

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 44, Number 1
January 2017

December Steelhead Clinic at the RRF Casting Pond

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

President's Message

Happily Hunkered Down...

Frost on the backyard lawn before sunup. Ice on the water bowl in the dog's outdoor kennel. These are signs that indicate we are in the depths of Northern California winter, and it does not give me much incentive to get up early and hit the river. Besides, the flows on the Russian are too high for effective steelhead fishing thanks to the early and plentiful precipitation we have received so far this winter. Eventually a perfect-flow window of opportunity will open, but in the meantime, what's a fly fisher with cabin fever to do?

Tie flies, of course. Put those idle hands to work. The real fly-tying pros are actively tying all year long, polishing their skills and creating art for the sake of art. I hope to get to that state of purity someday, but in the meantime I'll be tying mostly out of anxiety (What if they are hitting only on the olive bug and all

I have is tan? What if I find the bug they want and I am down to last of that kind in my box?) Sadly, FFF (fear of fishing failure) can be a great motivator. So my criteria are: it should be a fly that requires a large selection of colors/patterns, it should be a fly that fish love to tear-up and destroy, and it should be simple enough that even my clumsy fingers can manage to tie. All of that perfectly describes the Pyramid lake beetle fly.

So I get online and find a recipe and a useful video

Newsletter Editor

WANTED

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

Please contact Lorrin Ngum - lorrinn@aol.com
or Steve Tubbs- steve@kresky.com

on tying the beetle. I could find all of the necessary materials on the internet, but I'm motivated now and want instant gratification. I hop in the truck to visit a local sporting goods store and head for the fly-tying isle. They have practically everything I need – an event that seldom ever happens. I rush back home and carefully follow the tying instructions shown on the video. I look at my first creation and compare it to one I purchased last season – it's a perfect match! I'm in business now, tying every possible combination of color, tails and body spots. Hours go by and at the end of this tying frenzy I've got a new fly box full of fresh beetles just waiting to see their fate.

Then a new fear hits me. Should I have used a straight-eye hook instead of a down-eye? What if these new beetles are too buoyant? What if the trout totally reject my new creation? But that's one of the things I love about fly fishing: you never know if your latest great idea will work until you try it on the water.

See you in the New Year,

~ Ed Barich

P.S. Don't forget the **Annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner** coming up on **February 25, 2017**. Be sure to get your tickets early (it's easy on our website: www.rrflyfisher.org). We need your donations for our raffle and silent auction. And if you can volunteer to help with the event, it would be greatly appreciated. More details to follow...

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **787 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>

Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers on the Internet at

www.rrflyfisher.org

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



RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, January 11th - 7:00 PM
Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building

~Maury Hatch~

*Fly Fishing for Striped Bass
in Northern California*

Captain Maury Hatch has been fly fishing the western United States and Mexico for 30+ years. After honing his skills with trout, he hooked his first striped bass in 1995, and has been chasing, catching, and releasing stripers ever since. As a Captain, he guides on the San Joaquin Delta from a center console bay boat in the fall and spring, and then on a jet sled on the Feather, Yuba and American Rivers in the summer for Strippers.

Maury is an ambassador level pro staffer for the following products: Costa sunglasses, Simms clothing, Sage rods, RIO lines and Galvan reels.

Web site: firsthatchguideservice.com

Phone: [\(916\) 716-3474](tel:9167163474)

Please join us and bring a friend. Our General Meetings are always open to the public!

~ Joe Banovich, Program Director

Vintage RRFF
patch...



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

RAFFLE DONATIONS for *RRFF Cioppino Dinner Raffle and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 25, 2017.* 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 gwris@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.)

~ 2017 RRFF Dinner Donations Committee

Volunteers Needed

for RRFF Cioppino Dinner

Our annual Cioppino Dinner is a fundraising event hosted by the Russian River Fly Fishers. There are several activities where we need assistance to help ensure another successful evening.

We would like volunteers 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 or call a board member to offer your help.

Your participation is appreciated.

Bassing in Leesville

In September, I was fishing with Lee Soares at a farm pond out of Petaluma and catching a few largemouth bass using frogs he had showed me how to tie. We had lots of "blow-ups" casting the flies close to shore in the shallows or right on top of algae pads. Most fish landed were about 2-3 lbs. but Lee got one about 7-8.

Lee began talking about picking up a load of hay two days later in Leesville where he had permission to fish in another farm pond. Lee has scoped out a lot of bass ponds. He asked me if I had ever heard of Leesville. I said, "Sure, my great grandparents are buried there." Lee almost fell over. He had never had anyone say they had heard of Leesville. So, the next day I rode with Lee in his hay truck with his dog Button and after 3-4 hours driving (in hot weather without air conditioning, fighting the dog for the window) we arrived in Leesville about 6 pm.



Leesville is located at the north end of Bear Valley, 17 miles down a gravel road off Hwy 20 between Clear Lake and Williams. It consists of a few houses, some looking abandoned. It also has a hotel vintage 1878, now used as a residence, currently being restored to its original glory. In its heyday, Leesville was a town of 300 with most residents involved in mining for mercury or ranching. Now, Bear Valley is all cattle range.



When we got to Leesville about 6 pm, we drove into the hay field, past the stack of hay bales and went right to the pond and fished for about 2 hours until dark. We had lots of blowups, caught a few largemouth bass and some bluegill, again using top water flies. That night, I slept in the cab with the dog and Lee sacked out on the hay bales under the stars.

At 5:30 am, it was still dark and the noise of trucks woke us up as the loading of hay was about to begin. Lee went to work and I walked back to the pond to catch the morning bite.

By 9 am, the hay was loaded and Lee joined me fishing for a few hours. We had some blowups and caught some fish but it was a little slower than the previous evening.



On the way out of Bear Valley, we stopped at a small hill with an unmarked graveyard just off the road near a farm, possibly the original farm that my great grandparents Marshall Ney Spurlock and Anna Mary Spurlock owned. I had not been there for over 10 years, but I found the gravestones.

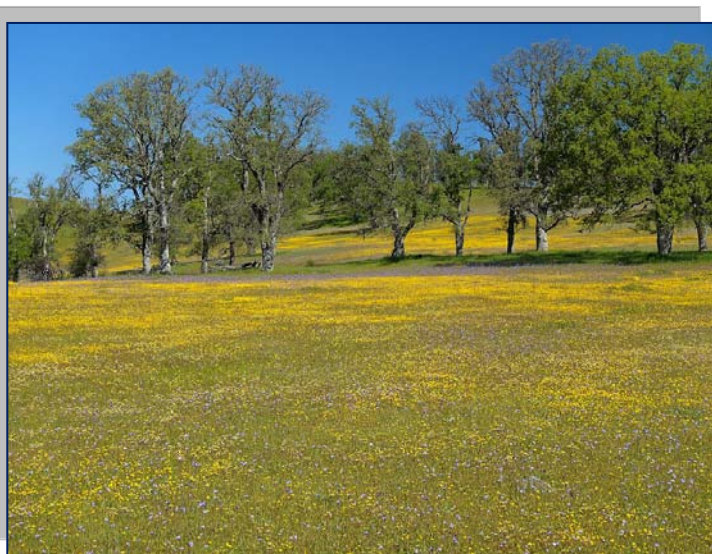


The story my dad told me was that Marshall died in 1882 at age 46 and Anna died in 1884 at age 39, both of consumption (tuberculosis). The youngest son was my Grandpa Dewilton Brevard Spurlock who



was 3 1/2 at the time. The family belongings including the farm was auctioned off to neighbors and the four sons parceled off to relatives in Missouri, each with \$8000 from the sale (that would be over \$180,000 in today's dollars). My dad was pretty sure that when his dad returned to California at age 16, his money was all gone.

I wouldn't recommend you drive to Leesville in the summer to go fishing, especially in a noisy hot truck fighting with the dog to stay at the window. In the summer, Bear Valley is hot and dry as a bone. However, if you are driving along highway 20 in the spring, it can be worth a side trip to see the beautiful hills and meadows full of green grass and wildflowers in full bloom.



~ Mike Spurlock

Make plans now to attend our
RRFF Annual Cioppino Dinner

Saturday, February 25th, 2017
at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building.

Welcome New RRFF Members

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome our newest members - Katianna Asti, Steve Cavellini, Julian Garrett, Sean Harrell, Andrew Lewis, Paul Lumpkin, Tony & Naomi Ramsden, Dugan Reber and the Mike Strunk family.

If you have any questions about our club, please contact one of our RRFF board members. All contact information is listed in the newsletter, as well as information regarding upcoming events, outings and meetings. Also, join us on our RRFF website @ www.rrflyfisher.org and on our Facebook page.

Please consider joining us for our next club meeting, the **RRFF Cioppino Dinner** on Saturday, February 25th at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. Make your reservations now before we run out of space!

To receive the most benefit from your RRFF membership, we encourage you to join us at the RRFF Casting Pond (for our FREE fly casting clinics) and on our monthly fishing outings. Your participation in the activities that we offer will determine the quality of your experience with the RRFF.

Welcome Aboard,

Ed Barich
RRFF President

RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics

Our winter Fly Casting Clinics are held on the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting) at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

These events are FREE and are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Beginners are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

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.

January

7 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
11 **RRFF General Meeting**
12–15 **Gualala River Outing** (B. Laurie)
21 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
19–22 Sacramento ISE
28 **Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes**

February

4 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
8 **RRFF General Meeting**
11 **Lake Sonoma**
15–18 **Trinity or Feather River**
18 Fly Casting Clinic - 12:00 until 2:30 pm
25 **RRFF Cioppino Dinner**

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Vice President & Outings Co-Chairman: **Bill Laurie**

538-0399 blaurie120@att.net

Outings Co-Chairman: **Ken Magoon**

527-8376 magoon5294@aol.com

Secretary: **Greg Jacobs**

823-7341 gjacobs48@gmail.com

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

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

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

526-6015 joebanovich@sonic.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Member at Large: **Chris Castellucci**

763-2017 chrslucci@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 gbridgeman@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**

Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Newsletter: **Lorrin Ngum**

762-4652 lorrinn@aol.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**