

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 49, Number 7  
July 2022

**Jeff Cratty landing an elusive Brown trout, Manzanita Lake**  
See "Manzanita Lake Outing Report" by Ed Barich, pg. 2 below

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Visit our website at  
[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

### President's Message Passing the Baton

For those of you who read this column of the CAST religiously (there must be at least a couple), it is with some regret that I must announce this will be my last. As of July 1, Penelope Gadd-Coster, who has been serving as our Vice-President, will become the new RRF Board President, while I will take her place as board VP. Those of us on the board have found Penelope to be an enthusiastic and talented member, and we are all looking forward to her serving the club in this new role. So, from this point on I am handing the President's Message baton to her.

Looking back at my records, I found that my first Message was included in the July 2016 CAST. Back

then we had just emerged from a multi-year drought and were looking forward to normal water levels on our lakes and streams. In the years since then, we have seen record flood years, followed by another parching drought cycle. In 2016, wildfires seemed like a distant threat to most of us in Sonoma County, but we soon learned that they could happen anywhere, even at our own doorstep. And who would have expected that a pandemic could occur, preventing us from traveling or even meeting face-to-face with our friends and loved ones. All in all, it was a pretty head-spinning six years.

But as a club, we were able to adapt to the changing situations. When floods or droughts threw our favorite waters out of whack, or wildfires closed the forests, we changed dates and venues to keep our

outings going. COVID was the biggest disruptor, causing us to halt our in-person general meetings for a year and a half. But through the adoption of remote video technology, we were able to keep our membership intact through the worst of the pandemic and growing our membership by 25%. That has convinced me that there is still a love of the outdoors in our society, and fly fishing is a welcoming open door to that world.

When members tell me what they like about the RRFF, I tell them these things are only possible thanks to the time and efforts volunteered by the board and other members of our club. As Penelope takes on her new role, let's continue to support her and our club by continuing that volunteer spirit.

Tight lines,  
Ed Barich

P.S. I'll look forward to seeing you at our July 16 Summer Picnic Dinner at Galvin Park. Purchase Tickets ONLINE (preferred method or mail your check) click: [Here](#)

Tight lines,  
Ed Barich

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

**[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)**

*for outings information, RRFF events,  
member news, photos and more!*

### Note:

We encourage members to check our website outing calendar by clicking below. **Get out there and go fishing!**

[Click here](#)

We continue to have regular outings (with signup sheets and trip leaders).

- **July 16<sup>th</sup> - Summer Dinner 4:30 - 7 PM at Galvin Park Picnic Area (picnic flyer, pg. 6 below)**
- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lake Davis (Trip leader – Dan Powers)
- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Lewiston Lake (Trip leader – Ed Barich).

Talk to the trip leaders if anyone needs any suggestions on equipment or mentoring on the water.

## RRFF General Meeting

### Penelope Gadd-Coster, VP & Program Chair

During these summer months, June – August, we will have a 3-month pause from our RRFF General Meetings. We will start up again on September 14, 2022. So, join us then and at that time I'll have a lineup of new speakers that will discuss our passion— fly fishing and related topics for our enjoyment and education.

## Manzanita Lake Outing Report

### By Ed Barich

The RRFF had an outing at Manzanita Lake in Lassen National Park on the weekend of June 9-12, 2022. Members in attendance were Ed Barich, Daniel Powers, Jeff Cratty, Scott Thomas, Michael Bluto, Chris Castellucci, Joe Hiney, Dave Stone, Ken Young, Kraig Smith, and Tim Reuling.



Chef Dan getting support from Jeff, Dave, and Mike

Most of us stayed at the Manzanita campground, which is located just southeast of the lake. Ed, Jeff, and Dan shared a group campsite, which was spacious enough for our members to meet for shared dinners. Friday night's meal featured hamburgers grilled by Dan, while Saturday's feast included Mike's spaghetti and Dave's BBQ pork loin. With the rest of the crew supplying appetizers, salads, drinks, veggies, and desert, no one feared going to bed hungry.



Friday night's dinner crowd

And best of all, we were able to gather as a club to share meals, reveal the day's fishing tricks that worked (or didn't), and just get to know one another better.

Manzanita Lake, being a catch-and-release trout fishery in a national park, gets hit hard by fly fishers once the ice comes off the lake. As a result, the resident wild rainbows and browns see a lot of different lures during the year and can be a real challenge to fool. But after our group experimented with various techniques on the first day, we settled in on one method that worked well all weekend. By trolling or stripping an olive damselfly pattern on an intermediate sinking line we were able to tempt trout into striking consistently. Not all grabs resulted in hookups, but when they did, we were treated to either the ecstasy of a leaping rainbow, or the agony of a smart brown that knew the safest place was down in the weeds. Either way, there was enough action to keep us fishing for hours on end, long after most sane persons would have gone back to camp for lunch and a siesta. And even when the action slowed,

we could always admire the clear waters of Manzanita and snow-capped Mt. Lassen in the background – a sight that never grows old.



Mt. Lassen's reflection by float tube, Manzanita Lake

## Juvenile Retention Poem By Michael Edwards

Seven years old,  
Along the bank,  
'Neath the ol' Summer Bridge.

"Four count rhythm,"  
"Ten and two son,"  
"It's in your elbow not your wrist."

"Lay it straight,"  
"Set it easy,"  
"You don't want to spook the fish."

Seven years old,  
Along the bank,  
'Neath the ol' Summer Bridge.

## Evolution of the Manzanita Mohawk and Apache Flies By Paul Tavres

I first went to Manzanita Lake in 1969, and having fished that lake for many years, I've come to understand it as a tough lake to fish. One fly fisherman that has had better than average luck at that lake is Mitch Matsumoto of Mission Peak Fly Club which I am a member, along with being a member of Russian River Fly Fishers too.

I enjoy fishing with Mitch. He has shared his fly-fishing knowledge and craft with me, and unlike me, fly fishing is his focus and he has no other hobbies. Years ago, Mitch was fishing Manzanita Lake with a chartreuse bunny leach in the early morning and late evening. During those times there was no sun light. He claimed once the sun came up the bunny leach quit working.

One day while at the Manzanita boat ramp I saw a kid wearing shorts playing in the water. I also noticed a black leach on his leg which he thought was mud. That observation inspired me to tie a black bunny strip over a body of chartreuse short shuck transforming that bunny leach pattern into a new fly. I named it the Manzanita Mohawk., because while tying it I would dampen the fur using my whip finish tool to make it look like the hairstyle known as the mohawk. That fly was now working very well during sunlight too and was successful everywhere we fished it.

This year while fishing with Mitch at Manzanita, he tried my new Apache fly because whatever fly Mitch and I were using that day—they weren't working no matter what time of day. It is a version of the combined Mohawk and bunny leach but with a chartreuse bunny strip over a body of chartreuse short shuck with red band and red head. I called that red band war paint because the fly is deadly.



During our 10 days at Manzanita, Mitch caught 30 fish one evening after 20 in the morning and many more during the other days. While I wasn't as productive as Mitch, I had caught 10 in the evening, and 7 during early morning on my best day. So, in a nutshell that's how those two flies came about.

## RRFF Women Angler's Voice By Penelope Gadd-Coster

How time does fly! I know how busy we all are, but I would like to set up a time to meet up at the casting ponds for a little meet and greet time, maybe a beverage and snack. Please let me know if it is better to do on a weekend day or a weekday evening. I am open to either time. I would like to look at the last week in July. Please let me know at

[ynegraper@gmail.com](mailto:ynegraper@gmail.com)

Send your fishing photos to my email address above. There is one of you on the cover of the June's Cast - let's keep those coming!!! The June cover was very inspiring to me – never thought I would want to do that kind of fishing, now it is on my bucket list – maybe yours as well?

And don't forget to visit the Fly Fishers International Women's site! [Click here](#)

**Check out this month's website – lots of good tips and events – Please let me know what you think and how we can use the ideas to put together trips, tips, and socials.**

Another website you should check out is United Women on the Fly: [Click here](#)

For Meeting Registration: [Click here](#)

I look forward to hearing from you, Penelope.



## Lake Almanor Outing Report By Ed Barich

The RRFF had a second outing in June, this one at Lake Almanor on the weekend of June 23-26. The event

was organized by club member Mike Tibbet and was attended by Mike Spurlock, Dave Stone, and Ed Barich. All of us camped at the Rocky Point PG&E campground on the west shore of the lake. None of us had been to this area since the Dixie wildfire of last year, so we were concerned that we would arrive to find a campground in ashes. Indeed, as we approached the town of Chester on Hwy 36, we drove through miles of black tree trunks and barren ground. At the lake, the boat launch areas at the Forest Service campground and at Geritol Bay were completely burnt, but still functional. Fortunately for us, the Rocky Point campground was completely spared from destruction, much as we remember from years ago. This is a well-kept campground. The sites that Mike T. and Dave had reserved were adjacent to the beach, making for easy launching of float tubes and kayaks. We used Mike T.'s site for group afternoon dinners where he served up BBQed tri-tip on Friday and pork ribs on Saturday. We ate so well it was hard to motivate ourselves to get out on the water for evening fishing, but somehow, we did.

Lake Almanor is known for its evening *Hexagenia limbata* hatch in June, an event that brings big trout up from the bottom of the lake to dine on these 1½ inch lemon-yellow mayflies.



**Lake Almanor mayfly**

Prior to sunset, the preferred fishing method is to slowly troll a Hex nymph imitation on a Type 3 full-sinking fly line. When the action is slow this tends to put the troller to sleep, but when a large trout grabs your fly, the hit is hard and electric.



**Mike S. trolling and very alert after landing several large trout**

These fish fight hard and are smart at coming unbuttoned or taking your flies by breaking 3x tippet using powerful runs. It took me two nights of frustration before I learned to get the fish “on the reel” and let it fight the drag. The Mikes were more skilled at landing multiple brown and rainbow trout in the 20+ inch class – compared to my single landing on the last night. They also caught some of the other species dining on Hex nymphs: large and smallmouth bass, several catfish and even a pike minnow.

As the sun set, the real show began as big yellow Hex duns popped up on the surface of the lake. At that time, we switched from sinking nymphs to dry flies on floating lines. Mike S. was the most successful at this technique, searching and casting for rising fish. It doesn't always work, but when it does, it's quite a thrill and accomplishment.



**Almanor sunset with clouds behind Mt. Lassen**

After such late-night battles, it was hard for us to get up at the crack of dawn, and Almanor is not known

for a morning bite. Instead, we had leisurely breakfasts and then tried some stream fishing. I chose the Hamilton Branch of the Feather River, where I found some tough wading but eager rainbows.



Ed's Hamilton Branch/Feather River rainbow beauty

Mike S. and Dave specialized on Deer Creek, where they had "hits on every cast." These trout were pint-sized compared to the Almanor giants, but the beauty of the streams and their surrounding forests more than made up for the size of our quarry.



Ed's trolling technique landed this 24 inch Almanor Brown

This outing had relatively small attendance, possibly because it was only two weeks after our popular Manzanita Lake trip. But considering the amount of action we had and the large size of trout we encountered on Almanor, we highly recommend our members consider it for next year.

Buy your Summer Picnic Dinner ticket(s) [Here](#)

The following are just some of the many items that will be included in our silent auctions and raffles:

- Trinity or Lower Sac Guided Fishing
- Sage 3850 CF fly Reel, TU Edition, 4/5wt - used
- Certificate for Eagle Canyon Fishing
- Redington Path 4 wt. rod and reel outfit
- Norvise with an adjustable light magnifier & lens
- Gift baskets stuffed with homemade goodies & specialty wine

*Russian River Fly Fishers*  
 Invites you to our fundraising

**SUMMER PICNIC DINNER**

Saturday July 16, 2022

At Galvin Park in Santa Rosa

Featuring a Buffet prepared by Sonoma County Catering:

- Sonoma and Fresh Fruit Salads
- Chipotle BBQ Chicken and Santa Fe Tri tip
- Chipotle corn on the cob, Mac n cheese, and Grilled garlic bread
- Sonoma County wine, beer and soft drinks

All for \$55 per adult (\$15 for children 12 and under)

Social from 4:30 to 5:30 PM, Buffet starts at 5:30PM

Plus, our traditional Fundraising Raffle and Silent Auction

Raffle/Auction Item Donations contact: Ed Barich 707-539-4608, ebarich@sonic.net

**Tickets must be pre-purchased by July 11 (no sales on day of event)**

Purchase Tickets ONLINE (preferred method) at: [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

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Or, send payments to: RRF, c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945

Purchaser Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Announcement\***

The RRF ballots have been tallied and the results are in. For those of you that voted, thank you.

Russian River Fly Fishers Officers:

- President – Penelope Gadd-Coster
- Vice President – Ed Barich

Russian River Fly Fishers Board Members (elected for a two-year term):

- Mike Spurlock
- Doug Mackay
- Ed Barich
- Tim Reuling
- Karl Joost
- Penelope Cadd-Caster
- Dave Stone
- Dan Powers

## 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*

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

*July 16<sup>th</sup> - Summer Picnic Dinner 4:30 - 7 PM at Galvin Park Picnic Area (Summer Dinner Picnic flyer—see pg. 6)*

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lake Davis (Dan Powers - leader)

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Lewiston Lake (Ed Barich – leader)

**PLEASE FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS!**

Visit [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) 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.

<https://www.rrflyfisher.org/board-of-directors.html>

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: **Ed Barich**

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

Member at Large: **Don Shaw**

Outings Chairman: **Chris Castellucci**

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**

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. **IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE at [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://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**