

The Cast



Russian River Fly Fishers

Sonoma County California
Volume 44, Number 9
September 2017

Jeff and Chris on Alpine Lake
RRFF August Club Outing

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

President's Message

Giving back...

Not all of us were born with a fly rod in our hand. Many of us bait-fished before we fly-fished, and before that were taught the basics of angling by a close relative or good friend. For those of us who learned as a child, whatever it was that appealed to us must have stuck, because we are still doing it decades later. Of course, today's youth have plenty of other distractions: video games, smart phones, the Internet, etc. And even if they were interested in the sport, not every kid has a opportunity to learn about it due to lack of mentors and access to water. When I talk with our members about this, they generally agree that it's a sad situation that someone should do something about.

Our club's board organizes a large number of traditional activities, and we intend on maintaining all of those events during the upcoming fiscal year. At last month's meeting, our board decided to add an initiative to promote youth education in the areas of fly fishing and fish conservation. As a first step, the board voted to be a sponsor of a program called "Steelhead in the Classroom". This is a program supported by the California DFW and Trout Unlimited in which elementary students get to raise steelhead fry from eggs and release the fry in coastal rivers a few months later. A team of RRFF members led by Karl Joost has spent their time learning more about how our club can support this effort, in terms of funds (last year we donated \$400 to provide bus transportation for the fry release event) and volunteer manpower to train and support classroom teachers. You can learn more about the program at this month's General Meeting, when Karl gives us a short presentation on Steelhead in the Classroom.

During the upcoming months, the board will be looking for other opportunities to promote youth education for our sport. Your ideas on how we can advance this initiative would be appreciated by the board. And of course, your willingness to volunteer your time and skills will be valued even more. Maybe it's time for us to give back, in honor of those who introduced us to this sport years ago.

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!**

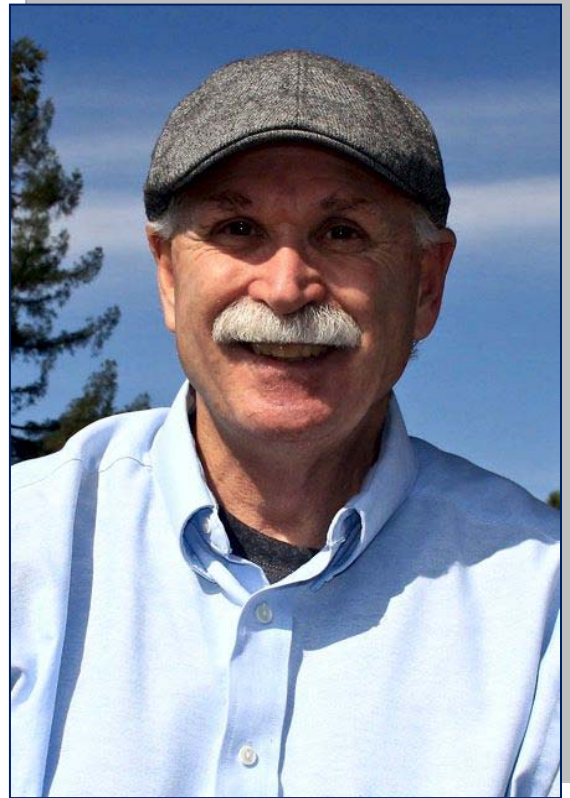


RRFF Membership Dues Renewal

As of July 1st, your RRFF Membership Dues are due and payable. We appreciate your timely renewal and will continue to hold our dues at their current rates. **You may renew your membership online at 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**.

Gold Member	\$1,000.00 contribution (one-time)
Family Member	\$55.00 per year
Single Member	\$50.00 per year
Junior Member	\$25.00 per year (ages 16 to 18)

Your support is greatly appreciated and provides funds for our speakers, outings and special events throughout the year.



September RRFF General Meeting - with Ken Hanley

Wednesday, September 13th - 7:00 pm

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

"Outdoor Photography - Tips Everyone Can Use"

Take images that have impact! Make your pictures more engaging. With a few solid tips and easy techniques anyone can improve their image quality. It's never been easier to get into photography, especially with cell phones and "point-n-shoot" cameras. Sharing your experiences through visual media is a celebrated part of the fly fishing legacy. Ken's background in art and design is the basis for his approach to creating interesting imagery.

Ken Hanley has been conducting fishing and adventure specialty programs since 1970. Over 15,000 students have taken advantage of Ken's varied programs both in the field and on the water. His award-winning instructional programs are well respected throughout the adventure industry.

Donate your extra fly fishing gear to our [RRFF Bargain Table](#) (at every General Meeting). **A fellow member could use it!**

[Welcome New Members](#)

The RRFF would like to welcome our newest members **Steve & Suzie Lind**. Our website @ www.rrflyfisher.org is your best resource to find our latest club news and a list of our monthly outings and events.

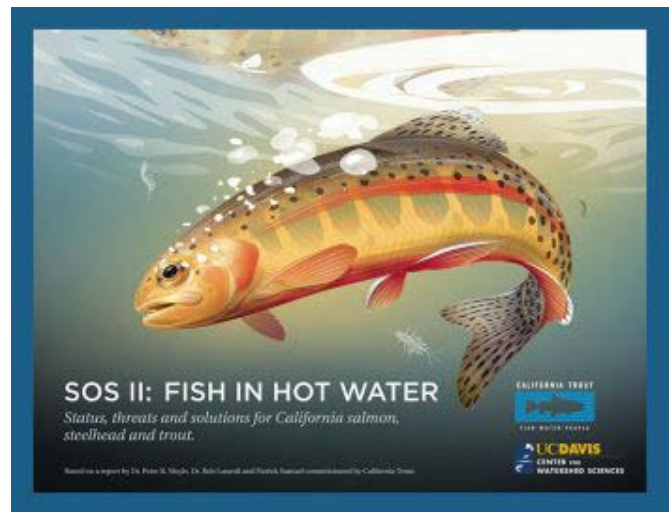
Please contact any board member if you have questions. **Welcome Aboard!**

[Conservation Corner](#)

[California Trout](#)

California is an amazing place. I say that as a transplant and a lover of fish and fishing. We have 31 native species of salmon and trout, more than any other state (or country!). We even had a 32nd, the bull trout, now extinct in this state. This abundance is because of topography (-279 ft up to +14505 ft), landform (desert to rainforest), location on the Pacific Ocean, history (a relatively late settlement), and size (the 3rd largest U.S. state). These salmonids reflect that diversity, ranging from delicate Paiute Cutthroats to giant Chinook salmon. But the pressure is on. Having the highest population in the U.S. (39 million and counting, yikes!) and a large portion of arid and semi-arid climates, we are particularly susceptible to habitat loss through development, water diversion, and climate change. Salmon and trout need access to cold, clean water. Recently, California Trout, in conjunction with the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences released an update of a 2008 report on the health of California's salmonids. Authored by Dr. Peter B. Moyle, Patrick J. Samuel, and Dr. Robert A. Lusardi, the report is called [State of the Salmonids \(SOS\) II: Fish in Hot Water](#).

Not only does this report update the state of our cold-water game fish after a punishing 5-year drought, it also dives into the status of those that are not (yet) species of special concern but are



considered Endangered or Threatened. And the message of this report isn't a pleasant one. If we do nothing more than we currently are today to protect these fish, 45% will be extinct by 2067. That might seem like a long time but it won't be for our kids and grandkids. Most (81%) of those 31 species are worse off today than they were 10 years ago. If you really want to dive into this deeply, there is also the [full scientific report](#). But you'd better have some patience and a fast Internet connection as it runs 579 pages!

Beyond the obvious interest in the fish and their status today (what fisher can resist looking at maps of where the fish really are?), what I really like about this report are the inclusion in each species' section of clear actions and a path forward to preserve and restore these fish. This gets into clear details such as preserving several species of anadromous fish by removing specific barriers in the Eel River drainage. We're going to have a tough choice sometimes when faced with trade-offs in this area. Do we improve the habitat in the Eel system by removing dams that divert water into the Russian River? I expect there will be strong opinions on both sides.

Other interesting conclusions are how key concerns differ for anadromous salmon and steelhead versus interior trout and what we as fly fishers can do to be part of the solution. One of the authors, Patrick Samuel, was recently interviewed in the August 2017 issue of California Fly Fisher. He highlighted the challenges to coastal species as clearly habitat driven (dams, estuary alteration and logging) while our interior species are threatened by hatcheries, grazing and fire. And because of the life histories of anadromous fish, the overall threat is greater to

salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat than to the other species.

As to what we can do as fly fishers, he lays out 4 things we can do that don't require us to become politicians to solve. First, practice modern catch & release tactics for native fish like playing the fish quickly and keeping them wet. Next, commit to becoming better educated on what fish are native to where you fish and which ones are sensitive and vulnerable to angling mortality. Third, be observant on the water and let club members and conservation biologists know when you come across low, warm water and fish in stress. Finally, think about the difficult decision of "to fish, or not to fish" when the conditions and species warrant caution. We can be part of the change we want to see.

I'll add a fifth item to that list. Join conservation organizations such as CalTrout that can take our small donations and amplify them into an effective tool to drive the conversation through good science and pragmatic actions.

You can always reach me for comments, more information, or ideas for future articles at dcampbell00@hotmail.com.

~ Derek Campbell, RRF Conservation Director



Ed Barich with Alpine Lake rainbow...

August Alpine Adventure

After a two-year hiatus, the RRF returned to Lake Alpine on the weekend of August 24-27, 2017. This year's crew consisted of Chris Castellucci, Tom Magliulo, Julian Garrett, Jeff Myers, Bill Laurie, Ken

Young and Ed Barich. As before, we camped at Pine Martin campground, which conveniently borders the eastern shore of the lake, allowing us to tote float tubes and kayaks from our sites directly to the water.

Lake Alpine is known to offer an excellent opportunity to pester DFW-planted rainbow trout, and this year was no exception. At 7300 feet elevation on Hwy 4, the lake is still cool enough in August to allow trout to occupy the upper levels of the water column, making late summer fly fishing feasible. The lake is also known for gusty afternoon winds that can blow boats off the water, but this year we were blessed with gentle breezes and even flat conditions in the middle of the day. When we saw rises on the surface of the lake, we went to floating lines and dry flies.

The most productive dry was Chris's "ugly fly", which apparently imitates the calibaetis mayflies we saw on the surface. When the breezes picked up, we went to intermediate sinking lines with sinking flies: either the "Sparrow Fly", a local favorite, or small bead-headed olive wooly buggers. These streamers seemed to imitate the large schools of 1 to 3 inch chubs that schooled by the thousands in center of the lake. As in previous years, the typical size of the planted rainbows was about 12 inches, but surprisingly we ran into several bigger fish up to 18 inches that put us "on the reel". And thanks to the cool waters, even the little guys put up a feisty battle.



Chef Jeff prepares dinner...

With sufficient angling action to keep our attention, and easy access to the nearby lake, most of us opted to stay on Alpine the whole weekend. Sometimes

it's nice to fish a water during different times of the day, to see how the hatches and bites change with the hours. On the other hand, some of us like to wander, and Julian, along with his gentle-giant dog Harley, visited other lakes in the Ebbetts Pass area, including Kinney Reservoir, Highland Lakes, and Mosquito Lake. Between the two of them, they were able to coax a trout out of Silver Creek on a backcountry scramble, to cap off their adventures.

Our evening meals were communal, each dinner having a different cooking crew. The dining fare ranged from "beans and weenies" (the sausages nearly escaped by hiding under Bill's truck), to rib eye steak with onions and mushrooms (thanks to Chef Jeff). Even the fish were considerate of our leisure – they did not bite till 10AM, eliminating the need for us to rise at the crack of dawn, and they also gave us an afternoon siesta break between lunch and 4PM. After dinner, we retreated to a blazing campfire (carefully tended by our two ex-firefighters), and watched as bats crossed the star-lit alpine skies. We all agreed that this outing was too good to miss, and resolved to put it on our calendar for next year.

~ Ed Barich

Join the RRFF on Facebook

We currently have **828 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>

Make a Splash in the Classroom!

The RRFF is now a sponsoring group for the CDFW ***Steelhead in the Classroom*** program! As members of the RRFF, we can become coaches for local elementary classrooms participating in this program.

There are 50+ elementary classrooms in Santa Rosa that hatch steelhead eggs in their classrooms.

The Steelhead in the Classroom curriculum helps teachers guide their students through the life-cycle of steelhead, from egg to fry to their eventual return to the ocean, by actually observing and hatching the

steelhead eggs in aquariums in their classrooms and then releasing the fry in approved local streams.

Can I get involved, you ask?

Yes! Many of the teachers are asking for your help as a coach. You can make a big difference. Some of the things coaches do:

1. Get trained/certified as a coach (3 hrs in October in one evening session), free, conducted by the CDFW and local experienced coaches and facilitators.

2. Pick up and bring the steelhead eggs right to the classroom from the Warm Springs Hatchery distribution at the Sonoma County Water Agency (Feb-March).

3. Be "on hand/on call" to help with the aquariums if any problems arise, and answer questions as you are able or contact other local coaches to help as needed. There is an extensive back-up network of experience that you will be a part of. *You are not alone.*

4. Get to know the teacher, if you are comfortable with this and want to, and offer your help as a fisher person, RRFF representative, wildlife enthusiast, and "encourager of young children", as you feel confident to do so.

5. Assist and remind the teacher about completion of forms and follow-up documents.

6. Be there to help with the release of the fry during the classroom field trip, 8 weeks (or sooner) after the eggs are received.

7. Many other coach roles include proficiency with the aquarium equipment (equipment backup), helping raise funds for a field trip for the class to release the fish, publicity for the classroom/school district, and being a naturalist/educational resource for the teacher.

8. Is there a classroom near me that needs a coach? Yes, definitely! We have tentatively signed up to coach 8 classrooms in Santa Rosa (7 elementary and 1 middle school). Chances are good there is a classroom near you that needs your help.

9. Do teachers have to be trained and certified too?- Yes, they must also be trained/certified - their training is in January. Teachers must submit an

application and be approved in order to participate in the program.

10. More information to follow at the September general meeting, including a list of local schools that need coaches. If you have questions, please call or text **Karl Joost** at 707-483-6172 (and/or discuss with those listed below).

Who is involved from RRFF at this time? The board of directors has approved our sponsorship of coaches to classrooms. Currently on board: Ken Young, Derek Campbell, Bob Pawlan, Roger White, Karl Joost. We would definitely like to add additional coaches to this team!

~ Karl Joost, RRFF Coordinator

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

Upcoming RRFF Outings

Lake Davis, near Portola Station, CA - September 28th - October 1st

This will be the last tent and RV campout outing of the year. The lake is brim full now and we should have great fishing water for the outing. Your choice to walk and wade or float tube, pontoon boat, kayak, or motor boat to fish your favorite spots on the lake. There's easy lake access, with boat ramps on both the East and West shores, and numerous shore launches around the lake for your watercraft. Indicator with midges and nymphs, and stripping wooly buggers on intermediate lines are best for the 10 to 15 foot depths where fish hold. Grasshopper Flat, is the camp ground that will be open. (The "Reserve America" on-line booking site says that all sites are "walk-in".) Each person is responsible to get their own campsite, or you can team-up on sites

to save costs. Potluck dinners are fun and can be arranged.

Chris Castellucci < chrsluucci@aol.com > will be the trip leader if you have any questions.

Lewiston Lake - October 19th - 22nd

We will be reserving one or two cabins at [Lakeview Terrace Resort](#) on Lewiston Lake for 3 nights (Thur, Fri, Sat). Each cabin has a kitchen and dining room, along with beds for 5 adults. The resort will also reserve two aluminum boats with outboards. Since the lake is best fished from boats, other anglers will need to bring their own boats, pontoons or kayaks. Float tubes are not recommended, since the lake is fairly large. Additional powered boats can be rented at Pine Cove Marina (<http://www.pine-cove-marina.com/>).

Since we will be after planted trout, I recommend 5 or 6 weight rods. Zebra midges under an indicator work well, and stripping a wooly bugger or leach pattern is also effective. The bite at Lewiston can be hit or miss, but last year at this time we had exceptionally good action. If all else fails, we are within a half hour of the Trinity River and steelhead runs. For that, bring a 7 or 8 weight rod and don't forget your steelhead report card. Click [Link](#) to November 2016 Cast, which has prior trip report.

Ed Barich < ebartich2sonic.net > will be organizing this trip.

~ Ken Magoon, RRFF Outings Director



Chris Castellucci relieving stress after a hard day on the water at Alpine Lake...

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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.
FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Beginners are always welcome.

September

13 RRFF General Meeting - Ken Hanley - 6:30 pm
16 Russian River Clean-up (Derek Campbell)
20 RRFF Board Meeting
28 to 10/1 Davis Lake Outing (Chris Castellucci)

October

11 RRFF General Meeting - Jon Baiocchi
6:30 pm
18 RRFF Board Meeting
19-22 Lewiston Lake Outing (Ed Barich)

Visit 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 and Outings Chairman: Ken Magoon

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Treasurer & Webmaster: Mike Spurlock

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Casting Instruction Chairman, Facebook: Steve Tubbs

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Program Chairman: Joe Banovich

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Library Master: Don Shaw

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Membership Chairman: Doug Mackay

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Member at Large, Casting for Recovery: Paul Matzen

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Member at Large: Ken Young

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