

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 44, Number 12
December 2017

**Brian Hartley with Trinity River
Steelhead**

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

President's Message

Less is more?

The days have grown shorter and the winter solstice is just weeks away. It's a time of the year when I find it tempting to light the fireplace, curl up with a good fishing book or catalog, and maybe catch a few Z's (instead of a few trout). Quite a contrast to just a few months ago when fly fishing opportunities abounded; so many locations and species beckoned that it was hard to make a decision about where to go and what to go after. Ah, the dilemma of having too many choices.

But as they say, sometimes less is more. With less choice comes the possibility of focusing and concentrating in a few important areas. If the

weather outside turns nasty, maybe that would be a good time to pick up some new fly tying skills – the internet is full of useful videos. Or perhaps it's time to do a little research on new fishing spots, which also can be done on-line. And if the weather behaves this winter (or if the cabin fever gets too intense), this might be a good time to put in a few of those "thousand casts" it takes to land a migrating steelhead in our local waters. It's hard to plan a successful steelhead outing weeks in advance, but with some schedule flexibility it may be possible to pick the best times and locations to optimize your chances for success.

With that last option in mind, if you need increase your skills and knowledge for steelhead angling, our club is providing practice and information in the coming months. Our **Winter Saturday Casting**

Clinics, held at the Galvin Park casting pond at noon on the first and third Saturdays of the month (weather permitting), are a great opportunity to stretch those arm muscles that may not be used to the heavier gear necessary to pursue steelhead. And next month, Steve Tubbs and other club members will share their knowledge of catching steelhead on flies at our annual **RRFF Steelhead Clinic** on January 6th (check the club calendar for time and location).

I wish you and your families the best for this holiday season and I hope that in the New Year you will find peace and happiness in all the good things that nature provides.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich



RRFF General Meeting

~ *featuring Lance Gray* ~

Wednesday, December 13th - 7:00 pm

The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building

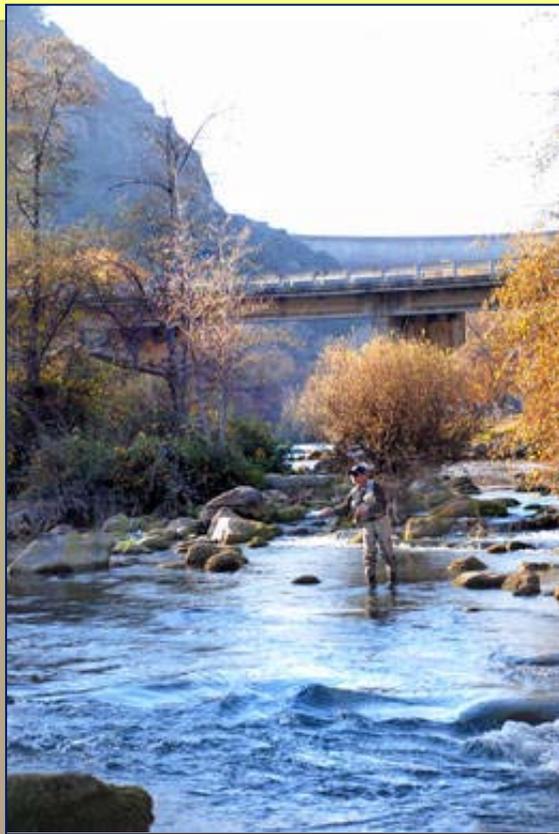
Lance started fly fishing with his father and brother Lincoln at age 7. In his teens, he began tying flies commercially for shops all around Northern California. At 17, he went to work at Powell's in Chico, working in the fly shop and building rods. He guided for Powell's, conducted fly-tying and fly-fishing schools, and traveled.

In 2003, Lance and Kirsten Gray launched Lance Gray & Company, a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing schools, workshops and a travel agency. Lance conducts presentations at fly clubs and outdoor shows and supports local groups like Cub Scouts and 4H. He's a signature tier for Aqua Flies, pro staff member for Sage and Rio and is a featured writer, with articles published in *Angling Trade Magazine*, *California Fly Fisher*, *Fly Fishermen*, *Sierra Fisherman* and *Northwest Fly Fishing*.

Lance's Presentation: Putah Creek

Putah Creek is filled with wild rainbows ranging from 8" to 20" or bigger. The big fish we measure in pounds. The creek is a tail-water fishery starting from the dam on Lake Berryessa. The water runs cold and the trout flourish. The creek runs along Highway 28 from Winters to Napa. Some fishing areas are popular – but if you get away from the crowds, the reward is truly amazing. This fishery is a no take wild trout fishery that needs to be taken care of for future generations.

Make plans now to attend our
Annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner
Saturday, February 17th, 2018
at the
Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building.



Putah Creek - wild trout in our own backyard...

DONATE YOUR EXTRA FLY FISHING GEAR to our **RRFF Bargain Table** (at every RRFF General Meeting).
A fellow member could use it!

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



James Orosz with Trinity River Steel...

Trinity River Outing Report

Our annual RRFF Trinity River trip was attended the weekend of November 9 - 12, by Brian Hartley, James Orosz, and Julian and Sommer Garrett. They fished in the rain from the banks around Junction City.

Brian and James each landed nice early season steelies. Brian caught his drifting an indicator (cover photo), while James had success fishing the swing. Julian cast to a "huge fish" along Evans Bar, but it rejected his fly with a big splash.

Despite low and muddied water, they said there were a number of anglers on the river.

Thanks for the reports guys. I'm sure that more of us will join you next year.

~ Ken Magoon, RRFF Outings Director

Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy, Sporting Collectible Show

Friday, March 9, 2018

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Show Hours -

Fri. 9 am to 5 pm & Sat. 8 am to 3 pm.

*Santa Rosa Veterans Building
1351 Maple Avenue in Santa Rosa, off Hwy 12
across from the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.*

...No Guns & No Ammo...

For more information, call

Red Johnson,

707-539-3662, cell: 707-888-7935

email: warrenjo@pacbell.net

www.redsshow.com

RRFF Winter Casting Clinics

The RRFF **Winter Fly Casting Schedule** is now in effect and our clinics will be held on **the first and third Saturday of each month** (weather permitting). Fly casting begins at noon and ends around 2:30 pm. Please join us at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

Our Casting Clinics are **FREE** and are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** **Beginners are always welcome**, and we do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own.

Fly casting proficiency is achieved only through practice. Our volunteer instructors can help you fine-tune your casting stroke, but it is up to you to make those adjustments your own.

~ Steve Tubbs, RRFF Casting Instruction Director

Clear Lake Panfish -

Two flyfishermen, 50 fish, 4 hours

Some people like to just fly fish for trout..... Or just for steelhead..... Or just for big fish. But if you want numbers, you might try Clear Lake for panfish.

During the fall and into spring, there are many schools of crappie and bluegill feeding on small fish, probably threadfin shad. Lee Soares likes to launch his drift boat at Indian Beach Resort on Highway 20 (<https://lakecounty.com/accommodation/indian-beach-resort/>) on the northeast shore of Clear Lake.

We scouted the area immediately off-shore (around the docks) and the adjacent shoreline, using a depth-finder to locate schools in about 20-feet of water. We fished with 5-6 weight fly rods using type 3-4 sink rate shooting heads set up with two fly rigs retrieved using short, slow strips. The "takes" were very subtle and somewhat hard to recognize, often just a slight flicker of the line or rod tip.

In four hours of fishing, we boated about 50 fish, about half of them crappie.



Lee's fly seemed to work best (lower right)...



Crappie, a type of sunfish...



Bluegill, another type of sunfish. (not sure if instead this might be a green sunfish?)...



Lee got several doubles (crappie on both flies)

Join the RRF on Facebook

We currently have **847 members** on our RRF Facebook page. You can keep up with the RRF and our fly fishing and conservation community by joining us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers>

Indian Beach is on a cove with a shore protected from the north wind which was nice. There were also a few other people fishing from boats and from the dock using spinning rods. A float tube, pontoon boat, kayak or canoe would also work well. Indian Beach rents boats and kayaks.

At Indian Beach, boat launch costs \$10. Indian Beach rents lakeside cottages for \$140/night which allows customers to fish from their docks. It might be fun to get a RRF members group together there for an outing and get Lee to show us how to catch these fish.

~ Mike Spurlock

Newsletter Editor
WANTED!!

Are you familiar with MS Word and Desktop Publishing, and do you have editing skills? Will help!

Please contact Steve Tubbs - steve@kresky.com

2018 RRF Outings

Annual Steelhead Clinic, January 6, 2018

Recent rains have opened the River and some steelies have been caught. Weather permitting, we will meet at Johnson's Beach in Guerneville at 8 am for presentations, and then share other fishing access points on the Lower Russian River. If nature doesn't cooperate, we'll hold the clinic at the Casting Pond in Galvin Park. Sign up at the next club meeting or on the RRF Web Site. Depending on where the clinic is held, we traditionally meet for breakfast around 7 am at either Pat's in Guerneville, or Legend's Restaurant at the Bennett Valley Golf Course (in Dan Galvin Park).

Gualala River Steelhead Fishing, January 18th to 21st

The "easy" wading lower stretch of the Gualala provides a good opportunity for less experienced fly fishers to learn techniques and stream etiquette. You should have "controlled" fly casting skills, because the fish hold next to the banks and underbrush.

A couple of RRF members have made reservations at the **Surf Motel at Gualala**, (707) 884-3871.

The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton, CA February 23rd to 25th

This is a good day-outing to catch up on current equipment, learn about fly fishing locations and techniques. Check out the RRF web site for details and to sign up to share a ride.

Pay-to -Fish Private Lakes, March 2nd and 3rd

On Friday, March 2 a group will fish **Luk Lake**, at Rolling Hills Casino, near Corning, CA. It allows anglers to bring rowed boats and float tubes on a 65 acre lake. The fee will be +/- \$130 per angler. Ed Barich is organizing this outing.

Saturday, March 3 a group (8 maximum) will fish **Eagle Canyon Lake**, located 25 miles east of Red Bluff. It will cost \$125 each rod and casting from banks. Ken Magoon is the organizer.

We will stay in a local motel or RV park.

Baum Lake Trout Fishing, March 22nd to 25th

Early Spring is considered a prime period to fish this planted lake on Hat Creek. Some type of floatation fishing craft is highly recommended for best access to whole lake. We stay in motels in Burney Falls.

Pyramid Lake - April 5th to 8th

Reservations have been made for about 17 people at Crosby's Lodge and limited to club members and their guests. In addition to hooking large Lahontan Cutthroat trout, we have some great meals prepared by John Frenzel and friends. Sign-up on the RRF Web Site and at upcoming club meetings.

Lower Sacramento River, April 19th to 22nd

Christie Geernaert has set up a weekend of guided fishing with motel reservations on the Lower Sacramento River. You can stay with club members at the GAIA Motel in Andersen, CA (Thursday, Friday, maybe Saturday) and fish with a local professional guide, Friday and Saturday. Sign up on the RRF Web Site. Contact Christie (christiegeer@gmail.com) for names of guides you can hire.

RRFF Annual Trout Opener, Location and Date TBA

This is another great club outing and weekend party usually held at a lake on a weekend in early May.

~ Ken Magoon, RRF Outings Director

RAFFLE DONATIONS

for

RRFF Cioppino Dinner Raffle and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 17th, 2018. Contact one of the following Board members to have your donation picked up. [Please get your donations to one us at least a week prior to the dinner.](#)

Ken Magoon, 527-8376 or magoon5294@aol.com
(Santa Rosa)

Gregg Wrisley, 823-5572 or gwriss@yahoo.com
(Sebastopol)

Paul Matzen, 795-8885 (Petaluma)

Doug Mackay, 575-5709 or demackay@sonic.net
(Santa Rosa)

All of the following contributions are desirable:

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.

Include donor's name and description of the item donated. (Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept RV's, autos or large boats.)

The RRF Cioppino Dinner is our only fund-raising event of the year. Your donations, and your participation, always make this evening a memorable one! Make plans now to attend...

~ 2017 RRF Dinner Donations Committee



Teaser - Kelly Ames and Tim Grogan on Pyramid Lake last month...



Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

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Bill Archuleta, owner

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(707) 869-2156.

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412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.

(707) 588-8033,

fax (707) 588-8035

www.outdoorproshop.com

Calendar of Events

Winter Fly Casting Clinics – Clinics are held the first and third Saturday of each month, from 12:00 noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting). This event is FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Beginners are welcome...

December

- 2 Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm
- 9 Don Clausen Fish Hatchery Tour (Derek Campbell)
- 13 RRFF General Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 16 Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm
- 20 RRFF Board Meeting

January

- 6 RRFF Steelhead Clinic (Steve Tubbs, Ken Magoon) Replaces Casting Clinic.
- 10 RRFF General Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 17 RRFF Board Meeting
- 18-21 Gualala River Steelhead (Ken Magoon)
- 18-21 International Sportsmen's Exposition - Sac
- 27 Steelhead in the Classroom Training - SCWA

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

RRFF Board of Directors

President: Ed Barich

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Vice President: Doug Mackay

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Secretary and Outings Chairman: Ken Magoon

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Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: Steve Tubbs

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Program Chairman: Joe Banovich

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795-8885 gbridgeman@att.net

Member at Large: Ken Young

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Raffle Coordinator: Gregg Wrisley

823-5572 gwris@yahoo.com

Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: Lee Soares

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

Women's Activities: Susan Bostwick

815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

Raffle Coordinator: Christie Geernaert

292-1304 christiegeer@gmail.com

Casting Pond Stewards: Doug & Sage Mackay

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: Binky Castleberry

527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: Steve Tubbs (reluctant)

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Russian River Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 2673
Santa Rosa, CA 95405



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* _____

How Can You Help the RRFF? _____

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**