

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 44, Number 10  
October 2017

**Heenan Lake - Monitor Pass**  
*California Heritage Trout Challenge*

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

## President's Message

### Perspective...

My family and I recently had the opportunity to do some travel by rail in Switzerland. As we rode from one city to another, we saw the beautiful Alps, terraced vineyards and peaceful herds of dairy cattle. Of course, being a fly fisher, my eyes were always searching for bodies of water with anglers on them. Switzerland has many large lakes and rivers, all flowing with crystal-clear water, but only once in our travels did I see anyone fishing. While crossing a footbridge in a Swiss town, I did manage to spot a trout in the river below, so it's not like the country is totally devoid of finned opportunity. The lack of angling activity in that scenic land left me puzzled.

I never had a chance to ask the locals why their waterways were so devoid of anglers, but my guess is that private land ownership probably prevents the average person from having access to fishable water.

Here in the US we have national, state and local public lands that allow all citizens to fish, but in the rest of the world these rights can be few and far between. This should remind us how important it is for all of the sporting community to protect our public access and conserve natural resources.

The strength of fishing as a recreational activity in the US, compared to Europe, may also be cultural. Americans are long past the days when fishing was a necessity to keep the family fed, but we still take the time and effort to teach our children the sport and the appreciation for nature that it promotes. I hope that we as fly fishermen and women remember that there is value in passing our knowledge and skills on to future generations.

Sometimes it takes a bit of travel to appreciate how blessed we are to live where we do.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich



*(Cover Photo) Heenan Lake - California Heritage Trout Challenge.*

Heenan Lake is located on Hwy 89 at 7,200 feet, on the way to Monitor Pass. It is one of only a few native watersheds for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in California, and trout caught here qualify for the Heritage Trout Challenge. Special fishing regulations allow fishing in Heenan Lake starting Labor Day weekend and ending on the last Sunday in October. The lake is open to fishing on Friday through Sunday only, sunrise to sunset.

Heenan Lake Lahontan Cutthroat average 20-plus inches.



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

**[www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org)**

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

**DONATE YOUR EXTRA FLY FISHING GEAR** to our **[RRFF Bargain Table](#)** (at every RRFF General Meeting).

*A fellow member could use it!*

**[RRFF Membership Dues Renewal](#)**

*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)



**October RRFF General Meeting - with Jon Baiocchi**

**Wednesday, October 11th - 7:00 pm**

*The Lodge Room, Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building*

***"MASTERING THE DRY FLY"***

For September's meeting we welcome master guide **Jon Baiocchi** of *Baiocchi's Troutfitters*. Jon has been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972. He is a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, educator, innovative fly-tier, and an award-winning public speaker who gives fly fishing presentations to clubs and expos across the state of California, and Nevada. Jon serves on the Truckee Trout Unlimited Board of Directors, and volunteers

his time with the South Yuba River Citizens League. 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 for his peerless conservation work, 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 conservation, 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 20 years. He has a reputation as a very hard working guide that's been trained by some of fly fishing's best known anglers and guides, 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 his 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 is 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!

Jon has an all new PowerPoint program that was especially created for numerous fly clubs looking for a more technical program on fishing the dry fly. **"Mastering the Dry Fly"** entails a brief history of the dry fly and those anglers who were involved from the beginning, simple to complex presentations, understanding rise forms, approaching water structure, tips & tricks, and Jon's favorite patterns for eager to educated trout. Beautiful images and new detailed animated slides provide the audience with clear and concise information for future

endeavors on the water while dry fly fishing. This will be a program you do not want to miss!

~ Joe Banovich, Program Director

## **Welcome New Members**

The RRF would like to welcome our newest members **Frank Palladino, Marcus Pipkin** and returning member **Chris Dobson**. Our website @ [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org) is your best resource to find our latest club news and a list of our monthly outings and events.

Please contact any board member if you have questions. **Welcome Aboard!**



## **Steelhead in the Classroom**

**The RRF's dive into Steelhead in the Classroom**

### **Wow! Double wow!**

These RRF's members are now the coaches for elementary and intermediate schools in Sonoma and Marin Counties:

**Bob Pawlan** - Matanzas Elementary School, Santa Rosa

**Ken Young** - Kenwood Elementary School, Kenwood

**Roger White** - Village Elementary School (2 classrooms), Santa Rosa

**Tony Ramsden** - Roseland Creek Elementary School, Santa Rosa

**Karl Joost** - Roseland Elementary School (2 classrooms), Santa Rosa

**Mike Spurlock** - Novato

**Derek Campbell** - Petaluma

The coaches will have free coaches training (with scrumptious food served!) on Thursday, October 12 from 6-9 pm in Santa Rosa. If you haven't signed up yet, follow the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enrichment-workshop-for-coaches-tickets-38156850166>

And there are additional classrooms just waiting for you- if you are interested, sign up on the Eventbrite link above and/or call Karl Joost at 707 483 6172.

~ Karl Joost, RRFF Coordinator

## Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **835 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>



Don's "last Chance" trout...

to be a very good campground alternative with the same amenities. The weather was good with cold nights; however, afternoon winds did challenge our casting and trolling abilities.

The lake was the highest I have seen in years and the water was cooling to a low of 59 degrees. The fishing was tough and the catching even tougher at Davis Lake. Even though the catch numbers were much lower than previous years, Walt did catch the biggest trout of the trip 23 inches. With the trout being scarce, Jeff Cratty knew there was other fish to be had, so he switched over to targeting largemouth bass and was successful in catching four large bass using his own tied bugger flies casting along the willow and shrub islands.

By Friday afternoon after very few trout strikes, Walt and Don decided to investigate Frenchman Lake and returned with favorable news of numerous strikes and fish caught during the few hours they fished. So, Saturday morning a decision was made to fish Frenchman Lake which was a first for most of us. The adventure was successful for most, with Chris getting skunked and Don catching his only two trout, 16 and 20 inches, on his way out of Frenchman at Little Last Chance Creek.



Sunset Dinner at Davis Lake...

## [Davis Lake in September](#)

Our last camping/fishing outing of the year was attended by Don Shaw, Walt Kruse, Doug Mackay, Jeff Cratty, Ken Young, Jeff Myers, and Chris Castellucci. Don and Walt were the first to arrive at our destination to find out from the camp host that Grasshopper Campground was closing at 2:00PM Saturday, so instead of having to pack up a day early and move, we made a group decision to move our camp location to Lightning Tree Campground about 2 miles further up the road. Lightning Tree turned out

Our dinners were delicious. Thursday was jambalaya and salad by Chris and Doug; Friday was skirt steak, beans, and salad by Jeff and Jeff; and Saturday we had hamburgers and chili by Don and Walt, with Ken providing a shrimp platter, chips and cookies.

All in all, it was a great trip. We spotted bald eagles, and deer, during the fishing day and after dinner we experienced starry skies, hooting owls, and howling coyotes.

The rumor from a Portola resident who has been fishing Davis Lake for 20 years indicated the trout fishing has been diminishing for years and that the future plan for Davis Lake is for a trophy largemouth bass fishery not trout. Not good news for us trout fly fishers. I hope the rumor is false.

~Chris Castellucci



Ken Young on Davis Lake...

## 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)

## Upcoming RRFF Outings

### **Lewiston Lake, October 19 - 22**

(See September Cast and RRFF Web Site for details.)

### **Trinity River Steelhead, November 9 - 12**

We have two rooms with 2 and 3 beds reserved at the Indian Creek Lodge. There are also singles available. Make your own arrangements and tell them you're with Ken of the RRFF. I won't make it this year, so hopefully someone will organize meals and socializing.

### **Clausen Fish Hatchery, December 10**

Watch migrating Dry Creek steelhead collecting in the holding pond before going in to be "spawned". Details will be forth coming in the Cast and RRFF Web Site.

Derek Campbell ([dcampbell00@hotmail.com](mailto:dcampbell00@hotmail.com)) is organizing this outing.

### **Annual Steelhead Clinic, January 6, 2018**

Steve Tubbs and other club members will share their knowledge of catching steelhead on flies. Weather permitting, we will meet at Johnson's Beach in Guerneville at 8AM for presentations and then share other fishing accesses on the Lower Russian. If nature doesn't cooperate, we'll hold the clinic at the Casting Pond in Galvin Park. Sign up at the next club meeting or on the RRFF Web Site.

### **Gualala River Steelhead Fishing, January 18 - 21**

The "easy" wading lower stretch of the Gualala provides a good opportunity for less experienced fly fishers to learn techniques and stream etiquette. You should have "controlled" fly casting skills.

I recommend staying at the **Surf Motel** at Gualala, (707) 884-3871.

### **Baum Lake Trout Fishing, March 22 - 25**

Early Spring is considered a prime period to fish this planted lake on Hat Creek. Some type of floatation fishing craft is highly recommended for best access to whole lake. We stay in motels in Burney Falls.

### **Pyramid Lake April 5 - 8**

Reservations have been made for about 17 people at Crosby's Lodge and limited to club members and their guests. In addition to hooking large Lahontan cutthroat trout, we have some great meals prepared by John Frenzel and friends. Sign-up on the RRFF Web Site and at upcoming club meetings.

## [RRFF Fly Casting Clinics](#)

### **Lower Sacramento River, April 19 - 22**

Christie Geernaert has set up a weekend of guided fishing with motel reservations on the Lower Sacramento River. You can stay with club members at the GAIA Motel in Andersen, CA on Thursday and Friday (maybe Saturday) and fish with a local professional guide, Friday and Saturday. Sign up on the RRFF Web Site. Contact Christie (christiegeer@gmail.com) for names of guides you can hire.

### **RRFF Annual Trout Opener - TBA**

This is another great club outing and weekend party usually held on a weekend in early May.

~ Ken Magoon, Outings Director

Vintage RRFF Patch...



On **November 2nd**, our **RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics** officially end for the 2017 season. Daylight Savings Time changes on Sunday, November 5th, after which 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.

My continued thanks to our volunteer instructors Ken Magoon and Paul Matzen, and to Binky Castleberry, Doug Mackay, Don Shaw and Ken Howe for assisting when needed.

Won't you join us at the Casting Pond?

### ***Crane Prairie Reservoir - Central Oregon***

Located approximately 42 miles southwest of Bend, OR, Crane Prairie Reservoir is a legendary big trout lake where, on any given day, you may hook the biggest trout of your life! A "Cranebow" of 19 lbs. was recorded, and trout over 10 lbs. are regularly caught.

The lake has an average depth of 15 feet, and can get quite warm during the summer months. Fed by numerous cold water streams and rivers, including the Deschutes River, these cold channels provide the summer habitat for big trout while the warmer waters provide angling for big largemouth bass. You may also pick up a Kokanee or Tui Chub during the course of your day.

To fish Crane Prairie successfully, a watercraft (float tube, pontoon boat, kayak, canoe, pram or small boat) is essential. Fly selection is also crucial...so talk with the local fly shops to determine what insects the fish are feeding on at the particular time you are there. Leaders will be 2X and 3X...heavy...for big trout!

This is an amazing, and beautiful, fishery and well-worth your visit when in Central Oregon!

~ Steve Tubbs



*The "snags" of Crane Prairie - remnants of the Deschutes Prairie before the reservoir was flooded in 1940.*

*"Cranebows" over 20 inches are quite common...*



## Support Our Local Fly Fishing Businesses!

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

### 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)

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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.

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(707) 588-8033,

fax (707) 588-8035

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

## Calendar of Events

### RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics

from 4:30 until 7:00 pm

Every Thursday (weather permitting) at the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park, Santa Rosa.

### October

- 11 RRFF General Meeting - Jon Baiocchi  
6:30 pm
- 12 Steelhead in the Classroom Workshop  
(Karl Joost)
- 18 RRFF Board Meeting
- 19-22 Lewiston Lake Outing (Ed Barich)

### 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)

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

## 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 and Outings Chairman: Ken Magoon

527-8376 [magoon5294@aol.com](mailto:magoon5294@aol.com)

Treasurer & Webmaster: Mike Spurlock

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Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: Steve Tubbs

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

Program Chairman: Joe Banovich

526-6015 [joebanovich@sonic.net](mailto:joebanovich@sonic.net)

Library Master: Don Shaw

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Member at Large: Chris Castellucci

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

Member at Large: Mike Kast

538-9762 [michaelrkast@gmail.com](mailto:michaelrkast@gmail.com)

Membership Chairman: Doug Mackay

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

Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: Paul Matzen

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

Member at Large: Ken Young

539-9649 [wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wlk4fun@sbcglobal.net)

Conservation Chairman: Derek Campbell

591-5667 [dcampbell00@hotmail.com](mailto:dcampbell00@hotmail.com)

Raffle Coordinator: Gregg Wrisley

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

### Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: Lee Soares

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

Women's Activities: Susan Bostwick

815-5926 [shbgold@gmail.com](mailto:shbgold@gmail.com)

Raffle Coordinator: Christie Geernaert

292-1304 [christiegeer@gmail.com](mailto:christiegeer@gmail.com)

Casting Pond Stewards: Doug & Sage Mackay

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

Casting Pond Monitor: Binky Castleberry

527-9607 [fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net](mailto:fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net)

Newsletter Editor: Steve Tubbs (temporary)

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

**Russian River Fly Fishers**  
**P.O. Box 2673**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95405**



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## 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 30<sup>th</sup>

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