

# The Cast



*Don Shaw's  
SFBay/Napa River  
Striped Bass*

*Sonoma County  
California  
Volume 47, Issue 11  
December, 2020*

## President's Message

### Goodbye 2020

After this year's strange collection of lockdowns, facemasks, social distancing, business closures, wildfires, orange noonday skies, NIXLE alerts and evacuations, let's all bid a (not so fond?) farewell to the year 2020. One can only hope that it sets a low bar for improvements in the New Year. But a positive aspect of this year's craziness was that it drove people to escape to the outdoors for isolation and peace. Let's hope that every person who discovered or rediscovered our public lands this year will have a new appreciation for their beauty and value. We need more allies in the constant battle to preserve our natural resources.

Your club is continuing to function, although at a reduced level due to the pandemic restrictions. We will continue to have monthly meetings with guest speakers using the online Zoom application. Although we have stopped our casting clinics, we are having limited casting instruction at noon on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at the Galvin Park casting pond (see our website for details). Both our website and Facebook page have lots of interesting information and links on fly fishing topics that you can access at your leisure.

With the recent good news regarding progress on COVID vaccines, there appears to be a light at the end of this tunnel. In the meantime, we need to do all we can to keep each other safe. Let's make sure that we follow all the necessary precautions when we do get together to enjoy our sport.

I wish you and your families the best for this holiday season, and I hope that in the New Year you will

enjoy all the adventure, beauty and peace that nature provides.

~ Ed Barich

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## RRFF Winter Fly Casting Instruction



*Russian River Fly Fishers*  
**Winter Fly Casting Clinics**  
Noon until 2:30 pm  
Held on the first and third Saturday of each month!  
(Beginning November 7th, weather permitting)

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

**LEARN TO FLY CAST!**

Please join us in the southeast corner of Dan Galvin Park, on the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue. The Casting Pond is located beyond the soccer fields and Dog Park. For more information, visit

[rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org)  
[facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers](https://facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers)

During COVID-19 restrictions, you must have your own equipment to use at the Casting Pond!

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## "Knee Deep in the Water Somewhere..."

*This article first appeared in July 2012...*

Sometimes a song sticks with you not for the sake of torment, but because it inspires thought, suggests possibilities and takes you away from the every day. Such is the case for me with **Zac Brown Band's, *Knee Deep (featuring Jimmy Buffett)***. Granted, recently I find myself frequently tuned-in to Radio Margaritaville, a phenomenon whose latest infusion followed my January trip to Ascension Bay, Mexico and was further fueled by a more recent trip to Key West accompanied by a week of tarpon fishing in the

Keys. Steel drums, Caribbean and calypso music have often provided the soundtrack for my tropical fishing excursions and color for my dreams. For me, *Knee Deep* captures one of the intangibles of fly fishing and speaks to me as to why I fly fish, providing a glimmer of how my current evolution with a fly rod colors my spiritual understanding...or vice versa. These understandings are elusive at best, and for me deal with an ineffable mystery that is best intimated through art, music, poetry and words of mystical origin.

I have always felt that fishing involves an evolution...and that each of us develops our understanding of it to the practice that suits us. This understanding is influenced by the very things that make us who we are, that represent how we see ourselves in this world and that define us spiritually. Rather than putting my faith in a God created by man in his image, I have come to feel and appreciate the wonder of the interconnected world around us; man not separate from, but a feature of, a Nature that includes all Life in its embrace. Nor do I feel that the ineffable mystery of God is separate from this world, or Life, or from me. The kingdom is all around me and within me, in every aspect that is available to my senses and in all that I can and cannot see. I am the face of the ineffable, as are you, as is All that is. This sense of inclusiveness and interconnectedness refines itself through my fly fishing and inspires me to stand "knee deep" in the healing waters.

Like many, I began my fishing journey slinging bait; night crawlers clumsily threaded on Eagle Claw size 12 snelled hooks or Pautzke's "Balls 'O Fire" salmon eggs skewered on tiny egg hooks. During my childhood, I was highly competitive with my siblings and fishing was another means to fuel my newly developed ego. In a family of fishermen, the graduation to lures and spin-fishing was quick for my grandparents, mom and dad were all adept with open-faced Mitchell reels and Garcia spinning rods. Before I reached my teens, I could cast spinning lures proficiently but would return to eggs and worms if

the catching was slow. Back then, it was all about catching fish...and carrying the prize home on a stringer, proud with head held high. As a child, ego ruled my fishing adventures and all was directed at capturing the biggest or the most.

In high school, I continued to fish...but in the salt or brackish waters along the North Carolina coast. Spinning rods grew into surf rods and deep-sea trolling rods occupied the rod holders of our small cabin cruiser while heavy spinning rods splayed from the outriggers. We trolled a lot then, catching various saltwater gamefish and sharks, often bringing home coolers full with our Saturday catch. The big fish had my attention then...and as sharks were plentiful and big, we spent many hours with live baits drifting the coastal waters, influenced in our pursuits by the newly released movie, *Jaws*. We hooked big fish and spent hours team-fighting them before wire leaders separated between sharp teeth. Occasionally we brought a 6-foot shark home and laid it out on the dock...some of it to be smoked (for us) while the rest would bait our crab traps. Those at the marina would look at the big fish. We were proud of our prowess and accomplishment.

I went away to college, returning to Northern California. Back on the rivers, my fishing interest turned toward ultra-light spinning gear and a 4-pound test line. I pursued trout and steelhead on the Mad River, the Klamath, the Eel and the Smith. I cast Rooster-Tails, Kastmasters, Mepps...and Spin-a-Lures on Yellowstone Lake. I began to experiment with catch and release, although a big steelhead or trout still prompted a kill and a proud display of my prize. Ultra-light spin fishing became my method of choice...and yet I was intrigued by the occasional fly fisherman that I would encounter, especially when he was catching multiple fish to my occasional strike. It wasn't until I reached thirty years that I took the initiative to learn to fly fish. As I knew no one to help me with this new endeavor, I turned to the Western Angler in Santa Rosa and Dwight Longuevan, who taught me to build fly rods and introduced me to the Russian River Fly Fishers. I was

addicted. I spent hours at the Casting Pond, learning to fly cast and competing for distance and accuracy. I began exploring the world of fly fishing, reading incessantly and learning about presentation, insects and techniques.

As my proficiency developed, I explored fly fishing in saltwater while at the same time honing my trout skills in the Sierra, bass fishing in local ponds and pursuing steelhead on the rivers of the north coast. I began to become more involved in the waters I fished, more aware of the ecosystems that I was now exploring, a student of the aquatic worlds that I was becoming a part of. No longer did I keep fish, choosing to release everything regardless of size. My awareness expanded to include the wildlife around me, the geography that influenced the waters and the stillness that was a feature of it all. I became immersed in the environments I fished, forgetting my troubles and the other me that existed at times when I was not fishing. Fly fishing commanded my complete attention. When on the water with fly rod in hand, nothing existed for me but thoughts about fly fishing. I simply forgot my other self, that illusion that had been concocted in my other world of work, family and the role-playing accompanying modern society. This "stopping the world" introduced new and deeper perspectives to my understanding and "fishing" suddenly became more important than "catching".

Now...I enjoy the places that I discover while fly fishing and I immerse myself in their environments. I enjoy the success of fooling fish with a fly, a success that seems more frequent as I discover more and more fully understand the aquatic worlds I frequent. I enjoy the companionship of those who fish with me, participate in their discovery and share what I can relate of my own understanding. It is a continuous process - the learning, the discovery, the realization of how completely our entire world is interconnected in all of its wondrous mystery. Aquatic ecosystems are a balance of elements that are seen and unseen. Water quality is affected by whatever occurs in the ecosystem. The health of our

fisheries is dependent on this balance and on the awareness that we can bring to this realization as we inspire others. Our fisheries are not a resource, but an intricate life force dependent on the health of its interrelated components.

For me, the last line to *Knee Deep* captures the essence of my fly fishing and of my fascination with the interrelated unity of all aspects of this mysterious and amazing world. It inspires me to pause and to reflect on my continuing evolution while feeling a "breath catch" of recognition. The last line, sung slowly...

*"When you lose yourself.....*

*you find the key.....*

*to Paradise!"*

~ Steve Tubbs

RRFF Casting Instruction Director

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## December Dues Update

It is appearing likely that we will not be back to normal operations, and as a result, we will not be asking for dues payments for the 7/1/2020-6/30/2021 year for the foreseeable future. We will continue with existing members not being required to pay dues, and new members can join for free. However, some people have been choosing to pay dues, and if you chose to pay them, we will gladly accept a dues donation.

We suspended all club social activities on 3/18/2020 due to Covid-19. The casting pond reopened in June, with limited instruction. In June, we also replaced our monthly general meetings with Zoom meetings. Our monthly fishing outings have been suspended indefinitely. It also seems likely that our annual February Cioppino Dinner fundraiser will not be possible.

In May, we announced that we would suspend dues payments for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 year

until things returns to "normal." We are saving money by not having to rent the Veterans Hall or pay speakers, but we do have significant ongoing expenses for insurance, The Cast newsletter and our annual donations to worthy causes (Steelhead in the Classroom and possibly Casting for Recovery). We have sufficient savings to make it through the year without dues, but it will leave a dent in our bank account.

Some people are choosing to pay dues in spite of our suspension, and if members choose to make this donation, you can go to the website to pay dues on-line, or you can mail me a check. It goes without saying that any contribution to the club would be very much appreciated.

[https://www.rrflyfisher.org/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.rrflyfisher.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

Thank you.

Mike Spurlock, Treasurer

**415-599-6138**

**20 San Domingo Way**

**Novato, Ca 94945**

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## Virtual Zoom December General Meeting

We will be having a **General Meeting of the Russian River Fly Fishers on Wednesday Dec. 9 at 7PM** using the Zoom video sharing application.

There will be a presentation by **Rob Anderson** on the topic of "**Fly Fishing for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout at Pyramid Lake**". Rob resides in Reno, Nevada and currently has his own fly fishing travel business, Bucket List Fly Fishing Adventures and is the lead guide and owner of Reno Fly Fishing Outfitters. Although Rob guides all over the Reno-Tahoe area, he has been the #1 guide at Pyramid lake for over 15 years.

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## Kids & Teachers Still Love Steelhead in the Classroom



Wow, 2020 sure requires new safe ways to work!

Many teachers in Sonoma County will hatch steelhead in tanks at their classrooms, and some in their homes.

Most students will experience the eggs to fry release creatively by Zoom and other computer inventions of this year, getting as close to hands on as safely possible, all following the criteria of their school districts to be safe.

### As Coaches, here is what to expect this year:

Expect a lot of unknowns, a lot of questions from teachers which will require creative solutions, and to feel a bit out of your element. We all do. Here are some specifics that may help you.

**Contactless support for your teachers:** You will have very limited, if any, direct contact with teachers and absolutely none with students. As contact with students is perhaps the most rewarding part of being a coach, you are encouraged to hone your Zoom, email and text skills so you can work with students and teachers in a remote fashion.

**Presentations to students:** We are hearing from teachers they HIGHLY VALUE guest speakers, perhaps more so this year than in the past. Please

consider how your club can provide virtual presentations.

**Egg Delivery:** Eggs will be delivered either to the school, teachers' home, or third location to be determined - all with no contact. This was done on a limited scale last year and worked well. We will provide more detail on this in time – we are still working on the details.

**Tank set up:** We are completing new videos that walk teachers through the process of setting up their tanks. You will be able to video conference with teachers to provide support but will not be able to enter their classrooms or homes.



**And** Sonoma Water is graciously loaning RRF coaches some exciting new advanced equipment. Wow, with this equipment, teachers and kids can better understand how to measure temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH as they apply to trout and steelhead health in our local creeks....

Here (photo above) is Mrs. Der from Cross and Crown Elementary in Rohnert Park previewing the equipment and accompanying booklets she will use with her advanced students in 2021 - very exciting and always something new and intriguing.

Think about it- this is our chance to help educate and encourage the next generation of scientists and wildlife stewards!

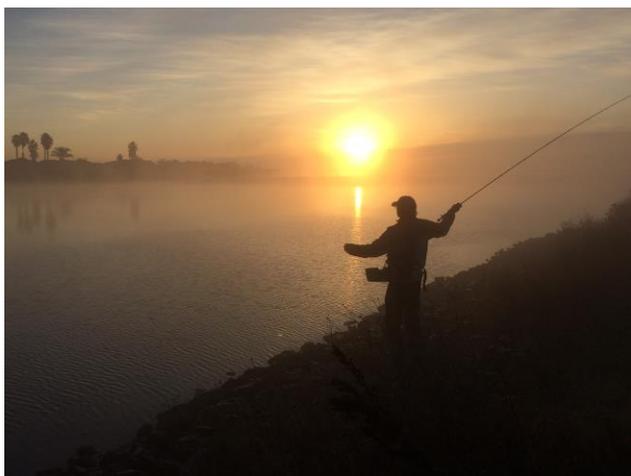
Contact Karl Joost 707 483 6172 or [joosts@pacbell.net](mailto:joosts@pacbell.net) for any questions. Please join me again this year- all the best and stay safe.

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## Photos from Members' Recent Fishing Trips



Jeff Cratty – Bel Marin Keys



Ed Barich – Sunrise, Bel Marin Keys



Daniel Powers 11/29/20 Nevada Side of the Truckee



Truckee 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  
(541) 956-1691

Bill Archuleta, owner

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

### 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.

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

### 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

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

### 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

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

## *December Calendar of Events*

**BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER, ALL (in person) CLUB MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED. MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD VIA ZOOM. PLEASE ALL STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE.**

## RRFF Board of Directors

## RRFF Board of Directors

President: Ed Barich

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Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer & Webmaster: Mike Spurlock

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Program Chairman: Don Shaw

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Outings Chairman: Chris Castellucci

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Membership Chairman & Pond Steward: Doug Mackay

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Raffle Committee: Paul Matzen

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Raffle Coordinator: Gregg Wrisley

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

New Member Mentoring Coordinator: Jeff Cratty

796-3691 [rjcratty@yahoo.com](mailto:rjcratty@yahoo.com)

Steelhead in the Classroom: Karl Joost

978-3897 [joost@pacbell.net](mailto:joost@pacbell.net)

Member at Large: Brendan Galten

364-1671, [galtenb@gmail.com](mailto:galtenb@gmail.com)

Member at Large: Penelope Gadd-Coster

Member at Large: Tim Reuling

### Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: Lee Soares

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

Casting Pond Steward: Doug Mackay

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

Casting Pond Monitor: Binky Castleberry

477-2805 [fsh2xslc@att.net](mailto:fsh2xslc@att.net)

Conservation Chairman: Charlie Schneider and Tom Greer

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



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address\* \_\_\_\_\_  
Main Interests in the Club? \_\_\_\_\_  
How Many Years Have You Been Fly Fishing \_\_\_\_\_  
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

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.

Dues paid by a new member joining the RRFF after March 1st 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>

**Due to Covid-19. Dues Are Optional. Donations are appreciated.**