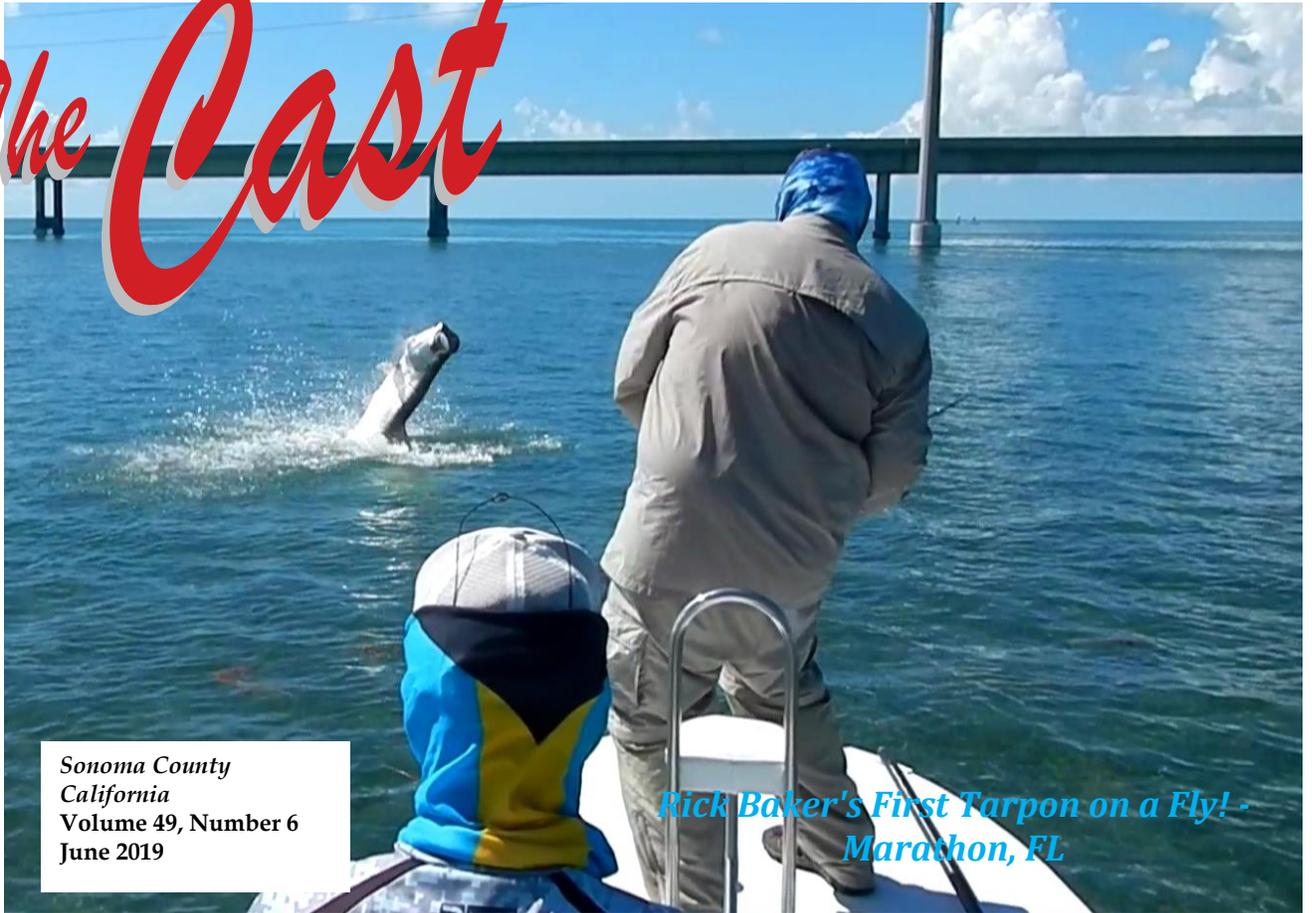


The Cast



Sonoma County
California
Volume 49, Number 6
June 2019

*Rick Baker's First Tarpon on a Fly! -
Marathon, FL*

President's Message

Summertime and the fishin' is easy...

Well, maybe it's not too easy, but after the record rains of last winter and spring, fly fishing in Northern California is finally starting to improve. At our club outings in late April (Pyramid Lake) and mid-May (Clear Lake), most of our members found fish willing to provide action, despite record high water levels in both lakes. That's a marked improvement over the first three months of 2019 when all of our outings were either postponed or canceled due to high waters. We will still have to contend with heavy runoffs from a monumental Sierra snowpack, but that bodes well for good river and stream fishing later in the summer and into the fall. So, don't let this summer roll by without wetting a fly line – there may be fishing

opportunities available that would not occur in drought or even normal rain years.

Speaking of summer, what better time to enjoy the pride and joy of our club, the RRF fly casting pond at Galvin Park? Thursday evenings 4:30-7:30PM are a great time for casting practice and hanging out with your fellow club members, so be sure to drop in when you need a casting fix (or need to fix your casting) – our instructors will be happy to assist you. And don't forget that this month's General Meeting will be our club picnic, Saturday June 1 starting at 11:30 at the pond. 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 on

having some casting games, so don't forget to bring your 5 or 6-weight to join in the fun.

Have a great summer

~ Ed Barich

Clear Lake Outing Report

On the weekend of May 9-11, a group of RRF members including Kirby Booth, Chris Castellucci, Don Shaw, Mike Spurlock, Tim Reuling, Mike Borba, Gregg Wrisley, Christie Geernaert and Ed Barich traveled to Clear Lake for some warm-water fly fishing. This outing was originally scheduled for March, but heavy spring rains and lake flooding caused it to be rescheduled. Chris had reserved a group campsite at Clear Lake State Campground, but between the original and the final outing date most of the members who signed up had dropped out, with only Chris and Kirby staying at the campground. The rest of us took advantage of a generous offer by Christie and her husband Richard to host us at their beautiful lakefront home near Lakeport.

In order to get us up to speed on fishing Clear Lake (at 68 square miles of surface area, the largest natural freshwater lake wholly within the California, and at 480,000 years, the oldest lake in North America), Don arranged to have Ryan Williams, who spoke at our May RRF General Meeting, be our guide. Ryan brought his bass boat to the lake and took us out, two at a time for half a day each, to show us how he has had success in fly fishing the lake. Ryan taught us his two favorite techniques: The first was stripping a small Clouser-style streamer on an intermediate-sinking fly line. The second was using what he calls a "float 'n fly" rig – a 2" long

1/32 oz. jig, tied about 5' under an indicator on a floating fly line. The latter method was the most effective, enabling us to catch large crappies and an occasional largemouth bass along the many docks and tule-lined shores of the lake. Ryan showed us many of his "high percentage" spots, treating us to scenic views of the lake's bays as well as exciting fly-fishing action.

When not fishing with Ryan, we were left to our own devices, which for Don, Mike S. and Tim meant paddling around the bay behind Christie and Richard's back-yard using their pontoon boats and float tubes. It turns out that this bay is a well-known hot spot, with competitive bass fishermen frequently visiting to drop a line in before jetting off to other promising spots. Despite this constant boat traffic, our guys were successful in catching crappie and a few bass just out the back door from where we were staying. Knowing the avid fly-fisher that Christie is, it is not too surprising that her get-away home is also a productive fishing location.

For the rest of the weekend, I teamed up with Gregg, who had brought a boat that was well-equipped for fly fishing, having forward and aft casting decks and a trolling motor. We were able to slowly move along the shorelines, tossing our indicator rigs up close to the edge of the tule rushes. This made for great action, with frequent hookups and an occasional simultaneous hookup at both ends of the boat. The crappie put up a short, but pugnacious fight on a 5-wt rod, and being fairly-rugged fish were easy to release without doing them any harm. We were able to extend the action by constantly moving down the shoreline, and if the bites stopped, we merely doubled back to locate the schools again. The last fish of the day turned out

to be a bit of a surprise; I hooked something big that took us out into the deep water but would not show itself. After 30 minutes of struggling with my 5-wt, the mysterious visitor turned out to be a 12-pound catfish that we finally got into the net. The variety of the catch at Clear Lake always keeps you wondering what's coming next.

As usual, this outing was another opportunity to spend a pleasant time with our fellow RRF members, as well as pester a few fish. Spring is a beautiful time to be at Clear Lake and we look forward to repeating this experience next year.

~ Ed Barich



Photos from the outing



Christie with a great crappie!!!!



Don's 5 lb. bass



Tim at Christie's bay



Gregg & Ed with Ryan



Gregg with a crappie

June Club Meeting – Tomorrow 06/01/2019

Our RRFF June General Meeting will be a picnic at the casting pond on Saturday June 1, starting at 11:30AM. Steve Tubbs and Don Shaw will be serving BBQ sausages and chicken, and you can help by bringing a side dish or desert. You can see what others will be bringing and let others know what you will bring (so we won't end up with two dozen watermelons) by going to this sign-up page on the club website calendar:

We will provide water and soft drinks, but if you have a favorite drink be sure to bring it along. You also might want to bring a lawn chair so you can join your friends in the shade of the willows. If you would like to get in some casting practice or participate in casting games, be sure to bring your 5 or 6wt rod. All members and their families are invited to this event, so mark your calendar for a pleasant day at the pond!

Summer Club Meeting Schedule

June 1 - General Meeting and Picnic at the pond, 11:30AM

July 10 - General Meeting and Evening BBQ at the pond, 6PM

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**



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

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

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

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **952 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>

Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

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June 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 – 7:30

June 1 – Picnic at the casting pond

June 8-15 - Pike, Lake Trout, Smallmouth and Walleye at Crystal Beach Resort in Ontario Canada (Soares)

June 20-23 - Almanor Lake Hex Hatch (Chris Castellucci)

June 26 – Board Meeting

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**

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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**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

527-9607 fsh2xsb@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: **Marcus Pipkin**

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



Russian River Fly Fishers

Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics

4:30 until 7:00 pm - Every Thursday
(weather permitting)

This event is always **FREE** and is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Beginners are welcome!

LEARN TO FLY CAST!

Please join us in the southeast corner of Dan Galvin Park, on the corner of Bennett Valley Road and Yulupa Avenue. The Casting Pond is located beyond the soccer fields and Dog Park. For more information, visit

rrflyfisher.org

facebook.com/russianriverflyfishers

We do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own.

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 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