

The Barbless Hook

April 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

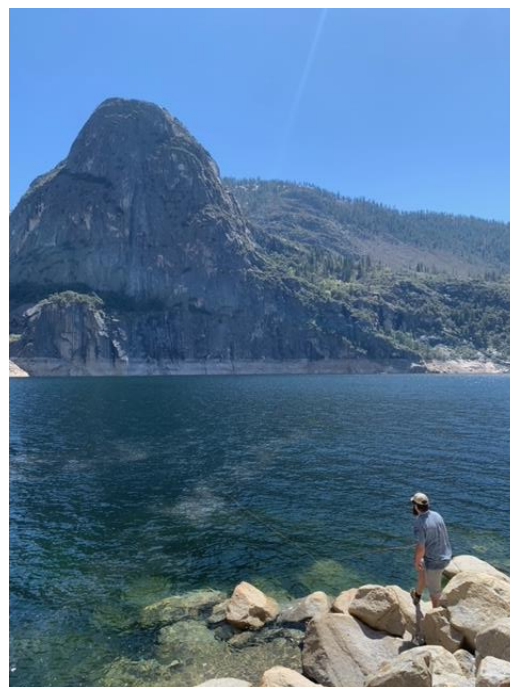
April Meeting – *Wednesday* April 6th, 7pm

David Gregory – Fishing Yosemite

Yosemite is a crown jewel of America's national parks. Its iconic waterfalls and rock landscapes captivate millions of visitors a year. The majority of these tourists barely scratch the surface. Lesser known Hetch Hetchy Valley draws on average 40,000 visitors a year and doesn't require a day use permit to enter. That's only about 1 out of 100 visitors. It offers solitude, scenery, and year-round fishing. Hetch Hetchy was described by John Muir as "one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." There is a reverence and irrevocable history in this Valley. The presentation intends to address that controversial history, seek solutions for its future, and share fishing opportunities within one of our country's greatest valleys.

David has a B.S. in Parks and Recreation Management and is a graduate of Clearwater Guide School. He is enthusiastically devoted to sharing his love of fly fishing and works as a full-time guide for Yosemite Outfitters. The past 17 years he has formed a deep connection to Yosemite and the cool crystal waters off the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. Classic trout streams of extreme beauty that will leave you feeling hooked.

He's narrowed the topic some to more of a conservation theme for Hetch Hetchy but is including fishing info as well as information on conservation projects in the park area. He'll take any and all questions on Yosemite fishing and is open to setting up club trips subject to Yosemite access and camping rules.



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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

This is it folks: after more than two years, we are going back to live meetings with a big "but". Due to conflicting activities with the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, we will be moving our monthly meeting nights to Wednesdays on a permanent basis. So, this **coming Wednesday, April 6, 2022**, will be the beginning of our getting back together face to face as a club. I'm sure we will have a few hiccups along the way, but we are going to make it happen. See you all at 7:00 PM.

Below you'll find a short article on volunteering. Things don't just happen to make a club successful. There are many people in the background that are donating their time and effort to make the club a fun and successful activity. This month we are asking people, who are willing, to indicate things that they would be interested in helping with. It can be anything and maybe you'll have ideas that are not on the list.

Last month I had said that the club is looking at making some changes to the way we are doing business regarding our financials. One of the changes we will be making is that, beginning immediately, all credit card payments will have the credit card fees added to them. Everyone still has the option to pay by check or cash if desired. Last month at the close of our Zoom meeting, someone mentioned having a club auction and it was always our major fundraiser for the year. Great idea, but unless we have someone willing to step up and organize it, it's just not going to happen at the moment.

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Marty Loomis – President

This year is shaping up to be a terrific year for Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. We are off to a great start with some interesting outings, educational events, and finally getting back together again after enduring Zoom presentations and meetings for far too long. We have quite a few new Committee/Directors for 2022 that are bringing new energy and ideas to the club, which is what we strive for. It's important for us as a club to continue to evolve to meet to our member and community needs, and to provide a highly valued and dynamic environment for our members. New ideas are always welcome and any assistance from our members is greatly appreciated.

2022 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Martin Loomis
Vice President	Alan Wyosnick
Secretary	Al Mansky
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Roger Perry

Directors

Auction	Open Position
Conservation	Gary Prince
Education	Rob Farris
Outings	Mitchie McCammon
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Member at Large	Martin Plotkin
Membership	Greg Blandino
Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Publicity	Open Position
Raffle	Open Position
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell

New Members!

TVFF welcomes new members **John Reyes, Hunter Guidess, Irvin Betts, Rich Vance, and Robert Natsch**. Glad to have you!

Naturally it takes a lot of effort to run and manage the large number of activities that we provide, as well as the outreach efforts that we support, including the Veterans, Boy Scouts, local classrooms, local conservation projects, and educational opportunities for our members. As a 100% volunteer organization, we do rely heavily on our members to offer their support for the continuation of our various activities.

Whether it is involvement in an ad hoc small project (such as meeting setup and cleanup, or organizing an outing or two) to full committee responsibility, our members are the lifeblood of Tri-Valley Fly Fishers and enable us to provide value for all club members.

We would really appreciate it if you could indicate your interest in assisting with any of our traditional areas of involvement.

[Please click here to take a brief survey.](#)

Raffle Information

Steve Johnson – Raffle Coordinator

Due to the resumption of in-person meetings in April, there will not be an online raffle for the meeting. Attendance will be required to purchase tickets for the prizes that will be offered at the meeting. Hope to see all of you at the meeting.

The raffle for the Sage Rod at the March meeting was a huge success with congratulations going to Mike Mangini for winning the rod.

Our next big ticket item raffle will be drawn at the June 2nd meeting. With the surge in popularity of Euro Nymphing, the club will be offering an ECHO Shadow II 3wt, 10' 0", 4 piece fly rod. This is an excellent, fast action rod that will perform well for both the beginner and serious angler.

For those that are serious, an optional competition kit can be purchased for the rod (not included in this raffle). The competition kit comes with a fighting butt, 5 10gr counter-weights, and two 6" extensions.

For more information on the rod, please visit [ECHO Shadow II](#).

The rod is valued at \$290 and comes with the ECHO lifetime warranty.

Tickets for the rod are \$10 and will be available online in our [club store](#) as well as in person at the meetings. You will not have to be present to win.



Share your Fly Fishing Knowledge with Future Fly Fishers

Daniel Kitts

For the past nine years, volunteers from TVFF along with others from Northern California and a few from outside, have coached the Fly Fishing Merit Badge at the Wente Scout Reservation Summer Camp located in Willits. During that time, over 1,500 boys and girls and hundreds of adult leaders have participated in the program. We are now signing up the coaches for the 2022 summer camp and you have the opportunity to share your knowledge of the art of fly fishing with the future of our sport. Even if you're a beginner, teaching is one of the best ways to hone your skills.

The details are simple. This year's summer camp is a series of seven one-week camps where the scouts arrive on Sunday, work on merit badges and do camp activities Monday thru Friday, and depart Saturday morning starting June 19th thru August 6th. The Fly Fishing Merit Badge is taught Monday through Thursday of each week with one two-hour class in the morning and another in the afternoon. The class size is limited to



twelve young men and women. Each week teams of 3-4 women and men fly fishers go to the camp to teach the merit badge. Our coaches usually go to camp on Sunday to be there for the start of the Monday class and depart Thursday after dinner or Friday. Some who are unable to do the complete week will just go up for a couple of days.

All the equipment and materials needed to teach the class are provided by the camp.

One of the side benefits is you get to fly fish for largemouth bass on an 80 acre lake that doesn't see any fishing pressure and getting access to the nooks and crannies where the large bass are lurking. You are able to use your nonmotorized personal craft or borrow one of the camps row boats or canoes. On top of that we have our own camping area with flush toilets and showers and three meals of fine BSA Camp Cuisine each day in their dining hall.

One evening I caught fifteen bass in the 3-8 lb. range!

If you'd like to learn more about the camp, please go to their [website](#).

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

If you want more details or would like to sign up to be a coach on this fun adventure, please call me at 510-816-2846 or e-mail me at dckitts@aol.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Education Update

Rob Farris – Education Director

The Fundamentals of Fly Fishing Class has been postponed until Wednesday April 20th in the Clubhouse facility. This is structured for new anglers eager to learn about fly fishing and get prepared for fishing this season with the right equipment, with the right styles, and in the right locations. Registration and a comprehensive agenda are available on the [website](#).

We have developed an **all new Nymphing class** for this year which will begin on May 23rd. This class is designed for novice fly anglers to teach more in-depth skills including rigging, leader construction, use of indicators, current drag reduction, and fly selection for both streams and lakes. It is a terrific next step from the Fundamentals class for those who are looking to brush up on their indicator nymphing skills for the season. The course has two classroom sessions and an on-stream practical session.

This year's **Entomology class** with ten attendees wrapped up with a full day's practical session on the Lower Yuba River. The attendees initially spent a few hours capturing over ten different species of stoneflies, caddis, mayflies, and midges, and identifying them in specimen trays. And of course, applying that knowledge to fishing in the afternoon where a number of hot Yuba fish found the net using nymphs, and even a couple on adult Skwala dries (where the student got extra credit from me...).

This year's new **Euro Nymphing class** is wrapping up with on-stream practical sessions on the Lower Yuba. This has been an excellent class with 16 attendees engaged in technical approaches to rigging, use of sighters, fly tying of key patterns, and the on-stream finals. Thanks to Alan Wyosnick for providing this.

There has been a good amount of interest expressed in providing a more **Advanced Dry Fly class** this year. This would be a higher-level class for intermediate to advanced fly fishers concentrating on proper presentation, hatch entomology, rigging, fly selection, presentation casting tools, reading the water, how to fish for difficult fish, and once again, an on-stream practical session. If you have any interest in such a class, please contact me.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

The year is off to a great start with successful outings for steelhead on the Feather River, a two-day BBQ and fishing event on the Yuba River, and bass fishing at Kistler Ranch. If you missed these trips and haven't planned

your summer trips yet, join us in June for a one-day trip on the North Fork of the Stanislaus and multiple camping days on the Truckee River. The trips are a great way to meet new members and catch up with old friends.

Also consider becoming a Fishmeister and introduce the club to your favorite places to fish. Contact me for more information on how you can organize a trip or suggestions for trips.

Be on the lookout for these upcoming trips: Eastern Sierras, Delta striper fishing, Lake Almanor, and Yosemite dry fly fishing.

Tight Lines!

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing Class – Starts April 20

This popular [class](#) is taught by experienced club members for new and prospective members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. The course objective is to educate and prepare new fly fishers with sufficient depth to enable each attendee to fully enjoy the sport and begin to effectively fly fish on their own in both streams and lakes. The course this year consists of five sessions, including three in the classroom on Wednesday evenings, a basic casting instruction on a Saturday morning with a fully certified FFI casting instructor, and an on-stream practical session with instruction.



Note that we need a minimum of four participants in order to conduct the course.

Hat Creek Salmonfly with Baum & Manzanita Lakes – May 12-15

This is a three-night, four-day [trip](#) to explore the 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek, with optional days on Baum and Manzanita Lakes. Arrive on the first day with late evening fishing, then three full days of fishing to follow. It is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly and Golden Stonefly hatches that occur during this period, as well as several other hatches. We will be fishing five different areas on Hat Creek from knee-deep riffles at the Powerhouse and mid-stream to the gin clear, quiet flats, and the downstream area of thigh-deep water.



Basic Indicator Nymphing Class – Starts May 25

This [course](#) is designed for beginner to intermediate fly fishers that wish to learn and improve their skills with indicator nymphing techniques. The course includes two classroom sessions and an on-stream session with TVFF instructors to assist attendees with applying the classroom skills. The on-stream session cannot be registered for separately as leader construction, setup, approach, and basic skills will only be covered in the classroom setting.

North Fork Stanislaus – June 4

This is a weekend one day up and back [trip](#) to the North Fork of the Stanislaus with a few TVFF members. The fish are active almost all day on dries with #16-20 parachute adams being a favorite. You can catch 6"-15" brownies and rainbows.

The North Fork of the Stanislaus can be fun water to fish that offers a nice day trip being only 2:30 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. Dinner at the end of the day can be had in Arnold or Murphys before the drive home.



Truckee Watershed – June 9-12

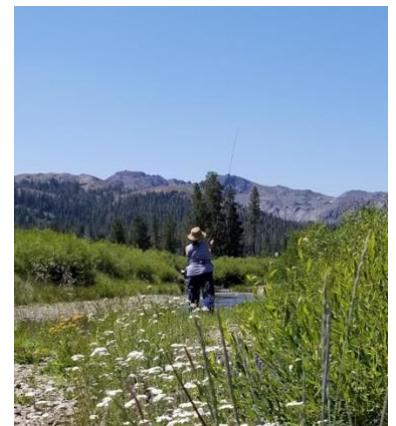
This is our annual three-night, four-day camping trip headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three days of fishing the Big Truckee, Little Truckee, and Milton Lake for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river wading opportunities and an optional day of fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques.



West Fork Carson – June 25

This is a weekend one day up and back [trip](#) to the West Fork of the Carson with the possibility of staying overnight at the free BLM campground or staying at a resort not far from the river. The fish are active almost all day on dries with #16-20 parachute adams being a favorite. You can catch 6"-10" brownies and rainbows.

The West Fork of the Carson can be fun water to fish that offers a nice day trip off highway 88 near Carson pass being about 3 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. Dinner at the end of the day can be had at a resort like Sorenson's.

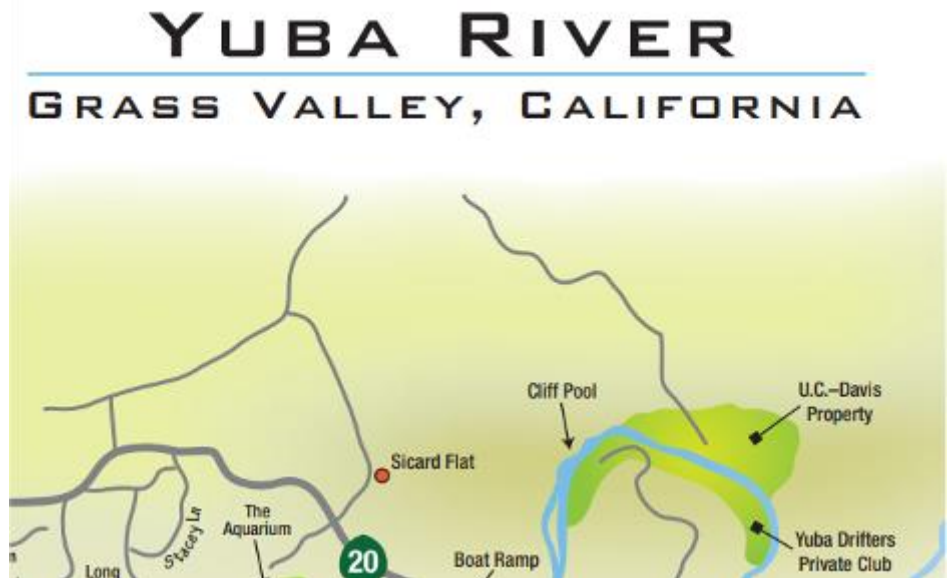


Member Reports

Yuba River – Denis Haire

One never knows when going on our club outings what to expect from a river or lake. And the Yuba River is no exception. Even with private access to the river, one might think there would be an advantage. But the river rarely gives up its secrets and is always changing. So as with any outing it may be more about the hunt for fish, good food and friendship, and maybe some stories of river goofiness.

Thanks to our fishmeister, the club was fortunate to secure a weekend on the private UC property along the Yuba River. Being my first time to the river, I was curious as to the river features in relation to the mining activity of the past. This stretch, as with most of the river, consists of riffles, deep pools and more cobble stone than one could imagine. A mental review of the hatch charts and Hogan Brown (club meeting speaker) presentation started to make more sense now, at least for me. Stoneflies for fast water, mayflies and midges for slower water.



Arriving on Saturday morning after coming down the private dirt road we were met with cold, cloudy weather and a small amount of mist in the air. The property has a nice staging area (with a bathroom; bonus!) and a covered structure that overlooks a great stretch of water. And what a crowd it was on Saturday and Sunday! It seemed more like a Club meeting than a fishing trip. And for those that have been members for many years, we had a guest appearance from Trent Pridemore, a very early and Lifetime TVFF member, who now lives in Grass Valley and fishes the river often. It was great to see Trent again, yucking it up with Mitchie and Jim Broadbent at lunch.



Lifetime member Trent Pridemore drops by for lunch, while Bill Potts and Robert Nishio look for desserts...

Folks that stayed in Grass Valley overnight mentioned they woke to about 1.5 inches of snow! Now that is an interesting start to a weekend. After a quick poll of the group, the approach would be euro nymphing in the morning and possibly dries in the afternoon. After getting geared up, it was time to hit the river. Speaking with our master entomologist, his first question was "Cloudy day, any hatch today?". My response was a mayfly hatch, maybe this afternoon. It was great to see a smile and to hear "So you did listen ...". Soon the group, probably twenty strong was spread out across the river.

The morning was a matter of getting accustomed to the river, practicing the cast with a euro nymph rig, and moving around on the cobblestone. Some of us went upstream and found the water to be rather flat and deep with limited access. This was a great way to warm up as the air temp was still cool. While we were up there, we could see others downstream dotting the river edge and wading out into the river, including Dave Fontaine who hooked two nice rainbows on a Euro rig. We could see some with hooks but did not know if they netted them. As we headed back to the staging area, we entered the river by a small island. It took some negotiation with the cobblestone, but we ended up in a riffle. While there, James Williams hooked into a nice one! After a short fight, the fish shook him and we called it a long release. With that, it was time for lunch.



Submitted by Dave Fontaine, caught on a golden stone bead head



Submitted by Phil Reggiano



The results of our culinary experts with Denis Haire, Gary Prince, Mitchie McCammon and David Meister preparing an awesome BBQ lunch.

This year's BBQ was welcomed and well prepared. Our club caterers, Gary Prince, David Meister, and Mitchie McCammon, went above and beyond, as usual. Beneath the covered structure awaited a feast for the group. Hamburgers, plant burgers, and sausages cooked over a charcoal grill. And fixings, salads, dessert, and drinks of all kinds. You say that you want desserts? Mitchie once again treated everyone to her exceptional baking expertise including homemade blueberry pie, chocolate bourbon pecan pie, and a Jamison Irish apple cake. Just awesome! What a great way to catch up, tell a story or two and recharge for the afternoon. Talk about a food coma!

The afternoon continued cloudy as most of us headed downstream after lunch. While in a riffle I noticed mayflies beginning to emerge. As I was euro nymphing, my thought was to work a little higher in the water column as an emerger. I was using an olive-colored Walt's worm and a perdigon combination, working the Rubik's cube as Alan suggested when I saw a pause in my line. With a slight set, it was off to the races!

After moving around a little over the cobble, James came over to help. With a little dancing on the river for position, I have come to realize that with my short arms and a ten-foot rod, I need a net with a longer arm! James thankfully was able to assist with the net.

A few minutes later James hooked up with a fish, so I came over to assist with my net. As I got into position (so I thought), the fish had other ideas. Instead of coming gracefully to the net, it bolted and wrapped around by leg, with the upper fly catching on my waders! I guess there is a first for everything... I eventually released the fly (yes, barbless!) and was able to net the fish for James. And I heard later there was a lot of wonder and laughter as to the visual of us (quiet, Rob!). I am thinking I need a class of positioning and netting of fish.....

As the sun came out for the late afternoon, it was time to call it a day. We heard reports from others of seeing Skwalas along the shore, so the river gave up a few of its secrets. Tomorrow will be another day.

After staying in Grass Valley overnight, we woke to sunny clear skies. All I could think of was the Skwala hatch for the day. Arriving back at the river, we saw another large group of maybe 20 people. Some were already in the water as we were gearing up. What a completely different day, warm, sunny and bright. The approach would be the



same for most, euro nymphing in the morning and dries in the afternoon. And what would be a day be without some fun on the river...



Gary Prince was working the lower riffle down from me and hooked into a fish. This time I let him net the fish, but I wanted to get a picture. After netting and removing the hook, as he went to lift it the fish slipped out of his hand. Somehow it caught (wrapped?) around his line and was caught between us. There I was trying to take a picture and grab my net at same time to rescue the fish! Needless to say, it was comical (were you laughing again, Rob?).

In the end this was a very successful and satisfying outing. Successfully hunting for fish, good food and catching up with members, and definitely some fun stories to tell. With over 40 members attending between both days, we also had 10 members that had joined in the last two years. Additionally, we had four women attend, adding to the great growth and diverse personalities of the club!

Note that we have put all of these pictures and more on our photo gallery [Lower Yuba UC 2022](#). If you have any additional photos that you'd like to add please send them to Rob Farris at RFFarris@comcast.net and he will load them up for you.

Entomology Class Practical Outing – Rob Farris, Chief Bug Promoter

Springtime on the Lower Yuba River, March 12

At the final session of the four part Entomology class, we had nine attendees on the Lower Yuba River at Hammon Grove on March 12th. The final practical session had everyone “wading up” and scouring the stream and bushes for bugs that might be living as nymphs or ready to hatch.



We began with an exercise of having the class dig in the streamside rocks and in the riffles using the seining nets to see what types of insects were present. And... it's out of the classroom and into the water... So the game is "dig on"; sweep the bugs off the rocks and stream bottom into the seines that were provided. Then bring the full seines back to a table set up on the gravel bar and fill up the specimen trays.

The next task was for the team attempting to identify the various nymphs, and a few dries such as the continuing Skwala hatch. A side note is that the Skwalas are still hatching and we saw many on the rocks, and later in the day in the shallow water. Finally, we selected a number of specimens to capture for the Club's Entomology studies, to use in Fly Tying activities, and to also support the Boy Scout merit badge activities up at Wentle this summer.

This year's take of bugs included a tray full (8 total) of Golden Stoneflies up to size six, Skwala adults (smaller size 10 and 12's), March Brown nymphs, Blue Wing Olives (of course), Green Rockworm Caddis (Ryacophilia or Mother's Day Caddis), Glossosoma Caddis, Brown Dun nymphs, various colors of analids (worms), both Pale Morning and Pale Evening Duns, and of course the usual huge number of Midges. The class was also treated to seeing the BWOs hatch into adult duns right in the trays as the sun warmed the water.

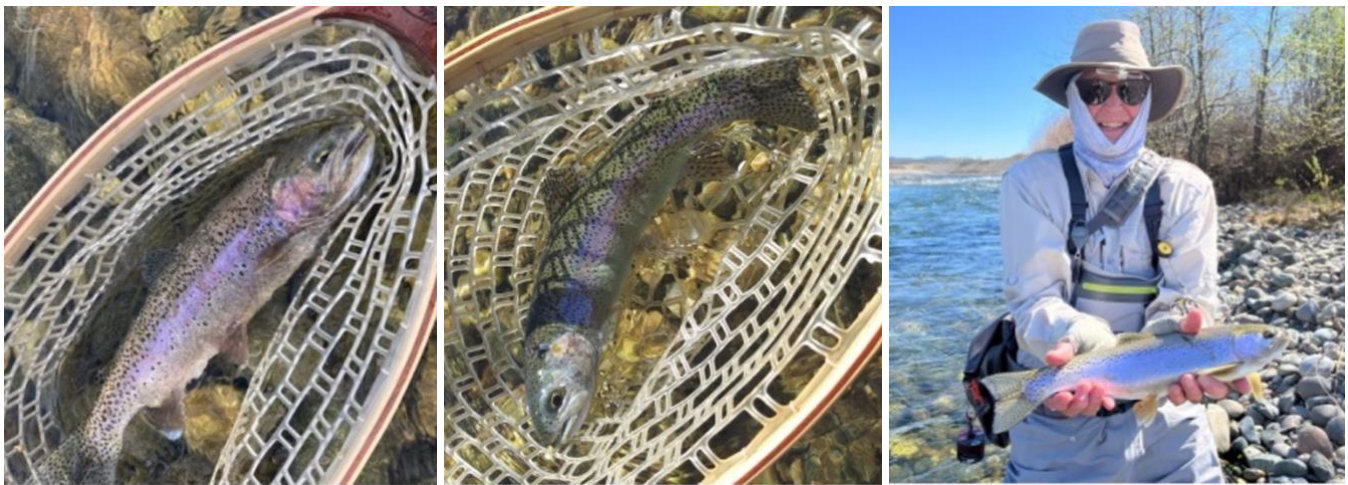


As luck would have it, we were visited twice by the local warden whom I chatted up to keep him from checking all our licenses. He left us alone as we weren't fishing yet, which would comprise the 2nd half of the day, putting to use what we learned regarding bug activity. However, we did receive a 2nd visit from the warden later in the day to talk about the entomology in the river, as he was very interested in our activity and results. He didn't even check me (fully geared up) on my way down to the river as he recognized that we were a solid, law-abiding group ("You can fool some of the people some of the time..."). He also wanted to make sure that I was not a guide as I would have needed a full guide license to take others fishing on the water for hire. Nope! Not a guide; just a classroom professor. And a hardcore fly fisherman.



An interesting side note was that despite some steelhead in the river, the wardens do not check for steelhead licenses on the Yuba as they see the steelhead as almost exclusively resident rather than migratory. OK, I'll take it, but not sure that I fully agree with that since we've heard and seen fish migrating over the Daguerre dam fish ladder. And Club members have caught quite a few Steelies on the Yuba.

After the seining and identification exercise, we adjourned back up to the parking lot and picnic tables for lunch before heading out for an afternoon of fishing the river. Quite a few fish were caught with Jeff Fadden catching two after chasing them with Skwala dries downriver; Phil Reggiardo catching two, Christopher Patrick catching one, and both Gary and Rob each catching one in the upstream riffles. I probably missed others' successes as everyone was very spread out on the river Saturday.



This year's attendees included: Gary Prince, Kyle Wagner, Darian Rauschendorfer, Phil Reggiardo, Jeff Fadden, Christopher Patrick, Bruce Patrick, Michael Freitas, and the instructor for the class, Rob Farris. Other members of this year's class included both Charles Brown and Dave Fontaine who unfortunately could not attend the final practical session.

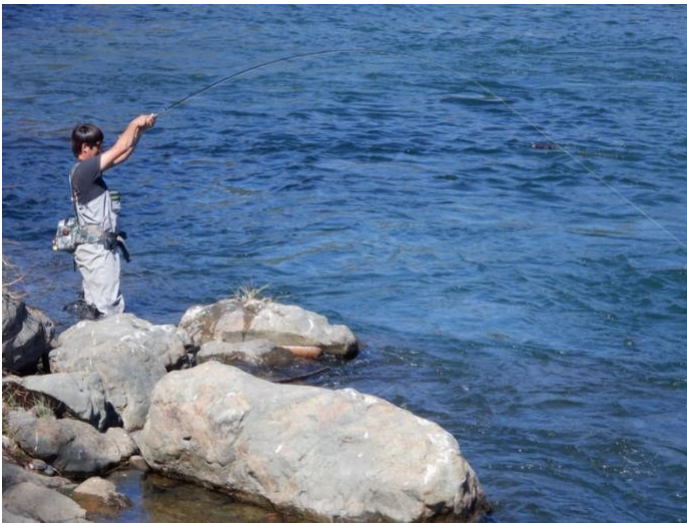
The overall impression from many of the attendees was how amazed they were at both the variety, the large size of the stoneflies, and the quantity of bugs we captured after only about an hour seining on the river. All of which goes to show that while we have an amazing fishery so close to the Bay Area, you must be on your game to decipher what the fish are eating every day. It's a smorgasbord out there, and they can be very picky. However, with a bit of preparation and knowledge, those hard fighting Yuba River rainbows can be coaxed to the net, as many of our attendees experienced.

Lower Yuba River – Eric Drew

This past weekend Corey Bennett and I went up to the lower Yuba at the Hwy 20 bridge. We stayed at the Nevada County Fairgrounds but with our truck campers we will dry camp on the gravel bars on the south side of the river next time. The fishing was slow but even with the low water the river moves fast in places. I watched two fishermen get their feet swept out from under them. Keep those wading belts tight. One guy was just above Corey and was swimming for all he was worth to reach the bank before some rapids with a hydraulic in it (he made it).

I did assist a young man in landing a trophy Steelhead. He fought it for close to 45 minutes on an ultralight euro nymphing rig before I could get it into the net.

Fun times



O'Neill Forebay – Bob McCollum

I launched at O'Neill last week. I had last used my boat at Del Valle and had an exit seal from that lake. So, I pulled into the inspection lane when I arrived at O'Neill assuming my boat would require re-inspection. I realized I had not cut off the Del Valle seal and started to do so as the ranger walked over to inspect my boat. To my surprise, the ranger told me that San Luis (SNL) accepts the Del Valle seal. He checked the seal number on his computer and said I was good to go without re-inspection. He mentioned that SNL accepts seals from some other lakes but did not have the list memorized. He also did not know if these lakes would accept SNL exit seals. (Given my experience with the VERY strict inspection at Del Valle, I doubt they would accept the SNL seal, but I will try next time I go out there.)



I was surprised but pleased. It makes a lot of sense to have reciprocity on inspection seals and a unified system for inspection and management. Maybe someday...

Trinity River – Bob McCollum

Just fished the Trinity River with guide Aaron Grabel (HarvestWild). It was awesome! There are a lot of fish in the river system. Some down runners, some spawning, some getting ready to spawn. In two days I landed 15 adult and 11 “half-pounder” steelhead. Even hooked and landed one adult on a dry fly with a 5wt rod. I’m glad I pulled this last-minute trip together.



Euro Nymph Class Culminates in On-Stream Session – Bob McCollum

Half of the Euro Nymphing Class participated in an on-stream session on the Yuba River on March 27. The goal of the on-stream is to reinforce the strategies and tactics learned in the euro nymphing lecture and fly tying class with practical instruction and experience on the water.

Seven students (Charles Brown, Hensen Wong, Robert Nishio, Steve Holtzclaw, John Reyes, Bob McCollum, Mitchie McCammon, and Gary Prince) were led by two instructors (Alan Wyosnick and Rob Farris) with one-on-one instruction on the fine points of executing euro nymphing techniques in a variety of conditions in the riffles of the Yuba River at Hammon Grove Park. The group was split into two smaller teams which rotated between the two instructors to provide a well-rounded experience.

Everyone had a good time and learned a lot, and few fish were caught in the process. John caught a nice 14-inch Yuba River rainbow trout and Gary caught a 22-inch “California Golden Steelhead” (AKA a sucker fish).

A second group from the euro nymphing class will participate a similar on-stream experience on April 12.



Member Spotlight

The member spotlight has been a feature of the newsletter in years past and we're starting it up again. This is an opportunity to get to know a fellow club member a little better. Hopefully you'll be able to greet him or her at a meeting soon. – Editor

Ron Dueltgen

How long have you been a club member?

About 16 years

Do you currently or have you ever held an office in the club?

Auction chair, Board Member at Large

What occupies your time other than fishing?

Golf, travel, reading, crosswords, Glenfiddich

Classify yourself as a fly fisher:

- Beats the heck out of working
- I can't wait to wet a line
- I dream about fish & flies
- I need some serious help for my addiction

What is the fly rod set up you use for the majority of your fly fishing?

9 foot 6 wt., dry or nymph

What is your favorite species to fish for and why?

Rainbows in the Lower Sac for their fight

What body of water do you fish most often?

North Fork of the Stanislaus



Do you consider yourself a dry fly or a nymph fisher?

Dries for the esthetics and thrill of the take; nymphs for the catching

Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?

Streams

If you could only fish with one fly, what would it be?

Red copper john

Do you have a fishing license for any states other than California?

No; had a Montana and Yellowstone license last fall.

Everything Has a Flip Side

Domenick Swentosky – Troutbitten

One of the most fascinating aspects of fly fishing is just how many ways there are to catch a trout. And day to day, it's amazing that so many of those tactics and flies can work.

Travel to the river with your friend who's a dedicated hatch-matcher, and from the passenger seat he'll start pointing out the clouds of Sulphur mayfly spinners hovering at the treetops as you descend through the

canyon. He's definitely starting at the tailout above the second island, he says. And he'll be using what he calls his Trusty Rusty — a poly-winged spinner pattern that he's chattered on about for years.

As you glance in the rearview mirror at your other partner, riding the middle seat in back, he rolls his eyes and provides the flipside...

"Right now, the hatch and the spinner fall are bumping into each other," he argues. It's prime time, so there's no doubt that a Comparadun is my first choice. That'll cover every surface look that I'll need tonight."

Surprisingly, the conversation ends without argument. And just to let it lie, you don't speak aloud what you're thinking — that if there's so much bug activity above the water, the best trout are probably feasting on nymphs below. So you already know what piece of river you'll end up in.

Everything has a flipside. Because in fly fishing, good anglers can make it work. Swagger and confidence catch trout.

Tenacity with enough grit can make anything work at any time. And what it really comes down to most often is this...

What do you believe in? What can you fish hard enough and long enough to effectively convince a sluggish trout that it's hungry? That's the fisherman's confidence. And it beats out the hatch chart, the guide's advice and last week's river stories every time.



Rosenbauer said it on his podcast the other day. When a listener pointed out that none of the real nymphs down there have a shiny metal bead on their head, Tom responded with the flipside — that none of them have any pheasant tail on their body either.

The last time I had a beer with Bill, we got involved in some river philosophy about streamer fishing and pattern selection. My argument was that during the winter, I might present smaller streamers slower, so I'm not asking the trout to move too much — I offer the easy meal. But Bill countered with the flipside — show them a bigger pattern, he said, fast enough to motivate them out of their doldrums and into action.

Which theory is right?

Who can fish it harder?

I witnessed a captivating conversation between Smith and a guy we'll call Shawn. The two argued up and down about the best leader and weight setup for a windy day. They were at opposite ends of the idea. And Shawn challenged Smith to a competition on the next windy day. Each would fish his favorite rig, and let's see who catches more trout.

Quick of wit, and never one to be duped into fishing becoming competitive, Smith countered that the better plan was to fish together and exchange rods and rigs for the afternoon, therefore learning the benefits of each other's style. Nice flip — and that might very well lead in the right direction.

My buddy, Mike, told me that you can't beat wading pants. Why bother with waders at all, he insisted? Well, I said, you can roll the waders down pretty easily when it gets warm but still have the advantage of deep wading when you need it. What am I missing?

On another occasion, Sam insists that the extra-flexi rod tip on his specialized rod protected the delicate tippet below.

"Why not use a thicker tippet, get better turnover and choose a stiffer rod that allows for more energy in the cast, I ask?"

"Because the thicker tippet sinks slower, and then I'd have to use bigger, heavier flies," Sam replied.

The double flip. Well played.

I nodded and turn away to wander off downstream toward the riffles, drifting out of range, yet still close enough to sneak in one last reply . . .

"Or you could just use a little split shot, Sam . . ."

Couldn't resist. Flip, flip, flip . . .

Who knows what Sam said behind me. But I heard his voice and the confidence that came with it. And I knew he'd make it work, just the same as I would.

Knowing the details of where you land, understanding why you make your choices, is more important than what side of the flip you're on.

Fish hard, friends.

Items for Sale

If you need contact information for a member, use the club's online [roster](#).

Gear Sale – James Kirchner

Simms wader/gear bag. Fits waders and boots in bottom compartment to separate from dry clothes and gear. Tons of storage up top for jackets, warm clothes, socks, etc. more compartments up top for access to fly boxes, reels, etc. bungee style rod tube holders on both sides. Water repellent material. These are discontinued. In great shape minus missing one stop button on handle. Doesn't affect use. Asking \$200 obo



Simms Freestone sling pack. Used 4 times. Decided I just don't like using a sling. In great shape. Tippet holder and floatant holder included. The tippet spools are not included. More photos online if you google the pack.





Large boat box for flies. Cabelas prestige carbon disc drag reel for 6/7/8 wt. Seal wood fly box with lanyard. Cabelas fly box with magnetic midge section. Magnetic midge fly box. 2 vices. Miscellaneous tying tools. Asking \$60 for the lot.

