

The Barbless Hook

March 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

March Meeting

Jim Roberts – Fall Steelhead Fishing on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers

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 is a sought-after speaker. With thirty years' experience and his professional training as a teacher, Jim is able to share his knowledge to help other anglers make it to the next level. His goal both on the water and at a presentation is to make fly fishing instruction as fun and rewarding as possible. After 30 years his passion for chasing any fish with a fly is matched only by his desire to teach others about fly fishing.



Meeting Note

Join us for the meeting via Zoom on Thursday, March 3rd. An invitation will be sent to you via email. Please contact Dave Fontaine if you haven't received the invitation by Wednesday, March 2nd.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

First, I would like to welcome and thank all the returning and new members to the board for 2022. We have two new first-time board members, Mitchie McCammon and Gary Blandino. Mitchie will



be our new Outings Chair and is already moving quickly to provide a wide range of activities this coming season. Gary will be joining as our Membership Chair. Thank you to both of you. The board is an important part of bringing a quality program to our members. I would like to extend an open invitation to all club members to attend and participate in the club's business. The board meets at the Rod & Gun Club the last Thursday of each month at 7pm. This is not a secret group, and any club member can attend and who knows, you may enjoy being part of the planning for the future of the club.

One of the things the board has been discussing for the last several months is the financial status of the club. We have not had a major fund raiser for quite some time (Covid, etc.) and our finances are starting to reflect that. We are going to be making some minor changes to the way we do business. Once we develop a plan, we will present it to the club for approval. Dues will not be going up.

Spring is fast approaching and if anyone has looked at our calendar, there is a lot going on. We have outings and training opportunities all over the place for all experience levels. If you see something that you think may be outside of your comfort level but something you are interested in, sign up, let Mitchie know and we will pair you up with a mentor, no problem. If you have a skill or special knowledge and you would be willing share it, let us know.

One last thing, we are planning to go back to live meetings beginning in April. Hopefully, we will be in the endemic phase of this nightmare. Obviously, this can easily change at a moment's notice, with CDC, County and everyone else but we will keep you posted. So that is it for now, and by the way, I'm Marty Loomis and I will be the new President for 2022.

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!

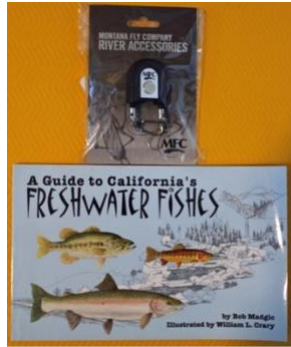
TVFF welcomes new members **Marty Lundin** and **Victor Polverino**. Glad to have you!

Raffle Information

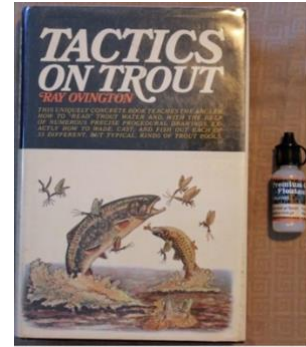
For the club's next meeting on Thursday, March 3rd, winning participants in the raffle will have their choice of any of the items except the Bass Pro gift card. The gift card will be awarded last. As always you must be present, or in this case still online, to win. Tickets must be purchased online through the [club store](#) by end of day on Wednesday, March 2nd. 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.



'Sex, Death, and Fly-Fishing' by John Gierach; Umpqua Big Grip Nippers



A Guide to California's Freshwater Fishes; MFC Horseshoe Double Zinger



'Tactics on Trout' by Ray Ovington; Premium Floatant



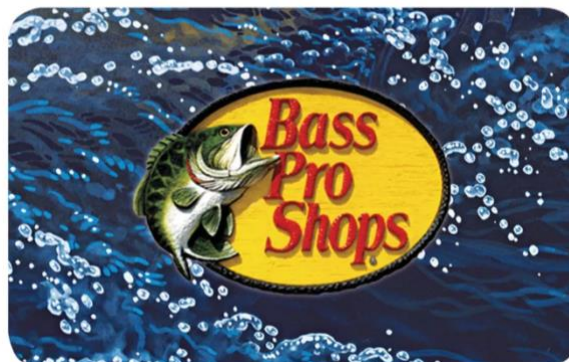
'100 Best Flies for Colorado Trout'; Double sided fly box with 4 dry flies (#20 to 22 size)



'Yosemite Trout Fishing Guide – Including the Eastern Sierra' by Steve Beck; Maxcatch 9 ft leaders 4X, 5X, 6X one each



'Creative Fly Tying and Fly Fishing' by Rex Gerlach; Hat Ball Cap and Eagle Claw Hat hook



\$50 Gift Card to Bass Pro Shops

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

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

Check out the website under the [Events](#) tab to sign up for upcoming outings. 2022 is already looking great and started with trips to the Feather River to fish for steelhead. Some trips may already be fully subscribed, but there's no cost to join the waiting list and cancellations frequently occur. There are still plenty of days this year for you to be a Fish Meister and plan another outing. Just let me know, and I will make sure your trip info gets on the calendar.

Tight Lines!

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 2nd 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 5th) 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.

Beginning Fly Tying Class – Starts March 7

Our [beginning fly tying](#) class consists of four sessions taking place each Monday in March 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.



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.

Kistler Bass Ponds – April 3

Kistler bass ponds are located outside of Oakdale, California. This is an unguided [trip](#), and excellent for both families and those new to fly fishing. The ponds are close to the Tri-Valley, have great 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.



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

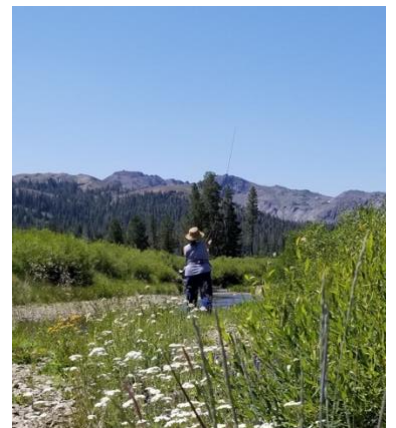
This is our annual three-night, four-day camping trip headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three days of fishing the Big Truckee, Little Truckee, and Milton Lake for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river 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

Jeff Fadden – Pyramid Lake

I was up at Pyramid Lake a few weeks ago with Steve Holsclaw. We're new members. Here's a picture of one of the fish we caught. Fish on!



Education Update

Rob Farris – Education Director

What a full educational agenda we have underway right now. Coming up on Wednesday (March 2nd) this week is the long-anticipated Euro Nymphing class with our resident expert and fish whisperer, Alan Wyosnick. And that is followed immediately with the kickoff to our Basic Fly Tying class with master guru, Jim Broadbent and friends. The class is on four successive Monday evenings starting this coming Monday (March 7-28). Our Entomology class is well under way after two of our four sessions.

On March 23rd we will begin our Fundamentals of Fly Fishing class for new anglers. This annually provided course seeks to equip new anglers with the skills, equipment knowledge, casting instruction, and techniques to be effective on the water. This year it includes three classroom sessions, one casting session, and one final practical session on the water. It's a great way to start out in the sport and an even more terrific way to introduce the sport to your spouse or children, who are all welcome. Signups are available on the TVFF website [Events](#) page. The class normally fills up quickly after the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show that attracts new members to the club, so if you are interested you might want to register early for it.

Conservation

Gary Prince – Conservation Director

This month, we take a look at what some regular folks and Trout Unlimited are doing to protect a heavily-used area in New Mexico. In a future newsletter, we will look at the Vermejo Ranch Reserve in New Mexico. It's over 550,000 acres and owned by Ted Turner. Quite a stark comparison to the public land efforts and the land owned by a billionaire. (I surprised myself. Honestly, I didn't think I knew how to spell billionaire). - Gary

In New Mexico's Jemez Mountains, TU and ranchers are working together to keep streams healthy and improve range productivity.

On our way to inspect his grazing allotment, Manuel Lucero and I pull over next to a tree where some campers have left their trash in a neat and organized pile of boxes and tied up plastic sacks.

Lucero notes this as a common occurrence after most summer weekends, especially on this one dirt road, perhaps the busiest thoroughfare connecting Albuquerque to its playgrounds in the Jemez Mountains.

"They actually believe they're being responsible," he says. "Someone else is supposed to pick up after them, and they're trying to make it easy. Tonight, the bears will drag all this down to the creek, and the trash will eventually float into our ditches and fields."



Manuel Lucero working on well to provide off-stream watering.

In the years I've known Manuel, I've never seen him without his black cowboy hat on. He takes guilty pleasure in watching the TV series "Yellowstone" and in dropping the occasional irreverent joke. As president of the San Diego Grazing Association, however, this rancher in his thirties is dead serious.

Manuel runs cattle on about 96,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest, and he embraces the responsibility of stewarding so much land.

Some of the land he grazes provides habitat for native Rio Grande cutthroat trout and several listed wildlife species, as well as water for small farming communities downstream. With these realities in mind, Trout Unlimited reached out to Manuel's grazing association in 2015 to explore the possibility of simultaneously improving riparian habitat and range productivity.

Healthy riparian habitat means happy trout streams. And in the Jemez mountains, a recreational haven serving three of New Mexico's largest cities, healthy riparian habitat increasingly means happy ranchers, who try to avoid conflict with other public land users when possible.

Since their partnership began, TU and the San Diego Grazing Association have joined forces on fence repairs and renovations of water lines and drinkers. We've shared expenses on a mobile corral, a water storage tank, and battery-powered chainsaws to clear fallen timber from fences during fire season.

Through these and other actions, this partnership has succeeded in distributing grazing pressure more evenly across the San Diego and neighboring Cebolla-San Antonio allotments.

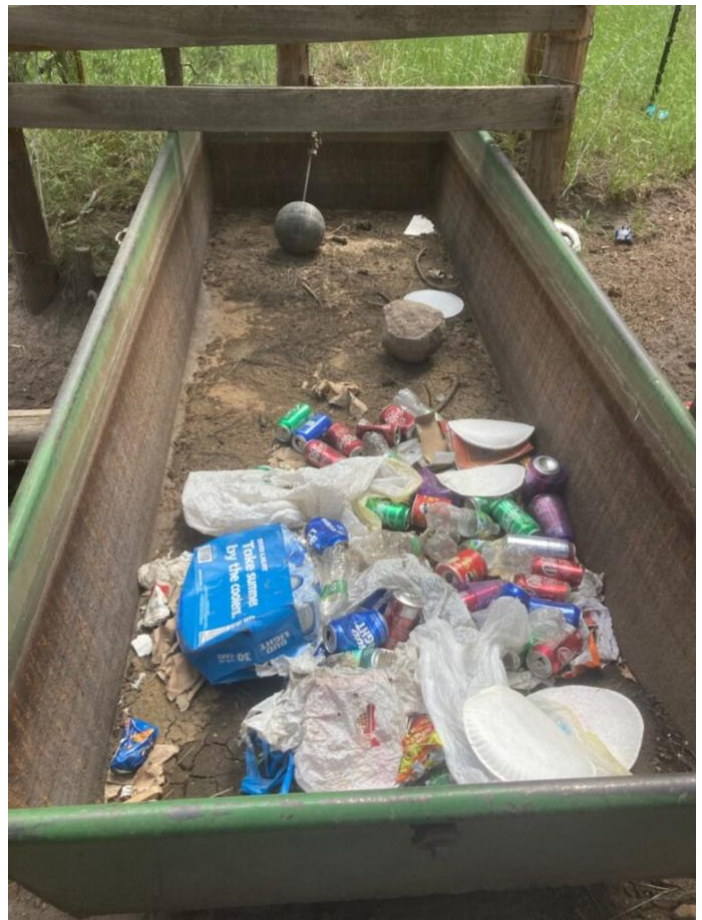
In 2021, we teamed up with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy on an effort to increase grazing efficiency and to discourage cows from loitering in riparian areas. The project, which included approximately \$87,000.00 in funding from TNC's Rio Grande Water Fund, entailed the drilling of two canyon-rim wells on the Cebolla-San Antonio allotment.

The wells will gravity-feed a network of drinking lines and enable the utilization of certain upland pastures with lots of clumpy tall grass. The grass in these pastures is decadent, a result of being left almost completely unbitten by elk and cattle.

With drinking capacity provided by the new wells, these under-used pastures will absorb more pressure (and manure), while enabling heavily grazed meadows to receive some rest.

Ten miles up the road, Manuel and I are parked at the upper end of a long meadow next to a fenced enclosure surrounding a locked well house with a sheet metal roof.

The well supplies drinking troughs across the Virgin, Stable, and Holiday mesas that rise above us to the south—it is essentially the nerve center of much of the San Diego allotment.



Drinker drained by weekend campers and filled with trash; empty drinkers push cows to the creeks.

Having grazed for their allotted days, the cows have left the meadow for the mesa tops. From Memorial Day until school starts is the season of the weekender, when residents of Albuquerque seek relief from the urban heat and bustle.

Manuel points out thicker stands of forest where RVs can't penetrate. The grass there has grown about a foot since being eaten. Elsewhere across the camping footprint, the only grass that grows is smashed into dusty ground.

"But if one cow shows up here this weekend, I'll hear about it on Monday," Lucero says. "I get it, campers don't want to see cows, but cows don't like people either. Cows are smart, but they're also dumb. They'd rather be up top, but with people all over the mountain they get confused. Let's be honest, people are everywhere."

He's not exaggerating. Scanning the sloping meadow, we see occupied, often illegal, campsites almost any place one can park a car; in ranching parlance, it's quite a few "head" of people.

Manuel notes the irony in how, come evening, the whole canyon will smell like grilling beef and hot dogs and how the same people bashing his cows will leave their fire rings full of beer cans.

Already this summer, an RV owner broke the lock off the wellhouse and plugged into its power source; campers drained one of his troughs and used it as a trash bin; and on any given year, hikers will invariably bathe in the troughs, oblivious to the repellent effect soap and lotion have on thirsty cows and wildlife.

People cut fences to make way for ATVs. They do donuts in the pastures.

One fine individual used a Sawzall to cut a door in a water tank critical to minimizing cattle presence in riparian areas of the Rio Cebolla. Purchased jointly by TU and the San Diego Grazing Association, this tank was rendered into a suitable dwelling for the vandal and his small herd of goats, and useless for the purpose of watering cattle and wildlife.

As Manuel talks, I'm impressed by a patience seeping through his frustration, a seeming acceptance of adversity as a part of the ranching life that can drive one toward improvement.

Manuel, his father Mariano, brother Michael, and the members of the association all share common ancestors who settled in the Jemez country in the late 1700s. Back then, everyone was a rancher, a farmer, a hunter, a gatherer and, most important, a neighbor or friend to native Pueblo people already occupying the valley.



Vandalized water tank paid for by TU and rancher partners. Functional watering systems help keep cows out of important riparian ecosystems.

Back then the land was definitely public, but in an existential sense. Multiple use was not only a matter of cooperation, but of life and death.

As part of our commitment to protecting and restoring the Rio Grande cutthroat, itself a cultural icon, TU will continue building partnerships with ranchers and other stakeholders in the Rio Grande watershed. Honoring deep-rooted practices will be key to sustaining adaptive stewardship. As Manuel Lucero says, “Our people wouldn’t have lasted this long if we couldn’t find ways of understanding different ways of living.”

Items for Sale

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

Gear Sale – Mitchie McCammon

I have the following items for sale. Most are new or gently used. It’s time to clear out the closets so I can pay for more fishing trips and new gear that fits me!

Orvis men’s Ultralight convertible waders, size XL. Used only once or twice and have been checked for leaks. \$200



Adamsbuilt Yuba River guard socks, size XL. Brand new, never used. \$25



Korkers Metalhead FB-3210, size 14. Comes with all three different soles: felt, kling-on studded, and kling-on. \$100



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.





Here's a boat box I'd sell for 10 bucks.



3 lines barely used. Asking 25 each or 60 for all 3.

7wt Rio streamer line. Intermediate sinking tip.



7wt Rio streamer line, 6ips sinking tip



7wt Rio bonefish line. Floating.

