



**Ed Barich with a Beautiful Rainbow – Lewiston Lake, CA**

Sonoma County  
California  
Volume 47, Issue 10  
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## President's Message

### Supported by the RRFF

As with any non-profit organization, the RRFF board keeps a budget and maintains a treasury to fund club activities. The inputs to the treasury include membership dues, cash donations and profits from raffles and silent auctions. Typical expenses include General Meeting hall and speaker fees, casting pond maintenance, raffle and auction purchases, and liability insurance. The board's minimum goal is to balance the budget each year and maintain enough surplus in the treasury to meet any unexpected expenses. When the treasury surplus grows beyond that, we look for ways that we can support outside programs that align with our charter to promote the sport of fly fishing and the environment that makes it possible. Two of the programs that the RRFF board funded last year were:

- Steelhead in the Classroom – Through this CDFW program, students are able to watch steelhead eggs develop and hatch into fry in a classroom aquarium, and learn about the lifecycles of steelhead and our local watersheds. RRFF provided funds for purchase of tanks and pumping systems and our members volunteered to assemble tanks and train teachers.
- Casting for Recovery – CFR provides healing outdoor retreats for women with breast cancer, at no cost to the participants. Last fall, RRFF provided CFR with funding for one spot at a weekend retreat on the Trinity River.


The board would like to continue to support both of these projects, but due to the COVID situation this year, it is likely that both will have reduced activities and their needs for financial support will be less.

The board recently approved funding to support a one-time project to install information signs on the Russian River to help conserve and protect wild steelhead and salmon. Our conservation coordinator, Charlie Schneider, designed the sign (see photo, and note the RRFF emblem at the bottom) and is leading the process to have the signs installed along the river. The RRFF will split the cost of the signs with Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited and the Russian River Wild Steelhead Society.


## ATTENTION ANGLERS

In order to conserve, protect, and restore the Russian River's coldwater fisheries

### Keep Hatchery Steelhead\*



Hatchery fish have adipose fin removed and healed adipose fin scar



More info  
Current regs  
www.rfish.org

\* Harvesting hatchery steelhead helps preserve wild steelhead, bag limits apply


### Release Wild Steelhead and Salmon

To increase the chance of survival and successful spawning, handle and release fish with care

- It is unlawful to target Chinook or coho salmon
- Only barbless hooks may be used
- Land fish quickly

- Use a rubber net, do not beach fish
- Keep gills underwater at all times
- Wet hands before handling

**Steelhead**  
*(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*




Mouth is white

Wild fish have intact adipose fin

Uniform spots on both lobes of tail

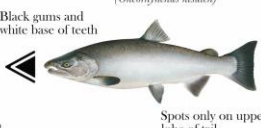
**Chinook Salmon**  
*(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*



Black gums and base of teeth

Large spots on back. Spots on both lobes of tail

**Coho Salmon**  
*(Oncorhynchus kisutch)*



Black gums and white base of teeth

Spots only on upper lobe of tail

Illustrations: Joseph R. Tomelleri








Regulations subject to change

Check CDFW Title 14 CCR Russian River Fishing Regs before fishing

This steelhead fishery is subject to low flow closure Oct. 1- Mar 31

Call CDFW low flow hotline before fishing (707) 944-5533

To report poaching or polluting call 1(888) 334-CALTIP

The board will continue to look for ways to fund local projects that support the interests of our members. If you have thoughts on how we can continue to do that, please let me or any board member hear your ideas.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich

## RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics




### Russian River Fly Fishers

## Winter Fly Casting Clinics

Noon until 2:30 pm

Held on the first and third Saturday of each month!

(Beginning November 7th, 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

During COVID-19 restrictions, you must have your own equipment to use at the Casting Pond!

On **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**, our **Russian River Fly Fishers Winter Fly Casting Instruction** will begin at the **RRFF Casting Pond** in Dan Galvin Park. As the COVID-19 pandemic is entering its most virulent phase during the coming months, strict Coronavirus protocols will be observed and all Sonoma County and Santa Rosa City Parks rules will be strictly followed.

Our RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics are held on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** of each month, **from noon until 2:30 pm** (weather permitting). Our last Winter Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, after which the Thursday evening fly casting will resume (with Daylight Savings Time). The RRFF casting instruction program follows the casting levels established by **Fly Fishers International**.

**During COVID-19** - Coronavirus cases are rising to new highs throughout our country. At present, Santa Rosa City Parks are open for public use providing all users follow strict social distancing and mask wearing guidelines. Our use of the Casting Pond must follow all Sonoma County and City of Santa Rosa regulations.



At the Casting Pond, we ask that all fly casters maintain at least a **one rod length (approximately 10 feet)** between themselves and others. Face masks are required whenever you are within 6 feet of persons not in your immediate family group. **Shared equipment is not permitted** until such time that doing so is approved by Sonoma County health officials. Please make sure that you observe an unquestionable safe distance and abide by all health ordinances.

On the designated Saturdays, **fly casting instruction may be provided** in a safe, socially distanced manner. Instructors will maintain a 10-foot distance and physical contact is not permitted. For instances where closer association occurs, face masks will be worn until safe social distancing can once again be observed.

**RRFF Fly Casting Clinics – Our fly casting clinics are FREE and are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Again, during COVID-19 you must have your own equipment and loaner equipment will not be available. **BEGINNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME and encouraged!**

Our volunteer casting instructors are active fly fisherman who can help you with your fly casting fundamentals while also answering your questions regarding fly fishing and equipment. We can analyze your technique, offer pointers, and teach you new fly casting skills. However, the most important part of learning to fly cast is practice! It is said that 95% of becoming proficient with fly casting is based on the amount of time you devote to casting a fly line. To this end, the **RRFF Casting Pond is open 7 days per week** during the regular Dan Galvin Park hours of operation. Please...**NO HOOKS** at the Casting Pond (tie a piece of yarn to your leader instead!)

Fly fishing is a wonderful way to practice social distancing and to experience those incredible ecosystems that support fish! Its practice can offer us the opportunity to “Stop the World” that we experience in our day to day actions while reconnecting with our environment and the larger natural world. It can be a balm for our soul and a gateway into a greater appreciation of the unity of all things. As is always the case, we choose just how far we will immerse ourselves into it, and we determine how it will influence our perception.

Our Sonoma County winter afternoons can be truly spectacular! What better way to enjoy them, learn new skills and to meet new friends?

Won't you join us at the Casting Pond?

~ *Steve Tubbs*

RRFF Casting Instruction Director

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## Camping at Lewiston Reservoir

Due to the pandemic, I had not been camping at all in 2020 and with fall in progress, the window of opportunity was beginning to close. For the past five years I had organized mid-October club outings at Lewiston Reservoir on the Trinity River, with the members sharing a cabin at Lakeview Terrace Resort. With this year's COVID situation, there was no way that we could have people in close proximity indoors, and we could not have any large gatherings even outdoors. Instead, I checked with angling friends to see if a few of them would be willing to meet me there to camp and fish for few days before the weather started turning cold. Fortunately, Tim Reuling and Marcus Pipkin were available and we set a plan to meet there the weekend of October 17, following all the recommended pandemic protocols.

Our plan was to camp at the Mary Smith US Forest Service campground on the south end of Lewiston Reservoir. This is a “tent camping only” location that also includes some “glamping” sites with rent-able tents for folks who are new to outdoor living. Tim and I arrived on Thursday afternoon and quickly claimed a choice site in the hardwood forest, right down on the lakeshore. It was big enough for three tents and it was quiet enough for us to hear the migratory ducks all night long. There were not many campers in the park on this last weekend of the season, making our stay very pleasant (and safe).

Tim and I started our fishing in the middle section of the lake, launching our boats (Tim's pontoon and my kayak) near the Resort, but we had no action at all on Thursday evening or Friday morning. Lewiston is a

tailwater of the larger Trinity Reservoir upstream and this causes its water to be cold (48F in the morning, 55F in the afternoon) and very clear (visibility down to 15 feet). With virtually no wind, the fish could see us long before we saw them and getting our flies in their vicinity without spooking them was a real challenge.

But later Friday afternoon, the wind picked up and put enough chop on the water to make the fish less wary. I anchored my kayak in an area where I had seen trout rising in 6 to 8 feet of water and cast an indicator rig with a #16 zebra midge fly spaced about 5 feet below the float. After a few casts, the indicator dove and I was able to land an 11-inch rainbow, which felt like quite an accomplishment after being skunked for so long. Using the same method, I was able to land two more fish that afternoon – one of them 18-inches long that put up a solid fight. I always find it amazing that trout that large can even see a fly as small as a midge imitation, but somehow, they do.

Marcus arrived at the camp on Friday evening, bringing his trailered drift boat along. I couldn't pass up an invitation to join him on Saturday, since his boat would allow us to cover much more of the lake than I could in my kayak. That morning we tried casting streamers on sinking lines around some of the islands on the lake, but we had no takers. Since Marcus' boat is equipped with an electric trolling motor, we switched to trolling our streamers in an effort to cover more territory and locate active fish. Not long after we started, Marcus hooked a good-sized rainbow, proving that the larger fish wanted larger flies too. We set up both of our rods with Type 3 sinking lines and rust-colored "wobble-tail" streamers on 6-foot leaders, and then the fun began. We trolled in a zig-zag pattern up and down the narrow reservoir all day, landing 9 rainbows, most of them in the 17 to 20-inch range. Apparently, the late season CDFW plants in Lewiston included some "brood" stock – these fish were stout, looking like the ones you might see in a pay-to-play pond. We kept one of them to for camp dinner that night and

found it to be quite tasty. The next morning, Marcus and I caught 6 more rainbows, including a couple that made some spectacular jumps, indicating that they may have been hold-overs from a previous year's plant.

It was a weekend of fine camping, fishing and spending outdoor time with friends. It was the *only* camping and trout fishing that I was able to do this year, and maybe that was what made the weekend feel so special. With so many outings missing this year, I expect I will remember this one for a long time.

~ Ed Barich



*The Campsite*



*Ed and Tim*



*Getting the Boat Ready at the Ramp*



*Rainbow from the Drift Boat*



*Rainbow from the Kayak*

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## Club Website Update

We have added a slide show of the final Thursday evening casting clinic on October 29.

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## November Dues Update

It is appearing likely that we will not be back to normal operations, and as a result, we will not be asking for dues payments for the 7/1/2020-6/30/2021 year for the foreseeable future. We will continue with existing members not being required to pay dues, and new members can join for free. However, some people have been choosing to pay dues, and if you chose to pay them, we will gladly accept a dues donation.

We suspended all club social activities on 3/18/2020 due to Covid-19. The casting pond reopened in June, and we have limited instruction on Thursdays at 4:30 pm. In June, we also replaced our monthly general meetings with Zoom meetings. Our monthly fishing outings have been suspended indefinitely. It also seems likely that our annual February Cioppino Dinner fundraiser will not be possible.

In May, we announced that we would suspend dues payments for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 year until things returns to "normal." We are saving money by not having to rent the Veterans Hall or pay speakers, but we do have significant ongoing expenses for insurance, The Cast newsletter and our annual donations to worthy causes (Steelhead in the Classroom and possibly Casting for Recovery). We have sufficient savings to make it through the year without dues, but it will leave a dent in our bank account.

Some people are choosing to pay dues in spite of our suspension, and if members choose to make this donation, you can go to the website to pay dues on-line, or you can mail me a check. It goes without saying that any contribution to the club would be very much appreciated.



[https://www.rrflyfisher.org/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.rrflyfisher.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

Thank you.

Mike Spurlock, Treasurer

415-599-6138

20 San Domingo Way

Novato, Ca 94945

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## Virtual Zoom November General Meeting

We will be having a **General Meeting of the Russian River Fly Fishers on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** using the Zoom video sharing application. The topic will be Fly Fishing the Surf and will be presented by Sam Bishop.

Sam Bishop is a Navy veteran and Past President of the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen club and has led monthly surf fishing outings for his club and others for over ten years. There are lots of pictures of the various fish you might catch a discussion of what equipment you need, techniques, and what skills are best to have.

Sam's briefing for anyone contemplating fishing the surf can always be found on his club's website under the "Education" tab. [www.Santacruzflyfishermen.org](http://www.Santacruzflyfishermen.org)

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## Loaner Float Tube

Someone generously gave me this Buck's Bags Float Tube. After cleaning it up and making some repairs, I'm going to offer it, along with some of my spare fins, pump and net, as a loaner, to any club member who would like to try out a float tube for a couple days.

Don Shaw

707-477-5928



Buck's Bags Float Tube



New Member Daniel Powers with a Rainbow from a Recent Trip to the Nevada Side of the Truckee River

## 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)

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

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(707) 588-8033,

Fax (707) 588-8035

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

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

## **November Calendar of Events**

**BEGINNING 3/18, BECAUSE OF THE  
CORONAVIRUS SHELTER IN PLACE  
ORDER, ALL (in person) CLUB  
MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED.  
MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE BEING  
HELD VIA ZOOM. PLEASE ALL STAY  
HEALTHY AND SAFE.**

## **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 [ggbriidgeman@att.net](mailto:ggbriidgeman@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**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address\* \_\_\_\_\_  
Main Interests in the Club? \_\_\_\_\_  
How Many Years Have You Been Fly Fishing \_\_\_\_\_  
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>

**Due to Covid-19, Dues Are Optional. Donations are appreciated.**