

The Cast

Sonoma County
California
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Oregon Stillwater Fishing
Photo by Steve Tubbs

President's Message

Dear Diary...

A while back I was digging through some relics from my childhood and found a fishing log that I had compiled back in grade school. The dime store spiral notebook contained scribbled pages tallying the daily catches at our local neighborhood pond in suburban Milwaukee. Since there were no world record quarries in that water, the log consisted of how many suckers, bluegill and stunted bass my buddies and I could fool with our best backyard nightcrawlers. It was not great literature, but I was pleased that my 1960's self was considerate enough to leave an accurate sporting record that could be enjoyed in the next millennium.

At last New Year's, I made a resolution to record this year's fishing exploits in my own fly fishing diary. At the local hardware store, I found a pocket-sized "Write in the Rain, All Weather" notebook that would allow me to jot notes of my angling

adventures even in the worst conditions. This time I wanted to list more than just the dates and number of species caught. I included the waters fished, weather and tide conditions, the most productive spots, line types and flies used, and diagrams of rigs that seemed to be especially effective. I even included some comments on the quality of the lodging accommodations ("The mosquitos at Frenchman campground ate us alive".) When I first started fly fishing a decade ago, I could easily remember all of these details from recent years, but now that I have visited these places several times the outings have started to blur together ("Was that the June or the September trip to Manzanita?) I am hoping that this simple record will be a bigger aid to me in the future for putting together a good outing, rather than eyeballing photos of the big ones we caught "back in the day".

Maybe keeping any diary is a bit of a chore, but the real reward to doing it is not always the useful information you can glean from the past. The real

treasure of a diary is to get a glimpse of that person that you used to be.

Tight lines,

Ed Barich

Frenchman Lake Club Outing – September 12 – 15, 2019

The Frenchman Lake outing was attended by Ed Barich, Don Shaw, Bill Laurie, Jeff Cratty, Doug Mackay, Tom Magliulo, Matt Cardle, Charlie Jacobs, David Steiner, and Chris Castellucci. With the Walker Fire just northwest of Frenchman Lake, it was a close call whether we would be able to go on the outing. However, the outing was saved by favorable winds that keep the fire and smoke heading to the northeast away from the lake. The lake was beautiful, highlighted by the huge volcanic stone outcroppings and shear walls scattered along portions of the lake shore.

The camping, dinners, camaraderie, and fishing were all excellent, while the catching was very challenging. The lake's warm surface temperature was up to 70 degrees and with full moon nights just might have hindered our catching efforts. Jeff Cratty and Don Shaw fished the Little Last Chance Creek with Don scoring three trout. Most of the trout caught averaged 10 to 12 inches, with a several measuring 16 and 20 inches using wooly bugger, leach, and minnow patterns. Tom Magliulo landed the big fish of the outing using a Pyramid Lake chartreuse boobie fly. On Saturday the weekend warriors from Reno arrived with boom boxes blaring, jetboats and jet skis skimming to every corner of the lake. Needless to say, lunch came early for us float tubers and kayakers as we headed back to the camp.

Bill Laurie hosted Friday's dinner with pasta, homemade meat sauce, with others complementing the meal with Italian sausage, garlic bread, and hors d'oeuvres. For dessert there was fresh strawberries

and blueberries on pound cake with whipped cream. Doug Mackay hosted Saturday's dinner with homemade beef stew, salad, and corn bread, with others bringing hors d'oeuvres. Jeff Cratty brought a special Frenchman Lake chocolate cake for dessert. At camp, we were joined by pesky mosquitoes for breakfast and dinner with the yellowjackets swirling around during lunch.

Thank you all for your participation in a fun weekend of fishing.

Chris Castellucci

Photos from Frenchman Lake



Ed, Jeff, and Chris at the campground



Dinnertime

Important Information Concerning Sun Protection

Summary of an Article from Northwest Fly Fishing Magazine Sept/Oct 2019

In February, the Food & Drug Admin took the first step in 40 years toward overhauling sunscreen safety regulations.

- There are 16 active ingredients in 1000+ sunscreens available in the US.
 - 2 = safe (Zink oxide, titanium dioxide)
 - 2 = unsafe (PABA and trolamine salicylate)
 - 12 = insufficient data /more study is needed.
- 2/3 of the US sunscreens contain oxybenzone and octinoxate which are listed in the “insufficient data” category. However, Hawaii and Key West recently passed bills banning those two based on data that they damage living coral and may be harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Also, they are rapidly absorbed through the skin and are hormone disruptors linked to human health problems.
- Nearly half the US sunscreens do not meet European standards.
- More to come.....

Sun protection tips:

- Clothing is the single most effective form of protection and is your first line of defense.
 - Fishing shirt is your first line of defense (UPF 30 or higher).
 - Sun gloves, especially in the tropics.
 - Neck gaiter, buff.
 - Broad brimmed hat.
 - Dark glasses.
- Don't stop using sunscreen, your second line of defense.
- Suggest using reef safe sunscreen.
- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen which blocks both UVA rays (causes wrinkles) and UVB rays (causes sunburn). Both UVA and UVB are carcinogenic.

- Apply sunscreen before applying DEET which can reduce sunscreen effectiveness by 1/3.

Armchair Angling

This is not an article about favorite fly fishing books or other must-read materials saved for inclement weather and the off-season. Although I do have a fairly extensive library covering a variety of topics, and heartily advocate this pastime as a means of discovery and adventure, there is another armchair that has taken a much more active role in my fly fishing pursuits.

A number of years ago, I purchased an **Outcast Super Fat Cat** float tube from a fellow RRF member and began my leisurely pursuit of Stillwater trout (and bass). Buoyed by an inflatable seat and backrest, with comfortable arms that conveniently contained my flies, tools, lunch and water, I found a new understanding of personal watercraft. Every time I sink back into this seat, and feel the water displace beneath me, I can't help but think that I am fly fishing from an overstuffed armchair. It is quite comfortable. With Force Fins strapped to my wader boots, my dangling feet offer a stealthy mobility that opens a new dimension of fly presentation. For me, this versatility has become the most important factor in my armchair angling.

In my experience, I have found that success fly fishing from an easy chair stems principally from presentation. Inherent in this equation is fly selection, depth, retrieve and the ability to cover water. When visiting non-frequented waters, I usually make it a point to drop by a local fly shop and ask what flies are working well for a particular area, finding often that this is dependent on the season and local water conditions. This information also helps determine approach – floating lines, sinking lines, dry flies, Chironomids, wet flies, indicators and fly set-up.

On Stillwater, water depth is critical for determining drop-offs, channels, and the level in the water column where the fish are holding. To aid in this endeavor, I added a battery-operated **Hummingbird Fish Finder** to my armchair arsenal, gaining the ability to observe water temperature, depth, bottom

configuration and even fish as they enter the scan cone. This is invaluable for determining where my flies need to be in the water column (and often provides hope, when fishing is slow, as fish will often mark on the scanner). Also, necessary, I have included a **Scotty Fly rod Holder** to assist with changing flies and fish release (having a safe place to store your fly rod when your hands are otherwise occupied is always a good idea!) My equipment is completed by a large rubber mesh net (net size varies with prey expected) that rests handily behind my seat and is an easy reach when required.

The versatility of the float tube is perhaps its strongest plus. When fly fishing, a number of factors are in play and depend on the methods chosen for pursuit. The retrieve is perhaps one of the most influential components of fly fishing success, assuming that fly selection is adequately informed. Whether fishing indicators with nymphs or Chironomids, or sinking lines at various depths, I have found that the speed of the retrieve is often the key. This is where the float tube excels. Because it is so easily maneuvered, it is possible to be in continuous motion (and covering water) while your flies stop, start, rise in the water column and even drop back, all retrieve options that can induce a strike.

Keeping in mind that your flies can only be effective when in the water, I minimize my casting when fishing from my armchair. After a long first cast, I will vary the speed of my retrieve using my fins combined with short strips (in various combinations), followed by feeding line back into the water until all of my fly line is again deployed. This is all about line speed and how my flies are moving in the water. Depending on the speed of my kicking, what does this do? Picture the flies. When kicking and retrieving the flies with short strips, the flies are moving a bit more quickly. If I feed fly line (in small amounts) back through my rod tip, the flies pause (and drop in the water column). If I slow my kicking down, the speed of my flies decreases. If I make an abrupt sharp turn, my flies may stop moving completely in the water and drop in the water column (maybe to the bottom). As long as this is not happening too quickly, the up and down motion of my flies (jigging), the occasional stops and starts, and the allowing of the flies to momentarily rest on the bottom before again arising, are all techniques that

can effectively induce a fish to strike. As fly fishermen, we are trying to imitate characteristics that a real food source might exhibit, a consideration I try to always keep in mind.

I have found that wind plays an important role in the retrieve process. When kicking into the wind, your float tube is moving slower and the speed of your flies is reduced. Combined with stripping and feeding line back through the rod tip, this is a much different retrieve speed than if you are kicking with the wind, moving faster, thereby causing your flies to rise in the water column and to fish at a different level. You may find that your hook-ups are more common when kicking into the wind (flies moving slower and deeper) and not effective when kicking with the wind. Or perhaps you will experience more action when moving with the wind (a faster retrieve). These are indicators of the preferred speed of your retrieve. If the slower retrieve is more effective, when moving with the wind you may wish to stop kicking and allow only the wind to push you, while working on a short-strip and line feed method that will allow your flies to also move slowly and stay within the strike zone.

Even when fishing floating lines with indicators and using nymphs or Chironomids, I have found that motion (retrieve) is often the measure of success. The slow movement of an indicator causes your flies to rise in the water column. If it is windy, the waves also cause your indicator (and flies) to move up and down (a jigging motion). Combined with a kicking, short-strip and feeding line back through the rod tip retrieve, the movement of your indicator can be varied and controlled. If you adopt a meandering course as you kick-along, your indicator will occasionally stop completely, will again move, and your flies will rise, fall, dead-drift and display a number of characteristics which may be enough to induce a fish to strike.

I use my float tube to fish both floating and sinking lines. When fishing a sinking line, I use a slow sink line that I can count down to determine when my flies are close to the bottom. If I need to fish a bit higher in the water column, I won't count down as long and will vary my kicking, retrieve and line speed to keep the flies at the appropriate level. To this end, my fish finder is very important in determining the depth the fish are holding as well as how long I

need to count down to get my flies near the bottom (if necessary). I believe that the motion of your flies, and their proximity to the fish in the water column, are the most important factors for enticing strikes. Offering a variety of options is always a good strategy.

For me, my armchair offers movement capabilities not found in prams, canoes, kayaks or pontoon boats. Because my speed and direction are always controlled by my feet, my hands are always free to control my line speed and to fish my flies. Likewise, I am also continually covering water and presenting my offerings to a wider range of possibilities. By keeping my flies in the water, and minimize my casting, I am increasing my fishing time and my opportunities for success.

So much of fly fishing is about experiencing and immersing into that which surrounds us, into each one of the aquatic environments that we find ourselves. It is about paying attention, discovery, learning and enrichment. We take to the water to lose our day-to-day self, and to unite with a much larger, integrated world that naturally includes us and of which we have always been a part. In those moments, we can sit back, comfortable in our armchairs, engrossed in the mystery before us, and quietly touch the sublime.

As you read this, you are traditionally engaged in “armchair angling”. Perhaps it is time to take that to another level...?

~ Steve Tubbs



Stillwater Angling – Oregon



Stillwater Angling – Oregon

October General Meeting

October 09, 2019 - General Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 7PM featuring a presentation on Pyramid Lake by Rob Anderson

October's Speaker – Rob Anderson

Rob resides in Reno, Nevada and currently has his own fly fishing travel business, Bucket List Fly Fishing Adventures, and is the lead guide and owner of Reno Fly Fishing Outfitters. Rob currently guides on the Truckee River in both California and Nevada, Pyramid Lake, Davis Lake, East Walker River, Frenchman's and 4 different private waters. He regularly does speaking engagements on Pyramid Lake other Northern Nevada and California waters and numerous “Bucket List” destinations around the world including an annual hosted trip to the Amazon

for Peacock Bass. Rob is always willing and ready to educate fly fishing enthusiasts.

Rob Anderson grew up in Virginia and was fishing from the time he can remember. At the age of 9, he learned to fly fish. From that point on, he fly-fished for bass and pan fish in Virginia as much as possible. After college, Rob pursued his other passion, golf, by working in that business for 15 years. During this time, he had headed west and settled in Lake Tahoe. In 1997, while still working in the golf industry, he was reintroduced to fly fishing by his friend, Chris Evison. Chris taught him the art of fly fishing for trout in moving water. His love of the sport was reborn!

In his free time from the golf business, he regularly visited the Reno Fly Shop where he began learning how to tie flies (he is now a Signature Fly Designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants with over 20 patterns tied commercially). In the fall of 2001, the Reno Fly Shop offered Rob a part-time job which shortly thereafter, turned into a full-time position managing the retail store, private waters program, and guide business until the Reno Fly Shop closed in 2010. The closing of the Reno Fly Shop resulted in Rob having more time and freedom in his pursuit of design, creativity and teaching in the Fly Fishing industry.

It was in 2003 that Rob pursued his interest in guiding at Pyramid Lake. Rob ultimately became the first non-tribal fly fishing guide at the Lake. Since that time, has built a fly fishing specific website for Pyramid Lake, pyramidlakeflyfishing.com and runs the largest and most successful guide service there. Rob's love of Pyramid Lake has also driven him to design Pyramid-specific flies which have increased the popularity of nymphing at the lake. Two of these flies are the Maholo Fly and the Maholo Midge which are sold at fly shops and retailers all over the West.

Rob was able to incorporate his passion for food into the guiding experience through his private waters program and hosting larger group outings

and clinics. This unique offering sets guide trips with Rob apart from all others. Rob has several programs designed for larger groups at popular fly fishing destinations like Pyramid Lake and Davis Lake. Lakeside Meals and guided fly fishing for parties of 10 or more are easy. Meals are usually gourmet and can be things like Biscuits and Gravy, Turkey Noodle Soup, Smoked Baby back ribs, Venison Burgers and much more.

Whether you are a single angler looking to spend a half day on the water or a larger group looking for a unique fly fishing experience you will never forget, Rob is the man.

To contact Rob you can email him at rob@bucketlistflyfishing.com or by phone at 775.742.1754

RRFF Newsletter
Submissions

Please email submissions as an MSWord doc to our newsletter editor:

Marcus Pipkin –
marcus.pipkin@comcast.net

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

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October Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – Held every Thursday during Daylight Savings Time – 4:30 until 7:00 pm (weather permitting).

This event is **FREE** and is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Beginners are welcome...

Casting Pond Clinics on Summer Schedule =

Thursday's 4:30-7:30

3-6 Carson River/Heenan (Matt Cardle)

9 General Meeting at Santa Rosa Vets Hall, speaker Rob Anderson, Pyramid Lake (Don Shaw)

12 Yuba Fest 2019 (sponsored by FFI)

16 Board Meeting

24-27 Lewiston Lake (Ed Barich)

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

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539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

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575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

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(415) 599-6138 mikerrff@gmail.com

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765-1787 steve@insp2.com

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477-5928 donjanshaw@comcast.net

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664-8573 donjanshaw@comcast.net

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763-2017 chrsluucci@aol.com

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575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

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795-8885 gbridgeman@att.net

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Newsletter Editor: Marcus Pipkin

(615) 969-9200 marcus.pipkin@comcast.net

Raffle Coordinator: Gregg Wrisley

823-5572 gwriss@yahoo.com

Member at Large: Jeff Cratty

765-2404 rjcratty@yahoo.com

Steelhead in the Classroom: Karl Joost

978-3897 joosts@pacbell.net

Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: Lee Soares

974-2651 frommewee@comcast.net

Women's Activities: Susan Bostwick

815-5926 shbgold@gmail.com

Casting Pond Steward: Doug Mackay

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Casting Pond Monitor: Binky Castleberry

527-9607 fsh2xsbce@earthlink.net

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 _____
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Home Phone _ _____ Work Phone _ _____ E-mail Address* _____
Main Interests in the Club? _____
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 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 30th

Please mail this application and your check payable to: **Russian River Fly Fishers**
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