

The Barbless Hook

May 2019

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Greetings fellow TVFF's,

The weather has improved greatly since March. I got out on April 20th to do some bass fishing at Kistler Pond. The fishing was much better than my last trip out there on March 13th, although I could have done without the wind. I bought a new pontoon boat last year and I still haven't put in the water. I would feel a lot more comfortable in it, if it wasn't for the wind blowing so hard. I landed four bass, one was a good sixteen inches. Gary Prince landed a nice one and has the picture to prove it. Dan Kitts also caught two bass in the twenty inch range. I think most of the guys who were out there had a successful day of fishing.

The winds were really blowing through the Altamont Pass on Saturday. I didn't need the highway signs indicating high wind warning, I could tell by the way my truck was weaving back and forth. Thanks, Ken for fishmeistering this outing. I think it is was an overall success.

On Thursday, May 2nd at our monthly club meeting we will have Bill Scharninghausen giving us a presentation on fishing for Shad. That's one fish that I have never gone fishing for and targeted specifically. I'm looking forward to the presentation and hopefully someday I'll actually fish the Delta for Shad. I hope most of you are taking advantage of the nice weather we're having and getting a little fishing in. I look forward to some of your recent fishing stories being published in our monthly newsletter as well as at our May club meeting.



Tom Vargas with a fish from the Bitterroot River in Montana.

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Considering Eric's accident last month and all the high water we expect to encounter, please review Rob's article about wading safety on page 11. Be careful out there!

Till next time. Tight lines and let's hear those reels sing.

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
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Past President	Roger Perry

Directors

Auction	Open Position
Conservation	Mitchie McCammon
Education	Kent McCammon
Outings	Rob Farris
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
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Member at Large	Tom Vargas
Membership	Steve Johnson
Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Publicity	Martin Plotkin
Raffle	Gary Phillips
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Patrick Donovan
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
Webmaster	Tom Fessenden

2019 Membership Fees Due

Membership renewal dues are now due and payable: \$40 if paid before the February 2019 meeting, \$45 thereafter. Checks (preferred) and cash will be accepted. See Steve Johnson.

The club's mailing address is:

TVFF
PO Box 2358
Livermore, CA 94551

May Speaker – Bill Scharninghausen

Fishing for Shad

Bill Scharninghausen has been fly fishing for over 40 years. He got his start fly fishing for trout in the high Sierras as a youngster on backpack trips with his parents. A California native, Bill has fished all over the Golden State in pursuit of trout, bass, stripers, shad and numerous surf-zone species. In addition, Bill has fished across the US perusing everything from trout to tarpon. Bill was a member of the pro staff at the former California Fly Shop where he was a frequent presenter on such far-ranging topics as Tenkara, fishing the California surf, still water stripers, High Sierra trout fishing and many other



presentations. In addition, Bill was the head fly tying instructor at the shop and enjoys teaching beginners on tying their own flies. Bill is a frequent presenter and guide for many of the Bay Area's fishing clubs.

Does he have a favorite fish or place to fish? "Well that's a hard one to answer! Probably stripers in the Delta and tarpon are my current favorites. However I fish a very special creek in the central Sierras which has a very healthy population of wild brown trout that has probably never seen another angler. It's my "Curtis Creek" and shall remain nameless. It's my all-time favorite!"

Join us on Thursday May 2nd for Bill's presentation on shad fishing!

Outings and Activities

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

Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge – Summer

Share your Fly Fishing Knowledge with Scouts Plus BIG BASS Fishing...

Ever wanted to be able to spend a few days fly fishing for 5-8 lb. largemouth bass on a lake that doesn't see any fishing pressure and being the only person on the lake getting access to the nooks and crannies where the large bass are lurking? And, on top of that having a comfortable place to stay, three meals a day and a boat provided...

You just have to help teach the Boy Scout (BSA) Fly Fishing Merit Badge during a few hours each day.

Since 2014 we have helped the BSA put on a Fly Fishing Merit Badge program at their Wente Scout Reservation Summer Camp located in Willits, CA.



Private lake full of BIG BASS.

The details are simple. There are eight one-week sessions beginning each Sunday starting June 16th. The Merit Badge is taught Monday through Thursday of each week with one class in the morning and another in the afternoon covering different parts of the merit badge each day. Each week teams of 3-4 women and men fly fishers go to the camp. Some volunteer a few days and others have gone up several weeks.

Where does the Big Bass Fishing come in? The Wente Reservation Camp has their own 75-acre lake with lots of 5+ lb. bass and as a volunteer you have the opportunity to fish it anytime you're not teaching the class. In one evening I caught 15 bass in the 3-8 lb. range.

In addition to the fishing you get the personal satisfaction of teaching some young people the art of Fly Fishing, seeing them tie their first fly or catching their first fish. Eighty five percent of the scouts come from the greater Bay Area so your efforts are impacting local youth. During the 2018 program 160 Scouters participated.

If you want more details or to be included in future communications on this fun adventure, please call me at 510-816-2846 or e-mail me at dckitts@aol.com.

Daniel Kitts

Stewart's Lodge B.C. Outing – June 30-July 7

This is a trout fishing trip to Stewart's Lodge on Nimpo Lake in British Columbia, 250 miles NNW of Vancouver. The week includes six days of fly-out fishing to lakes and rivers, including the Dean River.

Estimated cost is \$2,900 Cdn, or approximately \$2,175 US at the current rate.

Package does not include license, gear, guides, liquor, taxes, gratuities and transportation from Bay Area to the lodge.

Contact Don Jower to sign up or ask questions:

djowerclay1@gmail.com

510-735-5167



The lodge provides 12 to 14 foot boats with 3hp to 8hp motors.



Private log cabins on Nimpo Lake with hot showers, toilets, two double beds, linens, daily maid service and three meals a day.



Fish cleaning, smoking and vacuum packing services available.

Mexico Madness Ocean Fishing Outing – October 30-November 6

This is a broad based guided fishing excursion across two resorts in Baja Mexico with fishing for snook, mangrove snapper, bonefish, grouper, jacks, marlin, tuna, Dorado, rooster, wahoo, and cabrilla pargo.

Cost including all food and accommodations is \$1,980 per person, not including airfare, drinks, airport shuttle, licenses, and guide tips. All lodging and food is provided as is daily guide services.

Contact Don Jower to sign up or ask questions:

djowerclay1@gmail.com

510-735-5167



Trip Reports

Bitterroot River – Tom Vargas

I made an annual trip to the Bitterroot River near Missoula, Montana between April 4th and 9th. We fished three days with guides on different sections of the river. The weather was a mix of occasional sun and frequent showers. The Skwala hatch was not as good as past years and the water was on the rise, affecting the bite.



Pyramid Lake – Dennis Rankin

The fishing has been slow and spotty this year. As April rolled around the moss began to grow very rapidly and it made stripping a little more work requiring to check and clean the flies after each cast. Indicator fishing will continue through the end of the season June 30. The season will open again October 1st. If you are planning to go for the opening couple of weeks it is recommended to make reservations for the RV Park and at Crosby's.

The fish tended to be larger this year and with the catch and release and the good management practices it should get better. It is amazing to catch a 4 pound trout and be disappointed with his size. The lake has both the Summit and the Pilot Peak species of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. The Summits (below left) are the beautiful bright colored ones and the Pilot Peak (below right) are more like our steelhead. Fishing during October is generally done more from floating devices (float tubes, pontoons, kayaks and boats). If you have further interest contact Chris McCann, Dennis Rankin or one of the several members who are pulled to this great fishery each year.



Baum Lake – Mark Spruiell

I spent a day and a half on Baum Lake in mid-April. The weather was decent with temperatures ranging from the low 30s to around 70. I managed to land a total of 16, including a new personal best on this lake of a 23" rainbow. Stripping an olive wiggle tail on an intermediate line near the shore was the most productive technique for me on this trip.



Pyramid Lake – Ken Tetzl

A fair weekend at Pyramid Lake on April 5-7. My son Alex and I fished for 2.5 days and each of us had one good day with 8-10 trout landed. A mediocre day with only 3-4 fish landed and a bad day with only 1 landed!! We both had a fair share of hookups and lost another 10 trout. We each managed to land a few 8-9 lb trout. The weather wasn't too good (not windy enough) but had a blast none-the-less.

Kistler Ponds – Ken Tetzl

Kistler Ponds on the club fishout, April 20th, was so-so also. I landed 13 bass and 1 bluegill. All on top, except one, with an olive popper. Talked to a few guys and the catch seemed fairly slow although some fairly big bass were caught. I managed to land two in the 17-18" range, late in the day @5:30. Good jumpers too! Weather in this case was WAY too windy. Missed some good weather by a day. Oh Well.....

Kistler Ponds – Bob McCollum

Pictures from the April outing.



Veterans First Event



Thank You Tri-Valley Fly Fishers, your financial support of \$100 was put to very good use in helping defray the overall cost of the event. More importantly your members that participated made the event the success it was. And from the veteran's comments, the VA staff as well as the other volunteers, the event was a fantastic event! We had 28 volunteers from Flycasters of San Jose, Mission Peak Fly Anglers, Tracy Fly Fishers and Tri-Valley Fly Fishers – Wow what terrific people!

We had (35) veterans all totaled:
(12) from Livermore VA Community Living Center (CLC).
(10) from Menlo Park VA Community Living Center (CLC).
(10) from Menlo Park 1st Step program (Addiction Rehabilitation).

The rest were from outpatient programs who are using the VA and their Recreational Therapists to find alternative means of recreation vs. unhealthy forms of recreation.

Unfortunately, the catching was not as good as it would seem it could have been. The truck that delivered the 1,200 lbs. of fish, brought them in a tank truck where the water temperature was reported to be 56 deg. F, and the heat of the previous week created a lake temperature of 68 deg. F., resulting in a huge shock to the fish – reportedly there was a (75) fish die off on the day before, and another (15) on Friday (the day of our event).

Here are a few of the pictures of some of the very nice fish that were netted.



A 5½ lb fish



A 6 lb fish



Another 5+ lb fish



A 2 lb fish

All with some very happy veterans, some of who never caught a fish with a fly rod before!

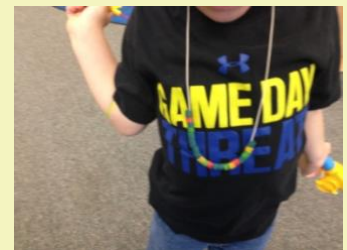
Don't Throw Away Your Old Fly Lines, Recycle Them

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



The Tier's Bench

Monthly Club Get Together

Monday, May 6th, 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.

Next meeting:

Monday, June 3rd, 2019 from 7-9pm

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.

Stream Safety and Wading Tips – Rob Farris

Well, we are definitely into the normal high water situation for this time of year. So what's an angler to do; wait until July to fish, or tackle the high water? We have a [workshop](#) on May 18th designed just to educate everyone on how to be successful in fishing in the high water with Jon Baiocchi with several openings left. That's fully described on the website, so no need to go into that here.



But a major issue is how to protect yourself and stay safe in high water, and in the currents the rest of the year when you are fishing. We have already had one accident at the Club this year, so let's try and stay safe with some education on wading safety.

There is a worthwhile blog up now on the Trout Unlimited blog on this topic, and I'm going to recap some of the more interesting suggestions that can help you while wading when you get into the water. We will post extended versions of several articles regarding safety on the TVFF website (on the side panel of the Education page under Wading Safety tips) that we highly recommend that you review. The complete articles from Orvis and the renowned Ralph Cutter, who is also a fully certified paramedic and Emergency Rescue Mountain Technician, are available there as well as many TU blog entries on safety suggestions and personal experiences.

The key elements to remember for safe wading include the following points, which are all discussed in much more detail on our [website](#):

Minimum beginnings. Felt soles are minimum wading equipment on your shoes in rocky rivers. Studs and cleats will increase the security of your shoes on rocky surfaces, and with the banning of felt on some waters we suggest rubber soles with studs or cleats.

A Wading Staff; Get one! A wading staff is an indispensable piece of equipment when wading conditions are difficult, giving you a vital, third point of support. The third point of support will make all wading easier by letting you maintain two points of contact while one foot is making a stride.

Give 'em a belt. A wading belt is mandatory when using waders. It will slow the flow of water into the legs and boots of your waders and make escape from the river easier.

Go slow. This has broader implications than you may think. It obviously includes being careful while wading, but also encompasses taking time to evaluate current conditions and particularly to evaluate conditions when you are visiting unfamiliar rivers or locations. When entering the river and moving through the water, make your moves slow and controlled to minimize the risk of falling.

Stand firm. Create a wide base to stand on when you are on a slippery surface. Widen your stance so your feet are shoulder-width apart; flex your knees to lower your center of gravity. Learn to slide your feet and, as with other athletic activities, never cross your feet.

The mechanism that usually makes you fall is having your foot slip under you, or toward the center of your body. By having your feet wide apart your slipping foot tends to shift your center of balance to the opposite foot.

Step sideways. In shallow water, less than knee deep, you may be able to walk "normally" with a modified, wide stance. As water gets deeper and footing becomes obscured by water depth or turbidity sidestepping will maintain a wide, stable base. NEVER cross your feet while stepping!

Go with the flow. It's easier and safer to move at a slight downstream angle with the current than move directly across or against the current. There is often a trick to finding the balance between shallow water with fast current and deeper water with a slower current. Either situation can be disastrous, knocking you down and sweeping you into faster, deeper water, so test the current as you proceed. This is the perfect place to use a wading staff..

While fishing, you will often want to move upstream. Take advantage of slower current while fishing upstream. Move through shallower water or use current breaks behind boulders. Always approach moving water with a great deal of caution until you know your capabilities.

Move ahead. Try to make your movements sideways or forward. Your balance and recovery are better in these directions, where you can see well.

Choose your substrate. Sand and gravel bottoms are usually secure and safe bottoms to wade on. Cobbles are more difficult because there are irregular surfaces to deal with and the surface of each cobble is an algae-covered, zero-friction trap looking for a victim. Next up the difficulty list is boulders. Once you learn to recognize these substrates they may give you an opportunity to move aggressively from a tenuous position to absolute security.

Mud bottoms may seem safe, but they also hold many pitfalls. Firm mud or clay bottoms are very slippery with felt soles. If the bottom is flat, you probably won't fall, but be careful that you don't get stuck and have difficulty climbing out of the stream.

The most treacherous bottom type is bedrock. These are areas with large surfaces of solid rock that have been polished smooth by eons of water erosion. The obvious problem is the large slippery surface.

Plan your escape and exit. This starts before you even enter the river. Should you even be wading here? What will you do if you fall in?

Final safety considerations. A personal floatation device is necessary for waders that can't swim and may be a good investment for anyone in big rivers and cold water. Both CO2 inflatable suspenders and solid, kapok-filled vests can be found in stores selling whitewater gear. A whistle is one of a mountaineer's 10 essentials and is an excellent safety item for waders to carry for emergency location as well.

TVFF Classes

TVFF periodically offers the classes described below. Click the link for each class to see more information and to register your interest.

Fly Fishing Fundamentals

Our popular Fundamentals class is perfect for new members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. The three-part course consists of two evenings of classroom instruction and one Saturday outdoor session with certified FFI casting instructors.

The class agenda is a comprehensive one that incorporates all of the necessary essentials to become a proficient fly fisher, and to enjoy participating in club outings. At the conclusion of the class a beginner will be well-prepared for advancing to the fishing activity of their choice.



Pictures from our recent Fundamentals class.

Entomology

The Entomology class gives beginners and intermediates a detailed understanding of aquatic “bug” types and characteristics to help improve their fly fishing success. The four-part course consists of three evening classroom sessions and a morning of on-stream practical experience on a nearby stream.

Casting

TVFF offers extensive instruction in fly rod casting for all levels as introductory, refresher, and advanced classes. Each course is taught by a certified instructor for about a three-hour period. Rods and reels can be provided by the club, or students can use their own rods as well. Multiple courses are available including back to basics, improved accuracy and loop control, single and double haul, shooting heads and sinking lines.

Items for Sale

Fly lines for Sale – All lines are new condition – \$50.00 each

1. SA Mastery Expert Distance WF6 Orange color
2. SA Mastery Expert Distance WF7 Orange color
3. SA Amplitude Smooth Bonefish WF8
4. Rio Bonefish WF7
5. Rio Tarpon WF10

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	Lamson Speedster 2 Reel, Silver, Includes Neoprene Case	\$175.00
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

Dr. Slick Spring Creek 5-inch curved clamp

Gold color, asking \$12. Contact Ron Grady – 925-336-0803 – rongradyrph@gmail.com

Spey Rod - Sage TCX 8119-4 (4pc 8wt 11'-9")

Brand new never used, retails for \$850.00. Asking \$400.00 send me an offer

Contact Joe Cerniglia – sawmilllake@sbcglobal.net

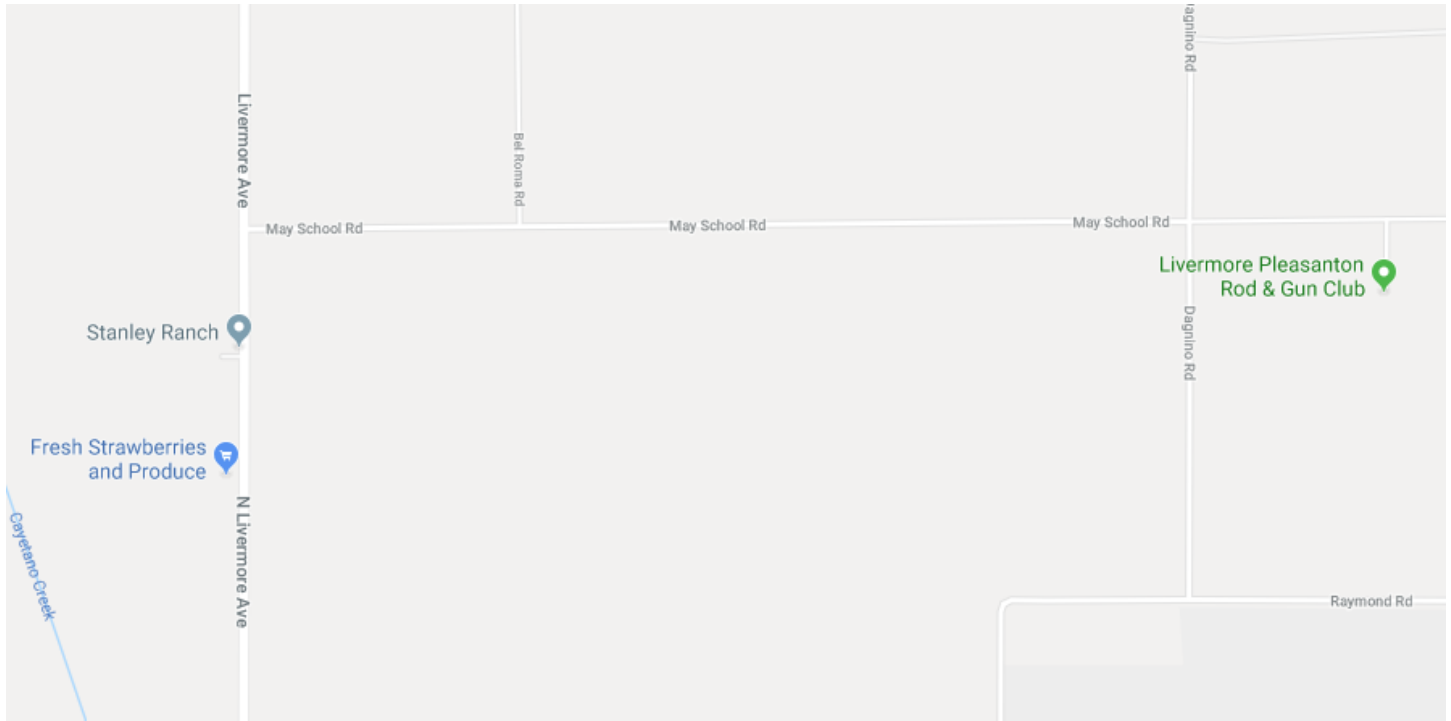
Spey Rod - Sage FLi 8140-4 (4pc 8wt 14')

Includes Rio Skaget Line, 15ft Skaget Floating Tip and 5ft Skaget Cheater Tip for Sale. The equipment is all in very good condition. \$175 for all or best offer – open to trades. For more information, to see the equipment, and try it out or to buy it contact Martin Plotkin at angler@outlook.com.

Directions

We meet at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7pm.

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

