

The Barbless Hook

April 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals,

As you all are aware the Coronavirus has had a major impact on all of our lives here in California. Even though we are under orders to "shelter in place" in our homes, there is still a silver lining in all of this. Gas prices are coming down and we can still enjoy the outdoors to some extent. Even though the Diablo Valley Fishing Club has elected to cancel all of their indoor and outdoor events, I have decided to go forward, where possible, with those outings that are scheduled and paid for by our members. Although the Pyramid Lake outing was cancelled, the Kistler bass pond outing is still going to be held on March 28th and hopefully the one scheduled in April also. I did a lot of soul searching as to whether or not to cancel the Kistler outing. But I decided to "go for it". I'm tired of being stuck at home and I need to get outdoors. I believe if we follow the guidelines set out by the State and Federal Government and we behave as responsible people, we can continue to enjoy what we like to do best and that is fish. Like the old saying goes "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

I wanted to get out earlier this past week and fish the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, but the Contra Costa Water District, which owns the lake, closed the lake down due to the Coronavirus. On the bright side, the East Bay Regional Parks are still open to fishing. So there are still some fishing opportunities available locally, if you don't want to travel.

On a side note. Talk about getting ripped off. I had a circuit breaker go out in my electrical sub panel this week. I had no power in my family room. I could have



Illustration by [Gripless](#)

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replaced the breaker myself, but Home Depot was closed, so I couldn't purchase a replacement breaker. I called Maine Electric to come out on Saturday to replace what I diagnosed as a faulty breaker. It cost me \$250 to just have him come through the door and spend five minutes replacing the breaker. All is well, it was a faulty breaker. Even a plumber doesn't charge that kind of money to repair a leak, just to come to the house to diagnose the problem. At least I don't think so. It was worth the \$250, just to get my wife off my back. I think, maybe, some of you can relate to my predicament.

As you know, I had to cancel all of our "indoor" events for the months of March and April. The Livermore Rod and Gun Club had to close down their facility, as mandated by the state. This event happened after I decided to cancel our monthly meetings.

I hope the recent events that we are all experiencing doesn't get you down too much. Like all events, this one will pass into history, in due time. In the meantime, keep your chin up and be safe. If you are able to, get outdoors and do some fishing. It's better to go fishing than sitting around the house and feeling helpless.

Al

2020 TVFF Board of Directors

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Secretary	John Price
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Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell

April Meeting – CANCELED

Our April club meeting is canceled. Please check our website for the status of our May meeting.

New Members!

Some new members have joined TVFF recently. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to these folks when you get a chance and make them feel welcome.

- Jeff Prokosch
- Hensen Wong

Welcome!



Outings Update with Coronavirus Closures – Rob Farris (and what to do now while access is closed...)

We have had a few questions on the upcoming trips based on the current Covid-19 conditions that I want to update from my earlier email.

Only a few of the trips (Kistler) are still on for those interested, and all of our classes are postponed until we get improved guidance from the CDC. Of course, we encourage you to follow the CDC guidelines by staying a minimum of six feet of distance between everyone attending. The three lakes for Kistler #2 on April 25th are quite substantial in size so there shouldn't be a spacing problem. We ask that everyone honor the well-publicized guidelines, assuming that we continue with that outing, which is still under discussion. For those attending for the first time, we could stand well over 200 feet apart and still have excess room between anglers, so there is plenty of room to accommodate us. Kistler should provide a good alternative for outdoor exercise for those of us that are currently sheltering in place (and going stir crazy). Please enjoy your time on the lakes safely and ensure that you are following the state and county guidelines for the protection of all.

If you do not feel comfortable in attending an outing, the Club will make a temporary exception on event cancellations and be happy to return what you've already paid for an event. Club treasurer Chris McCann will arrange for that if you contact him directly after you cancel. If you do cancel, please contact me by email and I will cancel you out of the trip.

Now on to what is happening elsewhere regarding our streams and lakes.

Current Closures

- Pyramid Lake, Putah Creek, almost all Yolo County parks and fishing access
- All East Bay Parks, including Shadow Cliffs
- All California state parks to vehicular traffic
- All California state park campgrounds
- All Colorado rivers and lakes
- All Washington state recreational fishing on public waters
- State of Montana is still open, but you must adhere to their social distancing guidelines (at right)

Most all Fly Shops are closed for walk-in business but taking online orders and "to-go" orders. Try to support them in this period as they operate on a shoestring so if you need any supplies, now would be a good time to order those.

Overall the State of California has not closed rivers and lakes on a statewide basis (as yet), but those in individual counties and cities may be closed under local jurisdiction. Check before you go.



What to do to stay in the game?

- Reno Fly Shop podcasts, such as [this update on the Truckee River](#) improving fish counts by Travis Hawks from the State of Nevada
- WetFlySwing podcasts. Lots of podcasts are available and [here's the latest by Paul Beel of Frankenfish](#) with a podcast on his often bizarre fly tying creations.
- MidCurrent videos, such as one from our local favorites, Matt Heron, on the Truckee on [how to properly set the hook with an indicator...](#)
- And for a little shutdown humor from Huge Fly Fisherman on MidCurrent with [proper fish releasing etiquette](#)
- TVFF [Tips & Tricks](#), where we have posted a good number of tips for your use (and feel free to post one of your own that you run across)
- TroutBitten website and instruction with tons of very specific and tactical fly-fishing tips by Dominick Swentovosky. Explore thoroughly as he has a huge amount of excellent information available, including topics such as [nymphing](#).
- Devin Olsen's [website](#) with his latest streaming video (normally \$19.99 and now 20% off) on [Adaptive Fly Fishing](#) with Devin and Lance Egan (both USA Team Competitive Anglers).
- Orvis Fly Fishing videos such as [How to Read the Water](#), or you can also listen to it via podcast on the site as well.
- CalTrout's [Top 10 videos](#), all impeccably shot by Mikey Weir and terrific.
- Fly Fishing reading material such as John Gierach's multiple books. I recently finished *Another Lousy Day in Paradise and Dances with Trout* which will keep you entertained, along with plenty of other books of his on fly fishing experiences and his dry sense of humor and earthy reflections. Available on [Amazon](#).
- And when all else fails, resort to sharpening your hooks and tying leaders for this coming season. Hopefully we'll be back on the water soon and you'll need them.....

Outings and Activities

Many 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.

Kistler Bass Ponds – April 25

Kistler bass ponds are located outside of Oakdale, California. This is an unguided trip, and an excellent one for both families and those new to fly fishing. The ponds are close to the Tri-Valley, have excellent shore access as well, and can accommodate large groups such as TVFF on several different ponds. Fishing is available from either the shoreline or from float tubes or pontoon boats.



Hat Creek Salmonfly Hatch – May 15-17

This is a 2 night-3 day trip to explore the 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek. It is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly hatch that occurs during this period, as well as several other hatches. We will be fishing five different areas on Hat Creek from knee deep riffles at the Powerhouse and mid-stream to the gin clear, quiet flats, and to the downstream area of thigh deep water. This is a wading trip although it is recommended to stay out of the water unless absolutely necessary as the fish are very skittish due to the fishing pressure. It is barbless hook, catch and release water only. Fishing styles can include Euro nymphing, streamers, and indicators in the riffles, with dry fly presentations on the flat water.



Lake Almanor Hex Hatch – Late June

We'll be fishing the traditional Lake Almanor Hexagenia hatch in the late afternoon and evenings, plus early and mid-day fishing of local small creeks while awaiting the late, sundown hatches. This is a very exciting hatch and surface explosion of both large brown trout and bass just as the sun sets, so it is a frantic one-hour period of time, with pre-hatch deep nymph fishing earlier in the afternoon. This is primarily a float trip at the lake for the Hex hatch and wading for the small local streams. Two events are available for registration: [weekday](#) and [weekend](#).



Baum and Manzanita Lakes – July 9-12

This is a three night, four day camping trip to [Baum and Manzanita Lakes](#) in the Shasta and Lassen National Park watersheds. You can fish from shore at both lakes but a watercraft is recommended. Participants can attend whichever days work for their schedules.

We'll be camping at Manzanita Lake campground in Lassen National Park. Manzanita is a wild trout fishery with special regulations hosting rainbows and browns. Baum Lake, near Burney, also contains rainbows and browns and is stocked by its on-site hatchery. Both lakes offer excellent dry fly fishing, and nymphs and streamers work well too.



La Paz Mexico Ocean Fishing – July 11-18

[This trip](#) is a broad-based fishing excursion in La Paz, Mexico hosted by guide [Gary Bulla](#) with fishing for Dorado, rooster, mangrove snapper, yellowfin, grouper, wahoo, and cabrilla pargo. Cost includes all food, beverages (including beer) and single-occupancy accommodations. Gary runs a superb all-inclusive trip with the best fly fishing captains in the area and two lovely sisters that prepare great Mexican meals. He'll be on hand in La Ventana to share his vast knowledge, and he fishes with a different "pescador" every day to get you well acquainted with Mexican fish. His season, which runs April thru October, is mostly full for 2020 but he has held this week exclusively for our club. He will open it up to all others at the Pleasanton Fly Show. This is a great trip that should be on your bucket list.



Truckee Watershed – July 24-27

This is a three-night, four-day [camping trip](#) at Logger Campground on Stampede Reservoir, with four days of fishing the Big Truckee, Little Truckee, and Milton Lake for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river wading opportunities and a day of either float tube or bank fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques. On the first evening, we are planning to have local



guide Jon Baiocchi join us over dinner to discuss where to fish, how to fish, and the current flies that are working in the areas at that particular time. It should be a great kickoff for 3-4 full days of fishing in the area since we won't be going in "blind" to the conditions.

Southeast Alaska – August 28-September 5 – Martin Plotkin

Have you ever wanted to fish Alaska? I am sponsoring a [Tag-Along Fishing Trip](#) to Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. The trip will be at Mike and Sarah Warner's, Coffman Cove Adventures. We will plan to arrive at Prince of Wales on August 28th and depart on September 5th.

Coffman Cove is located near two dozen rivers within 5-90 minutes from the cabins and each offers something different to anglers. Depending on the river, we will be fishing for Coho, Pink or some Sockeye Salmon or Sea Run Cutthroat, Rainbow or Dolly Varden Trout. Each fishing group will have a private cabin with full access to the amenities of the dining cabin.



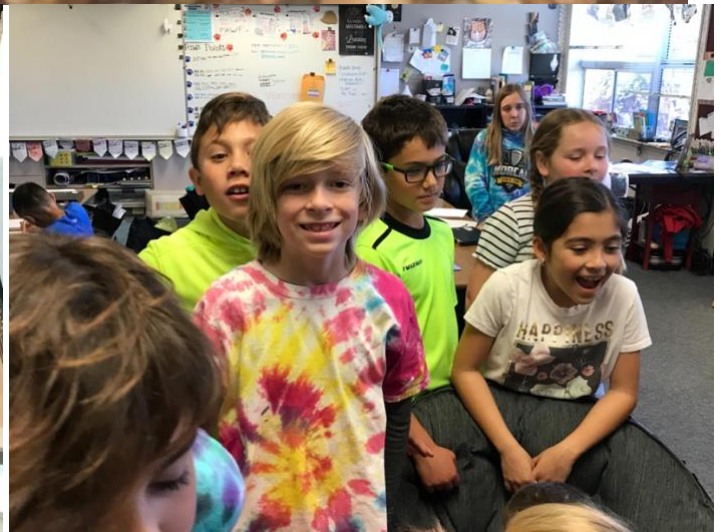
The trip cost includes lodging, meals, fish cleaning and packaging, use of a vehicle (fuel is extra), and transportation from the ferry or any float plane base on the island. This is a great trip for people looking for amazing river action. For complete details, click on the link above and contact me with any questions.

Member Reports

Trout in the Classroom – Susan Hufford

Trout in the classroom was a success at Emma C. Smith Elementary in Livermore. Our 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Coffeen, was able to release 41 out of the 50 trout eggs we received. The teacher was very happy with the whole process lead by Daniel and is looking forward to the kids actually watching the trout release next year. Below are pictures of the teacher, trout eggs, and some of the kids watching the teacher place the eggs in the classroom tanks.

Thanks Daniel and TVFF for supporting this program!

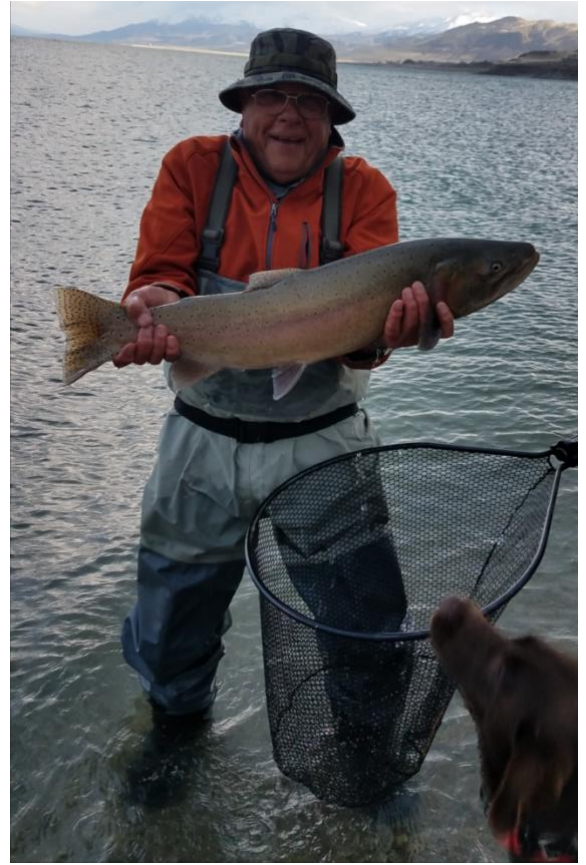


Pyramid Lake – Dennis Rankin

The Pyramid Paiute Tribe closed Pyramid Lake on March 22nd to all recreation and camping, including fishing and the beaches. The fishing had been slow but was picking up the last week the lake was open. Many fish were caught in the 10 to 15 pound class with some 20 pounders (legitimate, I saw them weighed). Most of the fish were being caught on chironomid patterns using an indicator, although balanced leeches were also working. Stripping with Pyramid Beetles (mostly white over chartreuse), wooly buggers (Midnight Cowboy variations) and Boobies in an array of colors were working. The weather continued to be cold until the last day, and it was a day. To that point the fishing had been sporadic with guided groups of 5 to 8 catching less than one apiece, the next day about 2 or 3 and a few days really good. I fished with Pyramid Fly Co one day and with eight anglers we got over 50 up to 17 pounds.

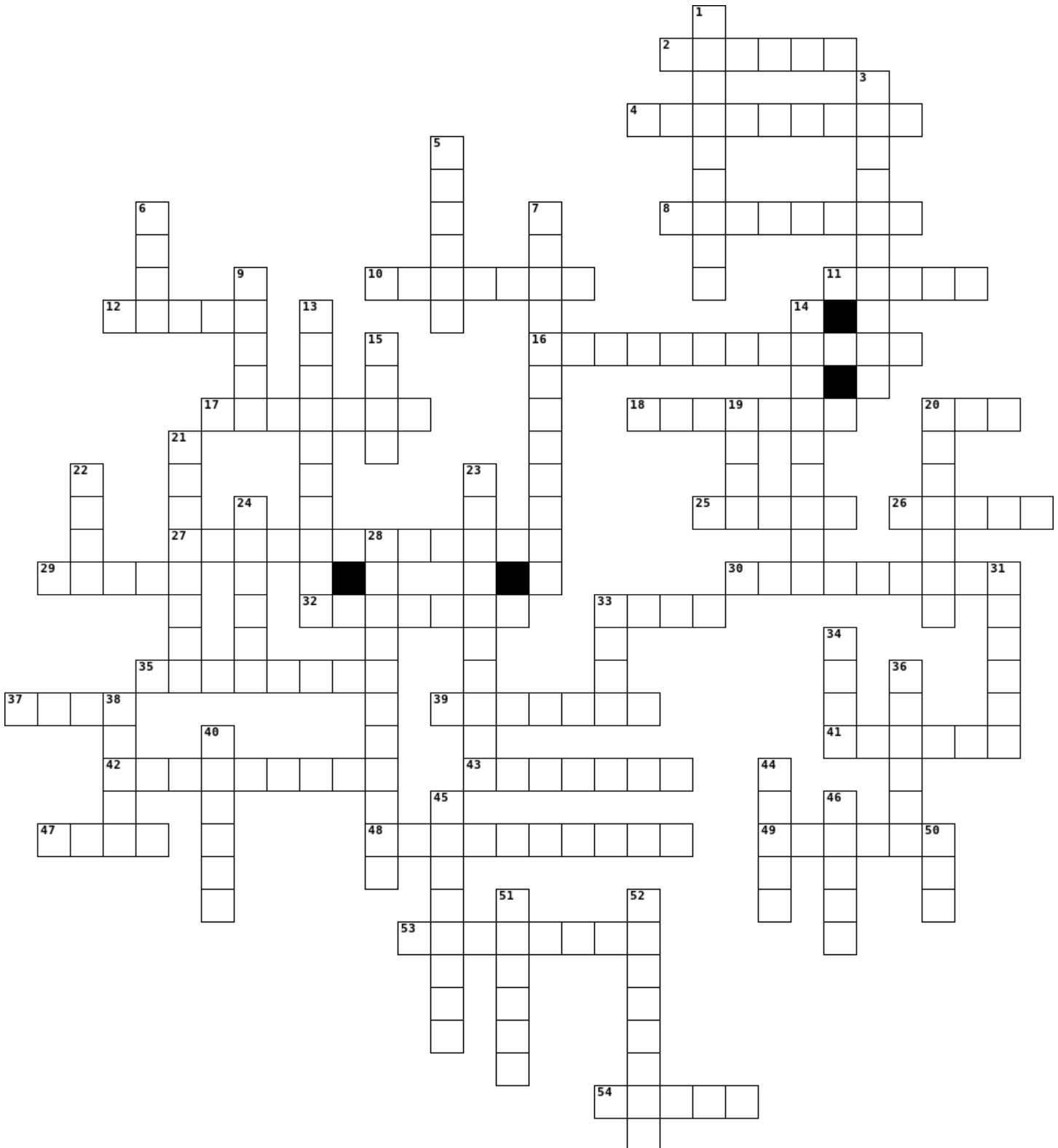
The fish are larger than last year and many of the 10 to 20 pound class are being caught. Although there is no date for reopening it appears that it will not happen soon and may not reopen until the fishing season closes on June 30. However, if the lake does reopen before June 30th, grab your rods and head for the lake. Next year's fishing season will start on October 1, but that is dependent upon the lake being reopened by the tribe for recreational purposes.

Although I am disappointed about the closing, some things must be done, the fishing was fun, I caught a few fish and where else can you catch a 4 or 5 pound trout and be somewhat disappointed. I have two smoked tri tips I'm eating since our fishout was cancelled. You are all invited to a retry in October!



Brief Distraction – Mark Spruiell

Creating this crossword puzzle served as a fun if brief distraction for me, maybe solving it will do the same for you. If you'd rather not print anything, you can also complete it online by [clicking here](#). In the online version, just click in a cell and start typing. The answer key can be found on page 12.



Across

- 2. Adults are called spinners
- 4. Cuts down on glare
- 8. Baitfish imitation
- 10. When fly line isn't enough
- 11. Don't wade without it
- 12. Bottom-dwelling, non-swimming stage of an insect
- 16. Abrasion resistant leader material
- 17. Adjusting the line after a cast
- 18. Struck out
- 20. Tippet remaining after tying a knot
- 25. Knot to join similar sizes of mono
- 26. Cast to add extra slack
- 27. Always striving for the perfect one
- 29. Immature form of insect
- 30. Migratory rainbow
- 32. Knot for joining dissimilar mono sizes
- 33. Eliminates a back cast
- 35. Bringing the fly back
- 37. Freshwater shrimp
- 39. Pupa or nymph about to break through
- 41. Upper rear fin
- 42. Suspension device
- 43. Second fly
- 47. Thick section of tapered leader
- 48. Migratory fish
- 49. Where the fly is tied on
- 53. Keeps a fly on top
- 54. Hollow rod

Down

- 1. Downstream section of a river
- 3. Knot to add loop in leader
- 5. Most common knot
- 6. Transitional stage of insects
- 7. Nylon material
- 9. Transitional part of a cast
- 13. Upstream section of river
- 14. River or stream with significant gradient
- 15. Worst kind of knot
- 19. Good knot for leader to fly line
- 20. Common style of commercial leaders
- 21. Main ingredient in most fly rods
- 22. Two-handed cast
- 23. Midge
- 24. Mono between the fly line and fly
- 28. Land-based insects
- 31. Resembles small dragonfly
- 33. Indicates a feeding fish
- 34. Spawning area
- 36. Attempt to eat a fly
- 38. Must be drag-free
- 40. Retractor
- 44. Large number of bugs
- 45. Makes the release much easier
- 46. Reproductive season
- 50. The drug
- 51. Moth-like insect
- 52. Largest of the trout stream insects

Quick and Easy Ways to Measure Trout – Philip Monahan

(Reprinted from the April 2014 issue of Barbless Hook, via [MidCurrent](#))

Question: My buddies and I are always arguing about how long a given fish is, which means we have to break out the measuring tape. I would rather get fish back in the water as quickly as possible. What's the best way to get a fast measurement, while keeping the fish in the water?

G. Bedard, North Attleboro, MA

Answer: This is an important issue because the amount of time you keep a fish out of the water is crucial. As Charlie Meyers noted in the Denver Post on June 10, studies by the Colorado Division of Wildlife show that leaving the fish in the water while you unhook it can double its chances of survival. So what you need is a way to get a nearly instantaneous measurement on the fish you catch.

When I was a guide, I futzed around with several methods, until I finally settled on what I thought was the quickest and easiest: I measured my own forearm, from the point of my elbow to the tip of my middle finger. The total distance is just under 19 inches. From the elbow to the bump in my wrist is 10 inches, to the base of my pinky is 15 inches, and to the end of my pinky 17 inches. I easily memorized these numbers and could make a very educated guess for an inch or two to either side of these points.

Whenever I landed a fish for a client, I could hold the fish just under the surface, lay my forearm alongside it, and get an immediate rough measurement. Sure, it wasn't exact—and, as a guide, I may have rounded up on occasion—but this method lets you know immediately whether a fish is closer to 15 inches than it is to 18.

Anything over 19 inches, of course, is a little more complicated. In this case, I'd mark the 19-inch spot, slide my hand to the fish's nose, and do the estimate in reverse. Simply add the two numbers and you're good to go. (Example: tail forward to mark = 19 inches, nose back to mark = tip of middle finger to base of pinky, or 4 inches. $19 + 4 = 23$ -inch fish.) Anything over, say 25-inches and, face it, you're breaking out the damned tape.

What I particularly like about this method is that you don't have to worry about holding anything but the fish. However, many anglers like to use their rod as a measuring stick. Jay "Fishy" Fullum, a well-known fly tier and angler, recommends using thread wraps on your rod blank. He makes narrow wraps at 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 inches. You can use easy-to-read hi vis colors, or, if you think that ruins the aesthetics of your rod, you can use colors to match the guide wraps. When you want to measure a fish, simply lay the rod alongside the fish in the water and estimate based on your wraps.

Both of these methods require a lot less fumbling through pockets or arranging stuff on your vest, saving valuable seconds separating the time you land the fish and the time you let it swim away. And if your buddies can't live without an absolutely, scientifically verifiable measurement, just get new buddies. It's better for the fish that way.

Answer Key

