

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County
California
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Marcus with His Catch
Stillwater Fishing

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

President's Message Too much of a good thing (again)...

The spring of 2019 is shaping up to be a repeat of 2017, with Northern California lakes and rivers up to their levees in aqueous bounty. Wasn't it just last year when we got back into drought mode, with some of our favorite spots looking kind of dried-out? Now we have to deal with too much of a good thing, and it's making the logistics challenging for our club's outing calendar. In March, the Yuba River trip was rescheduled for mid-April and the Clear Lake outing was pushed out two weeks – only to be rescheduled again for May. River fishing will be especially tenuous, as late spring rains push the

fishing dates later into the expected higher flows caused by the melting of a record Sierra snowpack. Sometimes it seems an angler can't catch a fish or a break.

So it's time to roll out some of the tactics that got us through a soggy spring of 2017. The best bets that year were the lakes and reservoirs, which tended to drop their levels and clear faster than the streams. Our April 25-28 Pyramid Lake outing should fit that bill nicely. While roads around that lake were damaged in the 2017 storms, there was no such

problem this year, and recent reports indicate the bite there is starting to warm up. (You may be wondering why we won't be having a Baum Lake "trout opener"; the Pyramid trip will be our opener this year, since this was the only date we could arrange for lodging there.) The Pyramid outing is typically one of our club's best attended events, thanks to the reasonable possibility of encountering some larger than average Lahontan Cutthroat trout. It's also a good outing for beginning anglers, since the fishing is all from shore and there will be enough members present to help new fly fishers learn the tricks. This trip typically fills up quickly, so if you are not on the roster, contact our outings coordinator, Chris Castellucci, soon.

If you do decide to fish the streams this year, it would be wise to adjust your methods to match the conditions. You might want to check out Jon Baiocchi's article "Tactics for High Water" in the April 2018 issue of California Fly Fisher magazine. Jon's attitude is that even with high and cloudy waters, trout still need to eat to fuel their metabolism. His advice is target softer flow areas, get your flies down fast to where the fish are, and of course, practice safe wading.

The silver lining in all of this is that this fall's fishing opportunities are bound to benefit from the wet winter we slogged through. So it might make sense to start planning for some late summer/early fall adventures. But don't let that stop you from getting out there now – show your flexibility and adapt to the situation, just as the trout do.

Tight lines,

Ed Barich

One Saturday in March, Near Red Bluff

Some club members made the approximately 3.5 hour drive north-east to Eagle Cannon Lakes, a private fly fishing destination which offers stillwater fishing (catch and release of course) from two small

lakes stocked with very large rainbow trout averaging in the neighborhood of ten pounds with some monsters being much, much larger. Almost all of the participants in that March Saturday's fishing landed multiple specimens of these fine fish.

Mt. Lassen served as a beautiful backdrop to the location with most fish being caught on small streamer offerings such as woolly buggers and damsel imitations. Some of the fish even came on Prince nymphs as small as size 16. The colors of the day for the streamer action were black and olive green.

Although not a club outing, the participants enjoyed a wonderful Saturday full of camaraderie, food, and fishing for fine trout.

Below pictured are two happy fishermen with their catches.

~ *Marcus Pipkin*
Newsletter Editor



Jeff with an awesome catch!!!



Don got a really nice one!!!



View of Mt. Lassen from Eagle Cannon

Cabin Fever Cure

Article By: Club Member Walt Kruse

It was a long wet, destructive winter here in the motherlode and cabin fever had definitely set in. I started to crave beers with names like Steelhead or Trout Slayer so I knew fishing was in order.

So, armed with my 8 weight, loaded with 330 grains of Rio coldwater Outbound Saltwater for streamers and my 7 weight and floating line to present nymphs, I hit the road to Pyramid Lake north of Reno, which is my go-to location when the streams draining the Sierra Nevada are still too high to fish. This is a huge alkaline Lake in a desert setting. It is one of the largest natural lakes in Nevada at 125,000 acres covering 88 square miles. We fish for large cutthroat there which average 21-23 inches but you have the chance to catch trout over ten pounds on a fly rod which keeps you coming back. Only a permit from the Pyramid Lake Indian (Paiute) Reservation is needed. I exited the driveway with a beautiful full moon shining down on the orchard and pasture in need of work. Some say the bite is not as good then but what the heck.

The drive, thank goodness, was dry and clear with great views of snow-covered Sierra Nevada and roadside snowbanks towering above my truck.

I crested Mullen Pass at 10:30 and there it was, Pyramid Lake. I was feeling better already and 55 degrees with only a slight wind felt balmy there. Pyramid Lake is a huge lake so first off, where should I fish? I do like a little chop, and it was choppy but it was uniform throughout the lake, no help there. I turned right at the junction to check out the south beaches. Blockhouse was a zoo and there was no action occurring at the others - so off to the north.

No one was at the South nets because the lake is high and it was too far to wade to the drop-off. North Nets was doable but nobody was hooking anything. Next stop Pelican and there I could see rods bent periodically and decided to get wet there. While suiting up, the report was that there was an indicator bite using balanced leaches, so that is how I started. After an hour of using the indicator in a variety of ways I stopped for lunch and resumed by stripping a streamer followed by a white foam beetle. And there they were, two good size Pilot Peak cutthroat. All these trout have the adipose fin clipped. Hopefully some natural production will

start showing results. But just like that, not another hit. Since I had to go back south to Reno to stay my first night anyway, and the moss was a little irritating, I pulled out and fished the end of the day at one of the south beaches and in the last half hour caught 3 Summit strain using the balanced leach under an indicator.

Next day arrived at the Lake at 9:30 AM, still calm and 50 degrees. I decided to go back down to a south beach since the guys I fished with had a steadily productive day yesterday and it wasn't crowded. The strategy was to stay in one place and let the fish come to me. Well I fished all day with 3 guys from Reno who were a kick to be around. I even worked on one guy's cast for awhile as he fished both hardware and flies and carried a fly rod because he wanted to learn the sport. The fishing was SLOW. I ended up landing 2 of 4 hits on the balanced leach before I checked into my trailer at a mid-day break and a cold wind and rain blew me off the lake.

Since I was staying at Crosby's, my plan for the next day was to set the ladder early, early, early, to get a spot at a place I had seen fish, which was at Pelican despite the moss - Sunrise tomorrow at 7:10 AM.

Mission accomplished, I started fishing in the dark at 6:10 AM.

The all-night rain had stopped and it was 45 degrees this morning with a slight breeze not interfering with casting - caught my first one in the dark which was a bit of a fire drill even with a headlamp. I fished till about 9:30 AM and landed 5/9 stripping, with a steady retrieve being the best of the day. I used a Boobie (a foam type fly) with a chartreuse/black streamer and both had success. Loaded up the truck, went back to the room, showered and finished clean up and checked out as required at 11 AM - an awesome way to break out of my cabin fever.

Hopefully I'll see some of you up there at the Club outing.



A very nice crappie (her first) caught by club member Judy Brandi while fishing with Lee Soares and Susan Bostwick at Clear Lake.

Our continued thanks for the commitment of Susan Bostwick and Lee Soares, and their support of the RRFF Women's Activities and Fly-tying Program.

Donate your extra fly fishing gear to our [RRFF Bargain Table](#) (at every General Meeting). A fellow member could use it!

Some Photos from a Recent Fly Tying Class for the Boy Scouts:



RRFF Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter materials are due the fourth Monday of each month. Please email submissions as an MSWord doc to our newsletter editor:

Marcus Pipkin –
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April Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – Held every Thursday during Daylight Savings Time – 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting).

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

Casting Pond on Summer Schedule – Thursdays 4:30 – 7:30

April 10 – General Meeting held at the Santa Rosa Vest's Hall

April 16 – Fly Fishing Film Tour held at Rialto Theater in Sebastopol

April 17 – Board Meeting

April 18 – Fly Fishing Film Tour held at Fort Mason (SF)

April 25-28 – Pyramid Lake Outing

April 26-28 Spey-o-Rama – Golden Gate Park

Visit www.rrflyfisher.org for a complete list of upcoming events!

RRFF Board of Directors

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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).

Name _____ Date _____ Referred by _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail Address* _____

Main Interests in the Club? _____

Occupation _____ Signature _____

* Required for e-mail newsletter

Please mark one of the following categories:

I apply as a new member: Single membership - \$50 annual dues Gold membership - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Family membership - \$55 annual dues [JOIN ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

Junior membership - \$25 annual dues

Existing membership renewal: Single membership - \$50 annual dues Gold membership - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Family membership - \$55 annual dues [RENEW ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

Junior membership - \$25 annual dues

Dues paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 30th of any year will cover the balance of that year and also the membership dues for the following fiscal year. The RRFF fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**
c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945