

The Barbless Hook



September 2015

Editor: Tom Vargas

President's Message

Martin Plotkin

Reflections in the Pond –

As summer comes to a close and the kids are back in school, the traffic on the freeways seems to get worse and TVFF gets back to business and play. As you've probably heard, the meeting next week on September 3rd is our official 50th Anniversary celebration with several of the past presidents over the years reminiscing about what the club was like back then - should be a lot of fun and very interesting. The other meetings this fall have great speakers scheduled and of course we have several terrific Fishing trips, classes and clinics lined up.

Almost all of our members are aware of the contribution of the board to the running of the club, but many of the other members are involved in small ways. As an example, one our members called me to observe a problem with the content of the web site; another called to ask if I needed help setting up for the

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Photo:

Jim, Martin, Robert and Tom at the lighthouse beach in Las Arenas- July 2015 Baja outing

<http://www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org>

Remember to send your fishing pictures to the editor!

Presidents message, continued from page 1

BBQ a couple of weeks ago; several others became first time fishmeisters this year and on-and on. These and many member contributions of small amounts of time are adding up and creating the finest Fly Fishing Club in Northern California.

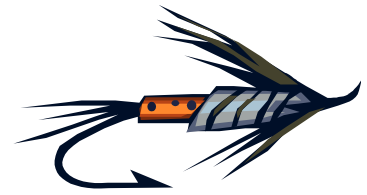
I'll leave you with this final thought: Recently while paying my final respects to an old friend a funeral procession pulled into a cemetery. Several carloads of friends and family members followed a black truck towing a boat with a coffin on it.



I remarked to one of the mourners, "That guy must have been a very avid fisherman."

"Oh, he still is," remarked the mourner. As a matter of fact, we're headed to the Delta as soon as we bury his wife." 😊

-m



2014 TVFF Speakers Program "At A Glance"

September 3rd:

Bill Scharninghausen
"Fishing the O'Neill
Forebay"

**50 Year Anniversary
Celebration**

"A walk down Memory
Lane"

**Plus wine, Cheese
and Crackers!!**

Jim Roberts' Fly Fishing Guide Service



Lower Sac Floats,
Upper Sac and
McCloud
Klamath River
Steelhead

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off!

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2014 TVFF Board of Directors

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President	Martin Plotkin
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Secretary	John Price
Treasurer	Tom Fessenden
Past President	Daniel Kitts
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Auction BU & MAL	tba
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Education	Steve Johnson
Outings	Hal Wilson
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Membership	Jo Dee Widmayer
News Letter	Tom Vargas
Raffle	Gary Phillips
Refreshments	Keith Thomas
Speakers	Marty Loomis
Trout in Cls Rm	Darrell Bridgman
TIC BU & MAL	tba
Video Library	Richard Tarbell
Web Master	Dan Vargas

2015 Dues

TVFF Club dues are payable now and are \$40.00. See Jo Dee Widmayer

The club's mailing address is:

TVFF

PO Box 2358

Livermore, CA 94551

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

Hal Wilson



DATES

LOCATION

FISHMEISTER

SEPTEMBER 25-27	NO. FORK STAN / LAKE ALPINE	TOM VARGAS RUSS GEORGE DERRELL BRIDGMAN
SEPTEMBER TBD	CAPLES LAKE	TOM FESSENDEN
NOVEMBER 19-20	TRINITY STEELHEAD	GARY PRINCE
DECEMBER 5	DISCOVERY BAY/DELTA STRIPERS	TOM VARGAS

Pictures From the August BBQ at President Martin's home:



Program

Marty Loomis

TVFF 50 year Anniversary:

Daniel Kitts

Take a stroll back in History and enjoy some Wine, Cheese, Crackers AND Past Presidents as they share the past history of Tri-Valley Fly Fishers.

October Preview:

Featured Speaker

Bill Scharninghausen

" Fly Fishing the O'Neill Fore Bay "

The club will host Bill Scharninghausen who will talk on *Fly Fishing the O'Neill Fore Bay*. The fore bay is about an hour from us and is a very popular place for all kinds of fishing. Float tubes, boats, and wading are all possible. Several of us went to his presentation earlier in the year at the California Fly Shop and found it to be very informative. Bill is also offering a guided weekend of fishing with our club during the month of October. We will camp at the fore bay and will do some night fishing. There will be a small cost associated with the weekend outing and signups will be at our October club meeting. Any questions please contact Marty Loomis



Member Support Request:

Trent Pridemore

I'm in a push to find a publisher for my ten year literary book project: Chasing Rainbows...Tales of a Well Traveled Fly Fishermen. I was the original Life Member at Livermore. A few of the older Livermore club members are characters in the book. I would appreciate if you would publish my web address: www.Trentpridemoreauthor.com

It has a link to my Facebook pages. I can use all the publicity I can get and appreciate "Hits and Likes. This is what the modern publishing world wants.

Sincerely,
Trent

This past month Robert (Bob) McBride passed away. Bob was a rare individual who had the energy of any 3 of us and always had a smile for everyone. For those of us who fished with Bob we will always remember his passion for the sport and the delight he got whenever he hooked up a fish. He will be missed.



Bug Collecting Reminder Kent McCammon

Please turn in your collected specimens at the June meeting and please pick up 3 empty insect vials and a form to take with you on your next fishing trip. Participate in creating a TVFF Club insect collection for our Education Programs.

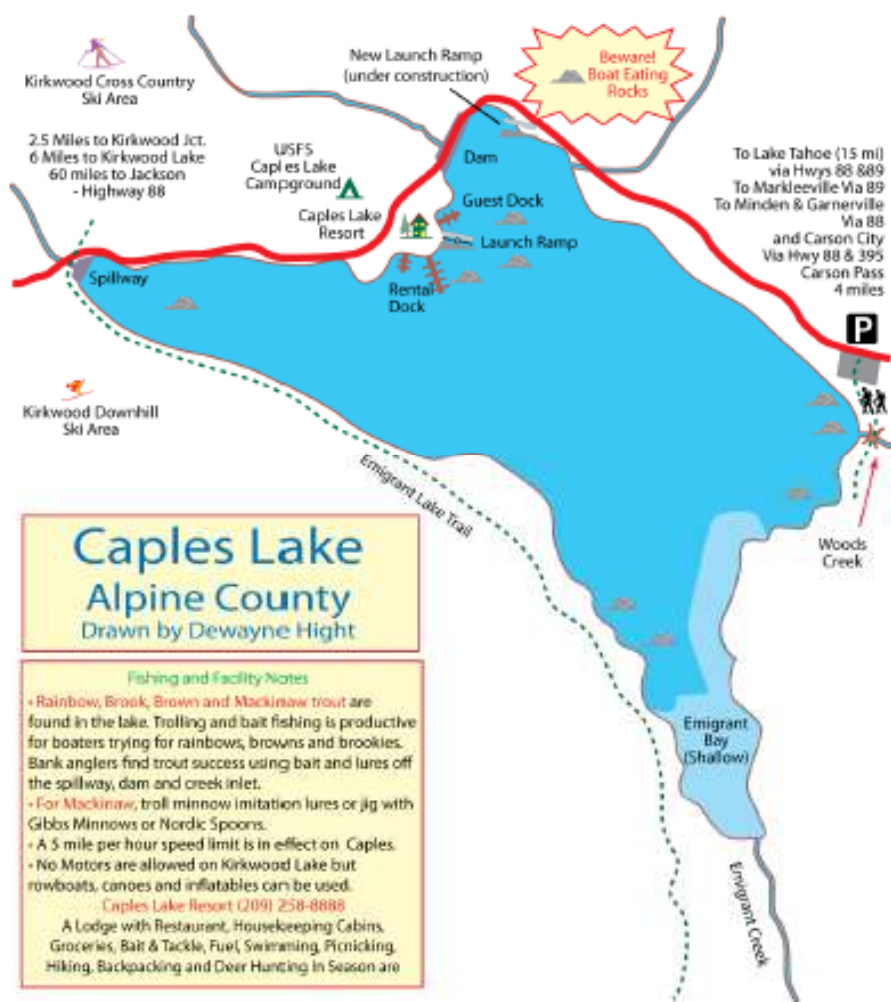
The Form includes instructions on the collection process and has 3 sections for you to fill in, cataloging information about the location where the specimen was collected.



Let's Try Caples—September 11-13th

Tom Fessenden

Caples Lake is located 59 miles east of Jackson along Highway 88 a couple miles short of Carson Pass at an elevation of 7,800 feet. The 600 acre lake has 6 miles of shoreline. Small craft are allowed on the lake with a 5 MPH speed limit. The lake is projected to be 80% full by June and should have plenty of water in September. At nearly 8000 ft the nights will be cool and the temperature could drop into the 30s. There is a no-reservation campground on the north side and Caples Resort with rooms and cabins for those wanting a bit more comfort. Kirkwood Station is only 1/2 mile east of the spillway and an interesting place for a beer and hamburger. Food is also available at the resort and at a couple places in the Kirkwood ski area.



The lake is heavily stocked with fingerlings and catchable rainbows several times each summer. It holds rainbows and lake trout (Mackinaws) up to 10 lbs or more. Most fishermen use spinning gear or troll for the big trout. However, fly fishing along the east side from the dam to Emigrant Bay can be very productive. Woolly Buggers and Calibaetis imitations should work well. As the summer progresses the fish tend to look more for things like Rubber Legs and the bigger terrestrials.

I must admit I have never fished Caples although I have been fishing the area every summer for over 15 years, I have fished Kirkwood and Red Lake in wet seasons but I mostly fish Woods Lake which is just above Caples. I will be back to Woods Lake

again in late July or August and will have a chance to check the water level in Caples before our September club meeting.

For Questions: TomJF@comcast.net or phone 925-837 6483

Campground map: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev7_018856.pdf

Caples Lake Resort: http://capleslakeresort.com/summer/?page_id=1801

Fishing Reports: <http://www.fishhound.com/fishing-reports/caples-lake-ca>

Lake Alpine/North Fork of the Stanislaus

September 27 – 29, 2015

Tom Vargas, Derrell Bridgman

This outing will be headquartered at the Derrell Bridgman and Tom Vargas cabins in the Dorrington area. Dorrington is located on Highway 4 east of Arnold, CA and Big Trees State Park (about 20 miles below Bear Valley Ski Area). It is near the 5000-foot elevation level.

There are several options for fishing destinations in the area with the following being the most noted that we have fished.

The North Fork of Stanislaus River; a beautiful mountain stream with a combination of nice riffles, pocket water and deep runs. It is stocked by DFG and also has some nice wild fish. It is fished heavily near road crossings, however, it still offers good action. The stream has a lot of area that is remote, and not readily accessible. I am told that the fishing can be fantastic in these remote areas.

Stillwater Fishing at several lakes: Lake Alpine, Spicer Meadows Reservoir, & White Pines Reservoir (near Arnold). Also available but a little farther away are Highlands Lakes (for small Brookies), & Heenan Lake (for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout).

Small Streams: Beaver Creek, & Rattlesnake Creek are within 10 miles of Dorrington. There are several popular rivers, streams and lakes on Ebbetts Pass and in the Markleeville area (about a 50 mile drive).

The water levels will be low this year and it should be noted that historically the water conditions on the smaller streams may not be the best late in the season in normal years. The main rivers like the Stanislaus and the East Carson will be fine. The water level of the reservoirs may be low and the boat ramps may not be useable as they draw them down in preparation for winter. Alpine Lake was full a couple of weeks ago! No matter what happens, we should be able to launch float tubes etc. and the fishing in the reservoirs can be very good this time of the year.

The plan is to sleep, eat, & socialize (tell about the big one that got away, etc.) at the cabins. Details will be worked out when we find out how many people will be there.

Cheryl Vargas will coordinate an outing in the local area on Saturday for the non-fishing wives. In the past they have toured Murphys, visited local wineries and taken in a play at a local venue. Specifics to be determined later.

A few spots are left-Sign up at the September meeting!

2014 Pictures



Member Outing Reports

Woods Lake and Caples Lake fishing reports

Tom Fessenden

On Thursday August 13, Don Gardner and I drove up to try Woods Lake which is up 88, just above Caples Lake and short of Carson Pass. We were a bit unlucky. A Red Flag fire warning was in effect and the wind was gusting to 30 knots on Thursday and even more on Friday. Don Gardner was able to pick up one on Thursday with a wooly bugger, but we both struck out Friday. On Saturday the wind was down, but not out, and I was able to pick up three off the surface with a #12 black gnat. The best was about 12 inches. There was very little surface action and not many fishermen were working the lake, Nobody did any better than we did and we concluded that the most of the fish planted in mid-July had been taken.

While up there we checked out Caples Lake for the potential club trip on Sept. 11. There is plenty of water in the lake, but the campground host said that the catching had dropped off since June when the last plant occurred. She thought things would pick up later in the season. The marina store attendant confirmed the slow fishing. However, he said that he expected a trophy fish plant just before Labor Day that should change things. Ever hopeful, I am keeping a watch on the CDFW fish plant web site.

Cathy Hiramoto

Cathy with a nice Delta bass caught on her own hand-tied popper



Member Outing Reports *Continued*

Wise River Montana Fishing Trip

August Abellar

Here's some pictures I took while we were fishing in Montana. Had a great time, fish after fish. We fished the Big Hole river, Clark Fork, Beaverhead, Rock Creek, Horse Prairie Creek, Deep Creek.

We floated the Bitterroot, Missouri, and the Jefferson Rivers. I Got my grayling!



August Abellar with his Grayling



Ginger Avilla with a very nice Brown Trout

Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Oregon

Mike Avilla

For 40 years my wife Ginger has just waived goodbye when I would head off on a fly fishing adventure. This year was different, for some reason she asked if she could come along and fish. I think I have just made the biggest mistake of my life. Over the course of a 3 1/2 week adventure she has morphed from a beginning fly fisher woman into a total dry fly snob. This is going to get expensive!!!

Attached are a couple of photos of her conquests:

1. Cutthroats in Wyoming on Hoppers
2. Browns on the Bighorn on Black Caddis
3. Big brown in Oregon on a size 20 Trico Spinner

Also a photo of my best fish of the trip. A 22 inch Rainbow taken in the Ruby Marsh in Eastern Nevada. I was fishing a size 10 Yellow Hopper Dry Fly when it happened to sink about 3 inches under the surface. Just as I was getting ready to recast, this big Rainbow ate that sunken fly. Kind of embarrassing but still fun.

Ginger couldn't wait to send these photos to her father, Joseph Sparks, one of the founders of our club.

I'd be happy to share locations and guide info if you call or send me an e-mail.

Mike Avila

Owyhee River

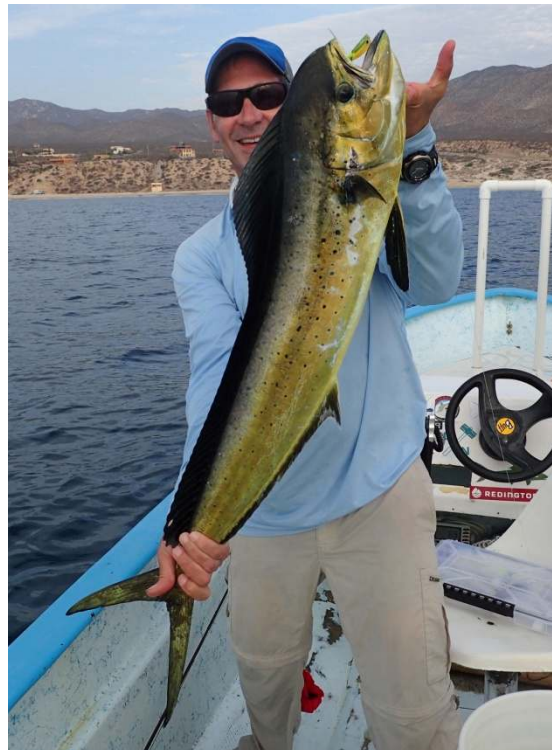
Grandson Logan Richardson & Grandpa Greg Murawski



Nice fish Logan!

Baja Outing-La Paz Mexico

Jim, Robert, Tom, Rob, Martin, Bart, Don and John





Fly Fishing Class

Steve Johnson

The next TVFF class will take place on October 7th, 14th and the 21st, which will be for the classroom training segment. We will be at the casting ponds on October 10th and the 17th. We had several people sign up on the interest list during downtown Pleasanton event.

Guided Fly Fishing opportunity

Gary Phillips

I won the auction item for two days of guided fly fishing for the price of one with Craig Nielsen of Shasta Trout for a bid of \$60.00. I am willing to let this opportunity go to a fellow member for the amount I paid. See me for details.

The Tier's Bench:

Jim Broadbent-

The next meeting of the Fly Tying group will be Tuesday, September 7th, if we can find a new meeting location. We typically meet on the 1st Monday of the month..



Around the Web:

Mercer's Missing Link. Although originally intended to represent a crippled caddisfly, Mercer's Missing Link does a remarkable job of imitating a variety of insects.

Tying instructions can be found here:

http://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-mercers-missing-link/?utm_source=MidCurrent+Fly+Fishing+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=29ba314ec7-MidCurrent_May_27_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8efbf3b958-29ba314ec7-18970505

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Conservation

Beavers: Restoring Salmon Habitat One Dam at a Time-Part 1 Shari Witmore, Fish Biologist

For many years, the North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) has been a controversial critter. Although many people view beavers as a nuisance, chewing down trees and diverting streams, biologists are beginning to view these “engineers” as a free labor source in restoring valuable fish habitat. Today, more than ever it is important to improve freshwater habitat for salmon species as we face drought conditions, climate change, and increased water consumption. Beavers can play a key role in creating habitat for a variety of wildlife; however this article will focus on the interactions between beaver and coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*).

Coho salmon rear for about one year in freshwater prior to migrating to the ocean. Surviving warm water conditions in the summer and high flows in the winter are key components to their survival. During the winter, juvenile coho salmon migrate into off channel habitats such as small tributaries, backwater ponds, and alcoves to escape the high velocity winter flows. Many river systems lack these winter refuge habitats due to a history of channelization and wetland filling. Beaver ponds provide the perfect winter habitat for coho salmon. Beaver dams help to slow the velocity of the water during winter and provide a pool habitat for fish to rear without risk of displacement during high flow events.

Depending on the system, beaver dams may play an even more critical role for coho salmon during the summer. Many rivers are warming and drying in the face of drought and climate change and pushing coho salmon to their thermal limits of tolerance. Beaver dams act as natural reservoir features. The dams slow the flow of water, store the water in the ponds and the ground, and effectively raise the water table. There is evidence that many systems that were perennially dry in the summer now have surface flow year round as a result of beaver dam construction. The water released downstream of beaver dams is often cooler than that coming into the pond due to the ground and surface water interactions. By increasing the water table, riparian vegetation will often flourish, providing additional shade and complexity to the habitat. During the summer, these ponds not only provide a cold and deep water rearing habitat, but also lots of cover and food resources, leading to accelerated growth rates.

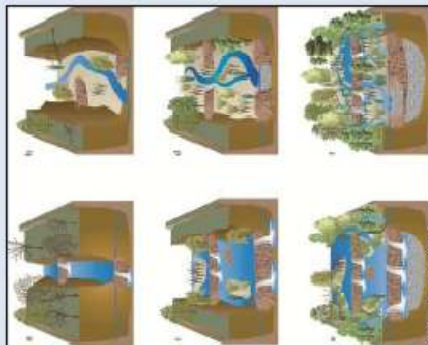
Beavers have been battling it out with humans for centuries. As people stake claim to their land, they create neat and organized boundaries. However, beavers may be quick to chew down trees, build dams, and reroute streams that may erode banks, flood fields, and wash out roads. Today, biologists are developing innovative techniques to help landowners live with beavers in harmony and protect the valuable habitat created. “Beaver Deceivers” and “Beaver Bafflers” are common tools used to prevent beavers from plugging culverts and can work as pond levelers to prevent flooding. Materials such as fencing and sand paint can be used to protect trees from being munched. Government agencies that used to send trappers to cull problem beavers now are providing guidance in non-lethal solutions. In some instances, such as in Washington State, problem beavers are actually being relocated to locations where they can thrive and build much needed fish habitat.

Beavers and beaver dams will continue to be a source of controversy with concerns regarding fish passage, increased water temperatures, stream diversion, and so on. No beaver dam is the same and therefore can feel risky for fish. However, beavers are a native species and our fish have evolved with this mammal over centuries. Beavers create dynamic landscapes. Though we may not be able to control how and where beavers do their work, a landscape with variability provides a buffer for fish across a variety of environmental conditions. Some years we have high winter flows, other years we have drought conditions. The key is having a multitude of habitat choices so fish can be protected each year.

Post Assisted Woody Structures (PAWS) aka: Beaver Dam Analogues

Structures that are completely or partially built by humans that mimic many of the functions of natural beavers dams

Background: Beaver dam analogues have been used as a restoration tool for several years in Oregon to improve floodplain connectivity, increase channel complexity, and recharge groundwater in incised stream reaches (see figure below).



Beaver dams help a stream to progress from an incised trench (a) to an aggraded channel (e-f) by creating a positive feedback loop that changes physical processes and vegetation to improve habitat for themselves and other species.

Ricketts et al. 2014



Monitoring PAWS at Sugar Creek (tributary to Scott River)

Beaver Dam Analogues in California: Due to permitting constraints, acceptance of beaver dam analogues in California has been delayed. However, in 2014, three sites in the Scott River Watershed, Siskiyou County, were chosen as "experimental" locations to test these structures. In California, they are referred to as Post Assisted Woody Structures (PAWS). With the cooperation of private land owners, two PAWS were constructed per site, to maximize the beneficial effects of PAWS when placed in series.

Why Beaver Dams?

- Augment substrate aggradation in incised streams; improving stream-floodplain connectivity
- Increase stream complexity - adding side channels, alcoves, and backwater habitat
- Increase groundwater through aquifer recharge, for late season release to enhance base flows
- Expand wetland and riparian forest cover through increased and sustained soil moisture
- Slow and disperse stream flow to increase juvenile rearing habitat; cool water refugia in the summer and slow-water refugia in the winter



PAWS structure in a stream



PAWS structure in a stream



PAWS structure in a stream



Channel pinning dam (PAWS) provides winter rearing habitat at the mouth of Sugar Creek

Scott River PAWS Project: The Scott River Watershed Council (SRWC) in cooperation with NMFS, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, USFWS, and CDFW have been monitoring the current PAWS in the Scott River basin. Less than one year after construction, results have shown an increase in beaver activity at the sites, unrestricted fish passage by both juvenile and adult life stages, significant increases in channel complexity with historic side channels activated at some sites, and more slow-water rearing habitat for salmonids.

PAWS = Big Bang for Your Buck!
Building beaver dam analogues is a low cost restoration technique, using beavers' "free labor," as they often find and maintain the structures. PAWS construction and maintenance is less than \$1500 per structure...and fun!



Example of willow weave construction at a Scott River PAWS site

For more information contact: Sheri Ulmer (NMFS) 707-825-5136 sheri.ulmer@noaa.gov or Don Fikinger (NMFS) 530-841-4413 don.fikinger@noaa.gov or Betsy Sappleton (Scott River Watershed Council) 707-867-7575 betsy.sappleton@gmail.com

1st Wednesday Pleasanton Street Fair

Jo Dee Widmayer

The Tri-Valley Flyer Fishers members had a good time at the 1st Wednesday Pleasanton Street Fair on August 5. Lots of people stopped by our booth and we had 29 people sign-up for more information about the TVFF Club. Following are pictures: Photo #1 is Jim Broadbent demonstrating fly tying; photo #2 Jim Broadbent, Mitchie McCammon, Gary Prince; Photo #3 Kent McCammon and Martin Plotkin; Photo #4 Derrell Bridgman, Marty Loomis and Daniel Kitts. Many others stopped by to work the booth. Thank you to everyone who helped with this fun event!

Special thanks goes to Mitchie McCammon for all of her efforts with enhancing the poster boards! Thanks Mitchie!





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Items For Sale

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Everything works. Just replacing it with a new unit.

Anyone interested can call me.

Ken Gotelli: 415-286-1194



Spare spool for an Orvis Battenkill reel—type II. 3 in diameter for a 4-6 weight line. \$60
Purchased on EBAY as a Battenkill 5/6 spool. It's not.

Tom Fessenden: (925) 837 6483

Fishing Vests for Sale:

1. **Reduced** Orvis Super Wading Tac-L-Pak. Medium size, Tan color Like new condition. \$30.00, (\$119.00 new)
2. Patagonia Mesh Vest Medium size, Grey color Good condition. \$20.00

Great Prices on Fly lines for Sale:

1. Orvis Wonderline Advantage Striper WF-10-F new in box \$35.00
2. 444 SL DT-7-F, like new condition \$25.00
3. SA Mastery XPS DT4 Grey color, one end used - \$10.00
4. Rio Grand WF-7-F new in box \$45.00
5. SA Mastery Distance Taper WF9-F Mint Green, excellent cond. \$20.00

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Bob McCollum (925) 989-2358



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Don't Throw Away Your Old Fly Lines, Recycle Them

I am a Preschool Special Ed teacher and the floating fly line comes in handy for many projects that preschool children make: necklaces, lacing, hanging art, fishing poles.....I would be happy to collect it and give it away to other preschool teachers.

Dave or I attend the meetings pretty regularly; we could have the members bring it to the meetings?

Thanks for the consideration.

-Cathy Hiromoto



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

