

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 45, Number 2
February 2018

*Ed Barich - and his first
Gualala River Steelhead*

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

President's Message

Cioppino Dinner Time!

If this is February, it must be time for the RRF Annual Cioppino Dinner. For those of you who are new to the club, the dinner is our biggest social event and fund raiser of the year, and it is an evening you will not want to miss. This year we moved it to Saturday, February 17 to prevent it from conflicting with the Pleasanton Fly Show, another local tradition. We will be serving excellent drinks and food, with Steve Tubbs leading the seafood Cioppino cooking crew and John Frenzel's team manning the barbecues to create delicious steak and chicken dishes. As in previous years, we will be having a raffle and silent auction of fly fishing-related items as well as valuables and services of general interest. And of course, the best part of the

evening is a chance for you to get together with our 145 members to trade fish stories with friends you may not have seen in years.

So right now you are probably asking yourself, "What can I do to make this year's event a success?" Glad you asked! Here are some tips from your Prez:

- **Buy your dinner tickets early** – Nothing puts the Dinner Planning Committee into a cold sweat like having lots of tickets purchased the week the event. If you know you will be attending, buy them today and do us all a favor. You can mail in a check using the form at the end of this newsletter. Or easier yet, go to our website at rrflyfisher.org and use your credit card.
- **Donate valuable items for the raffle and silent auction** – The majority of funds raised

by this event come from items that members donate. Those funds are used to support our monthly meetings, casting pond activities and education programs. Check the Donations article in this issue to find the contacts who will accept your donations.

- **Participate in the Raffle & Silent Auctions** – You know you are going to see things there that you want – bring cash for raffle tickets and your credit card for the auction items. You get the goods and you help fund club projects – that's a win-win!
- **Volunteer at the Dinner** – The dinner this big takes a lot of work, and with many volunteers we can spread the load. Contact Ed Barich at ebarich@sonic.net or 707-539-4608 and I will find something for you to do.

But the most important tip of all, show up for the dinner and have a great evening.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

~ Ed Barich

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

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

February General Meeting

RRFF Cioppino Dinner

Saturday, February 17th - 5:00 pm

Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building

NOTE: The RRF February General Meeting is our annual Cioppino Dinner! Please join us for an evening of camaraderie and fun.

This event is hosted by the RRF for our RRF members and their guests. Club members prepare the outstanding entrees and hors de oeuvres, decorate the dining area, organize the raffle and silent auction and are involved with all aspects of the evening's festivities. If you like Cioppino, ours is one of the best you will have anywhere...a recipe we have fine-tuned for over 15 years. The steaks and chicken are expertly prepared by John Frenzel and friends, truly mouth-watering and highly anticipated by those who enjoy them. You may have heard the reference, when a member describes our club outings, regarding the "Russian River Fly Fishers and Fine Dining Club"? Well...those referred to by that "fine dining" quip certainly give their very best for our Cioppino Dinner!

As the only fundraising event of the year, our Cioppino Dinner raffle and silent auction rely on your donations and participation for success! We encourage donations that will appeal to everyone in attendance. Of course fly fishing gear and equipment is strongly represented, but we would also like to see artwork, books, general products and services, camping and recreational equipment, gift baskets, spa sessions or cosmetology services, dinners, wine tastings, and other non-flyfishing related items. Contact the following board members to make your donation:

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

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

Paul Matzen, 795-8885 (Petaluma)

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

(Please do not wait to the last minute as the raffle committee needs sufficient time to process the items.)

If you would like to help out at the dinner, please volunteer by contacting our president, Ed Barich. Ed will be happy to include you. Preparations usually begin a few hours before the dinner and we also need help with various tasks throughout the evening.

Don't wait! Make your reservations now at <https://www.rrflyfisher.org/> or by using the registration form at the end of this newsletter. Attendance is limited to 135 guests.

Let's enjoy another memorable Cioppino dinner!

~ Steve Tubbs

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

A One-Fish Day

(Cover Photo) - Ken Magoon had scheduled a club steelhead outing on the Gualala River for the third weekend in January, but the 10-day forecast predicted heavy rains for that week, which would effectively blow out the river for fly fishing. I had the MLK holiday off from work the preceding Monday, and the river flow was coming back down into better levels before the expected deluge. Doug MacKay was also available that weekend, so the two of us drove to the river on Sunday morning. I had no interest in driving the twisty coastal highway north of Jenner in the dark, so we did not arrive until after 10AM.

We started fishing at the top of the river, which for the Gualala is less than 3 miles from the ocean. Doug brought his spey rod, while I used a conventional single-handed 8-weight with a shooting head setup. Despite the three-day weekend, the river was not very crowded and we were able to cast and step down a nice run above the hole called "Switchville" without bumping into other anglers. I was able to make some good casts close to the far bank, but eventually got too cocky and lost a couple of flies in the overhanging shrubs. I would imagine that by the end of the season, some of them start to look like Christmas trees, festooned with colorful feathers and tinsel. Later on, Doug plumbed the depths of the Switchville hole while I walked down river to fish another promising run below the "Donkey" hole. Neither Doug nor I had any action that morning, but I don't think either of us was surprised, since we got to the river much later in the morning than the locals did. By noon we were ready to take a break from casting.

We drove down river to the Gualala Point Regional Park and ate our lunch on a picnic table in the campground. The park was also not very crowded for a weekend - the dark winter dampness of the redwood forest there probably does not appeal to the average camper. We chatted with the campground host, who gave us the latest news on the "Dogwood" Gualala floodplain timber harvest plan. The proposed logging, approved by Cal-Fire in 2016, had been remanded by the Sonoma County Superior Court in 2017, sending it back for full revision to comply with state environmental regulations. The host mentioned that the logging was intended to come right up to the park property



Doug Mackay on the Gualala River...

line. We contemplated what that kind of disruption would do to the tranquility of the public forest and the rest of this scenic river.

Our afternoon plan was to hike the south side of the river to the Minor hole, another popular spot, but when we got to the water, we discovered a stagnant lake instead of a flowing river. It was hours past high tide, but the heavy surf that morning had pounded the river mouth shut, causing the coastal lagoon to back up to the upper reaches of the river. We walked the gravel beach as far as we could go, and tried to cross to the north side, but were halted by water that was too deep to wade. It was beginning to look like a very short fishing expedition.

On our way back to the park, I said to Doug, "Well, why don't we make the best of it and put in some casting practice?" Since we had nothing better to do, Doug agreed and we waded into the flat-surfaced pool, intent on tossing our best booming long-distance casts. We both tried to reach the far side of the river, but Doug could easily out-gun me with his spey rig. Having longer legs, I compensated (cheated?) by wading further in, with water up over my belt. That's when I noticed a foam line crawling down the slot below the far bank. Unbeknownst to us, the dam at the river mouth had broken and the flow had returned. I told Doug that we might be back in business.

Up to that point I had been tossing a rather sad-looking fly that I had tied a few weeks earlier, in anticipation of needing an expendable offering to feed the hungry snags of the Gualala. But the far side of the river here was relatively free of overhanging limbs, so I quickly clipped it off and replaced it with a hopefully dependable commercially-tied Boss streamer. Even though the changed conditions were only modestly encouraging, I was getting serious.

Doug and I began the process of dropping our flies as close as possible to the far bank, letting the line swing, then taking a step downstream. After repeating this many times, I started to zone-out with no thought of anything interesting happening, until suddenly it did. The line tightened, I raised the rod and felt a pulsing sensation. The surface of the water boiled and there was a flash of sliver.

I had been at this moment before on the Russian. A few headshakes and the fish would become "unbuttoned". I always hoped that someday I could

take a steelhead past those first few seconds, and have a chance to at least touch the fish. Now, all that was connecting our fates was a piece of 3x tippet and some questionable knots. But the hook was holding, and after a couple of good runs down the pool, I was able to coax her into shallow water and remove the fly. Doug took a quick photo, and we watched as she slowly, but firmly, made her way back to the safety of the depths.

I would like to think of myself as a competent angler, but on this day I just felt like a lucky guy. This was a wild steelhead that was probably created in the Gualala, wandered for years over thousands of miles of the Pacific, and on this hour happened to cross my path. There aren't many wild fish left in Sonoma County; with pollution, habitat loss, water diversion and global warming, their days may be numbered. I felt humbled just to encounter one before it became impossible to do so any more.

It was recorded somewhere that in one season on the Russian and Gualala during the 1950's, Bill Schaad caught and released nearly 900 steelhead. I fished those waters on and off for the last ten years and never before came close to touching one. If Bill ever had a one-fish day, he was probably disappointed. I certainly wasn't.

~ Ed Barich

Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Trip has Openings...

We have 5 of 8 slots filled for the **Saturday, March 3, 2018** fishing day at **Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes** (Google them for more details). So if you would like to try your hand at landing trout averaging 3 to 15 lbs, you're welcome to join us. It's easy wading around the two lakes, only 3.5 and 1.5 acres in size. Casting nymphs under indicators and stripping small buggers can get grabs from these "monsters". It's strictly catch and release, so we take plenty of photos. The cost is \$135 per angler (with 6 rods) and \$125 each if we have 7 anglers. The RRRFF has exclusive access to these lakes for the day.

Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes are a 30 minute drive into the foothills east of Red Bluff, so we stay in a local motel along I-5 on Friday night. We are on

the water from 8:30AM until dark, and have a BBQ lunch on site.

Contact me (magoon5294@aol.com) or by phone - 527-8376 - ASAP, if you are interested in joining us.

~ Ken Magoon

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **867 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>



Oregon Trip Taking Shape

Planning is underway for our two week fishing/camping trip to Oregon. We will probably leave Santa Rosa on Friday, June 8th, and head north for the Ashland Fly Shop to get our licenses and pick up some Salmon Fly imitations with a stop along the way at the Upper Sac., Klamath or Smith River. The first Oregon stop is the Rogue River, where the Salmon Fly hatch should be in full swing. We will then take the Clear Lake Highway into Central Oregon for trout fishing.

The Williamson River And Agency Lake are available near the town of Chiloquin. Heading north to La Pine, we will be in the vicinity of Crescent Lake, Crane Prairie Reservoir and Davis Lake. Next up is the Redmond area and parts of the Deschutes River. From there we will head to Camp Sherman and the Metolius River, and then proceed to Eugene and the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers.

The trick now is to figure out which of these destinations we may have to eliminate. We should be home by June 24. If you haven't signed up, and this sounds like something you would like to do, sign up now. I think 12 people is the most I can handle.

~ Bill Laurie



RRFF Prepares Aquarium Equipment for Sonoma County Schools.

Wow!, six Steelhead in the Classroom coaches recently helped prepared aquarium materials to accompany the 30 tanks recently purchased by the RRFF! Way to go, folks, and as David Berman expressed, "Tanks a lot!"

Christie Geernaert, Bill Laurie, Tim Reuling, Mark Petersen, Ken Young and Bob Pawlan are seen in this group photo with Jerry Bender (TU), David Berman (SCWA) and Dominic and Sara (SCWA assistants to David). The workshop was at the Water Agency's Westside Water Education Center, near Wohler Bridge.

These tanks, chillers and associated equipment will be used in the CAEP Teacher Training Program before being distributed directly into classrooms throughout the county.

Ethan Rotman, CAEP Program Administrator for the past 17 years, expressed his gratitude to the RRFF, "The Steelhead in the Classroom program is undergoing tremendous change in Sonoma County – thanks to the vision of our partner organizations, including the RRFF!"

Thanks Ethan and thanks to all of you for moving this program forward for the elementary students and teachers of Sonoma County. There are water, fish, creeks, and rivers ahead!

~ Karl Joost - 707 483 6172

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

(and take advantage of their discounts when available)

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Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.
733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527
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412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.
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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...

February

- 3 Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm
- 10 Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival
- 17 RRFF Cioppino Dinner (Vet's Hall) - 5:00 pm
No Winter Fly Casting Clinic on the 17th!!!
- 22 RRFF Board Meeting
- 23-25 Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show

March

- 1 RETU General Meeting - Lagunitas Brewing
- 3 Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout (Ken Magoon)
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 14 RRFF General Meeting (Vet's Hall) - 6:30 pm
- 21 RRFF Board Meeting
- 22-25 Baum Lake Outing (Ken Magoon)

Visit www.rflyfisher.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**

527-8376 magoon5294@aol.com

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

(415)-599-6138 mikerrff@gmail.com

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

765-1787 steve@insp2.com

Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

889-6089 joebanovich@sonic.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Member at Large: **Chris Castellucci**

763-2017 chrsluucci@aol.com

Member at Large: **Mike Kast**

538-9762 michaelrkast@gmail.com

Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

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

795-8885 ggbriidgeman@att.net

Member at Large: **Ken Young**

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**

591-5667 dcampbell00@hotmail.com

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

823-5572 gwriss@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)

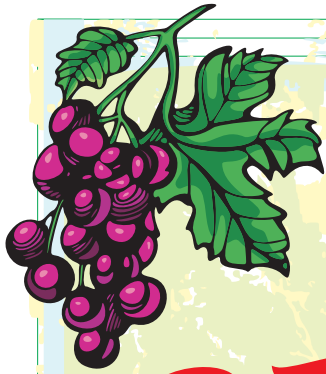
765-1787 steve@insp2.com

Saturday, February 17th, 2018

*Please join us for our annual
Russian River Fly Fishers*

**SILENT
AUCTION**

*Fundraising
Raffle*



CIOPPINO DINNER

\$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 or contact: Ken Magoon 527-8376 magoon5294@aol.com (Santa Rosa), or
Gregg Wisley 823-5572 gwrisk@yahoo.com (Sebastopol), or Doug Mackay 575-5709
demackay@sonic.net (Santa Rosa), or Paul Matzen 795-8885 (Petaluma).

FOR MORE INFORMATION or volunteer coordinator: 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 _____

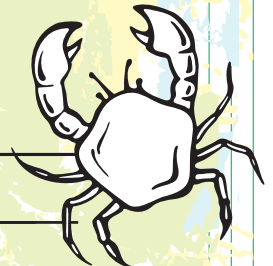
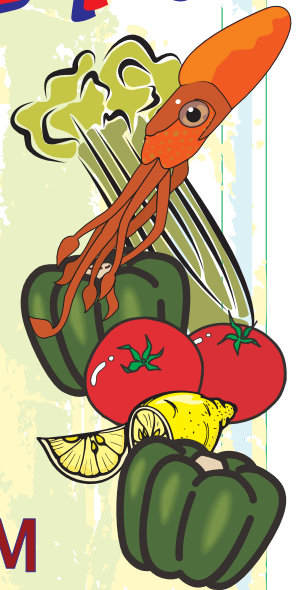
Name _____

How many will attend _____ Telephone Number _____

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

Pay Online @ rrflyfisher.org 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



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**