

The Barbless Hook

December 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



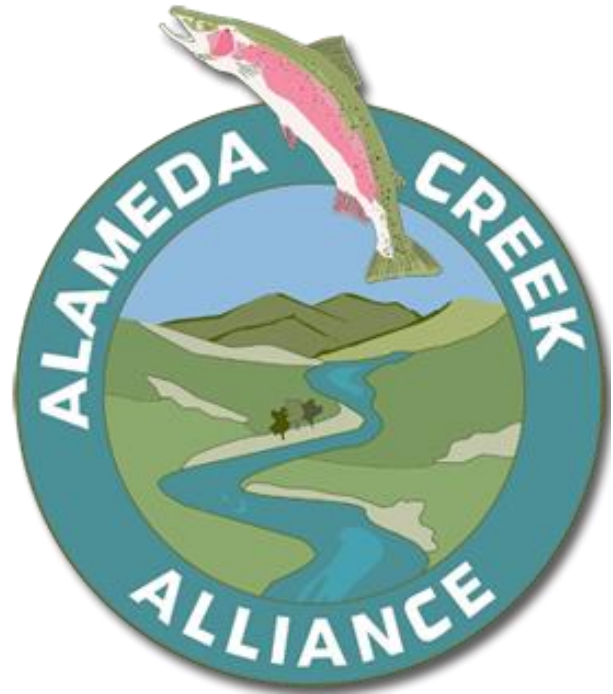
tri-valleyflyfishers.org

December Meeting – Wednesday Dec. 7th, 7pm

Alameda Creek Alliance

We are hosting Steve Cochrane, who is the Volunteer and Restoration Coordinator for Alameda Creek Alliance as our December speaker. Steve will be giving us a quick overview of the progress so far and then some instruction on how to participate in the observations and record findings.

As you may have heard, there are new fish ladders in place and barriers removed for steelhead and salmon to access Alameda Creek all the way up into Sunol Regional Wilderness and the Tri-Valley. Alameda Creek Alliance has been seeking volunteers to monitor the upper reaches of the creek for spawning activity. Several folks from our club have already signed up to help and participated in a field training earlier this fall (and more are welcome). Steve is coming to share what's been happening with the creek restoration effort and provide a brief overview on how to help out.



Want to volunteer?

Get in touch with our Conservation Director, Gary Prince, if you're interested in assisting with the club's monitoring efforts on the creek.

Contents

President's Corner	2
Raffle Information	2
Outings and Activities	3
Education Update	4
Member Reports	6
Member Spotlight	9
TVFF Auction	9
Items for Sale	10

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Here we are amid the holiday season. I cannot believe that the year is almost over and I have not accomplished half of what I had planned. I'm sure I'm no different than anyone else who has great aspirations on all the great ideas and things that we promised ourselves that we were going to get done this year. Oh well, there's always next year.

The TVFF Board of Directors met the other night and started planning for the 2023 calendar year and do we have a lot of great ideas. Trips, classes, before-meeting skills opportunities, and a whole host of other things. Most of you saw the questionnaire that Rob Farris sent out earlier on what the club members would like and the membership responded, maybe overwhelmingly so. Rob is working on the schedule and we're also putting the call out for individuals to help. If you have a skill or experience you would like to share, or help with upcoming classes or activities, please let us know.

Here's to the coming new year and may you all be happy and healthy, accomplish everything on your fishing bucket list, and may we all accomplish everything that we said we would. Merry Christmas and a happy and successful 2023.

Raffle Information

We will be raffling off a Greys GR60 5wt, 8'6", 4-piece fly rod at the February meeting. Details can be found in our [online store](#). Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the meetings. You do not need to be present at the February meeting to win.



2022 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

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

Directors

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

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

2022 has been a very successful year with the various outings we have had. Almost all our trips filled quickly with lots of fun and fishing success. Many thanks to those of you who were Fishmeisters. It was exciting to get to know new Fishmeisters as well.

New! There are two new policy changes this year regarding outings and events.

Family registrations for events and outings has been discussed at our Board of Directors meetings and has been clarified. Per our [TVFF bylaws](#), family members are the spouse and minor children of the General Member. Minor children are under the age of 18 and/or students 18-23. For events and outings where there is a TVFF event fee, the spouse and children under the age of 23 are included with the General Member's registration, unless there is an additional cost such as food, lodging, guides, etc. Each event will now reflect any additional costs for family members.

Beginning January 2023, our Fishmeisters will receive \$25 to say "Thank you!" and to help a bit with the cost of rising gas prices. In addition, the \$25 TVFF event fee for trips will be waived for Fishmeisters. Any additional costs associated with the trips such as lodging, registration fees, or guide fees will remain the responsibility of the Fishmeister. If you are interested in becoming a Fishmeister, let me know, and I will be happy to help you.

Tight Lines and Happy Holidays!

Mitchie

Fly Tying Get Together – December 14, 7-9pm

Our monthly fly tying meeting takes place at the Livermore Rod & Gun Club. This month's Get Together will feature rabbit as we will tie the buggy gold ribbed hare's ear. This is an old pattern of English origin, probably around the mid to late 1800s. It can imitate many bugs as mayfly nymphs, caddis, scuds, and small stoneflies.

Materials:

Hook: Nymph 1xl or Tiemco 200, size 10-16

Thread: to match body

Tail: Hare's mask fibers

Ribbing: Gold wire or gold oval tinsel

Body: Rabbit dubbing, hare mask

Wingcase: Dark turkey tail

Thorax: Same as body

Bring what material you have and mooch what you don't have. Non-tyers are welcome too.

Feather River Steelhead – January 10

This is always a popular trip, and as expected, is already full. However, don't be afraid to sign up on the wait list as there may be a cancellation. This is a day trip to the Feather River in Oroville. Be prepared to dress warmly as the weather could be cold. The cost is \$25. Fishmeister: Alan Wyosnick

International Sportsmen's Expo – January 19-22

The [ISE at CalExpo in Sacramento](#) is billed as California's largest annual gathering for anglers, hunters, boaters, offroaders and others seeking outdoor adventures nearby or around the world. It's worth a day trip even if you're only interested in checking out the offerings related to fly fishing.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 24-26

The [Fly Fishing Show](#) returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds and never fails to provide interesting seminars and lots of exhibitors willing to take your money. The show schedule has not been published yet, but you can buy tickets for the show as well as for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4) on the 24th. Make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

Yuba River Fishing & BBQ – March 4-5

Registration is now open for this annual trip and BBQ. There is still space available, but each day is limited to just 20 people. The cost for each day is \$45 per person which includes the BBQ lunch. It is always fun to trade fish tales over lunch at the picnic tables. The weather can be unpredictable at this time of year. Last year we had snow in Grass Valley. Sign up for one or both days. You are responsible for your own lodging if you choose to stay overnight. Fishmeister: Rob Farris.

Register separately for [fishing on March 4](#), [fishing on March 5](#) and to [volunteer to help with the BBQ](#).



TVFF Education Classes for 2023

Rob Farris – Education Director

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Education survey last month. It gave us a good roadmap for what our members are suggesting for this coming year. Tri-Valley Fly Fishers has long been committed to robust educational opportunities for our members, and next year will be no different in that regard. The results indicated the highest levels of interest for educational courseware for 2023.

Class	Responses
How to Fish Streamers	15
Skwala Hatch/Yuba River	14
Dry Fly Fishing	11
Heritage Trout Challenge	11
Fundamentals	9
Entomology	8
How to Fish Lakes	6

Interestingly, most of the respondents also expressed an interest in having short form “pre-meeting clinics” on various topics, such as continuing our pre-meeting casting with Gary Turri, and adding key skill and technique development on topics like leader construction, winter fishing, advanced knots, specific river fly selection, etc.

Prior to Wednesday’s club meeting, we will launch our pre-meeting “clinics” at 5:45pm with “Tips & Tricks to Stay Warm during Winter Fishing”. This will be an opportunity for members to share their specific techniques for staying warm while chasing fish during the rapidly approaching winter fishing season. I will lead the session sharing over 50 suggestions from nationwide inputs to a recent Trout Unlimited blog on the subject to help foster the discussion.

As we put together our educational curriculum, we prefer to schedule our classes so that members are prepared for the springtime start and the heavy hatch activity we have here in California. And thus our schedule is “front loaded” with the classes listed below, starting in January.

Entomology – As our first offering, our annual three-part class with a final on-stream session starts on January 11th.

Fishing the Yuba River Skwala Hatch – This is a single-session prep course on how to fish the Skwala hatch on the Yuba, and for those planning on attending our UC Property Yuba River trip in early March. This class takes place on February 15th.

New! Advanced Dry Fly Fishing – This is an all-new class for this year and will focus on advanced skills, beginning on March 8th. Students must have previously completed, or be enrolled in the Entomology class, and have a solid intermediate level of dry fly skills for the class. With no disrespect to Alan Wyosnick’s Euro chump class, as us dry guys say, “fishing a nymph is like drinking prune juice. Sometimes it’s necessary, but you feel kind of silly bragging about the results”. Learn how to fish something other than those size #22 Perdigon things that you can’t even see, whatever those are supposed to represent.

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing – Our annual class will begin on March 15th.

Also New! Chasing the Heritage Trout Challenge – This is an all new class that focuses on what the Challenge is about, how to approach it, how to find the native fish, and what you will need to be successful. This class takes place on May 24th.

Also New! How to Fish Lakes – This class is currently under development and scheduled to start in August (date TBD). This course will be taught by two of the Club’s many premier lake anglers, Chris McCann and Mark Spruiell, and we will be posting more at a later date on this class.

Also New! How to Fish Streamers – This is our fourth new class currently under development and scheduled to start on July 12th. We will post the class when we solidify the content and firm dates.

Based on TVFF feedback, we will possibly be adding additional classes later in the year as numerous members submitted other topic requests. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me and register for any classes that you are interested in.

Member Reports

Ken Tetzl

The duck hunting has been pretty slow so far. Got two one day and four the other. Mostly spoonies!

James Kirchner

Steelhead are around. Swung a few adults so far this fall up north. Just got back from Pyramid where fishing was slow. Probably won't be back until March when fishing picks up. The Truckee is low and cold. Streamer bite is mostly over and they're biting the small bugs.



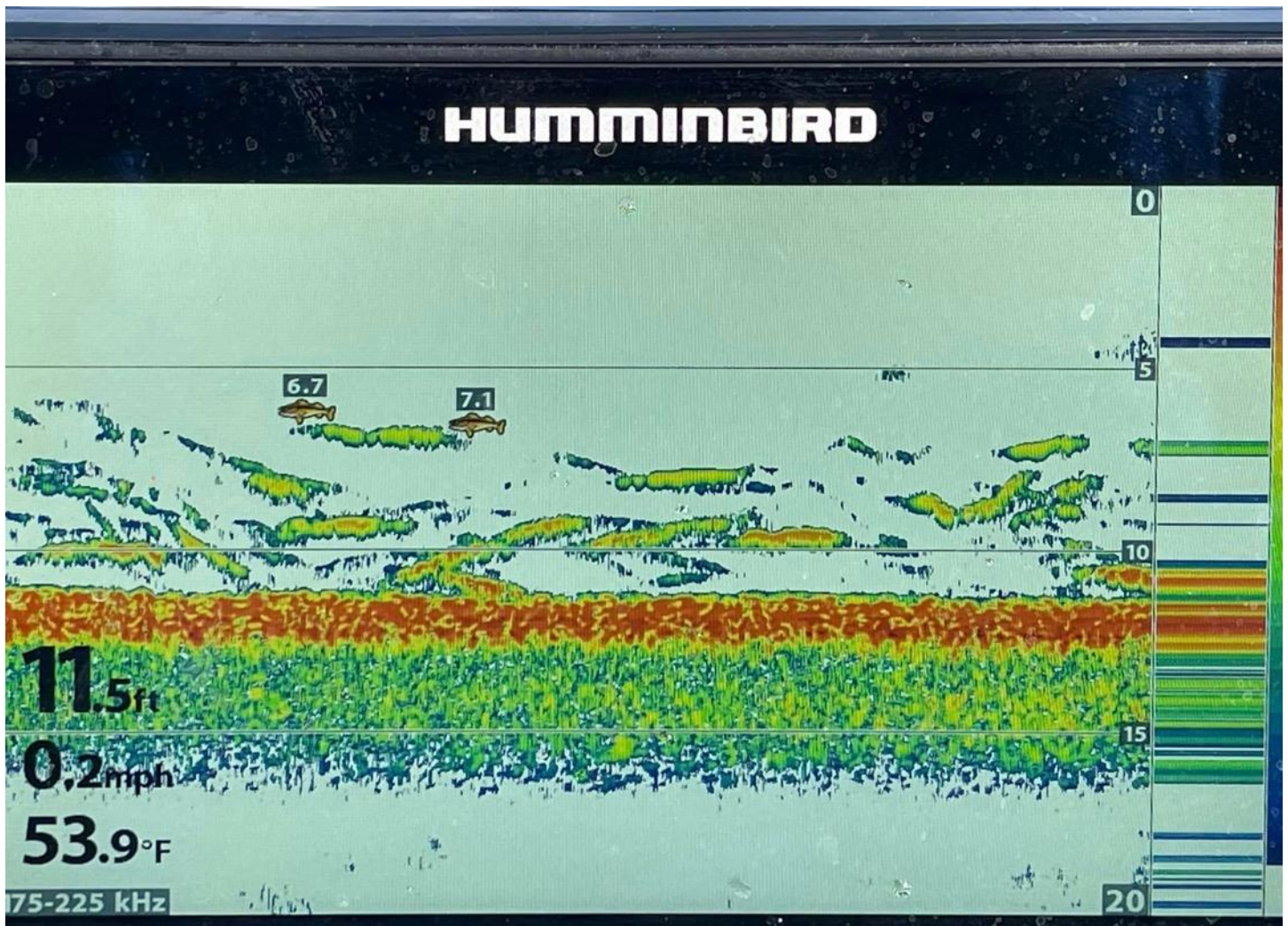
Bob McCollum

Caught about 30 stripers in Discovery Bay. None very big, but they were fun anyway. Used 4" Half and Half and 3" Lee Haskins San Luis Smelt. Nice day on the water.



Another nice day on Disco Bay. Started the day with circling birds and rising stripers- always good signs. Fish finder was periodically lit up with bait balls and stripers. Brought about 2 dozen fish to hand in about 3 hours. Had a few bigger fish this week. One weighed in at a solid 3 lbs. A few others just short. Water was 52-54 degrees. Main channels were 52. Back coves were warmer, which attracts bait, and stripers follow the bait. All fish safely released.





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

Greg Blandino

How long have you been a club member?

8 years on and off (5 years in the mid-90's and 3 years now)

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

Yes, currently Membership director



What occupies your time other than fishing?

Cycling - road, mountain and bike packing, SUP boarding, whitewater rafting

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?

5 wt. 9.5' weight forward floating line.... and then there is the Tenkara

What is your favorite species to fish for and why?

Trout because of the habitat they occupy - cool, clear streams/rivers and the mountains.

What body of water do you fish most often?

Fall River

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

My go to is a nymph unless there is top water activity.

Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?

Streams

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

Jigged Pheasant tail

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

This year, yes - Wyoming

Return of the TVFF Auction 2023

Denis Haire – Auction Chairman

Please plan to join us for the Annual TVFF Silent Auction on April 5, 2023 as part of our monthly meeting. It's been a few years since TVFF has held such an event, and with the increased interest in educational and conservation projects the club supports, the Board of Directors agreed that the time is now!

Funds raised from this event, as they have in the past, will benefit the club's strong commitment to conservation at several levels that supports local and national conservation organizations. Besides Trout Unlimited, CalTrout, the Yellowstone National Park Volunteer organization, Alameda Creek Alliance, and fly-fishing programs for veterans with disabilities, we have a very active "Trout in the Classroom" program that has provided over 41,500 local school children with understanding of trout conservation and biology. In this program we provide local school classrooms with aquariums (at no expense to the teachers or the school) and expertise to hatch trout eggs and raise them to the "fry" stage which are later released by the students into approved local rivers and lakes. We also provide training and program materials for the teachers. Our education efforts also include helping more than 400 Boy Scouts achieve their Fly Fishing merit badge.

This is a terrific way to get prepared for next season's fishing season, and to equip your spouse, kids, grandkids, or yourself with the right equipment for next year, so take note of that date.

So how can you help? Your contributions of time, talent and donations will make this event a success and a great deal of fun. We always need volunteers, but sponsors, auction items and buddy fishing trips will also help make this event a huge success. Volunteers thankfully help spread the load, both with planning and running the event. No special skills are required other than a desire to help!

The auction really depends on donations from our members to be successful. In the past our auctions have featured a host of available items. This year we will also be introducing buddy trips as a separate donation item.

Buddy trips are one on one fishing trips with an experienced club member to a specific stream or lake that are bid on by auction participants. They usually consist of an area where a member is particularly proficient and knowledgeable that enables a full experience on the water. If you have a favorite piece of water and fishing style that would be worthwhile, please consider hosting a buddy trip.

Member donations consist of lightly used and valuable fishing gear, such as rods, reels, fly line, waders, float tubes, nets, wading staffs, and assorted other “gotta have” equipment. Additional popular items have included: clothing, lots and lots of tied flies, custom tied leaders, and other useful items. All proceeds go directly to the Club and this has been the backbone for our auction proceeds in the past. So check your gear closet and garage for items that you would be willing to donate.

Outside donations are also very effective items for the auction. These include: guide trips, gift baskets from local merchants, local wines and other spirits, cabin or house rentals, and local and member art.

TVFF Auction Positions that need member support and volunteers:

- Overall Auction Chairman – Denis Haire
- Auction Marketing – Rob Farris
- Auction Website and Cloud Software Support – Mark Spruiell
- Club Member Donation Management – (open)
- Outside Donation Solicitation & Management – (open)
- Auction refreshments – Gary Prince
- Donation Item Photography – Steve Johnson
- Venue Set up and Tear Down – (open)
- Finance Integration and Management – Chris McCann
- Flies & Fly Box Arrangements – Mitchie McCammon
- Post Auction Item Delivery – Gary Prince

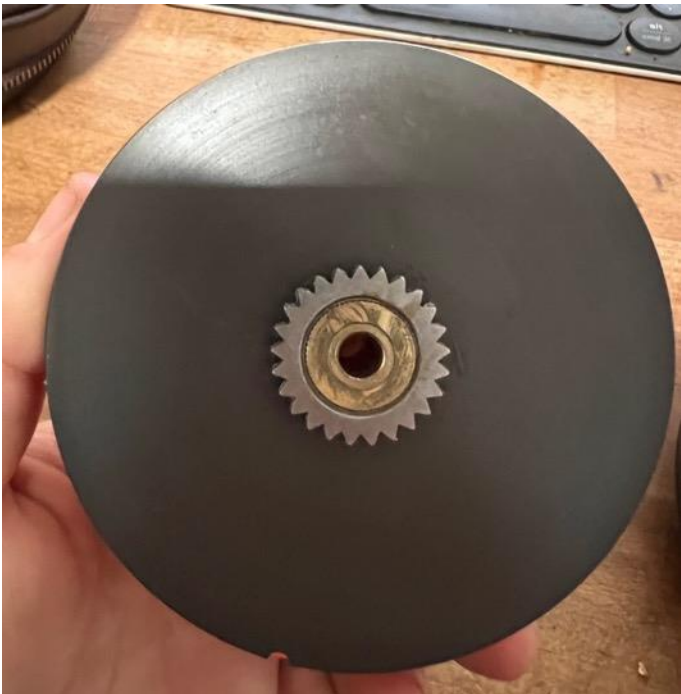
It takes an active Club with full participation to make our auctions a success and I highly encourage you to support the auction by volunteering for any of our open jobs. We cannot be successful without your help. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, or donating items, please contact Denis Haire.

Items for Sale

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

James Kirchner

Leland Sea Run 7-9wt reel. Great for steelhead and two-handed rods. Balanced my 12'6" and 13' rods well. Doesn't include fly line. \$200





I have a Griffin Mongoose rotary vise for sale. Asking \$100. Still works great.



I have two no name rotary vises for sale, \$20 each. They're nothing special but they work.



I still have my Loop Evotec 13ft 7wt spey rod for sale. In like-new condition. Asking \$450 and I can include a paired Rio Skagit max head (450 grain) never fished as well as a Scientific Anglers UST Scandi head with S3 tip. These lines would cover you for most salmon and winter steelhead fishing. I might have a new reel to make it a complete outfit for some extra cash but the reel is currently on ebay.



