

# The Cast



Sonoma County, CA  
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Pamela & Jeff Cratty managing the 2026 Winter Dinner's Sales  
Table. Read WD articles on pgs. 2 & 3.

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

## President's Message By Daniel Powers

What a fantastic start to the year! The RRF Winter Dinner celebration held on February 21, 2026, achieved outstanding success, with over 120 tickets sold—surpassing last year's attendance figures.

A heartfelt thank you to Vice President Penelope Gadd-Coster and our incredible team of volunteers who made the evening possible. The night featured delicious paella from Gerard's Catering, a stunning cheese and appetizer spread from Don & Jan Shaw, and wonderful desserts contributed by club members. Events like this are what fuel our mission—giving back to not-for-profit fly-fishing communities

through monetary donations and fly-fishing education. Final financial details will be shared once they're available. Thank you all for your generosity and support!

Daniel

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

Club Activities	March '26 Date & Time	April '26 Date & Time
Fly Casting At the Pond	Last Winter Fly Casting Clinic Sat. March 7 Noon until 2:30	X
Fly Casting At the Pond	Daylight Savings Time Casting Clinic every Thursday Starting 3/12 4:30 to 7 PM	Daylight Savings Time Casting Clinic every Thursday 4:30 to 7 PM

Club Activities	March '26 Date & Time	April '26 Date & Time
Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival	3/7	X
General Meetings will be held at the Vets Building	3/11 6:30 – 9:00 PM	4/8 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Board Meetings	3/18 7:00 – 8:00 PM	4/15 7:00 – 8:00 PM
Clear Lake Outing (Don Shaw)	X	4/16 -19
Spey-O-Rama	X	4/18 -19
Baum Lake Outing (Ed Barich)	X	4/30- 5/3
Steelhead <i>Flash Day</i> Trips	March (Ed Barich will announce, depends on river flow)	April (Ed Barich will announce, depends on river flow)

## RRFF General Meeting By Mike Borba

Mike Pease of Mike Pease Adventures is our March speaker. Mike is a highly rated Orvis-endorsed guide and a frequent contributor to California Fly Fisher. His presentation, Fly Fishing the Lost Sierras, covers trout fishing in Plumas and Sierra counties. This is ideal preparation for your summer fly-fishing plans. See you at the March General Meeting.

## Volunteers Make a Successful Winter Dinner By Penelope Gadd-Coster



Dining Room starting to fill up.

When creating annual Winter Dinners, determining the appropriate number of volunteers and effectively recruiting them is a critical component in this event's planning. This process is essential to ensuring that all aspects of the event are executed smoothly and meet organizational objectives.



Group of RRFF members helping each other set up auction/raffle table in dining room. L to R: Karl, Eric, Jeff, Noah, and Mike.

This year's organizing team demonstrated exemplary performance and dedication, ensuring all operations proceeded efficiently. Your attention to detail was exceptional and you consistently surpassed my expectations. Thank you for your valuable contributions.



Gregg with his meticulous touch, carefully sets up one of the auction/raffle tables. Nice job!

I wish to extend my gratitude and acknowledge as many of you as I can. The following individuals were the volunteers that signed up for this important event early in the year: Don and Jan Shaw, Steve Tubbs, Tracie Koenig, Jeff & Pamela Cratty, Jane Stone, Debbie McAfee, Alan Nealley, Byron Calos, Carl Kiyota, Joerg Olson, Eric Byous, Noah Byous, Ed Barich, Dan Powers, Michael Spurlock, Eri Sawairi, Mike Borba, Gregg Wrisley, Cat Kaiser, John Guerra, Alice Rathjen, Alan Nealley, and Glen Stanley.

There were other *flash* volunteers I can't name at this time because they stepped up unannounced, I am told they helped during critical situations when we needed them most. Many of them had volunteered the year before. So, THANK YOU All—The RRF Board of Directors and I specifically acknowledge your dedication for a job well done.



## Winter Dinner 2026 Report By Dave Stone & Mike Spurlock

While Penelope recruited volunteers to ready the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building's dining room for over 120 guests at the Winter Dinner, Mike Spurlock, Tracie Koenig, and Dave Stone planned donation outreach during Monday morning Zoom meetings.



Member & donor, Greg Jacobs preparing to drop some raffle tickets.

Mike and Dave contacted past RRF members, fishing guides, and companies for fundraising contributions.

We collected donations across Sonoma and Marin Counties, with significant help from Debbie McAfee, while Tracie, our club's treasurer, would keep track of inflow and outflow of monies, keep her eye on the auction item sheets that needed to be filled out correctly by the bidders and she would trouble shoot any issues that needed to be smoothed out.



Tracie, Kevin Ostrom, and Mike.

As a result, Mike, Debbie, and Dave (and the other important volunteers listed below) were the participants hunting down the donations for the Winter Dinner's auction and raffle tables.

RRFF members work together each year to collect donations for our Winter Dinner Fundraiser. The process involves basically two groups of volunteers and the businesses that also provided donations: Group 1—club members who provide items for auction or raffle tables; Group 2—members who collect donations from other club members, focusing on quality fishing and/or non-fishing items; and Group 3—volunteers who reach out to businesses, asking for repeat or new donations.

**Group 1:** These individuals contributed donation items: Carl Kiyota and Joe Miller, Chuck Perry, Greg

Jacobs, Jan Shaw, Jan Whitney, Dave & Jane Stone, Joerg Olson, John Frenzel, Mel Light, Karl & Louise Joost, Kraig Smith, Larry Lack, Leafa Fiore, Mike Samuelson, Mike Spurlock, Paul & Margie Matzen, Penelope Gadd-Coster, Rick Baker, Rob Ferroggiaro, and Rosa Sanchez.

**Group 2:** These volunteers collected donation items from club members and local businesses supporting RRF: Brook Shaw, Dave Stone, Debbie McAfee, Don Shaw, Ed Barich, Ed Epperson, Gregg Wrisley, Howard Nakagawa, Jenny Tighe, Kevin Ostrom and Mike Spurlock.

**Group 3:** The following businesses donated to our fundraiser this year and many of these businesses have been consistent donors: Sonoma Raceway, Guide Peter Santley, Ace Cider, Kings Sport & Tackle, Scherrer Winery, Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters, Travel Creel Hospitality, Friedman's, Mountain Hardware and Sports, Russian River Railbikes, Guide Lance Gray, fly-fishing guide, Ed Epperson's Family Vineyard, Edna Valley Winery, Cattlemans, Hog Island Oysters Co., and Guide John Feaster.

**The RRF Board of Directors sincerely thank and acknowledge all the RRF volunteers, organizers, and companies listed in Groups 1-3 for their generosity and superb volunteer work.**

One might ask—Why do we host the Winter Dinner? There are two main reasons: it's a time to gather with our enthusiastic fly-fishing members/friends to eat and have fun. The other reason—the Winter Dinner is the main stage for our primary fundraiser. Our RRF bylaws don't require us to donate annually to organizations aligned with our mission, but our club has a history of financially supporting other nonprofit organizations that do align with our by-laws.

The following quotes are a few guiding lines from our by-laws: "To promote conservation of recreational resources and to protect, conserve and increase the population of wild fresh water, salt water and migratory game fish." "To advance, promote, practice and teach the art of angling with artificial flies." "To cooperate with fishing clubs, associations, leagues or other community organizations, wherever practical,

by providing instruction in all phases of fly fishing for youth and adults."



Maria and Genie with Pamela and Penelope in the background.

RRFF is also involved with and financially support groups that use fly fishing as therapeutic healing tools as part of their programs.

RRFF have provided financial support to these groups: [Casting for Recovery](#) (Paul Matzen), [United Anglers Casa Grande](#) (Genie Praetzel), [NCCFFI Ah Di Na McCloud River Restoration Project](#) (Penelope Gadd-Coster), [Steelhead in the Classroom](#) and Aquarium Assembly Workshop (Karl Joost), [Project Healing Waters](#) (Joe Hiney), [The Mayfly Project](#) (Gregg Wrisley), [Russian Riverkeeper Watershed Cleanup](#) (Ed Barich,)), [Reel Recovery](#) (Gregg Wrisley), and Eliot Norton was sponsored by RRF to participate in [The Fly Shop's Fish Camp](#) (Penelope Gadd-Coster).

Use this [Winter Dinner link](#) to view a comprehensive Winter Dinner Slideshow created by Mike Spurlock located in our website for all to enjoy. You might see a glimpse of yourself among other club members.

**Editor's note**—Thank you, photographers, for providing Mike and me with your photos.

Also, if Penelope or I did not mention your name as a volunteer in one or both of our articles, then please forgive us and know that wasn't our intention. It takes a village to pull off a successful dinner and fundraiser and sometimes mistakes happen. We do recognize how lucky we are to have a club of creative and energetic volunteers that makeup our club. So, thank you for your sincere involvement and dedication.

## Steelhead in the Classroom

By Karl Joost



**Andrea Newfeld, teacher 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Grant Elementary, Petaluma carefully submerging steelhead eggs into an aquarium incubator donated and built by RRF.**

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

**When**—Wednesday, March 25th 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.

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 the year.

## Fly Rod Building

By Rick Baker



**Photo of club member Steve Sapers' fishing rod 9' 10 wt. constructed during the past year.**

Some choose to build their own fly rod as a hobby. Some choose to build their own as a potential cost savings. Others build their own rods to obtain the performance they need for a specific fishing application. For most, it is a balance among the three.

If you identify with any those situations and/or are interested in more information regarding building your own fly rod, the club is planning a rod building class and would like to judge interest to help in class size planning. The goal of the class is for participants to come away with a new rod of their own after three sessions. Class size is limited to 6 people, but we will open a second class if more are interested.

### Session 1 – Informational meeting

1. Fly rod design, blanks, components, equipment, costs, where to buy.

**Session 2 – Day 1 Rod Build (Saturday)**

1. Morning Session - Splining the rod & guide space layout,
2. Afternoon Session - Handle construction & guide wrapping

**Session 3 – Day 2 Rod Build (Sunday)**

1. Morning Session - Guide wrapping. Afternoon Session - Decorative wraps/finishing.

Workshop Fee: \$20 & Dates: TBD. I will reach out to those who sign up to discuss dates. Please see the club website for additional information and to sign up.

**RRFF Thursday Evening  
Fly Casting Clinics 2026  
By Steve Tubbs**



*Russian River Fly Fishers*  
**Thursday Fly Casting Clinics**

**Every Thursday Evening During DST  
4:30 until 7:00 PM**  
(weather permitting)

This event is always **FREE** and is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
Beginners are welcome!

**LEARN TO FLY CAST!**

Please join us in the southeast corner of Dan Galvin Park, on the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue. The Casting Pond is located beyond the soccer fields and Dog Park. For more information, visit

[rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org)  
[facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers](https://facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers)

We do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own

Learn to Fly Cast...or improve your fly-casting skills through instruction and practice. Our RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics are held every Thursday evening (during Daylight Savings Time) from 4:30 until 7:00 PM (weather permitting). This event is FREE and

is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! We do not practice fly casting in the rain.

Our RRFF volunteer instructors can help you get started learning the basics of fly casting. They can also answer many of your fly-fishing questions regarding fly tackle and gear, knot-tying, fly selection and fly-tying, including fly fishing techniques for various fish species (both freshwater and saltwater).

Some of our instructors can assist you with advanced fly-casting techniques like the double-haul, using shooting heads, "quick-casting" for saltwater species, spey casting techniques, and more...

It is said that two of the biggest deterrents to those who are interested in learning to fly fish are 1.) learning to fly cast, and 2.) knot tying. Adding to that, questions regarding fly tackle, rod weights, line-weights and basic set-up can also be daunting to new fly fishers. Our experienced fly fishers can help you unravel these mysteries.

RRFF fly casting instruction is based on the techniques offered by Fly Fishers International (FFI) and by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club (GGACC). We incorporate the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Program and the Beginning, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Levels offered by GGACC.

Fly casting proficiency is a life-long pursuit, the most important aspect directly determined by practice. You must practice fly casting to develop the "feel" of the fly line loading your fly rod, and to develop the capabilities of controlling your fly line in whatever fly-fishing situation you encounter.

There are always new venues to fly fish, new fly-casting techniques to learn, and your personal development will depend entirely on what you wish to pursue and how far you wish to take it. We can help you on that rewarding journey and to learn the techniques that will aid with your success.

Won't you join us at the RRFF Casting Pond?

(The Casting Pond is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC during regular Dan Galvin Park hours, 7 days per week. You are welcome to practice your fly casting there whenever you wish).

## Support Our Local Fly-Fishing Businesses!

### 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/>

### 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 Wisley**

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**