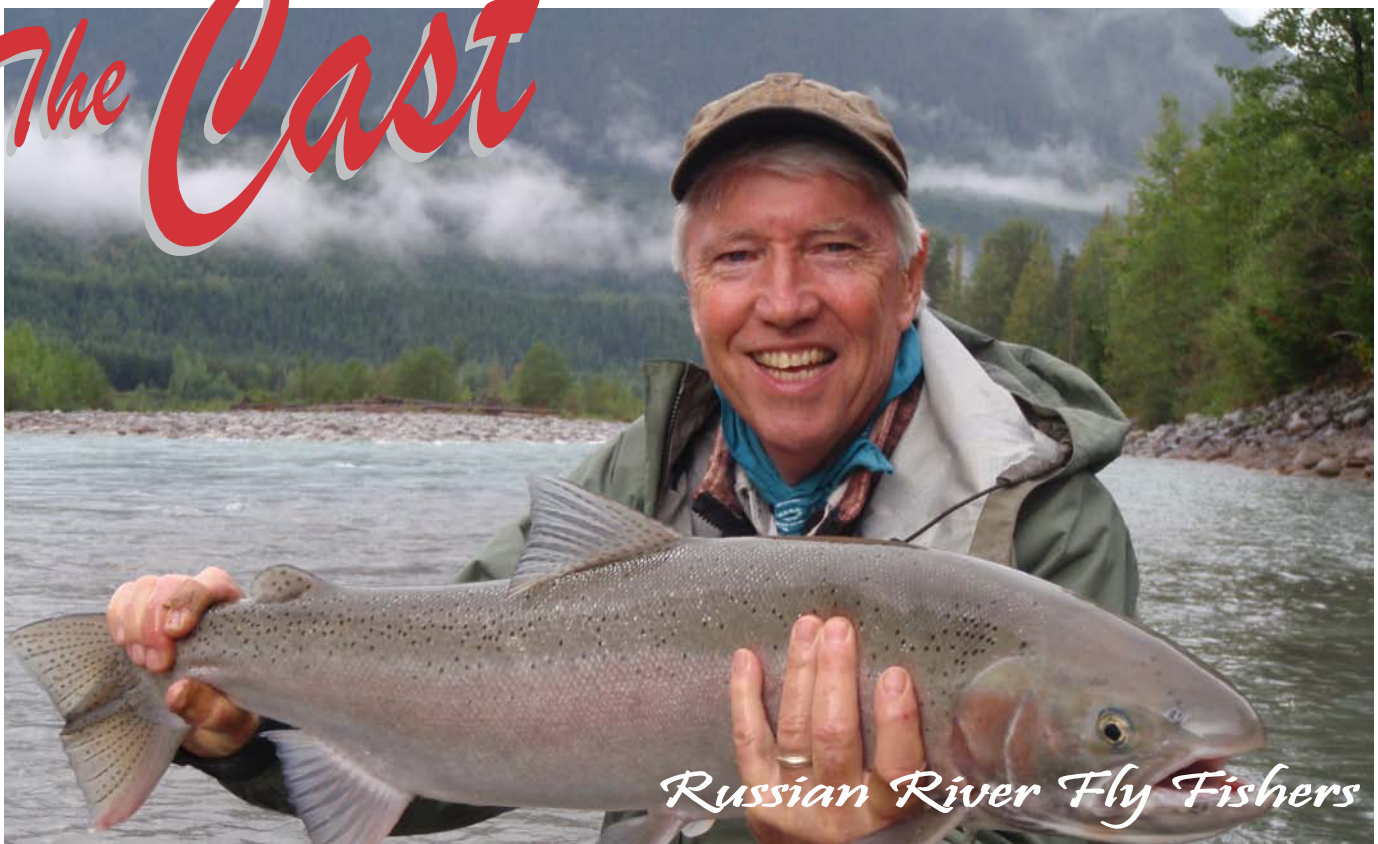


The Cast



Sonoma County California
Volume 42 Number 3
March 2015

Life Member Award
Ed Phelan

Since June 1977
Visit our website at
www.rrflyfisher.tripod.com

Headwaters...

We're into March already! The lengthening days are about to be further augmented (on March 8th) by Daylight Savings Time, and our Casting Clinics will once again return to every Thursday evening, from 4:30 until 7:00 pm.

The last few weeks have been largely a blur as preparations barreled toward last Saturday's Annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner. Looking around the dining room and kitchen prior to the meal, as a host of volunteers hurried to set-up tables, raffle items and decorations while others busied themselves with food prep in the kitchen, I was struck by the absolute necessity of this incredible team effort taking place before me. Our Cioppino Dinner would just not happen without the dedicated commitment of a large number of RRFF volunteers. And I realized that is as it should be, especially for our annual dinner. All of us coming together to create an event that is a culmination of our varied talents, all aspects combining into an evening that was

certainly better for our efforts.

We were successful! This dinner was the largest ever and, from early indications, appears to have been the most profitable. Our member donations made the fund-raising raffle just short of overwhelming. The food was fantastic, continuing its trend of getting better with each event. And in the midst of it all, we were able to take a moment to honor one of our own.

Ed Phelan became our 21st recipient of the RRFF Life Member Award, recognizing his years of selfless service to, and constant promotion of, the Russian River Fly Fishers. With bagpipes heralding a slideshow tribute, and a wee dram of Jameson's held aloft in shot glasses, we toasted his commitment and thanked him for his ready smile, his humor and his wonderful contribution to the legacy of our organization. Ed certainly embodies the ideals of the RRFF and has shared his talents without reservation. There has been no better ambassador for our club. Truly a well deserved honor, my friend.

Our Pyramid Lake outing is coming up, and another opportunity for fine dining and superb camaraderie. I will see you on the water...

~ Steve Tubbs

- Life Member - Ed Phelan

Since the formation of the Russian River Fly Fishers in 1977, there have been 20 Life Members recognized by our board of directors. These men and women were honored as individuals who have given to and represented our organization "above and beyond" the call. Some shared their leadership with us for a relatively short period of time while others have been contributing to the RRFF for decades, often behind the scenes. All of them have provided a sense of direction and a compass pointing toward what are the very best attributes of our club.

What is a RRFF Life Member? The Life Member Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Russian River Fly Fishers. It is a reflection of outstanding service and represents a never waning commitment to our organization. Life Members have been recognized for sharing their passions with us, and for their role as a constant ambassador for the Russian River Fly Fishers. These individuals always work toward the betterment and furtherance of the RRFF and are dedicated to our prosperity as we evolve into the future.

At our February dinner, we were pleased to honor Ed Phelan as our 21st Russian River Fly Fishers Life Member. For the last ten years, Ed has been an important mentor at our fly casting instruction program, an instructor at our annual steelhead clinics and a presenter at our Youth Program events. As a FFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, Ed has volunteered his time at our Casting

Clinics and participated with us at the Healdsburg Wild Steelhead Festival, always offering a smile, memorable stories and an easy-going manner that puts all around him at ease. His understanding of both single-handed and spey fly casting, and his abilities to instruct others in a simple and direct manner, have provided an inspiration for all of us and a model for our fly fishing instruction program.

Even after Ed and Julie moved to Kitwanga, B.C. (and the Skeena River) a few years ago, Ed has still managed to contribute to our fly casting and Steelhead fly fishing instruction programs, offering his expertise whenever he and Julie are visiting family in Sonoma County. He has regaled us in our newsletter with his stories and "Notes from the North" under his pseudonym "Big Pierre", sharing the beauty and splendor of his home steelhead waters and his (and Julie's) adventures in paradise. As the consummate hosts, he and Julie have provided a place to stay (along with further instruction) for a number of RRFF members who have ventured to British Columbia and visited them on the fabled waters of the Skeena drainage.

Ed has always been an ambassador for the Russian River Fly Fishers, urging others to support our club and tirelessly giving his time and knowledge to help our members learn new techniques and to become better fly fishermen. It is our great honor to recognize Ed with our highest award, as he truly embodies the commitment to giving and forwarding the goals of the Russian River Fly Fishers.

Congratulations Ed!

Steve Tubbs
RRFF President



OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKERS

Steve Potter

&

Ben Byng

Blasting Bass With a Fly-

Our backyard, the Delta is where we love to fish for Largemouth Bass. Ben and Steve will take you on a journey through the California Delta.

The Delta has over 1100 miles of shoreline to fish. Let us take some of the mystery out of this vast water way. Steve and Ben will cover it all from top water to float tubes.



Steve Potter: Christmas of 1990 is when Steve received the gift of his first fly tying kit. In complete enjoyment he practiced for hours upon end, tying many different types of flies. Steve gained further expertise in this area from studying the pros like Billy Munn, Jimmy Nix and Chris Helm. As time went on, spinning deer hair not only became a favorite of Steve's, but he was a natural at it.

Steve has been tying bass bugs and trout flies ever since receiving that first fly tying kit. He has demonstrated his tying skills in Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California at Federation of Fly Fishing events. Steve has also tied at the International Sportsman's Expositions in Pleasanton, San Mateo, and Sacramento, California. The Fly Fishing Shows in San Rafael and Pleasanton, California have featured Steve as one of their tiers.

The waters of the Sierra supply various species

of trout that make a bountiful day of fishing - well worth the time spent at the tying table! Steve also enjoys wetting his fly line out on the California Delta for Largemouth and Striped Bass. As a team member in 2008, Steve took first place at the 1st California Delta Bass and Fly Competition.



Ben Byng: Fishing has been in Ben's blood since he was a young boy. His grandfather took him on many journeys from the Great Lakes to the Florida Keys. His father took him on summertime trips to Eastern Idaho for remote small stream fishing and high mountain adventures. These experiences have armed Ben with lessons that would follow him into fly-fishing. Having the California Delta in his backyard, Ben has spent many hours jamming in his boat through this 1200-mile waterway looking for Striped Bass. This is his fly-fishing wintertime playground.

In the summers of 2000-2005, Ben helped Andre Puyans with his Fly Fishing Seminars in Eastern Idaho at Elk Creek Ranch. Ben, with the help of Andre, has worked his way to Operations Manager.

You can catch Ben tying at the International Sportsmen's Expos and the Fly-Fishing Shows on the West Coast. Stop by if you have time to see what he is tying. Ben's time is now spent as an instructor for Wilderness Unlimited Fly Fishing Clinics and The Becoming An Outdoor Women Fly Fishing clinics - both highly attended fly fishing schools.

Please join me in welcoming our guest speakers at the **Wednesday, March 11 general meeting.**

~ Joe Banovich

RRFF Program and Speaker Chairman

Our Cioppino Dinner Volunteers

The success of our 2015 Cioppino Dinner was the result of the contributions of many RRF members. It was a testament to what we can achieve by working together. A tremendous "Thank You" to all who gave so generously.

First, I would like to acknowledge the RRF Board of Directors. Our Cioppino Dinner Organizer and "Tamer of Mayhem" - Art Carney (assisted by Carrie Carney); Mike Spurlock (Licenses, Permits, Insurance, Silent Auction); Ken Magoon, Greg Jacobs, Paul Matzen and Ken Young (Raffle Donations and Raffle); Don Shaw (assisted by Jan Shaw) for the cheese trays and general assistance; Ed Barich (Dinner Check-In); Doug Mackay, Joe Banovich (for help wherever needed); Mike Kast for organizational assistance.



The Cooking Staff – On Cioppino: Steve Tubbs, Jackie Craig, Carrie Carney, Joe Craig, Bob Hughes and Del Patton. On Steaks and Chicken: our talented Grillmaster – John Frenzel. Chicken prepared by Heather Hamm and John Frenzel. Dinner service organized by Heather Hamm and Kelly Ames.

Decorations were organized by Susan Bostwick with assistance from Lee Soares, Christie Geernaert, Judy Brandi, Debbie Costello and Steve Rowland. Filling in the gaps wherever needed were Sylvia Mackay, Larry Henzerling, Gregg Wrisley and Kaitlyn Snider.

Assisting with Dinner Check-In was Matthew Cardle. Raffle ticket sales and Beer & Wine tickets were sold by Ken Young and Debbie Costello.

Beverage service was provided by Gary Lawson, Don Duffala, Mike Pendergast (who donated the table wine) and Cecile Focha (who donated the keg of Lagunitas beer). Additional dinner servers were Howard Nakagawa and the four Hostess Helpers managed by Nancy Kunkel, along with Heather and Kelly.

Raffle set-up was organized by Ken Magoon, Greg Jacobs, Ken Young and Mike Spurlock, with assistance from others listed above. Special thanks to Diane Magoon, who assumed the microphone duties during the raffle.

Dishwashing, serving assistance and kitchen clean-up was provided by Cesar (Kitchen Manager for *Legends Restaurant*) and his wife, Lulu .



A special call-out to Kelly Ames for the slide presentation honoring our new Life Member - Ed Phelan...and the celebratory toast offered up by Mike Pendergast.

I would like to think that I have honored everyone who assisted us this year, but past experience suggests that there may yet be a few helpers I have overlooked. Please let me know if you have been omitted and I will be sure to include you in our next newsletter. Even with a heightened effort to acknowledge all who contributed, there were so many volunteers that it was frankly humbling to see their commitment in action. It was an affirmation as to why we have all joined together.

Of course we would also like to acknowledge all of you who attended this year, who bought dinner tickets and participated in the raffle and silent auction. You are the reason that this

year's Cioppino Dinner was our biggest and most profitable to date.

To you...my friends.

Steve Tubbs

Pyramid Outing Preview

Our annual Pyramid Lake outing is just weeks away, March 26 to 29.

Most of us will be staying at Crosby's Lodge for a fee of approximately \$100 per person for the three nights. Other folks will be in RVs at the Lake and some in Reno. **Our sign-up sheet is full with a wait list, so please let me know if you can't go.**

We will be congregating on Friday and Saturday nights for delicious dinners prepared by John Frenzel and the Cattlemens crew, for a nominal \$10 per evening charge.

We fish together, with most folks having success casting from the banks with deep drop-offs, like Block House and the rocks at Pelican Point. If you bring a ladder or are comfortable wading waist deep, you can join the line-ups at the North or South Nets. Fishing locations are marked with signs along the road.

A small group of RRFF guys fished the Lake in January and February with modest success, casting midges 30 feet to the shallow drop-offs at the Nets. We hooked most of the fish during low light at dawn and dusk (I did land a 27" female in pre-spawn colors midday at Pelican Pt. rocks).



Way to go Doug . . .

Chris Castellucci landed 4 out of 5 fish on Friday before 8AM at the North Nets. Doug Mackay and Walt Kruse hooked the only two fish in the line-up at dawn Saturday (It was Doug's first Pyramid Lake fish). All these fish were hooked on red and black size 10 and 12 "Mahalo" and Chan's Bomber midges, under indicators on floating lines. I hooked a couple of fish on a size 10 black beetle stripped with a black woolly bugger at the South Nets.

Be prepared for windy, cold weather fishing, especially if the bite is still best at dawn and dusk. Also, watch for wind coming from the North.



Pyramid can really blow . . .

We were blown off the water in about 20 minutes with waves building from flat calm to the unfishable conditions as can be seen in the photo.

~ Ken Magoon

Calendar of Events

Casting Pond - Beginning March 8, every Thursday evening 4:30PM - 7:00PM (weather permitting)

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!!!

Casting About...

Welcome New Members...

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome our newest members: Debbie Costello, Leafa Fiore, Mike Garrison, Dave Hunt, Jack Lance, Gary Lawson, Michael Samuelson and Michael Tibbet.

We apologize for the delay in processing your membership. 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.

Your Russian River Fly Fishers experience will be a reflection of your participation in our club activities. 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. We also encourage you to join us at the Casting Pond and on our monthly fishing outings.

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

Welcome Aboard!

Thursday Evening - Fly Casting Clinics...

After Daylight Savings Time resumes on March 8th, our RRFF fly casting clinics will be held every Thursday evening at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park. The clinics are held from 4:30 until 7:00 pm, weather permitting.

Our volunteer instructors can share new techniques or simply help you fine-tune your casting stroke. If you are new to the Art of Fly Casting, we can shorten your learning curve and help you unravel the mysteries. Fly casting proficiency is 95% practice and your abilities will become a direct result of time spent on the water. As the RRFF Casting Pond is open daily during regular Dan Galvin Park hours, you are always welcome to practice on your own.

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.

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

Join the RRFF on Facebook...

We currently have **536 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>

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 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!.

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

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Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.

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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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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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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**