



Sonoma County, California
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New RRFF member, Noah Byous, holding his first
trout on a fly at Lewiston Reservoir. Mentored by Jeff
Cratty & photo by Father, Eric.
Story by Ed Barich, pg. 8

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President's Message By Penelope Gadd-Coster

Hello members!

What a beautiful fall season we are having. The pleasure of this year's fall has to do with an October that I did not have to evacuate my home for fires. I'm still on alert, though I'm able to enjoy what I used to like about fall. All the autumn colors are still with us to enjoy and, of course, there is fishing!

I had the opportunity to take the month of October off to visit the Yuba, Fall, and Trinity Rivers. All were beautiful. I hadn't fished the Yuba since I was a kid; the Trinity in over 20 years. It was wonderful to be back.



Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

I saw hawks, eagles and groups of sand hill cranes, beavers, and swimming snakes, making me aware of how much I love observing nature. And of course, I fished those rivers, reminding me how fishing and

observing nature lifts my heart and fills my soul—something I never want to give up.

Being out-of-doors among nature allowed me to see conservation efforts many organizations are working on. For example, the Fall River Conservancy and UC Davis are working together to mitigate non-native plants that are not beneficial, so that ecosystem's organisms and their physical environment can interact effectively and be balanced once again.

I hope all of you have had an opportunity to fish this year, either on your own or during one of our club's organized outings. The recent Lewiston Lake trip, organized by Ed Barich, reminded me that we have an amazing club. On that Lewiston Lake trip I had the opportunity to get to know a few more new members. That multiday outing was awesome, and I can't wait to participate again next year. Know this—mentoring is always available when you sign up for a RRFF sanctioned fishing trip, whether it being a trip to a river or lake. Then there are the evening gatherings after a day of fishing to talk about fishing experiences or to just socialize to get to know each other better. Please take advantage of these fly-fishing opportunities.

I landed fish on the lower Sacramento with a fellow member, Leafa Fiore, and discovered that weather does not have to stop us from fishing. Get yourself a rain jacket and rain pants and enjoy the rhythmic patter of rain on the water while fishing. I found out how much I enjoyed fishing in the rain. Need gear? At our RRFF General Meetings we have a dollar table and raffle table that just might have what you are looking for or ask a club member if they have extra gear—many of us do and are happy to lend.

One of the things that our club is looking to do this up-and-coming year is to make a few more monetary donations. So, if there is an organization that you'd like to see us donate to because you feel the organization is a good cause and deserves a monetary donation, please let me know. [Click](#) to reach me. We will assess your recommendation. Donations are a part of RRFF charter, and it is always great to be able to help other worthy organizations in the fly-fishing community.

Moving into 2024, we are looking forward to offering two club social events. One will be Saturday February 17th, a winter dinner. And then we're looking to organize another summer picnic. Those are events we have offered in the past and we are bringing them both back. So, watch closely for the announcements of those social/fund raising events.



Sandhill Cranes soaring (*Antigone canadensis*)

Also, next year we will be looking to bring on new officers or continue with existing officers with our yearly elections. If you would like to be a part of the RRFF Board of Directors, please let me know. Just a reminder, you can always come to a Board meeting even if you are not a Board Member. They are always interesting. Come listen to what we're working on.

We are looking to see what we can do to ensure a growing membership, for example, we want to continue expanding our RRFF Women's Program and expand our RRFF Youth Program which teaches youngsters how to fly fish and tie flies. We would like your input. Your past input has the Board looking at having fly-fishing outings that are closer to where we live. We are checking out our local waters, like Lake Berryessa, Putah Creek, and Lake Ralphine. And possibly some RRFF family focused outings too.

I hope you are taking advantage of our casting clinics. One of the things that I recently discovered was that my casting practice at the pond and the helpful tips from our fly-casting teachers really paid off. I found

that I didn't need as much instruction from fishing guides, and I felt more confident on the water on my own. I still have a long way to go, but I saw a huge improvement in my ability to fly fish compared to my recent past. So, thank you to our *fly-casting team* for everything you've taught me.

There are, through our club, purposeful volunteer opportunities, like Steelhead in the Classroom and helping with conservation efforts like the recent Russian River cleanup efforts and others. Join us.



Penelope showing good form on the Trinity.

Not all of us can create an opportunity to take a whole month off. And I regret that I had not taken that amount of time off sooner. As I age, I find it is a little bit tougher to move around and do the type of fishing that I'd like to do. I hope as a club we are offering fly-fishing opportunities to you now, so you can enjoy fishing by yourself and with your family.

I hope you are enjoying the newsletter, thank you Dave! And cheers to all members that contribute your fly-fishing stories to The Cast so we can read, learn, and see what you're up to. Your fishing stories are what make the newsletter amazing.

Thank you to every RRFF member. I encourage you to go fly fishing, whether it's raining, or sunny.

Penelope

Important Notice

New Casting Pond Winter Days and Times begin November 18, 2023

The RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics will begin on Saturday, November 18th from noon until 2:30 p.m. This event is always FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Beginners are welcome! We'll see you there!

Steve Tubbs, RRFF Fly Casting Instruction Director

RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6:30 PM

Lodge Room, SR Vets Memorial Building

By Mike Borba

Brian Slusser of Four Seasons Fly Fishing guide service will be our November speaker.

Brian has guided the Truckee/Tahoe area for 25 years. His presentation will be about tenkara fishing, a type of



simple rod angling traditionally practiced in Japan that doesn't include a reel. Takara fishing only uses a rod, line, and fly. Primarily used for mountain stream trout fishing, tenkara is still somewhat rare method even among freshwater anglers in Japan and was largely unknown to most outside Japan until 2009. Brian will include video and hands on demonstrations.

Bucket List Items

By Jim Henderson

In early August 2023, I completed a bucket list item to solidify my love of fly fishing. I also discovered the Russian River Fly Fishers. It was a good month.

My bucket list item was to go fly fishing in Montana. When I was a teenager, I remember having a short fly-casting lesson and from that time I had always thought about fly fishing but never had the knowledge or made the time to do it.

I fished a lot in my teenage years. Mostly bass fishing. I would fish morning and night during the summer months when I didn't have to go to school and almost every evening when school was in. I would fish a Carolina rig with a large green "salt and pepper" rubber worm. Occasionally, I would fish a top-water lure if I saw fish action on the surface, but I always did the best with the green rubber worm. I fished so much that I always fished "catch and release" or else I would have too many fish to clean and eat.

Earlier this year I had a conversation with my longtime friend, Ed, about bucket list items and we shared the same item on our lists, to go fly fishing in Montana. Ed's wife is a travel agent, and he often assists her with her business, so he booked the accommodations and put together the trip for us. In early August we embarked on this adventure and set out to check off this bucket list item. I flew to West Yellowstone and met Ed who joined me from his home in Las Vegas.

West Yellowstone is a small town less than a quarter mile from the West entrance to Yellowstone National Park. It is smaller than a square mile in area and has a population of just under 1,300 people which is often eclipsed by its tourist population.

We arrived in West Yellowstone on a Thursday afternoon. Friday was a free day with nothing planned. We were scheduled to fish with a guide Saturday and Sunday then fly home on Monday. Friday, we went

into Yellowstone National Park. There are essentially two large driving loops in Yellowstone National Park. We took the Southern loop, hiked a few short hikes to see some of the geologic features, stopped at the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, drove by Lake Yellowstone, and saw Old Faithful. Lake Yellowstone is so large that you cannot see the other side. When we had passed the lake, I could occasionally see a few people fly fishing in the river below the lake. We spent about six hours in the park and didn't encounter much traffic. We had missed the busy time since school had just started or was about to start for most families. When we returned to West Yellowstone, we stopped at the fly-fishing shop that we had booked the guides through and picked out our gear for the next day.

Ed had booked a package deal through the fly-fishing shop, Big Sky Anglers. A few years back the owners of the store built a small hotel a few blocks from the shop complete with a lodge and several buildings with 4 to 6 rooms in each building. They served breakfast every morning and made S'mores at the common campfire pit every evening. It was a great place, and the rooms were very nice.

Saturday morning the guide picked us up at the lodge with his drift boat in tow and we headed out to fish. We drove north to a boat launch on the Madison River. Little did I know, the Madison River is the most famous river in Montana. It starts about 23 miles inside Yellowstone National Park. It runs for 140 miles north through Montana crossing through Hebgen, Quake, and Ennis Lakes before it ends where it runs into the Missouri River near the Town of Three Forks, Montana.

After some quick casting pointers and practice on the shore, the guide put the boat in the water, and we boarded and were ready to start fishing. I spent the first morning in the front of the drift-boat. We fished a rig set up with a foam dry fly with line tied to the bend of its hook with about three more feet of line connected to a nymph wet fly. Over both days, I had a few hits on the foam fly but all the fish I caught were

with the nymph trailing underwater behind the foam fly. The hooks are barbless, and the fish are all catch and release.

It was not very long after we started fishing when I got my first fly-fishing catch. It hit and I set the hook. I stripped the line in and kept tension on the fish. I had fished enough to know not to rush bringing the fish in so I could enjoy the moment. It was a beautiful 16-to-17-inch rainbow trout. I followed this up with a mountain whitefish. Some anglers don't think highly of the mountain whitefish, but I found them to be good fighters. Mountain whitefish don't jump out of the water when you catch them, but they shake their heads back and forth violently when you set the hook and after catching a few you could tell if it was a mountain whitefish or a rainbow early in the fight. The fourth fish I caught was a brown trout. I could have gone home happy with just the four fish, but we caught fish all day. Ed and I both caught around 30 fish each over the two days. Mostly rainbows, followed by mountain whitefish, and three or four brown trout.

Our guide, Chris, was great. He showed us where to place our flies in the water so we could drift them in the best position to catch fish, how and when to mend our lines, and how to avoid snags. On Sunday we fished a different stretch of the Madison with the same luck.

After returning to work on Tuesday I started thinking about how I could fly fish here locally. Where should I go? What type of flies should I use? I realized that I had a lot to learn before I went fly fishing on my own. While trying to answer some of my questions with an online search I discovered the website for the Russian River Fly Fishers. I read on the calendar that the club meets at the casting pond. On Thursday I went to the casting pond and was surprised at how many people were there. I had gone to the pond to practice a couple of times before my trip and was the only person there each time. I was warmly welcomed and given a great casting lesson. I filled out a membership application on the spot and joined the club. I think it will be the

answer to many of my questions and I look forward to learning about the sport and going on RRFF fly-fishing outings.

RRFF Women's Program Fly-Tying Clinic By Angela Zahra

The Fly-Tying Clinic with Jeff Cratty and Don Shaw has been a fun learning experience. There are four of us taking the class and we are enjoying socializing and learning the many different fly-tying techniques.



Tracie, Rosa, Jeff, Angela, Maria. Can you feel the attentiveness?

Jeff and Don are so talented at tying flies, and they provide many tips that help us tie flies. The classes are on Tuesday evenings held in the breakroom of Sportsman's Warehouse, Rohnert Park. We are learning how to make the four most used flies when fly fishing. So far, we have made the zebra midge, blood midge, and the marabou damsel. We will practice tying the fourth, the wooly bugger, at our next clinic along with the Chernobyl Ant!

[Click](#) and scroll down through the front page of The Cast to see more photos of the Women's Group Fly-Tying Clinic in their Photo Gallery within our website.

Alaska 2023 and East Walker River By Greg Jacobs

I went to Alaska last year and fished 4 days with AC Flyfishing out of Redding. This year, my buddy Gene and I wanted to target steelhead in the Kasilof River

where AC has set up lodging for a series of 4 day guided trips on the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers. You never know, however, what the fishing will turn out to be. That is why I had always been a little reluctant to fish in Alaska. Gene and I went for the first time 5 years ago, and it was fantastic. We well remembered the silver salmon, and big rainbows we caught. No steelhead. Now we were going to target those steelies.

We flew to Anchorage and rented a car and drove to the lodge on the banks of the Kasilof near Soldotna. First day, up early, and we worked hard all day with AC guide, Harry Morgan. Gene got a nice silver, and I got a steelie. Other than a bunch of half pounders of good size, that was our day. The lodge was not fancy, but the food was good. Second day we hit the upper Kenai River. Within two hours my arm was worn out from catching Dolly Vardens and rainbow trout. After several hours of nonstop fishing, we were quite satisfied. Although Gene and I each hooked fish over 20 inches, several of our group at lodge caught fish over 25 inches.

Third day, it was back to the Kasilof, where we had a little more luck with steelhead than the first day. We each hooked two out of three. Those fish were 4-6 pounds, and in the Kasilof's strong currents put up quite a fight. We also hooked a lot of half pounders of good size too. At any rate I was tired at the end of the third day. For the last day our guide took us to the "middle Kenai", and after a slow start we found the right spot on the river. We caught 20-inch rainbows, but none approaching 25 inches. Gene and I were well beaten up by the end of the fourth day. The weather had held, and the food was good. We are going back. One note of interest was that one person in our group was a Stanford history professor, who had won the Pulitzer Prize. We had to stay very alert conversing with him at the dinner table.

Okay, so I did recently travel one more time, alone, to the East Walker River below the Bridgeport Reservoir. A friend and I had planned to go to Lake Crowley, but our favorite guide moved to Bend! So, my buddy left

me to go by myself. I had not fished the river for at least 7 or 8 years. I got a great guide who was young and 6 feet 5 inches; exactly what I needed. If you ever fished the E. Walker you know the water is murky and the bottom filled with angular, sharp-edged rocks covered with algae. At age 75 it was a real challenge. My guide, Gerritt, kept a steady hand on me while I teetered in the river. The first day we hooked at least 30 beautiful rainbows, up to 20 inches and bigger. I learned a lot about casting under demanding conditions. The second day was slower, but I still got some beautiful fish. The guide said it was the best fishing in 30 years, mainly because of the snow runoff, which kept the Walker well-watered. I hope the E. Walker is the same next year, but who knows?

RRFF Women's Program Update

By Catherine Miller

The last Thursday evening Women's Casting Clinic was on Thursday, October 26. RRFF Casting Clinics will change from every Thursday to 1st and 3rd Saturdays from noon to 2:30 p.m. beginning November 18. Since our focus is to integrate into the total RRFF program, there will not be a specified casting clinic for women.

We have reached a very exciting point in the expansion and integration of the RRFF Women's Program into the Russian River Fly Fishers' club. The first eight months of the program have been focused on providing activities and outings to meet the needs of women members with varying skill and interest levels. Our Foothill fly-fishing outing for beginners, our Russian River Wading Clinic for more advanced fly fishers and our Fly-Tying Clinic have been well received and very successful. A luncheon at Brewster's Beer Garden in Petaluma gave us a chance to socialize and get to know each other better. ***This is just the beginning!***

Maria de la Fuente and Angela Zahra have come on board as Program Coordinator Assistants. We anticipate offering an expanded program with day trip outings monthly during a yearly cycle. We will repeat previous outings and offer additional activities which

appeal to women of all fly-fishing levels. We will continue to coordinate our activities with the RRFF club and look forward to working together with the existing membership.

Our current challenge is how we integrate into some of the existing multiday fly-fishing trips offered on the RRFF website, such as Lewiston Lake, Yuba River, Pyramid Lake, and Webber Lake. For most of us, that would be a big leap. As always, RRFF members have been and will continue to be extremely helpful mentoring and helping to prepare us for those outings. Attendance at the casting clinics at our Santa Rosa casting pond is critical to this end. Anyone who wishes will be given a Grid Score Sheet to progress through the FFI Skills Development Program. **Receiving instruction and consistent practice at the casting pond is the singularly most important step we can take to advance our skills and prepare us for future RRFF outings and multi-day fly-fishing adventures.**

We also want to encourage you to attend the RRFF General Meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Santa Rosa Veterans Hall and to become familiar with the RRFF newsletter, The Cast, and the RRFF website. The website provides interesting club information including a photo gallery which is fun to view. [Click](#) and scroll down through the front page of The Cast to view photos of various women's group outings. The Cast provides fly-fishing trip articles contributed by members as well as invaluable fly-fishing awareness information about our club and conservation groups focused on improving fisheries of Northern California rivers and lakes.

We look forward to your continued RRFF enthusiasm and participation.

Fly-Fishing Report from Klamath Falls 2023 By Spencer Bader

I chose guide Craig Schuhmann to fish with on the Williamson and Wood Rivers (Crater Lake is the source

of the Wood River). It was cold and rainy on Monday and beautiful weather on Tuesday. Nymphing with indicators on the Williamson and periodically switching to a leach pattern produced only one fish but it was a nice 18-inch rainbow.



Spencer's rainbow.

The Wood River's lower section was much more rewarding, several small rainbows on a size 18 Adams fly pattern. When switching to streamers, I landed two 18 to 20-inch rainbows, as well as many takes that I missed hooking up. I had not fished with streamers much and got a great education on using them from Craig. A couple big fish, a beautiful day on the water, some dry fly action, and learning a new technique—What more could I ask for?



Autumn in Oregon.



Lewiston Reservoir 2023 Outing Report By Ed Barich

On the weekend of October 12-15, 2023, the RRFF had our 8th annual outing at Lewiston Reservoir on the Trinity River. In attendance were Ed Barich, Rick Baker, Jeff Cratty, Joerg Olson, Ted Olsen, Ken Gillette, Doug Mackay, Gregg Wrisley, Joe Hiney, Bill Hiney, Penelope Gadd-Coster, Walt Kruse, Eric Byous, Noah Byous, and Rod Jamieson.



Walt's striking Lewiston rainbow.

Lewiston is known for good fall fly fishing for planted rainbow trout, but this year the bite was slow. Temperatures were about 10 degrees lower than last year, both in the air and in the water. It rained on us Friday afternoon – an event that did not occur the previous seven years. The fish were harder to locate and were somewhat lethargic due to the cooler weather. The few trout that did cooperate were caught stripping dark bugger-type streamers or using midge nymphs under an indicator. Jeff and Walt had the best luck, and beginners Eric and Noah both caught their first Lewiston rainbows on the last day with Jeff serving as their “guide.”

Several of us also fished the nearby Trinity River, using spey rods with the assistance of local guides. Smolts and half-pounder steelhead provided most of the action, along with an occasional full-sized fish. The Trinity is quiet this time of the year, and a sight to behold in its autumn colors.



“The fish of a thousand casts.” Ed's Trinity steelhead.

Most of us stayed at the Lakeview Terrace Resort, which provides clean, comfortable cabins with close access to the lake. The cabins had kitchens and indoor gathering areas, which allowed us to avoid the rain and chill on Friday and Saturday evening while sharing pot-luck dinners. Thanks to those who participated, we enjoyed delicious meals: tasty appetizers, beef stew, BBQ chicken, beef brisket, refreshing salads, and pineapple upside-down cake. It was a great gathering of RRFF members and, as always, we are looking forward to continuing the Lewiston tradition next year.



Gregg and his good-looking rainbow.

New Zealand Mudsnails Invasion Trout Conservation Awareness

By Dave Stone

What is a New Zealand Mudsnail? According to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), New Zealand Mudsnails (NZMS) “...are tiny, aquatic snails that reach, on average, up to 4-6 mm long in the western United States. NZMS have an elongated, right-handed coiling shell, usually consisting of 5-6 whorls, though some have up to 8. Shell color tends to vary from gray to light or dark brown. The NZMS species are live-bearers, which release live young rather than eggs, and those offspring are clonal (genetically identical) females that are asexually reproduced. When born, offspring already contain developing embryos within their reproductive system. Upon reaching maturity at 3 mm, females can produce 230 new females per year; estimates indicate that one snail and its offspring can result in over 2.7 billion snails within 4 years. Though sexually reproductive males (<5% of the population) and females do exist in their native range, the populations in the western U.S. are believed to contain only clonal females.”



NZMS under creek rock.

Now that’s interesting in an alarming kind-of-way because CDFW notes that because of the sheer numbers of the NZMS reproductive capability “...can displace and out-consume up to half of the food resources in a stream and have been linked to reduced populations of aquatic insects, including mayflies, caddisflies, chironomids, and other insects important to trout and salmon.”

Recently, “CDFW confirmed the presence of the NZMS at Sonoma County’s Warm Springs Fish Hatchery.” Because of the invasiveness of the mud snails, the CDFW will “significantly limit where you can release your classroom trout and steelhead programs in the Russian River watershed.” All Mendocino and Sonoma County school programs that raise trout and steelhead

trout are restricted from releasing those fries into all streams and creeks that flow into the Russian River. Karl Joost, RRFF Board Member and Steelhead in the Classroom Coordinator responded with good news, “This restriction will not stop our RRFF Steelhead in the Classroom Program. I will work with our Sonoma County teachers to help them find options for releasing steelhead fry in locations within the main stem of the Russian River.”

It was Mike Spurlock, RRFF Board Member and our webmaster that brought this topic to my attention. He suggested I write an article to help make our membership aware of this important issue with hope we would become aware of the NZMS and change our wading practices. Mike’s comments include the following, “RRFF members may not be aware of this issue or haven’t seen the public signs posted to make all fisherpersons aware of the issue.” Also, Mike suggests, “There are two ways we can help reduce that pesky NZMS from spreading. Mix 50% of 409 solution, a common cleaner-degreaser disinfectant, with 50% water and apply to your boots or waders after fishing in a river or stream with mud snails. Or another way to get rid of NZMS that may be attached to your fishing boots is to freeze your boots overnight, which is what I do after I have fished in a contaminated stream.” Another comment he shared, “Alaska, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Rhode Island, and Yellowstone National Park have all banned felt-soled wading boots to help stop the spread of invasive species.”

How did the NZMS get to California? Mike researched that topic and learned that in 1987, NZMS were first discovered in North America in the Snake River, Idaho. In the year 2000, the NZMS were found in the Owens River, California. It is believed that NZMS were introduced to western rivers through shipments of live sportfish, but subsequent spread is likely due to recreational activities.

Editor’s note—All quotes apart from Karl’s and Mike’s quotes are from the September’s CDFW article, “Important CAEP Update for Sonoma and Mendocino County Teachers” by Ryan Spencer.

Webber Lake Report 2023

By Daniel Powers

The love of the Sierra keeps me going back every year to fish and explore, which brought me back to leading the 2nd annual trip to Webber Lake. In my opinion that trip was better than the first, although less fish were caught, and there was rain, and even snow this year. But hey, its fall in the mountains and you never know what weather front you may encounter or how many fish you'll catch.

When the outing was posted on our website this year it gathered many participants, I want to say around 22. As the trip got closer to its planned dates, it was down to about 18 members or so. But still it was a great group of people from a wide array; talented club members and some inexperienced new members too that made for a well-balanced RRFF group. We enjoyed each other during that long weekend.

Most of the group arrived Thursday and set off fishing on the lake that we primarily had to ourselves. Could you ask for anything better than a beautiful lake occupied by only club members?

Well, it did get better, we had our own private airshow. A C130 Hercules buzzed the lake at noon on Friday and Saturday. The lake is relatively small and sits between some 8,000-foot mountains. So, seeing the C130 roughly 500 feet above the lake was quite a show as the engines loudly roared overhead and banked between the mountains as it left my sight. My first thought viewing the C130 was a clip from the 1984 movie Red Dawn featuring Patrick Swayze and Charlie Sheen as the Soviets invaded a small town in Colorado. Can't explain why that came to mind, but it did.

Also, we saw many sandhill cranes (too many to count) squawking and circling above the lake on Saturday. To my knowledge, the sandhill cranes seem to make Webber Lake an annual destination stopover this time of year. Very cool.

To sum up my report, the weather didn't fully cooperate in some ways as it snowed lightly during Friday night and rained all day Saturday. The fishing

was decent and most everyone in the group hooked into a fish or two. Personally, I feel these outings are not only about fishing. These fly-fishing trips also produce good memories that can solidify into lasting friendships over a beverage or hot meal. Everyone comes together for dinner on Friday and Saturday nights which allowed time to get to know each member on a personal level. Those bonds can last a lifetime. [Click](#), scroll down website for Webber photos.

Dave Stone barbecued pork loins for our group dinner Friday night like he did last year. Dave even shared his *secret* pork marinade (cracked pepper corn marinade within the Trader Joe's pork loin packaging). And I whipped up my specialty burgers for our Saturday night dinner. Both dinners were well received. Kraig supplied numerous types of hors d'oeuvres that were quickly scarfed down by the handfuls as soon as they reached the table. Mike Spurlock created a Caesar Salad made with a perfect Caesar dressing, Tim Rueling brought deserts, and new RRFF member, Dave Webber shared a couple of bottles of a well-crafted Pinot Noir that disappeared rapidly.

All in all, it was a good experience and outing during that long weekend. Granted it would have been better if the lake's windy whitecaps could have been dialed down a bit. But who's complaining?

Important Notice Spey Clinic on the Russian River Saturday December 9, 2023

We plan to have a clinic on the water, weather and river conditions permitting. See the signup sheet on the calendar page. [Click here](#) to sign up. We will plan to grab some breakfast in Guerneville and find a nice place on the river to do some casting, maybe check out a couple of river spots if conditions are right. Stay-tuned for specific time, location, and conditions.

Prior to that date, if you have never spey cast before and want to check it out or if you need a warmup before the clinic, contact me to see if we can arrange a personal 1 to 2-hour lesson at the pond with up to 1-2 people. I am not certified but I have been spey casting for 20+ years and have taken some classes. It is better if we do it at a time different from the normal pond sessions so we can wader up and get into the pond water and not get in the way of those casting with their single-handed rods. Mike Spurlock

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Calendar of Events

The RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics will begin on Saturday, November 18, from noon until 2:30 p.m. Our casting clinics will be held on the first and third Saturday of each month (weather permitting).

We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Beginners are welcome...

We are planning RRFF outings for our 2024 seasons. 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 2024

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**

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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**

Member at Large: **Daniel Powers**

Women's Fly-Fishers' Program: **Catherine Miller**

Coordinators

Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

Casting Instruction: **Binky Castleberry**

Conservation Advisors: **Charlie Schneider & Tom Greer**

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Fly Rod Building: **Rick Baker**

The Cast Newsletter Editor: **Dave Stone**

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.

This agreement is valid for all RRFF sanctioned events, (fishing outings, picnics, dinner fund raisers, meetings, pond casting clinics, etc.) some of which are open to the public and all of which are covered by RRFF insurance.

As a club member you are approved to participate in certain covered events which are not available to non-members: fishing outings and training for fly-casting certification.

Note: private activities arranged by club members (not sponsored or approved by the club) are not sanctioned and will not be covered by RRFF insurance.

I have read this statement and agree to its terms as a condition of my membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers.

*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