

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
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Angling Amigos at East Lake, Oregon
See "Tour of Oregon's Fly-Fishing Waters" by Ed Barich, pg. 2

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

President's Message

Fall is here and hopefully this finds you out on the water! I want to thank you all for your membership renewals and your membership in general. I also want to thank you for attending our general meetings which fall on the second Wednesday of every month at the Vets Hall in Santa Rosa as well as online. As some of you know we had some glitches. I know that some of the online people were not able to access the meeting as planned. We had no access of Wi-Fi for that event. Then there were the issues with the in-house microphone. It failed which left the Vets Hall members unable to hear the presentation. Ed and I are dedicated to fixing those problems and keeping these meetings mixed, that is, in person and virtual

using Zoom. We have members who want to attend the meetings either way. There are advantages to both. In person, you get to view up close fly tying by Lee Soares, visit with your friends, purchase items from the dollar table, and get to know new members. Online, you get to see the members attending, see the presentation, and get the board updates just as the in-house members do. It is a way to stay in touch even if you are hours away, or ill, or can't drive at night. The Board and I feel obligated to be able to accommodate as many members as we can and would love to hear how we can continue to engage all members in the best way possible. Ed and I have ordered a mic system and we are working on the WI-FI issue with the Vets Hall. We will be ready with both for the upcoming General Meeting Oct. 12.

Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International is sponsoring the **Yuba Fest 2022** on October 15-16. [Click](#) to learn more about this fun and informative festival. Our Club is purchasing tickets and giving them free to our Club members while they last. Contact me [click](#) if you are interested in attending. This festival is offering great food, great classes, and great music.

Ed has been working diligently to put together many exciting fly-fishing trips for our Club. Please [click](#) and check out our website for upcoming outings. There is a very special location on the Yuba River that is privately owned by UC Davis. Ed has reserved two separate outings on the Yuba River. He has emailed information and the dates to Club members interested in those outings. Those dates will be available exclusively to our Club. Contact Ed [click](#) if you are interested in going.

Steelhead in the Classroom is an incredible conservation team of Sonoma County teachers and support staff led by RRF Board Member, Karl Joost. Karl will be starting up the program once again. Please contact Karl [click](#) if you are interested in helping. He is always looking for volunteers.

AND don't forget—the casting pond! It is open Thursday evenings from 4:30-7:00 PM. That day and time will change when the Daylight Saving Time ends (Nov. 6). Then pond hours will change to noon-2:30 PM, the first and third Saturday of each month. Let's make these winter hours a time to get together out in the open air. It's a perfect opportunity to plan a fishing trip with friends, improve your casting, and you can let me know where you would like to see us expand as a Club.

THANK YOU for your membership and I look forward to seeing you at the pond and fishing on the water!

Penelope

RRFF General Meeting
Penelope Gadd-Coster

Wednesday, October 12th, 7:00 PM

For our October General Meeting, we have an important presentation that will thoroughly cover the topic of fishing safely given by Mark Likos of Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International. Many of us fish alone and may not think about what we might need in an emergency. And many of us have our stories regarding how we landed in tough situations without help. Join us for an important presentation and be ready to share your stories and tips!

Don't miss Mark's presentation at the Vets Hall, Santa Rosa, 7:00 PM October 12th.

Tour of Oregon's Fly-Fishing Waters **By Ed Barich**

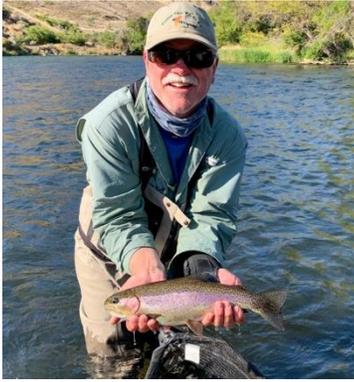


Luis Ramos, Deschutes River

Last June at the Manzanita Lake outing, there was a discussion about making a trip to Oregon to fish some of the lakes and rivers up there. I doubted that anything would come of it, but Jeff Myers took the idea seriously and put together a detailed

plan to fish the Cascade Lakes area, plus the Deschutes and Metolius Rivers, in early September. Unfortunately, Myers could not attend due to illness, but Jeff Cratty, Luis Ramos and I were still willing to follow the 9-day itinerary and make the 10-hour drive to Oregon.

For the first six nights of the trip, we stayed in tents at a quiet campground on Lava Lake so that we would have easy access to several recommended lakes on the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway. We had all brought float tubes to fish the still waters, but a brief fishless first evening on Lava Lake proved to us that this was not one of the local hotspots.



Jeff Cratty, Deschutes River

On Day 2, Jeff and I floated nearby Hosmer Lake, which is two small lakes connected by a stream that winds through a marsh. Both of us fished small damsel fly streamers on intermediate lines and landed rainbow, brook, and brown trout from 8 to 18 inches. Most of the action was in the narrow stream, which in the afternoon became crowded with tourist kayaks and stand-up paddle boards. Luis, who was our Euro-nymph fly-fishing enthusiast, spent the day on the upper Deschutes River, which originates nearby. He had plenty of action with small rainbows, and in the evening demonstrated to us how effective that method can be on freestone rivers like the Deschutes.

On Day 3, we got up early and traveled 1.5 hours to East Lake, nestled in the caldera of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, the largest ice-age volcano in Oregon. It was a very smokey morning, due to a wildfire to the west of our campground, but at 6,400 feet we came out of the smoke to see East Lake, a huge oval gem. The lake was calm when we got there, but by the time we got our float tubes pumped up and our gear together, a west wind came up and made it too dangerous to launch. To avoid the wind, we packed up and drove to the southwest shore. Shortly after getting on the water, I was able to land an 18-inch brown trout, again on a damsel fly imitation. Jeff spotted a mayfly hatch and landed a rainbow, but the wind got stronger, causing us to get off the water. In the afternoon we traveled to the Fall River, a tributary of the Deschutes. Luis used his Euro rig there and was able to land a brown trout (one of his goals for the trip). I tried some Tenkara dry fly fishing and Jeff tried nymphs under an indicator, but the water was low and clear, and the few fish we could see were not interested.

On Day 4, Luis decided to concentrate on Euro-fishing the Deschutes while Jeff and I fished Crane Prairie Reservoir, which had been recommend to us by RRF members. We launched our float tubes at Quinn River on the west shore and paddled out about a half mile to the standing dead trees in the flooded riverbed, which was about 12 feet – deeper and colder than the surrounding water. We tried trolling damselfly nymphs on intermediate lines and Jeff got a big grab on the way out, but the fish broke off immediately. I talked with a fly angler in a boat who was fishing chironomids under an indicator about 11 feet down. Thinking that was the way to go, I rigged up a second rod with a slip-indicator and two big Pyramid Lake midges, but watching the bobber was too boring and unproductive so I went back to the trolling rig. That did not work either, so I switched to a rust-colored Jay Fair wiggle-tail streamer and immediately got action trolling around the channel. As the smokey skies got darker, I hooked 5 fish and landed 3 of them. They were 18 to 20 inch “Crane-Bows” that fought hard, charged the boat, and jumped up to 6 times.

Day 5 (Labor Day) was sunny and hot. Luis concentrated on Euro-nymphing the Deschutes River, while Jeff and I went back to Crane Prairie. We had no action until mid-afternoon when we noticed that boats were gathering further upstream near the Quinn launch. Apparently, the water was cooler there and we saw two anglers doing well with indicator/midge rigs. Jeff hooked and landed a nice 20-inch Crane-Bow stripping a damselfly nymph, but that was all the action for the day. The brighter skies and higher temperatures were not as optimal as the day before.

Day 6 was the day of our Deschutes River Float/Wade Trip with guides from The Fly Fisher’s Place. We drove 80 miles from Lava Lake to meet the guides in the town of Madras where they drove us out to the launch on the lower Deschutes. Jeff floated with Steve Erickson, while Luis and I joined Troy Leedy in his boat. At the launch we waded for a while and got used to casting indicator rigs with two nymphs in the fast-flowing run. We all caught a few small, but hard-



Ed Barich, Deschutes River

fighting wild redband trout before we drifted down the river.

We stopped at various spots along the river, often where islands interrupted the flow and provided swift runs with deeper holes downstream. One spot featured an overhanging willow that

Troy said was likely to hold fish in its shade. He handed me a rod with a dry/dropper rig, having an elk hair caddis on top and an #18 caddis nymph on the bottom. I caught a few small redbands with this rig, and then cast it close to the shade of the willow. When the dry sunk quickly, I set the hook and was into a much larger fish that took line out to the main flow of the river. After what seemed like 5 minutes, Troy netted my biggest redband of the day, a beautiful 18-incher.

The desert canyon of the Deschutes provided awesome scenery as our two boats hop-scotched down the river and fished likely spots. In addition to riverside campers, we saw native wildlife such as beavers, ospreys, and wild horses. Luis got to try his favorite method, Euro-nymphing, while I tried spey-casting with Troy's switch rod. Jeff concentrated on the floating indicator method for big fish, landed five and lost several substantial redbands. Despite the day going quickly, we were on the water until about 6:30PM.

We got back to our Lava Lake camp about 10:30PM to hear a warning on Jeff's cell phone ordering us to evacuate the area due to a nearby wildfire. Although we could not see the fire, there was ash debris all over our tents and cars that were parked there, so we struck camp as quickly as possible and headed for Bend. We got there around 12:30 AM and found a Motel 6 that would take us in for the night.

Day 7 was designated as a travel day. Due to family matters, Luis had decided to head home to Santa Rosa, leaving Jeff and Ed to make the trip to the Metolius River, about 40 miles from Bend. We arrived at the Pine Rest campground and set up our tents right next to the river. The Metolius is a clear, free-stone river in a beautiful forest environment with easy access at campground areas and bridge crossings. We looked forward to exploring the spots that Jeff Myers had marked on a map.

On Day 8, Jeff and I headed down the west side of the river where Jeff spotted some large fish in a spot called the "Meat Hole". Despite some aggressive wading, he was not able to get any takers. It became clear to us that the Metolius harbored some trophy trout, but at this time of the year they were wary, and they rested in spots that were difficult to access. That afternoon we visited the Wizard Falls State Fish Hatchery and tossed fish pellets to the mobs of large redband trout in the rearing ponds. We noticed some anglers upstream from the hatchery on the west side and grabbed our rods to check it out. We found a section of the river where fish were constantly rising to the surface and tried swinging nymphs into their spots without any success. On our way back to camp we checked the map and wondered why this section of the river was called the "Idiot Hole."

Day 9 was our last day of fishing, so in the morning we decided to hike a half mile section of the river above our campsite to see if we could stir up some action. We were both using dry/dropper rigs that we cast on floating lines to likely holding spots. I took the lead but did not have any action. Jeff followed behind and found a deep slot that I had missed earlier. We had noticed some large adult yellow stoneflies at the bridge, and Jeff was using a stimulator dry fly that was about the same size. That did the trick and he pulled two redbands out of that hole; one was 14 inches and the other was 18. We had not talked with many anglers who had success on this "fly fishing only" river, so Jeff's catch was welcome news.

After taking a lunch break, we decided to go back above the hatchery, to the last place we saw rising

fish the evening before. We had the spot to ourselves, although anglers were present above and below us. I concentrated on tossing dry flies: green drakes, elk hair caddis, stimulators – all untouched by the rising trout. Jeff tried swinging damselfly nymphs and other streamers, but also without any action. At the end of the day, we realized why this was called the “Idiot Hole.” It was a spot that tempted anglers with rising trout that would not bite, but we could not resist returning to try again.

Based on our experience on this trip, the lakes and rivers near Bend OR are great for fly fishing. The week we picked (Labor Day weekend) was not optimal due to high temperatures, wildfires, low water (in some areas) and holiday crowds. But we did catch fish and have good times camping. In the end, we were glad we took the time and effort to visit this angler’s paradise and we look forward to doing it again someday.

Editor’s Note: Ed Barich will tell his entire story “Our tour of the Oregon’s Fly-Fishing Waters” at the 12/14/2022 General Meeting in lieu of a guest speaker. If you would like to share your best fishing days of 2022 along with Ed, then to reserve your presentation slot, please contact Ed, [click](#) by November 16. By December 7, Ed will need the following information from all presenters: 1) The title of your presentation. 2) The names of any co-presenters who will be speaking with you. 3) The length of time the presentation will take (best guess, but with a 20-minute max.) Shorter presentations are okay too. 4) The type of images you will want to display on the Vets Hall’s screen (Microsoft Power Point format would be preferred, otherwise, .jpg photo files are acceptable.)

Be there to join in by telling your *fish* story or come to listen to some fascinating fish battles of yore. Should be fun, don’t miss it.

RRFF Women’s Voice By Penelope Gadd-Coster

Hi all!! Fall has arrived and soon the Casting Pond will be getting ready to have clinics on Saturdays. I have talked with a few of you, and I am looking forward to this change too. I look forward to being in the sun, learning from our amazing casting mentors - Steve Tubbs and Jeff Cratty. And having a few Barbeques! But most of all, this month I would like to experience the **Yuba Fest 2022** on October 15-16. This event is for beginners—and fly fishers of all levels. There will be informative classes, gear to check out, and Women Connect [click](#) will be there to help women connect with clubs and events to promote fly fishing for all. Please let me know if you would like a free ticket and/or suggestions on where to stay [click](#).

Fish and Beyond By Dave Stone Sucking Out the Pond’s Algae Part 2

I received an email from Don Shaw, mentioning he, Doug Mackay and Mike Spurlock, were going to meet at the casting pond around noon Thursday August 25th to continue working on the algae issue at the pond and would I be interested in joining them again. I signed my return email, “See you there.”



When I arrived at around noon that Thursday, the gate was locked, and I saw Don sitting next to it with his truck parked outside the gate too. “Something’s wrong,” I thought. I got out of my van.

Don told me a bit annoyed, “The gate is locked with two different locks, one owned by the City of Santa Rosa, which is keyed and the other, a combination lock owned by RRFF. A City employee had unfortunately locked us out because he didn’t follow

the usual and customary method of sequencing the locks that would allow us to unlock the gate using our



key. The correct sequencing of locks allows any City employee or RRF member to access to the casting pond road.”

Mike pictured left, with Doug and Don had just arrived at the locked gate and then Doug

arrived shortly. Don, in a whimsical way, threatened to use his Milwaukee Sawzall to cut the City’s lock as we stood there locked out, but Doug and his dog Stella took off walking down the dirt road to retrieve one of the City’s keys that we store in the shed—I guess for times like this. Doug was back within minutes of leaving and he unlocked the gate so the four of us could now get to work vacuum sweeping the pond’s liner. Whew, I’m glad Don didn’t fire up his Sawzall, I have an aversion to loud noises.

Don has been storing the new RRF pump and the associated equipment at his Petaluma home because there had been a shed break-in recently that concerned all that were aware of the incident. The RRF Board of Directors have been discussing the steps necessary to thwart future shed break-ins and the Board has a plan. But for the moment, Don has been moving the heavy pump back and forth using his truck and crane and keeping the equipment safe from theft.

One of the issues that kept us from experiencing a smooth operation last time while using the vacuum sweep was that the pump’s old hose connected to Don’s custom-made vacuum sweep was too weak to handle the strong vacuum pressure created by the pump. The hose kept collapsing on itself. And we needed a new and durable exit hose to handle the pressure that shot the algae out to the surrounding grassy area.

Both types of hoses were purchased for the Club by Doug and Don, assembled onto the pump that day and we now have a long-term solution for sucking up and pumping out of the pond the unwanted algae whenever deemed necessary by Doug, our pond steward. And, as mentioned previously in part 1 of this story, the once per year “broom brigade” of RRF



volunteers will still be needed to sweep the entire liner of algae that will be sucked out of the pond’s drain by our new pump. Stay in touch for next year’s “broom

brigade” date.

Above, Doug giving me a double thumbs-up for the durability of the new green, non-collapsible hose as I took my turn vacuum sweeping the liner.

On another *Fish and Beyond* topic, RRF member, Joe Hiney recently shared with me that over the summer he was invited to partake in a fly-fishing competition sponsored by Healing Waters. The name of the competition is Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing National Casting Competition. This year it was held at Montana State University. Joe took 2nd place in the national casting competition. In 2019, Joe placed 3rd. Congratulations Joe!

Fly of the Month WD-40 By Mike Borba

[Link](#) to see a photograph of this month’s fly on our website. Learn more about it, and how to tie the WD-40. A YouTube video is available for tying assistance by clicking the WD-40 photograph.

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[Click here](#) to reach the above businesses

Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics hours are 4:30 – 7:00 PM. We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and beginners are welcome.

Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd Jackson Meadows Reservoir (Daniel Powers - leader)

Oct. 13th – 16th Lewiston Lake (Ed Barich – leader)

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS!

[Click here](#) for a complete list of upcoming events!

Important Change

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 & Program Chair: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

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

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

Member at Large: **Don Shaw**

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

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

New Member Mentoring: **Jeff Cratty**

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

Member at Large: **Tim Reuling**

Member at Large: **Mike Borba**

The Cast Newsletter Editor & Publisher: **Dave Stone**

Member at Large: **Daniel Powers**

Coordinators

Day Fishers & 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 _____

*Mark the following: I'm applying as a new member or I'm renewing my existing membership
Single membership - \$50 annual dues Junior membership (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? _____

Choose 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