

# The Barbless Hook



## March 2013

*Editor: Tom Vargas*

### President's Message

#### Daniel Kitts

Let me start by thanking everyone that has volunteered their time in the past. Your efforts have set a high bar for the new board and chairs but I think we are up to the task to take on the challenge. Our installation dinner was well attended and I believe everyone had a good time with great food and company.

One thing that really struck me during the last meeting was when we introduced the new officers and chairs for 2013. By the time we finished introducing everyone and had them standing at the front of the room it became apparent how many people are volunteering their time to make TVFF the success that it is. There is something to the old saying "Many hands make light work". And with all the hands we have helping we are able to provide the quality programs and trips the membership told us were important.

But, there are still some opportunities for people to volunteer. For example we need some fishmeisters to head up outings. See Hal Wilson and he will tell you how easy it is and this is a good way to get to know new people and maybe find a fishing buddy. Our annual auction is scheduled for the April meeting and we always need help, see Don Gardner if you'd like to participate. Or speak to any of the board if you would like to volunteer your time and we will find a way to get you involved.

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### Photo:

Robert Nishio, Bill Harrell,  
Rob Vellinger, Bart Hughes,  
Gary Phillips and Jim  
Broadbent on the January  
Hot Creek outing

*Presidents message, continued from page 1*

Remember the silent auction in April is our major fund raiser of the year. Take a look at your closets to see if you have anything to donate and be sure to look at the news article or email from Don Gardner on how you can help this be another success. This meeting is also open to nonmembers, if you know someone interested in adding to their fishing equipment or any item on the list be sure to invite them.

Another place to volunteer your time is the Arroyo Mocho cleanup we are scheduling for Saturday April 20th. More details will be following. This is a good family opportunity to clear our local streams of debris and hopefully someday see spawning steel head or salmon similar to what happened at Upper Marsh Creek near Brentwood. In December, after many years of effort and over 50 years since salmon were last seen spawning in this area, salmon were spotted in December.

All the new board members and committee chairs are working hard to provide the members with programs and outings for 2013 such as the Fly Fishing Fundamentals class that was just concluded with rave reviews from the 11 graduates. We already have a waiting list for the next class and are talking about doing it in May. If you or someone you know is interested in the next class talk to Kent McCammon to get on the announcement email.

Congratulations to our new Life Member, Hal Wilson. Hal has been a dedicated and guiding member of TVFF form many years and has provided countless hours of support for club activities, Look at the programs and outings and sign up to participate. It is the best way to be involved and get the most out of your membership. (See this month's Member Spotlight on page 10.)

Tight Lines,

*Daniel Kitts*

Quote of the Day:

There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process. ~Paul O'Neil, 1965



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# March 7, 2013 Program

Join us at our regular meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> for a brief presentation by Patti Cole regarding our club's Adopt-a-Creek project . The Arroyo Mocho Clean-up program in Livermore will be conducted on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> . Details to follow.



Craig Nielsen

Our main speaker should be very enlightening as we prepare for the 2013 season. Craig Nielsen of Shasta Trout will be presenting "Best of the Best in the Shadow of Shasta". His talk will cover the 8 best rivers they fish along with tips, techniques and the prime times to fish them.

## TVFF Picnic

Martin Plotkin

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> for this year's annual picnic. Beside casting contests for anglers of all levels, there will be fishing and of course a great food Members who are interested in helping get or prepare the grub, have ideas for other fun activities or just helping out should contact Martin at (925) 373-7153 or [m.plotkin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.plotkin@sbcglobal.net).



# OUTINGS AND EVENTS

Hal Wilson

Below is the tentative/probable outing schedule based on the best information available at the time of publication. This schedule is subject to change. Please consider being the fishmaster in 2013 and contact me if you're interested. Here is a link to the sign-up sheet: [http://www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org/TVFF Outing Signup Form.pdf](http://www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org/TVFF%20Outing%20Signup%20Form.pdf)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER(S)</u>
MARCH	MARCH 9	KISTLER RANCH (BASS)	HAL WILSON
APRIL	APRIL 27	PICNIC	MARTIN PLOTKIN
	TBD ,( LATE)	PINECREST AREA	DON GARDNER
	TBD	SACRAMENTO SHAD	TOM VARGAS
MAY	TBD	FULLER LAKE	HAL WILSON
JUNE	LAST WEEK (27-30?)	LAKE DAVIS	HAL WILSON
JULY	THIRD WEEK	MCCLOUD RIVER	DANIEL KITTS
OCTOBER	TBD	LOWER SAC	DON GARDNER
NOVEMBER	TBD	TRINITY	BOB MC CULLOM

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## 2013 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers*	
President	Daniel Kitts
Vice President	Martin Plotkin
Secretary	Kelly Ng
Treasurer	Russ George
Conservation Director	Derrell Bridgman
Other Board Members*	
Past President	Ken Javorsky
Member at Large (1)	Bart Hughes
Raffle Coordinator	Gary Phillips
Newsletter Publisher	Tom Vargas
Youth & Education	Kent McCammon
Committee Chairs	
Membership	Tom Fessenden
Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Richard Tarbell
Silent Auction	Don Gardner
Website	Robert Nishio
Refreshments	Keith Thomas
Video Librarian	Richard Tarbell
Member at large	John Price
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent

\* Voting Members

## 2013 Dues are Due Now!

TVFF Club dues for 2013 are \$40.00 and they are payable now at the club meeting or by mail.

The mailing address is:  
TVFF  
PO Box 2358  
Livermore, CA 94551



## SILENT AUCTION FUND RAISER THURSDAY APRIL, 2013

All member donations for the Silent Auction must be received by 3/15/2013 in order that items can be cataloged and inventory list can be sent to members at least one week prior to the auction via e-mail. Please contact Donald Gardner at [dondihua@aol.com](mailto:dondihua@aol.com) or home phone 925.846.2238 if you have any questions. Thank You, Donald Gardner, Silent Auction Chair

Remember to mark your calendar for the TVFF silent auction fundraiser. This is our only fund raiser and it is imperative that members and guests attend. Manufactures donations are coming in and we have some great deals to bid on. Please...we need donations from club members to support the cause. Last year over 50% of the funds generated came from club member donations. Below are ways we can contribute:

**1. BUDDY TRIPS-** Most of us have places we know how to fish with a good probability of success. Offer yourself as a BUDDY to fish with 1 or 2 other people. BUDDY TRIPS usually start at \$100.00 for the day and all money goes to TVFF. Example, Gary Turri offers a 1 day trip to the Lower Stanislaus River for 1 or 2 fisherman every year. Put yourself out there to help the club and maybe make a friend for life. Please sign up to host a trip at the next meeting.

**2. VACATION RENTALS-** Some members have resort or vacation properties offered for donation. Usually these are offered at 50% retail value for 3 days 2 nights at a affordable price. Example traditionally Tom Vargas, Bob Mc Collum and Don Gardner have offered their properties. Please make a donation of property for a long weekend. Sign up at February meeting.

**3. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-** If you or any friends own a business or are a service provider, offer your product or skill to TVFF. Example: Kathy Helfrich is a Avon distributor in Pleasanton, she is providing a gift assortment of Avon product. Example 2: Don Gardner DVM is owner of Town and Country Veterinary Hospital. Each year he provides examination, age appropriate lab work and/or vaccines to the winning bidder. Value to the club over \$100.00. This type of donation is good for TVFF and for your business. Once again sign up at the next meeting.

**4. FLYS-** Donate your tied or unused flys to the club. Donate in groups of 6 and give to Gary Turri at the February or March Meeting. Last year we had approximately 50 dozen flys donated.

**5. PERSONAL DONATIONS TO TVFF-**

A. Gift Cards or Gift Certificates: Some times these lay around the house for years. If you have some that have not been redeemed, donate them to the club.

B. Bottles of wine, cigars, homemade preserves, olive oil, etc. All these novelties are welcome.

C. DVD's, fly fishing books, sporting goods, camping gear, even if slightly used will usually find a home.

D. Extra fly fishing gear: Not only can we need rods and reels, we can use waders, wading shoes, vests, jackets, fly boxes and fishing art and memorabilia. Beginner fly fishermen will greatly appreciate your castoffs.

E. Your Crafts and Hobby: If you make jewelry, earrings, needlepoint, etc. These creations often attract excited bidders.

6. Bring a Relative and/or Friend: The Silent Auction is a fun event full of fun, fellowship, and opportunity for great deals. The more patrons, the more the bidding action!

In conclusion, look for items to donate, bring a friend, and plan on having a great time while lending your support to Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. Do your best to make this a great fund raiser.

Sincerely,  
Donald Gardner

# Lower Sacramento River Report

**Don Gardner**

January through March is usually a slow time for TVFF fisherman. In an attempt to find a good TVFF venue during this time, we experimented with a drift trip down the Lower Sac. River on February 10-11, 2013. TVFF members included: Don Gardner, Anna Gardner, Richard Tarbell, Tom Fessenden, Barry Penner and friend Ted Ancog (hopefully future member). Shasta Trout Guide Service gave the club a 20% discount and hosted the trip. Weather was good with clear skies, daytime highs in the 60's, water temp. 52 and water clarity from 4 to 8 feet.

Catch rates were variable: one boat boasted 15 fish per day while the other boats 6-8 fish per day. Takes were light and there was little margin for error. The fish were BEAUTIFUL RAINBOWS ranging from 12-21 inches with a couple of suckers and carp mixed in. This was Anna Gardner's first drift and she earned the honor of 7 fish on her first day! Congrat's Anna. Overall I think the trip was a success, fish counts could have been higher, but weather was beautiful and lots of good coaching was received from our guides. Two days of guided drift presents an excellent opportunity to work on a natural drift, mending, lie control and strike/set technique.

I am going back in March to see if this might be a better time to plan a trip next year. More information on the March outing in the next TVFF Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Gardner



Cold weather warriors taking a lunch break, but the guide is catching some sunrays!



Tom Fessenden with a nice Sacramento Bow



# Hot Creek Trip

## Bart Hughes



Hearty crew of TVFF fishermen



Rob Vellinger works a fish on Hot Creek in the cold winter setting



## The Tier's Bench:

FLY TYING GET TOGETHER By JIM BROADBENT

***Note: NO fly tying get together on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.***

On the first Wednesdays of the month, from 7 – 9 pm, we will have a Fly-Tying/BS get together for the purpose of learning and expanding our knowledge of fly tying and related subjects. The itinerary could include techniques, materials, knots, entomology, and specific and not so specific fly patterns. The meeting will be chaired by various individuals who have knowledge of the meeting's target subject. Vices, tools and some materials could be provided. Let Jim know if you are interested.


***We need to find a new location for these meetings!!***

## ***Fly Tiers: Flies needed for the April Auction!***

The largest fund raiser of the year is coming up with the Auction at the April meeting. One of the greatest attractions at the auction is always the flies that have been tied by members of the club so we need to have all you tyers out there dust off the old vice and tie up some flies that you could donate for the auction. This is a win/win/win for everyone!

- Tyers get to hone your skills and maybe try that new pattern you've been thinking of!
- Members can add some quality flies to their arsenal
- TVFF adds some operating funds to the treasury

Gary Turri is collecting the flies and putting them together for the auction. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gary.



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## Member Spotlight on Hal Wilson *By Tom Vargas*



**Q. How long have you been a club member?**

**A. 41 years.**

**Q. Do you currently or have you ever held an office in the club?**

**A. President in 1989, 3 Years Treasurer and many other committee positions.**

**Q. What occupies your time other than fishing?**

**A. Church activities, former Boy Scout leader.**

**Q. Classify yourself as a fly fisherman:**

**A. Beats the heck out of working.**

**B. I can't wait to wet a line.**

**C. I dream about fish & flies.**

**D. I need some serious help for my addiction.**

**A. B, but not as anxious as I once was to brave the early morning cold.**

**Q. What is the fly rod set up you use for the majority of your fly fishing?**

**A. Two 4 weight Powell rods. 1 Rigged with a floating line and the 2nd with a clear intermediate.**

**Q. What is your favorite species to fish for and why?**

**A. Trout and fresh water bass.**

**Q. What body of water do you fish most often?**

**A. All mountain lakes including: Davis, Manzanita, Rock Creek.**

**Q. Do you consider yourself a dry fly or nymph fisherman?**

**A. Nymph first, or dry.**

**Q. Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?**

**A. Stillwater, enjoy relaxing and not worrying about wading.**

**Q. If you could only fish with one fly what would it be?**

**A. Flashback Hares Ear.**

**Q. Do you have a fishing license for any states other than California?**

**A. Not currently, but the last out of state license was for the area near Alberta, Canada.**

# I am a Believer Now...

## Daniel Kitts



This week I went on a drift boat trip down the Yuba River and become a believer in the need to ALWAYS wear your PFD and if you are wearing waders be sure to have a WADING BELT. Some say you should also wear a belt if you are wearing a jacket.

I was sitting in the back of the boat changing flies and not paying attention to what was happening until I heard the Captain yell that we were going to hit an overhanging tree snag. When I looked up I was being hit in the face by the limbs of the tree! To back up a bit...

As we were drifting through a set of rapids the fast current in the outside channel caught the bow turning the boat and pushing it toward the outside bank and into an overhanging tree with branches going below the water line. The front of the boat went up into the tree with the current driving the stern down taking in water. Two of us were thrown into the fast current. I was able to kick my way through the branches and pull the cord to inflate my PFD. About that time I bumped into Gary struggling to swim to shore. He had not activated his PFD but did so as soon as he was reminded. This all happened in a flash before we had time to react and the experience is so new to you it is easy to forget what you are supposed to do.

I was floating with the current feet first and struggling to get to shore in water that was 46 degrees cold, while watching items that weren't tied down in the boat float by. I then remembered an article I recently read from Fly Fisherman Magazine saying you are supposed to float head first to prevent the mouth of your waders from becoming a water sail. I managed to turn around and made it to shore.

Meanwhile Captain Plotkin was riding the sunken boat as it bounced along the bottom determined to go down with the ship. Luckily the water was only 3-4 feet deep but the fast current through the channel continued to drive the boat downstream. Martin threw us a line and we were able to turn the front of the boat and get it beached so we could bail it out.

There were several learning points for me from this experience.

- Do not depend on a PFD such as a cushion or have your PFD sitting next to you that you can "grab" when needed. Things happen fast and you may not have time to react. Did I say ALWAYS Wear your Personal FLOTATION Device?
- Wear a wading belt that is tightly cinched at all times up as high as possible. Some waders have a built in cord to cinch the top of the waders and use that as well as a belt. The belt prevents water from filling your waders but **more importantly** prevents the top of the waders from flaring out and becoming an underwater sail that prevents you from being able to maneuver putting you at the mercy of the current.
- Pay attention to what is going on.
- You should float with your head pointed downstream which is contrary to what you may have been taught. The river moves faster than you do, that is why I could see the gear passing me. If you float feet first the mouth of the waders can flare open and the force of the water will take you wherever the current goes. You will not be able to fight the hydraulic forces of the river.
- Just take what you really need and try to secure what you're not using in a storage locker if there is one on the boat. And put your name on everything you can with something that will survive for a period of time in the water, like a permanent marker. You never know when someone will find and return a lost item.
- Fortunately I recently read an article in Fly Fisherman Magazine about surviving a tumble into heavy water that helped me. Go to [www.flyfisherman.com/?p=6536](http://www.flyfisherman.com/?p=6536) and watch the videos on Wading Safety. It doesn't matter if you end up in the fast water while wading or being dumped from a boat the conditions are the same.

In this case we all were wearing our PFD's and had on wading belts and all ended up cold but safe. Would things have turned out differently if we weren't? Nobody knows but for your sake take the time to prepare in the event you find yourself in the water.

OH! AND did I mention that you should ALWAYS wear your PFD and use a Wading Belt?



# Global H<sub>2</sub>O Epidemic

Derrell Bridgman

Water issues related to the health of the fisheries in our area seems to never improve, even with the dedicated efforts of numerous environmental activists groups. The problems just seem to grow at accelerated rates.

These concerns make one wonder how similar issues are resolved in other areas of the world. Unfortunately a quick, short "Google type" research project reveals that they are not, and that people throughout many areas of the world are trying to live with unresolved water management issues similar to, or even worse, than the issues we have in our little corner of the world.

Areas of Africa are experiencing serious health issues caused by uncontrolled water and air pollution problems. Reports from Russia indicate that 75% of the surface water, and 50% of all their water is polluted. They suffer from serious waste disposal issues and are experiencing major fish kills. Brazil boasts one of the most abundant renewable fresh water supplies in the world, however, they are experiencing rapid Industrialization and major deforesting issues, and are lacking waste water and untreated sewage management policies which is resulting in a water supply with very serious pollution problems. China seems to be experiencing both air and water quality problems that are considered to be some of the most serious in the world. They are suffering from massive pollution problems. These problems are further complicated by their dams and hydroelectric projects, and are resulting in near catastrophic water quality issues, and major fish kills. The results were similar in most any other country that I checked.

This search for water management policy reports was brief and far from an in-depth study, however, it clearly indicated that the same, or very similar issues, are prevalent, and often even more serious, than those present in our area. It leads one to conclude that it is imperative that steps be taken to find a way to establish a reliable plan for managing this most valuable natural resource. Such a plan seems to be unattainable, and most likely is, at the present time, however, we need to find a way, and find it in the not too distant future.

Another issue that this short research revealed was that the water quality and water management issues that we are experiencing will, in the near future, undoubtedly be further impacted by global warming. This concept seems to be a concern of, not just a few activist groups and Al Gore in our country, but shared among leaders of many countries throughout the world. Most are convinced that it is inevitable and are attempting to establish programs for dealing with it.

The scientific/technical achievements of our present generation are truly impressive. However, something is seriously missing; the devastating impacts on the environment and natural resources we have allowed to germinate is in the process of growing to catastrophic levels. Even so, our leaders seem to be more interested in accommodating the major users of the resource, than in finding a way to use it efficiently and responsibly.

*Continued on page 13*

## Global H<sub>2</sub>O Epidemic (Continued)

Fly fishers are experiencing the impacts of this on the quality of our fisheries. Efforts to correct some of the problems plaguing the fisheries occasionally lead to some improvements but it seems each improvement is met with even more setbacks. We see this regularly in our local water issues, like diverting too much water from our "Delta Area", dam removal on the Klamath River, restoring the San Joaquin River fishery, and excessive water diversions on numerous foothill rivers. These problem areas are a major concern to us, however, a more serious concern is, throughout most of the world similar issues of much greater magnitude are running "out of control".

So what is the answer? I wish I knew, I wish someone knew. It is unfortunate that our descendants are going to inherit the problem, but hopefully they will have whatever it takes to find a solution.

Tight lines,

Derrell



### **Inspiration from Russ O'Brien:**

**Andy, a Kenai River, Alaska guide I have known for many years, sent me the attached photo of himself having a good day of fly fishing on the Middle Kenai River in January.**

**I thought you might want to include in the March newsletter.....at the very least it might get some "juices" flowing for Opening Day.**

***He's right!***

## Items For Sale

### Fishing Vests for Sale:

1. Orvis Super Wading Tac-L-Pak. Medium size, Tan color Like new condition. \$ 45.00, (\$119.00 new)
2. Patagonia Mesh Vest Medium size, Grey color Good condition. \$20.00

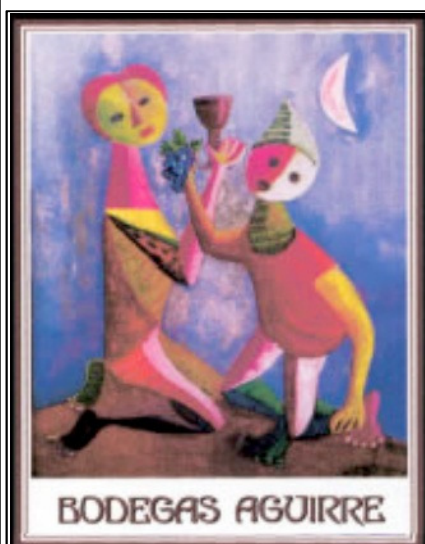
### Fly lines for sale:

1. SA Mastery XPS DT4F Grey, good condition \$25.00
2. SA Mastery XPS DT4F Sunrise, fair condition \$ 20.00
3. Cortland 444SL DT7F Mist Green, very good condition \$25.00
4. SA Mastery Nymph Taper WF8F Willow, like new, great for steelhead \$30.00
5. Orvis Wonderline Striper WF10F Yellow, new in box, \$30.00

Also have some reels available for sale for these lines if interested.

Will install these lines on your reel if requested.

**Gary Turri (925) 786-5184**



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### Vacation Home For Rent:

Three-bedroom/2 bath modern home in Twain Harte/Crystal Falls area.

Sleeps up to eight in five beds (1 queen, 1 double bed, 1 double loft bed, 2 twins).

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Modern kitchen opens onto large great room with propane pot-bellied stove. Master suite with queen bed and large bathroom. Garage with parking for one car. Ample outdoor parking. Elevation: 3400 feet. NO PETS. NO SMOKING.

**Bob McCollum (925) 989-2358**



## Spring Creek 8' pram - \$1000



Spring Creek Stillwater classic fly fishing pram. This pram is in as new condition and is a top of the line fly fishing pram. This is a bargain price at less than 1/2 new purchase. Reason for sale- I want a larger boat to fish with my grandson. For detailed specifications see [www.springcreekprams.com](http://www.springcreekprams.com)

The boat comes with the following accessories:

- boat white
- green splash finish
- bow pocket anchor puller
- rear anchor puller
- anchor and rope
- Scotty rod mount
- removable seat
- handles (bow & aft)
- Cataract premium graphite oars
- boat dolly

**Contact: Harry Levin (925)**



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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

