

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 42 Number 9
September 2015

Ed Barich on Alpine Lake

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

Headwaters...

Already September, after an uneventful summer featuring few fishing opportunities while continued dry conditions wreak havoc on our coldwater fisheries. My world has become smaller. I yearn for the high country and cold mountain streams, sparkling waters alive with life and promise, a balm to wash away the civilized day to day. Life changes in an instant. The days grow shorter, hardly used to their fullest, and soon the rains will come. Will they be significant? Like last year we are in an El Niño, with warm ocean currents extending much further north than usual. In addition, the mass of warm water that appeared off the Pacific Northwest last season is even warmer this year. Last winter, it

deflected the jet stream inland, sweeping storms and arctic air down through the central part of the country and leaving us with our driest year ever recorded. In fact historically, most of our El Niño years have produced below average rainfall, and if it weren't for a couple of extremely wet aberrations we probably wouldn't be placing so much hope on this rainy season. Yet we look ahead, optimistic, hoping this year's rain dance is more than wishful thinking. In a sense, it is all we can do.

We've got a great speaker lined up for this month's General Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th. Ken Hanley will share his enthusiasm for fly fishing with us and his energetic presentations are always memorable. I urge you to invite your friends and to spread the word. Also, your RRFF membership dues

are due and we would love to receive your renewal before we have to send out invoices. To make this really easy, our webmaster Mike Spurlock has set up the website so that you can do this (or join the RRFF if you aren't a member) online. Visit us at www.rrflyfisher.org to renew your membership, or you can mail your dues to us as you have in the past. Also on our website, Mike has set up interactive Outings sign-up sheets for our RRFF events. These will enable you to relate with other club members who are planning to attend a specific outing and coordinate meals, share information and make travel plans. Take a moment to check out these new features.

I would like to welcome our new Board Members, Gregg Wrisley and Derek Campbell. Derek has offered to keep the club informed about upcoming conservation issues and Gregg will be assisting with various committees within the board. They join a dynamic group that is as large as I've seen it and the energy at our board meetings is inspiring. Thank you to all of our board members for their continued commitment to our organization.

We will be doing something with the shipping container at the Casting Pond, as the City is making it cost-prohibitive to retain a storage container onsite. Once we have received the specifications for what will be allowed, we will take steps to come into compliance. It is important that we have a place to keep our Casting Pond maintenance items and our Outings and Events materials. On another note, please make sure that you lock the padlock (and don't leave it opened and hanging on the chain) when you let yourself in at the road gate in the parking lot. Unlocked padlocks have a nasty habit of disappearing on us. You can leave the gate open while you are using the Casting Pond, just be sure to lock the padlock behind you.

I hope that all of you discovered places to fish this summer and I look forward to hearing your adventures at our General Meeting. Please remember to bring a friend, invite your neighbors and let's see if we can't light that "fly fishing bug" in the souls of a few more anglers. Ken Hanley will lead the way...

~ Steve Tubbs



SURF ZONE!

Presented by Ken Hanley

You couldn't ask for a more dynamic environment. It's likely to be one of your greatest challenges in fly fishing. The Pacific surf zone is one heck-of-a-place to bring your fly rod.

Don't let that scare you – bring it on!
Ken's presentation will cover tackle, field tactics, and target species.

Ken Hanley is a 2005 Hall of Fame inductee into the Federation of Fly Fishers Northern California Chapter.

More than 15,000 students have taken advantage of Ken's varied programs, both in the field and on the water. He has been in the adventure angling industry since 1970.

Ken is the author of seven fly fishing books. He also writes and photographs for both national and regional publications in the outdoor industry. Ken has three video/DVDs celebrating saltwater and freshwater adventures.

Ken's extensive field experience spans the globe; from the highest peaks in Tibet and the Himalayans, to the remote wilderness regions of Asia, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe, and North America. He has caught over ninety different species of fresh and saltwater gamefish, from panfish to roosterfish.

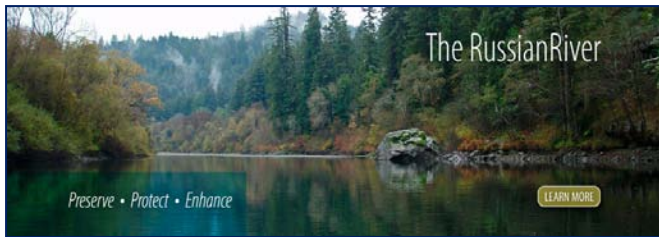
Ken also finds time to serve on the Pro Staff for SIMMS, RIO Products International, Daiichi, Renzetti, Umpqua, Patagonia, and as SAGE instructor.

Please join me in welcoming Ken Hanley as our guest speaker at the **Wednesday, September 9 General Meeting.**

~ Joe Banovich
RRFF Program and Speaker Chairman

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

www.rrflyfisher.org



~ *Conservation Corner* ~

Welcome to the first installment of our new conservation space in the The CAST. Since our passion for fishing relies on access to clean, productive waters, conservation issues are on our minds as we're planning our next trip or stringing up our rods. Sometimes it smacks you in the face, like The Drought and its effects on fish and fishing from Dutch Bill Creek to the Upper Sacramento. Sometimes it's a little further removed in time and geography like future mining in the headwaters of the Smith or the 2020 plan to remove the four lower dams on the Klamath. But all of these stories are related and connected to us through history, the natural world and fish.

In this space and through our general meetings, Facebook page and conversations during outings, I'll do my best to keep us up to date on conservation issues, local and beyond, and provide information on opportunities to get involved, whether through volunteer activities, financial support or changes in our own habits as fisherpersons.

Despite all of the conservation challenges and political headwind, I remain an optimist. Over time, the application of small forces by many people with the same goal can create large changes. There are too many of us banded together through fisheries conservation organizations such as Trout Unlimited, The Native Fish Society, California Trout and IFFF to be dismissed as "drops in the bucket" in the face of large challenges. It's been said before that "all politics is local" and I think that reflects on conservation issues as well. On top of local chapters of large national organizations, we here in our own back yard support our own raft of groups seeking the same goals; Russian River Wild Steelhead Society, United Anglers of Casa Grande, SPAWN, Russian Riverkeeper, and the Russian River Coho Water Resources Partnership just to name a few.

So, at the risk of being presumptuous, I'll endeavor

to help us all become more aware, increase our ownership in the future of our fish, and get actively involved, each of us in our own way and time.

I'm looking forward to connecting with you all on this and hope that you'll reach out to me with your knowledge, thoughts and ideas for how we want to interact outside of our club on the conservation issues we're most passionate about.

~ Derek Campbell

Conservation Chairman

July Smallies on the Russian River

I won a ½ day guided walk and wade trip for Smallmouth Bass on the Russian River at the Russian River Wild Steelhead dinner at Duncan Mills in March 2015. In July, I collected. A buddy and I met our guide, Lucas Meeker (a wine maker for Meeker Vineyard) at his winery in the back streets of Healdsburg at 7:30 am and drove out Fitch Mountain road to Del Rio Woods County Park. Parking is \$7 at the access or free at a few spots along the road.

Lucas supplied the gear:

- 6 and 8 wt rods with floating lines throwing pure white gurglers
- 6 wt rod with type 3 sink tip throwing olive wooly buggers

This is a nice stretch of river with easy access and lots of sandy beaches. We walked right down to the river and started wet wading. Wading was very easy with flows at about 80 cfs. We fished the deeper holes along the bank in the shade casting near structure. We lived dangerously by casting close to the bank and the 15 lb. tippet allowed us to get the fly back when we hooked the brush. After casting, it was best to take slack out of the line and then hesitate a few seconds which would sometimes elicit a hit. Then we began using short 4-6" strips so the gurglers would "pop" showing a bit of a splash. Any time there was a hit, a strip set is essential to make the hookup. We had quite a number of hits, probably hooking 25% of the fish that hit at the popper. The sink tip was somewhat more productive but that top-water gurgler hit is more exciting.

The two of us fished until about 1 pm, landing about a dozen small mouth bass. Fish were in the ½-1 lb range but we saw a few in the river in the 2-3 lb. range. We also caught a few pike minnow (squawfish). Being a weekday, we had the river to ourselves until about 10 or 11 as it warmed up. It was an enjoyable experience.

Lucas fishes for smallmouth mid-May to mid-August when the water is low and starts to warm up, fishing mornings (or evenings if there is no wind). He is very knowledgeable of the subtleties of smallmouth bass fishing technique and gear and can help tune up your casting. If you want to learn this, I would recommend giving him a call but it would be easy enough to just go out on your own.

~ Mike Spurlock

The Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes

If you have never caught a Trophy Rainbow Trout, now is your opportunity to catch one (or more) at the Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes. Fishing season for these lakes is from January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016.

I have reserved two dates, Saturday **January 16, 2016** and Wednesday **March 9, 2016**, for RRF members who will be the only anglers fishing the waters on those reserved dates. The cost for one day is \$125.00, and we can have a maximum of 9 fishermen on each date.

Select one of the dates and send me your check for \$125.00 payable to "Confluence Outfitters" if you would like to go, and I will send you all the information you will need for the day. A typical RRF lunch will be provided and I will reserve 9 motel rooms for each of those dates; the motel is right along the highway that goes to the lakes.

I have fished those lakes and can honestly say the trip is worth it and you will not be disappointed!

Jack Vallerga
313 Tucker Street, Apt. A
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Phone: (707) 239-1742
Email: jgvallerga@sbcglobal.net

New Feature on the RRF Website!

We now have seven signup documents for outing trips we have scheduled for the remainder of this year. Anyone who gets to the website can edit/add their name without having to log in.

Follow these simple steps:

- click on <http://www.rrflyfisher.org/>
- click on Club Calendar & Trip Signups
- click on any one of the remaining 7 trips for this year
- click on the signup list link and a list should appear
- You should be able to edit this list (add your name, contact info, add a column, add a sentence, etc.)

The document may be accessed via iphone and ipad and changes are automatically saved.

Anyone should be able to print or download the document.

~ Mike Spurlock, *Webmaster*

Updated RRF Fall Club Outings

To join us on any of these outings add your name to the signup sheets at the general meetings or go to our website www.rrflyfisher.org.

Manzanita Lake, Lassen National Park September 24 to 27

So far, we have reserved sites A25 (me), A30 (Chris Castellucci) and A34 (Tom Magliulo), each of which can accommodate 2 cars and 3 tents. You can contact Chris, Tom or me to share those sites. We currently have 9 members signed up for the trip. Tom has generously volunteered to prepare a dinner in his trailer for the group for Saturday night for around \$10 each.

To reserve your own site Google:

recreation.gov/manzanitalakereservations then scroll down to Facility Details, to see availability of sites close to us in Loop A. Fees are \$24 per day, \$12 if you have a Golden Age Card.

Fishing is best from a boat, kayak, tube or 'toon" as bank fishing is limited. (No motors allowed.)

Productive fly patterns are: #6 to 10 olive buggers and damsel flies ; #14-16 callibaetis duns, nymphs and spinners; #18-20 midge pupa and duns (Griffiths Gnats); and have some #18 flying ants. I rig one 4 or 5wt. rod with a floating line and another with an intermediate sink line.

There's a camp store with a "short order grill", ice, firewood, and a decent beer selection.

Davis Lake, near Portola Station, CA. October 22 to 25

Last year, Ed Barich made reservations for eight of us at Lake Davis Resort and Motel. We stayed in 3 motel rooms, including the Spa Suite with a kitchen and large room for group meals. It was comfortable for around \$50 per day each. Nearby, there's the J and J Grizzly Store and Resort with RV hook-ups. So far we have 10 RRF'ers signed up.

Boats of some kind are essential. Motors allow greater fishing choices around the lake. This year I'm going to fish from my 'toon and drive to various launch areas on the West and East shores. This will also allow me to fish the evening Blood Midge hatch using a floating line at Old Camp 5. Fishing blood midge pupas under indicators during the day are also good bets. Intermediate lines work best for zigzag trolling of buggers and damsel nymphs in 10 to 15 ft. depths.

If the predicted El Nino event starts early this year, the weather at Davis Lake may become windy, wet and cold in October. These conditions often improve the fishing.

Trinity Steelhead, Indian Creek Lodge November 12 to 15

Bill Laurie will not be hosting our annual Fall Trinity River steelhead outing this year because he is having another knee surgery in October. ***The club needs someone who is definitely going to take over coordinating this outing. Please contact Bill ASAP.***

Bill reserved four rooms at the Indian Creek Lodge near Weaverville. Whoever takes over for Bill may have to put those rooms in your name.

I think they go on a first come basis, so you might phone 530-623-6291 and tell them you're with the RRF party. You can also Google <iclodge.com> to get details about the facilities, rooms and rates, which range from \$85 to \$135 (with kitchenettes). The Lodge is offering breakfast and lunch 7AM to 2AM Wednesday to Sunday and maybe dinners by

November. Reservations need to be made for our group.

Most of us wade fish the Trinity. We swing traditional steelhead flies through and below riffles or drift golden stone fly nymphs with a dropper under indicators, in deeper runs.

The guys who hire guides tend to hook more adult steelies. Contact the Trinity Fly Shop in Lewiston, the Fly Shop in Redding or ask at the Lodge about booking a guide.

Pyramid Lake, N.V., Crosby's Lodge November 12 to 15

During this year's March outing to Pyramid Lake, we talked to a local guide who recommended going there in November to try for the 15 to 20 lb. Pilot's Peak (or Summit) strain of Cutthroat trout. I reserved two trailers that will sleep 14 people at Crosby's lodge for the same weekend as the Trinity outing. To date there are ten members signed up for both outings. We also have a reservation at Crosby's in March 2016.

Some members will be staying in their RVs on the beach (no hook ups), which offers grand views of the night sky.

If you haven't gone with us to Pyramid, I'll bring a detailed handout to the General meetings.

Annual Steelhead Clinic Saturday, December 5

Traditionally held on the Russian River at Johnson's Beach, or at the Casting Pond in years with too much or too little rain, we share our collective knowledge of gear and the techniques used to fly fish for steelhead trout. When it's held on the River, we spend the afternoon going to access points on the lower sections.

American River Steelhead Outing December 10 to 13

This is a good trip for club members new to fly fishing for steelhead. There are several public river accesses in Sacramento with safe wading on gravel bars. We fish in groups and share information on techniques.

Last year we stayed at the *Motel 6 Central, 4850 College Ave., Sacramento*. More information and sign-ups will be forth coming.

~ Ken Magoon, <magoon5294@aol.com>

Calendar of Events

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

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**

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** (E. Barich)
- 18 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21 **Winter Fly Casting Clinics** – Begin November 7th, 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

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **603 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>



"With bells on..."

August Alpine Lake Outing Report

Eight RRFF members went to Alpine Lake on Highway 4 near Arnold. We found three nice sites at Pine Martin Campground. Doug Mackay, Ed Barich, Larry Henzerling and I had plenty of room in a site for 3 tents. Ken Young and Matt Cardle shared another. Walt Kruse camped alone, as did Alan Cason, who had plenty of room for his trailer, big BBQ, tent and awning.

We shared the full campground with 2 free-roaming black cows wearing loud bells. They apparently preferred nocturnal grazing, because those bells rang out constantly from midnight through dawn. Alan's patience ran out and he chased them off Saturday morning. I'm definitely bringing ear plugs for future camping trips there.

If you're wondering, "What about the fishing?," I think it's fair to say that for most of us this was the least rewarding activity of the weekend. Alan and Walt had the most hook-ups using Flying Ants, Callibaetis Spinners, olive Woolly Buggers and olive Jack Gartside Sparrow Nymphs. The rest of us caught fewer of the 10 to 12 inch planted rainbows, mostly trolling the buggers and nymphs. Walt and Alan had many grabs on the dry flies on Friday. I was prepared to try dries with a floating line on Saturday morning, but a 15 to 25 mph wind wiped out surface action for the whole day. It blew us all off the lake by 10AM. And on all three days, only those of us using kayaks and pontoons with oars and paddles were able fight the wind to cross the lake where, of course, the bite seemed be the best.

On the advice of Bill Reynolds at the Ebbetts Pass Sporting Goods in Arnold, we all bought the Sparrow Nymphs. They are tied soft hackle style on 1x long, #12 hooks using "church window" pheasant rump feathers with various colored dubbing (olive, tan and black) for bodies. They definitely attracted trout. I'm going to tie some for the Davis Lake and Manzanita outings.

Saturday afternoon we fished Board's Crossing access on the Stanislaus River. Wading was difficult because of the large slick boulders along the bank. Alan landed a small brook trout and we left after 2 hours, due to heat and low water.

~ Ken Magoon

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RRFF Membership Dues Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your membership dues for the 2015/2016 fiscal year, you will be receiving an invoice within a couple of weeks. In October, we will update the Active Member roster and remove those members who have not paid. **You may renew your membership online at www.rrflyfisher.org** or return your payment in the envelope that will be provided.

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 payment promptly. Your support is greatly appreciated and funds our speakers, outings and special events throughout the year.

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

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**

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Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

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Outings Co-Chairman: **Bill Laurie**

538-0399 blaurie120@att.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

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

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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 **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, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405**