



Sonoma County, California
Volume 50, Number 4
April 2023

Dave Brooks, new RRF member
Landing his Eagle Canyon Lake Rainbow
(Read about this RRF outing by Mike Spurlock page 2.)

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

President's Message By Penelope Gadd-Coster

Wow—Is it spring yet? Who would have thought we would ever again have enough rain and maybe too much. The rivers are high and muddy, it has been very cold with even significant snow in Sonoma County. But warmer weather will arrive, and we will be able to shed some of the layers we have been using for fishing. The weather has not stopped the trips or the casting clinics, thankfully, with record numbers of members and others interested in knowing who we are.

March was the first Women's Casting Clinic and what a success. So, a huge shoutout to Catherine Miller, Activity Coordinator, for putting together the event

and organizing the instruction clinics. To our amazing instructors. BRAVO! Check out the Women's section for more events to come. And don't forget to check out the ongoing trips, there are two this month, organized by our VP and IT manager, Ed Barich. Check the club calendar—there is something for everyone.

Casting for Recovery. This organization teaches women recovering from breast cancer the basics of fly fishing. As a club we donate to this organization. And as members, we act as fly-fishing helpers for their event at the Trinity River. April 8 and 9 is this year's event and I will be helping along with Leafa Fiore. It is my first time to volunteer for this event and I am very honored to be a part of this amazing organization. They are always in need of help. [Contact me](#) if you are

interested and I can put you in touch with the leader.

Steelhead in the Classroom. Steelhead egg deliveries have started, and I can't wait to see this unfold. The next egg delivery will be April 5th. I am working with a teacher in Cloverdale, and she has asked if I can help when the children deliver the fry to the tributaries of the Russian River. I can't wait! [Contact Karl Joost](#) if you are interested in delivering eggs to schools.

The Jimmy Green World Championship of Spey Casting (Spey-O-Rama). It is held on April 21-23, and sponsored by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club. Admittance is free and it is amazing to watch these competitors. [Click here](#) to find out more about this exciting *Spey-O-Rama* event.

The next **RRFF General Meeting** with an in-house presentation will be April 12 at the SR Veterans Memorial Building. You can also join by Zoom. Watch your email for the announcement. There will also be a SPECIAL AUCTION for those interested in bidding on a trip to Fall River organized by famous guides and chefs that like to fly fish. It will be an amazing trip and amazing food! Check out page 5 for more information.

THANK YOU for your membership and to the new members—WELCOME! I look forward to seeing you at the meetings, the pond, and at an outing! Penelope

RRFF General Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 6:30 PM
Lodge Room, SR Vets Memorial Building
By Mike Borba

Rob Anderson, owner of Bucket List Fly Fishing, will be our presenter in April. In 2001 Rob became the first non-tribal fly-fishing guide at Pyramid Lake. Since then, Pyramid Lake Fly Fishing Guide has become the largest fly-fishing guide service at the lake. Rob's presentation will focus on how to fish Pyramid Lake in May, which is great, since we're having an outing there that month. Don't be surprised if we get to hear a little about his Bucket List Fly Fishing business too. And don't forget to try your luck by bidding for the exciting Fall River fly-fishing trip and dinner package

donated for auction at the next General Meeting. See page 5 for specific information.

Eagle Canyon Lakes
By Mike Spurlock

About half an hour drive from Red Bluff, northeast on Highway 36, is [Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes](#) private water stocked with 4 – 15 lb. rainbow trout. Access can be purchased from Confluence Outfitters for groups of 2 to 8 anglers at a range of prices depending on size of the group. RRFF had a discount trip donated by Confluence to our 2022 Summer Picnic Dinner. It did not get a bid at the auction, and we decided we would offer it to 3 of our newer members with Jeff Cratty as trip leader and mentor to give them a “big fish experience” at the discount price. Confluence agreed to let us fill the remaining 4 positions at the discount rate.

We were near the end of the normal season September to April. The lakes are normally rested several days each week. Because of the recent weather with rain and some snow, the lakes had not been fished in the prior 8 days, probably improving our fishing. We were also lucky in that the weather was calm with some very light rain only in the afternoon.



Jeff sterilizing himself.

We met the Confluence rep who unlocked the gate about 8 am. He asked us to get into the tub and sterilize our waders and boots before fishing. He gave us an orientation on the rules. Barbless

hooks, only use large nets (provided), don't drag fish up on the bank, etc. After that, Jeff gave us all a short orientation and positioned the newer members along the dam on the larger lake giving him easy access to coach and assist each person.

Most people were using 7 weight rods, intermediate lines, 6-8 ft 2x-3x leaders (8-10 lb. test). Popular flies were wooly buggers and damsel nymphs. Stripping technique was important. It included a few short strips followed by a slight delay mimicking an aquatic insect moving through the water.



John Guerra.

About half or more of the fish could not be landed, some breaking off. Casting distance was important. Any time there was a hookup, someone would grab a net and help land the fish for that angler. Learning to net a big fish for yourself or for others is a challenge itself. There are additional photos of monster Rainbows and the RRFF members that landed them on our website. [Click here](#) and scroll down to our website's horizontal blue bar titled *Recent Club Photo Galleries*.



Kraig Smith.

Fly of the Month Maholo Midge By Mike Borba

Our first outing in May is to Pyramid Lake. The Maholo Midge is a favorite pattern there. I will have another fly pattern in our May newsletter and website for our outing after Pyramid. Get fishing! [Click here](#) to see this fly on our website and the materials and video needed to tie it.



A Late Winter Steelhead Adventure By Ed Barich

Member Matt Cardle invited me to join him for two days of spey fishing for steelhead on the Trinity River. We were originally scheduled to have a float trip with a guide in January, but this was canceled twice due to storms and high water, so our last resort was to catch the tail end of the season in early March. Even that looked iffy, when our guide had to cancel after testing positive for COVID the day before we left home. But despite the forecast of snow and rain for the whole trip, we decided to take our chances before the winter steelhead run was completely over. Matt had reserved a room at the Indian Creek Lodge, so we knew that even if we got soaked while on the river, we would have a comfortable place to dry out and get warm at the end of each day.



Matt C. waist deep fishing the Steel Bridge Camp run.

The morning of the first day, we woke up to an inch of white snow on the lawn behind the lodge and a coating on all the trees, so we knew we needed to prepare for the full-winter



Matt M. (guide) and Matt C. enjoying snow.

experience. We traveled upriver to the Steel Bridge Campground, which was completely unoccupied and looked like a black and white photo. The river was running high at about 900 CFS, but still had a steely-green color. We spent a couple hours getting our spey casting skills back in shape but had no angling action there. In the afternoon, we fished below the Hwy 299 bridge in Douglas City, on a run that looked a bit more

promising. Matt C. was able to feel one fishy grab on the swing, and shortly afterward we saw a good-sized steelhead make three impressive leaps. On the way back to Matt's truck, a bright sun made us unzip our parkas a bit, but that brief appearance was the last time we would see it on the river. Later, we traveled through Weaverville down to Evan's Bar where we fished our final run of the day, still with no steelhead hooked.

For the next day, Matt C. was able to work with our out-of-action guide to book Matt Mitchell of NorCal Fishing Guides for a drift boat trip from Evan's Bar to Junction City. The weather forecast for this day was supposed to be solid snow, but at river level it was mostly liquid rain, making for some challenging angling conditions. Matt M. was able to use his small raft to deliver us to some good runs where we could wade and swing with our spey and switch rods. At one of the first spots, Matt C. was able to land a 20-inch steelhead and I was able to hook a 15-inch brown trout. But as the day and the downpour wore on, the bite dropped off as the barometer fell. Fortunately, we all avoided hypothermia by wearing waterproof exterior gear and well-insulated interior clothing.

That night, the storm delivered snow down to 2000 feet with 5 inches on the passes. Chains were required on Hwy 299 over Buckhorn Summit the next morning, where we viewed an alpine scene with sunlit snow-covered mountains to the north and east. It was a beautiful end to a genuine late-winter steelhead adventure.

PFMC'S 3 Options for CA Salmon 2023 Season Were: *Closed, Closed and Closed* By Member Cat Kaiser

As most of you already know, the 2023 CA salmon fishing season has been closed by Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border. This is the first closure since 2008-2009, and only the second time in history. Oregon coastal marine waters will also be closed from the CA/OR border up to Cape

Falcon (Oregon's Marine Reserve between Neahkahie Beach and Arch Cape). That long stretch of Oregon's coast will be off-limits to King salmon fishing during 2023.

Rightfully so, business owners, sport and commercial fishermen and women, tribal members, foodies, and anyone who appreciates the value of salmon, are all concerned and fear the closure could last beyond 2023. One of the PFMC options is to reopen the season in May 2024. Fingers crossed.

The season closure is based on a low number of adult and 2-year-old jack salmon returns to Central Valley Rivers. Last year, The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) required a minimum of 122,000 salmon to return to spawn in the Central Valley. Since the requirement was not met last year, it was increased to 180,000 but only 62,000 returned.

My time working with the Golden State Salmon Association (GSSA) has taught me that when the salmon are doing well, the steelhead and trout are doing well, and the Delta and the entire ecosystem is healthy. If salmon are thriving, there's a good chance everything around them is too.

Below are some links to articles on the work GSSA is doing on habitat restoration, hatchery reform, and hydrology practices. These important practices are in place to help salmon thrive and not become a thing of the past.

[Click here](#) to read about the battles GSSA are up against to save California's salmon runs.

[Click here](#) to read about the CA State Water Resources Control Board and the issues that will impact the salmon during shutdown.

[Click here](#) for more important information about the issues involved about the saving our state's salmon runs.

Editor's note: Cat is an experienced fisherwoman, and a trusted employee at Golden State Salmon Association. [Click here](#) and scroll down to read a short

bio of Cat. And you may recall, she and her steelhead dominated the front cover of December's 2022 newsletter. The photo was taken of her on the Trinity River last October. If you missed that photo and article, [click here](#).

RRFF Women's Casting Clinic By Catherine Miller

The Women's RRFF Fly Casting Clinic was successful, helpful, and inspiring. It was totally heartwarming for 13 women to gather at the casting pond as part of our fly-casting journey. It was a complete joy to get to know each other better and to receive outstanding individualized mentoring from experienced RRFF Club members.



Catherine & Cat.

The women's clinics will be held every fourth Thursday of each month in conjunction with the weekly general RRFF casting clinics to where everyone is welcome. We have an exciting time ahead as we plan future clinics, day trips, and the inclusion of more and more women as we expand our contacts. A coordinating team is evolving to provide the best possible experience for all.



Lisa and Rosa

[Click here](#) to view more photos on our website. Scroll down below the website's blue horizon bar titled **Recent Club Photo Galleries**.

The next Women's RRFF Fly Casting Clinic will be held on Thursday, April 27. If you have been thinking about fly fishing, this is a perfect opportunity to begin.

The RRFF Women's Fly Fishers Team welcomes you.

Penelope Gadd-Coster, RRFF President
Catherine Miller, Women's Activity Coordinator
Lisa Pardini, Mentor Coordinator
Susan Bostwick, Daytrip Advisor

Save this Date!

July 15, 2023

RRFF Summer Picnic

Brought Back by Popular Demand.

Bring your family and friends!

Santa Rosa's Galvin Park

Soon more information will follow.

[Click](#) to view a 15-minute video, **Restoring Balance**, that describes the **Klamath River Dam Removal Project** that started 3/23/23 and how the full stretch of the Klamath River will look after the 4 dams are removed.

Fascinating!

Don't Miss Out!

Fall River Guided Fly-Fishing Trip Silent Auction, \$1800 Value General Meeting April 12, 2023

RRFF Club member Kevin Ostrom has generously donated an incredible trip to the Club. It is a three night, two day guided fishing trip including lodging and food on [California's famous Fall River](#), Shasta County—May 22, 23 and 24th.

But this is not your average guided fishing trip. Two of the guides are rather famous in their own right - John Fochetti and Jason Cockrum have been exploring these waters for over a decade. On top of that, you will likely be fishing the limited access upper section of the river at least part of the time.

But wait, there's more—this trip is put on by the Travel Creel Chef Crew, chefs that love to fly fish! Joshua Schwartz, who is organizing this trip, has been a chef at the French Laundry. The meals are going to be awesome!

[Click here](#) to read more about this awesome opportunity along with color photos on our RRFF Website. Learn how to hook into this special offering. And mark your calendar, April 12, 2023.

Russian River Fly Fishers

2023 Board Nominations

for Officers & Board of Directors

The following candidates have been nominated by the RRFF Board of Directors to serve for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. According to our Bylaws, our RRFF Board of Directors can have up to 15 members.

Return this form only if you wish to offer an alternative nomination for President, Vice President or for the seven Board Members that have been already nominated.

The final ballot will be issued in May/June and election results announced on July 1.

RRFF Officers

President

- 1.) Penelope Gadd-Coster
- 2.) _____

Vice-President

- 1.) Ed Barich
- 2.) _____

Board Members - (Elected for a 2-year Term)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1.) Steve Tubbs | 5.) Mike Borba |
| 2.) Gregg Wisley | 6.) Jeff Cratty |
| 3.) Spencer Bader | 7.) Brendan Galten |
| 4.) Don Shaw | |

Returning Board Members (beginning second year of 2-year term)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.) Mike Spurlock | 5.) Dave Stone |
| 2.) Doug Mackay | 6.) Karl Joost |
| 3.) Ed Barich | 7.) Penelope Gadd-Coster |
| 4.) Tim Reuling | 8.) Daniel Powers |

Please return all nominations by April 30, 2023
Nominations can be submitted online at rrflyfisher.org

Nominations may be mailed to: **Russian River Fly Fishers,**
c/o Brendan Galten, 820 Western Ave., Petaluma, CA 94952.

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

Archuleta's Reel Works

Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.
733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541) 956-1691
Bill Archuleta, owner
[Click here.](#)

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Clothing, flies, rods, supplies, gear, accessories, instruction, guide service, and canoe rental.
16258 Main Street, Guerneville, CA 95446.
(707) 869-2156.
[Click here.](#)

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Fishing gear, supplies, fly fishing, flies, rods and accessories.
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(707) 588-8033,
Fax (707) 588-8035
[Click here.](#)

Sportsman's Warehouse

Top brands for hunting, fishing, and more at America's Premier Outfitter
5195 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 585-1500
[Click here.](#)

Calendar of Events

The RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics began on Thursday, March 16th, from 4:30 until 7:00 PM. Those days and hours will continue to be held every Thursday evening (weather permitting) until the end of Daylight Savings Time in November.

We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Beginners are welcome...

We have many RRFF outings coming up during 2023. To view the signup sheets for those RRFF Fly-fishing outings click below.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of upcoming RRFF fly-fishing outings for 2023

How to Contact Board of Directors & Coordinators

If you want to contact one or more of the Board of Directors and/or Coordinators below, then click on this link, which will bring you to our website.

[Click here.](#)

The names of our Board of Directors and Coordinators will appear. You may click on a name and leave a message for any person below and our website will send it to their personal email address, and they will respond to your message.



RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

Vice President & Outings Coordinator: **Ed Barich**

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: **Steve Tubbs**

Casting Instruction: **Don Shaw**

Membership Badges & Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

New Member Mentoring, Casting Instruction: **Jeff Cratty**

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

Member at Large: **Tim Reuling**

Program Chair: **Mike Borba**

The Cast Newsletter Editor: **Dave Stone**

Member at Large: **Daniel Powers**

Coordinators

Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

Conservation Coordinator: **Charlie Schneider**

Conservation Coordinator: **Tom Greer**

Russian River Fly Fishers

c/o Spencer Bader
3310 Conifer Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



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).

*Indicates required field.

*Name _____ *Date _____ *How did you hear about us? Referred by? _____

*Address _____ *City/State/Zip _____

*Preferred Phone: Home _____ or Cell _____ *E-mail _____

Occupation _____ *Signature _____

*Circle a (Yes or No): I'm applying as a new member Yes / No or I'm renewing my existing membership: Yes / No

Single membership - \$50 annual dues Junior membership (live >75 miles from Santa Rosa or age 16-18 - \$25 annual dues.)

Gold membership - \$1,000 (one-time) Family Membership - \$55 annual dues—List family members: _____

The club would like to help you meet your needs. How many years have you been fly fishing? _____

Circle any areas you want help with: I would like help learning or improving my cast. I would like advice on fishing equipment.

I would like a lesson in tying knots I would like a lesson in tying flies I would like to have an experienced member mentor me

on local waters or on a club outing. Any other areas not mentioned above? _____

*How are you planning to pay? _____

Note: Dues paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 1st of any year will cover the balance of that year and the membership dues for the following fiscal year. The RRFF fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE at www.rrflyfisher.org

OR NEW MEMBERS, MAY MAIL THIS APPLICATION TO:

RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, C/O SPENCER BADER, 3310 CONIFER DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404