



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County
California
Volume 43 Number 5

Snow at Castle Lake

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

Headwaters...

It is RRF election time! You will find your RRF Ballot for the election of next year's Officers and board members at the end of this newsletter. Please return your ballots by June 30th. As the retiring President, I would like to express my gratitude to the largest board that we have enjoyed in many years. Their dedication has inspired many changes...including a new website (thanks to Mike Spurlock) and a renewed dedication to our RRF Outings and Events. I would like to acknowledge Ken Magoon for his support as Vice President over the past two years and I applaud Ed Barich for stepping up and accepting the nomination to be our next leader for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. Bill Laurie will assist.

Last weekend about 25 RRF members braved the elements at Lake Siskiyou for our annual RRF Opener. Once again the accommodations were stellar, with the Rec Room a valued sanctuary on Friday night as wind gusts of over 40 MPH pummeled the resort and things got a bit chilly. In retaliation, we cranked up the heat and dined

indoors. The fishing in the Lake Siskiyou area was slow...the weather significantly cooler than last year with lots of snow on Shasta and extending to water's edge at Castle Lake. Many of us hit the Upper Sac but found few players. Others tried McCloud Reservoir and Lake Siskiyou, the unsettled weather and gusty wind made fishing difficult. Opening Day, the cooking crew headed over to Hat Creek where we did manage to find fish (and plenty of anglers) in their usual haunts on the Hat Creek Restoration area. Much thanks to the meal preparers...John Frenzel, Heather Hamm, Kelly Ames, Tim Grogan, Rick Bowlds and myself...and everyone who pitched in to set up the dining areas and clean-up afterward. I wouldn't still be doing this if it weren't for you guys!

Our RRF Annual Picnic is Saturday, June 4th. Don Shaw and Ken Magoon will be your hosts, so please contact them if you would like to help set up or wish to contribute potluck dishes. Bring your chairs, fly rods and a willingness to share in our abundant RRF camaraderie.

~ Steve Tubbs

Jon Baiocchi (Baiocchi's Troutfitters)



Jon Baiocchi has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972, and is a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, educator, innovative tier, and an award winning public speaker giving fly fishing presentations to clubs and expos across the state of California, and Nevada. Born in San Jose, CA in 1965, his Dad moved the entire family to Paradise, CA in 1967 to be closer to prime fly fishing venues, and to raise his family in the spectacular forests of Northern California. Jon's Dad, Bob Baiocchi, was inducted into the Federation of Fly Fishers Hall of Fame in 1999, and was a major influence in helping Jon hone his fly fishing skills at a very young age. After finishing high school, Jon opted out of college to pursue a career as a professional snowboarder, competing at a national level, starring in feature movies, and working with manufacturers in their research and development programs. After his career ended in 1993, Jon focused entirely on fly fishing, and learning even more of the intricate details of his home waters.

Jon now owns and operates Baiocchi's Troutfitters guide service in Northern California where he has been guiding for the last 19 years. He has a reputation as a very hard working guide that's been

trained by some of fly fishing's best known anglers, both past and present. His enthusiasm for the sport is contagious, and combined with his simple approach to teaching gives students the skills needed to be successful on all types of water. Moved by all things flora and fauna his passion for such is never ending. Sharing the knowledge with others is of the greatest importance to him now, and to see others progress and reach the next level in fly fishing fulfills his life. It's the legacy his father left him, and a cherished tradition that Jon will continue in his honor. His locations for guiding include Lake Davis, the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River, Frenchman's Reservoir, the North Fork Yuba River, The Big & Little Truckee Rivers, the Lower Yuba River, and many secluded creeks in Eastern Plumas County. Jon's philosophy on fly fishing is to keep it simple, be confident in your presentation, and have fun. His favorite game is stalking and sight fishing to large trout in shallow water whether it is a river, or a still water.

The Middle Fork Feather River, located in Plumas County is one of the first rivers to be designated as "Wild & Scenic", and is considered by many outdoor authors to be the most beautiful river in the state of California. From its start in the Sierra Valley, through the rich upper sections of coniferous forests with native green grasses, to the expansive polished granite lined walls of the lower canyons, the audience will gain insight and knowledge to better their approach when fly fishing this magnificent, yet quiet river.

Our guest speaker for May, Jon Baiocchi, will explain the three different zones managed by the US Forest Service, access points, techniques, tactics, entomology, fly patterns, and the fish that inhabit the MFFR. The program features 130 slides of colorful and inspiring images, plus detailed maps of the area. Attendees will gain valuable information from the hundreds of days he has spent on the MFFR, shortening the learning curve on their next visit to the Feather River country. This river offers wild trout, exceptional hatches, and solitude for those that don't mind a short hike off the beaten path.

After Jon is done with the MFFR program, we traverse over the hill into the North Fork Yuba River watershed, another river that showcases wild trout

and unbound beauty that is both wild and remote. Jon will explain the same key notes as listed above for the MFFR, and the best approach for plying its waters which he has fly fished since a child. The North Fork Yuba River flows much colder in the heat of the summer than most others and thanks to the many springs and feeder creeks, this provides excellent conditions for resident wild trout. Excellent dry fly fishing and pocket water is the theme on the NFYR. These two fantastic presentations are ones you do not want to miss!

Please join me in welcoming Jon at the Wednesday, May 11 General Meeting.

~ Joe Banovich
RRFF Program and Speaker Chairman

Are You Aware?..... *For Sale \$20.00/ticket*

A Lance Gray donated guide trip for two!

This is an “ongoing” club raffle which allows you to purchase tickets whenever you have a spare \$20.00 to “kick around” - \$450 value for \$20.00 per ticket. The drawing to find the winner will be determined later this year.

Buy a ticket for yourself, or as a “gift stub”, or for whatever creative thought comes to mind.

Tickets may be purchased at the general meetings and the winner need not be present to win.

~ Editor

Swinging Prince of Wales (flyfishing South East Alaska for steelhead)

I had thought about steelhead fishing Prince of Wales for years and finally got to it. I had met Dave and Dillon Renton (from Bend, Oregon) while fishing the Deschutes last year and found out they had an opening for two more on a guided trip the last week of April on Prince of Wales (POW) Island in SE Alaska. I got a buddy and grabbed the spot. In the 80s, Dave Renton began indicator fishing on the island. He now guides there each year with his son Dillon. They have switched to swinging flies almost exclusively

and they are probably the only guides today who do so. They know the island streams and rivers



extremely well.

POW is 135 miles long x 45 miles wide, has a pop of ~6000 and is a mixture of federal, native and private forest land. Rainfall is about 120 inches/year. The main stream is Thorne River but there are over 50



streams, many with steelhead runs.

Much of it was heavily logged for years up until the early 90s when environmental pressures slowed the pace to a more sustained basis. At one time, the small community of Thorne Bay had the largest logging camp in the world. As a result of logging, there are numerous roads for great fishing access to all the streams and many have been paved in the

last 20 years. Today, the island economy is based primarily on commercial fishing and logging.

We flew SFO-Seattle-Ketchikan on Alaskan Airlines and then flew on an Island Air Cessna Caravan 30 minutes to Klawock, a native village population ~800. Klawock started as a trading post in 1868 and had Alaska's first cannery in 1878. Our home base in Klawock for 5 days 6 nights was the Fireweed Lodge. The lodge, located right on the salt, is primarily a saltwater fishing lodge open April through September. It gets very busy June-August for sport fishing salmon, halibut, rockfish, and ling cod. We were the only fishermen there the last week of April. The other 2 clients in our group have been fishing POW with Dave Renton for 31 and 25 years respectively.

Our daily routine was breakfast at 6 am, make a sandwich for lunch, check the weather and stream flows and take off to fish at 6:30. Fishing locations were dictated by stream flows from rainfall the prior 24 hours. Rain is an almost daily occurrence and rivers can rise quickly bringing in fresh steelhead from the salt. No matter what the flow, water seemed to always remain clear for fishing but accessibility with high flow, ability to swing a fly at low flow and getting trapped when flows are increasing are the main issues on any particular stream.

Fishing was fairly strenuous:

- some rough muddy trails to the stream a mile long
- walk and wade streams covering 5-10 pools on 2-3 streams.

We returned for dinner around 5:30 pm.



I used Renton's fly rods all week to get some experience with equipment different from my own. We used 6 and 7 weight 12.5-13 ft. Spey rods with Skagit and Scandi lines with tips selected for each situation. Flies were mostly small, some leeches/intruders/tube flies, mostly unweighted in colors orange, red, pink, black and blue.

My experience for the week:

Day	Stream Flows	Weath er	Location	Steelhead hooked / landed, weight
Mo	Flows dropping	Rain	Thorne River	5/3, 5-10 lbs.
Tu	Low flows	Light rain, sunny	Thorne River, Eagle Creek	5/4, 5-9 lbs.
We	Low flows	Sunny	Thorne River, Steelhead Creek	skunked
Thu	Low flow, holding	Light rain	Thorne River, Harris River	skunked
Fri	Rising flows	Heavy rain	Thorne River, Staney Creek	3/1, 12 lbs.



By weeks end, my casting had really improved. Most fish were chrome, some with sea lice.

On Friday, my fish was the first ever landed on a particular pool on Staney Creek. The pool had formed the prior year during high water. Since it

was the first fish ever caught there, they gave me the honor of naming it. The winter flows had scoured out the gravel and formed the pool. Hence the name is now formally "Scour Pool". We hooked 3 fish there on Friday.



On Saturday, we were scheduled to leave but heavy rain and wind grounded the Island Air flights and made fishing impossible so we hung out at the lodge all day and left Sunday morning.

During the week, we saw a lot of deer, eagles, one black bear and some wolf tracks. It was too early for mosquitoes and no-see-ums.

In summary, we had a very nice experience walking and wading beautiful streams, swinging flies and encountering fresh fish. I had to sign up for the same week next year. We are also planning to fish the north Umpqua with Dillon this winter.

~ Mike Spurlock

Idaho Trip Coming together...

Plans are underway for our trip to Idaho starting around August 21, ending September 3, 2016 however, I'm looking at adding a few days to both ends of this trip. I have also decided there are so many opportunities to fish in Idaho that I'm omitting Montana. I'm also inclined to omit lakes.

A preliminary itinerary looks like this. Working our way north from Winnemucca, we could do a one day layover on the Owyhee River, then on to the Sun

Valley area to fish the Big Lost River and the Big Wood River. We would continue north to Riggins for a two day float on the Salmon River which might entrain the consumption of some alcoholic beverages. Then to the Lewiston area of north Idaho and the Clearwater River where we will probably find salmon and steelhead available. From there over to the Lochsa River in the western part of the panhandle. After that we will begin to head south with a stop on Silver Creek or the middle fork of the Boise River, then back to Santa Rosa.

These plans are preliminary and subject to discussion and change. Eight to ten club members will probably be ideal, but I'm willing to consider higher participation.

Sign up for the trip on the club website if you are thinking about going. You can always drop out later if your plans change.

~ Bill Laurie

- The Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes -

You can fish for *trophy rainbow trout* at The Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes. Nine RRFF members fished these lakes last year catching a total of more than 50 trout. The Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Lakes are planted with five pound trout, some of which reach over 15 pounds in weight!

Please let Jack Vallerga know if you are interested in fishing these lakes and plans/reservations can be made. The cost is \$125.00 per person and Jack may be reached by phone (707) 239-1742, email (jvallerga@comcast.net), or at the general meetings.

~ Editor

June General Meeting **RRFF Annual Picnic**

at the Casting Pond, Saturday, June 4th

Please join us on Saturday, June 4th, for our Annual RRFF Picnic at the Casting Pond. Families and guests are welcome and this event will serve as our June General Meeting. Festivities will begin around 11:30 am, but we can use some help earlier to set up the canopy and tables. Please bring chairs and feel free to provide a potluck dish to share if you would like. The club will provide the barbecue fare for the main course, condiments, soft drinks and water.

Casting instruction will be available for those who would like some pointers. Otherwise, bring your fly rods and practice at one of only four casting venues in the entire state. This is a social event and a celebration of the friendships we have found as Russian River Fly Fishers. Make plans now to attend...

~ Steve Tubbs

RRFF . . . *from the West Coast to the East Coast*



Alan Cason with a West Coast surf perch . . .



Susan Bostwick with a Florida Everglades snook . . .

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 .

May

- 11 General Meeting – Vets Building 6:30 PM
- 15 **Lance Gray – Lower Sacramento Tour** (E. Barich)
- 26 - 30 **Verona Shad & Stripers** (L. Soares)

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 - 5:30 PM

August

- 21 – Sep 3 **Idaho, Montana Camping, Fishing, Float Trip.** Maximum 12 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)

Welcome New Members...

The Russian River Fly Fishers would like to welcome our newest members: Christopher Arai, Charles Carter, Michael Kryss, Michael & Robin Simi, Will Williams and Bert Young.

You should receive your new member 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.

Welcome Aboard!

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

Russian River Fly Fishers



2016 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, 2016. You may choose to elect the candidate slate as presented or you may write-in other RRFF members in the spaces provided. There were no nominations received from the general membership for this ballot.

RRFF Officers

President

- 1.) Ed Barich
- 2.) _____



Vice-President

- 1.) Bill Laurie
- 2.) _____

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1.) Ken Magoon | 7.) Ken Young |
| 2.) Greg Jacobs | 8.) Doug Mackay |
| 3.) Don Shaw | 9.) Ed Barich |
| 4.) Art Carney | 10.) Chris Castellucci |
| 5.) Mike Spurlock | |
| 6.) Paul Matzen | |

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.) Joe Banovich | 6.) Gregg Wrisley |
| 2.) Steve Tubbs | |
| 3.) Bill Laurie | |
| 4.) Mike Kast | |
| 5.) Derek Campbell | |

Please return all ballots by June 30, 2016

Ballots may be mailed to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**, P.O. Box 2673, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.
You may also turn in your ballot personally at the RRFF Annual Picnic on Saturday, June 4th.

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**