

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 44, Number 7  
July 2017

Lorrin Ngum tied to a tarpon...  
Marathon, Florida

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

## President's Message

### A Warm Evening on the Water...

I don't know about you, but I am generally not a morning person. Oh, I can get myself up when there is work or fishing to be done, but this time of the year that old sun rises *awfully* early. Instead, what really makes my summer experience complete is a warm evening on the water. We missed our annual shad outing on the Sacramento River this year due to high waters, but I have some fond memories of being in my boat at Verona around dinner time. That's the time that most of the jet skiers and cruise boats get off the river and the scene calms down. The sun turns a mellow gold and the shadows from the shoreline trees get longer. As the water courses under the anchored

boat, I get the feeling that the river is a living, breathing creature. At that time, there is no place I'd rather be.

I had a similar experience at this year's club outing at Lake Almanor. The fishing there is all about the evening Hex hatch, but as the sun sets there is a pause in the action and a chance to just enjoy the beauty of the place. It seems incongruous that the air is still so warm, yet off on the horizon is that giant snow-coated ice cream cone, Mount Lassen. And all the while, those long Almanor waves bob my float tube, just to remind me that there is fly fishing to be done. Oh well, time to stop evening-dreaming and get back to business.

Speaking of business, it's July and the start of a new club fiscal year. Yeah, you know what that means – time to pay our dues. You can pay by mail (check), or even simpler, go to the club website and use your credit card. What could

be easier? If you make your payment now, it saves the board all the effort and hassle of needing to mail you a reminder later. You know all the benefits of being an RRF member, so no doubt you are going to renew - do it now!

In last month's Message I mentioned it was time for election of the officers and board members for the coming fiscal year. Unfortunately, due to a computer problem the June CAST and ballot was delayed. So we are extending the ballot deadline to July 31. You can mail your ballot in or just drop it off at the July General Meeting. So take a moment to cast your vote for our club's continued success.

And don't forget this month's General Meeting, July 12th, at the RRF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park. New RRF member Bernie Weston, who is also a rod rep for Beulah Fly Rods, will have his fly rods at the Casting Pond so that you can try them out. We will have a barbecue with light dinner fare for those attending.

Lastly, check out our fall outings on the club website. There will be camping at Lake Alpine in August and Lake Davis in September, followed by a stay in cabins at Lewiston Reservoir in October. All of these locations have produced good fishing action in the past, and we are excited about offering them again this year.

I hope to see you there,

~ Ed Barich

## [RRFF July General Meeting](#)

**Wednesday, July 12th - 6:00 pm**

### **The RRF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park**

Join us for our annual July General Meeting on Wednesday, July 12th, at the Casting Pond. The RRF will provide a light barbecue dinner fare for those in attendance, and the evening will kick off at 6:00 pm. Potluck dishes are also accepted, if you wish to contribute. Bring a chair, your personal beverages, fly rods and the willingness to enjoy a splendid Santa Rosa evening with your fellow RRF'ers.

RRF Member Bernie Weston, who is also a rep for Beulah Fly Rods, will have his rods on hand for anyone who wishes to try them out. Casting pointers will be available for the asking. More importantly, this is a great opportunity to share fish stories and to plan summer and fall outing strategies for the upcoming months.

**THERE WILL BE NO RRF GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!** This is our traditional month off...so head somewhere breathtaking and pursue beautiful fish!

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

**[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://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@kresky.com](mailto:steve@kresky.com)**

## **~ Russian River Float Trip ~**

**August 19th, 2017**

Six RRF'ers have signed up to float the Russian River from Johnson's Beach to Monte Rio on our own pontoon boats or kayaks. Sign-ups include Mike Samuelson, Charles Miller, Derek Campbell, Joe Banovich, Bob Perry and myself. We should meet on the street above Johnson's Beach to organize shuttles between there and Monte Rio at 8:00 am. If anyone would prefer using a guide, Lucas Meeker (707-529-7096) has been recommended.

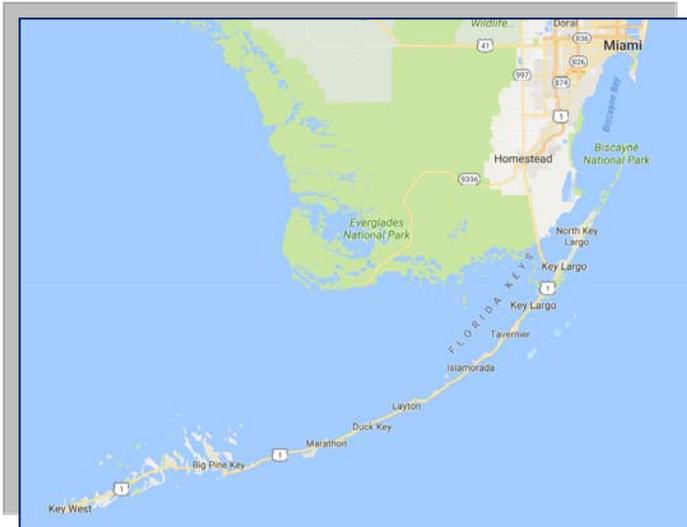
There's plenty of room for more Russian River Fly Fishers to participate. Call me or sign-up on our website. Please contact me with any questions.

~ Bill Laurie, 707-538-0399.

***Donate your extra fly fishing gear to our  
RRF Bargain Table (at every General  
Meeting). A fellow member could use it!***

## [A Tale of Three Tarpon Trips](#)

This year, three groups of RRFF members ventured to Florida to fish for Tarpon during May. This is the time of the legendary Palolo worm hatch, which happens to coincide with tens of thousands of migrating tarpon gathering in the Florida Keys to gorge on the worms before heading to the open ocean to spawn.



*Florida Keys, an interesting and unique place...*

### Mike Spurlock and Walt Kruse

"We were looking for a first trip, and talked to John and Heather who had a nice first trip in 2016 and decided to book a 2017 tarpon trip with the same guide. We arranged lodging in Key West (about a 3 ½ hour interesting drive from Miami - or you can fly into Key West). We fished for three days May 6th - 8th using the guide's rods – 10, 11 and 12-weights with floating and



*Headed out at sunrise for a hopefully calm day of fishing...*



*Walt waiting and watching, fly in hand, ready to cast if a fish is spotted...*

intermediate lines and fishing both the Atlantic Ocean side and Caribbean side of the Keys. We did have a bit of wind the first day on the ocean side which made it hard to see fish. That day, we had one chance to cast to a school of maybe 50 fish moving by, but the fish showed no interest. Most days, the fish seen were either solitary or in groups of 2-3. Fishing was all one angler-at-a-time, sight-casting to fish when the guide spots them while poling...or if it is too windy, anchored up. The challenge



*The guide on his platform, poling and looking for fish...*

is quickly making an accurate cast in the wind when a fish is spotted. Spotting fish is also a real challenge and quite often, only the guide sees the fish and tells you where to cast. Each day we got about 5-10 chances to cast to fish and over three days, we had four short bursts of excitement and anticipation, about four instances where fish showed interest. Mike had a "take" from one fish and a "follow" from a pair. Walt felt **slight tension on a fish** we couldn't see but felt nothing on the strip-set. He

also had a "follow" but the fish spooked as it approached the boat.

We are undecided on returning next year. Mike is considering a baby tarpon trip down to Yucatan next year. An Everglades fishing adventure might also be fun."



*Manatees at the Islamorada World Wide Sportsman dock, drinking fresh water from a leaky hose...*

## **Heather Hamm and John Frenzel**

Comments by John: "We fished 5 days May 16-20 using the same guide who was also the same as last year. We also stayed in Key West. We had a half day of decent weather on the first day, then the high winds came in and stayed until we left. After we were done for the week, it got nice again. Go figure. With the high winds, we couldn't fish the ocean side at all. On the Caribbean side, we resorted to either anchoring up on the back side of the islands or drifting the flats looking for sliding fish. Neither of those were very productive. In fact, Heather went 3 days without casting to a fish! Maybe the fish don't care to be in the flats as much when the water is rough. John got a shitty shot here or there but nothing worth getting excited about. With the cloud cover the flats don't light up, so we didn't have much chance of seeing fish coming until they were just about at the boat. In all, we had 7 "eats"- 1 broke Heather off and all others spit the fly out. That's fishing! The prior year was our first tarpon trip and we did much better, hooking 3 fish."

John and Heather will probably return next year.

## **Steve Tubbs and Lorrin Ngum**

Steve and Lorrin fished 6 days, May 20th to 26th. Steve has been going to Florida for years and fishing with a guide out of Marathon. Comments by Steve: "This was Lorrin's first trip and he did very well. His casting practice

prepared him for the wind and he was able to fish effectively. The winds never let up for the trip... Every day it came up and blew at least 15 - 20 mph and the last two days blowing steady at 20 - 25 mph out of the SW, impossible conditions to pole after moving tarpon and we saw very few schools on those days anyway. On some days, only one of us got a chance to cast, the other guy just along for the boat ride (there were that few fish). Our guide seemed to think they were staging for the Palolo Worm hatch...and they sometimes quit moving and go off-the-bite just prior to that...*sometimes!* However, we did have some good fishing on several days. Trip scorecard: Lorrin "landed" 5 for 11 "hooked", with one additional "eat" (that he felt). I "landed" 3 for 4 "hooked", with 7 additional "eats" (that I actually felt). Boat total = 8 "landed"; 7 more "broke-off", "jumped-off" or "let go"; 8 "eats" that were felt (and many more observed). Lorrin kicked my ass..."

Steve and Lorrin will probably return next year "in a heartbeat".

Look elsewhere in this edition of the CAST for Lorrin's trip report "My Tarpon Experience".

See the [June 2015 CAST](#) for a report on one of Steve's prior trips.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the fishing but the catching was somewhat spotty for some of us. The wind was a negative factor but there were a lot of fish around most days.

~ Mike Spurlock (and friends...)



*Lorrin playing a tarpon along Seven-Mile Bridge...*

## ***Join the RRFF on Facebook***

We currently have **819 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>

## [My First Tarpon Experience](#)

After two months of preparation the time arrives to board the plane and begin the journey from California to the Florida Keys in search of the Tarpon. Getting there and back are the two agonizing moments in the entire journey which requires you to chase bus, plane, and flight schedules; and on an average of 11 hours total travel time in each direction, it's over. However, the anticipation of what to expect once you get there and the memories of what happened once you're back home are embedded in memory. Videos and photos help relive every moment of the on-water experience, displaying the expected and the unexpected.



*An explosive take...*

Each day began with a typical routine and my first day was no exception. You open your room door and stick your head out with eyes peering upwards hoping to see the typical Florida Keys cyan blue sky and slowly dropping to see if the foliage is motionless or dancing in the wind. Your skin is sensitive to the slightest breeze. Aha, the sky is blue indeed and the palm fronds are barely moving. You exhale a sigh of relief since it promises to be a nice day. You throw your gear into the car and head for breakfast.

Upon exiting the restaurant forty-five minutes later with a full stomach, a bone chilling observation disturbs your tranquil state of mind. The wind has picked up and you have visual confirmation from the flags that were dangling lifeless earlier. You head to the boat launch to meet your fishing guide, and try not to stare at the white caps in the distance. The ride will certainly be bumpy and wet as you cross the waters from Florida Bay to the Atlantic Ocean fishing flats.

Interestingly, the first day I met my guide Albert, was with a tentative smile as I held onto tenacious memories of how to do things "correctly". However, I soon realized how quickly things change once you are on the water . . . drills painstakingly practiced may not apply . . . no strip-striking, no excessive false casting, fly in your hand



*In the shallow water of the flats, nowhere to go but up...*

instead of dangling in the water, etc.. Your ability to break old habits and modify what you have been practicing suddenly escalates your learning curve and beckons on your dexterity to execute your "drills" while standing on a pitching and rolling surface that causes weight shifts. You are not standing on solid ground...and it is a make or break situation.

I quickly realized what my mentor and fishing partner, Steve Tubbs, told me at a practice casting session in Santa Rosa. Tarpon fishing is not a venture of solitude, but one of a team effort born between the guide and you. Success results from the guide "taking you to the fish", your placement of precise casts, and following instructions in stripping speed and line tending . . . all performed under ever changing weather and water conditions.

You strain to hear commands from Albert, who is perched on the elevated poling platform 16 feet away at the back of the boat, as the wind noise at the front of the boat muffles his words. He is asking what he expects you to do, but himself not necessarily being able to execute what he is asking of you. That is not his function. Successful "landings" . . . the feat of getting the first leader knot to pass through the top guide of your fly rod . . . begins by following instructions barked out by your guide. The sooner the relationship between the guide and you develops, the quicker the chances are of you hooking and feeling the incredible battling power of *Megalops Atlanticus*.

I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

A special thanks to Binky Castleberry for his instruction in back cast speed and drifting. I said I'd catch one for you!

~ Lorrin Ngum



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## Calendar of Events

### RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics

from 4:30 until 7:00 pm

every Thursday (weather permitting) at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

### July

- 12 **RRFF General Meeting** at the Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm.  
21 **NO RRFF BOARD MEETING IN JULY!**  
27-30 **Hat Creek Outing - CANCELLED!**

### August

### **NO RRFF GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!!!**

- 16 **RRFF Board Meeting**  
19 **Russian River Smallmouth Bass** (Bill Laurie)  
24-26 **Alpine Lake Outing** (Ed Barich)

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

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Secretary and Outings Chairman: Ken Magoon

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Treasurer & Webmaster: Mike Spurlock

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Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: Steve Tubbs

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Program Chairman: Joe Banovich

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Library Master: Don Shaw

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Member at Large: Mike Kast

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Membership Chairman: Doug Mackay

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Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: Paul Matzen

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

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

Women's Activities: Susan Bostwick

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

Raffle Coordinator: Christie Geernaert

292-1304 [christiegeer@gmail.com](mailto:christiegeer@gmail.com)

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)

# Russian River Fly Fishers



## 2017 Ballot

### Officers & Board of Directors

The following candidates have been nominated by the RRF Board of Directors to serve for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. You may choose to elect the candidate slate as presented or you may write-in other RRF members in the spaces provided. There were no nominations received from the general membership for this ballot.

#### RRFF Officers

##### President

- 1.) Ed Barich
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

##### Vice-President

- 1.) Doug Mackay
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_



#### Board Members - (Elected for a 2-year Term)

- 1.) Joe Banovich
- 2.) Steve Tubbs
- 3.) Mike Kast
- 4.) Derek Campbell
- 5.) Gregg Wisley

I choose to elect the Candidate Slate as presented above.  
(Check box to accept ballot as presented.)

#### Returning Board Members (beginning second year of 2-year term)

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.) Ken Magoon    | 7.) Ed Barich         |
| 2.) Don Shaw      | 8.) Chris Castellucci |
| 3.) Mike Spurlock |                       |
| 4.) Paul Matzen   |                       |
| 5.) Ken Young     |                       |
| 6.) Doug Mackay   |                       |

***Please return all ballots by July 31, 2017***

Ballots may be mailed to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.  
You may also turn in your ballot personally at the RRF General Meeting on Wednesday, July 12th.

**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**