

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 44, Number 2  
February 2017

### Eagle Canyon Trophy Rainbow

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

## President's Message

### Too Much of a Good Thing?...

It seems like it was just yesterday that we were in full drought-combat mode. Taking quick showers, putting off washing our vehicles, letting our lawns turn brown – all these water-saving tactics had become part of our daily life, and habits that would probably serve us well in the long term. But for now, boy, have we got water. The record rains of January 2017 have sent the Russian River and many other California waters to flood stage. At this writing, none of our local north coast rivers are in fly fishing condition.

So in the meantime, what's an anxious angler to do? Those looking for the first opportunity on the waters can go to our [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) website and find links to the latest river flow information and fishing reports (thanks to our RRFF webmaster Mike Spurlock). And while you are waiting for your favorite stream to go from mocha brown to steelie green, consider all those tasks you promised yourself in the heat of fishing last summer to "get around to" this winter. Remember those leaky waders, squeaky reels and busted oar locks that asked for your attention? Maybe now is the time to set them right and be prepared for another year of outdoor fun.

But if you're in more of a mood for indoor fun this month, don't forget the Annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner coming up on the evening of February 25, 2017 at Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Hall. In

## Newsletter Editor

# WANTED

*Must be familiar with MS Word and Desktop Publishing. Will help!*

Please contact Steve Tubbs - [steve@kresky.com](mailto:steve@kresky.com)

In addition to great seafood, steak or chicken, there will be a raffle and silent auction of excellent items and services. Since we have an attendance limit in the hall, you might want to secure your dinner tickets ASAP. There is a mail-in form at the end of this month's CAST, or you can purchase tickets online at [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org).

The annual Cioppino Dinner is our club's primary social and fund-raising event of the year. It's a great way to support your club and see some of those friendly faces you have not seen in a while. That's not "too much of a good thing", is it?

See you there,

~ Ed Barich



## Thank You!

The RRFF would like to acknowledge the years of dedication and commitment from retiring board members **Greg Jacobs** and **Bill Laurie**. Greg served as the RRFF Secretary (and Refreshments Chairman) for many years and Bill has served as our RRFF President and as Outings Director (among other duties). Both members served on the board for multiple terms

The next time you see one of these gentlemen, please thank them for their considerable contribution to the success of the Russian River Fly Fishers!

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

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

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

## RRFF General Meeting

Saturday, February 25th - 5:00 PM

Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**FOR OUR**

**Annual**

**~RRFF Cioppino Dinner~**

An evening of camaraderie and fun hosted by the Russian River Fly Fishers for RRFF Members and Guests.

This fund-raising event takes the place of our February General Meeting!

**RAFFLE DONATIONS** for our **Fund-Raising Raffle and Silent Auction**. Contact one of the following Board members to have your donation picked up. **Please get your donations to us at least one week prior to the dinner.**

**Ken Magoon**, 527-8376 or [magoon5294@aol.com](mailto:magoon5294@aol.com)  
(Santa Rosa)

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

**Paul Matzen**, 795-8885 (Petaluma)

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

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

## Volunteer to Help!

We need RRFF members to assist with the following: **food preparation, setting-up and/or decorating dining tables, after dinner clean-up, general assistance as needed.**

Use the sign-up sheet on our website @ [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) or call a board member to offer your help.

Your participation is appreciated.

~ RRFF Board of Directors

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## Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy, Sporting Collectible Show

Friday, March 10, 2017

Saturday, March 11, 2017

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.*

For more information, call

**Red Johnson,**

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

email: warrenjo@pacbell.net

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

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## Conservation Corner

### Do Wild Fish Matter?

While there is plenty of heated rhetoric outside of fishing communities about competing interests (Farms vs. Fish, for example), inside our community the volume is just as loud over different details. One area that is trending in both attention and new science is wild, native salmonids vs. introduced hatchery fish. Locally this is an important factor in the health and potential for recovery of Russian River stocks since we have both an Enhancement hatchery and a Recovery Hatchery in our watershed to mitigate the negative effects of Warm Springs and other dams in the system.

So why is there so much heat in the conversation? Are wild, native fish really that important? What is wrong with enhancing stocks with hatchery fish? If hatchery fish are being selected for disease resistance, can handle less than pristine living conditions, and are out-competing wild fish for food and spawning space, doesn't that mean they're stronger, and thus a better choice?

Like climate change (and frankly any other aspect of science) you can find scientists that make the argument that hatchery stocks actually improve a watershed's ability to support a fishery. But also like climate change, the latest research is overwhelmingly pointing towards the disadvantages of hatchery stocks. That's the somewhat unsettling and confusing aspect about science: there is never surety, only a preponderance of available evidence. This discussion is so convoluted that the National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency



responsible for restoring salmonid stocks, recently [proposed protecting](#) 23 hatchery salmon and steelhead stocks under the Endangered Species Act. Organizations such as the Native Fish Society [vehemently oppose](#) such actions since they feel that it dramatically alters the intent of the ESA to protect wild species, rather than domesticated ones.

The argument for wild fish is basic: hatchery fish are not as well-adapted to living out the complex life cycle of salmonids in the wild. That means that less fish come back to successfully spawn, leading to a never-ending cycle of adding more and more hatchery fish to a stream in order to make up for deteriorating Habitat, impact of Hydropower dams, and increased Harvest by a growing population. But if wild fish are better-adapted, why aren't they winning?

It turns out that if the playing field were equal, wild fish can out-compete their hatchery brethren. But the field is tilted. Hatchery fish are bred for disease and stress resistance caused by the tight quarters of hatcheries. But they can pass on germs that they have resistance for to wild fish and cause great damage in the wild. Hatchery fish also do breed with wild fish, but that actually leads to a less fit overall population, not a more fit population, because of the overwhelming numbers of hatchery fish in many drainages (a process known as gene swamping). This imbalance also leads to out-competition for ocean food and spawning beds due solely to numbers.

What evidence do we have that wild fish really are better adapted anyway? The past 4 decades of scientific research on salmonid genetics and behavior points overwhelmingly to this. Many recent articles point to the rapidity of genetic changes in hatchery fish (even in the [first generation!](#)), how these changes are leading to

lower genetic strength through in-breeding, and how population genetics taken from one watershed may be more fit for hatchery growth but may not be more fit for survival in different local conditions.



Scientific observations of hatchery fish have also shown that they are much more poorly adapted to predators than wild salmonids. In a 2004 Science article, Ransom et. al. show that “Inevitably, hatchery brood stock show domestication effects, genetic adaptations to hatchery environments that are generally maladaptive in the wild. Hatchery fish usually have poor survival in the wild and altered morphology, migration, and feeding behavior.”

Even more subtly, the reliance on hatcheries to prop up plummeting salmonid stocks over the last 140+ years has masked greater problems in our watersheds. When the underlying belief from fisheries managers is that more smolts released automatically equals more adults returning, Habitat loss, over-Harvest and Hydropower impacts get lost in the conversation.

It seems like there is enough evidence and experience now that hatcheries [aren't the solution](#) to our problems. Trout Unlimited's Wild Steelheaders United initiative proposed pragmatic ways to work towards compromise solutions that preserve wild rivers and allow heavily degraded rivers to maintain put-and-take hatchery stocks. It seems that this approach has a high likelihood of highlighting the success of supporting wild fish, if only we have the time to watch it play out.

**Who is fighting the fight for wild salmonids?** These are organizations worth joining and following. They

have great scientific content and often post opportunities to speak up for wild salmonids.

- [Native Fish Society](#)
- [Russian River Wild Steelhead Society](#)
- [TU's Wild Steelheaders United initiative](#)
- [The Salmonid Restoration Federation](#)
- [The Wild Steelhead Coalition](#)
- [The Wild Fish Conservancy](#)
- [Patagonia – The Cleanest Line](#)

~ Derek Campbell, Conservation Director

## **2017 RRFF Outing Updates:**

*The February 17th - 20th Feather or Trinity River Trip has been **cancelled** due to lack of interest!*

**\*\*March 2017 Lower Sac Guided Trip is On!** ~ March 31st - April 1st. Christie and Rich

**Geernaert** have reserved rooms at the Best Western Motel in Andersen, CA. and 4 potential guides for two days of trout fishing on the Lower Sacramento River in the Redding area. The trip sign-up page is on the [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) website.

Since the outing is getting close, you should sign-up soon to be able to reserve a guide. Christie will get back to you with the guide's contact information.



### ***RRFF @ Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout***

On Saturday, January 28, 2017, eight RRFF members fished the “pay for play” Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout lakes located in the foothills below Mt Lassen. The setting is two small ( 3.5 and 1.5 acre) spring-fed lakes off of Highway 36, about 22 miles east of Red Bluff. Six of us paid the discounted group rate of \$125 last year, and immediately signed up to go

again. This trip, Jack and Mark Vallerga, Mike Kangrga, Mike Tibbet, Don Shaw and I, were joined by Paul Matzen and Mike Kast.

Eagle Canyon Lakes is promoted as having planted “trophy” rainbow trout and the fish I saw in the net went 5 lbs. and larger. I think the one I landed probably weighed 8 to 10 lbs. As common with hatchery lunkers, their girth is disproportionate to their length. They fought strong for a short time and had to be revived for a while when released.

As per last year, Mike Tibbet landed over 6 fish. In addition to his fishing skills, he waded aggressively and spent the most time in the water. His pal, Mike Kangrga, probably came close to him in number of fish to the net.



*Mike Kangrga with Eagle Canyon rainbow...*

The remaining RRF “Geriatric Anglers” cast from the banks and probably rested for at least a third of the 8 hours. We averaged one to two fish landed for our efforts. Our best hour of the day was the hot dog and chili lunch prepared by Don Shaw.

If you’re interested giving Eagle Canyon Lake a try, contact Confluence Outfitters of Red Bluff (530-632-3465) or at [www.ConfluenceOutfitters.com](http://www.ConfluenceOutfitters.com). Their rates start at \$200 for one angler and are reduced for groups.



*Ken Magoon with a trophy in the net...*

We’ll probably go again next year.

~ Ken Magoon



## ***Join the RRF on Facebook***

We currently have **793 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>

## Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

*(and take advantage of their discounts when available)*

### 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)

## Calendar of Events

**RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics** – From noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting). Held on the first and third Saturday of each month at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

### February

- 4 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
- 8 **No Meeting - Come to the Cioppino Dinner!**
- 11 **Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival**
- 15-18 **Trinity or Feather River - CANCELLED**
- 18 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
- 24-26 **Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show**
- 25 **RRFF Cioppino Dinner - RRFF General Meeting**

### March

- 4 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
- 10-11 **Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show** - SR Vet's Hall
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 16 Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics Begin - 4:30 until 7:00 pm
- 31-1 **Lower Sacramento River Guided Trout Trip** hosted by Christie & Rich Geernaert (2 days)

## RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

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

Vice President:

Secretary and Outings Chairman: **Ken Magoon**

527- 8376 [magoon5294@aol.com](mailto:magoon5294@aol.com)

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

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Member at Large: **Mike Kast**

538-9762 [michaelrkast@gmail.com](mailto:michaelrkast@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

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

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

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

Member at Large: **Ken Young**

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

Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**

591-5667 [dcampbell00@hotmail.com](mailto:dcampbell00@hotmail.com)

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wrisley**

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

## Coordinators

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

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Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**

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

Raffle Coordinator: **Christie Geernaert**

Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage 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** (temporary)

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

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Please join us for our annual

Russian River Fly Fishers

Fundraising Raffle

# CIOPPINO DINNER

SILENT AUCTION

Join us for an evening of fun, friendship and our fund-raising raffle. All profits support various RRFF Programs throughout the year!

**\$50.00 per person**

(\$15.00 for children 12 and under)

**Social from 5:00 until 7:00 PM**

Wine will be offered with dinner and you are welcome to bring a special wine of your choice!

**Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM**

**Veteran's Memorial Hall - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa**

Donations: [rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org) or contact: Ken Magoon 527-8376 [magoon5294@aol.com](mailto:magoon5294@aol.com) (Santa Rosa), or Gregg Wrisley 823-5572 [gwris@yahoo.com](mailto:gwris@yahoo.com) (Sebastopol), or Doug Mackay 575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net) (Santa Rosa), or Paul Matzen 795-8885 (Petaluma).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION or volunteer coordinator: [rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org) or Ed Barich 539-4608**  
shear along dotted line

*We will also have alternate dinners available. Please let us know how many you will need.*

Cioppino \_\_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

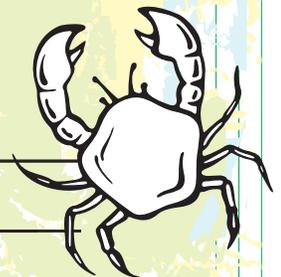
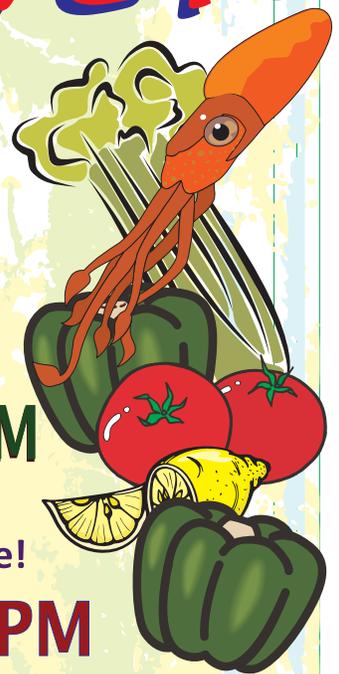
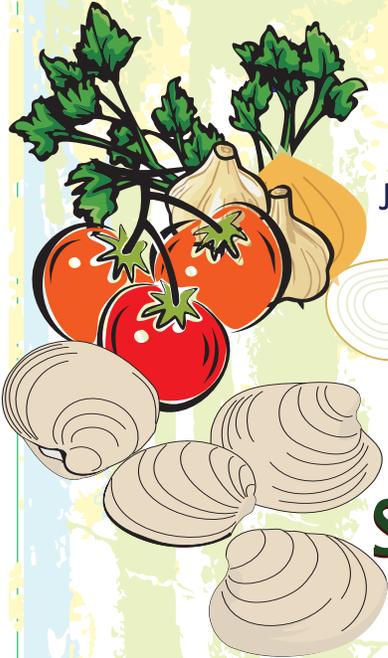
Name \_\_\_\_\_

How many will attend \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets are **\$50.00 per person**

Pay Online @ [rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org) or send payment to:

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



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



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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 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 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**