

The Cast



Sonoma County
California
Volume 43 Number 6

Verona Shad "Double"

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

Headwaters...

Here we are at another transition...our Russian River Fly Fishers helmed by the largest Board of Directors we have ever had, a group that is working toward making our club stronger and actively increasing our opportunities for events, outings and further camaraderie. They have made my latest tenure as your President easy and fruitful, their efforts bringing about significant improvements in how our club operates and in how we interact with each other. I am pleased with this direction and in our successes over the past two years. We are as strong financially as we have been in decades, and there is a large core group of members who are actively participating in and promoting our club activities.

I would like to commend Ken Magoon for his assistance as Vice President and for covering for me during those times when I needed to be elsewhere. He has often volunteered to organize projects that have come before the board and has assisted me for years, along with Paul Matzen (who also serves as our contact with Casting For Recovery), with the RRF Casting Instruction Program. We have been

aided with instruction by Don Shaw, Doug MacKay, Mike Kast and club members Joe Craig, Ken Howe and Binky Castleberry. Doug and Sage Mackay have taken over the maintenance of our Casting Pond, and I can honestly say that it has never looked better. Their commitment is noteworthy and appreciated.

RRFF Treasurer Mike Spurlock deserves acknowledgement for creating and managing our new RRF website (www.rrflyfisher.org). He has made it possible for our online connection with our club members to grow and incorporate most of what we do in a readily accessible format...a definite plus especially for our new members and as a means of promotion for our club in general. Joe Banovich continues in his role as program director and brings industry-leading speakers to our monthly meetings. Secretary Greg Jacobs and Gregg Wrisley team up to provide our refreshments at the General Meeting, with Gregg also turning his attention to our raffle, assisted by Christie Geernaert. Ken Young has also assisted with the raffle, with RRF membership and with other board projects as needed.

Mike Kast has graciously provided us the use of his board room for our monthly BOD meetings, often wielding a baseball bat as Sergeant at Arms. Don Shaw manages our video library, while Bill Laurie and Ken Magoon plan and promote our monthly outings. Derek Campbell has given new life to our Conservation Program and has diligently shared Russian River Watershed concerns with our membership...something we have been lacking for a number of years. Art Carney has been our liaison with the City of Santa Rosa and has managed (with Carrie) our annual Cioppino Dinner for the last four or five years...an event that continues to grow in attendance with each steak and bowl of Cioppino served.

Finally, I would like to thank Ed Barich for accepting the role of leadership as our new RRFF President, and Bill Laurie for stepping up to serve again as Vice President. I believe that Ed will guide us well in the next year and I look forward to the opportunity to work with him, and the rest of the board, as we move forward. Welcome to new board member Chris Castellucci and continued thanks to our newsletter editor, Lorrin Ngum.

It has been a pleasure,

~ Steve Tubbs

Verona Shad Outing

The annual RRFF MEMORIAL DAY OUTING at Verona was hosted by Lee Soares who spends five days from 6 AM to 8 PM shuttling anglers out to fish the confluence of the Sacramento and Feather Rivers for Shad.

The water was muddy on both rivers which might have slowed down the bite, where 50 – 80 fish days were not unusual in previous years. Consequently, catching was slow - - ten to fifteen fish to the boat each day. Nonetheless, the fishing was fabulous - - calm descending water levels, warm sunny weather, and pleasant company with lots of fish stories and food sharing during the evenings.

Captain Lee and his Boston Whaler saw Charles Carter, who netted many shad, with one catch being a double header; and there were other double headers on the Whaler landed by Lee, Bill Laurie, Mike Spurlock, and guest Pete Riley, a newbie fly fisher, who caught his first Shad on a fly rod.



Charles Carter

RRFF President nominee Ed Barich also came to the outing on Sunday and took home memories of a Kayak adventure and landing a Striper.

We were using 6 to 8 weight rods loaded with type 4 or 6 shooting heads trailing traditional chartreuse, or green and red size 4 or size 6 shad flies. Surf candy bait fish imitations were also used by some.



Bill Laurie's double

If you haven't experienced fishing for Shad and want to give it a try, see you next year . . . same time, same place!

We mentor beginners.

~ Susan Bostwick



Susan Bostwick

JULY 13TH General Meeting

The July 13th club meeting will be held at the casting pond at 6 pm. The BBQ will be going. We also will have a special guest to give us some fly casting instruction - Floyd Dean. If you have been to some of the fishing shows over the years, you may have seen him.

At our meeting, he will:

- Demonstrate types of casts and show how to correct common problems.
- Provide group and individual instruction.
- Let everyone try his Fly Casting Accelerator Trainer. [Click here to see it.](#)

Be sure to bring your fly rod and be prepared to cast!

Ken Magoon is the meeting coordinator.

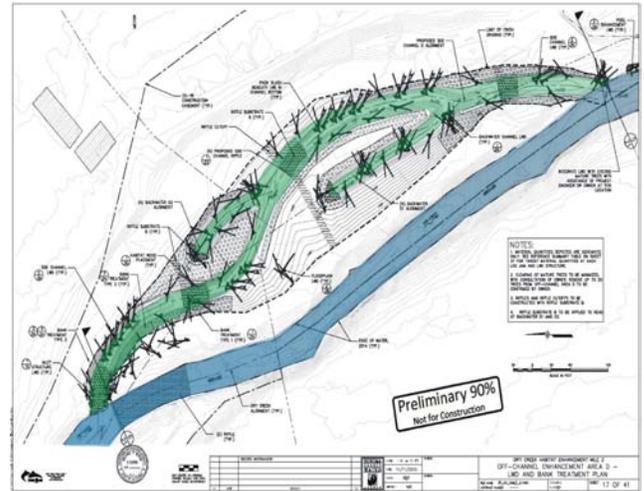
~ Editor

[RRFF Library ~ Our Resource Center](#)

We plan to list our available library DVDs on the RRFF website in the next month or so. This media is a valuable resource for new members to borrow and learn from.

There are a large number of DVDs that have been checked-out and not returned. Please return them so Don Shaw, our library coordinator, will have them available to loan out to new members.

~ Editor



Conservation Corner 8: Restoring the Russian River - One Mile at a Time

In a previous article, I highlighted a number of agencies, partnerships, and organizations that are nominally aligned on the goal of restoring the anadromous fish runs on the Russian River. The Russian River needs serious help, and it seems like there are a lot of groups willing to organize, at least internally, towards that end. Some have considered the Russian too far gone to attempt major restoration but many agencies and organizations have committed large amounts of funding and time to make sure that never comes true. So what large-scale physical restoration projects are they doing now in the watershed? Below is a short list of some current and upcoming fisheries conservation activities. This is assuredly not exhaustive and certainly not sufficient, but it gives a flavor for real action on the ground. And for what's missing.

1. [Korbel Bank Stabilization Project](#) – An old, eroding community dump on the Korbel site contributes to sediment impairment on the Lower Russian and the subsequent loss of critical anadromous habitat, watershed function capabilities and river water quality. A plan has been drawn up to install structural techniques from the downstream end of the eroded bank to the upstream end of the eroded area that lies upstream of a willow clump, a distance of 1,200ft. The Russian River Wild Steelhead Society, working with River Docs in addition to

county, state and federal agencies, has applied for a permit and funding to ensure the project will move forward in 2017.

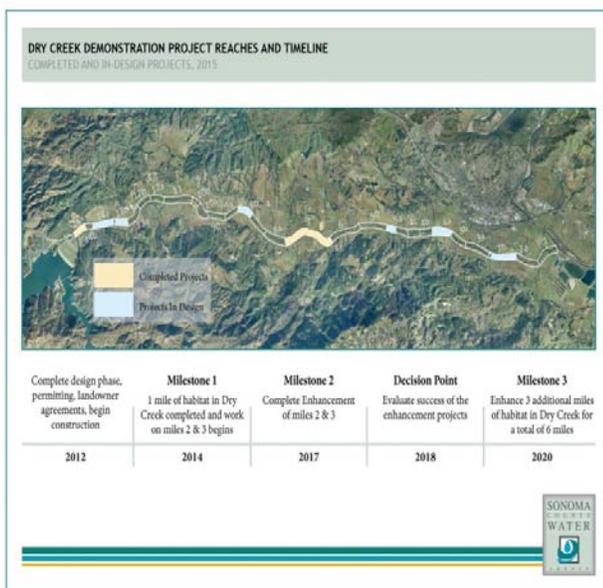
2. [Colgan Creek](#) - Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited has been leading a project since 2014 to provide monitoring, interpretive signage and educational outreach to local classrooms as part of the 1.3 mile Colgan Creek restoration project. Colgan Creek is a tributary of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Southwest Santa Rosa. The effort restores the run to a normal riparian waterway, provides a foot path, and reconnects the low elevation reaches near Elsie Allen High School all the way up to the headwaters at Kawana Springs.
3. [Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Program](#)– In 2012, one of the largest restoration projects in the Russian River watershed began on Dry Creek. The creek is one of the most consistent tributaries of the Middle Russian due to cold water releases from the Warm Springs Dam at Lake Sonoma. The Sonoma County Water Agency is leading a coalition of local landowners and the Army Corp of Engineers to improve flow and provide fish rearing habitat for Coho salmon in 6 miles of the stream. Currently in permitting with the California Department of Fish and wildlife and the Corp, the Mile 2-3 Enhancement is beginning construction in the Summer of 2016 with scheduled completion in 2017. For more information, contact Barry Dugan (barry.dugan@scwa.ca.gov).

4. [Hanson Russian River Ponds Floodplain Restoration Project](#). The Endangered Habitats Conservancy is leading a coalition of funding from the State Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region, and the California Wildlife Foundation to study the feasibility of restoring an old Windsor-area gravel mine. The project goal is to re-establish a stable, seasonal river - floodplain connection to restore essential ecological processes and functions. It is also intended to sustain off-channel aquatic, wetland, riparian, and upland habitats crucial for recovery of fish and wildlife, particularly ESA-listed Coho and Chinook salmon, and steelhead populations. For more information contact Michael Beck at the Endangered Habitats Conservancy (beckehl@cox.net) or Brian Cluer (brian.cluer@noaa.gov).

So, what can you do? Get involved:

1. Know of other restoration work currently happening in the Russian River watershed? Know of any that are in planning? Any that need a kick in the pants to get moving? Contact me and we'll highlight it in future articles.
2. Re-join the [Redwood Empire chapter](#) of Trout Unlimited. Make sure your voice is heard by volunteering to be an Officer or Board Member and advocate for the need for major habitat improvement projects in our Russian River watershed and the desire to work together for steelhead conservation.
3. Join the [Russian River Wild Steelhead Society](#). Attend the RRWSS 8th Gathering of Great Steelheaders in July 2016 to support their activities.

~ Derek Campbell
Conservation Chairman



2016/2017 RRFF Membership Dues are Due and Payable...

July 1st marks the beginning of the 2016/2017 fiscal year. Your RRFF membership dues are due and payable. Membership levels remain very affordable and we urge you to renew your membership as soon as possible. Your dues provide the funds for our monthly speakers and various events that we hold throughout the year.

Single Membership - \$50.00

Family Membership - \$55.00

Junior Membership (Ages 16 to 18) - \$25.00

Renew your dues online at www.rrflyfisher.org or please make your checks payable to the RRFF and remit your dues payment to:

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

*During the summer, many of our RRFF board members are away from the area. It may take as long as a couple of months to process your dues payments and get your checks cashed, depending on the fishing schedules of our treasurer and membership directors. As always, we will endeavor to process your payment as quickly as possible.

~ Editor

Did You Buy?.....

Lance Gray lower Sacramento drift boat guide trip raffle continues!

This is an "ongoing" club raffle which allows you to purchase tickets for \$20.00 - a \$425 value for \$20.00 per ticket.

We have sold 7 tickets to date and 13 remaining to sell before we draw for a winner.

Tickets are sold at club meetings and online at www.rrflyfisher.org.

The winner need not be present to win.

~ Editor

Last Dance...

May 25, 2016 - Marathon, FL

You never know, during the course of a Florida Keys fishing trip, which tarpon will be the last one you will catch on any given year. Binky Castleberry and I had experienced 5 days of good weather...manageable wind and numerous packs of tarpon that, although not always willing to play, kept us entertained with the possibilities of leaping fish and screaming reels. Most days the wind had stayed below 10 mph, and the one day, when it had barely whispered across the water, had been overcast, the horizon line nearly invisible so that one could barely discern water from sky. The low light, on that dead-calm day, kept the tarpon comfortable as long as the angler could finesse only the leader into the migrating fish. Side-arm presentations, keeping the fly line, leader and fly close to the water, were the rule and were rewarded.

Our sixth (and last) day greeted us with violent thunder and lightning as we made our way to breakfast at the *Stuffed Pig*. By 7:00 am, when we hit the marina to help Albert launch his Dolphin flats boat, a tenuous sunrise accompanied a stiff breeze out of the NE...and thunderheads loomed over the ocean, rain evident as it spilled in sheets toward the water. We anchored on the flat at Pigeon, the wind already too strong to allow us to stake-up with the push-pole. Whitecaps and waves made visibility difficult, and clouds scuttling overhead created a mosaic of shadows that further camouflaged any migrating tarpon.

We were sharing the flat with two other boats, one of them fishing the final day of the *Golden Fly Tarpon Tournament* out of Islamorada, which they led throughout and eventually won at day's end (Ed Young with Captain Scott Collins). It was rough, but fish came as the tide fell and the tarpon were "grabby", each boat taking their turn in the rotation and landing fish, with Ed and Scott strengthening their lead in the tournament. The wind picked up a little more...a constant 15 to 20 mph...and brought rain with it, about a half hour of steady pelting that found us with our backs to the worst and huddled up in foul weather gear, riding the anchor.

The tide bottomed out and went slack, but the wind continued. Our boat had moved to first in the line-up and we were anchored on the inside at the edge of the channel, the other two skiffs beside us within shouting distance. I stood on the deck, fly in hand with my fly line coiled in the cockpit out of the wind, scanning the water for any sign of tarpon...a splash, a tail, a back rolling between the waves. Visibility was getting worse. With the tide change to incoming, the wind increased further, now blowing at 20 to 25 mph straight into the bow and casting deck. At the edge of the channel, a string of about 20 fish began to spill onto the flat. "Here they come!", Albert shouted. "On the edge, about 10:00 o'clock!" I looked, and could not see them. "Where?", I asked. "Get ready," Albert said. "You're going to have to cast in front and intercept them...they're coming right at you!"

How the hell was I going to do that without hooking myself, I wondered, as the wind whipped directly into my casting shoulder? "Go," Albert yelled, and I released the fly, throwing it high behind me with the back cast and punching it toward the fish. The wind blew everything left, on the wrong side of the closing string of tarpon. I tried again...and the wind again pushed my presentation left. Pissed off, and water-hauling with a hard double-haul, I tried a third time, shooting the cast into the wind - "playing it" - and ducking just in time to sense the 1/0 hook passing over my head...a classic "chuck and duck". The fly landed perfectly just to the right of the pack, and the incoming current swung it into the fish. "Two hands...slow...work it..." Albert instructed as I eased the fly through the tarpon. "He's got it!", Albert yelled as the line came tight. I repeatedly strip-struck as the tarpon exploded from the water beside the boat, accompanied by cheers from our companions. "Whoa...it's a big one!"

The 100-plus pound fish charged off, and then circled back to join the rest of the school as they passed beneath our bow, requiring me to tuck the fly rod back under my arm (nicely bruising my rib) while stripping as fast as I could with both hands to keep the fly line tight. At this point I had about 60-feet of fly line to clear before getting the fish on the reel, the strong wind wrapping it around all available obstacles in the boat as Binky worked just as feverishly to unwrap it. It was a team effort...and as the fly line finally cleared to the reel, the big tarpon

exploded again from the water at the edge of the channel.

Holding the rod in one hand, I released the anchor rope and we followed, using the motor to catch up and to work the fish until the leader knots were in the tip top guide and the fish was "landed" on the other side of the channel. I then tightened up, trying to force one last jump, but as is so often the case with tarpon, the fish chose to charge away instead and snapped our 25 lbs. "breaker" section at the leader. Our success and "high-fives" had inspired our audience with new optimism and, while the wind continued to blow with no let-up, we took our place behind them at the end of the rotation.

It was one of the most memorable fish of our trip, caught in adverse conditions from an anchored boat, and would also prove to be the last fish we would see. Tarpon fishing is game of dealing with conditions, of making the adjustments that any particular day can present, and of taking advantage of opportunities when they arise. Success is measured by an angler's skills and good fortune, often requiring teamwork to ensure a favorable outcome. There are no certainties! You don't know when the fish will quit coming or when you've made that final cast, until the boat is on its last run to the marina and the events of the trip are taking their appropriate places in your tarpon memories. And as those memories coalesce into stories, sometimes that "last dance" can be the most inspiring.

~ Steve Tubbs



Leaping Tarpon...

**Check out the Russian River Fly
Fishers**

on the Internet at

www.rrflyfisher.org

Welcome Back...

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome back returning member Roger White.

You should receive your membership information within the next few weeks and our RRFF newsletter, *The CAST*, will be sent to you via email. If you have any questions about our club, please contact one of our RRFF board members. All contact information is listed on our website, as well as information regarding upcoming events, outings and meetings.

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **723 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>

Calendar of Events

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – From 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting). Held every Thursday at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa .

June

- 4** **General Meeting - Club Picnic at the Casting Pond 11:00 AM**
- 9 – 12** **Manzanita Lake** (K. Magoon)
- 18** **Casting For Kids – Casting Pond 11AM – 3PM**

July

- 13** **General Meeting – RRFF Casting Pond - 6:00 PM**

August

21 – Sep 3

Idaho, Montana Camping, Fishing, Float Trip. Maximum 10 RRFF members. Sign up now. This will be a two week trip through the great rivers, streams and lakes of Idaho and Montana. It will include an optional one to three day fishing float trip. Details to follow (B. Laurie)

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Vice President & Outings Co-Chairman: **Ken Magoon**

527- 8376 magoon5294@aol.com

Secretary: **Greg Jacobs**

823-7341 [gjacob48@gmail.com](mailto:gjacobs48@gmail.com)

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

Casting Instruction Chairman: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@kresky.com

Program Chairman: **Joe Banovich**

526-6015 joebanovich@sonic.net

Outings Co-Chairman: **Bill Laurie**

538-0399 blaurie120@att.net

Library Master: **Don Shaw**

664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Membership Dues Billing & Raffle Coordinator: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Special Events & City Liaison: **Art Carney**

539-2545 carney@sonic.net

Member at Large: **Mike Kast**

538-9762 michaelrkast@gmail.com

Membership Chairman: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Member at Large: **Paul Matzen**

795-8885 gbridgeman@att.net

Member at Large: **Ken Young**

539-9649 wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net

Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**

591-5667 dcampbell100@hotmail.com

Member at Large: **Gregg Wisley**

823-5572 ggwris@gmail.com

Coordinators

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

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**

815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

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

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 fs2xsbc@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**