



Sonoma County
California
Volume 46, Number 7
July 2019

**Lynne's Big Catch!!!
Ontario, Canada**

President's Message

Small stuff...

Like most fly fishers, I can get really excited about the topic of large fish. There is certainly a lot to be said for hooking one of those fish-of-a-lifetime beasts. A solid hookset, the rod bent in a rainbow arc, an explosive jump, the drag screaming as the backing peels off the reel -those instants get burned into your memory, and can become the icon of the day, the trip or the season when you recall them years later.

What about the not-so-big fish? When you are out to catch the big ones, the incidental little guys you catch probably don't register in your long-term memories of the outing. They are just bit players, and don't get the top billing of the "personal best" you are probably hunting for. You carefully remove the hook and toss the little guy back in the water, giving him a "come back when you get bigger"

sendoff. You won't remember that event at the end of the day, let alone years from now.

The whole concept changes when you downscale your quarry, and your expectations. On the recent Lake Almanor outing, I spent an afternoon on Butt Creek searching for (really) small game. I was using my Tenkara rod, which not having a reel definitely limited the possibilities of landing any record setters. Carefully wading up the creek, with heavy brush on one side and a canyon wall on the other, forced me to slow down and concentrate on finding prospective lies. Fortunately, the little trout I found were very cooperative (unlike the Almanor trout the night before) and gave me action even when my fly was not matching the hatch or perfectly drifting downstream. When I did succeed in hooking them, they jumped like flying fish instead of rainbow trout, and since I was using a Tenkara rod, they *did* put a bend in it despite their diminutive size.

I think I will remember that wade up Butt Creek long after I forget the rest of the fishing I did that

weekend. Sometimes all it takes to make a day memorable is to reset your expectations, slow things down, and savor the small stuff. Have a great summer, and don't forget to spend some quality time on the waters.

Tight lines,

Ed Barich

Lake Almanor Report – June Outing

This Lake Almanor outing was attended by Ed Barich, Bill Laurie, Charlie Jacobs, Tom Magliulo, Rick Baker, and Chris Castellucci. We all ended up sharing campsites at the Almanor south campground at the Lassen NF, just a short five-minute drive to easy boat ramp and lake shore access. The Lassen NF campsites are very clean, spacious, and have restrooms with sinks and flush toilets. This was a very good alternative to Rocky Point campground. Thursday and Friday the weather was mild with sunny skies and strong winds, though white capped waters made our evening fishing on the lake very difficult. Along with rough fishing conditions, the Hex hatch was also very spotty and few.

Ed Barich caught a small mouth bass and Rick Baker caught a small trout. Saturday though, we had fantastic clear, mild weather with a flat calm lake. There was a very good Hex hatch during the last half hour of the evening, but again, very few trout rising, and no trout caught even with a sizable flotilla of float tubes and pontoon boats drifting the shoreline. Where are the trout? I think the late winter and high lake level may have some bearing on our outcome,

or just bad timing. In between the days, some of us ventured out to explore small local streams in search of trout action. Ed made use of his side trips perfecting his Tenkara techniques.

Although we had a difficult time fishing and no catching, we all enjoyed the nature and the gatherings. The campsites were great. We all gathered each night for great dinners, enjoying steak, pasta, salads, and desserts. Charlie Jacobs bought the best homemade berry pie from a young lady at a church fundraising event in Chester.

Better luck next time,

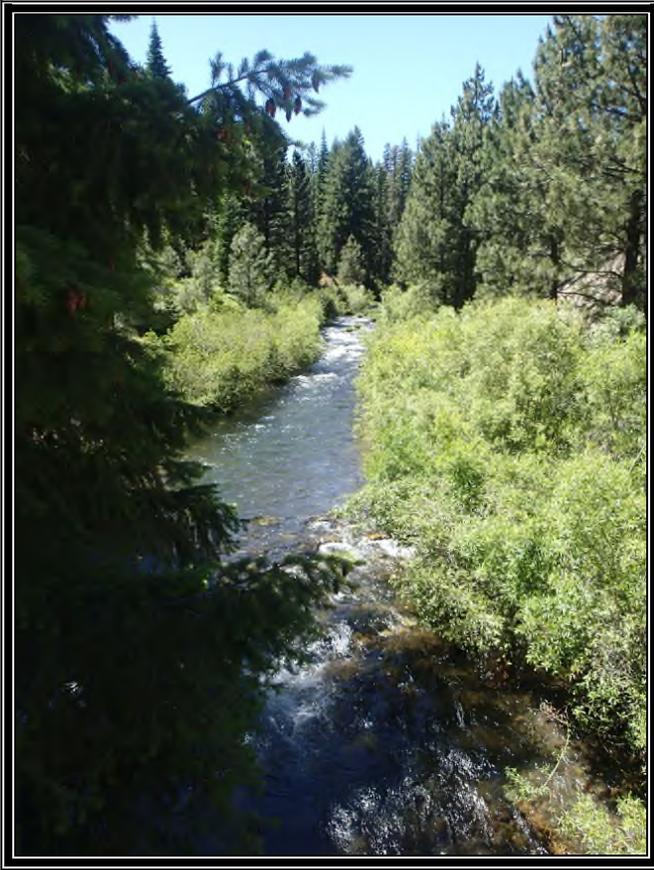
Chris Castellucci



Photos from the Almanor Outing



Lake Almanor Smallie



Butt Creek



Deer Creek

Embrace An Article by Steve Tubbs

Each of us has a choice - to seek the comfortable, the familiar, and the known - or to challenge our perceptions, discover new perspectives, and embark on a journey into the new and not yet realized. A crucial step in the latter pursuit is to turn off our internal dialogue, to loosen our grip on our convictions, and to accept that what we think we know is always subject to how we view the world around us. As we broaden our worldview to include more, our vantage point shifts as well. With a broader inclusiveness, we discover that our understandings are illusory and represent a limited perception based on a specific worldview. When we grow and open to a wider and deeper world, our individual stories also include more. The possibilities are truly endless when we understand that there is always a higher and more inclusive perspective, and that the view from that vantage will provide new insights and wonders. In growth, change becomes a sought after, and trusted, ally.

For many of us, an interest in fly fishing followed an early introduction to angling with bait, and perhaps spin fishing with lures. At some point, the magic of fly fishing enticed us...whether it was the beauty and grace of fly casting, the top water action of dry fly fishing, or just the mystery (and maybe a suggested mastery?) of the fly fisherman as he (or she) entered our angling consciousness. For me, the fly angler approached fishing from a perspective I was not familiar with. Whereas I waited patiently for a fish to eat my bait, or strike my lure as I flipped and retrieved it, the fly fisherman displayed a new set of skills and a purpose suggestive of a deeper understanding of our aquatic environments. This captivated me. I felt myself drawn to discover this world, and although it would take many years before I began this journey, the desire accompanied me and I watched in admiration whenever I found myself in the company of a fly fisher.

It has now been about 30 years since I first picked up a fly rod and began to teach myself the Art of Flycasting. Like all aspects of this sport, you choose how far you wish to take it. Perfection is unattainable, and there is always more to include and learn as your adventures take you to new

challenges, new water, and a deeper appreciation of the environment and those aquatic worlds we frequent. Through fly fishing, I discovered the ability to “stop the world”, to “get out of my head”, and to shut-off my internal dialogue. Instead, I found myself immersed in the world around me, in moving water, in Stillwater, on coastal waterways and ocean flats - a student of tides, currents, and ecosystems. I became an observer, my attention focused on the miracle unfolding before me, an environment so intertwined and interconnected that it became an obsession to learn as much as I could about how all of the pieces of this complete puzzle affected the others. Unlike a puzzle, however, the pieces multiplied endlessly with each new discovery. The mystery deepened with each new question, and the answers provided changed with my developing understanding. My attention focused, leaving no room for dialogue that was not about fly fishing or the natural world around me.

Humans have been trying to explain the Mystery of our existence since we first learned to communicate. We have created mythologies, religions, scientific theories, art and writing (at its highest forms) in an effort to cast light on this ineffable mystery...an inclusiveness so beyond our limited abilities to communicate that all of our efforts fall short, and at best feebly point toward a concept beyond concepts. And yet as we point, we can inspire each other to a greater inclusiveness that broadens our recognition of all that is. An impetus for this recognition is constantly provided to us through Nature, especially in its potential to connect us (however briefly) with the sublime moment, a perspective that continually changes as we evolve. But again, this is purely our choice. For many, resting in a worldview that is comfortable and “known”, and does not challenge, is acceptable. As such, we are blissfully unaware that higher perspectives exist. We surround ourselves with the elements that support our worldview, and feel comfortable that we have “figured things out”. That is, until that which “takes us beyond” this perspective occurs...a peak experience, an “A-ha moment”, a realization that our current understanding is limited. This creates a longing, a desire for growth, a recognition that there is something missing.

Others have written about an evolution that occurs through fly fishing, that it is a natural progression of sensibilities toward a new understanding of fishing. Part of this is exemplified in the saying, “It’s not the catching, it’s the fishing” and in Thoreau’s, “Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not the fish they are after.” For me, as my experiences and moments on the water deepen my immersion, I have found that the catch has diminished importance. The meditation that fly fishing has become encourages me to seek more experiences, to hold my truths lightly, to accept that I know so very little about this world we live in and to realize that a changing perspective creates an entirely new observation. This growth has changed the way I view the world and increased my awareness of the myriad pieces that affect the whole. I now realize that there is an inclusiveness that permeates all aspects of our environment and its ecosystems. Fly fishing has become my inspiration for this awareness.

I teach fly casting, and fly fishing, in an effort to instill a greater appreciation of our natural world and to foster the recognition of the interconnected elements that comprise our healthy aquatic environments. It is my hope that others will become as intrigued and inspired by this mystery as I have, and that their journey will bring them to a more inclusive understanding. Fly fishing is about meditation, learning to fly cast, exploring nature and aquatic ecosystems, observation, entomology, discovering the interactive aspects of water quality, temperature and healthy food production, the importance of currents, presentation tactics, imitation, and an ability to ask the right questions (changing them as awareness deepens). It encompasses All, if we let it, and is a life-long pursuit. No one will ever attain enlightenment, as each new discovery opens doors to an even deeper understanding, offering ever more to integrate. I believe that as we embrace this process of discovery, it becomes a spiritual experience affecting our connection with Nature, our world and universe, and with each other. As we develop a more inclusive awareness, we are better able to understand and integrate our perceptions, and better able to sense our own place as a contributing part of the mystery around us.

The world is changing, and our human dialogue often appears divisive and exclusionary, pitting groups against each other and sometimes against the environment. If we are to progress in a manner that honors all that is, it will be inclusiveness and integration that will be the measure of our success.

~ Steve Tubbs

Photos from the Ontario Outing





Summer Club General Meeting Schedule

August - No General Meeting

Sept 11 - General Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 7PM

RRFF Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter materials are due the fourth Monday of each month. Please email submissions as an MSWord doc to our newsletter editor:

**Marcus Pipkin –
marcus.pipkin@comcast.net**

September Club General Meeting Reminder

The September general meeting will feature a show and tell presentation from club members. Please remember to bring your photos, presentations, etc. from your summer fishing adventures to the meeting. For more information please contact Don Shaw at 707-664-8573 or donjanshaw@comcast.net

Upcoming Steelhead Outing in November – Trinity River – November 7th -10th

As we approach August, our annual Steelhead trip to the Trinity is filling up. We currently have 10 members signed up. This is a great opportunity to fish one of the premier steelhead rivers in Northern California. We still have rooms with 7/8 beds reserved for Russian River Fly Fishers at the Indian Creek Lodge, 59741 CA 299, Douglas City, CA (530-623-6294). Call them to reserve one of our spaces, and let me know. Flies are available at our own Sportsmen's warehouse in Rohnert Park; additionally, flies and guides are available at the Trinity River Fly Shop, 4440 Lewiston Rd, Lewiston, CA (530-633-4440) or the Fly Shop, 4140 Churn Creek Road, Redding, CA (530-222-3555).

Let me know when you make your reservation. I will only hold this reservation open until September 12th, the day after our next club meeting.

Don't pass up on this great opportunity for Steelhead fishing.

Bill Laurie 707-538-0399, blaurie120@att.net

Reminder: Annual Club Memberships Due

Annual membership dues were due July 1st for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

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July Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – Held every Thursday during Daylight Savings Time – 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting).

This event is **FREE** and is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**
Beginners are welcome...

Casting Pond on Summer Schedule

Thursdays 4:30 – 7:00

No Board meeting will be held in July

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**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Secretary: **Vacant**

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

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

765-1787 steve@inspuri2.com

Program Chairman: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Library Master / Outings: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Outings Chairman: **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

Raffle Assistant: **Ken Young**

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: **Vacant**

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wisley**

823-5572 gwriss@yahoo.com

Member at Large: **Jeff Cratty**

765-2404 rjcratty@yahoo.com

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

978-3897 joosts@pacbell.net

Coordinators

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

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**

815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

Casting Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

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Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: **Marcus Pipkin**

615-969-9200 marcus.pipkin@comcast.net

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



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* _____
Main Interests in the Club? _____
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 1st 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**