



Sonoma County, California
Volume 51, Number 3
March 2024

Member Cat Kaiser working with future steelhead fly
fishers and conservationists at a Windsor Elementary
School. Story page 2.

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

President's Message

By Penelope Gadd-Coster

February—what a whirlwind of events with our Winter Dinner being the pinnacle of that month. Great turnout even with the inclement weather. I appreciate everyone that could show up and was empathetic to those few that couldn't make it because of the weather or illness. The food, raffle, and auction were all well-presented which made this a great event for our members. The Board wants to hear your thoughts about the Winter Dinner. A short survey will be coming out in March, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to respond.

For me, the best part of the dinner was getting a chance to meet new members and catch up with our

long-standing members. This is what brings me back: the camaraderie, sharing what we love—fly fishing and everything that plays into it. I hope those that attended had a chance to watch the slideshow featuring longtime and new members at our club events. It was a wonderful and inspiring insight of who we are as an active fly-fishing club.

February also brought back the Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival at the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery just downstream from Lake Sonoma. The Steelhead Festival is a hometown event hosted by the Friends of Lake Sonoma, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sonoma County Water Agency, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our club had a booth at this event supported by club members Jeff Cratty, Spencer Bader, and me. We promoted fly fishing, encouraged

people to join us at our casting pond to learn how to fly fish, and to connect with us at the Vet's Hall for our RRFF General Meetings. We met old members and recruited new ones! [Click here](#) to view this festival's website.



Jeff Cratty, Penelope, Spencer Bader at the Steelhead Festival.

Another February event was the Fly-Fishing Show at the Alameda Fair Grounds, located in Pleasanton, CA as described in my last month's President's Message. It is a great show organized by a national group that are shown throughout the country. Last year's show allowed me to look at and try out gear, develop some new casting skills, learn where to fish and meet fly fishing guides, and listen to interesting conservation talks. I was there for all three days helping the Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI). It is our local chapter of Fly Fishers International, an important supporter of fly fishing, water and fish conservation, and supporter of Northern California fly-fishing clubs. It was great to be able to help the only national organization that supports the sport of fly fishing. One of their many goals is to recruit people into the world of fly fishing. A booth was there for teaching casting skills, showing people how to hold a rod and learn a basic cast for those that were earning their pins for the three levels of the FFI Casting Skills Development Program—the same program we follow at our pond. We also had fly tiers and Boy Scouts working toward receiving their badges there as well. It was a great time and I always learn a LOT! I intend to go again this year! [Click](#) for more about the show.

So, moving into March, I hope we all find cooperative weather that will bring us fishable waters. Please watch for updates about river conditions or upcoming fishing trips that are on the website [click](#).

There will be a General Meeting at the Vet's Hall March 13, 2024, packed with friendship, fly-fishing information, and auction and raffle items.

Let's go fishing!!

Penelope

RRFF General Meeting

By Mike Borba

Six Nymphing Strategies to Catch More Trout is the title of our March presentation by Mike Pease of Mike Pease Adventures. Mike has been a long-time guide on many of our Northern California rivers and streams. His presentation will help you wherever you fish for trout.

Steelhead in the Classroom

By Cat Kaiser



Cat sharing steelhead eggs with the elementary school kids.

Cat, a member of Russian River Fly Fishers and an employee of Golden State Salmon Association, volunteered to deliver steelhead eggs for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Steelhead in the Classroom program. "It was so fun!" she announced.

She delivered steelhead eggs to three Windsor elementary schools participating in the program. The teachers had their aquariums setup in their

classrooms. The kids would learn how to carefully drop them into the controlled chilled aquarium water, feed and watch the eggs grow and transition into alevin, and then into fry. Once the eggs reach the fry stage, the kids will scoop them up from the aquariums to release into the main stem of the Russian River.

“Why didn’t I do fun stuff like this in school?” Cat wondered. “Let’s do more of this with salmon!”

Winter Dinner Fundraiser February 17, 2024 By Mike Spurlock and Dave Stone

—Mike Spurlock—

Thank you all for the Winter Dinner Donations. We would like to thank all those who donated so generously:

Supporting Companies	RRFF Members
Acute Angling	Bill Archuleta
Aqua Flies, Doug Brutocao,	Spencer Bader
Big Bluff Ranch	Jody Banovich
Breathless Wines	Mike Borba
Cattlemans Restaurant	Leafa Fiore
Clover Dog Pet Shop	John Frenzel
Flyfishing International	Penelope Gadd-Coster
Fountaingrove Golf Club	Charles Jacobs
Guide Lance Gray	Greg Jacobs
Guide Captain Gregg	Karl and Louise Joost
Holland	Carl Kiyota
Guide Patrick MacKenzie	Tom Moore
Guide Peter Santley	Paul Matzen
Guide Al Smatsky	Howard Nakagawa
Hog Island Oyster Farm	Joerg Olson
Kings Sport & Tackle	Kevin Ostrom
Korbel Winery	Daniel Powers
Montage Restaurant in	Kraig Smith
Healdsburg	Brook Shaw
Outdoor Pro Shop	Don and Jan Shaw
Sonoma Catering	Mike Spurlock
Sonoma Raceway	Dave and Jane Stone
Valette Restaurant in	Sig Wallen
Healdsburg	Jan Whitney
Windsor Golf Club	

—Dave Stone—

What does it take to throw a fundraiser? Basically, donors and volunteers. Those dedicated people willing to contribute auction, raffle, and monetary

donations plus volunteers willing to give their time to support our annual fundraiser.

Our club has those type of special people, beyond doubt. Every year the Russian River Fly Fishers members show up with the needed skill sets and dedication to throw a successful fundraiser. Also, you need



Daniel Powers, Jeff Cratty & Steve Tubbs.

committed members that aren’t shy about asking questions—What went well and what areas needed improvement? We have members that can ask those questions to help our club to improve our fundraisers year after year. Asking questions to create improvement each year is paramount.



Jody Banovich & Penelope having a good time.

This was my first time volunteering for an evening fundraiser dinner. I did have two past years’ experience helping organize the RRFF Summer Picnic events at Galvin Park, but this event on February 17, 2024, was going to be different. How? For starters, there was the extreme *atmospheric river* weather we were going to experience that discouraged some of our members from being able to attend. On top of that, illness also added to some members unable to participate as volunteers. Member John Guerra showed up to volunteer at the greeting table and saved our bacon. He displayed his mettle as a multi-talented team player. We only wished we had two of him! John thank you.

As part of the RRFF Board of Directors and Coordinators team working to pull off the first evening fundraiser dinner since the COVID-19

shutdown, the pressure was on to throw a successful event. Our President, Penelope tirelessly helped behind the scenes and during pre-dinner setup. She and all of us got their wish for a successful event and meal.

RRFF Webmaster, Mike Spurlock would miss being at this fundraising dinner. He asked me to help by soliciting and organizing the cashiers to handle monetary transactions using the mobile phone application, Square. Daniel, Ed, Jeff, Don and Jane were a very good team working and helping one another.

Mike had many years' experiences from those past cioppino dinners. In the past, he had kept quantitative data that would help the Board plan for future fundraiser dinners. This year would be no exception. It was important to keep track of those bid sheets and make sure they contained the accurate and specific data that would help Mike track this year's fundraiser. Daniel Powers was a big help with that task too.

I knew from my past experiences during the Summer Picnics we would need an experienced group of RRFF members to arrange the donated auction and raffle items on the display tables in the dining room. Daniel Powers, Ed Barich, Jeff Cratty, and Gregg Wrisley were the perfect team to help setup the tables. They all did a fantastic job working together to create pleasing and accessible displays of the items. Bravo!

RRFF Women's Program Monthly Update By Catherine Miller



Steve Tubbs instructing at our pond.

With the weather turning sunny and warm, it won't be long before we can resume our fly-fishing activities. February 3, 2024, was one of the few days

the casting pond was available during the rainy season. The turnout was terrific with many men and women in attendance.

The last Saturday casting clinic will be on March 2, at noon. Beginning March 14th, the casting clinics will be every Thursday from 4:30 –7 pm. It is exciting that we will be able to resume the FFI Skills Development Program. Maria de la Fuente and Angela Zahra will provide Grid Sheets for women to track their progress. Currently, six of us are enjoying a knot and fly-tying clinic led by Jeff Cratty and Don Shaw.

There will be a beginner fly-fishing day trip in late March or early April. We are exploring the possibility of a return trip to Foothill Regional Park, or going to Spring Lake, Lake Ralphine, or Stafford Lake in Marin. We are looking forward to three fly-fishing weekend outings: Luk Lake, May 17, 18, 19; Truckee River Clinic, July 13; and Digger Creek Ranch, September 27, 28, 29.

Luk Lake offers lodging/fishing for 8 women fly fishers and 4 RRFF mentors. One opening is still available for a woman for lodging and fishing. The Truckee River sign-up is full. However, if you are interested, please add your name to a wait list. Digger Creek Ranch offers lodging/fishing for 8 fly fishers, plus 4 RRFF mentors. There is one lodging/fishing opening for one woman and one rod for day use by either one man or one woman. [Click](#) to reach Catherine if you would like to join one of these outings or have questions. We invite you to participate in these fantastic fly-fishing opportunities!

Catherine Miller, Coordinator
Maria de la Fuente, Angela Zahra
Assistant Coordinators
RRFF Women's Program

Editor: [Click](#) to watch a short video about the Eel and Russian Rivers, and the Potter Valley Project complex. Hear the concerns of native Americans, Russian River water recipients, and vintners will face when PG&E decommissions the two Eel River dams. Will all issues align in the same direction to support a plan to save the salmon too? Our club member, Charlie Schneider speaks with confidence and authority.

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

[Click here.](#)

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.

[Click here.](#)

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

[Click here.](#)

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

[Click here.](#)

Calendar of Events

The RRFF Thursday Evening Casting Clinics will begin on March 14th, from 4:30 to 7 pm. Those days and hours will continue to be held every Thursday evening (weather permitting) until the end of Daylight Savings Time, November 3, 2024.

We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Beginners are welcome...

We are planning RRFF outings for our 2024 seasons. To view the signup sheets for those RRFF Fly-fishing outings click below.

[Click](#) here for a complete list of upcoming RRFF fly-fishing outings for 2024

How to Contact Board of Directors & Coordinators

If you want to contact one or more of the Board of Directors and/or Coordinators below, then click on this link, which will bring you to our website.

[Click here.](#)

The names of our Board of Directors and Coordinators will appear. You may click on a name and leave a message for any person below and our website will send it to their personal email address, and they will respond to your message.



RRFF Board of Directors

President: **Penelope Gadd-Coster**

Vice President & Outings Coordinator: **Ed Barich**

Secretary: **Brendan Galten**

Treasurer, Membership: **Spencer Bader**

Webmaster: **Mike Spurlock**

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

Casting Instruction: **Don Shaw**

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

Raffle Coordinator: **Gregg Wrisley**

New Member Mentoring, Casting Instruction: **Jeff Cratty**

Steelhead in the Classroom: **Karl Joost**

Member at Large: **Tim Reuling**

Program Chair: **Mike Borba**

Member at Large: **Daniel Powers**

Women's Fly-Fishers' Program: **Catherine Miller**

Coordinators

Fly Tying: **Lee Soares**

Casting Instruction: **Binky Castleberry**

Conservation Advisors: **Charlie Schneider & Tom Greer**

Women's North Sonoma County Outreach: **Leafa Fiore**

Fly Rod Building: **Rick Baker**

The Cast Newsletter Editor: **Dave Stone**

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. This agreement is valid for all RRFF sanctioned events, (fishing outings, picnics, dinner fund raisers, meetings, pond casting clinics, etc.) some of which are open to the public and all of which are covered by RRFF insurance. As a club member you are approved to participate in certain covered events which are not available to non-members: fishing outings and training for fly-casting certification.

Note: Private activities arranged by club members (not sponsored or approved by the club) are not sanctioned and will not be covered by RRFF insurance.

I have read this statement and agree to its terms as a condition of my membership in the Russian River Fly Fishers.

***Indicates required field.**

*Name _____ *Date _____

*How did you hear about us? _____ *Referred by? _____

*Address _____ *City/State/Zip _____

*Preferred Phone: Home _____ or Cell _____ *E-mail _____

Occupation _____ *Signature _____

* I'm applying as a new member. Circle (Yes / No) I'm renewing my existing membership. Circle (Yes / No)

*Check the boxes below that is applicable:

☐ Single membership - \$50 annual dues

☐ Junior membership - \$25 annual dues (age 16-18 or live >75 miles from Santa Rosa)

☐ Gold membership - \$1,000 (one-time) Family Membership - \$55 annual dues List family members: _____

☐ Membership includes a woman who would like to be contacted by our RRFF Women's Group:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

The club would like to help you meet your fly-fishing needs. How many years have you been fly fishing? _____

Check any areas you want help with:

☐ I would like help learning or improving my fly-fishing 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.

☐ Any other areas not mentioned above _____

*How are you planning to pay? _____

Note: 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.

IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE at www.rrflyfisher.org. OR NEW MEMBERS, MAY MAIL THIS APPLICATION TO:

RUSSIAN RIVER FLY FISHERS, C/O SPENCER BADER, 3310 CONIFER DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404