

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 49, Number 12
December 2022

An October Trinity River Steelhead
"Trinity River Outing" by Cat Kaiser, pg. 3

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

President's Message By Penelope Gadd-Coster

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with a little fishing to round out the beautiful weather! With the holidays come thoughts for donations to help the conservation of California fish habitats, helping Veterans and others with any physical or health issues they may have by teaching them to fly fish, and other organizations that work on conservation and teaching like Trout Unlimited. We have made a few donations this year, to Steelhead in the Classroom and Fly-Fishing International, for example. We would like to donate and distribute Club funds to these types of causes. I would like to hear from our members. What not-for-profit organizations

would you like to see our Club funds support? Please [click](#) and email me with your preferences and I will present your thoughts to our Board. We will consider your ideas we receive and determine if it meets our Club's donation criteria. Please type in your email subject line—RRFF Donation.

I want to thank you all for your membership renewals and your membership in general. I know I say this every month, but I cannot say it enough—**You are what makes our Club great.** I also want to thank you for attending our monthly General Meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of every month. It has been wonderful to see more of you attending in person and online.

And please check out our website [click](#). Our website is loaded with interesting Club information to peruse, like monthly fly-tying patterns, trip signups, river flow information with graphs and so much more! The Club has RRF logo hats and now we also have RRF logo shirts made by Columbia's PFG brand. We can thank Jeff Cratty for his work to get these practical and UV protecting fly-fishing shirts for us for easy purchase. Check them out on our website. They look great!

During our November 9th General meeting, Donald Dehm gave a good talk for those interested at looking into fly-fishing while kayaking. There were good questions asked by members and some informative input from Ed Barich and other Club members on their kayaking experiences.

At our next General Meeting on December 14th, there will be a "Show and Tell" with Ed leading the way. My Fall River adventure will be one of the presentations in the lineup.

And Mike Borba is putting together the General Meeting Presentations with some interesting presentations coming up like Greg Vinci, author of "Flyfisher's Guide to California".

On November 19th, we had a great day on the Russian River learning to spey cast with Mike Spurlock, Jeff Cratty, and Mike Tibbet – that's me (below) in the middle of all the action with the bright blue jacket.



Photo by Rick Baker, "I always hate a line-up."

I had never held a spey rod before. Now I cannot wait to try casting it again. If you would like to learn spey casting our casting instructors are happy to help you at our casting pond. If you need a rod, let me know and I can arrange to have one for you.

Casting Pond - Don't forget our casting clinics now fall on the first and third Saturdays of each month during

the winter hours of noon - 2:30 PM. I encourage you to come out to the pond to have a good time—Learn, and have fun, as well as meet and get to know other Club members.

I would like to ask—What else would you like to see organized at the casting ponds? Some thoughts I have would be to organize some afternoon BBQs and then we can try some fly-casting games.

Ed Barich continues to put together RRF outings for our members. Please check out the website for upcoming outings. There are trips scheduled for most of 2023. Sign up early as these outings fill up quickly! [Click](#) here to sign up for an outing.

THANK YOU for your membership and I look forward to seeing you out there!

RRFF General Meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 7:00 PM By Mike Borba

At this month's General Meeting, we will have a series of "Show and Tell" fishing stories presented by various RRF members, including Ed Barich starting the entertainment by telling his story "Our Tour of the Oregon's Fly-Fishing Waters." This entertaining storytelling series is in lieu of having a guest speaker this month.

If you would like to share your best fishing days of 2022, reserve your presentation slot. Please submit your story by December 7th. [Click](#) 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.

Trinity River Outing Report

By Cat Kaiser

It was my largest steelhead on the fly. I caught it on a beaded brown rubber leg, using a 7wt Scott rod, and six-pound test. I fished the Trinity River, October 16, 2022, with Fly Shop guide Ross Wilkerson. This wild steelhead was out of the water for six seconds and safely released unharmed. It was 31+ inches and 13lbs.

My fly was about 30-40 yards down the river in a slow drift when Ross said, "Pull it up and I'll make some changes." I said, "Hold on, I want to let it...." and before I got the word "swing" out of my mouth, I felt a slight tug and saw the slightest movement of the indicator. Just to be sure, I set the hook and we immediately saw the giant flash and said, "That's a fish!" We thought it was a bright salmon since there were so many spawners around.

Side note, some salmon in the river, 200 miles from the ocean, were the last thing I wanted to hook or catch.

Then, Ross saw its gill plate. And happily, shouted "It's a big-ass steelhead!"

I was oddly fishing a left-hand rod, (long story...I'm right-handed). So, Ross pulled the anchor quick to give chase once he saw the size, in hopes I would be able to quickly strip line while fighting that monster. Which I did.

The fish made my heart pound, my arms ache, it shook its head threatening every move I made. It made me squeal several times before Ross got it in the landing net. In fact, I didn't believe Ross at first when he told me it was the biggest steelhead he had seen in that river. But then I picked it up—I was shocked how heavy that steelhead was."

Website Updates

By Mike Spurlock

I have recently posted copies of the older Cast newsletters, beginning with Volume 1, #1 which is July 1977, around the time the club was formed. [Click](#)

and scroll to the bottom of that page and click on the year 1977. A 24-page .pdf will pop up containing July through December 1977 editions of The Cast. If you scroll through those pages, you will see names of many of the early officers and club founders, some of whom are named on the plaque at the casting pond. You will see the names of guest speakers, fly of the month drawings, and fishing outings with similar activities that we still have today. There are also interesting bits of information such as annual dues. At that time a single membership was only \$12. There was great worry at that time that this amount would not cover the cost of publishing The Cast newsletter. We are in a lot better financial shape today.

If anyone has copies of The Cast starting 2004 through 2014, please contact me. I would very much like to get copies to fill out the website collection. [Mike Spurlock](#), webmaster.

RRFF Women's Voice

By Penelope Gadd-Coster

Welcome to our new women and established RRFF women members. I am looking forward to meeting a few more of you and would like to formally invite you to the casting pond on December 3rd for a meet and greet from 12 - 2:30 PM. Please email if you can attend. You can reach me at [click](#). Please type in your email's subject line, "Meet and Greet".

If the weather does not permit, we will try for the 17th of December. I have also reached out to a few of you to see what kind of programs we can put together for 2023 - stay tuned. And please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts!

More events: United Women on the Fly: [Click](#) to check out their event page, as well as this video on Spey Casting [click](#).

Spey Casting Clinic, Russian River

By Dave Stone

Mike Spurlock and his two RRFF spey casting instructional partners, Jeff Cratty and Mike Tibbett organized a Spey Casting Clinic for Club members on the Russian River, Johnson's Beach, Guerneville, CA

on November 19, 2022. It was a hands-on clinic that many of us have been waiting for since last year's demonstration at Monte Rio Beach.

At first, Russian River's Monte Rio beach was planned for the clinic but after Mike scouted the Monte Rio's beach prior to the clinic date, he deemed the spot unsatisfactory because the river wasn't moving. And it was overrun with algae growth at the water's edge. The river mouth at Jenner was still closed caused by a diminutive amount of seasonal rain. Then there was the thought of having the clinic at our casting pond, but the question of how to manage many eager Club members wanting to spey cast while wading in our casting pond all at once quickly disqualified the pond. Then Mike Spurlock received a tip that the Russian River mouth would be opened before the clinic date. Mike and Jeff and Mike checked it out and with Jeff's connection to secure a key to the parking lot at Johnson Beach, a quick decision was made. All the stars were aligned for an acceptable location for this year's RRF Spey Casting Clinic—Johnson's Beach!

Yes, yes, the river was low, and the river was closed to fishing, but at least the river was moving with a noticeable current and it was a beautiful day. The river mouth was opened at Jenner by large machinery a day or two before, so we had a some current to work with. That allowed us to practice swinging *yarn* on both river-right and river-left. That was something our casting pond couldn't rival.

Mike got things rolling by handing out his 2022 Spey Clinic document while we all stood in a circle of sorts on the wide-open beach with a backdrop of redwood trees across river. He created the document specifically for this clinic replete with important information about the rules for fishing the Russian River and the importance of knowing the river heights and low and high flow rates in cubic feet per second. And what phone number to call to get this type of data. Jeff pointed out that at times, the phone recording by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife could be many days old and therefore the information would possibly be inaccurate for that day. Therefore, in addition, he recommended, "Call King's Sport and Tackle in Guerneville [707-869-2156]." Jeff was

confident they'd know if there were fish in the river and they would be able to answer any question you might have about Russian River conditions.

In concert with Mike, we all thumbed through the document to learn about those peak months' when steelhead enter the Russian River and the anatomical differences between steelhead, chinook salmon, and coho salmon. And the difference between hatchery steelhead and wild steelhead.



Also, we learned to be aware that it's unlawful to target chinook and coho salmon while fishing in the Russian River. And finally, there was information about "Why use a Spey or switch rod?" And the importance of the spey

equipment set up.



Then Mike discussed how the morning clinic would be organized. The large group would be divided into three smaller groups and each of those groups would work with either Mike Spurlock, Jeff Cratty, or Mike Tibbet. Our instructors would demonstrate spey casting so we could observe and receive tips on different spey casting techniques.



We then broke into our groups and entered the slow-moving water and started

to practice our casting. Some of us moved up stream toward the Guerneville bridges and some ventured down river a good distance from the bridges. For those of us that were at either end of our group, looking down stream or upstream even though we

were well spread out, it looked like chaos, but it wasn't.



Mike Tibbet w/a couple of spey casters upriver, Hwy. 116 bridge.

Spey lines were shooting in all directions. Mike Spurlock saw a photograph taken by Rick Baker (his photo is displayed in this month's President's Message) of our group for the first time he said, "That photograph looked like a war!" But the casting overall was well controlled by instructors and participants and I'm happy to report there were no seriously tangled lines. The Mikes and Jeff walked the shore or stayed in the water and focused on individuals that wanted help and/or encouragement. Helpful tips and encouragement abounded throughout the morning. There were all the possible levels of spey casting abilities in our group, from novice, like myself, to "Wow, that's a good-looking cast!" which Mike Tibbet called out to one of the more proficient spey casters.



1922 Guerneville Pedestrian Bridge

There were many kudos given to Mike Spurlock, Jeff Cratty, and Mike Tibbet for their tireless efforts in

organizing this year's successful 2022 Russian River Spey Casting Clinic. The clinic was well received by the seventeen that showed up including the three spey casting instructors. The only thing missing prior to the clinic was sufficient rainfall. Hopefully, next year will be somewhat different—with plenty of rain prior to the clinic, flies at the end of our lines with pinched barbs, fishing licenses and steelhead cards tucked safely in our waders, and a healthy number of hungry steelhead flashing their steely silver at us. And all of us yelling, "Fish-on!" [Click](#), scroll down to "Recent Club Photo Galleries" for more Spey Clinic photos.

Fly of the Month Pat's Rubber Leg Nymph By Mike Borba

We all need a good stonefly nymph pattern for our trout stream fishing. This pattern can of course be used to imitate skwala nymphs on the Yuba River. (Our next two outings!). The materials list corresponds to the skwala nymph.

Materials List

Hook: #8 2XL nymph hook

Thread: black 6/0

Weight: lead free wire size .015 or .020

Legs: black or dark olive super floss

Body: dark olive chenille size small

[Click](#) to watch a YouTube video tutorial for tying Pat's Rubber Leg Nymph

Fish and More By Dave Stone

What do these four dams have in common: Iron Gate Dam, Copco 1 & 2 Dams, and J.C. Dam?

Yes, you're right! They are the dams that the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) has been legally cleared to remove from the Klamath River—Hallelujah! [Click](#).

The Klamath River's important watershed, including the annual run of salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic species, has been negatively affected by those dams for decades and they are finally going to be removed.

Mark Rockwell, President of Northern CA Council, Fly Fishers International states, “This is the end of the beginning.”

In other words, this dam removal project is likely to be accompanied with a great sense of anticipation for a new, dynamic phase that is just emerging.

This historic dam removal will become the largest dam removal and river restoration project in U.S. history. Preconstruction will begin spring 2023, Copco dam #2 is scheduled for removal in the late part of summer 2023, and the remaining 3 dams are planned to be removed by October 2024. The construction company awarded to meet those future construction and removal dates is the Kiewit Corporation. [Click](#) to review Kiewit’s website and what specific construction tasks will be involved in removing the dams and protecting the environment.

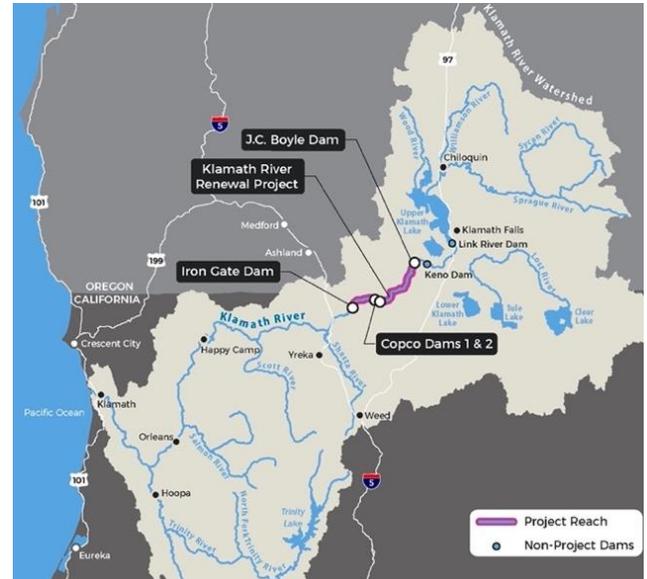
Mark also tells us, “We are past all the challenges we faced for 20 years to get agreement on removing 4 dams on the Klamath. Now begins the process to restore the river. It is a moment of joy for all of us who have worked so hard for this moment. Here’s to working together with many to achieve greatness!”

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C., has ordered the license to operate the Klamath Hydropower Project be suspended, which means Pacific Power will no longer manage the Klamath Hydroelectric Power Project and it will be turned over to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, the states of Oregon, and California. That vote was without dissent.

The Klamath River watershed will be completely restored and monitored by KRRC via a contract with RES which is the Nation’s largest environmental restoration company. [Click](#) to review their website with an interesting interactive map illustrating the current and future look of the Copco Lake and what RES has to say about the Klamath River Renewal Project.

Once the dams are removed, salmon and steelhead will have a better chance of swimming up the Klamath River on their own volition, uninterrupted from ocean

to its source as they did in the distant past. For a visual of where those dams are now located see map below.



Local Access to Fly-Fishing Books By Mike Borba

Our local libraries have access to many more fly-fishing books, DVDs, and eBooks than you might be aware of. Here are two ways to access them.

First, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Lake County library branches are linked together. Any book or DVD that is at any library branch in these three counties can be sent to your local branch for you to check out. You can order a book in person or online through your county's library website. Once the book arrives at your local branch, they will contact you. It usually takes about a week.

The second way to access books is through our state's Zip Book program. This system allows library users speedy access to books that are not available at their local libraries through the library’s Zip Book program. A person simply requests the item, the library purchases it from Amazon, and the book is shipped directly to the person’s home at no cost to the individual. When finished, return it to the library, and the library adds it to its collection.

Use the Zip Book program for those fly-fishing books your local library may not have on their shelves.

NOW GO FISHING!

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

King's Sport and Tackle

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

Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.

Fishing gear, supplies, fly fishing, flies, rods and accessories.
412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.
(707) 588-8033,
Fax (707) 588-8035

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](#) to reach the above businesses

Calendar of Events

Our next Saturday winter casting pond date will be December 3rd noon to 2:30 PM. During the winter, our casting pond is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and 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.

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS!

[Click here](#) for a complete list of 2023 upcoming events!

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 & 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 _____

*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