

# The Barbless Hook

October 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



[tri-valleyflyfishers.org](http://tri-valleyflyfishers.org)

## President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals:

Well, fall has finally arrived, so the weatherman says. We're still experiencing some smoky skies and a lot of hot weather. I can't wait for the weather to turn cold, at least below 60 degrees and the arrival of some rain, that we surely need. Most of the reservoirs and lakes are at 50 percent of capacity and dropping every day.

Some good news. The Trinity and Lower Sac are seeing some Salmon runs in the river, with Steelhead right behind them. At least that's what the guides up north are telling me. If any of you are planning a trip up there in the next few weeks or months, let me know, I would like to "tag along".

This staying at home and playing it safe, sure is boring. With all the fires that we had this year, I've given up the idea of deer hunting. Well, there's always duck season.

Elections for next year's Board of Directors is just around the corner. If you have any interest in joining the board, please let me know. The board could use your help and ideas. [Click here](#) to see the board positions. Till next time, be safe and good fishing.

*Al*



Dave Meister with a WY grand slam: Rainbow, Brown, Cutbow all over 16".

### In this Issue

<b>President's Message</b>	1
<b>October Meeting</b>	2
<b>Outings and Activities</b>	2
<b>Member Reports</b>	3
<b>Pyramid Lake</b>	9
<b>Frank Pisciotta</b>	10
<b>InvizX Fluorocarbon</b>	10
<b>In or On the Water</b>	15
<b>Items for Sale</b>	16

## October Meeting

Come join us for our October Zoom meeting on the 1st at 7pm and hear from members who have gotten out and fished waters across the west and/or share your own fishing adventures. We'll also have some open time for general Q&A. We'll also be holding a nice gear raffle for those in attendance.

Please check your email for the meeting invitation and for more information about the meeting and raffle.

## Outings and Activities

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

### Feather River Steelhead – January 5 & 9 (weather permitting)

These are two separate one day up and back trips to the Feather River at the town of Oroville to fish for steelhead with up to six TVFF members each day. As of now we will observe the Club protocols around Covid-19... more updates on this as we get closer to the actual dates.

It is a walk and wade trip, typically involving crossing the river in knee high water and fishing up/down the mid-stream gravel bars with indicators and high-stick nymphing. It is suggested that you bring along a wading staff as you may be wading in quicker water that is up to waist high if you want to gain access to more fishing spots.



This will be the third year for this Club trip. The first year we had eight members bring a total of 23 fish (wild and/or hatchery raised) to the net, including chromers up to 24" in length. The second year was less productive as the main wave of Steelhead moved through the system the month before the season was open in this section (the hatchery person I spoke with said they had over 1000 fish come into the hatchery one day!). The Feather can be a productive and exciting water that offers a nice day trip being only 2:45 hours away from Pleasanton/Livermore. Our day will encompass a full day of fishing with a streamside break for lunch, you will need to bring your own food and beverages. Please note you will also need a Steelhead Report Card in addition to your 2021 license.

Contact Alan Wyosnick if you have any questions about this trip.

## Member Reports

### Dave Meister – Colorado

Chunky rainbow from the Gunnison River in Gunnison CO.





## Rob Farris and Todd Hyrn - The Idaho Chronicles

*A Tale of Three Rivers and Walking in Hemingway's Footprints*

Hot weather, low water levels, and devastating smoke? No problem; just drive 11 hours to Idaho and seek out a nice environment with great fishing. How wrong we would be; at least about the smoke.

Day 1. To escape the California fires and smoke we set up a six-day trip to the famed Silver Creek, The Big Lost River, and a return to the South Fork of the Boise. All went according to plan until we came into the smoke in the “scenic nothingness” of central Nevada and Idaho as we headed north into Picabo. Picabo Idaho, population of about 3 plus several thousand fish, is right on Silver Creek and home to the Picabo Angler Fly Shop, cafe and gas station. And home for our campsite right on the creek.



Day 2. We're in the water on the world-renowned Silver Creek. So why pick the Nature Conservancy Silver Creek Preserve? Well, first it was a favorite world class stream fished by Ernest Hemingway and his son. But McKenna and Chad Chorney of Idaho Angler can best describe it:

*There are a lot of great places to fish in Idaho, but none of them are more famous amongst fly-fishing fans than Silver Creek. Its gin-clear, blue ribbon waters are home to trout that beckon anglers from across the globe, while its brown drake hatch is the stuff of legend and is something even non-anglers can enjoy.*



*What makes Silver Creek so special isn't one single thing. Instead, it's a combination of elements that make it an ideal trout stream. Big and wild fish, clean and protected water, stunning views, amazing aquatic insect hatches... "Silver Creek is an iconic Western trout stream," Chad Chorney said. "It's one of those streams that if you're a trout fisherman, you should fish it in your lifetime. Silver Creek has one of the highest populations of aquatic insects in the West. Chad explained, "the sheer abundance of insects is incredible. Something is hatching every day of the year."*

*The history here is pretty impressive, too. You get to cast where Hemingway used to cast,” Chad said. “It’s easy to see why this place means so much to people.” People come from every state and all over the world to fish Silver Creek. It tests your skill, your patience, your fortitude, your will. It makes you a better angler,” Chad said, adding a classic line about the fly fishery. “If you can catch fish at Silver Creek, you can catch fish anywhere.”*

With such a challenging stream and word that we’d be fortunate to catch one fish for the day, we decided on hiring a local guide for our best decision of the trip. Callibaetis were on the menu on Monday and the full-on hatch began at 10:30. It’s all about sight fishing for large rainbows in 3’ of crystal clear water. Using dry droppers with Callibaetis on both ends we consistently hooked up with our largest fish around 19”, and each of us netted 11 fish in five hours. Explosive hookups, fish on the dries and nymphs, and many hoots & hollers...

Day 3. Dawn, and we head back to Silver Creek without the guide. Same play; different locations as the fish had moved. There are lots of weeds and silt in the creek (hence the huge bug population) similar to Hat Creek and Baum Lake and you search and fish between the weeds. Not to worry as we both caught 6-7 similar sized fish on Callibaetis once again. We closed it up and back to camp for whiskey and scotch to celebrate successfully fishing a historic and world-renowned trout stream.



Day 4. Pack up the camp early and drive 100 miles across central Idaho and Craters of the Moon to Mackay, Idaho to fish The Big Lost River; a guide recommendation for a very different Euro tailwater. He offered up “his



Setting up for rainbows while the Kokanee spawn (foreground)

spot” and a strong suggestion to stay in the high-water mark to reduce the risk of being shot by a rancher (great, just great...!). Todd went Euro while I scouted for risers and dry fly opportunities. It was another great river with “Euro” riffles, holding pools, long runs close to town and big fish that had no problem just hanging around and watching us catch their kids. Euro was the way to go and Todd quickly nailed 8 fish in the first hour while I worked a few into the net on dries. We enjoyed having a friend of Rob’s son, Lou, join us on the river. He netted the best fish of the day, we taught him the Euro technique, and he showed us his guide’s spot. As we closed the day Todd netted 5 more in about 15 minutes and Lou discovered “Orange Trout” which we explained were spawning Kokanee and a spot where Rob and Lou were able to have some dry fly fun for rising rainbows. Next up was a 3-hour drive to a hotel for some much-needed personal maintenance (i.e., dinner and a shower).

Day 5. We are back to the South Fork of the Boise where we scouted the river on our way up to last year’s Montana/Roberts trip. We both love this canyon/tailwater river for its many diverse offerings and remote riverside campsites. If you want to catch big trout, the South Fork of the Boise River is the place to be for producing large rainbow and bull trout, along with good numbers of whitefish and occasional Kokanee salmon.

Camp was easy; setup right across from a nice run under riffles with rising fins and heads across the stream. The first evening was slow though as they had dropped the flows down the previous night, resulting in only a few small fish to hand, so the only thing to do was get right back to the whiskey, beer, and scotch and plan for the next day.



Day 6. We head down the 3-mile dirt road in the morning scouting for the deeper pools where we think the fish will be holed up in the lower water. Todd goes Euro while I tackle the depths of the pool with a big conehead streamer. And on the third cast I hook into a big Kokanee (3-4 lbs.) that does her acrobatic leap for us and throws the hook right back at me. A big surprise since we weren't fishing for them during spawning season, having seen maybe a 100 or so small Kokanee in the shallows the previous day. A nice surprise and a killer attack on the fly.



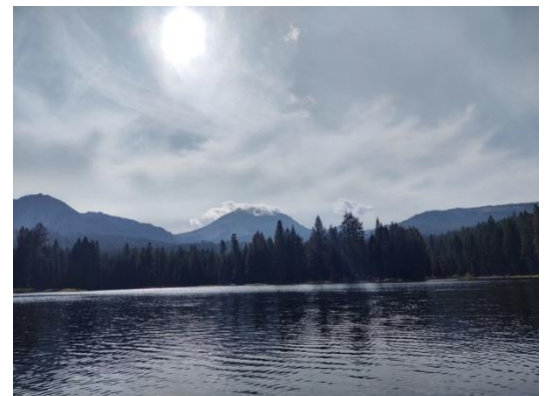
Todd crosses the river to a few rises and brings in four smaller rainbows on an indicator rig while I still have dreams of a big Koke making it to the net. No Koke for me, but a 19" fat Whitefish hits the streamer hard again and after a strong fight does make it to the net.

After dinner we setup on opposite sides of the camp riffle and go after a number of fins and risers seen eating in the film. And then it starts to rain... in September? But that makes it Blue Wing Olive weather, so we tie on #18 Blue Wing emergers. And the action begins with hit after hit after hit, whether fishing it on the surface, in the film, or sunken on a downstream drift. An amazing evening with both of us losing several large fish after long fights in the strong current, but each landing a few 17" large and feisty rainbows in the process. And then, after an hour of great action in the rain, it ends just as quickly as it started. Except for the rain that continues ALL night long (Uggh!) while we're in the tents.

Day 7. We pack it up after the epic previous evening hatch and then a "normal" 11-hour drive home from another terrific adventure and experience on three fabulous streams. We'll be backkkk....

## Chris McCann – Manzanita Off the Hook

My original plan was to give Baum lake a shot, as the evening temps have been cooling down the lakes, and that usually kicks off a strong bite. My last few trips there have been a bit of a struggle and I was looking for redemption. Unfortunately, due to the recent fire dangers PG&E has closed the lake again, so adjustments needed to be made. We ended up deciding to give Manzanita a try.





Choosing Manzanita comes with its own issues. A recent otter encounter has closed a section of the lake, in addition no soft-sided watercraft or contact with the water is allowed. Also on the last visit the weed growth was substantial this year as lake surface temperatures were over 70. And the last couple of trips to Manzanita I have struggled in figuring out the fish, so my usual optimism was shaky.

After a Thursday 3am start, I arrived and was on the water by 7:30 and joined fellow club member Mark Spruiell. It was as if we were fishing a private lake, as we were the only ones on the lake, not sure if this is because of the otter concern, or just getting late in the season. I started off indicator fishing with a size 14 nymph, as Mark had already landed several fish. Action started and soon I had two to the net, both fat buttery yellow browns. With the always present fear of the skunk relieved, I thought



to try throwing a streamer. Although I am open to different fishing techniques (especially if someone is killing it) my favorite is stripping. The exhilaration I feel with the take and setting the hook during the retrieval is prodigious.

Switching to the strip was the ticket for the day, as I am sure that many of you have experienced “the day when the stars aligned,” it was flat out the rest of the day. I ended up with thirty plus fish, a 75 / 25 mixture of browns to rainbows. The fish were between 12 to 18 inches, and as you can see, the colors were amazing. The browns were getting in full spawn colors and the rainbows were rich and dark, almost like a Kern river rainbow. Casting became progressively difficult as the wind increased, but the jackpot of continued takes outweighed the occasional failed cast. We wrapped up the day around 6pm and topped off the success with a frosty adult beverage.

Nighttime temperature was mild for the nearly 6000ft elevation lake, although the wind came in strong with gusts in excess of 25 MPH. Laying in bed and listening to the groaning of the trees causes anxiety of how the following day would fish. As the sun rose, the winds did not diminish. Launching into an 18 inch swell was difficult and required attention to the oars so as not to crossways about the wind waves. As I made it to the drop-off where I had success on the previous day, I was rewarded with a nice chunky brown on the first cast. The wind decreased and increased throughout the day, but was always present. I was visited several times by the group of four otter pups, and as it did turn off the fishing for a time, alas I enjoyed watching them play. I ended the day around 4pm as I needed to return home that evening. I ended up with another 25+ fish for that day, although it was all browns except for two rainbows.



As I loaded my pram into the truck, all I could reflect upon was the beauty of this gift to us. I often think, consider, and plan trips off to other states or even countries in search of fishing opportunities, but I come to the realization of the rewards near us and no need to drive 11 hours to some far-off river.

## Chris McCann – Heenan Lake on Fire (instead of the surrounding area)

As Labor Day approaches, so does the planning for my annual Heenan lake pilgrimage. I had originally planned to go up and spend the night in Markleeville to be one of the first at the gate on Friday morning. Well like many of our plans this year, this was not meant to be. Smoke, air quality and a nearby fire put all those plans into the trash container. Not wanting to give into disappointment, I modified my plans to just make it a day trip, blasting out early morning (or late evening depending on your perspective) to participate in this etesian event.



I departed early, looking forward to this trek, in part as being the beginning of fall fishing. I passed through Markleeville in the dark and could smell smoke and the moon was beginning to be obscured. I arrived as the gate was opening and parked. The launch ramp was quickly congested with a variety of watercraft. I chose to use my kayak since I usually fish the back area of the lake, in part to separate myself from the crowds and as it is my go-to area for success. I fitted up my kayak and walked it down to the launch, bypassing the traffic jam.

As I paddled, making my way down the lake, the distant sounds of sheep began slowly increasing as a flock of thousands crested the hill with a gang of shepherds and dogs. In addition, the wind subtly changed and brought in smoke at an alarming level, soon the visibility was less than a hundred yards, my eyes were burning, and I had the taste of soot. Still being persistent and what some would say overzealous, I wanted to trick an LCT into taking my fly and seeing the brilliant color and spots on this regional native. Soon ash began dropping on the lake, and bulldozers began working down the access road behind the lake towards Bagley and Silver King valleys along with CDF crew trucks.

I knew it was only a matter of time before I would need to exit the lake, and soon came the local sheriff alerting the anglers it was time to depart. With a heavy heart I paddled back to the launch with only one small fish for the day. From the bluff of the parking lot, you could see the flames race up the steep canyon walls, the air support tankers making drops and the ever-increasing and choking billows of smoke. I learned from the local authorities, soon the helicopter group would be using the lake's water for aerial drops. So this ended the season for Heenan Lake, fortunately only briefly.



Fast-forward two weeks and as the fire is more in control and moved east, the lake reopened. Again determined to catch some of these ancient masters of the realm, I departed early and made the jaunt to this alpine jewel to try my luck again. This time the skies were clear, the parking lot was much less crowded, and there was a crispness in the air. I was quickly into a nice 20" female with crimson sides and big black spots. The take was very light compared to previous years and I was



using a much smaller fly. I had chosen a size 14 bugger instead of the regular size 6 in part to my success the week prior at Manzanita.

The wind played havoc all day with a steady 7 mph and gusts to 20 mph. Although conditions were difficult, I managed to land a dozen plus more of these bad boys up to 25". Another difference this year, several took long extended runs compared to the usual head shakes and spins. One particularly brutish buck took me so far into my backing, it began to jam up due to the Dacron being compressed into the adjoining wraps. I needed to chase the fish and was finally able to place the hard fighter into my landing net. Truly an enjoyable day. I again reflect and appreciate these beautiful locals within our state and only a few hours away instead of driving vast distances for 11 hours.

## Pyramid Lake (current status as best we know)

### Chris McCann

Pyramid Lake is currently closed to fishing for non-tribal members. The tribal council will have a meeting around October 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the current lake status and future actions. Many of you may have seen posts on opinions and beliefs as to the near future of the lake's fishing opportunities. We are tempted to grasp at any possible updates or posts that claim "They Know" how the council will decide to proceed.

Here's an excerpt from Rob Anderson's post:

*The reservation remains under a state of emergency order due to Covid-19 by the Tribal Chairman, the council and the governor of Nevada. Due to this situation, the lake was closed in March 2020. The Tribe has been working on plans to relieve and remove some of the ordinances and temporary rules associated with the emergency order, but the order remains in effect as of today, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*The document released on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> by the Tribe offers a public comment period for potential temporary regulation changes regarding allowing Non-Tribal people the opportunity to enter the reservation and resume activities such as fishing, camping and boating. The comment period goes until October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm.*

*Here is where most people are not reading the document correctly. The proposed regulation changes are only to encompass the period of time that falls under the same period of time as the Emergency Order.*



As difficult as it may be (very difficult for me), all we can do is patiently wait for the "real news" from the council meeting. As soon as I hear any real news, I will post an update. Until then we unfortunately will need to alter our plans to some other fall fishing opportunities. There are many other great locations to fish until Pyramid re-opens, and many of these locales are much closer than an 11-hour drive out of state.

## Frank Pisciotta – Dean of Guides in Truckee



Unfortunately, the local fly fishing community has lost one of its premier guides and advocates for the Truckee watershed with the passing of Frank Pisciotta this month. Frank first introduced me, and hundreds more, to the Truckee and Little Truckee rivers in the mid-90's. With his annual standing room only presentations about the Truckee and LT at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show, many were exposed to this great watershed. I received a phone call from Frank's closest friend Jon Baiocchi this week informing me that Frank had passed of cancer two weeks ago, after 37 years of guiding on the Truckee.

Frank was a Vietnam veteran and ran his guide service Thy Rod & Staff out of Truckee; was an Orvis endorsed guide; founded the Native Sons Tours with Jon Baiocchi; and was a native Northern Californian. He wrote extensively during his life for *California Fly Fisher*, *NorthWest Fly Fishing*, *ORVIS News*, many essays in *Sierra Fisherman* magazine, and was noted in the *NY Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *LA Times*.

From June 1999 to June 2001, Frank was the California editor for monthly WestFly.com; and was the Editor at Large from 2009-2017 for *Sierra Fisherman* magazine. Frank was twice presented the Stream Keeper's Award from CalTrout, and in 2016 local Trout Unlimited chapter #103 noted his contributions for his fishery activism.

Northern California lost a terrific guide, a strong advocate for clean water and wild fish, and an individual that gave so much to so many. "For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4... RIP Frank.

## Fly Shop Fluorocarbon too expensive? Try InvizX

### Domenick Swentosky – Troutbitten

I was halfway into the canyon and at the tail end of a warm fall day on the river.

With an hour left before the walkout, I heard a branch snap behind me. So I turned toward the rustling but continued my tight line drift, leading the nymphs with a high rod-hand to stay in touch.

I found Sawyer standing above me on the tall bank, hands on his hips, smiling and satisfied behind his dark lenses.

"Well, how was it?" Sawyer asked without moving.



“Good!” I replied and pointed downstream. “I caught three off that far bank below, and a couple right next to this . . .”

“No. I mean the fluorocarbon,” he said.

“Oh,” I nodded. “Yeah, I’m sold! I’ll never nymph with nylon again.”

## **Ten Plus**

That was over a decade ago. Earlier in the day, Sawyer had given me his stack of fluorocarbon when I’d lost my own tippet holder spooled with nylon. Before that day, my skepticism and thriftiness kept me from buying in — from dishing out the \$50 – \$100 it would take to convert to fluoro. I thought I did just fine with nylon.

I did. And I’m still not so sure that fluoro catches more trout under the surface. Some use it because it’s less visible and sinks a little better, but I use it because I have the chance to make more casts and keep my line in the water longer with fluoro. Here’s what I mean . . .

I use fluorocarbon for underwater presentations because the material takes more abuse. Its abrasion resistance and greater strength per diameter allows me to fish more aggressively against the structures where brown trout reside. Sure, I hang up, but I break off less. Fluoro also has an uncanny way of releasing the inevitable twists and tangles of tippet that happen on a trout stream. Where I used to reach for the nippers with nylon, I now expect loose knots and loops to come out with marginal effort — and the few tricks of an amateur magician.

## **Cost-Conscious**

But let’s get back to me being cheap. I’m okay with that. I spend money where I must and cut corners where I can. And most long-term fishermen I know are the same. So the price tag of fly shop fluoro has always seemed a bit much to me, and I keep my ear to the ground for alternatives. For many years, my friends and I have used fluorocarbon that is marketed to gear fishers. We buy three to four times as much fluoro on a larger spool and then wind it onto small tippet spools. Years ago I settled for P-Line Halo, FC Sniper from Sunline, or Seaguar AbrazX. These were the best options among a host of other brands tried.

The trouble with these cheaper lines is threefold. Their breaking strength is inferior to the fly shop brands, they’re often stiffer, and the manufactured diameters only go down to about 4X — usually.

For a few years, Seaguar manufactured Finesse, and it was far better than the other big-spool fluoro options. It was my go-to choice for terminal tippet for a long time, and when Seaguar discontinued it, I felt a bit lost. Then Grobe told me he was fishing InvizX.

Matt Grobe is a good friend and Pennsylvania native now living in Montana. He chases big wild brown trout, mostly by nymphing them on a Mono Rig. Both Grobe and I agree that taking the fly to the trout is the most consistent way to catch the biggest fish in the river. Having them chase a streamer is fun, but I’ll put my money on an excellent nymphing or crossover approach most days. Grobe catches bigger, badder wild trout than anyone I know. So when he told me he was fishing InvizX, I listened.



Grobe uses Seaguar's thinnest version of InvizX for his 5X. And now I do the same. But when I first saw the listed diameters and breaking strength, I balked, because I follow this stuff closely. Seaguar's specs list InvizX .007" as 4lb, but Matt assured me the line is underrated — InvizX is both thinner and stronger than it's listed.

He's right. I measured it to .0065" and I estimate it's breaking strength at about 5 lbs. (Stats on strength comparisons are below.)

InvizX is also softer, more flexible and has more stretch than most fluorocarbons, allowing the attached nymphs to move and wiggle at the end of the line. And that's a good thing.

These days, a spool of fly shop fluorocarbon up to \$20 for 30 yards. So getting 200 yards on a spool of InvizX for \$20 is a steal.

In short, Seaguar InvizX has become my go-to fluoro tippet material in 5X, 3X and 2X. (I use Orvis Mirage or Cortland Ultra Premium for my 4X.) InvizX is exceptionally strong per diameter, and it's flexible for a fluorocarbon. InvizX is as good as some fly shop brands, and it's far better than many others. And because the type of tippet we use is not what catches trout, I don't overspend on tippet.

### **Breaking Strength Per Diameter**

How strong is your 5X?

While it seems like a fair question, the answer is not that simple.

What's printed on the label may not line up with the facts. Breaking strengths and diameters are notoriously inaccurate in our industry. (A twenty-dollar micrometer quickly reveals this.) And while fly shop brands like to exaggerate their line's breaking strength and under-list its diameter, fluorocarbon marketed to gear anglers trends in the opposite direction — breaking strength are often far more than listed in the gear world.

In the end, what matters for fly anglers is breaking strength per diameter. We want to get the most strength available in a very thin line.

### **Where's the X?**

You won't find "5X" printed on any of these spools, because X ratings are a fly fisher's thing. The thinnest line from Seaguar InvizX comes in at .0065", which is right in between the diameter of 4X and 5X. Oddly, Seaguar's own specs round up to .007" instead of rounding down to .006". And truthfully, this is what turned me away from giving InvizX a chance, until Grobe told me I was missing out.

### **The Tug-O-War Test**

When I bought my first spool of InvizX, I was impressed with the handling — the flexibility — for a 100% fluoro line. (Orvis Mirage is similar this way.) With a better flex, the attached flies can move more freely, and they appear more realistic in the drift. That's a good thing.

And when I fished the InvizX, I was surprised by its strength. Clearly, the breaking strength is more than listed. So I did a long series of pull-tests with other fly shop brands, going head to head to see which was stronger.

I used a Davy Knot and tied each line to the eye of a #14 nymph. I pulled and recorded which line broke. I retied both knots and did the test ten times for each line. (This long testing process required two beers.)

The results below are obviously un-scientific. But the micrometer measurements are accurate. I also tie good knots, and the tests were performed without bias. Some of these results are surprising.

- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is stronger than Orvis Mirage (5X at .0059"). And they are equal in stiffness.
- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is equal in strength to Rio Fluoroflex Plus (5X at .0064"). And the Rio is stiffer.
- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is weaker than Fulling Mill Masterclass (5X at .0069"). And the Masterclass is stiffer.
- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is weaker than Cortland Ultra Premium (5X at .0067"). And the Cortland is stiffer.
- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is stronger than Trouthunter Fluorocarbon (5X at .0060") And they are equal in stiffness.
- Seaguar InvizX (.0065") is weaker than Trouthunter Fluorocarbon (4.5X at .0065"). And the Trouthunter is stiffer.

*These test results are only a comparison of InvizX to the other brands listed. They are here to give you some idea as to the relative strength of InvizX. This is not a full-range tippet shootout. And I'm not here to tell you what's the best tippet available. A lot of factors go into that opinion, including cost, strength, diameter and flexibility.*

Bottom line: I use Seaguar InvizX 4lb as my 5X, and it breaks closer to 5lb. I also like its handling and flexibility.

I use InvizX 6 lb for my 3X. And I use InvizX 8lb for my 2X. In my experience, all of them are much stronger than listed.

(I use Orvis Mirage or Cortland Ultra Premium for my 4X.)

### **Nothing Smaller?**

No. There's nothing smaller than 5X out there that I would buy outside of the fly shop brands. I had FC Super Sniper in its thinnest diameter, but I couldn't trust it for my 6X.

So, I still buy 6X fluorocarbon in the fly shop brands. (I like Orvis and Cortland right now.)

My standard nymphing rig ends at 5X (because I don't like leaving flies on the bottom of the river). But when I nymph with #18's and 20's, I often do better with 6X. So the name brand stuff is in my vest. But my primary nymph and streamer work happens with Seaguar InvizX.

I'll mention this too: I continue to use fly shop nylon for all my dry fly fishing, and I don't see an alternative for that any time soon. The supple high-end lines with greater breaking strengths are worth the nominal extra cost of fly shop nylon.

## Re-Spool

Seaguar InvizX comes on a bigger spool, of course. And that kind of inconvenience isn't for everyone. I transfer the InvizX over to empty tippet spools, right out of the box. It takes about ten minutes and a couple of spools, but then I'm set for a good long time.

So if that sounds like something you don't mind doing, try the InvizX.

Fish hard, friends.

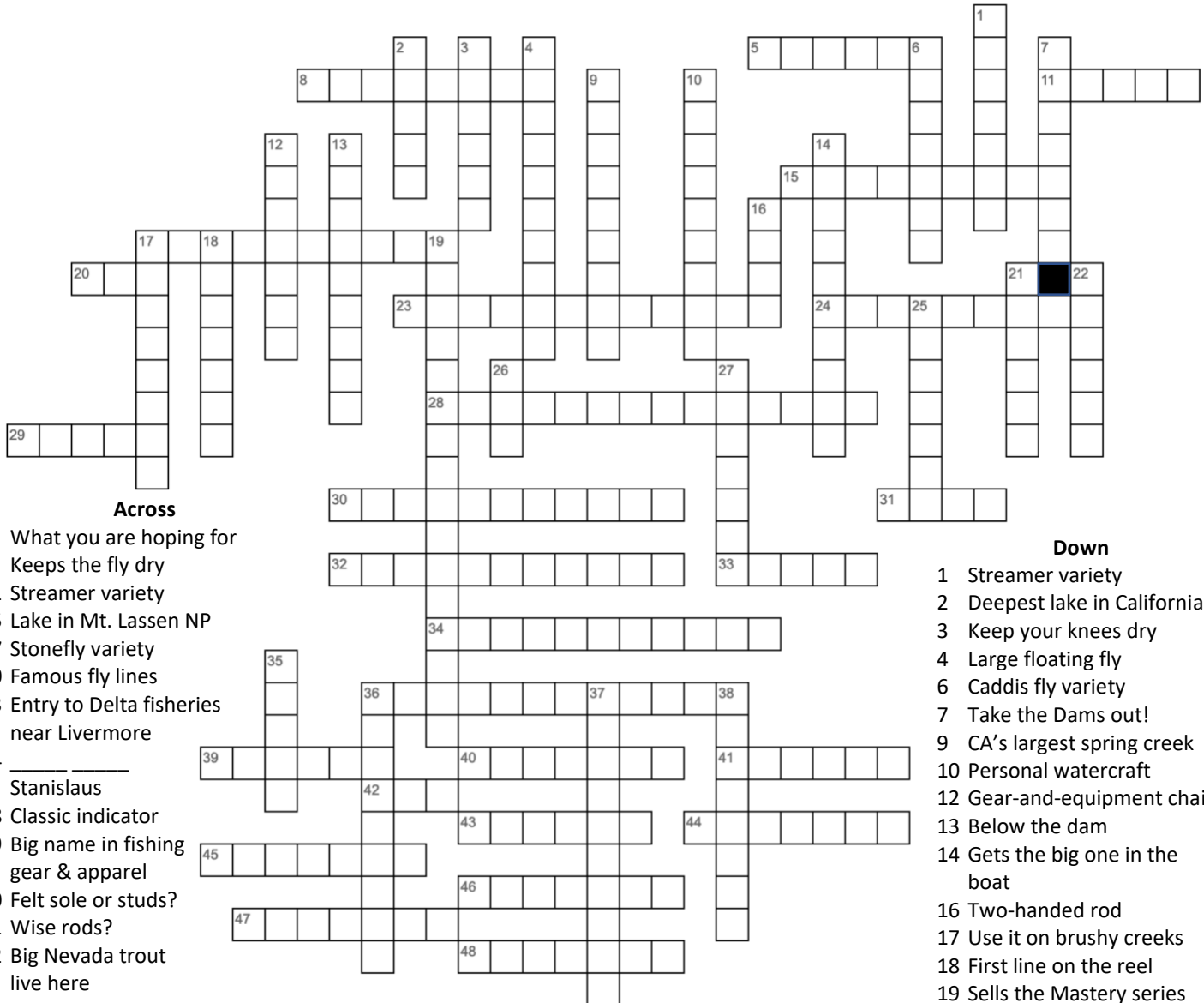




# In or On the Water

## Ron Dueltgen

Thanks to Ron for creating and submitting this puzzle! The answer key can be found at the end of the newsletter.



### Across

- 5 What you are hoping for
- 8 Keeps the fly dry
- 11 Streamer variety
- 15 Lake in Mt. Lassen NP
- 17 Stonefly variety
- 20 Famous fly lines
- 23 Entry to Delta fisheries near Livermore
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ Stanislaus
- 28 Classic indicator
- 29 Big name in fishing gear & apparel
- 30 Felt sole or studs?
- 31 Wise rods?
- 32 Big Nevada trout live here
- 33 The name on your shirt
- 34 Large terrestrial
- 36 Classic nymph
- 39 Tie the fly here
- 40 Not for fingernails
- 41 Eastern Sierra river
- 42 Small terrestrial
- 43 Stonefly variety
- 44 River & city near Squaw Valley
- 45 Famous rod maker
- 46 Largemouth lure
- 47 Nor Cal steelhead river
- 48 The Bollibokka Club is on it

### Down

- 1 Streamer variety
- 2 Deepest lake in California
- 3 Keep your knees dry
- 4 Large floating fly
- 6 Caddis fly variety
- 7 Take the Dams out!
- 9 CA's largest spring creek
- 10 Personal watercraft
- 12 Gear-and-equipment chain
- 13 Below the dam
- 14 Gets the big one in the boat
- 16 Two-handed rod
- 17 Use it on brushy creeks
- 18 First line on the reel
- 19 Sells the Mastery series
- 21 Bass lure
- 22 Type of shooting head
- 25 Fly fishing without a reel
- 26 Famous freestone river
- 27 Famous wading boots
- 35 It's used under water
- 36 Destination... or what to wear when you get there
- 37 Mandatory stop on the way to Redding
- 38 Big rainbows live here

## Items for Sale

### Wolff Apex Vise – Fred Lunday

I have a fly tying vise I wish to sell. It is an Apex vise from Wolff. It has a pedestal base and C clamp. It is rotary. It will fit 6/0 to 32 size hooks. Make me an offer.

Contact Fred – (510) 398-8276



### Pontoon Boats – Dennis Rankin



9 ft Colorado Pontoon, Trout Unlimited, good condition (one fill valve needs work or replacing), complete with oars, 27# thrust trolling motor and old battery. \$150.



6½ ft Bucks Bag Pontoon, complete with oars, good shape, also has live fish bag. \$175.

Contact Dennis – (925) 784-5666

# In or On the Water – Answer Key

