

# The Barbless Hook

January 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



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

## January Meeting

### Brian Pultz – Delta Bass Fishing

Join us on January 6<sup>th</sup> as Brian Pultz talks to us about fishing for bass in the Delta. Brian is a no-nonsense, entertaining speaker, and a fly fishing and conventional bass tournament angler. He is a two-time winner of the Costa Bass-n-Fly Tournament held every spring in the Delta.

With over 30 years of tournament bass fishing experience, Brian has a unique way of looking at fly fishing for bass, incorporating his conventional fishing knowledge into fly design and fishing techniques that are uniquely suited for the California Delta.



### Meeting Note!

We will **not** be having an in-person monthly meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> as previously planned, given the recent rise in Covid cases and the latest county mandates. Stay tuned for information about the February meeting.

### New Members!

TVFF welcomes new members **Jeff Fadden**, **Mark Sandos** and **Eric Youngson**. Glad to have you!

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## President's Message

### Albert Mansky

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Santa got you what you wanted on your wish list. I was surprised by the new computer that my son and daughter gave me for Christmas. They have been after me for years to replace my "dinosaur" computer that I had built special for me twenty years ago. It's like an old Timex watch, it keeps on ticking, so if it's not broke don't fix it.

Well, 2022 has rounded the corner and another year of fishing opportunities is ahead of us. After two years this pandemic is still "dogging our heals". So, play it safe and don't let your guard down just yet. Hopefully by now everyone has gotten their vaccine shots, as well as the booster shot. If you haven't, I urge you to get it, sooner rather than later. At our age you can't be too careful.

I'd like to thank the membership for their participation in the election of the club officers for 2022. The election response was about ninety percent, with zero No votes. Marty Loomis will be your new President next year and Alan Wyosnick will be your Vice-President. Chris McCann will continue serving as your Treasurer. I will take over the responsibility from John Price as your Secretary.

I'd also like to welcome three new board members who will be starting their roles under Marty Loomis this coming February. We are always excited to have fresh faces join the board and participate in leadership roles, which brings new ideas, energy, and drive to the club. It is what sustains us for the future. As I mentioned, Alan Wyosnick will serve as our Vice President. Mitchie McCammon will take over as our Outings and Events Director, and Greg Blandino will be our next Membership Director. We still have a couple of positions open for 2022, so if you have any interest in giving back some of your time to the club, please contact Marty Loomis.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and if you have the time and opportunity to do some fishing, I look forward to reading about your story in our newsletter.

*Al*

## 2021 TVFF Board of Directors

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Albert Mansky
<b>Vice President</b>	Martin Loomis
<b>Secretary</b>	John Price
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris McCann
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Perry

### Directors

<b>Auction</b>	<b>Open Position</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Education</b>	Rob Farris
<b>Outings</b>	Martin Plotkin
<b>Fly Tying</b>	Jim Broadbent
<b>Member at Large</b>	Ron Dueltgen
<b>Member at Large</b>	Tom Vargas
<b>Membership</b>	Todd Hyrn
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Spruiell
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Open Position</b>
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>Open Position</b>
<b>Refreshments</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Speakers</b>	Dave Fontaine
<b>Trout in Classroom</b>	Daniel Kitts
<b>Video Library</b>	Steve Johnson
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Spruiell

## Raffle Information

For the club's next meeting on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, winning participants in the raffle will have their choice of any of the items except the rod. The fly 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 Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent to you prior to the meeting with your ticket numbers. Cost of tickets are \$5 for 6 tickets, and \$20 for 25 tickets. The raffle items are listed below.



Quantum Performance Tuned Leader case, used good condition



StreamTime Eel River Fishing Access map and 4 #20 Dry flies



Audubon Society Pacific Coast Nature Guide and Oris Hook/Hackle Guide



Creek Critters of Central California and Premium Gel Floatant



Single Mtn Trekking pole, Pole is new case is used, can be used as wading staff



California Trout by Jim Freeman and Northwest Fly Fishing Magazine trout flies and variations



Maxcatch Mini Tenkara Rod, 12 feet with case and extra tip

## Sage Rod Raffle

This is a special raffle offering for a Sage Pulse 890-4 rod. The rod is an 8 weight, 9'0", 4 piece with case; the perfect size for steelhead or bonefish. This rod normally lists for \$475.

The Pulse features a lichen blank with olive thread wraps and black trim wraps. Hard chromed snake guides and tip-top combine with the Fuji ceramic stripper guide to complete the blank.

Features:

- Graphite IIIe Technology
- Fast action
- Lichen blank color
- Olive thread wraps with black trim wraps
- Fuji ceramic stripper guides
- Hard chromed snake guides and tip-top
- Gloss black anodized aluminum up-locking reel seat
- Full-wells cork handle with fighting butt
- Black nylon rod tube with divided liner



Tickets are available in our [online store](#) and cost \$10 each. The drawing for the rod will be held at our March meeting and you do not need to be present to win.

## Outings and Activities

### Fly Tying Get Together – January 3

We're planning to restart our monthly **in-person** Fly Tying meetings on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jim Broadbent, the club's director of Fly Tying, will select a pattern for the meeting. Members bring their vises, share materials, and get some practice tying the pattern. This meeting will be preparation for steelhead fishing, and especially for the upcoming club trips to the Feather River. We'll cover the following: rigging/setting up your line and leader, fly selection advice, and tying at least one steelhead pattern (Alevin). All materials will be provided.



## Feather River Steelhead – January 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

This is a one-day up and back trip to the Feather River at the town of Oroville to fish for fresh steelhead with a few TVFF members. It is a walk and wade trip, typically involving crossing the river in shallows and fishing down the mid-stream gravel bars with indicators and high stick nymphing. Bring along a wading staff as you may want to wade in quicker water that is up to waist high to access the deeper runs. This will be the fourth year for this club trip. The Feather can be a productive and exciting water that offers a nice day trip being only 2:45 hours away from Pleasanton/Livermore. Note that these events are fully subscribed but there is no cost to join the waitlist.

## Introduction to the Skwala Hatch for Yuba River Trips – January 12

This club-developed [session](#) is meant to prepare members for the current and upcoming Skwala hatches on the Lower Yuba River. The course material consists of Skwala hatch entomology, suggested flies, recommended rigging, local maps, successful fishing techniques, as well as local guide tips. The Skwalas begin hatching in early January and are known as the first big bug hatch of the year and last until the end of March. They can occur, weather dependent, in large populations of both dry flies and hatching nymphs that attract large fish in the Yuba, including steelhead. This year we are fortunate to have reserved the UC Property on the Yuba River in the prime season to fish the Skwalas.



This session will be followed by a fly tying session on January 24 (see below) to equip our fly tying members with the suggested patterns.

## International Sportsmen's Expo – January 20-23

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.

## Fly Tying for the Skwala Hatch – January 24

This [session](#) is designed for fly tyers with sufficient basic tying skills that wish to learn how to tie Skwala dry flies and nymphs for the upcoming Skwala hatch season this winter. This is not a beginner course, and you must have sufficient tying knowledge and experience to attend and gain value from the class. Please note that you must provide your own equipment and materials for the class, which will be communicated by the instructor. Our sessions encourage attendees to share materials with others.

## Fly Fishing Entomology Class – Starts January 26

This [class](#) is designed for the beginner to intermediate levels of entomology with the objective of educating attendees to be more effective fly fishers. It comprises three Wednesday night classroom sessions of 2.5 hours each, finalized with a full day (Saturday) session on Putah Creek for a practical discovery session including four hours of fishing. Please note that you only need to register for this first session, which includes all other sessions and the practical on-stream event. Also note that it will require a minimum of 6 students to support the class. You will be notified in the event of postponement. Tuition costs cover the costs of sample vials, sample nets, and use of identification trays, tweezers, and magnifying glasses for on stream insect identification.



## Beginning Fly Tying Class – Starts February 7

Our [beginning fly tying](#) class consists of four sessions taking place each Monday in February from 7-9pm at the Livermore Rod & Gun Club. The class will be taught by three experienced club members to give you a solid foundation to tie your own flies. Classes will cover tools, tying materials, streamers, nymphs, dry flies, and most importantly the techniques to get the fur and feathers to stick to the hook. All tools and materials are provided, and homework will be assigned. Limited to six students.



## Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 25-27

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 25<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

## Euro Nymphing Class – Starts March 2

These [sessions](#) are designed for beginner to intermediate fly fishers that wish to learn and improve their skills with Euro nymphing techniques. The course is a complete series that starts with a 3-hour classroom session on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and includes a Euro fly tying session and two on-stream to practice and refine euro skills with individual instruction by multiple instructors. The on-stream sessions may not be registered for separately as leader construction, setup, approach, and basic skills



will only be covered in the classroom setting. Devin Olsen will be speaking once again at the May club meeting (May 5<sup>th</sup>) on Advanced Euro Techniques as a follow-up to his recent basic presentation. Please note that you only need to register for this first session, which includes all other sessions including the practical on-stream events.

## Lower Yuba River – March 5-6, 2022

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.

BBQ lunch included! Visit our [event calendar](#) for all the details. Note that these events are fully subscribed but there is no cost to join the waitlist.

## Fly Fishing Fundamentals – Starts March 23

TVFF offers the popular [Fly Fishing Fundamentals class](#) 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.

This year the course consists of five sessions, including three classroom sessions 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## Member Reports

### Del Valle – James Kirchner

Been going up to Del Valle when I have time and the rivers are blown out. Now's a good time to fish a float and fly for bass, streamers/clousers when you can see the stripers boiling, or even a Pyramid style rig for trout. Been seeing guys land a lot of trout in the shallows as the water temps go down. I've had luck for smallmouth using a float n fly from the bank.





## Delta Stripers – Bob McCollum

Fished the delta this week. Caught 50+ striped bass. Biggest was 3.5 pounds. Most were in the 12-16 inch class. My fly was shredded by the end of the day and my thumb was raw from lipping the fish during release. Foggy start in the morning but burned off quickly. Beautiful day on the water and big fun.



## Trinity River – Bart Hughes

We braved the cold to do some steelhead fishing on the Trinity this week. We lucked out with the weather, and it turned out to be a productive trip. I learned that fishing guides label guided days as tough, fair, good, excellent, epic, or stupid. We experienced a "stupid" day with 20+ fish to the boat!



## Feather River – Alan Wyosnick

I was up doing a scouting trip for the upcoming Feather River outings. There were a lot of people on the river but fortunately there were also just enough fish to go around for those who knew how to entice the fish into snacking on their offerings.



## TVFF Member in Cal Trout Annual Report

### Why I Support CalTrout - Mitzako “Mitchie” McCammon

I am not sure when my family first became CalTrout donors, but what I do know is that when my husband Kent passed in 2020, our family knew immediately we wanted to give more to celebrate his memory. We chose CalTrout because of the organization’s mission and because our family has enjoyed so many of the rivers that they have protected. My late husband grew up fly fishing the waters of Northern California and was taught to fish by his father. As a result, I became interested in fishing too, so much so that we went camping and fishing on our honeymoon more than 30 years ago. Kent taught both of our kids how to fly fish and they still fish today. I found this quote in my husband’s fishing journal, “Fishing can bring people together,” and it has for my family.



Conservation is much more than just recycling and using less water. Drought, climate change, and fires have brought new challenges, and I have no doubt that CalTrout will be there to address them. I am proud to support CalTrout and look forward to seeing what comes next.

# Anglers Rally to Save Trout on Madison River

## Nick Halle – Trout Unlimited

When my colleague Bill Pfeiffer and I pulled into Ennis, we were met with some familiar sights. The grocery store parking lot was overflowing with people grabbing a couple of sandwiches to take with them to the river. As we drove upriver nearly every pullout, boat ramp, and access site had a couple of rigs parked in it. The unmistakable silhouettes of people in waders looking for their next good spot moved up and down the riverbanks. It's a scene anyone who's been to the Madison during the summer months has almost certainly seen countless times.

I can say confidently it's the first time I've seen it in December.

It was a tough summer to be a trout here in Montana. Hot and dry conditions caused many of our rivers to be placed under 'hoot-owl' restrictions (limiting fishing to the cooler parts of the day) or closed to fishing altogether. Fortunately for our fish, time presses onward. The days grew shorter, the crowds of anglers thinned, and cooler temperatures returned to the Northern Rockies. It seemed that our trout were out of the proverbial frying pan. But when I picked up my phone the morning of November 30<sup>th</sup>, it seemed our finned friends in the Madison had found themselves thrown into the proverbial fire.

In the early hours of November 30<sup>th</sup> Hebgen Dam (the source of the Upper Madison) had malfunctioned, resulting in a 70% drop in flows. In just 15 minutes the river had plummeted from around 650 cubic feet per second (cfs) to just over 200. This sudden drop in flows resulted in countless fish stranded in side channels that had become little more than puddles, and brown trout spawning redds were suddenly exposed to the air and potentially freezing temperatures. At the end of an already difficult year, our fish were faced with yet another challenge to their survival.

When I left Missoula early on December 1<sup>st</sup> for the Madison, I didn't think that I would head home with a big fat stupid smile plastered on my face. But I did. The call to help Madison River fish went out and was answered with a roar. By the time we arrived at the river, hundreds of volunteers from all over the state (and beyond) had gone to work moving stranded fish back into the main channel and dousing redds with buckets of water in the hopes of keeping the eggs buried in the gravel viable. Just as I can't tell you how many people were there, I can only guess just how many fish were saved by their efforts.

This isn't the first time the Madison fishery has faced adversity. In the 1990's whirling disease swept through the river, decimating trout populations. But like all our rivers here in Montana, every trout in the Madison is a wild fish, and wild fish are extremely resilient. Time will tell how the dam malfunction will impact the Madison, but the river's track record of adapting to dramatic events speaks for itself. If we simply allow the fishery some time to heal, it seems very likely that it will pull through as it always has.



The conversation on next steps for Hebgen Dam is ongoing. Montana Trout Unlimited is working hard with government officials to request that the dam's owner provides more information to the public and engages the community in a dialogue regarding these events, and takes the necessary measures to ensure an event like this doesn't occur in the future.

Anglers speak in cliches. We're all guilty of it. I often roll my eyes at some of them, and certain cliches are actually forbidden in my boat (if you've fished with me you know exactly which one I'm talking about). But despite my misgivings, I'll concede that oftentimes they're used because they often sum things up so succinctly, they're impossible to avoid.

That day on the Madison I had one phrase echoing through my head that I couldn't escape:

When things are at their worst, sometimes people are at their very best.

As Bill and I drove back to Missoula we both laughed and smiled far more than I could've expected. While much can be said about what comes next for the Madison and the wild trout that make it so special, one thing is for certain: our rivers have many friends. And when they are in need, those friends are there to give back at the drop of a hat.

It's often difficult to stay optimistic about the future of our fragile natural treasures, but any time I see just how many people are willing to answer the call to protect a place they love, it's even more difficult to not be overwhelmingly filled with hope.

## Items for Sale

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

### Caddis float tube – Mitchie McCammon

Brand new, never used, still in the box. Fins included. \$50



### Orvis Jacket – Joey Tchang

New Orvis Men's Johnson's Fork Fleece Jacket Size M never used. Didn't like the fit. Still has the tags. Will take \$50 or b/o. Buyer needs to pick up at my house in Fremont.



## **WANTED: 15 hp outboard motor in good running condition**

Contact Hal Wilson

## **Gear Sale – James Kirchner**

Patagonia wading boots, size 11. Comes with brand new set of spare laces and traction bars. \$150



Simms wader/gear bag. Fits waders and boots in bottom compartment to separate from dry clothes and gear. Tons of storage up too 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



Fly tying vices:

- Green bag kit with vice \$100
- Box kit without vice \$70
- Middle row vices \$50 each
- Bottom row vices \$75 each



Miscellaneous tools and materials:

- All tools \$5 each/set
- Chenille - \$10 for all

- Thread \$10/small set \$30 box set
- Or I'd take \$100 for everything in the photo

