outings, and was one of the original members when the club was established in 1977. He told me that he has wanted to make this contribution for many years and we are pleased that he has chosen this year to do it. Thank you again, Jack, for your generosity and continued commitment to our organization.

Steve Tubbs
President



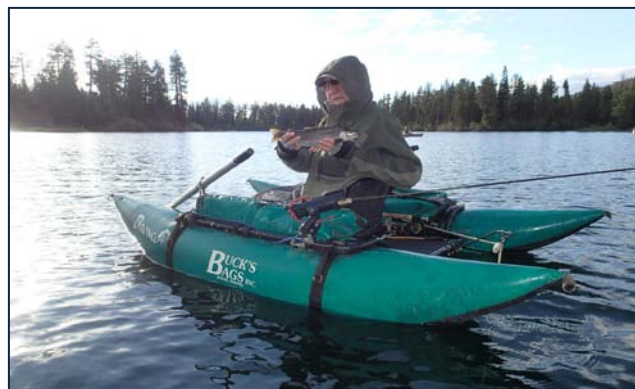
Digger Creek Outing

While guiding Greg Jacobs and me on the Sacramento River last November, Lincoln Gray proposed that 10 RRFF members could have a day of fishing the private waters of Digger Creek Ranch at a discounted rate of \$100 per angler. It seemed like a worthwhile fishing experience to offer the club, and on June 6 thirteen guys took him up on it. We could begin fishing at 7:00 A.M., so we spent the previous night in various locations within an hour drive from the closest town of Manton. Part of the group (Don Shaw, Jack Vallerga, Ted Morrison, Howard Nakagawa, and Mike Kast) stayed in a Red Bluff motel. Fishing buddies Claude Boulware and Denny Asti, stayed at a family cabin in Manton.

Seven of us extended the fishing days by camping in Lassen National Park from the previous Thursday. This group, consisting of Ed Barich, Chris Castellucci, Tom Magliulo, Mike Kangrga, Doug Mackay and I fished around periodic thunderstorms and minimal hatches, but we all hooked a few nice native browns



Chris Castellucci prepares for rain at Manzanita Lake and rainbows on beautiful Manzanita Lake. Fortunately, the weather was clear and sunny in the Manton Valley on Saturday.



Ken Magoon with a 17 inch Manzanita Lake rainbow

The owners of Digger Creek are concerned about anglers possibly introducing the Zebra and Quagga Snails that have invaded California into their water. Consequently, we were required to only wade-fish from the bank on a 2 acre shallow upper lake and a 6 acre deeper lower lake. Both are nicely landscaped and the upper lake had a very comfortable lodge with a lawn from which we could see a few 24 to 30 inch rainbows cruising the edges.



Jack Vallerga, Dennis Asti, Doug Mackay, Ken Magoon and Tom Magliulo relaxing on Digger Creek Lodge deck

In spite of the appeal of this setting, ten guys went with the fishing adage that the “biggest fish must be on the other side of the river or the other lake” . . . so they went to try their skills on the fishier looking lower lake.

That left Ted, Howard and me fishing the “lodge” lake. I felt confident since Ted had landed a seventeen inch fish while the rest of us were putting our rods together. I had cast a large flying ant in front of several big casually cruising rainbows, when one sped up and grabbed it. After a few short runs and an energetic battle in 3 to 5 foot water, I landed a beautifully proportioned 4 to 5 pound healthy hybrid rainbow.

Over the next hour, Ted and I landed 2 more nice fish each. Howard graciously landed and photographed a second big one for me. Around noon they decided to check out the action on the lower lake. I stayed, since I was doing well with ants and now had the lake to myself. I was rewarded by hooking two additional 18 to 20 inchers. Then curiosity, in addition to remembering that I had Doug’s lunch, urged to me drive the mile to join the rest of the group (there was no cell service in the valley).

I was elated by the morning’s fishing, but then learned from somber companions that they either hadn’t hooked any fish or that they were smaller. Most of them quickly left for the upper lake. After another hour of watching Ed, Chris, Claude and Denny get grabs from 16 inch fish on a variety of flies, we all headed back to the lodge.



Claude Boulware plays lower Digger Creek Rainbow hooked on a Yellow Humpy

Fortunately, by around 5:00 P.M. most guys had hooked one or more bigger rainbows by sight fishing with ants or midges under indicators. Claude and Denny expressed satisfaction at casting to a nice fish and having it grab.

Don hooked a couple of big fish on ants. Doug had success with green woolly buggers. Mike Kangrga said he battled the largest trout he had ever hooked on a fly.

Lincoln had told me that a 9 pound fish had been landed at Digger Creek the weekend prior to our outing. I guess we did hook a couple in the 3 to 7 pound range. Some of our group said they would go back while others probably won’t return. Digger Creek offers a very scenic setting and the lakes, lodge, and fish are in beautiful condition.

- Ken Magoon

***Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers
on the Internet at***

www.rrflyfisher.org

Casting About...

Officer and Board Member Elections

Thank you to all RRF members who returned their ballot for our Officer and Board Member elections. We graciously welcome our new board members Derek Campbell, Gregg Wrisley and Travis Gianni and thank the remaining board for their continued service.

Board Members please note: **Our next board meeting is Wednesday, August 19th**, at WEDBUSH SECURITIES, INC., 2455 Bennett Valley Road, Suite C218, Santa Rosa, CA and will begin at 7:00 pm. **There will be no board meeting in July.** Our board meetings are always open to all RRF members. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Welcome New Members

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome new member Jim Shannon.

You should receive your new member information within the next few weeks and our RRF newsletter, *The CAST*, will be available online or by email. If you have any questions about our club, please contact one of our RRF 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 usually the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lodge Room of the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building. However, our July General Meeting will be a barbecue held at the RRF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park on Wednesday, July 8th beginning at 6:00 pm. We have no General Meeting in August.

To receive the most benefit from your RRF membership, we encourage you to join us at the RRF Casting Pond (for our weekly practice and instruction) and on our monthly fishing outings. Your participation in our activities will determine what you experience with our club.

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

Welcome Aboard!

RRFF Membership Dues Renewal

As of July 1st, your RRF 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.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 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) |

Please remit your dues renewal payments to our Membership Database Director Ken Young (707-539-9649) at the following address:

Ken Young
362 Singing Brook Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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

Your membership dues enable us to provide our monthly speakers and help fund the various activities, outings and events that we hold throughout the year. We value your support and realize that you are the reason that we are one of the largest fly fishing clubs in Northern California. Please continue to grow with us.

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics

Our RRF Fly Casting Instruction Program held every Thursday evening, from 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting). Please join us at the RRF Casting Pond

in Dan Galvin Park for an enjoyable evening of casting practice and camaraderie.

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.

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.

For more information, please contact our Casting Instruction Director Steve Tubbs @ 765-1787.

Join the RRF on Facebook

We currently have **563 members** on our RRF Facebook page. You can keep up with the RRF and our fly fishing and conservation community by joining us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers>

We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

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 RRF members who are new to flyfishing or just getting started (with their own collections)?

Bring your surplus fly fishing stuff to any of our RRF 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 RRF member has been looking for!.

Calendar of Events

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

July

- 8** **General Meeting - Picnic at Casting Pond 6 PM**
- 15** **NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING!**
- 17 - 19** **RRFF Outing to San Joaquin River Delta for Stripers and Bass**

August

No General Meeting!

- 19** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 27 - 31** **RRFF Outing to Alpine Lake** (B. Laurie)

September

- 9** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
Speaker: Ken Hanley
- 16** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 24 - 27** **RRFF Outing to Manzanita Lake** (B. Laurie)

October

- 14** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 21** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 22 - 25** **RRFF Outing to Davis Lake** (E. Barich)

November

- 1** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 12 - 15** **RRFF Outing to Trinity River (Steelhead) or Pyramid Lake** (B. Laurie/E. Barich)
- 18** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21** **Winter Fly Casting Clinics** – Begin November 21 at 12:00 noon until 2:30 PM.
Thereafter, clinics are held the first and third Saturday of each month (weather permitting).

December

- 5** Russian River Steelhead Clinic (K. Magoon)
- 9** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 10 - 13** **RRFF Steelhead Outing to American River** (B. Laurie)
- 16** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM

January 2016

- 13** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 20** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM

February 2016

- 10** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 17** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 27** **ANNUAL CIOPPINO DINNER**

March 2016

- 9** General Meeting - Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 13** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16** Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 17 - 20** **RRFF Outing to Pyramid Lake**
- 19** *** Casting Clinic Summer Schedule ***

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(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

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Online RRF Dues Payment

Our RRF Webmaster Mike Spurlock is working to set up a Membership Renewal capability on our new website. Once this is completed, you will be able to make your yearly dues payments online rather than having to mail everything in to our membership director, Ken Young. Mike is also getting ready to introduce a new trip sign-up feature that will be interactive and allow those members signed up for a particular trip to coordinate meals, etc. between themselves. Mike is having a lot of fun with this and would love to hear feedback on your experience with the RRF website. Thanks Mike!

www.rrflyfisher.org

RRFF Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter materials are due the fourth Monday of each month. Please email submissions as an MSWord doc to our newsletter editor:

Lorin Ngum - lorrinn@aol.com

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Vice President and 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 spurlinov@comcast.net

Casting Instruction Chairman: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

526-6015 joebanovich@sonic.net

Outings Co-Chairman: **Bill Laurie**

538-0399 blaurie120@att.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Membership Dues Billing: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Special Events and City Liaison: **Art Carney**

539-2545 ccarney@sonic.net

Member at Large: **Mike Kast**

538-9762 michaelrkast@gmail.com

Member at Large: **Tom Lynn**

538-4366 the4lynns@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Member at Large: **Paul Matzen**

795-8885 gbridgeman@att.net

Membership Database: **Ken Young**

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**

591-5667 dcampbell00@hotmail.com

Member at Large: **Gregg Wrisley**

823-5572 ggwris@gmail.com

Youth Instruction: **Travis Gianni**

(Information Pending...)

Coordinators

Day Fishers Coordinator: **Lee Soares**

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

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**

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
- 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
- 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**