

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 44, Number 11  
November 2017

### Trinity River at Steel Bridge

Photo by Paul Matzen

Since June 1977  
Visit our website at  
[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)

## President's Message

### Catch the Fall...

Yeah, we have all noticed it. Leaves are turning, the sun's a bit lower in the sky and the early mornings are a bit nipper. There are acorns littering my driveway. The honking of Canada geese taking off from Spring Lake at sunrise is my new seasonal alarm clock. Every time I notice one of these signs of fall, my angling mind wanders off-task to thoughts of how good the fishing must be right now. Sunny, calm days on reservoirs or really big waters like the California Delta beckon me to drop what I am supposed to be doing and head off for angling opportunities that just won't wait. The higher elevations are already getting colder – our last club camping outing was earlier this month. As the sunlight and temperatures drop with the season, the

fish increase their feeding intensity in anticipation of the dark winter months ahead. This can be the best time of the year for fishing action, but wait too long and the opportunity is lost. It's time to get out there and catch it before it's gone. Just do it.

On a sad note, our hearts go out to all the club members and their families who suffered losses in the recent North Bay wildfires. We know that these are trying times for those who lost their homes and that pastimes like fly fishing are probably the last thing on their minds right now. But when everything settles out, we want them to know that we welcome them back for the rest and relaxation that only the blend of outdoors and friends can provide.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich



**DONATE YOUR EXTRA FLY FISHING GEAR** to our **RRFF Bargain Table** (at every RRFF 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!

## **RRFF Membership Dues**

***Please renew by the end of this month!***

You may renew your membership online at [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) or by US Mail. Please remit to: Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945. All checks must be made payable to the Russian River Fly Fishers.

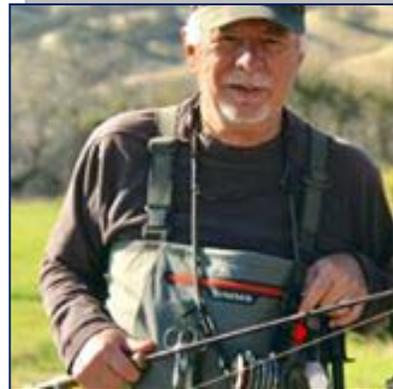
<b>Gold Member</b>	\$1,000.00 contribution (one-time)
<b>Family Member</b>	\$55.00 per year
<b>Single Member</b>	\$50.00 per year
<b>Junior Member</b>	\$25.00 per year (ages 16 to 18)

*Because of the devastating North Bay wildfires, we have extended the grace period for membership renewal until the end of November.*

### **Review - Flyfisher's Guide to California**

Author Greg Vinci brings a longtime local's point of view, with tips on access areas where vehicle numbers and parking spots are limited, campgrounds where you'll need reservations, and historical context to the fisheries. His spectacular full-color photography fills the pages with fly fishing bliss. The book is one of the largest and most comprehensive fly fishing guides for the Golden State, and includes maps and coverage of notable waters like Hot Creek, Little Truckee River, and the Sacramento, as well as smaller, less famous waters.

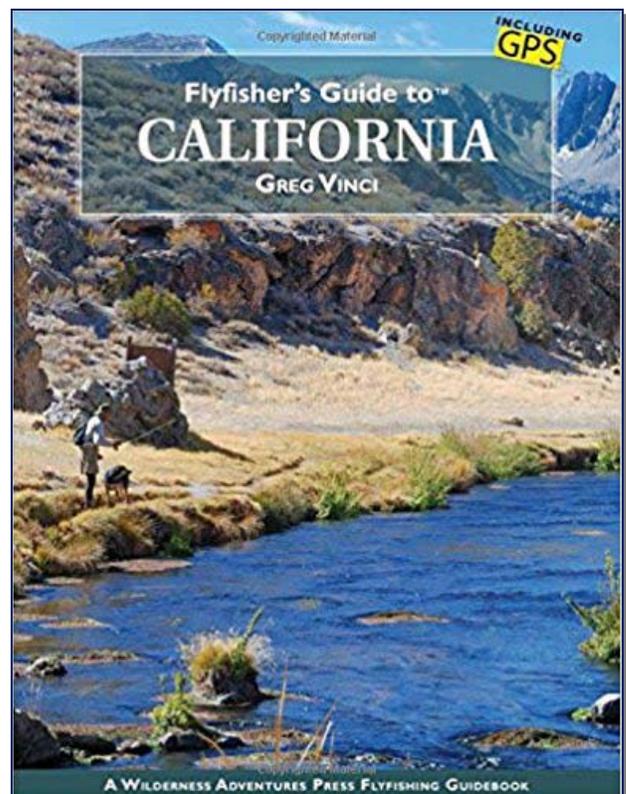
~ *American Angler* magazine, May/June 2016



## **RRFF General Meeting** ~ with special guest Greg Vinci ~

**Wednesday, November 8th - 7:00 pm**  
*The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building*

Greg grew up fishing the trout of the Sierras and northern California steelhead, and has been in the fly tackle industry for 23 years. He has been writing and photographing for many flyfishing and outdoor magazines such as Fly Fisherman, American Angler, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Salmon & Steelhead Journal, Northwest and Southwest Fly Fishing Magazines, California Fly Fisher, and Sierra Heritage.



## **Steelhead in the Classroom**

Hi all RRFF Steelhead in the Classroom Coaches and all RRFF members who want to be coaches! If you haven't already, please follow the link below and select dates for Coaches Training (Yes, it's being planned!) in December. The coaches training will be planned by this poll.

[Doodle: Steelhead in the Classroom Coaches training](#)

**Doodle: Steelhead in the Classroom Coaches training**  
**This is to reschedule the coaches training workshop**

Let me know by email or phone (707-483-6172 cell) if you have any problems using the link above or if you think you may still be affected by the fire events by this time.

This has been a stressful, and for many, devastating last 3 weeks. Hoping that your and the children's wonder and hope with the Steelhead in the Classroom may help us heal.

Blessings and Very Best to All !!!!!

Karl Joost  
6275 Melita Rd  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
707-483-6172 (cell)

~ Karl Joost, RRFF Steelhead in the Classroom Coordinator

## **Conservation Corner**

Please join us for the **Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited General Meeting** and our panel discussion focusing on the Eel River Potter Valley Project. This is a rare opportunity to learn the details about the Eel River, dams relicensing and their impact on this iconic fishery.

**November 16th, 2017, 6-8PM**  
**Lagunitas Lounge at the Lagunitas Brewing Company**  
**1280 N. McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma**

Free event! Register below:

<http://bit.ly/retufall2017>

## **RETU General Meeting: Eel River "Potter Valley" Panel Discussion**

Eel River "Potter Valley" Project Panel Discussion RETU Fall General Meeting November 16th, 2017, 6-8PM Lagunitas Lounge at the Lagunitas Brewing Company, 1280 N. McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma. Join us for the Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited General Meeting and our panel discussion will focus on the Eel River Potter Valley Project. This is a rare opportunity to learn the details about the Eel River, dams relicensing and their impact on this iconic fishery. Check out this link to read up on the Eel River and Potter Valley project: <https://www.redwoodempire-tu.org/eel-river-dams-relicensing/> RETU members and volunteers have been very busy with many terrific conservation and education projects. We will share all the details about these projects and ways you can get involved. The RETU general meeting is open to volunteers, members and anyone interested in protecting and restoring our local waterways. We have lots of great projects and activities planned and underway, and look forward to getting you onboard!

Check out this link to read up on the Eel River and Potter Valley project:

<https://www.redwoodempire-tu.org/eel-river-dams-relicensing/>

## **Eel River Dams Relicensing**

[www.redwoodempire-tu.org](http://www.redwoodempire-tu.org)

Facebook Event link (leads to eventbrite free registration)  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1742451732717178>

~ Derek Campbell, RRFF Conservation Director

## **Join the RRFF on Facebook**

We currently have **844 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>

## Blackwater Explorer - Peacock Bass

It started when Christie Geernaert and Don Shaw went to the Sacramento ISE in early 2016 looking for a fishing adventure. They encountered Garry Reiss, an owner of Acute Angling, a fishing outfitter that provides fishing trips to the Brazilian Amazon. They bought a week on the **Blackwater Explorer** and found 9 friends who wanted to go to Brazil to fish for peacock bass in October 2017.



We fished the Rio Negro (“Black River”) and some of its tributaries. The Rio Negro (black water) flows from Colombia where it joins the Salmoides River (muddy) and becomes the Amazon River at Manaus, over 900 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. We flew through Miami to Manaus (population 2 million) where we spent a night in a hotel. Manaus is just south of the equator.

The next day we took a 1 ¼ hour charter flight to a Rio Negro River town, Barcelos (population 25,000).

The 77 ft., 3-level **Blackwater Explorer** was comfortable with air-conditioned rooms and private bathrooms for 12-16 clients. There was very good food and daily laundry. They fish a 6-month season and carry a crew of about 8 plus 6-8 guides.

We fished the Rio Negro and tributaries 100 miles above and below Barcelos. The boat moved each day while anglers were out with guides fishing. The fishing day was from 6 am to 5 pm with lunch out on the river with the guide and a short rest in a hammock after lunch.

Fishing was good. All fishing was moving from spot to spot, casting from the skiffs toward structure along shores. Occasionally we would encounter a honey hole spot with over 10 fish attacking the fly almost every cast. They attack the fly very aggressively pulling much harder than a same size largemouth bass. During the week, 1069 peacocks were caught (about 100 per angler) along with a few Piranha, Bicuda and dogfish. One day, Rich and Christie caught over 100 fish. The largest Peacock Bass caught that week were 12 lbs, one by Rich Geernaert.





**Rich with 12 lb Peacock**



**Christie with 10 lb Peacock**

Part of the group cast jigs with spinning rods. The rest of the group used 8 or 9 weight fly rods with tropical intermediate or sinking fly lines. Leaders consisted of 4 feet of 30-50 lb fluorocarbon tippet. Any time a leader got snagged on a log, the guide had to use a stick to get it off or occasionally swim down to retrieve it.



**Flies that worked well, tied by Don Shaw (and what they looked like after encounter with Piranha).**  
**Clockwise from upper left – Peacock Agitator, Flashtail Whistler, Bob’s Reducer Baby Peacock, Amazon Lyon**

During the week, we saw freshwater dolphins (gray and pink), blue and gold macaws, giant otters, and caiman (fresh water crocs). We also occasionally heard Howler Monkeys. Several fishermen including Christie lost peacocks to dolphins, retrieving a mauled fish, severed fish head or a bare hook.

Other activities during the week included visiting a 20 house Indian village where we saw them roasting manioc root. We visited their houses, school, church, and community garden.

On the last day in Manaus, we had time for a city tour which was loads of fun:

- Ate lunch at an excellent Brazilian BBQ.
- Took a short boat ride to the “meeting of the waters” where the Rio Negro mixes with the Salmoides.
- Fed some Arapaima in floating pens in the Rio Negro.
- Toured the Opera House build by rubber barons in 1892.

Overall a very fun trip with great fishing. Also, more economical than many other Peacock trips.

~ Christie and Rich Geernaert, Don Shaw, Mike Spurlock

## **RRFF Winter Casting Clinics**

With the change to Pacific Standard Time this month, our **Winter Fly Casting Schedule** takes effect and our clinics will be held on **the first and third Saturday of each month** (weather permitting). Our first winter Casting Clinic will be **Saturday, November 18th**, from **noon until 2:30 pm**.

Our Casting Clinics are **FREE** and are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** **Beginners are always welcome**, and we do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own.

The winter months usually bring bigger water and (hopefully) a chance to pursue our coastal steelhead. This quarry requires heavier fly rods and terminal tackle, as well as some conditioning and practice to effectively chase the "fish of a thousand casts". We can help you fine-tune your casting stroke, teach you to shoot line, double-haul and to use a shooting head.

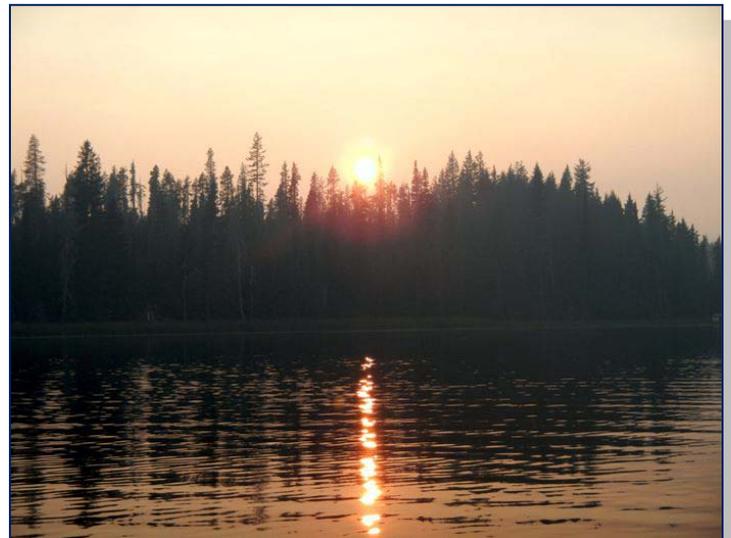
It has been said that fly casting proficiency is 95% practice. Our clinics can give you the tools to improve your cast, but is ultimately up to you to make the instruction your own.

Practice with us... Won't you join us at the Casting Pond?

~ Steve Tubbs, RRFF Casting Instruction Director



*The Hatch - Heenan Lake, September 2017*



*Wildfire Sunset over Hosmer Lake, Oregon*

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## **Santa Rosa Fishing Tackle, Duck Decoy, Sporting Collectible Show**

**Friday, March 9, 2018**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

Show Hours -

**Fri. 9 am to 5 pm & Sat. 8 am to 3 pm.**

*Santa Rosa Veterans Building  
1351 Maple Avenue in Santa Rosa, off Hwy 12  
across from the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds.*

**...No Guns & No Ammo...**

For more information, call

**Red Johnson,**

707-539-3662, cell: 707-888-7935

email: warrenjo@pacbell.net

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

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## **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@kresky.com](mailto:steve@kresky.com)**

## Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

*(and take advantage of their discounts when available)*

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(707) 588-8033,

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## Calendar of Events

**Winter Fly Casting Clinics** – begin November 18th at 12:00 noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting). Afterward, Clinics are held the first and third Saturday of each month.

### November

- 2 Last Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinic - 4:30 pm until dark.
- 8 RRFF General Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 9-12 Trinity River Steelhead Outing (No Leader yet)
- 15 RRFF Board Meeting
- 18 First Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting)

### December

- 2 Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm
- 10 Don Clausen Fish Hatchery Tour (Derek Campbell)
- 13 RRFF General Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 16 Winter Fly Casting Clinic - noon until 2:30 pm
- 20 RRFF Board Meeting

Visit [www.rflyfisher.org](http://www.rflyfisher.org) for a complete list of upcoming events!

## RRFF Board of Directors

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Raffle Coordinator: Christie Geernaert

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