

# The Cast



*Mike Tibbet  
American River Shad  
Clinic*

*Sonoma County  
California  
Volume 48, Issue 6  
June, 2021*

## President's Message

### More Back-to-Normal News

Patience is paying off as our club activities are getting closer to normal. In May, we had a successful American River Shad clinic taught by Al Smatsky, and we have outings on the June calendar for fishing at Lake Davis and Lake Almanor. We will continue our Zoom monthly meetings in June and August, but the exciting news is that the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Hall plans to be open in September. That means we may be having our first in-person General Meeting in over 15 months! I don't know about you, but virtual reality is starting to wear on me and seeing the real faces of our members will be a pleasure.

One of the interesting results of this past year's social situation is that our club now has over 200 registered members. That's about a 20% increase over previous years, and is a reflection of renewed national interest in outdoor sports. As a fly-fishing club, our board

intends to keep delivering value to our members through events such as our speaker program. At our June meeting, Greg Vinci will be presenting "Fishing Highway 395" and in August, Laurie Banks and Ken Davis will talk about the Western Native Trout Challenge. But to allow the RRF to ramp up our activities, we will need to start asking our members to pay dues for the coming 2021/22 fiscal year. If you paid dues after Jan.1 2020, you will not need to pay for the new year, but for those of you who did not, you will be receiving an invoice by email. I think you will agree that at \$50 for a single membership or \$55 for a family membership, the RRF is a pretty good deal. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

On a final note, our annual Board nomination process has concluded and you will see a ballot in the June CAST. Please participate by voting by the June 30 deadline.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich

## Deschutes TMTC (Too Many to Count)

Walt Kruse and I had signed up for a 4 day float trip on the Lower Deschutes River in Oregon in May 2020 during the prime weeks fishing for “Redsides” rainbows during the salmon fly/golden stone hatch. Covid-19 nuked the trip and moved it to 2021. The first morning, we met the Outfitter (Renton’s River Adventures) at Trout Creek Campground near Madras where we met the 3 guides, two camp helpers and the other clients, four guys from Washington state. The Renton’s (Dillon and his Dad) run trout trips and steelhead trips on the Deschutes, steelhead trips in Prince of Wales Island, Alaska and steelhead trips on the North Umpqua. Dillon spoke about these trips at a club general meeting in 2019, and I have done each of these trips in the past few years - some more than once.

After meeting the group, the first “bagger” raft (known as the “rabbit”) carrying mostly food, tents and the camp kitchen gear, launched and rushed ahead to get the best campsite before other parties could grab it. We transferred our clothes and sleeping bags to dry bags and loaded up the second “bagger raft”. Then we “waded” up and got into our drift boat to start the float.

A typical day’s float covered about 10-12 river miles with numerous stops to get out of the boat to fish. Fishing from the boat is not allowed on the Deschutes. In the 4 days fishing, we covered about 40-45 river miles. Each day the 3 drift boats would make a stop for lunch at an agreed on spot along the river.

The most common fishing rigs we used were 9 ft 5 weight fly rods with dry/dropper rigs: a Chubby Chernobyl dry fly functioning as an indicator, with a size #14-16 tungsten bead head prince nymph or caddis dropper on 3-4 ft of 3x tippet. As the day warmed up and the hatch would begin, especially later in the week, we observed loads of salmon fly and golden stone nymphs transforming to adults and

mating in the brush along the river bank. The adult females would fly and deposit eggs in the river. Then the fish would begin to feed top water and we would eliminate the dropper, fishing just the Chubby, especially under the trees along the bank. It was then time to learn how to do the “bow and arrow” cast.



*Salmonfly*

Occasionally we would use a 10 ft 3 weight rod to Euro Nymph with a couple of tungsten bead head nymphs. It was amazing how many more fish this would dredge out of a slot after thinking it was exhausted having made several passes with a dry/dropper rig.



*Walt with a nice fish*

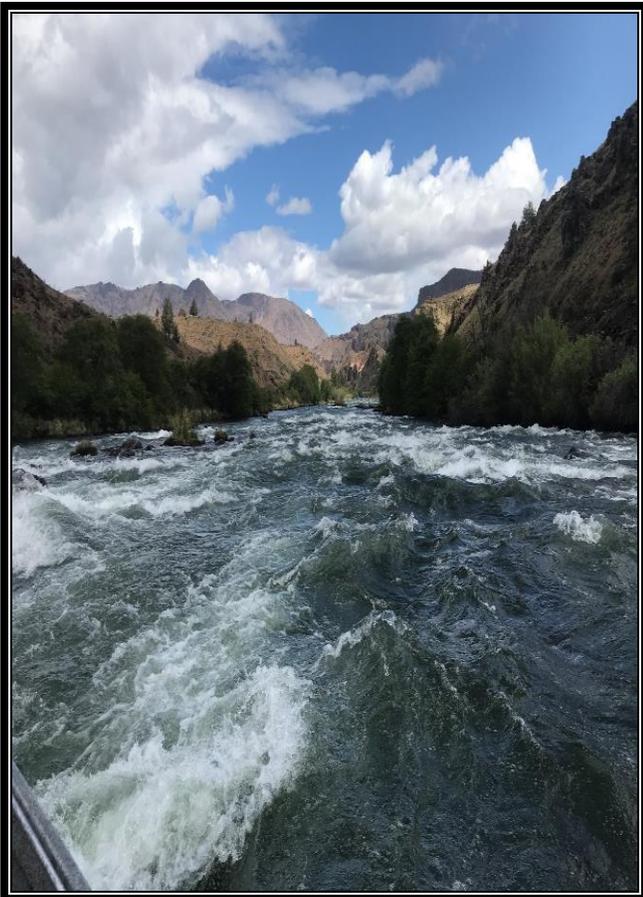
The Redsides typically are in the 12-15” length with some smaller fish and a few up to 20”. They are

quite a colorful and chunky bodied fish with plenty of fight.

We also caught a few feisty steelhead smolt in the 8-10" range, migrating their way down river and eventually to sea.

The float is very scenic with mountains, rock formations, and class 3 and 4 rapids. Several times we spotted Bighorn Sheep in the distance near the top of the mountains. There were many ospreys nesting along the river, a sign that there are plenty of fish. We did not run into any rattlesnakes although they are known to be around.

Streamside camps had two-person sleeping tents with cots. The guides and camp helpers all chose to sleep on cots looking up at the stars.



*Whitehorse Rapids*



*The kitchen was usually under a tree not too far from the mess tent.*



There is a railroad along the river for the entire distance and we experienced trains daily, occasionally in the middle of the night.

The food was excellent. Some examples: hot breakfast burrito or hot egg ham and cheese sandwich for breakfast, taco salad or BLT for lunch, salmon or flank steak for dinner.

On Day 4, our takeout was at Harpam Flat a few miles from Maupin. Our vehicle had been shuttled and was waiting for us.

It was a great trip. So, you are probably wondering how many fish each of us caught? Probably about 15-25 per day but a better answer might be TMTC.

~ Mike Spurlock

---

## Spiff up your ride and let people know about our Club - all at the same time!!



See Don Shaw at the Thursday casting sessions at the Casting Pond to get yours. Only \$3 each.

## Virtual Zoom June General Meeting

The club will hold a general meeting on **Wednesday, June, 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** using the Zoom video sharing application. There will be an Update on RRFF Board activities along with a Presentation by **Greg Vinci** on "**Fishing Highway 395**". We will conclude with an open chat session after the presentation; so, you can share your recent fly fishing experiences with the club.

---

## 2021: Search for Cold Water & Good Flow

With our inland local streams losing flow, some now dry... For teachers, kids and RRFF coaches with steelhead fry to release – what release locations might work best?

How to find cold water (needed for fry survival) and good flow with riffles (needed for oxygen) ... and deep holes if possible.

Experienced RRFF coach and fisherman Jeff Cratty helped 3 Petaluma classrooms by finding a sure bet on the lower end of Dry Creek near the main stem of the Russian. Incredible spot, Jeff!





RRFF and RETU coach Tom Greer, (Tank Time with Tom) worked with Sonoma Water, CDFW, and RRFF/RETU in filming the release episode of “Tank Time with Tom” on Mark West Creek near Larkfield. What great shade of alder and willow, Tom!

A Rohnert Park school, whose favorite creek went entirely dry this year, was excited to release in the upper Santa Rosa Creek in cold water and good flow. Teacher, parents, grandparent and students were all on the creek! What a great experience!

~ Karl Joost



## Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

### Archuleta's Reel Works

Custom fishing reel repair, servicing, and manufacturing.

733 Detrick Drive, Grants Pass, OR 97527  
(541) 956-1691

Bill Archuleta, owner

[www.archuletasreelworks.com](http://www.archuletasreelworks.com)

### King's Sport and Tackle

Clothing, flies, rods, supplies, gear, accessories, instruction, guide service, and canoe rental.

16258 Main Street, Guerneville, CA 95446.

(707) 869-2156.

[www.kingsrussianriver.com](http://www.kingsrussianriver.com)

### Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.

Fishing gear, supplies, fly fishing, flies, rods and accessories.

412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.

(707) 588-8033,

Fax (707) 588-8035

[www.outdoorproshop.com](http://www.outdoorproshop.com)

### Sportsman's Warehouse

Top brands for hunting, fishing, and more at America's Premier Outfitter

5195 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

(707) 585-1500

[www.sportsmanswarehouse.com](http://www.sportsmanswarehouse.com)

## June Calendar of Events

**3-6 Lake Davis Outing**  
**9 General Meeting Zoom**  
**16 Board Meeting Zoom**  
**17-20 Lake Almanor Outing**

**Casting Pond Clinic on Summer  
Schedule - Thursdays 4:30 pm - 7:30  
pm (We are following COVID  
protocols)**

## RRFF Board of Directors

## RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 [ebarich@sonic.net](mailto:ebarich@sonic.net)

Vice President: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Secretary: **Vacant**

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

(415) 599-6138 [mikerrff@gmail.com](mailto:mikerrff@gmail.com)

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

765-1787 [steve@inspiri2.com](mailto:steve@inspiri2.com)

Program Chairman: **Don Shaw**

477-5928 [donjanshaw@comcast.net](mailto:donjanshaw@comcast.net)

Outings Chairman: **Chris Castellucci**

763-2017 [chrslucci@aol.com](mailto:chrslucci@aol.com)

Membership Chairman & Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Raffle Committee: **Paul Matzen**

795-8885 [gbridgeman@att.net](mailto:gbridgeman@att.net)

Newsletter Editor: **Marcus Pipkin**

(615) 969-9200 [marcus.pipkin@comcast.net](mailto:marcus.pipkin@comcast.net)

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wrisley**

823-5572 [gwriss@yahoo.com](mailto:gwriss@yahoo.com)

New Member Mentoring Coordinator: **Jeff Cratty**

796-3691 [rjcratty@yahoo.com](mailto:rjcratty@yahoo.com)

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

978-3897 [joosts@pacbell.net](mailto:joosts@pacbell.net)

Member at Large: **Brendan Galten**

364-1671, [galtenb@gmail.com](mailto:galtenb@gmail.com)

Member at Large: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

Member at Large: **Tim Reuling**

### Coordinators

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

974-2651 [frommewee@comcast.net](mailto:frommewee@comcast.net)

Casting Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 [demackay@sonic.net](mailto:demackay@sonic.net)

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

477-2805 [fsh2xslc@att.net](mailto:fsh2xslc@att.net)

Conservation Chairman: **Charlie Schneider and Tom Greer**

# *Russian River Fly Fishers*



## **2021 Ballot**

### **Officers & Board of Directors**

The following candidates have been nominated by the RRFF Board of Directors to serve for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. You may choose to elect the candidate slate as presented or you may write-in other RRFF members in the spaces provided. There were two nominations received from the general membership and they are included on this ballot.

#### **RRFF Officers**

##### **President**

- 1.) Ed Barich
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Vice-President**

- 1.) Penelope Gadd-Coster
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Board Members - (Elected for a 2-year Term)**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1.) Steve Tubbs   | 5.) Jeff Cratty    |
| 2.) Gregg Wrisley | 6.) Brendan Galten |
| 3.) Marcus Pipkin | 7.) Spencer Bader  |
| 4.) Don Shaw      | 8.) Mike Borba     |

I choose to elect the Candidate Slate as presented above.

(Check box to accept ballot as presented.)

#### **Returning Board Members (beginning second year of 2-year term)**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.) Mike Spurlock     | 5.) Tim Reuling          |
| 2.) Doug Mackay       | 6.) Karl Joost           |
| 3.) Ed Barich         | 7.) Penelope Gadd-Coster |
| 4.) Chris Castellucci |                          |

***Please return all ballots by July 1, 2021***

***Vote online at [rrflyfisher.org](http://rrflyfisher.org)***

Ballots may be mailed to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**,  
c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945.

**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

Choose any areas you want help with:

I would like help learning or improving my cast.  I would like advice on fishing equipment.  I would like a lesson in tying knots

I would like a lesson in tying flies.  I would like to have an experienced member mentor me on local waters or on a club outing.

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 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Because of COVID-19, dues payments are optional at this time. Your donations are appreciated.**

**NEW MEMBERS:** Please mail this application to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**  
c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945