

WADING CLINIC (updated 10/18/2024 Mike Spurlock)

SATURDAY OCT 19, 2024 8 am to about 1 pm

This is a class to orient a club member to wading safety.

We borrowed some of the content from another Fly Fishing Club (Diablo Valley Fly Fishers (DVFF)). DVFF had a life threatening near-miss a few years ago. We customized their content to half a day of discussion, demonstration and practice on the water.

This is the second time we have attempted training with this topic and we have opened it to men as well as women. We will meet at [Del Rio Woods Regional Park](#) on the Russian River, 2668 South Fitch Mountain Road, in Healdsburg at 8 am. The parking lot opens at 7 am. This is a good location: close by, restrooms available, great gravel beach, beautiful water. We will only change locations if the flows increase significantly from 140 CFS (cubic feet per second), the flow it is now.

- **Jeff Cratty, Gregg Wrisley, Rosa Sanchez and Mike Spurlock** will demonstrate, help you with wading and share their experiences. We hope to make it useful and fun.
- Everyone will have a chance to do actual practice wading. Bring your own wading equipment if you have it. We will bring some additional wading staffs. **You will have the options of:**
 - 1) wearing waders and boots, if available,
 - 2) wet wading with tennis shoes and a bathing suit or
 - 3) practicing on shore.

These options will insure a VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL!!!

- Some of the topics:
 - (Note: If you do not have the ******items below, you should still be able to participate in activities with loaned gear or simulation on shore)
 - How do you plan for an outing?
 - What equipment should you bring on a fly fishing trip - using a checklist?
 - How to read the water - why would we wade here at Del Rio Park? Where would the fish be and where would you need to wade to get to them?
 - How deep should you wade.
 - How do you assess current?
 - ******Wearing Waders - purpose of belt, double belting, what to do if you get wet.
 - ******Proper use of a wading staff - minimum of 2-points of contact.
 - ******Wading boots - types of soles (felt, rubber, studs).
 - Personal Flotation Device (PFD), CO2 activated option.
 - Crossing a river - by yourself or with another person.
 - How is wading different with the type of bottom - rock, sand, mud?
 - Using a whistle, how and why?.
 - Practice casting at this location **only if the river is open for fishing**. Note: As of 10/9, the Russian River is closed to fishing due to low flow closure and will not reopen until flows increase to 300 CFS which will require rain. If it does open up, a steelhead card will be required to fish. If you have a rod with you on the river, you must have a fishing license in possession. We will want to have rods to practice wading with a rod and a staff with one person or two persons wading together.
- After the session, those who want can meet for lunch at Healdsburger, outdoor dining under shelter. <https://healdsburger.com/our-menu/>
- After lunch, for those who are interested, we will have an optional short drive to Dry Creek mouth to look at a second location. Dry Creek hatchery is the source of all hatchery-raised steelhead that are supplied to the Russian River and it would be instructive to see where the fish enter the river (also a very popular fishing location when the steelhead begin to arrive from the sea to spawn).

What equipment to bring:

- Snack, water, dark glasses, hat, sunscreen, folding chair, tennis shoes, swimsuit & towel.
- Sonoma County parking pass or pay for parking. (There are about 20 parking spots. If we get there at 8am, there should be no problem parking)
- Waders, wading boots, wading staff. Even if you don't have the equipment, you will be able to wet wade with tennis shoes and a swimsuit and a borrowed wading staff.
- We expect to have a low flow fishing closure. We will have a few rods to practice two people wading with a staff and a fishing rod. Do not bring a Fly rod unless you have your license.
- Excellent video to review prior to class. <https://youtu.be/Pb7rty2jSfK?si=YLKG0AI6WPYkCozQ>

RRFF club members can register online below on our club calendar just like any other outing.

THE CLASS IS FULL at 17. If you want to be on standby, put your name at the bottom and we will try to schedule a future class.

#	Name	email	Mobile phone	Do you need any wading equipment?	Emergency Contact
1	Catherine Miller	katbmiller@gmail.com	707-303-0277	Yes	
	Jenny tigue				
3	Elaine Nealley	welcomehomesonoma@gmail.com	707-479-6921	No	Husband Alan, anealley@aol.com
4	Susan Oldroyd	skalias645@gmail.com	415-553-0421		
5	Jan Lees	petalumarower@gmail.com	707-849-2512	No	
6	Celeste Gantz	celeste@gantzfamilyvineyards.com	707-292-4224	Yes, I will try to get my own beforehand if I can	
7	Lindsey Brown	lindseyb@sonic.net	707.548.4262	no	
8	Larry Dellard	larry@dellardins.com	707 494-1776	no	
9	Debbie McAfee	mcafeedebbie@gmail.com	707-888-6207	no	
10	Jodi Duckett	jaduckett@yahoo.com	707-537-0537	no	
11	Lynn Hoyer	Lynn@barneslumber.net	707-239-2013	No	

	Michael velasquez				Backed out
13	Tom Duckett	jaduckett@yahoo.com			
14	Eri Sawairi	erisawairi@gmail.com	707-322-9087	Yes, please	Daniel De Kay 707 888 3536
15	Andy sanchez	bus6190@gmail.com	77 228-9441	no	Rosa sanchez 707 228-9441
16	Genie Praetzel	praetz@sonic.net	707-364-0927		
17	Daniel De Kay	danieldekay1@gmail.com	707 888 3536	Yes, please	Eri Sawairi is my wife
	Standby				
18	Kathy Forsyth	kavforsyth@email.com	941-421-2483		Backed out
Instructors					
	Mike Spurlock	mikerrff@gmail.com	415-599-6138	No	Lynn, 415-713-7927
	Jeff Cratty	rjcratty@yahoo.com	707-796-3691	No	Pamela Cratty 707-765-2404
	Gregg Wrisley	ggwris@gmail.com	707-779-9654	No	
	Rosa Sanchez	kenhair02@gmail.com	707-228-9444	No	
	Alan Nealley	Anealley@aol.com	707-479-6921	No I have 14+ Wading staffs I can bring to use.	

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Prior attendees:

Angela Zahra
Maria de la Fuente
Linnette Birdsall
Jody Banovich
Patty Newland
Rosa Sanchez
Shawna De Grange
Pam Boyd DeCoite
Glenn Birdsall