

The Barbless Hook



April 2010

Issue 159

No. 22

*BBQ time at the 2009 Kistler Outing.
Join us this year on April 24!*

The Silent Auction Is Here!

The President's Message by Bob McCollum

No Fooling'! Annual Fundraiser Set for April 1

The 2010 Silent Auction will be held at the April TVFF meeting on April 1st. This annual event provided the largest portion of the clubs funding for the year. Over 40% of the net proceeds received in 2009 came from the Silent Auction.

Auction proceeds are used to support conservation programs such as Alameda Creek Alliance, California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance, NCCFFF and Cal Trout. The auction also augments funding for speakers, videos, events, and a myriad of other uses.

Despite current economic difficulties, the 2010 Auction promises to be bigger and better than ever, including over 80 half-dozen flies, nearly 80 member-donated item, and over 30 items provided by fly shops, and manufacturers. We will also have three raffle boards.

This year we will ad an exciting Bucket Raffle. You buy raffle tickets and distribute them among buckets for five or six exciting prizes, such as a fly tying kit and a complete fly fishing combo with ¾ weight rod, reel, and line.

More information will be provided by e-mail before the auction. So, keep an eye on your e-mail.

See you at the auction!

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SUPPORT OUR OVERWORKED AND UNDERPAID WARDENS By Hal Wilson

Although there seems to be little or no chance this year to get our California DF& G wardens' salaries raised to the level they should be, at least we can all help a bit by purchasing the Warden Stamp. Proceeds go toward purchasing equipment needed by these men and women who dedicate their lives to guarding the resources we enjoy.

The website below will get you to the page of the DFG website that provides further information The "stamp" is not really a stamp, but a decal you can be proud to display showing your appreciation and support of these underpaid officers.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/WardenStamp/>

Report on Kistler /K-Arrow Bass Ponds on March 20th

Kent McCammon

Two words and one fly was the story of the day. The Muddler Minnow! My daughter Holly picked the venerable streamer fly out of a dozen I gave her to try at Kistler. Holly caught a crappie, then another. I then changed to a Muddler about size 8 and caught a Bass and 2 crappies in quick succession. Several other fishers did the same and caught some fish too. That fly was the vital one to have in your flybox at least for that part of the first lake on the right. We noticed fish moving in shallow water causing commotion chasing something around, but not breaking the surface. Yep, chasing baitfish, a good clue! Most people fished hard and landed a few, but it was not a great day at Kistler. On the other hand, as I roamed around as Fishmeister and talked with members and guests, everyone loved the sunny day out practicing their casting. Let's hope the catching and releasing gets better with the warmer weather in April for the next Kistler outing on the 24th. My advice, bring a few Muddler Minnow's!

Current Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators

President	Bob McCollum
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Outings	Jim Broadbent
Instruction	Gary Turri
Speakers	Russ George
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Richard Tarbell
Video librarian	Frank Gordet

The Barbless Hook is published monthly for members and visitors of the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. Comments and / or opinions should be directed, by the 15th of the month, to: Ken Javorsky: kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net

Please begin e-mails with "Newsletter" as the subject.

Let's Go Fishing!!

TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake

Fishmasters: Rob Vellinger & Ken Javorsky
Outing Dates: Fri-Sun, April 9,10,11

For information contact Rob Vellinger at vellinger@comcast.net



SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010

7:00 - 9:00 PM

PREVIEW @ 6:30 PM

LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON ROD AND GUN CLUB

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For more info contact: fishmaster@tri-valleyflyfishers.org

See our web site for map and directions:

www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org

2010 Club Calendar

Month	Club Meeting	Special Events	Board Meeting
April	Thursday the 1st (no foolin'!) Silent Auction	Kistler Outing, April 24 Pyramid Lake, April 9-11	22nd
May	Thursday, May 6	Fuller Lake, May 14-16 Pinecrest/Bearsley, May 21-23	27th
June	Thursday, June 3	David Lake, June 10-13 Upper Sac, Date: TBD	

April Meeting: Annual Silent Auction.

The 20101 Silent Auction will be held at the April TVFF meeting on April 1st. This annual event provided the largest portion of the clubs funding for the year. Over 40% of the net proceeds received in 2009 came from the Silent Auction.

Auction proceeds are used to support conservation programs such as Alameda Creek Alliance, California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance, NCCFFF and Cal Trout. The auction also augments funding for speakers, videos, events, and a myriad of other uses.

TVFF 2010 Outings			
Month	Outing	Species	Fishmaster
April 24th	Kistler Ranch #2 and Club BBQ	Bass	Jim B. and BoD
Date : April 9th, 10th, 11th.	Pyramid Lake	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Ken Javorsky, Rob Vellinger
May 14-16	Fuller Lake Rucker Lake	Trout/Bass	George Allen
May 21-23	Beardsley Afterbay/Pinecrest	Trout	Bob McCollum
June 10-13	Lake Davis	Trout	Jim Broadbent
Date: TBD	Upper Sacramento	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
July 3-10	Baja Bluewater Fly Fishing		Jim Broadbent
Sept. 17-19 **	Manzanita Lake	Trout	Hal Wilson
	Carson River, East Fork Heenan Lake	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
October	North Fork, Stanislaus River	Trout	Tom Vargas, Derrell Bridgman, Russ George
November	Delta	Striped Bass	Fishmaster Needed!
	Lower Sacramento Drift Trip		Fishmaster Needed!
December 1-5	Trinity River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum

** Please Note: The Manzanita Lake Outing has been changed to September 17 - 19.

Kistler Outing Saturday April 24th

Fishmaster: Jim Broadbent

New Tri-Valley Fly Fisher's club members and seasoned veterans alike will congregate at the Kistler Bass Ponds on April 24th for a great day of fishing for bass and other warm water fish. This has been a favorite outing for about 10 years for our club. You can fish in a tube or wade along the shores of three lakes. Flies like the wooly bugger, bass poppers, and leeches are just a few types you can try. This outing includes a sumptuous BBQ.

Bring clothes for warmth and rain as this is a rain or shine trip. Last year, the trip when the weather was cold and windy, the trip made for better fishing.

Kistler is only a 75 minute drive from Livermore to Kistler. Kistler is zero limit fishing. Please sign up at the Feb or March meetings. You can pay in advance to save time paying at the Lake. This particular outing does offer the opportunity to bring a paying guest. I urge you to bring a kid fishing here and let them enjoy a day outside as we need more youth fishing.

For questions, please email Jim Broadbent at nob8@prodigy.net.

Driving Directions

Kistler ranch is located between Oakdale and Jamestown, CA. To get there from the Livermore/Pleasanton area head east on I-580 to I-205 and continue past the Tracy area to I-5. Go north on I-5 a couple of miles to Hwy-120. Take Hwy-120 east. After a few miles it will intersect with Hwy-99 north for a very short distance. When you head north on 99 stay in the right lane and exit at the first off ramp, which will still be Hwy-120 east towards Sonoma/Yosemite. Continue east on 120 to Oakdale (approximately 20 miles).

As you leave Oakdale **note your odometer mileage** as you pass the Oakdale Rodeo Grounds on the left. Continue east on Hwy's-120/108 for about **18 miles** from that point. First there will be a Kistler Ranch sign on the right side of the road, and then the ranch and BIG RED BARN will be on the north (left) side of the highway, shortly beyond the sign. Turn left at the break in the center divide, onto the road to the ranch. (If you miss the turn just proceed on up the highway for a short distance where there will be another break in the center divide where you can make a "U-turn" and come back to the entrance.)

A short distance down this road there will be a gate into the ranch property on the left. As you enter you will see another gate that heads down to the three ponds. NOTE: there is a **restroom** (for our use) on the left near this (second) gate. The gate to the ponds will be open around 6:00 am and will close about dark. You may drive on down to the ponds. All three are available for us to fish and the choice is yours. You may park anywhere along the road at any of the ponds. Caution, if the fields are very wet and muddy it is easy to get your vehicle stuck, so be careful. If it is dry there should not be a problem.

REMEMBER - Barbless hooks, and "Catch-and-Release" only. No motors allowed on lake please.

Have a great day - enjoy the company of the other club members and guests - "tight lines".

Contact: Jim Broadbent at nob8@prodigy.net.

Conservation Corner April 2010

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein Responding to my Letter Regarding Water Flows in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta

By Corey Cate

Dear Mr. Cate:

Thank you for writing to express your support for the biological opinions that govern water flows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. I appreciate hearing your thoughts about this issue, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I understand your concern that pumping additional water to South of Delta agricultural water users will negatively impact the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, and I appreciate hearing your thoughts about the Endangered Species Act protections currently governing water flows. I share your commitment to finding a long-term solution to improve the reliability and quality of California's water supply that will protect threatened and endangered species that rely on the Delta. In the meantime, however, I cannot sit idly by while the State's agricultural economy is on the verge of collapse.

Three consecutive years of severe drought in California has resulted in more than 400,000 acres of farmland being fallowed and has left thousands of farm workers unemployed. Many Central Valley agricultural communities face unemployment rates as high as 40 percent. While winter storms have boosted storage capacity at key reservoirs and replenished the Sierra Nevada snowpack to between 90 and 129 percent of average, hundreds of family-owned farms in the Central Valley still may not receive sufficient water allocations to plant, hire and harvest this growing season.

On March 16, 2010, the Department of the Interior announced an updated allocation for Central Valley Project water supplies. Based on a conservative precipitation forecast (with a 90 percent chance that there will be more water available than currently forecasted), farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley will receive 25 percent of their contract water supply, and farmers in the Sacramento Valley will receive 50 percent. Both of these allocations are up from 5 percent. The Department also reaffirmed that they are working to secure the equivalent of an additional allocation of 8 to 10 percent for South-of-Delta agricultural users through administrative measures. Given the important progress made on this issue administratively, I believe that legislation on this subject is not necessary at this time.

Please know that I share your commitment to protecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. I will keep your thoughts in mind as I continue working toward a long-term, sustainable solution that balances the needs of environmental, agricultural, and urban uses and ensures that California can meet its current and future water needs.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have other questions or comments, please contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

The Tier's Corner No. 9

Wing Posting

By Jim Cramer

This month's subject is the posting of wings in preparation for parachute hackles. For those who may not be familiar with the term "posting", it is simply a technique of wrapping the base of a wing, usually hair or a synthetic, to make it stiffer or post like. For those that have never posted don't panic. It is not as difficult as many would have you believe. You do not need three or more hands and you certainly do not need the gallows setup or any of the fancy spring loaded gadgets that so many shops and catalogs would love to sell you.

I recommend that you practice posting wings without tying a complete fly until you become comfortable with the technique. That way you will waste a minimum of time and materials and won't end up with as many "learner flies" in your box. Learner flies will catch fish, they just aren't as pretty as your better flies. Let me walk you through the process the way I do it. There may be other ways but this works for me.

Start with a piece of synthetic wing material about 1-1/2 inches long. This is more than you actually need but will make it easier to control until you have mastered the process. The wing will be folded so divide the material into half of what you will need for a completed wing. Tie the material at its midpoint on top of the hook; take both ends of the material and pull straight up as you tighten the thread; now take two wraps of thread around the hook shank in front of the wing. You will find this a much stronger and neater method of tying in synthetic material than to tie in a full wing and then trim the butts. The posting of the wing is now done by wrapping the thread around just the base of the wing. Start at the bottom and wrap up and then back down in close wraps of the thread and immediately take a wrap around the hook shank. The distance up the wing you need to cover will depend on the fly design and its size. If for example you are tying a parachute pattern with a dubbed thorax around the wing base you will need to allow for that with a little extra posting. If you are posting hair wings that will not be used for wrapping parachute hackle, as on a Royal Wulff, two or three turns should suffice.

Actual wrapping of the post is quite simple but here are the little details that will make it easier. I generally wrap the post in a counter-clockwise as viewed from the top but this is not a hard and fast rule. Try both and use which ever is easiest for you. First shorten up on your thread so only a inch or so is outside the bobbin, grasp the top of the wing with your left thumb and forefinger and pull up slightly keeping it taut during the posting. With your right hand start the bobbin around the wing base until you are just past center on the far side, at this point transfer the bobbin to the remaining fingers of your left hand and use them to bring it across the back of the vise to the near side where your right hand picks it up and continues the motion. With just a little practice this becomes almost second nature. This is one of the few times where all the fingers get into the action. Immediately after wrapping the post and before letting go with the left hand take one or two wraps around the hook shank in front of the wing! Finish by adding a small drop of cement to the post.

(Continued on next page)

The Tier's Corner No. 9 (continued from Page 7)

Wing Posting

By Jim Cramer

At this point many of you sharp eyed readers may be asking, why this extra wrap around the hook shank. The extra wrap locks in the thread and terminates the prior operation. Let me give a couple of examples.

Often when tying in stiff hair it will want to move around the hook shank as you wrap it. Adding more wraps on top doesn't solve the problem and just adds bulk. The culprit here is thread torque. The solution is to first firmly hold the material in position while you bind it down with the needed wraps, then take one or more wraps off of the hair and around only the hook shank. A second example, if you try to tighten up on your thread after posting the wing without the wrap around the hook the wing will often bend down and all of your posting wraps will slip off the top. Been there, done that - a number of times!

After completing the wraps take a moment to inspect your work. It helps when learning the procedure to use a white wing material and a dark thread as your mistakes will be more apparent. There should be no gaps in the wraps around the wing material especially at the base of the wing. If you can see a white gap at the base of the wing you are looking at a weak point that will act as a hinge once you start fishing the fly.

If you are using synthetic material and tying it in as suggested you will have no problem with obtaining an upright wing. With hair however you may have to take some extra steps to force it into the upright position. First use your thumb nail to crimp the hair into position, then make your posting wraps, followed by a few wraps in front of the wing. If the wing is being especially stubborn make a couple of figure eight wraps around the wing and hook shank behind the wing at a 45 degree angle (much like a rope on a tent) to pull the wing upright. Followed with two wraps behind the wing to tighten down on the figure eight.

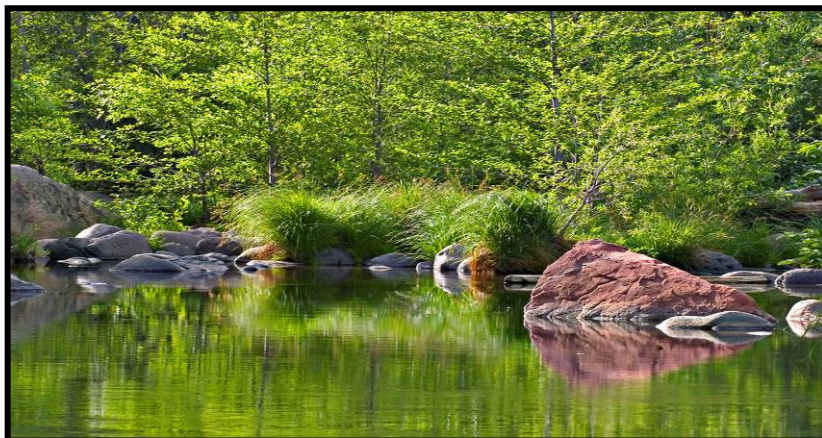
One other tip about posting concerns the proper selection of thread. I know that many of you tie most of your flies with thread that is too fine. If you use 8/0 thread when tying size 16 and larger flies you will have difficulty wrapping a good post as it will take an undue number of wraps to do it properly. Switch to 6/0 thread and the task will be much easier. Most novices take far too many wraps in the tying of their flies; 8/0 thread allows them to complete their flies without too much bulk, but it doesn't make for speedy tying or better flies.

Tails can often benefit from being posted to stiffen them or aid in preventing them from wrapping around the bend of the hook.

Next month - Parachute hackle.

The Black Ponds at Shadow Cliffs

By John Bjorkholm



Some of us occasionally fish the Back Ponds at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park for largemouth bass (these ponds hold some HUGE fish). I was surprised to learn that the Ponds are to be closed to all fishing starting March 1 when the new DF&G 2010 Fishing Regulations go into effect. This closure affects all tributaries to Alameda Creek downstream of San Antonio, Calaveras, and Del Valle Reservoirs. For the Back Ponds, the stream of interest is Arroyo Del Valle and the dam is the one at Lake Del Valle. Interestingly, the main lake at Shadow Cliffs is not on a tributary of Alameda Creek and is not affected by this rule change.

The change in the regulations was brought about by the ongoing efforts of the Alameda Creek Alliance (which I support) and others to make Alameda Creek once again a suitable habitat for steelhead. I recently called Pete Alexander, a biologist at the East Bay Regional Park District and a former Club speaker, to ask about and comment on these new regulations that will close the Back Ponds to fishing. I pointed out that no self respecting steelhead or trout would ever make its way into the Ponds because of the muddy bottoms and the warm water temperatures. Even if steelhead would get that far, since there are essentially no steelhead in Alameda Creek at present, the regulation seemed premature at the very least.

Much to my pleasure, Pete agreed with me wholeheartedly and said that discussions with DF&G are already underway to modify the regulations so that catch and release fishing with artificial lures having barbless hooks would be allowed in the Back Ponds. Even the DF&G agrees that the new regulations went too far. The bad news is that changing this change will take time and it's possible that there will be no change until a new set of regulations is published next year. In any case, it's good to see that DF&G is responsive to reasonable suggestions from its constituency.

Another example of DF&G's ability to respond can be seen at Putah Creek where a group of devoted fly fishers conducted a reasonable and well-thought-out proposal to make the Creek catch and release with artificial lures having barbless hooks; that proposal will also be implemented starting March 1. Goes to show you that groups such as ours can have an impact when a reasonable argument is put forth."

Thanks for the great work that you do with the Newsletter!

John Bjorkholm
Primary email address:
jebjorkholm@alumni.princeton.edu

Items For Sale

Trout Unlimited Colorado Pontoon Boat, 9 Ft, sage green, used once. \$300. Contact Jim Hirzel 925 648-0555.

Brand new Fli series Sage spey rod 14' long 8 wt with warranty card and case. I'd like to trade for a shorter, lighter, 2 hand rod (spey or switch – 6 to 7 wt to about 12-1/2'). Contact Martin Plotkin at msp@gdca.com



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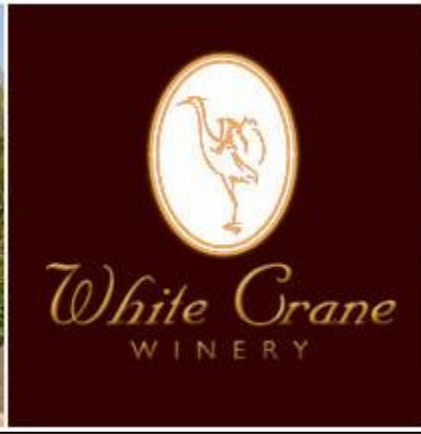
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PAUL WATERS

An illustration of a fly fisherman in a red jacket and hat, casting a line into a lake. A large rainbow trout is jumping out of the water in the foreground. The background shows snow-capped mountains under a blue sky.



Perched atop Crane Ridge overlooking the beautiful Livermore Valley wine country is where you will discover White Crane Winery, one of the premier Livermore wineries. Guests enjoy a wide variety of small lot - limited production ultra premium wines. Our award winning wines are available through our wine club, wine tasting room and special events.

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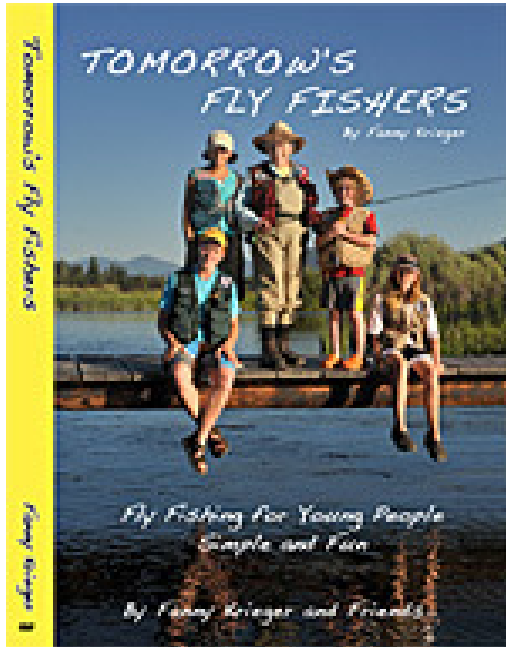


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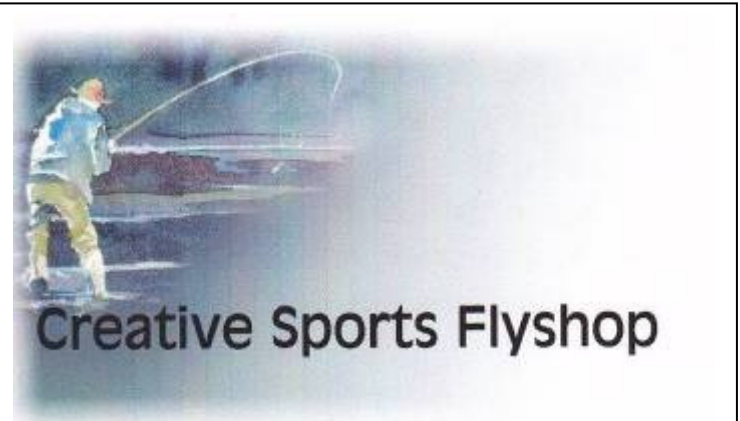
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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

Directions to

Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club: 4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore, California.

Exit Highway 580 on North Livermore Avenue

Proceed North on North Livermore Avenue to May School Road (~2.5 miles).

Turn right onto May School Road and proceed to stop sign at intersection with Dagnino Road (~1 mile).

Entrance to Rod and Gun Club is directly across intersection

