

The Cast



Sonoma County California
Volume 49, Number 6
June 2022

Christie and her Black Drum – Louisiana
See “Fly Fishing the Marshes of Louisiana” story by Christie Geernaert,
pg. 2 below

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

President's Message *Summer is coming!*

It's hard to believe, but summer is nearly upon us. Our club fiscal year starts July 1, so we would normally be asking our members to pay dues for the coming 2022/23 fiscal year. We have decided to defer membership dues payments to 8/1/2022. If you owe dues, you will receive an invoice at that time and if you have already paid, you will receive a notice that no dues are required. Please hold back on paying dues until the 8/1 date. I think you will agree that at \$50 for a single membership or \$55 for a family membership, the RRFF is a pretty good deal. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

We will put a pause on our monthly General Meetings in June through August, restarting them in

September. But there is an event on Saturday July 16 that you will want to put on your calendar. That evening we will be having a **Summer Picnic Dinner** at Galvin Park in Santa Rosa. This event takes the place of the Cioppino Dinner that we used to hold in February. For those of you who are new to the club, our annual dinner is our biggest club social event and fund raiser of the year, and it is an evening you will not want to miss. The picnic will include a buffet of delicious BBQ-style dishes provided by Sonoma County Catering (see flyer, page 5). As in previous years, we will be having a raffle and silent auction of fly fishing-related items as well as valuables and services of general interest. And of course, the best part of the evening is a chance for you to get together

with our 200 members to trade fish stories with friends you may not have seen in years.

So right now, you are probably asking yourself, "What can I do to make this year's event a success?" Glad you asked! Here are some tips from your Prez:

- **Buy your dinner tickets early** – The number of guests we can serve is limited to 90, and we expect tickets to go fast. You can mail in a check using the form the attached flyer. Or easier and better yet, go to our website at rrflyfisher.org and use your credit card.
- **Donate valuable items for the raffle and silent auction** – The majority of funds raised by this event come from items that members donate. Those funds are used to support our monthly meetings, casting pond activities and education programs. To donate items, contact [Ed Barich](#) or call 707-539-4608. But the most important tip of all, buy your ticket(s) now for the dinner and have a great evening.
- **Participate in the Raffle and Silent Auctions** You know you are going to see things there that you want – bring cash or credit cards for raffle tickets and auction items. You get the goods, and you help fund club projects – that's a win-win!

Volunteer to help at the dinner – A event this big takes a lot of work, *and with many volunteers we can spread the load* so that all members can enjoy the evening. Contact by clicking on [Ed Barich](#) or call 707-539-4608 and I will find something for you to do. But the most important tip of all, buy your ticket(s) now for the dinner and have a great evening.

On a final note, our annual Board nomination process has concluded, and you will see a ballot in the June CAST. On the rrflyfisher.org website, you can vote online. Please participate by voting by the June 30 deadline. Starting in July, I will be stepping aside as president of the RRFF board, a position I served in since 2016. It has been my pleasure to write the President's Message each month, and for those of you who read it, I hope it provided useful information, Challenging goals, and maybe a few smiles.

Tight lines, Ed Barich

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

Note:

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

<https://www.rrflyfisher.org/club-calendar-and-trip-signups.html>

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

- June 9th - 12th Lake Manzanita
- June 23rd - 26th Lake Almanor
- **July 16th - Summer Dinner 4:30 - 7 PM at Galvin Park Picnic Area (picnic flyer, pg. 4 below)**
- Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd Lake Davis
- Oct. 13th – 16th Lewiston Lake

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

As usual, during the 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 line up of new speakers that will discuss our passion—fly fishing and related topics for our enjoyment and education.

Fly Fishing Louisiana Marshes By Christie Geernaert

My husband, Richard, and I just returned from fishing the marshes in Hopedale, Louisiana for 5 days with

Yellow Dog outfitters. Our accommodation was a retired naval vessel which was an experience.

We were targeting redfish, but we also ran into the black drum. There was a resident baby alligator living near our station waiting to be fed our leftovers every day. The cook named him Ajax. He was like a pet.



Richard Geernaert and his redfish.

The brackish water was dirty in most areas, so it was very difficult to spot the fish. Due to little tide activity, there were not many reds tailing and eating. This made it difficult to find a single fish while poling until you were nearly on top of them. I have to say it was not easy in that situation to cast 10 feet when our rods were 9 feet plus the leader!

The black drum (right) was my favorite fish to catch. Fearsome fighters and yet very docile when landed. Our guide used flies ranging from shrimp patterns with beads to spoon flies on floating line. I brought my Sage saltwater 9 weight outfit, but the outfitter would have supplied all the equipment.



The spoon fly was handmade and cut thru the weeds, like a spinner on a conventional reel. I am going to order some and try them in Clearlake. Apparently, this pattern works on all fish.

One of my favorite parts of the trip was the World War 2 Museum in New Orleans. If you go, you will walk out of the museum feeling proud of our country for the fight those young men gave in battle and how our women and men joined together and did what needed to be done. I just learned my great aunt worked on planes along with Rosie the Riveter!

Serenity By Michael Edwards

To be on a stream,
The stuff of a dream,
Submerged in the glory,
The glimmer and gleam.

A whispering mayfly,
Passes peacefully by,
And draws forth the bond,
Of earth, water, and sky.

He mentions to me,
To use black and not green.
So, I do as he says,
And his wisdom is seen.

Then a firework booms,
In the brown's eye I loom,
And he dances with me,
Out of fear for his doom.

I was lucky today,
Yet still in fearful gaze,
I gently remind him,
It will all be okay.

I retrieve my good fly,
So, the brown will not die,
And I release him swiftly,
For I am a good guy.

Yes, to be on a stream,
The stuff of a dream.
But I'm not here for glory,
Just because it's serene.

Fly Fishermen in the Making Lower Sacramento Drift Boat Trip By Bill Mitchell

Several months ago, Andrew Harris of Confluence Outfitters gave a presentation to the club. One of his suggestions was to book a day long lesson, followed by a drift boat outing. That sounded interesting so I kept it in mind. I asked my son, Colin, if he was interested in coming along. We never fished much when he was growing up; my Hawaiian born wife thought family vacations should revolve around trips back to the islands to search for the perfect plate lunch and perhaps a bit of snorkeling or horseback riding. In any event, his birthday is in May, so this year's present was a river trip with guide Brian Kohlman, a retired Santa Rosa police officer and former club member now guiding out of Redding.



Colin on the Lower Sacramento River with his catch.

We packed our rain gear, as the forecasts called for it, and we did get some heavy rain squalls on the drive up. The following day, however, was about as close to perfect as you could get. Brian picked us up at the hotel in the morning and we headed for the river. He spent a bit of time with Colin giving him some pointers as he'd never held a fly rod before, and then we launched.

I really don't know much about Redding besides having stopped to fill up on trips north. I had no idea how pretty the Sacramento River can be having only

seen it before from the freeway. We saw otters, osprey, lots of ducks and geese, and several deer crossing the river. Though the freeway was just past the trees, at times I felt like Huck Finn drifting through the wilderness.

Colin had most of the strikes (probably more than 20), but it took him a while to get used to setting the hook. Eventually he landed two nice wild steelhead that were photographed and then released. I had fewer strikes, similar ineptness at setting the hook, and did manage to land one small one.

We had a wonderful day. Brian was very conversational and a pleasure to be with. I will be contacting Confluence Outfitters soon about the actual lessons. I'm very new to fly fishing and so far, still poor at it, but my word, this is fun!

Editor's Note:

On the next page is our RRF Summer Picnic flyer. We are encouraging you to buy your tickets early. The flyer mentions *Donations* and our traditional Fundraising Raffle and Silent Auction. ***The following contributions are desirable and, in the past, have come primarily from our club members for our important fundraising raffle and silent auction:***

- Fly Fishing Gear and all types of fishing accessories. (Other fishing gear welcomed.)
- Fly Tying Vises and Tools.
- Prams, Pontoons, or Float Tubes (Must be in very good and safe condition.)
- Camping, Hiking, and Recreational Equipment.
- Art Work and Books.
- Products and services (from your, or a friend's, business.)
- Guided Fishing Trips or access to private fishing water.
- Spa Sessions or Cosmetology Services.
- Food Items or Wine.
- Tickets to Sporting Events or Souvenirs.
- Dinners or stays at B and B's.
- Fun Family Activities.

Your donations help our club to pay for speakers for your enjoyment and to help educate students with the important educational program: Steelhead in

the Classroom, plus we make our own important donations to other not-for-profit organizations helping women and men through fly fishing as a means of therapy. (See Reel Recovery report by Gregg Wrisley on page 6).

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

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

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: _____



The next text box is our final RRF 2022 Ballot form for our Officers and Board of Directors. June 30, 2022 is the deadline for receiving your vote. You may easily vote at our RRF website, or you may mail in your ballot to Brandan Galten (his address included at the end of the ballot). This is another important event we'd like members to participate in. Let your voice be heard at the polls.

Russian River Fly Fishers

2022 Ballot

Officers & Board of Directors

The following candidates have been nominated by the RRF Board of Directors to serve for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. You may choose to elect the candidate slate as presented or you may write-in other RRF members in the spaces provided. There were two nominations received from the general membership and they are included on this ballot.

RRFF Officers

President

1.) Penelope Gadd-Coster
2.) _____

Vice-President

1.) Ed Barich
2.) _____

Board Members - (Elected for a 2-year Term)

1.) Mike Spurlock	5.) Karl Joost
2.) Doug Mackay	6.) Penelope Gadd-Coster
3.) Ed Barich	7.) Dave Stone
4.) Tim Reuling	8.) Dan Powers

I choose to elect the Candidate Slate as presented above.
(Check box to accept ballot as presented.)

Returning Board Members (beginning second year of 2-year term)

1.) Steve Tubbs	5.) Mike Borba
2.) Gregg Wrisley	6.) Jeff Cratty
3.) Spencer Bader	7.) Brendan Galten
4.) Don Shaw	

Return all ballots by June 30, 2022

Vote online at rrflyfisher.org

Or, Ballots may be mailed to: Russian River Fly Fishers,
c/o Brendan Galten, 820 Western Avenue, Petaluma CA 94945.

Fly of the Month



By Mike Borba

Summer trout steam fishing season is here, so I decided the fly of the month should be my favorite trout stream dry fly. **Mercer's Missing Link** is a pattern you may have heard of, but not tied or used. Give it a try. You will be happy you did. Here is the link for tying this fly.

<https://youtu.be/p69Tayjmsw8>

Materials list:

Hook: TMC 100 sizes 14-18

Thread: Olive 6/0 or 8/0

Body: pearl crystal flash

Thorax: peacock dubbing

Spent wing: grey zelon

Hackle: grizzly or cree

Wing: bleached elk hair

Tying and fishing notes: This isn't the easiest pattern to tie. Start by tying it on a #14 hook and work down from there. I will sometimes fish this pattern below a larger dry fly. For example, I might tie on a #12

humpy or Parachute Adams to my leader, clinch knot 18" of tippet to the bend of that fly and attach the smaller fly to the tippet. Happy Summer!

Cartoon Corner This Month's Caption Contest



Send your caption for the "fish's" comment in this cartoon to: Dave Stone, Editor.

RRFF Women Angler's Voice By Penelope Gadd-Coster

This will be a new monthly addition to the newsletter focusing on events, tips, and education for women anglers that are members of RRFF. Let's use this space to share our fly fishing stories, experiences, photos, where we have fished, and tips we can pass along to each other. I am interested in increasing our women's membership numbers and hearing your stories that aren't being shared for this newsletter.

FFI Women Connect video:

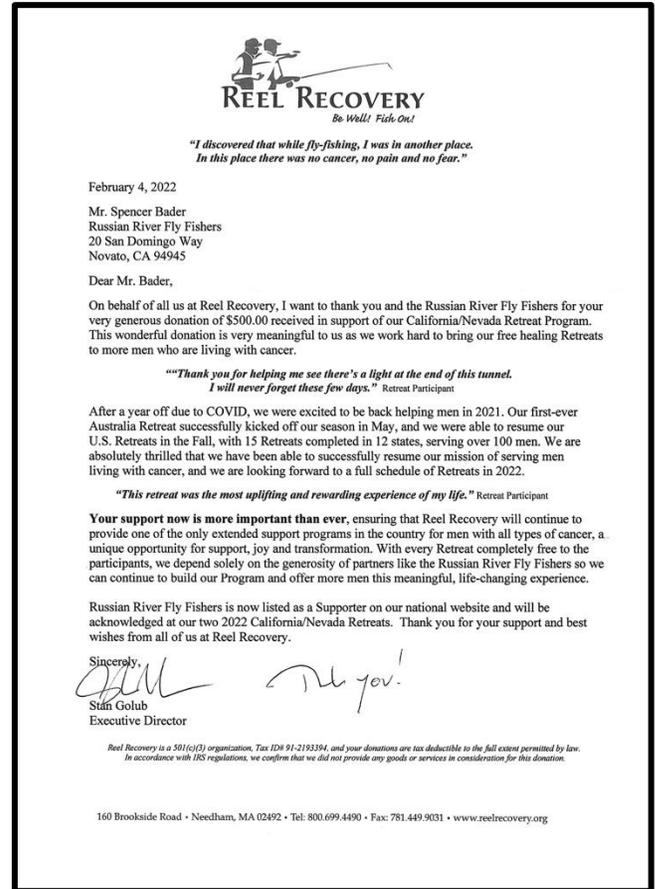
<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/FFI-Women-Connect> and Driftless

Rendezvous video: <https://youtu.be/YSrSb3nHe3U>

Also, I would love to hear about where you would like to go to fish, where you have fished, and what you would like to learn—let's get the conversation going! Women members of our RRFF club can email me at Penelope as I would like to start planning trips for this year. I am thinking four trips this year. Email me to let me know your thoughts!

Reel Recovery By Gregg Wrisley

Russian River Fly Fishers Board of Directors approved a \$500 donation to Reel Recovery's cause. Below is their "Thank you" letter for our donation.



The Russian River Fly Fishers support many organizations that use fly fishing to help individuals with recovery issues from traumatic events in people's lives. These organizations are **Casting for Recovery** which supports women with breast cancer, **Reel Recovery** which helps men with cancer, and **Healing Waters** which help veterans with issues like, PTSD,

The January Cast 2022 issue printed an interview, discussing my experience volunteering for Reel Recovery.

I wanted every one of you to see their letter. And I want to personally thank Russian River Fly Fishers for being so generous.

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.

June 9th - 12th Lake Manzanita

June 23rd - 26th Lake Almanor

July 16th - Summer Dinner 4:30 - 7 PM at Galvin Park Picnic Area (picnic flyer, pg. 4 below)

Sept. 29th – Oct. 2nd Lake Davis

Oct. 13th – 16th Lewiston Lake

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.

<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: **Ed Barich**

Vice President & Program Chair: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

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 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