



Sonoma County, CA  
 Volume 53, Number 2  
 February 2026

RRFF member Mike Spurlock caught a 16" wild rainbow on the Yuba River. Read Ed Barich's report page 2.

Since June 1977  
 Visit our website at  
[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

## President's Message By Daniel Powers

It is almost for time for the Winter Dinner. RRFF club volunteers have been organizing and preparing our annual Winter Dinner to be held at the Santa Rosa's Vets Hall on February 21, 2026, starting at 5:00 PM. Once again, we will be featuring Gerard's Paella Catering with a main course paella dinner. Sign up before it sells out! Cost is only \$50. You won't want to miss this once-a-year event. It will be a great time to pick up some highly discounted fishing gear, trips, and to socialize with other club members.

In other club news in the coming months, we may have an opening or two on the board of directors to

steer the ship of this marvelous club. If you have interest, please reach out to one of our board members for further information.

Can't wait to see at the Winter Dinner, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Daniel

Click [link](#) to club's 2026 calendars & outing sign-up sheets.

Club Activities	February '26 Date & Time	March '26 Date & Time
Fly Casting At the Pond Days & Hours 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat. each mo. 12 noon to 2:30	Winter pond dates & hours 2/7 & 2/21 12 noon to 2:30	Winter pond dates & hours 3/7 & 3/21 12 noon to 2:30
General Meetings will be held at the Vets Building	2/11 6:30 – 9:00 PM	3/11 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Club Activities	February '26 Date & Time	March '26 Date & Time
Board Meetings	2/18 7:00 – 8:00 PM	3/18 7:00 – 8:00 PM
The Fly-Fishing Show (Pleasanton)	2/27 – 3/1	X
Steelhead <i>Flash Day</i> Trips	Feb – Apr (Ed Barich will announce, depends on river flow)	Mar – Apr (Ed Barich will announce, depends on river flow)

## RRFF General Meeting By Mike Borba

**Note—No General Meeting this month. See you at the Winter Dinner, February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## A January Gathering Lower Yuba River By Ed Barich



**RRFF fly-fishing group at a local pub.**

On the weekend of January 24-25, 2026, the RRFF had an outing at the UC-Davis Sierra Foothills Extension property on the Lower Yuba River. It was a large and capable group of fly-fishers, including Ed Barich, Rick Baker, Sig Wallen, Steve Sapers, Anthony Bendik, Mike Spurlock, Ed Epperson, Alan Nealley, Joerg Olsen, Mike Borba, Jenny Tighe, Chadd Troedel, Glen Stanley and Jeff Cratty.

Some of us stayed at motels in the Yuba City area and one group stayed at an Airbnb house, which was a comfortable and inexpensive option. We also gathered in the evenings for dinners at local restaurants.

The section of the river we visited is the tailwater below Englebright Dam and above the Hwy 20 bridge that is reserved for barbless hook/catch and release

angling for wild rainbow trout. Water conditions were clear and cold at about 2000 CFS – about twice the flow we had seen in earlier outings. That higher flow made for some challenging wading and pressed the fish into the calmer waters along the shorelines.



**Jenny and Chadd having a good time.**

There were few bugs rising from the waters, but we did find Skwala stoneflies crawling on the rocks (and occasionally on us). A few trout were caught on dry flies, but most of the action was sub-surface, using rubber-legs and other stonefly imitations. Not all of us landed fish, but those who did experienced the hard-fighting wild rainbows that are native to this river. For all of us, it was a mid-winter chance to hike the trails with fellow club members and enjoy the scenic vistas of the Lower Yuba.



**Rick Baker with his wild and native Yuba River trout.**

## Steelhead in the Classroom

By Karl Joost



Member Cat Kaiser sharing steelhead eggs with children imbued with passion and excitement, 2024.

We need RRF members and friends to participate in bringing steelhead eggs to classrooms. The first 2026 Steelhead Egg deliveries to Sonoma County classrooms are as follows:

When—Wednesday, February 11th at 9:45 AM.

Where—Meet at the Sonoma Water facility, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

What—bring a small cooler (lunchbox size is great) with some ice to keep the steelhead eggs cool.

How long is this task? —usually 1-2 hours.

**Note**—Wear your RRF cap/shirt if you have one to help introduce who you are. Check in at the school office. SMILE A LOT, be cordial when you introduce yourself and follow all protocols at the school. Tell the school office you are from Russian River Fly Fishers to deliver their "Steelhead eggs to Ms. or Mr. *Teacher's Name*" and that you would like to visit the classroom briefly to say hello to the class.

The Second 2026 Steelhead Egg deliveries to Sonoma County classrooms are as follows:

When—Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 9:45 AM.

Where—Meet at Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

To reach Karl with your questions, call (707-483-6172 or email him by clicking [link](#)).

Let Karl know if you are planning to help. Know that you will absolutely make the children's day by delivering the steelheads eggs to their classroom. They will be anticipating the delivery date. This experience becomes one of their educational science highlights for that year.



Please read the above poster. Steve Tubbs has created another excellent poster this year for our key Winter Dinner 2026. Bring your friends and family to this event. It is our club's once-a-year and largest event. It is fun to sit down at a table with friends and family while having a delicious meal and catching up about your latest fly-fishing trip or the one you plan to take. Meet the club's board and other members that make our club special. Also, have fun bidding at the silent auction tables and dropping tickets at your favorite raffle item. **Purchase your tickets now and support your club. Thank you.**



**Anthony Bendik's native Yuba River trout, 2026.**



**An active Yuba River Skwala stonefly, 2026**



**Kevin Ostrom's Trinity River steelhead, 2025.**



**Penelope and Tom Greer having fun assembling insulation blocks around an aquarium tank which will store steelhead eggs for the SIC program, 2025.**



**Mike Spurlock and guide Brian Clemens battling a steelhead under the Trinity River's Steel Bridge, 2025**



**Greg Wrisley hunting down invasive pikeminnows on the main stem of the Eel River, 2025**

Note—These are some of your editor's favorite photos that didn't make it into past issues of The Cast.



## 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  
<https://www.archuletasreelworks.com/>

### 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.  
<https://www.kingsrussianriver.com/>

### 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  
<https://outdoorproshop.com/contact-us/>

### 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  
<https://www.sportsmans.com/fishing-gear-supplies/c/cat101026>

## Russian River Fly Fishers on Facebook

Please [click](#) join us online to enjoy:

- Updates on RRFF Events
- Local Flyfishing Information
- Flyfishing Instructional Videos
- Flyfishing Travel Videos
- Conservation Updates
- Fly Fishing Industry Updates
- Flyfishing Non-Profit & Charity Information
- Fishing Reports
- Flyfishing Photography & Inspiration

**Our Facebook community has over 1,232 followers and provides links to various vendor and fly-fishing related sites at both local and national levels.**

## 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--coordinators.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: **Daniel Powers**

Vice President, Women's Events: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

Secretary: **Michael Bluto**

Treasurer: **Tracie Koenig**

Webmaster, Membership, Assistant Treasurer (Square): **Mike Spurlock**

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

Outings Coordinator: **Ed Barich**

Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

Casting Instruction, Outings: **Don Shaw**

Casting Instruction, New Member Mentoring, Website Sales: **Jeff Cratty**

Raffle Coordinator, Education: **Gregg Wrisley**

Women's Program Coordinator: **Genie Praetzel**

Program Speaker Chairman: **Mike Borba**

Website Sales, Outings: **Pam Boyd DeCoite**

Casting Instruction, Casting for Recovery contact: **Paul Matzen**

### Coordinators

The Cast Newsletter Editor: **Dave Stone**

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

Fly Tying at General Meetings: **Lee Soares**

Conservation Advisor, Cal Trout "Lost Coast Project Manager": **Charlie Schneider**

Conservation Advisor, Steelhead in the Classroom: **Tom Greer**

Women's North Sonoma County Outreach: **Leafa Fiore**

Fly Rod Building: **Rick Baker**

# Russian River Fly Fishers Membership Application

(if possible, we prefer that you use the on-line application on our website where you can also pay online:

<https://www.rrflyfisher.org/membership-application--payment.html>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\* I'm applying as a new member. Circle (Yes / No). I'm renewing my existing membership. Circle (Yes / No).

\*Check the box below that is applicable:

Single membership - \$50 annual dues

Junior membership - \$25 annual dues (age 16-18 or live >75 miles from Santa Rosa)

Gold membership - \$1,000 (one-time)

Family Membership - \$55 annual dues. List family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes a woman who would like to be contacted by our RRFF Women's Group:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The club would like to help you meet your fly-fishing needs. How many years have you been fly fishing? \_\_\_\_\_

Check any areas you want help with:

I would like help learning or improving my fly-fishing 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 MIKE SPURLOCK, 20 SAN DOMINGO WAY, NOVATO , CA 94945**