

The Barbless Hook

March 2021

Edited by Mark Spruiell



President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals:

Well, I finally got an appointment for my wife and I for our vaccination shots. If you haven't been able to get an appointment, you have to check the websites a couple times a day for updates on availability. I went through the Oakland Coliseum drive through. It was a breeze. I never felt the prick of the needle and I was back home by the time my wife's appointment was scheduled for. I got there about a half hour early and went right through. Although you need an appointment, it was like first come first serve. If you go to the Coliseum, get off at exit 37 for 66th Avenue and just hang a right turn. The exit takes you right at the entrance of the Coliseum parking lot. They are scheduling appointments every ten minutes. Of course the Alameda Fairground vaccination center would have been a lot more convenient than driving the twenty miles to Oakland, but no appointments were available at that site.

I haven't been out fishing in the last month. So, no fish stories to tell you about, how many I caught and of course the big one that always gets away. The days are starting to get a little longer, dryer and warmer. If we don't get any rain in March, it looks like we're in for another drought year and water restrictions again. I'm not sure what impact this will have on this year's fishing with low flow rivers and reservoirs.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and get out there and do some fishing. I'm looking forward to later this year when we again can start hold our monthly club meetings at the Livermore Rod and Gun club house. Our monthly Zoom club meetings have been a big success. So, if you haven't tried to "Zoom in," give it try. You don't know what you're missing out on, with our raffle and guest speakers.

Al



Check out Chris Anderson's report about his trip to the Klamath River in the Member Reports section.

New Members

The club welcomes the following members who have joined us in the last month:

Ray Champlin

Hugo Godoy

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March Meeting – Jim Roberts on Northern California Waters

Jim Roberts will be the guest speaker at our club meeting on Thursday, March 4th at 7pm. His topic is Northern California Lakes and Streams - Tackle, techniques, and tips. If you've heard Jim talk before, or better yet fished with him, you know he's always full of sound and practical information on both technique and where to fish. If you haven't heard Jim you're in for a treat. He always has the latest updates on NorCal waters and also what techniques are working where. Jim will also talk about his hosted annual week-long Montana trips near West Yellowstone.

Jim has held numerous nymphing clinics and steelhead trips for the club over the years, and his talks always have the highest club meeting attendance every year.



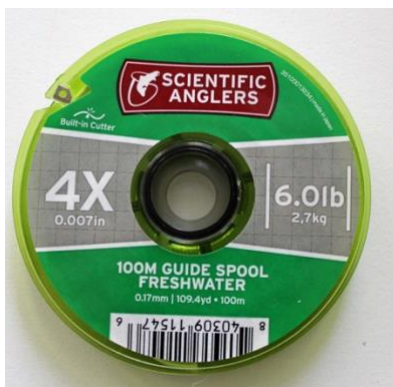
Raffle Information

For the club's next meeting on Thursday, March 4th, winning participants in the raffle will have their choice of the first seven items below. Item 8 (the Douglas 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, March 2nd**. 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 \$1 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets, and \$20 for 25 tickets.

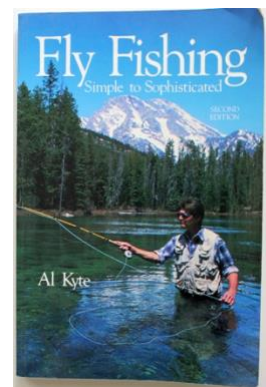
The raffle items are listed below.



SA 4X Tippet, 100M Guide Spool Freshwater, 6 lb



Sealevellyfish.com fingerless fishing gloves



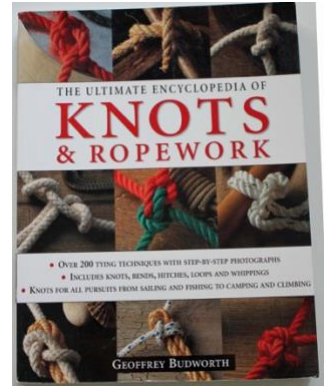
Fly Fishing - Simple to Sophisticated, Second Edition by Al Kyte



Gualala River Fishing Access & Accommodations map, 1989



Fishpond West Bank Wader Belt - Gravel color



The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots and Ropework - Geoffrey Budworth



Loon Rogue Scissor Forceps with comfy grip - stainless steel hemostat with cutting blade



Douglas DHF 61164 – 4 piece, 11' 6", 6 weight spey rod. The DHF rods are medium fast.

Frank Harris Youth Scholarship

Diablo Valley Fly Fishers are accepting applications for their Frank Harris Youth Scholarship, which sends a Bay Area youth age 10 to 15 to The Fly Shop's five-day FishCamp. This annual scholarship covers the cost of attendance at The Fly Shop's beautiful Antelope Creek facility north of Redding, Calif. Find more information and a link to the application form at diablovalleyflyfish.org/FishCamp. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2021.



Outings and Activities

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

Kistler Bass Ponds – March 20 & April 10

Kistler bass ponds are located outside of Oakdale, California. These are unguided trips, and excellent ones 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.

Two dates are available: [March 20](#) and [April 10](#).



Fly Casting Class: Improved Accuracy and Loop Control – March 27

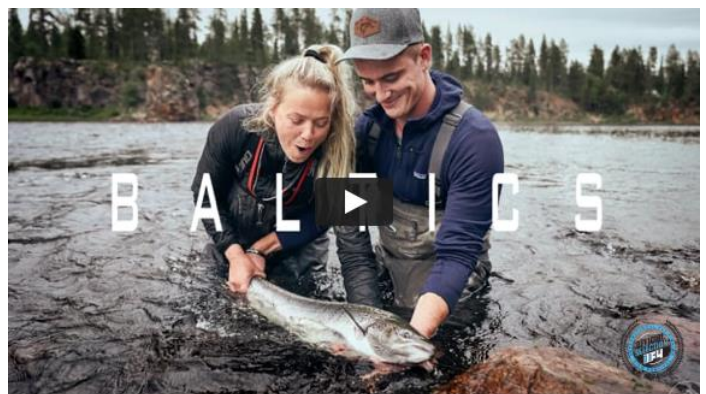
FPI-certified casting instructor and TVFF member Gary Turri will teach you the techniques and tips to be consistently accurate to targets at 20, 30 and 40 feet. The class also teaches the casting mechanic micro adjustments needed as the caster extends line from 20 to 40 feet to maintain good loop control. Good Loop Control is a prerequisite to learning the more advanced skills. The class size is limited to a maximum of six students. This class will be three hours on Saturday, March 27, 2021 and conducted at San Ramon Central Park. Register [online](#) to reserve your spot.



International Fly Fishing Film Festival – April 9

Consisting of short and feature-length films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, the International Fly Fishing Film Festival showcases the passion, lifestyle, and culture of fly fishing. The films at this popular event have captured the attention of anglers around the world.

The film festival is holding virtual screening events this year. [Click here](#) to buy a ticket. You must start watching within 48 hours, but then you'll have seven days to finish watching. Visit flyfilmfest.com to see previews of this year's selections.



Hat Creek Salmonfly Hatch with Baum & Manzanita Lakes – May 13-16

This is a 3 night-4 day trip to explore 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek, and to fish Baum and Manzanita Lakes. The trip is open for those wishing to fish the full four days, or just to join us for a subset based upon time availability.



The event is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly and Golden Stonefly hatches that occur during this period on Hat Creek, as well as several other spring 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 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.

Baum and Manzanita offer the opportunity to use watercraft (electric motors only on Baum and no motors allowed on Manzanita), or to wade and fish the shoreline as well for both rainbows and browns.

This [outing](#) is currently fully subscribed but there is no cost to join the waitlist.

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](#).



Member Reports

Klamath River – Chris Anderson

Well this year has had many ups and downs and very little fishing trips but I was blessed with a wonderful wife who received a nice little bonus the first of the year. Being the wonderful wife she is, she gave me a few bucks and said go fishing and have a great time, so that's what I did. I contacted John Rickards at Wild Waters Fly Fishing, who I appreciate as a guide and usually puts me on fish, and told him I wanted to do a little steelhead fishing. Although it was a bit of a last minute, he was glad to be guiding as it has been very slow this year with the pandemic. He suggested a place to stay in Yreka, I made the call and I was set for the weekend of two days of fishing on the Klamath.



I drove up to Yreka on Friday afternoon, settled into my hotel, grabbed a bite to eat at a local establishment and brought it back to the hotel for a quiet night and some sleep. Woke up the next morning early and drove to the Chevron in Hornbrook where I met John and off we headed up the Klamath where we would drift for the rest of the day on this very chilling morning. The day was overcast and about 36 degrees when we got on the water but I was dressed for the occasion and my blood was pumping to catch a few fish.



First cast within 5 seconds, Fish on and the first Steelie was landed. I knew it was going to be a great day on the water. I wasn't that lucky as the next fish took a little longer to land and then another and another. Most of the fish were about 18-20 inches but fought like they were much bigger. It wasn't until just about lunch time when I had a much bigger one on and fought him a little too defensively and then snap, broke the leader. This was a disappointment as this was definitely the biggest fish of the day and I lost him.

The next couple of hours would be a little less productive as the afternoon slowed but the conversation with John would never cease. We drifted for another hour or so and then called it a day. We got back to the truck and discussed the next day as the weather coming sounded as if it would be less promising as a drift day. John said he would look at the forecast for tomorrow and get back to me with details.



Once again, I got back to my hotel in Yreka, warmed my frozen hands and body and then was off once again to find a bite to eat among this Pandemic scenario. I decided to grab a bite to eat at Casa Ramos a local Mexican restaurant in which I was able to actually sit down and have my dinner. Called it a night and headed back to the hotel and wait for John's call in the morning.

John called in the morning and had a different agenda for the day and I was to meet him at the Walmart parking lot in Yreka where we would head off to one of his favorite spots. The weatherman had said that it was going to be a cold and rainy day and that the forecast did not suggest drifting down the Klamath another day. We headed off in his truck through the valley and ended up along the river where we would boulder hop the rest of the day and it did not disappoint. I'm sure glad that damn weatherman was wrong again or I would not be on this wonderful river that John mentioned but told me to keep it quiet.

This day on the water was one of the best days I have had in a couple of years. I learned a lot, found the holes where the fish were, saw bald eagles plenty and once again had great conversations with a guide I respect and can converse with. I think I landed about 15 decent size fish maybe lost about the same but could not beat the scenery to my amazement. We live in a very diverse state and it is wonderful to be able to get away within 5-6 hours and feel like I am nowhere among the craziness.



Once again John and I called it a day around 1:30 as I wanted to be back on the road by 3 and home by the evening as I had another long week ahead of me. For you guys who have not fished with John at Wild Waters Fly Fishing you need to give him a try as he will put you on the fish and maybe even share a river or two you may have never been on before. Next time, I am going to try the fishing a little closer to the ocean as the Steelies are double the size and from what I hear this year is not disappointing.



Tight Lines – Christopher Anderson

Skwala Workshop – Patrick Donovan & Todd Hyrn

Four of us set out Saturday, January 30 for the Skwala Stonefly Workshop on the Yuba river. The group featured Jon Baiocchi as instructor and three TVFF anglers; John Magee, Tom Olinger, and Patrick Donovan. The Fishmeister for the trip was Rob Farris. Rob was in typical form being first to arrive and after assuring all details were in place with Jon he was joined by Todd Hyrn. That was the last we saw of them until the end of the day as they bounded off across the river for a couple mile hike downstream in pursuit of the Skwala and surface action.

Jon had prepped us with pre-work and guide quality information for this workshop and everything was top notch. He put a lot of thoughtful preparation into getting us ready with documents that presented the fish, tackle, flies, and tactics. On the river I found him to be very enthusiastic about helping fellow anglers expand their knowledge and skills. He's also a very patient teacher which is a great trait!

The weather started out a little brisk in the morning but warmed up nicely as the Sun was out in full force. Thankfully the Wind Gods were restricted to only the occasional and welcomed light breeze. We met at Hammon Grove County Park and fished in the immediate area about a quarter mile up and downstream from the parking lot. I don't know our exact metrics, but I think the flows were in the 700 cfs range. If you haven't fished here, the river is very accessible and relatively easy to wade. Relative meaning the current is very

manageable, but the bottom is primarily round cobble ranging from golf ball to head size. I found a few boot prisons that took a little problem solving to negotiate.

Turning to the fishing, it was a pretty slow pick for us. I don't have our exact numbers, but I think we had about 10 fish on, and a handful to the net. One turned out to be a nice steelhead buck at about 16". According to Jon the fish in this river are some of the strongest trout he's experienced. He attributes that to a very abundant food supply, and few places to hide from the current, i.e. "they're on a treadmill 24/7 and very athletic". I can't really attest to that as my three fish went as follows: 1) spit the hook right after set (no angler error), 2) spit the hook just after getting it on the reel (again, no angler error), 3) "to the net" fish fouled himself on the 2nd nymph which took the fight out of him (hey, truly no angler error).



Patrick's "Excellent Adventure" Steelhead

Meanwhile on their downstream cross-country trek, both Rob and Todd were each toting two rods set up for Euro and dry action. The early day started out nymphing while holding on to afternoon dry fly dreams. Those dreams would not become reality on this day, although Rob did find a few Skwalas having "play time" on his leg at lunch. Around midday Rob was first to get a fish to the net nymphing with a Skwala nymph (actually a Pat's Rubber Legs masquerading as a Skwala). Soon after Todd was hooked up with a nice fish he estimated around 20". After working the fish for a few minutes, the fish won. Right back into the same seam Todd was

hooked up and landed a nice 18-19" fish. Our downstream total at day end was 4 fish to net and a heck of a lot of exercise cobble-hopping.



A nice one in the net for Todd



Rob shoreline prospecting on the dry



Rob's rainbow loving the Skwala nymph



Adult Skwala "play time" with the sun out

In summary I think we all had a very pleasant day, especially considering an outing isn't all about fish count. We were blessed with good weather, a great guide, some excellent instruction, and pleasurable company. Oh yeah, and Mad Max at the Thunderdome – apparently cross river is BLM land (Bureau of Land Management, not Black Lives Matter) and in the afternoon it filled up with a pretty rowdy crowd of 4 wheelin', gun totin' pleasure seekers. So, will I go back to the Yuba for the Swkala hatch – yes. Would I fish with Jon on this, or another fishery – definitely!

Back to Basics Fly Casting Class with Gary Turri – Denis Haire

Having taken the class prior, the basics of fly casting workshop is a tremendous refresher and a great way to start the new season. The small class size really allows Gary to work with every class member. Gary's patience

and great communication skills made taking in the course material easier. Covering just the right amount of information and practice on the field and pool made the three hours go by quickly. From the basics of a pick up and lay down cast to performing an efficient roll cast, today was a great reminder that practice, practice and more practice will help you make that better cast. The attendees today were of all levels and I believe we all came away being a little better at this.

Editor: Spots are still available for Gary's next class, [Improved Accuracy and Loop Control](#), on March 27th.

Conservation

14,838 Acres of Redwood Forest Protected – Gary Prince

A large redwood forest 80 miles north of San Francisco has been purchased by the Save the Redwoods League for \$24.7 million (and included funds from the State Parks, and Forest Service, including \$6.5 million in land value from the Mailliard family). It's believed to be the largest family-owned redwood property in California. The Mailliard ranch is in southern Mendocino County, near the Sonoma county line. The Mailliard family has owned the property since 1925. The ranch is in the Anderson Valley west of highway 128 between Yorkville and Boonville. It's ten miles from the coastal community of Gualala. New conservation measures will continue into perpetuity. The family will continue to own the property and it will not be opened for public use. They will still be allowed to log 50% less, than required by law, of second growth redwoods. 1,000 very important acres along streams and old growth areas will now be preserved forever. This property is prime habitat for Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout, that will be further protected. The purchase agreement also removes 69 legal potential land zoning divisions for ranchettes, that will be retired and never happen. This land adjoins 67,000 acres of other similarly preserved lands between the Anderson Valley and Gualala.



The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy has also just purchased 113 acres at the mouth of the Gualala River. It was the site of a large sawmill 100 years ago. The land trust is planning to build riverfront trails and better river access for fishing and boating.

FFI & TU Formalize Conservation Partnership

Fly Fishers International and Trout Unlimited have entered into a formal conservation partnership, consummating the collective conservation focus of each organization to greater substantive effect.

The agreement formally recognizes and acknowledges the shared conservation commitments of FFI and TU on behalf of the organizations' members and the fly fishing community. It also establishes communication between the groups as they collaborate on mutual conservation goals.

The partnership has been approved by FFI's chairman of the board and president and CEO upon recommendation by the board's Conservation Committee.

Patrick Berry, President and CEO of Fly Fishers International commented: “FFI is dedicated to partnering with leading conservation organizations such as Trout Unlimited to ensure protection of our fisheries and their associated habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the broader fly-fishing community. When we work together to achieve our collective missions, we are able to realize more success than working individually.”

Trout Unlimited President and CEO Chris Wood said the partnership makes good sense for both TU and FFI. “Fly Fishers International is driven by the three fundamental pillars of conservation, education and community,” Wood said. “That philosophy perfectly aligns with Trout Unlimited’s vision. Because we share mutual conservation goals, we are natural allies.”

FFI conservation programs are focused on conserving All Fish, All Waters. The organization also preserves the legacy of fly fishing by focusing on the importance of a thriving community of individuals who value the camaraderie of angling and appreciates that learning never stops.

Items for Sale

Bronco Extreme 10' – Mike McAlpen

Parting with my Bronco Extreme 10ft as I have upgraded to the next model up in the series. I originally bought this after seeing it perform with ease in a serious kayak rapids running competition wherein the guy staying at the head of the rapids in one of these was there to save any of us that got in trouble and had no problem staying at the head of the rapids where he could see if we got into trouble. I have not only run rivers with it but had it out in the bays and ocean fishing a few times trolling with dual rod holders.

The heavy duty welded high quality stainless steel frame is one of the best in the industry and the dual internal bladders came at a significantly higher cost. Their new 11' model goes for \$1,700 and there is very little difference.



This Bronco Extreme 10ft features large diameter pontoons that are rotary welded with a rugged 22oz. PVC enamel coated polyester cover and a dual 100% polyurethane bladder. The stainless-steel frame has superior strength and design features that make it second to none. This boat also has a padded seat, padded armrests, cargo deck for coolers and extra gear and motor mount for trolling motor and battery. Includes anchor system for easy anchor release and retrieval. The large tackle pockets are partitioned for organization. Other features include: Brass oarlocks.

This Dual Chambered model of the Bronco Extreme series features two full-length air chambers per pontoon. The advantage of this is that if one side sustains damage, air can be added to the remaining chamber, creating full inflation. This is far superior to chambers running fore and aft and is a great security blanket for overnight trips or rigorous use.

Price (without oars) = \$550.00

Contact Mike @ 510-755-8294 or Mike.McAlpen@gmail.com