

# The Barbless Hook

June 2021

Edited by Mark Spruiell



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

## June Meeting

Please join us at 7pm on June 3<sup>rd</sup> as Bill Scharninghausen gives a presentation on fishing for shad.

Bill 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 U.S. pursuing 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, stillwater 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!"

Check your email this week for an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

### In this Issue

<b>President's Message</b>	2
<b>Raffle Information</b>	3
<b>BSA Coaches Needed</b>	4
<b>Outings and Activities</b>	6
<b>Member Reports</b>	8
<b>Polarized Sunglasses</b>	14
<b>Hot Creek Hatchery</b>	18

# President's Message

## Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals:

Well spring is upon us. The trees are flowering and the birds are singing. It looks like we have finally turned the corner on this pandemic. Restrictions are slowly being lifted for outdoor and indoor activities. I wish that I could say that I had a fish story to tell you, but alas, I haven't been out fishing since my Kistler trip in April. I'm finally going to get my left knee replaced on June 8<sup>th</sup>, so I'll be laid up for a couple of weeks. Like they say, "it's hell getting old, but the alternative really sucks". The club house at the Livermore Rod and Gun Club is available to us once again, which I noted in last month's newsletter. We will continue holding Zoom meetings for our monthly club meetings for the foreseeable future. Considering our age group, I hope all of you have at least gotten one vaccination shot by now, if not both shots. Like the old saying goes "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

I know a few of you avid fishermen, like Rob, are out there hitting the streams and rivers. I'm looking forward to hearing what they have to say about their outings in the newsletter. With the lack of rain and a below-average snow accumulation in the mountains this year, I suspect that the rivers will be on the low-flow side; not to mention what future water restriction will be imposed upon us and what impact it will have on the rivers and the fish when they start restricting the water flow out of the lakes to conserve water. The farmers are really going to take a hit this year, which means, fewer crops will be planted; thus the price we pay in the supermarket will be going up, if you haven't noticed it already.

I hope this message finds you all in good health and spirit. Stay active and "Zoom" in on our next club meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and don't forget about the raffle. Steve Johnson has done an outstanding job handling the raffle for the club this year. We still need someone to "step up to the plate" and give Steve a break and take over the raffle from him. I told Steve that the additional raffle duties were only going to be on a temporary basis. A healthy club is one that the members take an active interest in supporting.

*Al*

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<b>Speakers</b>	Dave Fontaine
<b>Trout in Classroom</b>	Daniel Kitts
<b>Video Library</b>	Steve Johnson
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Spruiell

## Donations

Thank you to **Jim Broadbent** for your generous donation to TVFF! The club gladly accepts [donations](#) to fund our conservation and education efforts.



## Raffle Information

For the club's next meeting on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, winning participants in the raffle will have their choice of the first six items below. Item 7 (the Piscifun rod) will be awarded last. As always you must be present, or in this case still online, to win.

Tickets must be purchased online through the [club store](#) by end of day on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. An email will be sent to you prior to the meeting with your ticket numbers. If you have not received the email by noon on the day of the meeting please contact me, Steve Johnson, at 925-980-5433.

Cost of tickets are:

- \$5.00 - 6 Tickets
- \$20.00 - 25 Tickets

The raffle items are listed below.



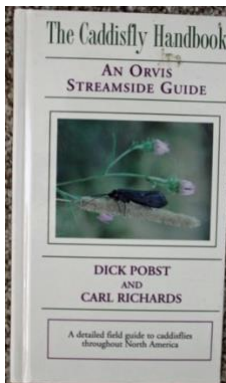
Bug Luggage Fly Box (Slightly used)



Dr. Slick Barb Pliers



StreamTime – Russian River Fishing Access Map



An Orvis Streamside Guide – The Caddisfly Handbook



Scientific Anglers Mastery GPX WF-5-F Fly Line



Hat with Hat Hook/Tie Clasp



Piscifun 4 piece, 9 weight, 9 foot, IM7 carbon fiber rod

## Coaches Needed!

### Your Help is Requested... Coaches Needed for BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge

The BSA Wentz Scout Reservation received approval to do this year's summer camp and we will be doing our 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching the Fly Fishing merit badge.

There will be 7 one-week sessions providing 168 openings for the Boy and Girl scouts to learn about Fly Fishing. We already have 108 scouts who have signed up. We also have 19 volunteers who have signed up for four days to coach the merit badge this summer.



BUT we have several weeks that need additional coaches, specifically weeks 4 (July 12-15) and 5 (July 19-22). Week 4 has one coach and we already have a full week with 24 scouts signed up, and week 5 has two coaches and we have 9 scouts. We also usually pick up several scouts or parents who didn't sign up ahead of time.

Please consider volunteering your time to coach the merit badge one of those weeks. But, if these weeks don't work for you and you are interested in volunteering your time, there are also openings in every week except weeks 1 & 6.

The Scouting organization in conjunction with several health departments has done a great job of putting together a program to minimize the potential for Covid 19 infections. If you would like more details on that I would be happy to answer your questions.

This is a great opportunity for you to share your knowledge of Fly Fishing with our younger generation. AND... Did I mention you have the opportunity to fish their 80 acre lake that is home to many 5+ pound Large Mouth Bass and hasn't been fished in almost 2 years!



This is open to all men and women Fly Fishers who want to volunteer. Through the years we've had coaches from virtually every Fly Fishing Club and organization in the Bay Area and even some from other states. Please consider sharing your knowledge to introduce Fly Fishing to these young people.

There is an article in the last two months of the Barbless Hook with additional information. Please pass this information on to other people or organizations you think might be interested.

If you have any questions or if you would like to sign up to help, please contact me.

Daniel Kitts  
[dckitts@aol.com](mailto:dckitts@aol.com)  
510-816-2846

## Outings and Activities

I'm assuming that most of you have been VACCINATED and are looking for some great fishing opportunities. The problem is most of our trips have been put together by just a few Members and it's time for some others to step up.

If you've never sponsored a trip before, think of somewhere you like to fish and contact me. I'll put you in touch with an experienced Fish Meister who will coach you through the processes.

I'm considering putting together a mid-October trip for a guided trip to the Green River, Flaming Gorge. If you're interested in joining me, please send me an email and let me know.

We have some great outings coming up and there are still some slots open:

### FULL

Jim Roberts Montana trips; Jim Roberts beginning nymphing clinic; you can put your name on the waiting list if there is a cancelation.

### AVAILABLE

There are still openings for Lower Yuba on the UC Private Property, Baja South-Sea of Cortez, and the Truckee Watershed.

### NEW LISTINGS

Jim Roberts, a fly fishing guide and instructor and long-time supporter of TVFF, has presented to the club many times and has often focused on nymphing techniques. On Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>, Jim will be giving an intensive on-the-water clinic for experienced nymphers wishing to sharpen their skills.

This clinic will be limited to six members of Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. The clinic will include everything (meals, flies, leaders, lodging and instruction). Attendees will provide their own fishing gear and licenses. The Intermediate/Advanced clinic will be 3 students to 1 instructor and costs \$600 all-inclusive.



Clinic includes:

- 2 nights lodging in the Shasta/McCloud area
- All meals from dinner Friday night to breakfast Monday morning
- Beer and Wine with dinners
- Flies

Participants must bring:

- Current CA fishing license

- Regular fishing gear (waders, boots, 4 to 6 wt – 8 to 10' rod, reel, floating line, 3-5X tippet, polarized glasses, brimmed hat, forceps, nippers sun-screen, ...)
- Transportation from lodging to river

For more information, visit the [event](#) or contact me.  
Martin P., Outing Coordinator

## Casting Clinic – Presentation Casts and Slack Line Aerial Mends – June 5

Improve your fly casting skills with Gary Turri, an FFI Certified Fly Casting Instructor.

If you fly fish for trout in moving water, this class teaches you the presentation casts and aerial mends needed to avoid spooking fish, and also to get a longer drag-free drift. This class teaches the specialty casts and aerial mends needed to fool finicky trout in moving water. The class will cover the Curve, Tuck, Pile and Parachute Cast and the two most useful aerial mends which are the Reach Mend and the Wiggle Mend.

[This class](#) will be three hours on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and conducted at San Ramon Central Park. The class size is limited to a maximum of 6 students.

## Lower Yuba River – June 12-13

Our club events on the Yuba will be on the private property owned by the University of California. We have contracted for TVFF's exclusive use of the facility for the weekend, with a maximum of twenty anglers per day. There is approximately 2.5 miles of available river that is the tailwater section a mile or so below Englebright Dam. The river has easy and level access, so it's ideal for those less comfortable in heavy current wading situations, although that is also available for those Euro Nymphing.



The UC facility is on many acres in a pastoral valley leading down to the river. Most of the research here is for cattle, grazing land management, and erosion control so it is very quiet with no nearby roads, ranches, or houses. There is a covered picnic area for use that sits above the river with 8-10 picnic tables and a restroom that is also available on site. All in all, it's a very scenic and serene site.

The club is offering three separate events:

- A special novice fly fishing clinic on June 12<sup>th</sup> for those that have already completed a Fly Fishing Fundamentals course and the Basic Casting class, from any year or any club. It is designed to provide a full day of instruction by a TVFF instructor for a maximum of six students on the river with practical use of what has been learned in the courses. A two-hour night session will be scheduled prior to the trip to review and prepare rods and reels with rigging, flies, proper approaches, wading safety, and reading the river.
- Fish on your own – June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Fish on your own – June 13<sup>th</sup>

As of this writing, these events are still available for registration. Please register by May 20<sup>th</sup>, at which point we may open the events to other clubs.

Visit our [event calendar](#) for all the details.

## Truckee Watershed – June 25-28

This is our annual 3 night-3 day [camping trip](#) headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three 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, pontoon, pram or bank fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques.



## Baja Inshore Fishing – July 17-24

Six days fishing out of panga boats for a variety of saltwater species. Our host, Gary Bulla, operates out of Baja Joes on the beach in Ventana between LaPaz and Cabo on the Sea of Cortes. Home cooked meals, bar and single occupancy cabins, can't ask for more. Fishmeister Martin Plotkin has been going down to fish Mexico for the past 25 years and this location and trip set up has to be the best. All lodging (single occupancy) and locally and home cooked food is provided, as is daily guide services. Contact Martin if you have any questions about this [outing](#).



## Intermediate/Advanced Nymphing Clinic – September 10-12

Jim Roberts will be hosting an intensive [on-the-water clinic](#) for experienced nymphers wishing to sharpen their skills. Expect to catch fish! The clinic will include everything: meals, flies, leaders, lodging and instruction. Attendees will provide their own fishing gear and licenses. See the event for all the details.



## Member Reports

### Ken Tetzl

Not too much to report. I've been to the Middle Fork of The Stanislaus, below Beardsley, two times in the last couple weeks. Not great but did catch 8-10 fish each time. A little on the small side with most 12" and a couple 14-16". Hatches were pretty slim.



Fished the Stan in Big Trees State Park last weekend. Very slow. Two small rainbows in about five hours of fishing. Talked to four others that caught nothin'!! That stream has been fishing very poor the last few years. Too bad.

## Dave Meister

Chunky rainbows and browns to 20" for me here at the San Juan River in NM, using midge flies # 22, 20's.



## Bob McCollum

LMB fishing in the Gold Country. Caught a mess of these guys. Not big, but tons of fun.



## Hat Creek, the Stream of Dreams



Hat Creek riffles, ahhh!



Todd's first



The sought after Salmonfly

## Denis Haire experiences:

Springtime and the anticipation of the Hat Creek Salmon fly brings a renewed hope and dreams for a great trip to the area. Having never seen a Salmon Fly, one of the dreams for the trip was to see one in the water and possibly a hatch. After an early dinner, our group of four made our way to the Powerhouse Riffle for the evening hatch. Euro nymphing rubber legs and smaller trailers were productive, but the most amazing sight was the evening hatch. Right at dusk, a hatch of Green Drakes, Salmonflies and Golden Stoneflies, caddis, and yellow sallies created a blizzard of insects that I have never experienced before. I chose to stop and watch in amazement and began to realize the creek must be healthy to support all of this! The next day on the water was not as productive but fish were caught in the morning. As for the afternoon, a weather front moved in that may have turned the fish and the hatch off. Now we put our hopes on Baum Lake.



Denis working at Baum



Todd hooked up in the bend



Rob working another one

After an evening and morning of rain, lightning and thunder we ventured to Baum Lake. When we felt it was safe to be on the water, Rob and Todd launched their watercraft while Scott and I attacked from the shore. The water was higher than normal and the weed growth was down a little so moving around the shore was manageable. After setting anchor and finding accessible areas to the water, we all used balanced leech type rigs under an indicator. And that was a great choice! There was a constant roar of “Another one”, “That is a good one”, and “Look at the shoulders on that one!” could be heard. At the end of the day, collectively we had 100 fish with more than 25 of them being 17 inches or greater. Only in my wildest dreams could a day like this have happened. Needless to say, my badge of honor for this was a sore arm and wrist that required some libations and some anti-inflammatories...

But of greater importance is the comradery and being in the outdoors that defines what this club and sport is about. A shared passion builds bonds between people that last. Fly fishing builds those relationships especially strongly because of the waters where the club and sport takes us. In these special places away from much of the clutter and distraction of our modern lives, the scene is set to actually get to know someone. Throw in a Stream of Dreams, a lot of good fish and a couple of cold beers and you just may have a friend for years to come.

## Scott Rosingana experiences:

Hat Creek had been on my bucket list of spots to fish for years, but it's always a little intimidating showing up someplace, without any real knowledge of the fishery, and giving it a go. When I saw that the fly club had a trip planned to Hat Creek, I couldn't wait for the signups to open so that I could get my name on the list. After signing up, time couldn't move fast enough, and I looked forward with anticipation for the trip to finally arrive. The day finally came, and I hooked up the trailer, loaded all of my gear, and very excitedly hit the road. After a stop at The Fly Shop, and a beautiful drive past Mount Lassen, I arrived at the campground. Being new to the

fly club, it's always a little intimidating for me to show up to one of the events being the "new guy", but Rob, Denis, and Todd made me feel right at home.



Scott with the "pose"



The boys lined up at Hat Creek



"Killer" Ghost Nuts Appetizer

After getting all set up, it was down to Hat Creek and my first look at the river. Beautiful!! There was easy wading, lots of good runs to fish, and an amazing amount of life on the river. I euro nymph fished the entire evening and was incredibly excited to catch my first ever euro nymph fish, a beautiful rainbow. I caught several fish that evening and was amazed to watch Rob and Todd catch about four to every one that I caught. The evening was topped off with an amazing hatch of bugs that was so prolific that it made it hard to breathe at times.

Day two on Hat Creek was another beautiful day. Fishing was a little slower and we definitely had to work harder for the fish that we caught. There were fewer bugs flying that day and we had a decent amount of wind that day, but all in all, another amazing day on the river.

Day three was at Baum lake. I've never had a lot of luck fly fishing lakes so I was a little skeptical, but excited to give it a try. The weather in the morning was a little rainy and there was some pretty spectacular thunder and lightning. The rain was short-lived and we were on the lake fishing before long. Rob and Todd set me up on a spot in a bend of the channel and it wasn't long before I was on the fish. Fishing a balanced leech under a strike indicator, the hardest part was being patient enough to let the fish take the leech before I set the hook. At one point, I'm pretty sure that I was hooking as many bushes as fish, so off on a little brush-clearing expedition and all was good! At the end of the day, I had lost count of how many fish I caught, but it was well into the 20's and at least 8 of those fish were in the 16"-20" range. It was absolutely an epic day and my opinion of lakes has definitely changed!

It was an amazing trip with a great group of guys. I feel fortunate to have been able to make this trip and I definitely plan on going back!

## Todd Hryn experiences:



Todd, again, on Hat Creek



Salmonfly nymph



And Todd yet again...Euro working!

Saturday evening and to celebrate our fishing successes and good company, our fishmeister carefully selected fine dining in MacArthur some forty minutes away. Off we went to break bread, eat beef and carbo load on tater tots larger than any of us had ever seen. The grassy campground where we pitched our tents, set up our trailers and took a hot shower proved to be just what the doctor ordered on Saturday night.

Sunday morning, Rob was up early for a jaunt to Manzanita. Unfortunately, he had no partners with the other three anglers choosing to head home. Another great trip with jokes, jabs, and stories to last a lifetime.

## Rob Farris (Fishmeister) experiences:



Ready to push off at Manzanita



Brownie to the net



A quiet morning view of Lassen

It's a real joy to have a new member join us on an outing; welcome Scott Rosingana! I'd like to encourage more of our new members to experience the great waters we have access to and knowledge of, and the comradery of other Club members through attending an outing as Scott did. There's no better way to meet others with similar fishing desires, experiences, and knowledge. Not to mention having a heck of a lot of fun as you can see above.

**Got a full fly box?** I schedule this time every year for the Hat Creek Club trip as it's in the prime springtime for terrific hatches. Speaking as a club entomologist there is no better period for "maximum bug impact". There were three different varieties of stoneflies hatching with large 2" Salmonflies, Golden Stones, and the smaller

yet more prolific Little Yellow Sallies in both adult and nymphs, large size 10 & 12 Green Drakes, and everything else from Caddis to various mayflies such as PMDs and PEDs. What else could you ask for?



Golden Stonefly trout treat



Little Yellow Sally blizzard hatch



A Pale Evening Dun joins the party!

Baum was as epic as I've ever seen. With both Mark Spruiell and Chris McCann's help over the last two years, I've added lakes into my normal river repertoire. And with the assistance of Mark's custom ties, I had a record day on the lake with 42 rainbows to the net including a 20"er to start the day. And it doesn't get much better than over a 100 fish day between all four of us. Just an awesome and fun time on a Saturday!

While I was left abandoned at the campsite on Sunday by my compatriots nursing sore arms, I finished up at Manzanita chasing the Browns for a little variety. I ran into a beautiful high-elevation morning with few others around at Lassen National Park since the main road around the peaks is still closed to snow. But the lake access was open, and I was the only one on the lake from 6:30 until I got blown off at noon. Nevertheless, I was able to get into a few nice 15-16" browns that made it to the net to make it a valuable 45-minute ride up from our campsite. All in all, I'd like to thank Todd, Scott, and Denis for a great time and warm up for the summer. And my final outing grades are below.

#### **Outing grades:**

Number of fish: B (Hat), A+ (Baum), C (Manzanita), Size of fish: B (Hat), A+ (Baum), B (Manzanita)

Weather: A (Day 1), C (Day 2), C (Day 3), C (Day 4), Campsite: A (great to have showers & grass site)

Size of Crowds: D (Hat), A (Baum), A+ (Manzanita), Hatch timing: A+; Hatch variety: A+, Hatch density: A+

Ribbing of Fishmeister: F

## **Polarized Sunglasses for Fly Fishers — Why, When and What Kind**

### **Domenick Swentosky - Troutbitten**

Showing up to the river without a good pair of polarized sunglasses is like wading through water in sneakers. Sure, it's possible. But what you can do and where you can go is limited. From head to toe, our fly fishing gear matters. We don't need top-end glasses to catch fish, but a decent pair of lenses is just as important as a pair of wading boots for consistent success — maybe more.

But while no one seems to forget their boots or fly rod, many anglers deliberately choose to omit the glasses when it's not sunny outside. That's a mistake. And as I'll discuss below, the right polarized lenses are a critical piece of gear. Yes, a good pair of glasses does put more fish in the net.



So here's a rundown of lens color, lens composition and frame style.

But first, let's talk about why polarized sunglasses are so important to the avid fly fisher . . .

## Why Wear Them?

Reading the water is a learned skill that's overlooked by anglers of all levels. Sure, the average fisherman can stand on the bank and point to many obvious holding lies for trout. But gathering a full picture, from bank to bank, is far more important. Because oftentimes, trout line up to feed in unexpected places.

A good pair of polarized lenses can help anyone see more fish. Polarization cuts glare by blocking light from certain angles. So the highlights on the water are dramatically reduced, allowing even an untrained eye to pick out a few fish. And if you stare at the right piece of water for long enough, you'll probably pick up the movements of many more trout.

But seeing fish is only one of the many reasons to keep the glasses on your face. With good lenses we can read the water better, from top to bottom.

With some of the highlights removed from the surface, we see the contours of the currents more efficiently. We pick up swirls and merger seams, and we find more perfect lanes to place a dry fly. But in many light conditions, without good glasses, we are blind to these details.

With the glare from the surface reduced, we see further below the surface too. The best nymph and streamer anglers are obsessed with the structure of a riverbed. And reading the underwater boulders, rock shelves, potholes and tree parts helps us plug in the pieces of a puzzle — a map for what's below. Seeing just a fraction more of the riverbed is a huge advantage. And recognizing the color change of depth makes a big difference when fishing underneath. Even if the lenses help just a bit more, the overall result is a more complete picture of the water ahead.

Lastly, we wade better and safer when wearing polarized sunglasses. The more you can see into the water, the more you know about where your next footsteps will fall. It's an obvious but often overlooked reason to keep the lenses on — not hung around your neck or in the glovebox.

## Sans Magic

Before delving into the specifics of polarized sunglasses for fly fishing, let's first understand that there's no magic involved. Good lenses block glare from certain angles, but they don't block all of it.

In truth, there's not much difference between the polarization of a fifty-dollar pair of sunglasses vs a pair of glasses costing five times as much. The glare they filter out is mostly the same. I wore a friend's \$400 pair of Maui Jim's one afternoon. There was no difference in how much of the river-glare was cut compared to my \$50 Sunclouds or my \$200 Costas.

In my experience, it's the other things about high-end glasses that matter more: the clarity of the glass or plastic, the tint, the frame weight and fit, etc.

Quick Tip: Try tilting your head slightly against the glare. A minor change in angle makes a dramatic difference in how many highlights are filtered out.

## **Lens Color**

Grey, green, amber, yellow or something else? What lens color you choose for your glasses is the biggest decision you'll make.

For the reasons discussed above, I wear my polarized sunglasses all the time. They aren't for sun protection as much as they are for reading the water, for seeing past the surface and fishing better. With that in mind, you should choose lens color by considering the light conditions that you'll fish most often.

Grey lenses are simply too dark for me. For most of my decades on the water, I wore amber/brown lenses, and they are generally accepted to be the best all-around color choice for varying light conditions.

But I live in Pennsylvania. I fish deep-green, wooded valleys, often in the backcountry with heavy canopy. I also prefer early mornings, late evenings and cloudy days. In truth, I do everything I can to avoid the sun, finding shady water on even the brightest days.

So with the amber lenses I wore for years, I found myself lifting my glasses to my forehead for a few minutes, and then dropping them back down — repeating this over and over throughout the day. Then many times, I simply hung them around my neck for good, because the light grew too dim.

Yellow lenses changed all of that for me. A few years back, I bought my first pair of yellow polarized sunglasses, and I was significantly impressed. Now, on most days, I never take them off. For me, the test has always been whether I can tie knots in dim light. And with a good pair of yellows, I can do that easily.

So I choose yellow lenses as my default. In bright sun, yellow is the wrong choice, and I can actually feel my eyes straining after a few hours. So in those moments, I'd rather have my ambers. These days, I sometimes bring both, when I know that the day will be bright at some points and dim at others. I also choose amber lenses most often for snow-covered terrain and short midday fishing trips. But overall, yellow lenses are my go to.

## **Clarity, Glass and Plastic**

The biggest difference between an inexpensive pair of polarized sunglasses and a top-of-the-line pair is the clarity. And it's hard to argue against this. No matter the material composition of the lenses, quality and clarity



go hand in hand. So does the cost. But the same question always remains: Is it worth paying the extra money for a little more clarity?

That's for you to decide. As a college student, my answer was no. But as more and more of my life has become about fly fishing, I really enjoy looking through a great pair of sunglasses.

What about glass vs plastic lenses? I own both, and to me, glass lenses are always clearer. The downside is that they weigh more. I thought that wouldn't matter to me. What's the effect of some extra centigrams on the bridge of my nose? Almost nothing. I don't care about that. The only thing I don't like about the added weight of glass is the way they slide down from my forehead too easily. Propping my glasses up is an old habit of mine that will never die. And too often I've pushed the glass lenses up only to have them fall back down seconds later. It's irritating. But this is a minor detail, and it may not matter much to you.

## Johnny Cage, Wins

Frames are a personal decision. Choose what fits your face and find a style that you like.

If you know, you know.

Because these are fishing glasses, opt for a frame design that blocks light from entering at the sides or the corners, because unfiltered light slipping in changes things. In this case, go for function over form — but you can find both in a pair of glasses that you are happy with.

These Are My Favorite Polarized Sunglasses . . .

### Costa Fantail

For me, the Fantails are the perfect frame. They block almost all side light without being obnoxious in design. The lenses are big enough to provide full coverage, and they have enough room behind them to prevent fog up. So they allow air flow and are comfortable.

That's important. I wear the 580g (glass) in Silver Copper (much like amber). And I wear the 580p (plastic) in Silver Sunrise (yellow). Fantail frames are designed to fit the average face size and shape. Check out the [Costa site](#) for more details on frame sizes.



### Suncloud Milestone

I've owned a few styles of Suncloud glasses through the years, and the Milestones are my favorite. They are the best polarized glasses I've found in this price range, and the warranty is good.



## What About Sunglasses Holders?

There are two kinds of anglers: those who still put their glasses on top of their ballcap and those who use a tether around their neck. Seems that everyone has to learn the hard way. I finally did.

I wore Croakies for many years, and they're alright. But I really love Cablz. At first glance, you'd think that the wire hanging behind your head would cause problems. But for me it doesn't.

I like the standard length Cablz, and I prefer them without the adjustable feature that some of the new styles have, which adds weight and causes the wire to bounce a bit.

Go with the standard Cablz.



## Prescription, Flip Overs or Fold Overs?

Good luck finding a pair of fit over lenses that you'll be happy with. Cocoons are a fair choice, but I don't know anyone who's happy with them for long. Likewise, the plastic lenses that clip on and flip down over your regular prescription glasses are a subpar choice, although they can surely work for a while.

My best recommendation is to bite the bullet and get your prescription in a good pair of polarized sunglasses. Sorry, but there's no better answer here.

## The Difference

Polarized sunglasses are standard fishing gear, just as important as anything else that we carry to the water. If I do forget my glasses, I turn around and walk back to the truck for them. That's how much I need my sunglasses to read the water and feel comfortable about fishing what I see in front of me.

Fish hard, friends.

## Disease Outbreak at Hot Creek Trout Hatchery

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has suspended all fish planting from the Hot Creek Trout Hatchery in Mono County as a bacterial outbreak has been detected at the facility.

Fish pathology experts have confirmed an outbreak of *Lactococcus garvieae* in some trout at the hatchery. CDFW has quarantined the facility, halted all fish planting, and is preparing to expand testing and vaccinate the fish stocks. *Lactococcus garvieae* is the same disease that forced the quarantine and suspension of fish planting last year at three other CDFW trout hatcheries in Southern California and the eastern Sierra – the Mojave River Hatchery, Black Rock Trout Hatchery and Fish Springs Trout Hatchery. That outbreak ultimately forced the euthanization of 3.2 million trout at those hatcheries.



“Unfortunately, the timing couldn’t be worse with the holiday weekend coming up, Mule Days taking place in Bishop and a lot of people coming to fish the eastern Sierra this time of year,” said Jay Rowan, Acting Fisheries Branch Chief for CDFW. “We don’t yet know the extent of the outbreak at Hot Creek Hatchery, but we do have the advantage of some additional tools in our toolbox now versus a year ago, including recently developed vaccines that we started rolling out to fish at the three previously infected hatcheries earlier this month.”

The outbreak of *Lactococcus garvieae*, which is similar to streptococcus, has been reported in cattle and poultry farms as well as fresh and saltwater fish and shellfish hatcheries around the world. It had never before been detected in fish in California until the hatchery outbreaks last year. Hot Creek Trout Hatchery was originally quarantined with the other three hatcheries last year out of caution, but the quarantine was lifted after testing found no evidence of the disease.

Fish that are infected with *Lactococcus garvieae* can show symptoms including bulging eyes, lethargic or erratic swimming and increased mortality, or be asymptomatic and show no signs of infection depending on a several factors including water temperature and stress. Fish-to-human transmission of this bacteria is rare and unlikely but there are several documented instances associated with immunocompromised people consuming infected raw fish and unpasteurized milk products.

CDFW’s Hot Creek Trout Hatchery is located in Mammoth Lakes and raises four species of trout – rainbow trout, brown trout, Eagle Lake trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout – for recreational fishing. Fish from the hatchery are stocked in Mono and Inyo counties.

For real-time stocking updates, California anglers can refer to CDFW’s Fish Planting Schedule. This schedule is updated directly by CDFW hatchery staff. Although it contains current information, all fish plants are subject to change depending on road, water, weather and operational conditions.

For additional information, please see CDFW’s [frequently asked questions about the \*L. garvieae\* outbreak](#).

