

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 45, Number 12  
December 2018

**Yuba River Outing**  
December 1-2, 2018

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

## President's Message

### Resolutions, Resolutions...

With the New Year coming up quickly, it's time to think about resolutions. No, not the stuff you know you should stop doing, like eating too much pasta or forgetting to put on sun screen – curing yourself of bad habits is useful, but seldom inspiring. Instead, why not make a resolution to try something new next year? Your fly fishing hobby might be a good place to look for opportunities, such as:

- **Learn a new technique.** Have you ever cast a spey rod? Casting a two-handed rod can increase the area you can cover on a river, it's a lot gentler on your

rotator cuff, and it can be quite enjoyable once you get the hang of it. The same goes for Tenkara rods – once you get over the “where's the reel?” shock, it can take you back to your younger days when even small fish were big game.

- **Fish someplace new.** Nothing succeeds like success, and going to the same spots each year can be productive, but how about the challenge of new waters? Maybe this will be the year to travel out of state, or out of country, to get some new experiences and perspectives. Or maybe it's time to check out that spot that you drive by frequently, but never stop at to fish.

- **Take someone new fishing.** Do you know a fly fisher you could learn a few things from, but have never had the opportunity to fish with? Or maybe there is someone new to the sport who could benefit from your years of experience. Either way, you both may learn a few things and possibly even start a new friendship.

If none of those ideas appeals to you, there is always the old standby of getting better at the things you (think) you already know. 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 Dan 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 this month, Steve Tubbs and other club members will share their knowledge of catching steelhead on flies at our annual **RRFF Steelhead Clinic** on Dec. 8 (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*

**Phil White – Fish Habit Outfitters**

Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

**7:00 pm – The Lodge Room,  
Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Building**

Phil White is a California native and an outdoor aficionado. His youth was spent in the outdoors fishing, hunting, hiking and panning gold.

During his twenties, he quickly made his way up the ranks and into a career in fly fishing. Phil's start began with American Fly Fishing Co. After years of dedication to AFFC, he eventually formed his own independent guide service. In 2014, Phil partnered with Joe Vasquez to form *Fish Habit Outfitters, LLC*, where they operated for several years from Kiene's Fly Shop. After departing the shop in late 2017, Phil and Joe now operate *Fish Habit Outfitters* at its own location in Fair Oaks, California.



## 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@inspiri2.com](mailto:steve@inspiri2.com)

Phil guides full-time and comes highly recommended; his schedule is often booked months in advance. He has guided several of Alaska's Pacific Salmon rivers and is an American River and Lower Sacramento River expert. Phil is a featured International Sportsmen's Exposition speaker/presenter, and has been featured in articles in the S.F. Chronicle and in several other fishing publications.

Join us for another memorable evening.

~ Editor



## Trinity River Outing

Chris Castellucci, Karl Joost, Ken Young, Matt Cardle, Julian Garrett and I traveled up to *The Old Lewiston Inn Bed and Breakfast* to stay and fish the Trinity River. It's a delightful Inn with room for up to 7, serving large breakfasts on the weekends only. They



have a large area in back that has a microwave and gas barbecue. We cooked and ate dinner outside, and it was cold!

Everyone caught fish, mostly using guides. Chris and Matt also fished the lower Sacramento, where they did quite well. Small, non-traditional flies were the order of the day, instead of traditional steelhead

flies. I caught my two fish on a size 14 dropper. Julian got his fish on a dry fly. The guides from the Trinity Fly Shop we're all excellent. I think Chris and Matt got their guides at The Fly Shop in Redding.

~ Bill Laurie

## Yahoo Group Message Board

There is a Yahoo Group for RRFF General Membership that you may be interested in. There is a link on the website and about 1/3 of our membership has joined this group.

Participation is limited to members only. It is not heavily used and has averaged about 7 postings/month this year. Example recent communications are:

- Website calendar has been updated.
- Attached are some photos of our recent fishing trip to.....
- Sonoma Superior Court rules in favor of Friends of the Gualala River's lawsuit over floodplain timber harvest plan.
- Verona fishing is ok, not the best we have ever seen.
- More trout in the classroom photos are posted.

If a member posts a message, an email with the message is sent to all group members (as are all replies to the post).

If you are a club member and interested in joining, send a message to [rff2015-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:rff2015-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Either Mike Spurlock or Don Shaw will approve you.

You do not need a yahoo email address.

If you would like to drop out, it is very easy to unsubscribe by sending a message to [rff2015-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:rff2015-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com).

~ Mike Spurlock

**Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers  
on the Internet at**

**[www.rfflyfisher.org](http://www.rfflyfisher.org)**

**for outings information, RRFF events,  
member news, photos and more!**



*Through a classroom program that gives students eggs to raise, children uncover a brand new world, explore fascinating aquatic habitats, and hope that when released, their tiny fish will survive.*

Story by Ethan Rotman

The third-grade classroom was abuzz that day. Students had been preparing for several weeks with anticipation. They'd studied plants and animals during a fieldtrip to a local creek; created posters using markers, sprinkles, and colorful cutouts on how urban runoff harms wildlife; and memorized the life cycle of trout. In the corner of their classroom

they'd helped set up an aquarium that a fly-fishing club had delivered. Each day they'd monitored the water's temperature to ensure it remained within the narrow range necessary for trout eggs to survive. When Ken Brunskil walked into the classroom cradling a small ice chest excitement nearly erupted. Brunskil, a volunteer from Mission Peak Fly Anglers, smiled as the students pressed forward as he slid the lid off and removed the small package wrapped in gauze. While they knew what the gauze was protecting, there was almost a collective holding of breath as Brunskil peeled back layer after layer to reveal 30 bright red trout eggs in the palm of his hand. "They're beautiful!" one student exclaimed. Giggles rang through the room.

Delicately, Brunskil placed the eggs one-by-one into the tank and gently covered them with the tiny gravel. For the next several weeks, the hidden eggs were watched over by the students. Once the first tiny fish appeared in its larval stage the classroom moved to the next step of an already laid-out plan that supports the developing fish until they can survive in the wild. Through this classroom experience, the students witness first-hand the value of aquatic environments, and ultimately the balance necessary to preserve California's fisheries and aquatic habitats. The scene has played out in more than 2,000 classrooms across the state. Elementary school students strive to create ideal aquarium conditions needed for eggs to hatch and young fish to survive. The process helps them understand larger ecological concepts including habitat elements, how organisms interact, and how human actions can affect local waterways.

"The Trout-in-the-Classroom program is a great way to integrate life science concepts, such as observation, food webs, habitats, and adaptation, with reading, descriptive and expressive writing, and units of measure," says Judi Burle, a teacher at Jefferson Elementary in San Leandro. "My students were fascinated when the eggs hatched. They even wrote farewell poems to mark the release of the fish into a native stream. The experience gives them a reason to care about watershed conservation."

California educators know the program under different names. Some have called it *Salmon in the Classroom*, *Steelhead in the Classroom* and *Salmon and Trout Education Program*. By whatever name used in the classroom, the program that links

students to hatching fish is one of the Department of Fish and Game's aquatic education modules, the *Classroom Aquarium Education Program* (CAEP). CAEP brings Chinook salmon, rainbow, and steelhead trout into classroom aquariums and offers



curriculum designed specifically for these species and the area's local environment. The idea of hatching fish in a classroom as part of an organized study

opportunity began in British Columbia in the 1970s. Local non-profit organizations carried the program to California and worked with DFG hatchery staff to establish it here.

Elementary school teachers like Burle attend a certification workshop before taking this program into the classroom. The teachers learn about fish and what they need to survive. During the workshop they practice setting up aquariums, participate in aquatic education activities designed to engage the teacher and the student, and then discover how to get the eggs and where to release the fish. The biggest treat and surprise for Burle was the support of the fly-fishing club. These clubs assist in tank set-up, offer financial and technical assistance, and in many cases deliver the eggs to the teachers. More than 50 California clubs actively support CAEP. Some have done so for more than 25 years.

"This program is an opportunity to connect students with aquatic environments," says Chris Ramsey, the CAEP coordinator for DFG's nine-county North Coast Region, including Del Norte to Modoc to Lassen and Mendocino counties. "It's great to see how excited the students become. Hatching fish in the classroom, and then releasing them, gives the students a reason to care about their local streams and lakes. They want to protect their fish." The goal of the program is to create stewards of aquatic systems, Ramsey explains. "This is viewed as an educational program, not a restoration or stocking program. Success is measured by the learning experience of the students—not how many fish are put into the water."

CAEP structures its classroom experience to align with state educational standards so that the curriculum is easily delivered. Through CAEP, DFG supports California teachers with scientific

information in a developed lesson plan that creates a sense of stewardship and ownership in the minds and hearts of their students. In Burle's San Leandro classroom, each day the students rushed in to see their fish. They diligently recorded the conditions of the aquarium's water, and then watched and recorded the changes as the eggs hatched to alevin, a newly-hatched fish in the larval stage, which has not yet emerged from its nesting area. The alevins have a noticeable yolk sac, and the tiny fish need this yolk sac while their digestive systems develop. At this stage, the students know their fish are not prepared to hunt live prey, and are completely dependent on the yolk sacs and the students to maintain an appropriate environment in the aquarium.



Six weeks after the eggs hatched the students stood on the edge of a lake, crowding forward until the water touched the toes of their tennis shoes. Burle sensed their joy mixed with apprehension. Each of them clutched a paper cup that contains "their" fish. Those who wrote poems read from pieces of paper, others whispered secret wishes. Then collectively they knelt and slowly submerged the cups, gradually filling them with water, and then watched as their fish swam away—darting for the safety of the natural aquatic habitat the students learned about. While the fish are released into the wild, each student holds the memory of the experience and carries the hope that their fish will survive and grow.

*For more information on the Classroom Aquarium Education Program, visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/caep](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/caep) Ethan Rotman is a DFG coordinator for CAEP and the Fishing in the City Program for the San Francisco Bay Area...*

~ All Photos by John Davis

## Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **910 members** on our RRFF Facebook page. You can keep up with the RRFF and our fly fishing and conservation community by joining us at:

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

## RAFFLE DONATIONS for RRFF Cioppino Dinner Raffle and Silent Auction Saturday, February 16th, 2019

Contact one of the following Board members to have your donation picked up:

**Gregg Wisley**, 823-5572 or [gwris@yahoo.com](mailto:gwris@yahoo.com)

**Doug Mackay**, 575-5709 or [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

**Please get your donations to us at least one week prior to the dinner.**

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 RRFF 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...

~ 2019 RRFF Dinner Donations Committee



Doug Mackay and Jeff Cratty cleaning the Casting Pond...

## RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics

The RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park

Held on the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting).

Our Winter Fly Casting Clinics are **FREE** and are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Beginners are always welcome.

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

Won't you join us?



A Yuba River Rainbow...

## Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

### Archuleta's Reel Works

Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.

733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527  
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Bill Archuleta, owner

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[www.kingsrussianriver.com](http://www.kingsrussianriver.com)

### Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.

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(707) 588-8033,

Fax (707) 588-8035

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## Calendar of Events

**RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics** – Held on the first and third Saturday of each month (weather permitting).

This event is **FREE** and is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Beginners are welcome...

### December

- 1 Winter Fly Casting Clinic – noon – 2:30 pm
- 1-2 Yuba River Outing – (Ed Barich)
- 8 Annual RRFF Steelhead Clinic – (Steve Tubbs, Jeff Cratty, Mike Spurlock) Monte Rio Beach
- 7-9 Ladies Clear Lake Outing – (Susan Bostwick)
- 12 RRFF General Meeting – 6:30 @ SR Vet's Hall
- 13 RRFF Board Meeting – Sportsman's Warehouse
- 15 Winter Fly Casting Clinic – noon – 2:30 pm

Visit [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) for a complete list of upcoming events!

## RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 [ebarich@sonic.net](mailto:ebarich@sonic.net)

Vice President: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Secretary: **Vacant**

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

(415)-599-6138 [mikerrff@gmail.com](mailto:mikerrff@gmail.com)

Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: **Steve Tubbs**

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Library Master / Outings: **Don Shaw**

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Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: **Paul Matzen**

795-8885 [ggbridgeman@att.net](mailto:ggbridgeman@att.net)

Raffle Assistant: **Ken Young**

539-9649 [wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net)

Conservation Chairman: **Vacant**

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

823-5572 [gwriss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwriss@yahoo.com)

Member at Large: **Jeff Cratty**

765-2404 [rjcratty@yahoo.com](mailto:rjcratty@yahoo.com)

Member at Large: **Karl Joost**

978-3897 [joostspacbell.net](mailto:joostspacbell.net)

### Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

974-2651 [frommewee@comcast.net](mailto:frommewee@comcast.net)

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**

815-5926 [shbgold@gmail.com](mailto:shbgold@gmail.com)

Casting Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 [fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net](mailto:fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net)

Newsletter Editor: **Steve Tubbs** (reluctant)

765-1787 [steve@insp2.com](mailto:steve@insp2.com)

**Russian River Fly Fishers**  
**c/o Mike Spurlock**  
**20 San Domingo Way**  
**Novato, CA 94945**



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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\* \_\_\_\_\_

How can the RRFF help you? \_\_\_\_\_

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 30<sup>th</sup>

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