

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 45, Number 6
June 2018

Shad at Verona – Lee Soares & Lynne Marquez
RRFF Outing Memorial Day Weekend

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

President's Message

A Clean, Well-Lighted Place - to Cast...

Sometimes it is easy for us members of the RRFF to take for granted a club resource that gets used every week – our own Galvin Park fly casting pond. Not everyone knows that we are the only California fly fishing club north of the Golden Gate that has one. It is available all year long, thanks to the volunteer efforts of our members, and it takes lots of them to keep it going. For instance, last month our pond steward Doug MacKay called for members to help in the annual pond cleaning on May 12th. He got over a dozen sign-ups, and (along with several drop-ins) was able to finish the job before noon. Doug says the pond looks sparkling clean and is ready for another year of casting. Nice work, fly fishers!

The other complementary element to our pond is the RRFF casting program, led by our instruction chairman, Steve Tubbs. Thanks to the skill and dedication of his instructors, there is someone there every week to train new casters or give tips to those of us who are always looking to improve our distance and accuracy. In a day when practically any service comes with a price, visitors to the pond are amazed to discover that we offer these lessons to the public for free - a testament to our love for the sport.

So don't let this summer pass without spending an evening at the pond. And, as in previous years, the June RRFF General Meeting will be our annual picnic to be held at the pond at noon on Saturday, June 9th. The club will be serving barbecue, and you can help by bringing a side dish or desert (check the sign up list on the club website to see what items are needed). We are planning to offer some **casting**

games, so don't forget to bring your 6-weight to join in the fun.

One last reminder: If you have not yet cast a ballot for our club officers and board members, please send one in by June 30th - or better yet, drop it off at the June 9th picnic. You will find the ballot attached to this issue of *The CAST*. It is our responsibility as members to be part of the process, and it's a good way to let the board members know that you appreciate the work they do to keep our club running.

Have a great summer,

~ Ed Barich

You may wish to bring your own chairs, lawn blankets and personal beverages (if you so desire). The RRFF will provide water and soft drinks. Don't forget your 6 wt. fly rod so that you can try your hand at our Casting Games...and feel free to bring any other games or pastimes you may wish to share.

Volunteers are needed for both set-up and clean-up, so early arrivals (around 10:30 am) can help prepare the venue while others can assist with the clean-up. Our picnic will end around 2:30 – 3:00 pm.

Bring your 2018 Ballots, and cast your vote at the picnic! See you Saturday...

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

Check out the Russian River Fly Fishers on the Internet at

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

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.

June General Meeting

Saturday, June 9th – 11:30 am

Annual RRFF Club Picnic - at the Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park

Our June General Meeting will be our **RRFF Annual Picnic**, this year to be held on **Saturday, June 9th**, at the Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park and beginning at 11:30 am. Lunch will be served shortly after noon.

The RRFF will provide a barbecue lunch, but if you would like to bring potluck dishes to share with the group, we encourage your participation. Please sign up to attend at our website www.rrflyfisher.org, and let us know what you will be bringing so that others can determine their contribution.

Verona – Memorial Day Weekend

If you have never fished for Shad at Verona, the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers, you are in for a mixed bag of treats.



Fishermen lined up on the sandbar...

The weather can be hot, hot, hot. It can be buggy, or not. It can rain (It did Friday only), and it can be overcast. The Verona Marina, at Nicolaus, was packed with campers by Friday.

Last year the water was so high you could drive through it from the Verona Marina main gate entrance to the top of the boat ramp. The campground was filled with silt. We did not have a RRFV Verona Shad fishing outing in 2017.

This year, Rick Sereni and his wife Katie, Lynne and her wife Lizette, Mike Spurlock (and his cat Kona), Ed Barich, Pete Riley, Greg and Mike Wrisley, and Lee and Susan attended.

Most everyone caught fish. Pete, Mike, and Lee got doubles. Wednesday - Friday saw about 40 fish "brought to hand" for the RRFV players. Then it slowed down to a trickle.



A shad double...

A number 4 shooting head, or lead core, seemed to do the trick as everyone was working to get the line near (or on) the bottom. It seemed that early mornings and late afternoons saw the most shad action. The water level was at about 10,000 cfs Wednesday, and the water gods pumped it up to 12,000 cfs by Monday. That might have had some effect on the action.

Susan had a bum arm and only lobbed a "flesh" fly at the squaw fish that Lee was chumming for her at the cleaning station – the most action she saw all weekend.



Lynne...with another shad!

The usual RRFF fine dining event never happened as it was each man/woman for himself/herself when it came to food. The showers were hot and the facilities mediocre but working, mostly. The very long, dry, and shallow water sand bar allowed for fishing on the point, or in two feet of water alongside the sun bathers. No floats needed.

As is the tradition at Verona, Lee invited and welcomed all comers to fish off his 17 ft. whaler all weekend, so fun was had by all.

~ Susan Bostwick

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>

Bonefish, Baby Tarpon and Mayan Ruins

Don Shaw and I signed up for a trip to Mexico, to fish for Bonefish and Baby Tarpon in the Yucatan region, along with two friends. It was a hosted trip (*Fishing with Larry*) we had heard about at the Pleasanton Fly Show. We had two experienced Mexican guides.

We flew to Merida and spent the night in a hotel, arising early to drive to Progreso and take a live-aboard boat to Scorpion Atoll (Arrecife Alacranes), 70-miles off-shore. It was a beautiful series of sandy islands (one with a lighthouse) offering crystal clear water and many nesting seabirds (terns, boobies, etc.) and turtles. We stayed on the boat each night and the captain prepared all of our meals.



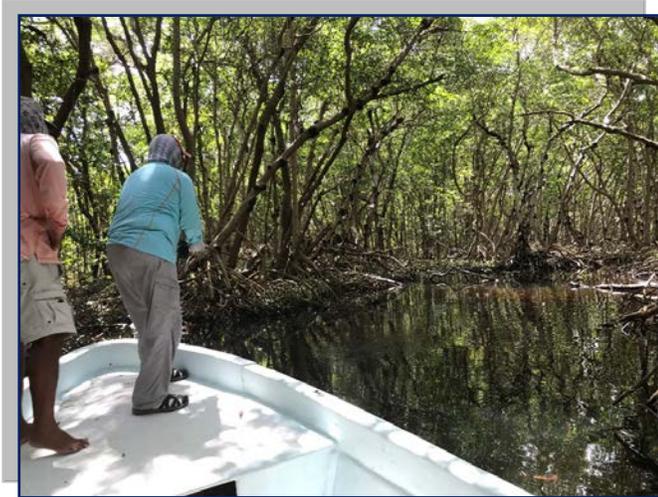
We walked the flats using 8-9 wt. tropical floating lines and 20 lbs. test leaders, relying mostly on the guide to spot fish. This location is known for the large size of its bonefish, and everyone caught bonefish which was a first for several of us.



We had a shot at a few permit with no hookups. We also hooked jacks, blue runners and a few barracuda.

Fishing was slower than expected, so after two days we voted to travel to Campeche and start the second leg of our trip early.

In Campeche, we stayed in a hotel right on the water and ate at the great (and inexpensive) restaurants around town. Early each morning, we walked across the street to meet our guides in their skiffs, and then headed for the mangroves to fish for baby tarpon ranging from 4 to 35 lbs. We sight-fished along the mangroves, and up the streams, using 8-9 wt. tropical floating lines.



We also went a few miles offshore and used 8-10 wt. sinking lines, with 30-40 lbs. test leaders, to cast to rolling fish.



Tarpon always aggressively jump when hooked making the fishing very exciting. Their bony mouths necessitate a strip-set but does not guarantee

landing the fish. We each landed an average of about 1-2 fish per day, with maybe twice (or more) that number in hookups, and even more grabs. This was our first tarpon for each of us.



After 5 days fishing in Campeche, we headed back to Merida to fly home. Along the way, we stopped for a tour at Uxmal, one of the numerous Mayan sites in the Yucatan. We hired a local guide who was excellent.



This trip was a lot of fun!

~ Mike Spurlock

Crystal Beach, Ontario, Canada

June 8th – 13th, 2019

The ***Fisherman's Package*** for this trip is
\$550.00 per person.

We will be targeting pike, smallmouth and walleye.

If you are interested, or for more information,
please contact **Lee Soares – 707-974-2651**

Lake Almanor “Hex Hatch” Outing

June 21st to 24th

Don Shaw will be leading this outing to fish the evening Hexagenia may fly hatch in late June. Some of us have made reservations at the **Rocky Point Campground** on Lake Almanor’s west shore. The PG&E website indicates that all campsites are presently reserved for this particular June weekend. We will share sites with as many folks as possible. You can also try reserving other campgrounds in the area, or stay at motels in nearby Chester.

To fish the Hex Hatch, you’ll need a boat or float tube. We get into the water in the evening and fish until dark. You will want a floating line for dry flies, and a fast sinking line for the swimming nymphs. You may try to order flies from **Lincoln Gray** (lgflyfishingadventures@gmail.com) or buy them from **The Fly Shop** in Redding.

During the day, we fish the area’s trout streams, or try for smallmouth bass in Almanor and Butt Lake Reservoir.

Sign up for this outing on our RRF website.

~ Ken Magoon

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 RRF 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...

June

- 8–24 **Oregon Rivers Road Trip** (Bill Laurie)
9 **RRFF Annual Picnic** (Casting Pond – Dan Galvin Park)
20 **RRFF Board Meeting**
21-24 **Lake Almanor Hex Hatch** (Don Shaw)

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

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**
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Vice President: **Doug Mackay**
575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

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 gbridgeman@att.net

Member at Large: **Ken Young**
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Conservation Chairman: **Derek Campbell**
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823-5572 gwriss@yahoo.com

Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**
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Women's Activities: **Susan Bostwick**
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Raffle Coordinator: **Christie Geernaert**
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Casting Pond Stewards: **Doug & Sage Mackay**
575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**
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Newsletter Editor: **Steve Tubbs** (reluctant)
765-1787 steve@inspiri2.com

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* _____

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