



Sonoma County, CA
Volume 53 Number 6
June 2026

RRFF Member Rick Baker's Goose Lake, CA
Heritage Redband Trout.
Two Outing Reports by Ed Barich, Page 2 and
Page 5.

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www.rrflyfisher.org

President's Report By Daniel Powers

Fellow Members,

We have several exciting updates to share from the Board of Directors meeting and from Dave Stone, editor of our Cast newsletter.

The Board has approved the voting ballot, and it is now posted on the website at rrflyfisher.org. You may vote online or return the ballot to Board Member, Michael Bluto, at fosh_bluto@yahoo.com.

The board looks toward the upcoming year; we are also beginning to consider opportunities for future leadership.

Please note that our next two general meetings will **not** be held at the Vets Hall. Instead, they will take place at the **pond**. Please watch for details from Penelope Gadd-Coster. These gatherings will give RRFF members an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy the camaraderie of our fly-fishing club. Those events will include BBQ provided by RRFF and are scheduled for June 10th and July 8th.

Dave Stone is seeking two RRFF volunteers to join him to create the monthly Cast newsletter. These volunteers would work with Dave Stone to produce The Cast each month.

One of the positions would be responsible for the layout of The Cast reports, stories, announcements, and photographs.

The other position would take the finished Cast Newsletter on a flash drive to Staples in Petaluma (preferably) for printing.

Please read Dave Stone’s detailed Cast proposal located on page 3 of this month’s Cast.

Daniel L. Powers

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

Club Activities	June '26 Date & Time	July '26 Date & Time
Fly Casting At the Pond	Daylight Savings Time Casting Clinic every Thursday 4:30 to 7 PM	Daylight Savings Time Casting Clinic every Thursday 4:30 to 7 PM
General Meetings will not be held at the Vets Building	6/10 Gen. Meeting 4:30 – 7:00 PM BBQ held @ the Pond	7/8 Gen. Meeting 4:30 – 7:00 PM BBQ held @ the Pond
Putah Creek cleanup FFI phase 2	6/13 link for time & more info.	X
Intermediate Fly-Fishing Class @ Pond (Gregg Wrisley)	6/14 Sign up for class click link	X
Board Meetings	6/17 6:30 – 9:00 PM	7/15 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Manzanita Lake (Ed Barich)	6/18-21	X
Truckee River & Sawmill Lake Women’s Clinic (Genie Praetzel)	6/26-28	X

**RRFF General Meeting
By Mike Borba**

The next two General Meetings will be held on June 10 and July 8 at the pond. See the President’s Message above. Penelope Gadd-Coster will provide details shortly.

**Baum Lake 2026 Outing Report
By Ed Barich**

This was the annual RRFF club Baum Lake outing (formerly the “Opener”) where we camped at the PG&E campground in Cassel CA. Compared to previous years, the April 30-May 3, 2026 event was more “compact”: in attendance were leader Ed Barich, Matt Cardle, Jenny Tighe, Chadd Troedel, Rick

Baker and lifetime member Scotty Broome (who travelled 10 hours from SoCal just to be at this traditional RRFF outing).



Jenny and her Manzanita Lake wild Rainbow Trout.

Those us who came up on Thursday were able to fish all Friday on Baum Lake. The action there was a bit disappointing. Matt and Ed used their kayaks to cover most of the usual spots where trout have historically been caught, but despite the presence of a state fish hatchery on the lake, we did not have any willing aquatic participants.



Chadd’s Manzanita Lake Brown Trout.

The weather was typical and the water looked fine, but for some unknown reason we just did not see many fish. Maybe it was the full moon the night

before that jinxed us. Fortunately, that evening Scotty hosted us to dinner at his campsite, sharing his tasty, barbecued pork chops and tri-tips. Rick, Chadd and Jenny had just arrived, so we all gathered around the campfire to share fish tales of the past and strategize plans for the next day.



From Manzanita Lake looking southeast at Lassen Peak.

Rick's choice for Saturday included traveling far north to score a Goose Lake Redband trout for his California Heritage Trout Challenge. He did succeed in his quest, catching several of this rare species, and in the process visiting a beautiful area he had not seen before. (See Rick's front cover trout). For Ed, Matt, Jenny and Chadd, the plan was to travel 35 miles south to Manzanita Lake in Lassen National Park to see if the wild trout there would be more cooperative than the planted fish at Baum. The reward for that decision was that all of us landed fish at Manzanita.

Stripping damselfly nymphs on intermediate lines worked well, as they usually do there in the spring. Chadd landed the most trout of our group, using midge nymphs on a dropper under a dry fly.



Well-deserved restaurant dinner after a good day of fly fishing.

That evening the five of us celebrated at the Outpost steak house in Burney, enjoying drinks, prime rib and the adventures of our successful day on the waters – a great way to end the outing.

The Cast Proposal

By Dave Stone

Proposal—I am looking for two RRF members to join me in creating and publishing the club's monthly newsletter, The Cast.

History—By the end of August 2026, I will have completed five years creating and editing The Cast each month. I took over this responsibility from Steve Tubbs in April 2021, just five months after joining the club. I have valued the opportunity to edit our RRF members' stories, reports, and announcements.

Why I Decided to Step Back—When I accepted this role, I knew I would eventually step away from my volunteer position as editor of The Cast. Early this year, I realized that time had come. I was spending more time creating and refining the publication than pursuing my own goal of becoming a better fly fisher. I wanted more time to practice at the RRF club pond and fish local rivers. I submitted a retirement letter to the Board on February 25, 2026, giving six months' notice that I would step down as editor of The Cast at the end of August 2026.

A Practical Path Forward—Since submitting that letter, I have realized that I could continue contributing as editor if the work of publishing and printing The Cast were shared by a team. That realization led me to develop this proposal. This proposal is not an impossible Gordian knot to untangle, but a practical solution. For those reasons, I am asking the President along with the entire Board of Directors to help identify two club members who would join me in forming a Cast Newsletter Editing and Publishing Team. I too, through this proposal and announcement will be inviting RRF members to reach out to me if they are interested in joining a Cast Publishing Team.

The Cast Publishing Team—This team would publish The Cast each month and would consist of three

members. Each member would take responsibility for one of the following sequential roles.

- **Position 1. Editing all RRF reports, stories, announcements, and photographs**—I would continue managing the editing as I have been performing each month for The Cast.
- **New Position 2. Layout of reports, stories, announcements, and photographs**—This new role would organize the content for The Cast using the current newsletter Word format to organize the front cover photo through the final page of The Cast. The Word template is available, so the task would involve placing each edited report, story, announcement, and photograph into that format after receiving the edited Cast material from Dave.
- **New Position 3. Distribution**—Once Position 1 and 2 tasks are complete, this new role would deliver the finished newsletter on a flash drive to Staples in Petaluma for printing, or to a comparable print shop if preferred. This position would also deliver final copies of The Cast to Jeff Cratty at Sportsman's Warehouse or deliver them to him at the pond; mail copies to Scott Heemstra at King's Sport & Tackle in Guerneville; and send 10 double-folded printed copies to members who prefer a mailed version over an electronic copy. These two individuals market RRF via The Cast to their store customers.

If anyone in the club is interested in either Position 2 or Position 3 or the combination of the two and would like to discuss and learn more about the responsibilities in more detail, please email me. You can reach me by clicking [here](#) for my email address or call me at 707-953-9816. If you don't reach me initially by phone, please leave a message.

Steelhead in the Classroom Report By Karl Joost

Hi RRF Steelhead in the Classroom Coaches and Helpers! A huge thank-you from the 100+ Sonoma

County classrooms that hatched and raised steelhead fry this year. Your efforts truly were the magic element that made the program work this year.

Our incredible regional coordinator, Sabrina Britt, is holding a "debrief and roundtable" session at the Bay Model Center in Sausalito on June 6th. The purpose is to hear your thoughts on the program and share ideas to make it even better next year.

Please let Sabrina know by email, click [here](#), if you can attend in person, or by Zoom, or you can't attend. Thank you! We can car-pool from Santa Rosa to help with transportation.

There will be a nice bonus of being at the Bay Model Center. You will be able see the tall ship, Matthew Turner, right down the dock from the Bay Model Center. For those of you who like viewing tall ships, the Mathew Turner is a beautiful traditional wooden, double masted ship designed after the ship Galilee, which was built in the 1891.

Classroom Aquarium Education Program is sponsoring the Debrief and Roundtable Meeting. June 6, Saturday, 10 AM to 12 PM. Location—Bay Model Center, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Future Wading Clinic By Mike Spurlock

On September 5, 2026, we will be conducting the 4th Wading Clinic for members. For this event, we have rented Del Rio Park on the Russian River in Healdsburg. This is a class for beginning waders/fly fishers who want to get a bit of experience wading safely across the Russian River.

The weather and the river are usually beautiful this time of year. We will have 4 experienced club members joining me. They will share their individual recommendations on waders, boots, wading staffs, and other equipment they use when fishing on a river. Sign up on the website, <https://www.rflyfisher.org/>. Parking room is limited at Del Rio Park with a maximum of 20 parking spaces.

Check out this link for photos from past classes, <https://www.rflyfisher.org/wading-clinics.html>.

Lake Siskiyou 2026 Outing Report

By Ed Barich

On the weekend of May 14-17, a *large* group of RRF members including outing leader Ed Barich, Jenny Tighe, Chadd Troedel, Gregg Wisley, Don & Jan Shaw, Jan Whitney, Rick Baker, Gary Hollinger, Jim Landis, Robin Artegiani, Lynn Hoyer and Jim DeMartini gathered at Lake Siskiyou to chase the trout that inhabit that region.



Some of the RRF members at the Friday night camp dinner.

Lake Siskiyou is a reservoir on the Upper Sacramento River, just off Interstate 5 near the town of Mt. Shasta. We stayed at the Lake Siskiyou Resort and Campground, a private park that has plenty of RV and tent camping sites, a boat marina and some great views of the 14,000-foot snow-covered peak that gives the town its name.



Ed's good size Smallmouth Bass.

This outing was our second year in a row at this location. We were looking for a repeat of the good trout action we had on Lake Siskiyou in 2025, but conditions had changed. The unusually warm

weather this spring had caused early runoffs, leaving lower lake inlet flows when we arrived.

The planted trout in the lake were less active this year, although our members were able to catch some at the river inlet. A side benefit of the warmer lake water temperatures (up to 66F) was that smallmouth bass were more active in the lake. These "redeyes" were fun to catch on float-n-fly rigs; the smaller fish gave us great leaps, and the larger ones put a big bend in a 5wt fly rod.



Jan and her Lake Siskiyou Smallmouth Bass.

As we discovered last year, the Mt. Shasta area can have some heavy winds in May, and this year was no exception. Whitecaps appeared on Lake Siskiyou on Saturday and Sunday, making boating there difficult at best.



Robin Artegiani landing his first Rainbow Trout via his fly rod.

Fortunately, the flows in the nearby Upper Sacramento River were less than 600 CFS, providing us with a great alternative; the planted trout in the Dunsmuir area were cooperative for most of our members, including Robin who got his first fish on a fly rod.



Gregg on Shasta Lake with a Spotted Smallmouth Bass.

Gregg and I scouted fishing sites on the lower river where I was able to land a wild rainbow on a trout spey rod – my first fish *ever* on the Upper Sac. Rick Baker was successful in his California Heritage Trout Challenge quest by landing a Trout Creek Redband trout. Lots of personal-bests on this trip.



Rick Baker's McCloud River, CA Heritage Red Band Trout.

For our Friday night dinner, we gathered at Don and Jan's spacious campsite for a potluck that featured Jan's delicious chicken cacciatore. On Saturday evening we met at the Black Bear Diner in Mt. Shasta to trade fish stories and say our final goodbyes, hoping to see everyone here next year.

Editor's Note—Mike Spurlock has created a new RRF website communication display. View the beginning of this new site by scrolling down to the lower right corner of The Cast photo. The communication display box looks this this.

Updated 5/27

What is new on website

- [Vote for Board of Directors \(below\)](#)
- [NCCFFI June Newsletter \(scroll down below ballot\)](#)
- [Slide show of May 14-16-Siskiyou Outing \(scroll down below NCCFFI\)](#)
- [Check out the Calendar for June and July events at the casting pond \(Penelope Gadd-Coster will provide details shortly.\).](#)
- [Check out the Calendar to sign up for September Wading Clinic at Del Rio Park on Russian River.](#)



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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 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 MIKE SPURLOCK, 20 SAN DOMINGO WAY, NOVATO , CA 94945