

The Cast



Sonoma County California
Volume 45, Number 11
November 2018

*Chris Castellucci with a Lower Sac Rainbow
Lewiston Lake RRF Outing - October 2018*

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

President's Message

Fish Sandwich

I had just tossed an indicator rig into an old favorite spot on Lewiston Reservoir, hoping to see some action from the resident rainbow trout. Of course, watching an indicator on calm water is about as exciting as watching paint dry, and it was beginning to look like a slow day on the lake. I had skipped lunch to drive five hours so that I would be there before dark, and I was getting hungry. So I laid the rod across my lap and started to open the wrapper of a granola bar. About half way through the snack, the rod started sliding toward the water even though the boat was anchored and stable. I lifted the rod and felt the pulsing of a fish. Despite my slow

reaction, he had hooked himself and after a short tussle was brought to the net. Strange – nothing was happening until I brought out the food.

As a youngster I would fish with my father for walleyes on a lake in northern Wisconsin. We would use a live minnow under a bobber, heaved out onto the water with casting rods and braided fabric lines. When the action died down, my dad would pass out the sandwiches and drinks and say, "The fish always bite when you're eating". It seemed more often than not to be true – especially so when you had a sandwich in one hand and a drink in the other.

The next morning on Lewiston was also kind of slow - only one trout had come to the net. I decided to take a lunch break and try an experiment. I paddled my kayak to an area where I had seen a couple fish

rise the day before and dropped anchor in 15 feet of water. I cast out a midge five feet below an indicator, draped the rod across my lap, and started in on a couple of PB&J sandwiches that I had packed.

I was physically prepared for action, but it had been hours since breakfast and those sandwiches had my complete attention. Sure enough, I turned my head and saw the indicator retreating into the depths. With my mouth full enough to only emit a grunt, I fumbled the rod and watched as the float bobbed again to the surface. In the excitement I had clenched the hand that was holding the sandwich and the peanut butter and bread was oozing out between my knuckles. If fish could laugh, this one would have.

So what is it about fish and sandwiches? Are they stealthy creatures who bite when we eat because that's when we become quiet and still? Or are they perverse creatures who somehow sense a chance to get even when we are not paying attention?

That's why I love fishing – the mysteries never end.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich

RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, November 14th

**7:00 pm – The Lodge Room,
Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building**

Join us for our **November General Meeting**...and our mystery guest speaker. As of this writing, I have received no program information - so we will have to trust that our Program Coordinator, Joe Banovich, has lined-up another worthwhile presentation for our entertainment!

Come early to socialize with your RRFF friends and to share the camaraderie of our fly fishing community.

~ Editor



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Recently, I was appointed as one of two **Sonoma County – Community at Large** representatives to the **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**. This is a 3-year appointment.

This means that I am a spokesperson for our Sonoma County residents regarding the issues that directly affect the **CBNMS**, and (more generally) for our oceans, rivers and the other 13 National Marine Sanctuaries. To find out more about the CBNMS and what we do, please visit the website:

<https://cordellbank.noaa.gov/>

If you are a Sonoma County resident and would like me to present related issues to the Advisory Council on your behalf, please feel free to contact me at steve@inspiri2.com or at 707-867-6806.

~ Steve Tubbs

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

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

RRFF Supports Local Steelhead in the Classroom Program

The Russian River Fly Fishers are stepping up for **Steelhead in the Classroom** for 2019!

Here's the scoop-

14 RRFF Volunteer Coaches will be working with elementary classroom teachers around Sonoma County.

Who are these intrepid coaches? Bill Laurie, Tom Greer, Ken Young, Tim Reuling, Susan Churchill, Charles Jacobs, Mike Spurlock, Lee Soares, Tony Ramsden, Jeff Cratty, Patty Newland, Susan Bostwick, Gregg Wrisley and Karl Joost.

Coach training is being set up now for a day in January, 2019 (especially for our new coaches, but experienced coaches are also invited to learn more and to share their experiences).

What do coaches do? Teachers teach the curriculum, and coaches “coach and assist”. A couple of weeks before the eggs are delivered (usually during February) coaches will often help the teacher clean and set-up the 10-gallon tank with gravel, filter, chiller, and water. Proper cleaning and clean water is important to eliminate the chance of steelhead fry carrying pathogens into the tributaries of the Russian River. Target tank temperature is a chilly 55 degrees F...just right!



Coaches usually deliver the steelhead eggs to the classroom. The eggs are provided by the **Warm Springs Fish Hatchery** and usually picked up at the Sonoma County Water Agency in Santa Rosa by coaches whose teachers have been authorized by the CDFW to participate. Our local contact at SCWA

is David Berman, who answers literally hundreds of “fishy” questions a day, and who always has a warm smile and welcoming demeanor.

Delivering eggs to the classroom is amazing, and helping the teacher and students carefully get the eggs into the chilled water is another great way coaches often assist. Follow-up visits to the classroom may be arranged with the teacher while the eggs are developing, and the coaches can experience the excitement of the children's classroom experiences as they watch the steelhead eggs hatch, move about as alevin, then develop into fry and begin to swim about the tank.



The program culminates with the final step - assisting as the class gets ready to release the steelhead fry into a tributary of the Russian River. This is usually a teacher/parent/school arranged field trip and usually happens about eight weeks after the eggs are delivered. The interaction possibilities for all aspects of the program are worked out between the coach and the teacher.

Who sponsors the program?

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Who is in charge of the administration of the program?

The RRFF works with **Ethan Rotman**, who manages and coordinates programs that hatch fish in classrooms for the San Francisco Bay Area. He also chairs the committee that manages these programs throughout the state. Ethan has worked with the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** for over 20 years.

Teachers and students set up an aquarium in the classroom, receive fish eggs under a special CDFW

permit, and observe the fish as they hatch and develop. The classroom experience usually culminates in a field trip to a local stream or river where the fish are released. This is a "hands-on", interdisciplinary project for grades K-12.



Here are steelhead eggs, "eyed up". Look carefully and you can see eyes, spines and even more!



Here's what about 30 eggs looked like as they were shown to the students in a Rohnert Park 3rd/4th grade class last year.

Last year's coaches helped build tank kits for 30 new teachers in 2018. This year, there are **30 more new teachers** and a waiting list. Wow! This is a very popular program that children, their parents, and teachers really like, as well as an opportunity for the RRF to educate classrooms while talking about the environment, our watersheds, and even fly fishing.

In 2018, the Russian River Fly Fishers also contributed to the program financially by buying thirty 10-gallon tanks, several chillers (to cool the water for steelhead comfort), and other supplies. This support was much appreciated by Ethan Rotman (CDFW), and by the teachers and 700+ children in public and private schools around Sonoma County, including Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Windsor, Rohnert Park, Kenwood and elsewhere.

~ Karl Joost, 707-483-6172

RRFF OUTING REPORT Lewiston Lake

Last fall we had to cancel our annual RRF Lewiston Reservoir outing because of the wildfires that wreaked havoc on all our lives at home. I was determined to get our members back on this great fly fishing lake in 2018, and so made a reservation for us to stay in a cabin at Lakeview Terrace Resort for an October 18-21 club outing. That plan was starting to look tenuous in August, when the Carr Fire swept through parts of Redding and marched west toward Lewiston. Fortunately, the fire stopped before the ridge on the eastern side of the reservoir and left the Lewiston surroundings intact, but while travelling on Hwy 299 we saw the destruction left behind in the hills around Whiskeytown Lake. It seemed that no matter where we had gone for our outings this year, we were destined to see fire-charred forests.



October Caddis...

Members attending the Lewiston outing included Don Shaw, Chris Castellucci, Tom Magliulo, Ken Young, Matt Cardle and Ed Barich. After a summer of camping outings, it was a nice change to have a kitchen, dining table, comfortable beds, and a shower available. The evening dining was a notch above camping fare too: chicken breasts cooked by Ken, a stuffed pork roast baked by Tom, and some authentic New Orleans style jambalaya prepared by Matt. As usual on our trips, no one went to bed hungry.

We found the fishing on Lewiston to be a bit more challenging than in previous years. It was obvious that there was no lack of trout, since at times we



Clear and Calm....

could see fish jumping out of the water in every direction. The water was clearer than I had ever seen it – the bottom could be made out at a 20-foot depth. All that clarity made the fish easy to see but unfortunately, they often saw us first and declined to participate. A lack of flow through the reservoir probably contributed to the clarity and during the time we were there the lake dropped a couple of feet due to outflow to the Trinity River below, combined with lack of any inflow from Trinity Lake above. The water was mostly flat, allowing Don and I to cast dry flies to rising fish that consistently refused our offerings. A few fish were hooked on small black midge imitations, but most action was provided using that old standby, wooly buggers. Don landed an 18-incher on a bugger, and then later in the day returned to the same spot to catch what he believes was the same fish. Matt had the most



success landing six rainbows by trolling a bugger down the main channel. Despite the lack of action that we had had in previous years, it was a joy to be out on the water with sunny afternoons in the low 80's and fall colors painted on the surrounding ridges.

A fortunate aspect of the Lewiston outing is that there are other nearby fishing venues that can be easily reached. On Friday, Matt and Don took a guided float trip on the Trinity River and did quite



well. Although the river flows had recently dropped, the bigger flows of September and early October had brought many steelhead up from the ocean. Matt had the best luck landing fish, but both he and Don had one of their best-action days in memory of



Jambalaya Dinner...

steelhead fishing on the Trinity. Then on Sunday after leaving the cabin in the early morning, Chris and Don traveled to Redding to meet a guide and float the Lower Sacramento. Apparently, this was near the peak of the salmon egg bite on the Sac and they both had a spectacular day landing the feisty wild rainbows found there. So, for this outing we would have to say that the backup plans saved the day, but next year we might want to visit Lewiston Reservoir earlier in the season when the flows are greater.

~ Ed Barich



Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **909 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>



Casting for Recovery

For 17 years the Russian River Fly Fishers has supported Casting for Recovery. CFR is a national organization that introduces women, who are in various stages of breast cancer, to the art of fly fishing. As in past years, there were two retreats held at Indian Creek Lodge in Douglas City on the Trinity River. The first retreat was at the end of April and the second at the end of September. Fourteen women were chosen by lottery to attend each weekend retreat, where they were taught fly fishing basics that included insects, fly casting and knot tying.

On Sunday morning, 14 volunteer *River Helpers* guided the ladies on the river where they were able to fish for about two hours. You just can't imagine



the excitement these ladies had in getting to the river to fish! Lots of the ladies had never fished before, and that two hours always goes by way too fast. Some of the ladies even got lucky and caught fish.

But it's not all about catching fish. For a few hours, these women are thoroughly engrossed in the spirituality of fly fishing, and through this come away with new friendships, memories, and the foundation for a new skill - fly fishing. They are some of the bravest people I have ever met, and it is an honor to walk among them.



I would like to mention and thank some of the RRFF members that have helped tie or supply materials for the flies over the years. A big thanks to: Don Shaw, Howard Nakagawa, Ken Howe, Larry Henzerling and most recently, Chuck Perry, Jeff Cratty and the late Terry Faris. And thank you to the Russian River Fly Fishers for supporting such a worthwhile organization for all these years.

~ Paul Matzen

RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics

The RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park

Held on the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting).

Our first Winter Fly Casting Clinic will be held on Saturday, November 17th. These events are **FREE** and are **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Beginners are always welcome.

We do have some equipment available for your use at the Casting Pond if you do not have your own. Won't you join us?

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Calendar of Events

RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics – Held on the first and third Saturday of each month (weather permitting).

This event is FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Beginners are welcome...

November

- | | |
|------|---|
| 4 | Daylight Savings Time ends |
| 6 | RETU Meeting – Lagunitas Brewery, Petaluma |
| 8-11 | RRFF Outing Trinity River – (Bill Laurie) |
| 14 | RRFF General Meeting – 6:30 @ SR Vet's Hall |
| 17 | Winter Fly Casting Clinic – noon – 2:30 pm |
| 21 | RRFF Board Meeting – Sportsman's Warehouse |

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

RRFF Board of Directors

President: Ed Barich

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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 the RRFF help you? _____

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