

The Barbless Hook

December 2019

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi TVFF Guys and Gals:

Remember Thursday, December 5th is our club meeting to elect the following TVFF Officers for 2020. I hope to see many of you there. As you can see, the following Officers are returning to serve on the board again next year:

President - Albert Mansky

Vice President - Martin Loomis

Secretary - John Price

Treasurer - Chris McCann

I had a chance to go on the Trinity River fishing trip on Monday, November 18th and the lower Sacramento River on Tuesday, November 19th. With the lack of rain and the low water release from the Lewiston Dam, the Trinity was only flowing at about 300 cfs. We scraped a lot of river rock with the bottom of the drift boat. All in all, I managed to catch two hen steelheads, which I released. James Williams, my fishing partner, didn't get a bite. Oh well, that's fishing. The second day we decided to fish the lower Sac, which Jim Roberts said was fishing well. Well, that's a matter of opinion. The Sac was also low, moving about 8,000 cfs. I managed to boat one rainbow and lose two. James did a lot better, boating five and losing a few. I'm looking forward to a return trip on the Trinity, hopefully after we get some rain, whenever that happens. Jim Roberts promised to keep me apprised of the fishing conditions, once we start to get some weather, that will hopefully move the steelhead up into the river.

It's been a pleasure serving as your President and working with your board during 2019. I look forward to



James Williams with a nice Lower Sac rainbow.

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returning to the board next year, with your approval. As you can recall in the November newsletter, I noted that we had a few open Director positions to fill for 2020. We never did fill the Auction position for the last two years. I hope to have some type of fundraising event sometime next year. Mitchie McCammon, our Conservation Director, will not be returning next year. Patrick Donovan, our Speakers Coordinator, will also not be returning. I would like very much to fill these open positions for the new year. If you have any interest or experience, we could use your help. It's only your participation and support that keeps our club strong and moving forward. So think about it. It's never too late to come on board.

If there is something that you would like the club to do different next year, please let us know. Your input is important to us. So, if you have some thoughts, on any subject, talk to any Officer or Director. We're all ears, so to speak. Well, I've rambled on long enough for now. See you at our next meeting. Remember to keep a tight line and keep on fishing.

Al

Jim Roberts' Fly Fishing Guide Service



Lower Sac Floats, Upper Sac and
McCloud, Klamath River, Steelhead

Tri-Valley FF Special Offer
2nd day is ½ off!

Jim Roberts

916-765-8668 – flyfisherjim@charter.net

2019 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers	
President	Albert Mansky
Vice President	Martin Loomis
Secretary	John Price
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Roger Perry
Directors	
Auction	Open Position
Conservation	Mitchie McCammon
Education	Kent McCammon
Outings	Rob Farris
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Member at Large	Ron Duetgen
Member at Large	Tom Vargas
Membership	Steve Johnson
Newsletter	Mark Spruill
Publicity	Martin Plotkin
Raffle	Gary Phillips
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Patrick Donovan
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
Webmaster	Tom Fessenden

Membership Dues

Dues for most returning members are due January 1st. Our new website will automatically send you renewal reminders. For your convenience (and the club's!), we ask that you pay your dues online. There are no additional fees for paying dues online with a credit card. Please contact Steve Johnson with any questions.

December Speaker – Steve Day

Golden Trout Pack Station

Steve is native to the region and spent his early childhood and young adult life learning how to hunt and fish. He took his first pack trip into the Golden Trout Wilderness to Summit Lake in 1990, fresh out of high school. From that trip on, he knew he wanted to run a [pack station](#).

Steve spent his early years rodeoing and riding bulls, but slowed down eventually to successfully start and operate a landscaping business while running a small cattle operation and a 10-acre orange grove on the side. Steve now manages the pack station May–October and continues to run cattle in the off-season. The one thing Steve loves more than riding trails on his trusty pony, is fishing the Kern.



In the presentation, Steve will cover some history and background on the Golden Trout Wilderness as well as the three heritage and native species you can catch on his trips: the Little Kern Golden, Volcano Creek Golden and Kern River Rainbow. He incorporates years of knowledge and experience on best areas in the fishery, water conditions, flies, gear and much more. He also covers what to expect on a pack trip, what kind of trips he offers and holds a Q & A at the end for any questions.

Join us at 7pm on December 5th at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club to hear his presentation.

Winter Fishing Opportunities Abound

Rob Farris – Events Director

There really is no need to suffer the winter doldrums as there is some great fishing going on right now if you are looking to get out. Whatever your preference, stream, lake, or the delta; for trout, stripers, steelhead or bass, the world is your oyster right now. Just get out those down jackets and gloves.



Want to fish for hard-charging Steelhead?

Did you miss the Club trip to the Trinity? Not to worry! Check out Alan Wyosnick's January 2020 day trips to the Feather River for Steelhead fishing which was just great a year ago. And then follow it up with Martin Plotkin's day trip to the Mokelumne for Steelhead as well. Lots of fish; big fish; fish taking you into your

Backing; and only a day trip away. Hard to beat that. Some fly fishers travel hundreds of miles for these opportunities.

How about some stripers on the delta? Get in contact with Martin Plotkin, Tom Vargas, or Daniel Kitts for some great assistance, and don't miss Bob McCollum's usual trip (TBD) to the San Luis Forebay for big stripers. These guys have the stripers dialed in and if that's your game you have some very knowledgeable guys to provide some great direction for you.

OK, maybe you're a trout guy. Check out our upcoming Lower Yuba River Skwala Hatch workshops in January and February on the river put on by Jon Baiocchi. No one knows the river better, and you'll get a chance to get in on the first big dry fly hatch of the year, and be prepared this year to fish the river's hatch until mid-March. Hard fighting trout on a dry dropper setup and Jon's got the whole program down.

Want to do some trout prospecting on your own and wake a trout or two up? Well, depending on the weather you can fish the Big Truckee, the Little Truckee, the Merced, Baum Lake, the Pit River, Putah Creek (except December-February spawning season), the Upper Sacramento, and the East Walker all year round. Or take a nice leisurely guided float down the lower Sac for a day full of fat rainbows.

Who said the season is closed? Nah, you want to go BIG you say! Then you need to get with Chris McCann, Mark Spruiell, Dennis Rankin, and Bob McCollum (our Club experts) for an upcoming Pyramid Lake outing (TBD) for massive Lahontan cutthroat trout. How big? Like 26-30" ten to fifteen pounders. And they expect fish to exceed 20 pounds this year thanks to all of last year's water. Lots of options at Pyramid: fish on ladders, from shore, or from kayaks and pontoons just offshore. Cold; nah, it's just a state of mind when you have a 15 pounder on the line...

And if you've been waiting to tie into a nice smallmouth, then get in touch with Ken Tetzel and settle in on one of his two trips up to Kistler Bass Ponds in March and April. Nothing like starting the season with some explosive top water hits from an angry smallmouth.

Check out the [Events](#) page on the website and in the newsletter to see what we've got planned and register, or let the Fishmeisters know if you're interested. Get out there and fish hard. And get ready for summer as we have a terrific schedule of diverse outings planned again for this year. Finally, please get in touch with me if you'd like to be the fishmeister for an event, or just open a tag-along trip. I'm always happy to help get more trips on the calendar.

Club Auction – April 2021

Marty Loomis – Vice President

Well, we are going to do it. The club will be having an auction not this coming year in 2020, but the following year in April 2021. There is just not enough time to put it together for this coming year. The reason for announcing it now is that a large part of the auction is member donations. The committee will be looking for donations, new and used, from club members to be included along with vendor donations. So don't throw it out or give it away, I will accept stuff between now and the auction. Periodically I will be putting something into the newsletter to remind everyone and get everyone excited. This is our biggest money maker for TVFF to help fund the club's conservation activities and other club expenses.

Outings and Activities

Some of our outings are described below. Please visit the [Event Calendar](#) on the TVFF website for a complete list of all upcoming meetings, outings and activities.

Events and Outings for the New Year

Rob Farris

Well, it's a new one again and many of our Fishmeisters have been busy setting up trips for the coming year, so take a close look at the Events page of our website beginning 12/6/2019 to register for any events that seem appealing to you. Remember that all registration is done via our website and that registration is on a first come, first served basis with payment and individual cancellation policies that apply (see below).



What's new?

Bundled event drop: This year we are attempting to introduce as many outings as possible in a bundle and open up them twice a year (December and April) rather than individually during the year, which should reduce the number of emails that you receive from the Club throughout the year. Our first drop of events will occur December 6, 2019 at 9am and the entire Club will be notified via an email that registration is now open. Keep your eye out for our first half 2020 email notification on the 6th.

New 2020 cancellation policy: Make sure that you review our new individual cancellation policy which is on the [Events](#) home page, as well as on each individual event. While you may cancel, you are also responsible for finding a replacement if you do so that you won't be responsible for payment.

Weekday and separate weekend trips: We are a diverse Club with members that have widely different needs and objectives (families, working roles, volunteer commitments, retirees, etc.) that dictate their involvement. As such we are attempting this year to create dual events (one on the weekend and one during the week) when possible, as an experiment for the year. Additionally, we are attempting to structure events that can overlap the weekend so members can attend all days (maybe Friday through Monday), or just weekends that meet with their personal schedules, as an example. We won't be able to integrate this into all of our events due to guide restrictions, water availability, housing accommodation issues and others, but our attempt this year is to implement this structure and test it for our members for suitability as much as possible.

Annual Fishmeister thank you award: We highly value the commitments and efforts that our Fishmeisters contribute to make their events successful for everyone in the Club. I'm always looking for new and unusual events so if you have any suggestions and would contemplate being a Fishmeister, please let me know. Beginning at the February meeting we will award an annual gift via a raffle pull to thank one of this year's Fishmeisters. Events and outings are the lifeblood of our Club and we highly encourage new Fishmeisters to sign up for an event to share, and participate in the drawing at the end of the year. It is a gratifying commitment to give back to the club, and if you'd like to get involved please contact me to help you to understand and plan a trip for the benefit of all members.

Fly Tiers Meeting – December 2

This month we will give and get tips on the use and application of dubbing. If you know a cool way to use dubbing you can share it with the group. In the second half of the meeting, we will be tying a large stimulator pattern to imitate the October caddis.

Materials: Bring natural and synthetic dubbing in any color, but orange will be needed for the stimulator. If you do not have orange, Rob Fletcher always shares. TMC R200 or any 3XL dry fly hook sizes 8-12. Orange or burnt orange thread. For tail and wing, elk in natural, cream or brown. For body, natural or synthetic dubbing in orange. For rib and hackle, brown or furnace and grizzly.

See page 9 for more information.

International Sportsmen's Expo – January 16-19

The [ISE at CalExpo in Sacramento](#) is billed as California's largest annual gathering for anglers, hunters, boaters, offroaders and others seeking outdoor adventures nearby or around the world. It's worth a day trip even if you're only interested in checking out the offerings related to fly fishing.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 21-23

The [Fly Fishing Show](#) returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds and never fails to provide interesting seminars and lots of exhibitors willing to take your money. The show schedule is not up on their website yet but tickets for the show as well as for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4) are available now. Also make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

Member Reports

Mexico Madness – Don Jower

Six great days at Palapas Ventana Lodge on the Sea of Cortez. We spent three days in Mag Bay on the Isla Magdalena in a small fishing village. Fishing was great, caught several species, but the main fish were Yellow Tail which we caught between 40-50 each day. Then back to the Lodge where we concentrated on Dorado (Mahi Mahi). The Dorado were cooperative and the four of us each caught at least 10 each from 5 to 30 pounds. Next year 12 weights and we will go to the meatballs for Marlin and Wahoo.

Waiting for Tarzan – Marty Loomis

So, there we were, in the hot steamy jungles of Brazil waiting for Tarzan and his trusty sidekick Cheeta, to carry our bags to the mothership where our Amazonian adventure on the Rio Negro river would begin. Unfortunately, neither Tarzan nor Cheeta ever showed up, (oops wrong continent) so we had to carry our own bags and start our adventure without them.



Three members of TVFF, Rob Fletcher, Robert Nishio, and Marty Loomis, joined Jim Broadbent (right) on his bucket-list trip, fishing for the beautiful and elusive

Peacock Bass, and elusive it was but more on that later. The four of us left Miami and flew to Manaus, Brazil just south of the Equator (I guess that explains why it was so damn hot and humid) and where the Amazon and the Rio Negro rivers join. From there by charter plane to the small riverside village of Barcelos, to join up with the 108 foot long, 40 foot wide Eyruna (the mothership) that would be our home for the next week along with eight additional anglers from around the United States. Not 5-star but real close to it. As a side note, also on our trip was Landon Mayer, Colorado guide, author, fly show presenter and vendor ambassador, who was there to fish and to do a photo shoot for Scientific Angler and R.L. Winston.



The Rio Negro is an incredibly beautiful and vast bio-rich rain-forest ecosystem teaming with all kinds of wildlife. We saw monkeys, macaws, cockatoos, caiman, snakes, pink dolphins which were a total pain in the butt, but surprisingly very few mosquitoes. It truly looked like something from the old Tarzan movies with vines and towering trees that any moment you expected to see him swinging thru the trees howling. Probably one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to. Now on to the fishing part. The following two paragraphs were written by Gary Bulla, our trip host, but describes the fishing best.

Fishing the Amazon is water flow affected, with high water allowing the fish to spread out into the jungle making catch rates drop. September through January is normally the “dry” season. On this trip, we got more than our fair share of rain and the water levels were not dropping. In rainy season the water can get 15 to 20 feet higher than we were experiencing. It’s impossible to predict the weather but not the rich, colorful beauty of the Amazon! (In other words, their weather is just as screwed up as ours-ML).

Our mothership moved to a different anchorage each day while we were out fishing. Casting nine and ten weights with intermediate and sink tip lines, and big colorful flies was challenging. Putting the flies as close as

possible to the base of trees, shorelines and other cover where the peacock bass wait to ambush prey is the goal. "En Gato" meant someone's fly was caught in a tree or on an underwater stick or root. It was said and heard often. If one was not occasionally hooked, then one wasn't fishing close enough to the hideouts. Thank you Gary Bulla.

Actual fish caught and landed was like fishing in our home waters, some days were better than others in total numbers. Each of us would land between 0 to nine in a day. Steelhead have been referred to as the fish of a thousand casts, trying to catch a peacock bass can easily surpass that. But we all caught fish and some fantastic memories and pictures to prove it.

If you are ever looking for an incredible Peacock Bass adventure, I would highly recommend Michael Williams and his company Nomadic Waters. They are the premier fly-fishing outfitter on the Rio Negro and have been in business for the past six seasons. Very professionally ran, friendly, wonderful crew and guides, great food and accommodations (air conditioned!!!!). From the time we landed in Manaus to the time leaving, everything was taken care of and very well coordinated.



Gary Bulla and his company, GARY BULLA Flyfishing Adventures, will be at the show in February and will be representing Nomadic Waters. Stop by and say hi.

P.S. I had one day where I out-fished both Mike Williams and Landon Mayer. Just saying...

The Tier's Bench

Monthly Club Get Together

Monday, December 2nd, 2019 from 7-9pm at the Rod and Gun Club; small room next to the BBQ area.

This is a monthly get together where members can drop in and participate in discussions, learn skills, or tie flies. During each meeting we decide what subject will be discussed the following month.

Fly Tiers Library and Trading Post (LTP)

Most fly tiers, like me, have materials which would probably last several life-times. Often, to tie a new fly, we need a small amount of material which means buying some from the net, which may arrive next week, or jumping in the car for an hour+ drive to a fly shop in the area.

To remedy this, we are creating the LTP. The LTP has 2 resources: the Library for getting small amounts of material (a couple of feathers, small swatch of hair, etc.) and the Trading Post for exchanging your excess with others. Here are the details of how it will work. Both the library and Trading Post are only available to members.



Library: The library will be supported by donations of fly tying material from members. The material will be packaged in gallon sized zip locks with colored labels about the contents. Any member may take a small amount of material for a project and make a modest donation (\$1 min). The donations will be used to buy supplies and, if any is left over, other material for the library.

Trading Post: The trading post allows members to exchange excess tying material for other material. Any member may submit a gallon sized zip-lock bag with the material along with a very brief description to Jim Broadbent. Jim will assess a point value to the material based on his experience (Jim's decision is final). The material will be labeled with a different colored label than the library. Members may exchange their points for material in the trading post. Martin Plotkin will arrange for the LTP to show up at all general, board and fly tying meetings. It can also be accessed by special arrangement made with Martin.

LTP kicks off, at the meeting, on Thursdays so bring your Trades and Donations.

Upper Green Valley Creek Fish Passage Project – Mitchie McCammon

The [Russian River](#) drains 1,485 square miles, including much of Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and is home to endangered coho and threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. In fact, the river's once vibrant coho and steelhead runs earned it a reputation as a premiere recreational fishing destination. But by 2000, coho salmon were virtually extinct from the river and the remaining habitats are badly degraded.

Heavy demand for and competing uses of the river's water adds to the stress on fish. As a valuable resource for Sonoma and Mendocino County agriculture and viticulture, as well as domestic water supply, water extraction from the river and tributaries can leave fish stranded during periods of critical demand in the spring, summer, and early fall. Russian River Valley communities are also impacted by frequent flooding. Steep hills and numerous canyons make accurate rainfall predictions and flood forecasts difficult.¹

Green Valley Creek, a major tributary to the lower Russian River, provides critical habitat for remnant native populations of coho salmon and steelhead trout, particularly in its upper portions. The Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (CDFG, 2004) identified the Guerneville HSA as having the highest ranking (level 5) for restoration and management potential in the CCC Coho ESU, while NMFS' CCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan identified Green Valley Creek as a Phase I Priority area, with a goal for near-term population recovery. Green Valley Creek was one of only three Russian River tributaries in which coho salmon were recorded in the early 2000s. Thus, it has been a focus watershed for DFW's coho recovery program, for the Russian River Coho Water Resources Partnership, and for the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program. The Broodstock Program has been stocking juvenile coho into Green Valley Creek (including the reach that contains the project site) since 2006.

While holding high potential for salmonid recovery, the Green Valley Creek Watershed continues to face a number of potential limiting factors to fisheries success, including sedimentation, channel incision, and fish passage barriers. CDFW has documented a decline in salmonid habitat conditions in the Upper Green Valley system, and this decline has been accompanied by a collapse in both coho and steelhead populations. Previous studies, culminating in the Green Valley Creek Watershed Management Plan Phase II Draft (GRRCD, 2013) have evaluated habitat impairments and potential limiting factors to fisheries success and have pointed to the impact of instream fish passage barriers (GRRCD, 2013; CDFG 1995, 2006; Laurel Marcus and Associates 2002; Merritt Smith 2003).

This project restored fish passage and stabilized the grade through a 600-ft stream reach of Upper Green Valley Creek (a tributary to the Russian River), resulting in passage for juvenile and adult coho salmon to an additional 4,810 ft (0.9 miles) of rearing and spawning habitat. The Green Valley Creek Watershed has a high potential for salmonid recovery, but sedimentation, channel incision, and fish passage barriers have limited the success of fisheries. This has been illustrated by a documented decline in fish habitat in the Upper Green Valley System by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and accompanied by a collapse in both coho and steelhead populations.²

¹ <https://www.habitatblueprint.noaa.gov/habitat-focus-areas/russian-river-california/>

² <https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/2017-projects>

The goal of the project is to restore fish passage and stabilize the grade through a 600-ft stream reach of Upper Green Valley Creek, thereby ensuring passage for juvenile and adult coho to an additional 4,810 ft of rearing and spawning habitat.

This is a highly visible project site (adjacent to a county road) and involved outreach to the community through project signage, social media updates, and newsletter articles. Additionally, riparian restoration of the 600-ft, 1.1-acre disturbed corridor was conducted by Point Blue Conservation Science's environmental education program, Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW). The project will serve as an educational site and hands-on restoration experience for grade school classes through the program. A post-construction project tour was conducted for members of the public, which was also attended by staff from CDFW, NOAA, County supervisorial staff, as well as state legislative staff. Five local school groups assisted with riparian vegetation planting.

The California Fish Passage Forum provided funding to this project in 2017, and the project was completed in July 2018. Monitoring and boulder weir maintenance is ongoing, and the Point Blue Conservation Science's environmental education program, STRAW, will maintain the plantings for three years after installation.³

Education

Kent McCammon

The Tri-Valley Flyfishers will be launching our Instructional Courses for 2020 this month. The Entomology class returns in March for a second year by popular demand while an expanded Flyfishing Fundamentals Class starts up in April. Please check the [website](#) for dates, tuition, and online registration to secure your seat. An email blast will be sent to all members notifying them when registration opens. The Fly Tying Meeting held on the first Monday of the month returns again, as well and the guest Fly Tyer's meeting held at the January 2nd Club Meeting. Opportunities for those who want to volunteer to hold a pre-meeting skills clinic or start a new class can please send me a note or talk to me at the meeting!

This month, I want to give thanks to all the members who have volunteered their time to develop the curriculum, draft the instructional materials, and teach the classes over the years. When I took the Education Director position over five years ago, I was helped by Derrell Bridgeman, Hal Wilson, Martin Plotkin, Ken Javorsky, Bart Hughes, Jim Broadbent and Daniel Kitts, who had put time into the slide deck and served as instructors. More help arrived as the years went on with Gary Turri, Chris McCann, Rob Farris, Marty Loomis, Tom Vargas, Ken Gotelli, Alan Wyosnick, and Gary Prince. I thank those mentioned and those members I may have missed naming that have offered their time and expertise to help others to grow their skills at all levels in their respective journey in flyfishing. I am truly thankful for my friends made among the members of the Tri-Valley Flyfishers.

³ <http://www.fishhabitat.org/waters-to-watch/detail/upper-green-valley-creek-california>

Items for Sale

Rods for Sale – Martin Plotkin

1. Sage 14', 8WT Spey Rod w/RIO Skaget Line (hardly used) - \$150
2. Cabela 9', 3WT - \$40 (barely used)
3. Wright McGill 9', 8WT, BRIGHT Blue (good bass rod) - \$40

Contact Martin – angler@outlook.com

Fly Lines for Sale (lines are new in box or like new condition)

1. RIO Bonefish WF-7. \$50
2. RIO In-Touch Salmon/Steelhead WF-7. \$50
3. SA GPX WF-9. \$45

Contact Gary – gjturri@comcast.net or (925) 786-5184 cell

Gear Collection – Todd McDaniel

New	2018 Simms G3 Stocking foot Waders, Size LL 9-11 Foot, Cinder Color	\$420.00
New	Fishpond Summit Sling Bag, Gravel Color	\$65.00
New	Galvan Torque 8 Reel, Bronze	\$330.00
Used	Galvan Torque 6 Reel, Green. Some rash and nicks but fully functional	\$200.00

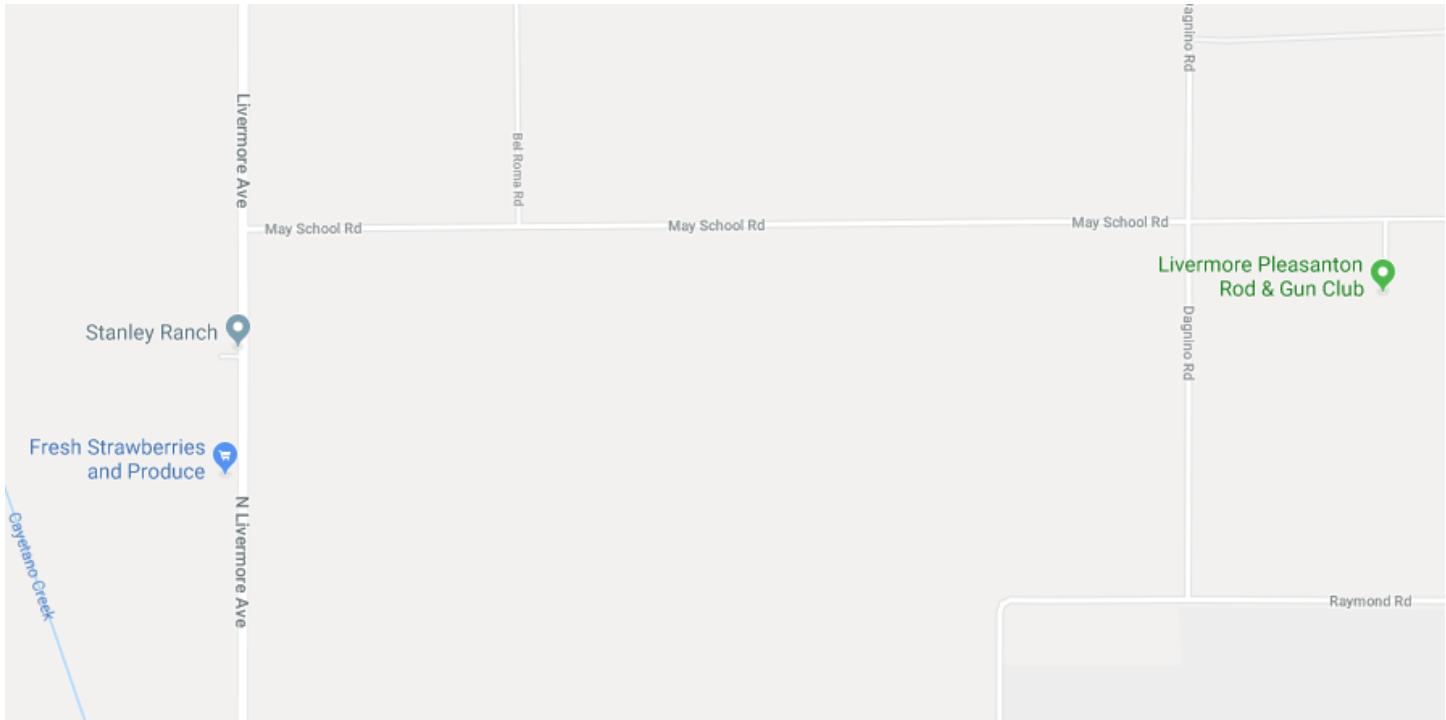
Contact Todd – 925-588-6388 cell



Directions

We meet at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club at 7pm, typically on the first Thursday of every month. Check the club's [event calendar](#) for upcoming meeting dates.

Click the map for Google Map directions to 4000 Dagnino Road:



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

