

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
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Ken Magoon - Lake Almanor Sunset – 2009
(Photo by Don Shaw)

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

President's Message

Small Craft Safety...

At least half of our RRFF outings involve the use of some kind of floatation device, and probably most of those vessels are less than 12 feet long. Many of us have plied waters big and small in these crafts without any hint of danger, and so we all tend to get a bit complacent about small craft safety. A recent incident at our June outing at Lake Almanor served to remind us that an unexpected dunking is always a possibility.

There is never much of a morning bite on Almanor in June, so after breakfast I was the only float tube fisherman out on the lake. A bit later I was joined by

Don Shaw, who was trying out Chris Castellucci's Hobie pedal-powered kayak to see how it handled. As I slowly trolled, he had no problem keeping pace with me and we carried on a conversation about the kayak since nothing was happening fish-wise. Then amazingly I had a hit and was quickly into a battle with a decent-sized trout. Don pulled out his smart phone and took some photos, then moved in closer after I landed the fish, trying to get a "grip-and-grin" shot. He leaned over to grab my float tube when it happened.

I was focused on the fish in my net when I heard the splash and turned to see Don's head in the water between his boat and mine. His life vest was keeping him up, with one hand on my boat and the other hand holding his phone on top of the capsized kayak. I quickly grabbed his phone so he was able to

get a full grip on the kayak. After pausing a while for him to regain his composure, I paddled over to the front of the kayak and helped flip it upright again. Then I moved to the opposite side of the cockpit from Don to help prevent the craft from flipping again as Don boosted himself back aboard. It took him a couple of tries, and it was quite a struggle, but with much effort he was able to get on top and rotate back into the seat. After that, we were both ready to head for dry land.

Based on that experience, here are my recommendations to our members who use small craft to fish:

1. **WEAR A LIFE VEST!** – A life vest is a very good investment, but it only works if you wear it. There are all kinds of vests available today, many that are low profile so that they don't impede your casting or paddling. The new water-activated gas inflated vests are useful in a case where you might be unconscious. Don was wearing one of those, and in addition to the shock of falling into cold water, he got the shock of having the bag inflate instantly right under his chin. Quite a surprise, but it did a good job of keeping him afloat. He was glad he wore it.
2. **LET SOMEONE KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND WHEN YOU SHOULD BE BACK** – Fly fishers have a bad habit of trying to get away from the crowds, where there is no one else to give them aid. At least give the folks that care about you a chance to help you out of a bad situation.
3. **PRACTICE RE-ENTERING YOUR CRAFT** – This is one that most of us never try, but *really*, *really* should. After Don's experience, Chris decided to find out if he could re-enter his kayak after falling in. He waited for the warm afternoon to try capsizing, making sure that he did not have any loose valuables aboard. Walt Kruse and I served as his spotters in our own craft, ready to help out if something went wrong. Chris wanted to try out a rope that he could hang over the side of the kayak, to be used in flipping the boat upright and then as an aid to boost himself back on top. The rope made the flipping easy, and he found it did help him get aboard. But Chris also found

that doing all of this on his own was very strenuous and he wondered how it might have gone in colder water.

I am hoping this story is enough to make all of our members think seriously about water safety. For Don, the only loss was a new pair of glasses that you might snag out of Almanor someday. Let's make sure we don't lose anything truly priceless out there. You know what I mean.

Have a great (and safe) summer,

~ Ed Barich

Celebration of Life – Carrie Carney

Art Carney would like to invite all of his RRFF friends and family to a ***Celebration of Life*** for his wife Carrie, who passed on May 3rd. Art and Carrie were involved with many RRFF outings and events, as well as hosts for our annual RRFF Cioppino Dinner, for many years.

Please join him in **Legends Restaurant** at the Bennett Valley Golf Course on **Saturday, July 14th**. The celebration will be held from **11:00 am until 2:00 pm**.

Art requests that you wear "**island attire**" in keeping with this celebration of Carrie's life and the many friendships that the both of them have shared through the Russian River Fly Fishers. Presently, Art is visiting family in Maine before returning to Sonoma County later this month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Art as he begins his next life adventure.

Obituary – Press Democrat, May 19th – 21st.

July General Meeting

Wednesday, July 11th – 6:00 pm

Barbecue and Fly Casting at the Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park

Our traditional July General Meeting is a barbecue and fly casting event at the Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park. The evenings are often spectacular at this time of year, and enjoying one at the pond with

friends is always memorable. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm.

The club will provide a light barbecue dinner for your enjoyment. You may wish to bring a folding chair, your fly rods, any beverages that you may desire, and an appreciation of the camaraderie that we share as RRF members.

Our Casting Pond is one of only four casting venues in the entire state, and the only one north of the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in San Francisco. Won't you spend the evening with us?

Casting instruction and pointers will be available upon request.

NO GENERAL MEETING IN AUGUST!

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

Kayak Self-Rescue

It may be a good idea to practice a self-rescue...just in case the unthinkable happens!



1. Testing kayak stability...



2. Man Overboard!...



3. Righting the boat...



4. Climbing back on top...

Lake Almanor Hex Hatch Outing

The summer solstice is traditionally a good time to head up to Lake Almanor (near Chester, CA) for the annual Hexagenia mayfly hatch, and so for the second year in a row the Russian River Fly Fishers were in attendance to participate in the action. The outing organizer, Don Shaw, chose the PG&E Rocky Point Campground as our base of operations, which turned out to be a very convenient location for fishing the hatch. Other club members who participated were Doug Mackay, Walt Kruse, Chris Castellucci, Ken Magoon, Mike Kangrga and Ed Barich.



5. Almost on board...



6. Back in the saddle...

(Thanks to Chris Castellucci for the demonstration!)



We had not used the Rocky Point campground before, and found it to be a pleasant location with practically all of its 130 sites near the lake and nicely shaded by pines. The entire campground was full that weekend, but thanks to Don's advice we were able to sign up back in April for five sites that were located not very far apart. Walt's spot was actually right on the water, while the others were just across the road or a short walk from the lake. This saved us the time and effort we spent last year commuting from the Butt Reservoir campground to Lake Almanor, and allowed us to easily check the conditions on the lake for the best fishing action.



Ed...Fish On!

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



Doug with trout in net...

Since the best bite happens daily between 6 and 9 pm, we arranged to meet each day to share a meal at 5 pm so that we could avoid eating just before going to bed. Each day we had a different menu: Don's Very Berry Chicken Salad, Mike's beef stew over noodles, and Doug's ravioli with sausage, along with appetizers and desserts provided by the rest of the party. With all that good food, it's a wonder that we were able to waddle out to the water for the evening bite.

And bite they did. All of us fished Thursday evening, when some of the largest trout were caught. Both Chris and Don were able to land 24-inch browns, and quite a few rainbows in the 20+ inch range were netted. The remarkable thing was how much more action we were getting, compared to previous years. Our catch-to-bite ratio averaged less than 50% some nights, but even the grabs were heart-stopping. The most productive technique was slowly trolling a Hex nymph pattern behind a Type 3 or intermediate sinking line. Walt was very effective at this technique, catching many trout and specializing in



Ken with a nice smallie...



Smallmouth bass...

landing even more smallmouth bass, with one impressive specimen measuring 19 inches.

As the sun set behind Mount Lassen each evening, we were treated to one of the most amazing events in the insect kingdom – the Hexagenia hatch. Like corn in a popper, the number of 2-inch bright yellow duns floating on the surface increased as darkness fell. Compared to other years, there were less rises taking down the little yellow boats – perhaps the fish were too stuffed with nymphs to exert the effort of coming to the surface. Most of us tried to participate by casting dry fly imitations, and there were a few hookups, but most of them resulted in a short run followed by a spit (or even bent) hook. As usual, the Hex surface action was brief, exciting, and frustrating at the same time – and of course, a tradition not to be missed.

We all agreed that this year's Hex hatch outing was the best ever. Big fish, lots of action, good food, enjoyable company, and a pleasant camping experience. What more could you ask for?

~ Ed Barich



Lake Almanor sunset...

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **890 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>

UP NEXT...

Alpine Lake

August 23rd – 26th

We will be staying at the [Pine Martin Campground](#) on the east side of Lake Alpine. This US Forest Service campground does not take reservations, but has first-come sites for \$25 per night. There is a small grocery store nearby at Lake Alpine Resort for supplies.

Lake Alpine is 60 miles east of Angels Camp, on Highway 4 near Ebbetts pass. The lake has 180 surface acres at 7,388 feet elevation. There is a boat ramp and power boats are limited to 10 MPH. The lake is typically planted by the DFW with hundreds of rainbow trout.

Personal floatation (such as a pontoon, kayak or float tube) is required to fly fish the lake. I have found trolling a small wooly bugger behind a float tube to be very effective. Another popular pattern is the Sparrow Nymph, which is locally sold at **The Trout Spot** fly shop in Arnold. Also, there is often a dry fly bite in the morning before the afternoon winds come up. On our last trip, flying ant patterns

were eagerly grabbed by the 12 to 14" rainbows. Possible side-excursions include Kinney Lakes (hike-in/up for cutt-bow trout) or the Stanislaus River (pocket water fishing for small rainbows, Tenkara-style).

Trip Host – Ed Barich

Heenan Lake and Carson River

September 13th – 16th

I have reserved a group campsite at **The Carson River Resort**, on Hwy 89 near Markleeville, for this outing. There is space for 8 to 10 people in tents and small campers, but no hook-ups. The cost for the site is \$40 per night. We'll be camp cooking, so shared dinners would be desirable (or we could just do pot-luck). It would be great if someone would organize the meals. Campers can shower and wash dishes at the Resort.

The camp is on the bank of the Carson River, which is planted with good-sized rainbows through the month of September.

I'm most looking forward to fishing Heenan Lake, which is a few miles east of the Carson River Camp Resort (on Hwy 89) at Monitor Pass. The lake is a "brood stock" catch and release Lahontan cutthroat fishery that is only open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during September and October. We fish it from personal float crafts and prams (no gas motors are allowed). It can be very windy on the lake, so have an anchor, but the lake is also small (135 acres) and I have had to "walk" my pontoon back to the take-out area when the afternoon gusts get too strong.

Heenan is a shallow lake (25 ft.) with a late summer algae bloom, so trolling an intermediate sink line on a 5 or 6 weight rod with #6 to #10 dark buggers or leeches with #12 Prince Nymphs droppers deep near weed beds is most effective. We also fish #12 and #14 Zebra Midges, Copper John's or PT nymphs under indicators. The fish can be good sized, up to 30", so try 3x, 4x and 5x tippets.

Check out the "Heenan Lake Fly Fishing" web page for more details...and sign-up on the RRFF website if you wish to join us this September.

~ Ken Magoon



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Calendar of Events

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – Held every Thursday evening, 4:30 to 7:00 pm (weather permitting).
This event is FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Beginners are welcome...

July

- 11 **RRFF General Meeting** – (Casting Pond – 6pm)
- 14 **Celebration of Life – Carrie Carney** – Legends Restaurant, Bennett Valley – 11am – 2pm
- 18 **NO RRFF Board Meeting in July!**
- 18 **RETU General Meeting** – Lagunitas Brewery

Visit www.rrflyfisher.org for a complete list of upcoming events!

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Vice President: **Doug Mackay**

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Secretary and Outings Chairman: **Ken Magoon**

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Raffle Coordinator: **Christie Geernaert**

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Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

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Newsletter Editor: **Steve Tubbs** (reluctant)

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Russian River Fly Fishers
c/o Mike Spurlock
20 San Domingo Way
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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 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