

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
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The Cottonwood Lakes Basin at 10,000+ feet
See "Cottonwood Lakes Memoir" by Greg Jacobs, pg. 2 below

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

President's Message To All RRFF Club Members

As your new President, I want to thank you for your membership. I have some big shoes to fill, and I am looking forward to filling them. I want to thank Ed Barich for all his mentoring and the Board as well, for all their coaching and support. And to all of you as members. Thank you!

As Ed mentioned in his last president's message, as a club and as individuals, we have been through some trying times: The Covid-19 pandemic, wildfires, and job insecurities. But it has also shown how adaptable we can be and how we can use fly fishing to help us weather these trying times.

I have also seen that our club needs to be flexible to move forward, prepared for the future. We, as a club, need to look to our membership and see what you want for the future. So, I look forward to hearing from you, at the meetings, the outings, and through your emails. What do you like from our club, what don't you like, what more can I do to help make this your club? We will continue to do mixed meetings, that is, in-person and online Zoom meetings. I have heard some of you like this combination. What I hope is that this dual approach helps bring the club closer to you no matter where you may be or what might be happening in the world.

Now, a shoutout for the July 16th Summer Picnic Dinner. What a success! It was so refreshing to be with members, outdoors, sharing great food and drink. And the stories of fishing trips were icing on the cake! Thank you to all the volunteers and to Ed for helping to organize the event.

Finally, remember our next General Meeting will be Sept. 14th. I can't wait to see you all there.

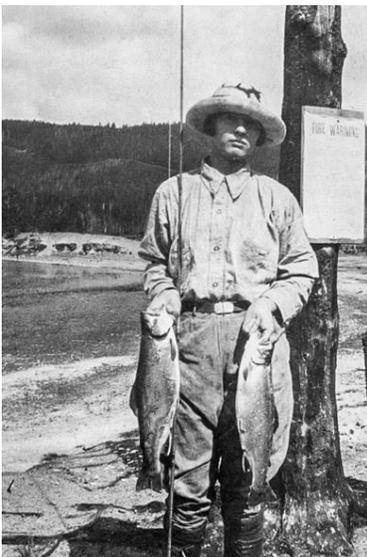
Get out there and go fishing,
Penelope Gadd-Coster



Penelope fishing the Upper Sac River near Dunsmuir

Editor's Note

Penelope shared the 1925 photograph below, of her 15-year-old grandmother after landing a couple of fish from Red Lake, OR. When you talk with Penelope, it is obvious she has a strong connection to her grandmother and an equal passion for fly fishing.



Penelope's grandmother bringing home dinner

*Check out the Russian River Fly
Fishers
on the Internet at*
www.rrflyfisher.org
*for outings information, RRFF events,
member news, photos and more!*

Webmaster's Note

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

[Click here](#)

We continue to have regular outings (with sign-up sheets and trip leaders). There are two Club trips left for this year. And there are openings.

- Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd Jackson Meadows Reservoir at Pass Creek Campground (Trip leader – Daniel Powers)
- Oct. 13th – 16th 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

During these summer months, June, July, and August, we will have a 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.

Cottonwood Lakes Memoir By Greg Jacobs

Except for a brief interruption in time, five of us have gone backpacking together since the early 1990's. Originally, we were all in the Sonoma County DA's Office, but now, with one exception, we retired from the practice of criminal law. Usually, we would take a 5-day trip but on occasion would go longer. Some of

our more recent trips have taken us to Idaho and Oregon. But on Sept 17, 2017, we arrived at the Horseshoe Meadows trailhead in the Golden Trout Wilderness, to hike into the Cottonwood Lakes Basin. (You may recall our speaker, Steve Shalla, at our RRF General Meeting on February 9, 2022, talked about this specific Wilderness).



Greg at the Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead

The weather was perfect, and Gary, who now lives in the Portland area, flew down to Bishop in his own plane, where we picked him up at the small Eastern Sierra Regional Airport. To get to the trailhead you take Whitney Portal Road out of Lone Pine (from Hwy. 395) and turn left on Horseshoe Meadows Road. The road dead ends at Horseshoe Meadows Campground at 10,072 feet, the second highest paved road in California. A series of switchbacks eventually lead one to a magnificent view of the Owens Valley. The view is worth the automobile trip alone, because driving south on Highway 395 you have the very incredible Eastern Sierra to the west the entire drive to Lone Pine.

An interesting piece of history about the road is that at one time it was named State Highway 190, as it was considered as a possible trans-Sierra route from Porterville. That is why it is paved, and incredibly well engineered. It is the easiest approach to a 10,000-foot trailhead you can imagine.

Two things: first, the trailhead is the end of the road so one is already at 10,000 feet and there is not much of a climb to Cottonwood Lakes and their Golden Trout; second, Cottonwood Creek and its Golden

Trout are a very short distance from the parking lot. I am the only fly fisherman in the group so Bud, who plans our trips, does try to find fishing opportunities for me, but sometimes the opportunities are fewer. We needed to get to our campsite, so, I was allowed a bit of time to fish. However, on this trip there were plenty of chances to try for Golden Trout.

Our second day was again beautiful weather, but our pilot Gary was getting nervous about his plane at the airport as a storm slowly approached Bishop. By the fourth day he was very nervous, and we decided to cut the trip short by one day. We headed down the mountain to Lone Pine, and then found a restaurant in Bishop to talk over what we needed to do. A decision was made to head up Bishop Canyon where we crashed at a very modest campground. It was getting late when we parked, and the wind was howling. As we tried to set up sleeping bags, a few sleeping pads flew into the air. I stayed outside our van, while others crammed in later in the night.



Greg fishing for CA Golden Trout

I awoke in the early morning and noticed that what had been a starry sky now had darkened with clouds. Sh#t!! Rain. We all got in the van and spent the early morning hours watching the sun rise at the airport. Gary found a hole in the clouds and got away. We drove north and into snow showers all the way to June Lake and June Lake Brewery. A quick stop at one of the many hot springs along 395, and then home.

P.S. The fishing was pretty good. I caught goldens when the wind died down on the Cottonwood Lakes. At that elevation one is above “tree level,” and that

was absolutely accurate. Just rocks and the wind. We found a little pocket of trees lower down for protection.



Greg casting for his favorite hat

About the fishing—I was casting from the shore of one of the lakes and the wind blew my favorite hat into the cold water. The bank was too steep to go down, and I watched helplessly as my hat floated away, sinking slowly. Ken, who was watching me, yelled for me to use my rod. I thought he meant to reach the hat, “No cast at it!”. Oh, I got it. First cast was to the left of the hat, the second went right, and the third cast, right over the hat landing slightly long. I got the hat back. Best casting I ever did!

Thank You Donors and Volunteers! Summer Picnic Dinner By Dave Stone

The Summer Picnic Dinner was attended by a lively group of appreciative club members and friends. It was a gregarious group, enjoying each other’s company by swapping fish stories and catching up from pandemic years gone past. It was a festive occasion, even if a bit on the hot side.

A small group of RRFV volunteers set up the auction and raffle donations on portable tables out in the open sunlight. The volunteers’ day started early on July 16th, but those volunteers overcame the heat by retreating periodically to enjoy shade and water breaks under the large oak canopy. Also, it provided shade and comfort when it was time to eat our Sonoma County Catering’s excellent meal. It was a

picture-perfect day with dappled light, under the oaks, like a summer painting by Auguste Renoir.

The Russian River Fly Fishers’ Board of Directors and Officers would like to thank our club members and the businesses that donated items to our Summer Picnic Dinner fund raiser held at Galvin Community Park, Santa Rosa. Here is a list of donors that made the fund raiser a success. We appreciate your time and generosity!

Businesses that donated: fly-fishing gear, fishing guide certificates, hard cider, wine, or lodging and other valuable items.

- Ace Cider, Sebastopol, CA
- Andrew Harris, Confluence Outfitters, Red Bluff, CA
- Breathless Wines, Healdsburg, CA
- King’s Sport and Tackle, Guerneville, CA
- Lakeview Terrace Resort, Lewiston, CA
- Outdoor Pro Shop, Cotati, CA
- Peter Santley, Flyfishing Guide, Redding, CA
- Sojourn Cellars, Sonoma, CA
- The Fly Shop, Redding, CA

Russian River Fly-Fishing members that donated fly-fishing gear and other non-fly-fishing items to make the Auctions and Raffles intriguing for all.

- Brian Hartley, RRFV member
- Carol Ponzio, Friend of the Club
- Jane Stone, wife of Dave Stone, RRFV member
- Derek Campbell, Friend of the Club
- Ed Barich, RRFV member
- Gregg Wrisley, RRFV member
- Howard Nakagawa & Susan Hazy, RRFV members
- Joe Hiney, RRFV member
- Joerg Olson, RRFV member
- Kraig Smith, RRFV member
- Ken Young, RRFV member
- Leafa Fiore, RRFV member
- Lee Soares, RRFV member
- Louise Joost, wife of Karl Joost, RRFV member
- Mike Borba, RRFV member
- Mike Samuelson, RRFV member
- Mike Spurlock, RRFV member
- Tim Reuling, RRFV member
- Tom Magliulo, RRFV member

For a complete set of Picnic photographs click [Here](#) to view them at our RRFV website by scrolling through

the front page of The Cast. Mike Spurlock organized all photos into four convenient categories: People, Steelhead in the Classroom, Sonoma Catering, and Raffle/Auction. Here are a couple of photos.



Kathleen, Mike, and Jeff



Julie, Kraig, and Penelope

RRFF Women's Voice **By Penelope Gadd-Coster**

As the New RRFF President I am looking forward to hearing more from you about how you want to see the club moving forward.

We have had some great speakers and presentations within the Club and one of them sparked something I didn't know I had such a strong interest in—surf fishing! Please click on the link below for the information about a clinic that is being given at Stinson Beach by NorCal Women on the Fly.

[Click Here](#)

If this type of fishing is something you would like to try, let me know. Then I will contact Lost Coast

Outfitters and schedule a guide for us. Call or email me.

Thursday Aug 4 from 4:30-7 PM I invite all RRFF women to the Casting Pond for a meet and greet. Please bring your favorite beverage, I will bring some bites. Bring your rod. If you need one, let me know, and I'll arrange to provide you with rod and reel. See you there, Penelope

Lake Davis Report **By Daniel Powers**

I recently fished Lake Davis a couple times during the week of July 11th and was disappointed in the quality of the water and fish. The fishing was fantastic in the sense of catching large fish. However, the lake water quality was poor. The Rainbows currently have a parasite of some sort growing on them (see photos below) and to be frank they look ugly.



Dan's good size trout, but with parasitic scales

I spoke to the Fish & Game biologist the prior week about a different matter, and she informed me of the situation with the fish at Lake Davis.



Dan's friend with another sickly-looking trout

I don't feel the lake will clear up by end of September, so I am actively looking at alternative fisheries in the area and places to potentially stay. Some ideas would be lakes of along Highway 89, like Weber, Lake of the Woods, Jackson Meadows, or Independence and the campground facilities.

Editor's Note

With a change in plans, Daniel will now lead a RRF outing at Jackson Meadows Reservoir/Pass Creek Campground in lieu of Lake Davis on Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd. There are openings on our website signup sheet and there are openings at the campground too.

Fish and Beyond **By Dave Stone**

After guiding for ten years, Dane Huzarski established Montana Trout Wranglers (see Dane's bio. and his newsletter within the Trout Wranglers website). Click [HERE](#) to go to the website to locate Dane's newsletter. I have exchanged some emails with him because he has inspired me with his reporting of the Southwest Montana fisheries. He has given me permission to share any of his newsletter's tips and suggestions with RRF members. I enjoy his succinct writing style and descriptions the rivers, fish, and flies of that area. You can subscribe to his newsletter at the bottom of the first page of the website and if it looks interesting to you, subscribe for excellent fly-fishing tips. Every time I read it, I'm reminded to include a bucket list fly-fishing trip to SW Montana and to visit Dane.

Here are some examples of what you'll find in Dane's recent newsletter: dry fly tips and twitching hoppers.

Three tips when using a dry fly.

1. **Make your first cast count.** Many times, your first drift is the most important, the one that the trout sees first and most likely to eat. Just like when you met your fiancé's parents. First impressions count, make it your best.
2. **When false casting, cast to the side of the fish.** You throw small water droplets off your line when false casting. To keep from

spooking fish, make sure that you false cast away from rising fish.

3. **Give the fish enough time to see your fly.** Too many times people see a trout rise and put it right on the fish, or behind them. You need to lead the trout by 2-5 feet depending in the water type, so the fish has time to see it coming. Throw it too close to the trout and they won't eat it. They need to see it coming a few feet in front of them. If they don't eat it, wait till it floats well past them, then pick up your cast and repeat. Ripping your fly off a feeding trout is the fastest way to make them disappear.

Why twitch your grasshopper fly

It's no secret that trout love grasshoppers on the Yellowstone River in Montana. There is also no shortage of guides in the area. These trout see lots of different hopper patterns drifted over their heads during August/September. Sometimes you need to stand out from the crowd and give your hopper pattern some movement.

I love to have my clients twitch their hoppers to elicit some explosive strikes from the trout. How much do you move your hopper? It depends. In fast moving riffle water, I leave them alone as the trout will have a hard enough time tracking a fast-moving fly. But in the slower water I start by twitching my rod to move my hopper about 4-6 inches. I pause and let it rest and after about 5-8 seconds I twitch it again. Waiting and then again. After trying this for a little bit, if I don't get any response, I begin twitching faster.

Just like fishing streamers, you must figure out what the trout want. Do they want the slow retrieve? Medium retrieve? Or do they want it moving fast? Sometimes they really want that hopper moving. But you need to pause so that the fish can attack. You will miss a lot of fish if you don't give the trout a chance to catch its prey. Give this a try on rivers that get some pressure, and you will stick out from the crowd in a good way.

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

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

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.

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

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

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS!

Visit 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.

[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 & Outing Chairman: **Ed Barich**

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

Member at Large: **Don Shaw**

Member at Large: **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 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