

# The Cast



## Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California  
Volume 45, Number 10  
October 2018

Heenan Lake – Late Afternoon  
September 2018

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

## President's Message

### Fly Fishing and Politics

No, I am not about to spill the beans about the political machinations of the RRFF Board – actually we all behave ourselves quite well, thanks to our Sargent at Arms, Mike Kast, who brings a baseball bat to every meeting. Instead, I am going to talk about the upcoming November 6<sup>th</sup> election and how your favorite sport (fly fishing, of course) could be affected by the vote. Here are some issues that you as an outdoor sports person need to pay attention to:

**Sonoma County Measure M** – This measure would institute an eighth-cent sales tax increase, generating an estimated \$11.5 million annually for

County and city parks. The funds would be spent to invest in maintenance, safety and recreation services in Sonoma County Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Preserves. The budgets of County parks have especially been hard-hit by last year's fires, maintenance backlogs, and a general increase in park use. Parks that are popular for fishing, such as Doran Beach, Stillwater Cove, Westside, Gualala Point, and Spring Lake are all on the list for funded improvements. The measure will require a 2/3 approval to pass, but polls so far indicate broad support in the county. There is a Press Democrat article on the measure at:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/866105-3-181/sonoma-county-santa-rosa-officials>

**California State Proposition 3** – This authorizes \$8.877 billion in state general obligation bonds for various water and environmental projects. On the conservation side, it includes improvements to the health of watershed lands and habitats for fish and wildlife, and restoration of streams and wetlands to more natural conditions. On the water supply side, it includes improvements to water supplies, ground water stores and flood protection. Because this is such a large bill, it deserves scrutiny to determine how it would affect our everyday life, as well as our sport. Full text and analysis of the proposition can be found at:

<http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/3/analysis.htm>

Am I telling you how you should vote on these complex issues? No way – you will have to figure it out for yourselves. But I am expecting that you as competent fly fishers will do the necessary research before you march into the polling booth. No pressure, but the future of our sport may depend on your vote.

~ Ed Barich



### **In Memory - Terry Faris**

Longtime RRFF member Terry Faris passed away on September 16th. He was our "gentle giant"...always smiling and willing to share his knowledge of fly fishing and fly tying with all who wished to learn.

Terry hosted the RRFF Fly Tying Instruction Program at his and Lorna's home in Santa Rosa for many years, and he often shared his fly tying knowledge with our membership before our monthly General Meetings at the Vet's Building. He volunteered and participated in pretty much all of our RRFF fly tying demonstrations, from the Healdsburg Wild Steelhead Festival to the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds, and loved sharing with kids, as well as adults, his passion for fly tying. He was a volunteer instructor at our Youth Fly Fishing Programs and at any event where fly tying was featured.

Terry served on the RRFF Board of Directors, and as the Chairman of our Fly Tying Instruction Program even after his board tenure ended. He will be greatly missed...and well-remembered.

*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!*

## **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@insp2.com](mailto:steve@insp2.com)**



## RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, featuring

### Steve Cooper

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

### Bob Marshall Wilderness Adventure - Cutthroat Trout Paradise

Are you interested in a DIY wilderness adventure? This program will document Steve's latest trips into Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness, fishing for pure strain Cutthroat trout in one of the most pristine environments to be found in the lower 48 states.

Steve will be discussing the planning and preparation that goes into venturing into the back country on your own. Make plans now to attend.



## Still have not paid your 2018/2019 RRFF Membership Dues?

Yeah, there are still a (few) of you out there who have not yet sent in your membership dues.

Paying your dues is easy. You can pay online with your credit card at [www.rrflyfisher.org](http://www.rrflyfisher.org), or send a check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers to: Russian River Fly Fishers, c/o Mike Spurlock, 20 San Domingo Way, Novato, CA 94945.** Do it today before you forget (again)!

We would like to thank **Sportsman's Warehouse** in Rohnert Park for the donation of a \$100 gift certificate that we raffled off at last month's General Meeting as a thank you to those members who had paid their dues by that date. Our lucky winner was Chuck Perry – we are sure he will put it to good use!

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### The Magic of Creeks and Kids!

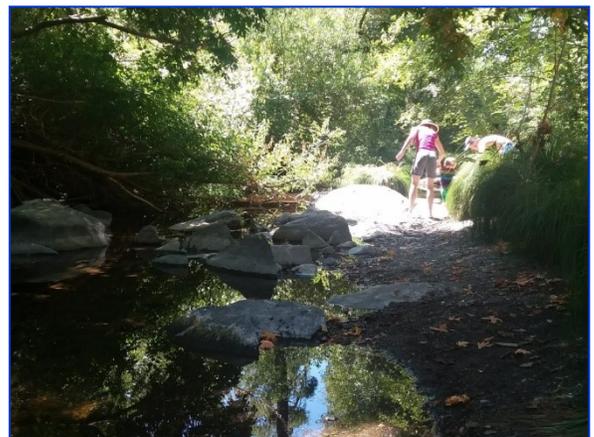
As kids, many of us my age (now 71) grew up in and around Santa Rosa with creeks, trout, crawfish, frogs and snakes. It was bicycles, fishing poles, wading and exploring - and it was exciting!

Now my daughters, in their 30's, rediscovered some of this magic at Santa Rosa Creek near a place called "Flat Rock", where Brush Creek (from Rincon Valley) joins Santa Rosa Creek. They are enjoying time there with a little one. And on it goes....

Cold water (55 degrees in June), nice gravel for redds, trout and steelhead fry in the creek, an abundant alder canopy, blackberries and poison oak - what more could you ask for?

Here are a few photos from this rediscovery.

~ Karl Joost



## RRFF OUTING Yuba River Trout Opener Dec.1-2, 2018

The Russian River Fly Fishers have reserved the weekend of Dec. 1-2, 2018 for an outing at the University of California Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center property on the Lower Yuba River. This reservation will allow our club to have exclusive access to the UC property along the river above the Hwy 20 Bridge. This section of the river has been closed to fishing since Sept. 1st to protect the spawning salmon, and Dec. 1st is the DFW "opener" for trout fishing there. The quarry are wild rainbow trout that have been feasting on salmon eggs for 3 months, along with an occasional wild steelhead. The regulations allow only artificial lures with barbless hooks. Note that because the Yuba is a large river, this outing is limited to active anglers who can walk rough trails and wade fast currents.

The Lower Yuba is about a 3½ hour drive from Santa Rosa, so members may want to arrange their own overnight lodging in Marysville or Yuba City. There is also a campground on the river at Sycamore Ranch.

We will be limiting the number of RRFF anglers (members only) on the property to a maximum of 15 for the weekend. The cost to each angler will be \$50, payable to **Russian River Fly Fishers**, due by **November 16th**. The reservations will be non-refundable, although transferal to another RRFF member will be allowed. Reservations for the outing will be "first-come, first-serve" by contacting outing leader Ed Barich (at [ebarich@sonic.net](mailto:ebarich@sonic.net) or 707-291-8356).



Science teacher and CAEP coach Stefan Stehling, along with his Rincon Valley elementary school classroom, released steelhead fry into Santa Rosa Creek at this location.



## Rocky Mountain High

I like to fish for trout in streams, and my wife likes to RV camp in scenic rural settings, so this summer we planned a route in Colorado that hit a number of streams. I perused my issues of Southwest Flyfishing Magazine and read through each of the Colorado articles. I employed this criteria to decide if it was a worthy target:

- Good early summer fishing.
- Away from populated area (i.e. Denver) and big highways.
- Accessible by road (no 4WD roads).
- Camping nearby: BLM, Forest Service or occasionally a commercial campground. Our favorite type of camping is dispersed camping (camp wherever you want next to a stream) and a few areas had these.

I used a free on-line program (Roadtrippers) to enter the town nearest to each stream location (conveniently, this program creates a route with a sequence to minimize travel time).

I used my 8-foot, 4-weight fly rod and an 11-foot Tenkara rod, mostly fishing dry flies and wet-wading. We spent 1-3 nights at each camp, with great fishing and camping over a 3-week period. Loads of fun! (We did have to bypass some of the planned locations because of forest fires in the San Juan National Forest near the Durango area.)

Here is a sampling of the best experiences:

**Piedra River** – no crowds, forest service dispersed creekside camping, 30 miles of gravel road, twenty 6”-12” rainbow and brown trout/day, Parachute Adams. Tiger swallowtails getting a drink from the wet sand.



**Williams Creek** – no crowds, forest service campground, creekside camping, 30 miles of gravel road, five 6”-8” rainbow and brook trout/day, Parachute Adams. Had to move on after one day due to approaching fires.

**South Fork of Rio Grande** – no crowds, forest service lakeside campground, all paved roads, ten 8”-12” rainbows/day, Parachute Adams and hoppers.

**Park Creek** – no crowds, forest service creekside dispersed camping, 5 miles of gravel road, twenty-five 8”-14” rainbows/day, Parachute Adams.

**South Platte** – crowded, forest service riverside camping, all paved roads, four 14” rainbows and brown trout, Golden Stonefly dries and nymphs. Iris blooming.





**Bear River** – crowded, forest service creekside campgrounds, 15 miles of gravel road, one measly brook trout on a caddis. Fishing was not very good. However, this was the most scenic camping we had in a beautiful valley at 10,000 feet elevation. Beautiful wildflowers including Rocky Mountain Columbine.



**Anthracite Creek** – no crowds, forest service campground, 5 miles of dirt road, twenty-five 10"-17" rainbow and brown trout/day on Golden Stonefly dries and nymphs. Great creekside hiking on the Dark Canyon Trail.



We enjoyed each of these places and it is hard to pick out a favorite since each site had unique things to enjoy. It is fun to explore areas and find new scenery...and to check in at local fly shops along the way to get pointers and buy a few flies.

Oh yeah, and Lynn is happy as long as we have the cat, she has her sewing machine, and we stop at all the quilt shops along the way.

We have explored parts of Idaho and Montana and I would say that Colorado fishing is on par with those states. We will probably pick another state next year...and do it again.

~ Mike Spurlock

## 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)

### Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc.

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

412 Houser Street, Cotati, CA 94931.

(707) 588-8033,

Fax (707) 588-8035

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

### Sportsman's Warehouse

Top brands for hunting, fishing, and more at America's Premier Outfitter

5195 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
(707) 585-1500

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

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics** – Held every Thursday evening, 4:30 to 7:00 pm (weather permitting).

This event is FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Beginners are welcome...

### October

- 10 RRFF General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Vet's Hall
- 18-21 RRFF Outing – Lewiston Lake (Ed Barich)
- 17 RRFF Board Meeting – Sportsman's Warehouse

This is the **last month** for our **Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics**. Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. After the 4<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our Winter Clinics on the first and third Saturday of each month – noon until 2:30 pm.

**Always Weather Permitting...Rain Cancels!**

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

## RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

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Vice President: **Doug Mackay**

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Secretary: **Vacant**

Treasurer & Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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Casting Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

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Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

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Newsletter Editor: **Steve Tubbs** (reluctant)

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**Russian River Fly Fishers**  
c/o Mike Spurlock  
20 San Domingo Way  
Novato, CA 94945



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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