

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 48, Number 9
October 2021

Baum Lake Rainbow
RRFF President's Outing – Late September 2021
(See story below)

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

President's Message

Last Camping Trip of the Year

I always enjoy a fishing trip that includes camping, and the last camping trip of the season is often the one that sticks in my memory. As a young man I did crazy things such as snow camping in the dead of winter, but now at a more mature age, I prefer to camp when the waters are still liquid. Our club's planned Manzanita Lake outing was cancelled due to wildfire danger, so to quench my thirst for one last camp-and-fish-outing before the Sierras got too cold, I invited Mike and Gregg to join me for a fall expedition to Baum Lake. At a modest 3500-foot elevation, Baum can be a pleasant location for a late September outing. On our first day there, the daytime

temperature got up into the low 80s, but fortunately the 52-degree temperature of the Hat Creek water kept the trout active. The next day the wind picked up and dark clouds swept by as a weather front approached. That evening, as I finished heating my meal on a camp stove, an increasing drizzle caused me to duck into the tent. A change of plans like that might tend to ruin my day, but it was the first rain that I had felt since last spring and it was a welcome change. I ate my dinner out of the kettle while sitting on my cot, and that night I enjoyed the sound of rain pattering on the tarp overhead. Mother Nature had given me the full autumn experience.

Whether you manage one last camping trip this fall or just head out for a fly fishing daytrip, I hope you have

a chance to get outdoors in this beautiful season to enjoy all the blessings that nature provides.

Tight lines,

~ Ed Barich

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

www.rrflyfisher.org

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

RRFF General Meeting

Wednesday, October 13th

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

Join us for our **October General Meeting**. This month we will offer videos produced by Orvis and Northern California’s Confluence Outfitters on fly fishing technique.

Come early to socialize with your RRFF friends and to share the camaraderie of our fly fishing community. Next month, I have a guest speaker scheduled for your entertainment.

Penelope Gadd-Coster, Vice President & Program Chair

Late September Baum Lake Fix

By Mike Spurlock

Ed Barich put out a note to some of us who have been to Baum Lake before and said he needed a fishing fix and was headed to Baum Lake two days later to fish Sunday through Tuesday. Gregg Wrisley and I had planned to fish Tuolumne Meadows above Yosemite Valley, but we forgot that we needed an advance reservation to drive through the park, which killed that plan.

So, the three of us arrived at Baum Lake Sunday afternoon. We camped at the PG&E campground in Cassel where sites are first come first served. This is a traditional RRFF Spring outing location and it is a short

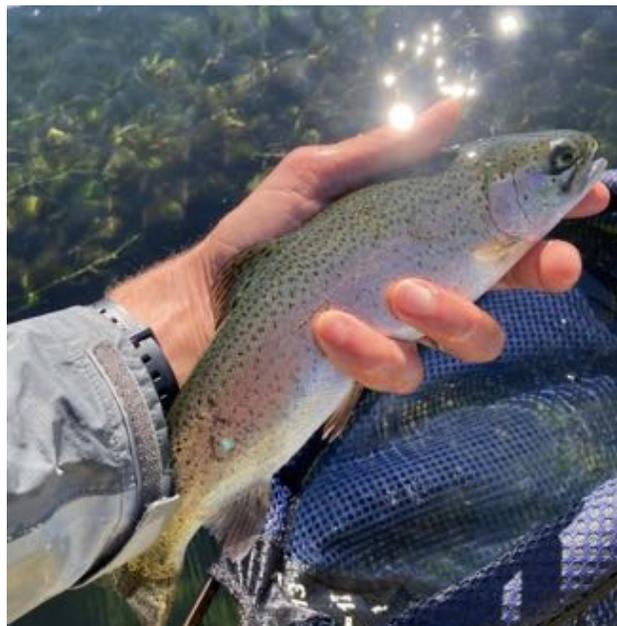
drive to Baum Lake, Hat Creek, and other nearby fisheries. The last club outing there was on April 29, 2021 when the campground and lake were packed. See the Cast article on that trip.

https://www.rrflyfisher.org/uploads/7/8/9/5/78951812/the_cast_-_may_2021.pdf

This time the campground was practically empty, and we had Baum Lake almost to ourselves with only a few other fishermen around.



Ed launched his kayak, Gregg used his float tube, and I pushed off in my pontoon boat. The lake had a lot of weeds hampering use of an electric motor but using oars or kicking with fins was more than adequate to get around.



Dry fly fishing was excellent with PMD mayfly hatches most of the day and we had some luck indicator fishing chironomids and swinging black leeches. All the fish were 12-14", probably planters, and all of

them—spunky! We each got into hookups numbering in the double digits during the two and half days of fishing.

Fishing was good enough that no one felt the need to venture out and fish the other nearby fisheries.

Weather was 70 – 80°F during the day and 45 – 50°F at night. We did get a short but substantial rainstorm Monday night. Prior to the downpour the lake and surroundings turned into an autumnal light show.



Because of this experience, we discussed considering future club outings to Baum Lake not only in the spring but perhaps in the fall as well.

~Mike Spurlock

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **1,110 followers** 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

Paul Matzen (RRFF member) wrote for this October Cast issue, “Casting for Recovery (C.f.R.) is a national organization that introduces women in all stages of breast cancer to the sport of fly fishing. The RRFF have been supporting C.f.R. for close to 20 years now. Over the years, RRFF has donated money to help pay for the cost of their fly fishing retreats. Many RRFF members, past and present, have helped tie and

donate flies, fly boxes, and have made monetary donations to C.f.R. On the other hand, Outdoor Pro Shop, Inc., Cotati has donated many rods and reels over the years to be raffled off to a few lucky C.f.R. participants at the conclusion of their lunch with their river helpers at the end of the retreat. In 2021, the RRFF was able to donate 16 complete rod setups and their carriers to the Northern California Casting for Recovery retreats. These rods will not have to be sent back to National headquarters after the retreat. In the past, all the fishing equipment used at the retreats had to be used at other C.f.R. retreats. Thanks to the RRFF board and all the RRFF members for donating to such a worthy cause.”

Last month, Mike Spurlock, RRFF Board Member, received a handwritten note from Suzanne Gulick, Program Coordinator, Casting for Recovery-Northern California thanking the entire Russian River Fly Fishers club for their resolute support of the organization, Casting for Recovery.



C.f.R.-NorCal participants

Suzanne Gulick’s handwritten note reads:

*“Dear Russian River Fly Fishers,
On behalf of our entire program, I want to thank you for your OVER-THE-TOP donation of the rods and reel set ups! Wow! I can’t tell you what this means to our program. Not only will it save us a lot of money every retreat going forward, but it will also enable our casting instructors to rig correctly, maintain responsibly, and store the equipment properly. Just them knowing what they will find when they open that box on the next retreat is worth its weight in gold, as well.*

“A huge thank you to Paul Matzen for his unwavering love and support of our program and the women we serve. And thank you for trusting his opinion on

supporting our program. You are truly making a difference.



Paul Matzen and a C.f.R.-NorCal participant

"It has been a tough couple of years for C.f.R.-NorCal with the cancellation of two retreats in 2020 due to COVID and then our only one retreat allowed this September due to fires, smoke, and Indian Creek Lodge fully occupied by fire fighters. It's been so disappointing for everyone. Hopefully next year we will have at least two retreats and your rods and reels will be cherished and in the hands of smiling survivors. It's those smiles that bring us back every year. And, trust me, you will be recognized at every retreat for your incredible gift. Thank you.

"I am sure you had to cancel your annual dinner, an event that I have enjoyed attending over the years and hope to get the chance again so I may thank you all, in person. It's not only a fun (and delicious) evening but the feedback and stories I hear from your members are always uplifting and encouraging.

"Here's to looking forward to a greater 2022! With great appreciation,

Suzanne Gulick and everyone at C.f.R.-NorCal."

RRFF Winter Fly Casting Clinics

The RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park

Our *first* Winter Fly Casting Clinic will be held on Saturday, November 20th. Held on the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon until 2:30 pm (weather permitting). 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? See you there!



Connection

By Steve Tubbs

I haven't fished much this year. I haven't had the heart. With the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, coupled with a relentless heatwave that



Crane Prairie Reservoir...

has brought drought and extremely high-water temperatures to much of the western United States, I have found my desire to harass my piscatorial friends greatly diminished. This possibly goes hand in hand with my evolution as a fly fisher, and the inevitable reconciliation of "catch and release" fly fishing with the alternative of not bothering the fish at all. I sense that if we each fish long enough this question eventually looms before us, and we are forced to grapple with our own justification for pursuing this passion. My answers lie within the purview of connection—with the environment, with ecosystems, with the fish themselves—and a realization that fly fishing offers a unique way to experience, and ultimately champion, our world. With this, I can still bring myself to "wet a line".

I did get out a few times. In late May, Rick Baker and I made our annual pilgrimage to the Florida Keys to pursue tarpon. Having missed last year as the

pandemic had closed the Keys to all but residents, we were excited to revisit. But as sometimes happens, weather played the winning hand. Heavy winds (30 mph plus) kept us from fishing the first two days of our trip and reduced the water temperature 6 degrees from the days before our arrival. In response, the tarpon holed-up under the bridges and quit migrating, leaving us to see very few packs of fish as they raced across the flats, often deep and near the bottom. They were not happy. The winds persisted over most of our trip, often blowing between 20 – 25 mph, and keeping the water temperatures cool. We saw very little action...but still managed to eat well and enjoy Key West.

In early May, our RRFF Opener at Baum Lake and the Cassel PG&E Campground was another opportunity, and it fished as well as many of our Opener outings do. More significantly, it offered many of us a taste of camping again, and the camaraderie that had been absent during the lockdowns and social distancing of the previous year. It was good to sit at the ditch, chairs and nets at hand, fishing dry flies to the abundant “planters” that were rising with abandon. If you worked it right, you could sit in your chair and cast, hook a fish, net it with a long-handled net, slip the barbless hook, and release the fish back into the canal without touching it (or getting up!) And some of those fish were hefty...a good 16 – 18 inches. Our return to campfires was punctuated by smiles and laughter.

In June, I was able to fish one day at Crane Prairie Reservoir in Central Oregon...playing hooky during a visit with my sister to honor her retirement and 60th birthday. Already the temperatures were warm in the Bend area, and by afternoon the water surface was above 70 degrees...too hot to ethically pursue trout. The fishing was okay early. We both caught a few fish. But as one of the few reservoirs with sufficient water (kept so to protect an endangered frog species), the angling was quite crowded. August found me back in the Bend area, this time with my mom and dad, son, daughter-in-law and 15-month-old grandson, visiting my sister and her partner once again. By this time, the drought and heatwave were intense in Central Oregon, with many consecutive days in the upper 90’s and the smoke from various fires creating air quality so bad that a few days we couldn’t even go outside. Although my fishing gear was in the SUV, that week offered no opportunities to fish.

Which brings me to my last fishing trip, again to Central Oregon, in mid-September. I have fished

more in Oregon this year than I have in California. The air and water temperatures had cooled some and the lakes and reservoirs were consistently in the mid to low 60’s at the surface. My sister and I fished a couple of days at Crane Prairie Reservoir, to open and close the trip, and both days proved to be extremely slow. We each caught fish the first day but a few mishaps with my float tube (filler valves), the accidental discharge of my life vest (it got wet), along with my sister’s loss of one of her Force Fins (it “fell off”), found us scrambling to get back on track.

After a Saturday of rain and snow, we changed venues and tried Twin Lakes, first navigating a snowy pass at Mt. Bachelor on the Cascade Lakes Highway. Our first day at Twin, we battled rain, hail, and wind throughout. This resulted in an epic day for my sister, granting her “the best fishing she has ever had in Oregon” (her words). I did pretty well too. The following day we searched for a repeat, and I did even better than previously, but the clear skies and rising temperatures drove the fish deeper and made them a bit more reluctant to play.



Mt. Bachelor Pass, Cascade Lakes Highway

Our last day brought us back to Crane Prairie, hoping that it would begin to turn on. A few days earlier, Bob Gaviglio at Sunriver Fly Shop had hinted that the fall bite should begin “any time now”. However, 80-degree temperatures and cloudless skies resulted in the worst fishing I have yet experienced on that reservoir. There were plenty of fish, but with no wind and clear water you could see the bottom at 12-feet. The fish could also see you and were not eating, usually preoccupied with swimming the other way. For my four hours on the water, I never got a bite. In the four days we fished, we experienced temperatures from the 40’s to the 80’s—rain, hail, snow, and wind—and really the best and worst of fall

fishing. And yet, as is always the case, the “fishing” was outstanding! And this, of course, brings me back to “connection.”

For me, the opportunity of fly fishing is the immersion of myself in the aquatic ecosystems that hold fish. Even on the slowest days, the observance of the world around me and the challenge of trying to figure out what is going on, what the fish are doing, and why the conditions have changed, is the fuel that makes me a deeper student of the environment around me. And when I see these conditions moving closer to peril, I find myself more concerned (and more determined) to do what I can to be a steward of our fisheries. Fly fishing can be a vehicle into a deeper understanding of our natural world. Fly fishermen and women evolve as they become more deeply involved in the art/sport of fly fishing, finding often that the depth of the world around them increases as their own understanding grows.

Our choices reflect our experience. As we change, so do our concerns. Through change, we can refine our knowledge and redefine our connection with, and our understanding of, the natural world.

Immerse yourself...

~ Steve Tubbs

Fall River Fishing

By Penelope Gadd-Coster

I have never hired a fishing guide before—will it be worth the money? And how do I decide which guide and company? Those questions I am sure you may have had too.

But after 30 years of trying to teach myself, I decided it was time to pick a guide. I started asking around and doing some online research and I landed with Art Teter and his Fall River Guide Service.

It is October and it is stunning weather and beautiful. And just cool enough to keep the fish happy. I’m surrounded by a variety of attractive tree colors—greens, golds, and muted yellows. My day began by seeing an eagle sitting in a tree close by as I was waiting to meet Art—that’s always a good sign for me!

This would be an all day, one-on-one guiding experience, but I still wasn’t sure what to expect and I was a little nervous as Art’s first question to me was,

“How is your casting?” “Well,” I replied, “I’m self-taught, and I’m only getting to fish a couple of weeks a year.” I didn’t consider my skills to be up to par. But I did want to learn and that is what happened.



Fall River, CA

We started from a fishing lodge off Island Road just up from the CalTrout launch. We went to three different sections of the river and I learned a different technique at each area. Three line types, different retrieves, and nymph configurations.



Fall River beauty

Art was patient, knew the river, and gave enough instruction, which included the tips of the how and whys of what I was learning. The bonus—I caught fish, big fish. Nice Rainbows, at least for me. Most were 15-18 inches and beautiful!

So, was it worth it? Yes, every penny—I now have some additional skills to practice and I’m looking forward to my next guided experience!

~ Penelope Gadd-Coster

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Calendar of Events

RRFF Thursday Evening Fly Casting Clinics – Held every Thursday during Daylight Savings Time (weather permitting) – 4:30 until 7:00 pm.
This event is FREE and is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Beginners are welcome...

October

Thurs. Fly Casting Clinics, 4:30 until 7:00 pm
13 RRFF General Meeting – 6:30 @ SR Vet's Hall
14-17 Lewiston Lake outing
20 RRFF Board Meeting – Zoom

Nov 4-6 Pyramid Lake (Chris Castellucci, Trip Leader)

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS!

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

RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Ed Barich**

539-4608 ebarich@sonic.net

Vice President & Program Chair: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

331-0762 ynegraper@gmail.com

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

364-1671 galtenb@gmail.com

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

974-4823 sdbader@yahoo.com

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

(415)-599-6138 mikerrff@gmail.com

Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: **Steve Tubbs**

765-1787 steve@inspiri2.com

Member at Large: **Don Shaw**

477-5928 donjanshaw@comcast.net

Outings Chairman: **Chris Castellucci**

763-2017 chrslucci@aol.com

Membership Badges & Pond Steward: **Doug Mackay**

575-5709 demackay@sonic.net

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wrisley**

823-5572 gwris@yahoo.com

New Member Mentoring: **Jeff Cratty**

796-3691 rjcratty@yahoo.com

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

978-3897 joosts@pacbell.net

Member at Large: **Tim Reuling**

887-9734 tim@reulingvineyard.com

Member at Large: **Mike Borba**

987-8117 mikeborba1954@gmail.com

Coordinators

Day Fishers & Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

974-2651 leesoares74@gmail.com

Casting Pond Monitor: **Binky Castleberry**

477-2805 fsh2xsbc@earthlink.net

Conservation Coordinator: **Charlie Schneider**

217-0409 bikecharlie@gmail.com Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited (RETU)

Conservation Coordinator: **Tom Greer**

494-9772 tgreer@gizmodesign.com

The Cast Newsletter Editor: **Dave Stone**

953-9816 davestone@sonic.net *

*Note: new email address. ~Editor

Russian River Fly Fishers

c/o Spencer Bader
3310 Conifer Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



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* _____

Main Interests in the Club? _____

Occupation _____ Signature _____

Please mark one of the following categories:

I'm applying as a new member (check circle below):

JOIN ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org

- Single membership** - \$50 annual dues
- Junior membership** - \$25 annual dues
- Family membership** - \$55 annual dues
- Gold membership** - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Existing membership renewal (check circle below):

RENEW ONLINE @ www.rrflyfisher.org

- Single membership** - \$50 annual due
- Junior membership** - \$25 annual dues
- Family membership** - \$55 annual dues
- Gold membership** - \$1,000.00 (one-time)

Check any area(s) 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 the membership dues for the following fiscal year. The RRFF fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

**NEW MEMBERS: Please mail this application to:
Russian River Fly Fishers, c/o Spencer Bader, 3310 Conifer Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95404**