

# The Barbless Hook

October 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



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

## October Meeting – Wednesday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

### Lance Gray on Fishing Manzanita Lake

Our speaker for the October meeting is the club's longtime friend and guide Lance Gray. Lance will be joining us via Zoom and presenting his newly updated talk on fishing Manzanita Lake – one of our favorite places to fish.

Lance started fly fishing with his father and brother Lincoln at age seven. At seventeen, he went to work at Powell's in Chico, working in the fly shop and building rods. He guided for Powell's, and conducted fly-tying and fly-fishing schools. In 2003 Lance and his wife Kirsten launched Lance Gray & Company, a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing schools, workshops and a travel agency.

**Coming attraction** – the November meeting will be Fly Fishing for California Carp with Dagur Gudmundsson.



### No Casting Tune-ups this Month

Unfortunately, Gary Turri will not be able to do his casting tune-ups before the October monthly meeting. He's planning to start them up again in May 2023.

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## President's Corner

### Rob Farris for Marty Loomis

I'm really pleased how the Club has come back together this fall after the effects of the pandemic. It was tough not to see all the faces (except on Zoom; a poor substitute I'm afraid) for so long and not have the chance to catch up with how everyone is doing with fishing, families, and other activities. The picnic was a terrific return for us and now we're seeing greater participation in our outings, events, fly tying, pre-meeting fly casting clinics, and meetings. I sense a real energy returning in the Club with many new members, new Board members, and new activities planned after the challenging two-year pandemic layoff we all suffered through. I'm sure that we're all glad that's behind us. Come join us at the next meeting and "let's party like it's 2019..."

Speaking of events, check out the exciting major step forward for TVFF with the Alameda Creek Alliance and the re-emergence of both Steelhead and Salmon into Alameda Creek. A full discussion of the great attendance we had at the ACA meeting with CalTrout in September is available later in this newsletter. On site at the meeting, the attending Board members felt that Tri-Valley Fly Fishers should become streamkeepers for both fish in our local Laguna Arroyo channel right alongside I-680. Did I just say Salmon and possibly Steelhead in our Pleasanton backyard? Yes, we sure hope so this fall since the new fish ladder has been installed. We started supporting this project many, many years ago with the unrelenting leadership of Derrell Bridgman, who must be very proud to see the creek finally opening up after 25 years of intense work. Thank you for all your efforts, Derrell!. Check out [our part of Alameda Creek](#) where we'll be counting fish for the Alliance, CalTrout, and CFW (hopefully quite a few this fall). And then volunteer, come join us in this terrific conservation effort, and watch the Salmon return to Pleasanton.

## 2022 TVFF Board of Directors

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Martin Loomis
<b>Vice President</b>	Alan Wyosnick
<b>Secretary</b>	Al Mansky
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris McCann
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Perry

### Directors

<b>Auction</b>	Denis Haire
<b>Conservation</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Education</b>	Rob Farris
<b>Outings</b>	Mitchie McCammon
<b>Fly Tying</b>	Jim Broadbent
<b>Member at Large</b>	Martin Plotkin
<b>Membership</b>	Greg Blandino
<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

## Outings and Activities

### Mitchie McCammon – Outings Coordinator

Hello Flyfisher friends!

This year has seen a few of our trips cancelled or rescheduled due to Mother Nature. While this is disappointing, there have been new outings added as we head into the fall and winter seasons.

Welcome to Jim Knecht, our newest Fishmeister. At this writing he is leading a trip for a bit of surf fishing near Half Moon Bay. If you have wanted to try surf fishing, keep on the lookout for the possibility of new trips and don't forget to ask about their adventure and fish report.

Upcoming outings:

October 11 - [Middle Fork of the Stanislaus at Kennedy Meadows](#) with Denis Haire, another new Fishmeister. This is a great place to fish with a dry fly and is easy wading. This trip is currently full but sign up if you are interested in case there is a cancellation.

October 23-24 – [Hat Creek and Baum Lake](#) with Fishmeister, Rob Farris. Overnight accommodations to be made individually at a local motel or camping. There is still plenty of room on this trip. Fishing on Hat Creek can be challenging but oh so fun. Baum Lake has large rainbows that are best fished from a watercraft like a pram or pontoon. Float tubes are ok, but you will get a workout with the current in the lake.

December 3 -5 – [Steelhead fishing on the Trinity River](#) with guide Jim Roberts. Gary Prince is the Fishmeister and can answer your questions about this trip. Steelhead are known as the fish of 1,000 casts, so when you hook one, you're in for fun. You also get the opportunity to enjoy great meals and accommodations at Jim's house in Redding. This trip is a great deal and would be more than double the cost with any other guide.

January 2023 – Steelhead fishing on the Feather River with Fishmeister, Alan Wyosnick. This trip is a great way to start out the new year. Signups for this trip will be open soon.

There is the possibility of October/November trips to the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus at Beardsley Dam and Putah Creek. In addition to fishing trips, I am looking into a social event at Da Boccery for axe throwing, food and fun. If you have ideas for other outings, let me know. Even better, become a Fishmeister and get to know more people in the club while fishing your favorite spots. Keep watching your emails and check the Events page on the TVFF website for more information on these outings.

Fish on!

Mitchie

## Member Reports

### Ken Tetzl – Manzanita Lake

Not much to report but... my wife and I went to Manzanita Lake recently. The fishing was as slow as I ever had it!!?? We only caught a half dozen fish in two days!! The wind was up as usual and there were no callibaetis hatches at all!!?? Don't know where all the bugs went?? I just nymphed both days and only saw one fish rise on the first day in five hours of float tubing. Very weird!

One positive... I fished at Burney Falls one day for about an hour and a half. Caught 12-15 rainbows in the Falls Pool. All on a #12 Elk Hair Caddis. Easy time for a change. Then, Janet and I both lost money at the Burney Casino too... Oh well!!

## Bob McCollum – Lake Alpine

I fished Lake Alpine this weekend between departing smokey skies and incoming rain. Fishing was a little slow but I managed a few. It was nice to get into the mountains.



## James Kirchner

I've been on the Stanislaus up near Dardanelles with a lot of success. Dry droppers all day. Probably 40 fish to hand each day.

Spent a few days on the Trinity swinging flies for fall steelhead. Couldn't keep the half-pounders off. They actually started to get annoying to catch because it meant it wasn't an adult and we had to reset our swings. Hooked into one adult but it hunkered down and shook me off. That's fishing. Fish are in the lower river for sure. Should see more in the middle Klamath and Trinity about now. If anyone in the club likes to swing flies or has questions about swinging and two-handed rods, feel free to reach out. I probably won't touch a single-handed rod until Spring now that steelhead and Pyramid are ramping up.

## Rich Vance

You always seem to see something interesting on the Delta. It is full of wildlife, from birds, seals, river otters, bugs, creatures and an assortment of different fish. Stripers should soon start to show in numbers as the largemouth and panfish start to slow with the cooling water.

I also spent a day fishing the Willamette River near Portland for some smallmouth. Oregon has nice populations of smallmouths on the lower river sections.





## Mitchie McCammon – Fishing Lakes

I am a stream girl. I love to hike and hiking along the meandering water is my favorite kind of fishing. Seeing the beauty of the water, the rocks and the bugs is so exciting. As I walk along the fisherman's trails, I imagine the fish that are swimming just a few feet away from me and wonder how many I have spooked. I love to read the water and try to cast to those riffles and pools where the fish are hiding. The soft water next to the riffles calls to me in the hopes that my next cast will fool one of those fish. When it does, my heartrate goes up, and the excitement makes me laugh. I love to see the vibrant colors, the spots, and the different kinds of fish. I also love to see the fish swim away as I release it back into the water to possibly be caught another day.

In recent years we have had severe drought, higher temperatures, and fires. These conditions have forced many of us to figure out new places to fish. One of the places I have been learning to fish is the smaller lakes. It is not the same kind of excitement I feel for the streams that I love, but there is a beauty and peacefulness to it as well.

I have a Watermaster raft and have learned how to set it up, fish from it, and how to pack it up at the end of the day. I even built myself a second rod holder and figured out how to attach it to my boat so I can change between a dry fly set up or nymphing. It does take me longer to get on the water and I get a workout using the pump, but once I'm on the water, I eagerly search for the place I want to cast. I have had much help in learning how to fish a lake and have enjoyed the beautiful scenery. Not every trip is successful in catching a fish, but I continue to learn more about lake fishing with each trip I take.

The lakes are generally fishable when my beloved streams are too low or too warm to fish. My Watermaster raft gives me the freedom to row in the middle of the lake and to explore the little coves near the banks. The fish I have caught are generally much larger than the stream fish, but the excitement of feeling the tug on the line is the same. And, when a BIG fish finally gets into the net, it is a feeling of a great reward and relief.

If you haven't tried lake fishing, I highly recommend it. There are people in our club who fish lakes. Seek them out and learn from them. Keep searching for those fish and continue to enjoy fishing even when Mother Nature throws us curve balls.

## Gary Prince – Middle Fork Stanislaus

Jim McCabe and I had a great day on the Stanislaus River. We caught at least twenty fish between us. About 1/3 of them were nice sized for this stream, 12- 14". My last time out there a few weeks ago, I caught as many





fish but they were smaller. I used only a small parachute Adams that day. This time there was no interest at all for the Adams. I changed to a grasshopper and got them to come up. Jim was having luck with a black zebra midge, so I tied a black perdigon on below the hopper, and it worked well (and also in other dark colors). The stream looked like it had just dropped at least 4" (from the dam above) but there's still adequate flows. Hope you or the October 11<sup>th</sup> club outing can benefit from our experience.



## **Mitchie McCammon – Putah Creek**

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to run away and fish at Putah Creek. The weather was in the low 80s and being able to fish so close to home was very appealing. We arrived at the access point about 8:30am, and there were already three cars in the parking lot. Apparently other anglers had the same thought to get out midweek on this beautiful day.

In the past, we were able to wade across with not too much difficulty, but this time the flow was about 500 cfs. The higher flow raised the water just enough that I didn't feel comfortable wading across where we normally would. The higher flow also increased the current which added another reason why I was going to find an easier way to get access to the water.

At one point, we bushwhacked our way to the trail across the island, later realizing we could have entered an easier way. Oh well, that's part of the fun of figuring out how to get to the water. Once I took that first step in the water, I felt at peace and was ready for the challenge of catching a fish or two. Having fished Putah Creek before, I knew how difficult it could be to catch those fish.

I found a run where I would try my newly learned Euro skills. Getting that dead drift was a challenge due to the swift current and higher water. Eventually I figured it out and caught my first fish. It was a smaller 7-8" rainbow, but it was a fish, and I was excited.

On this day, I probably should have made a side trip to Cache Creek casino because one of the fish I caught turned into a double. Yes, I hooked a fish and then began to get him to my net when I realized both my top and bottom flies had hooked fish! I've never hooked two fish at the same time and maybe never will again, but it made me smile and laugh to see two fish on my line and in my net at the same time.

I moved up and down this area all day as I couldn't wade to the other areas and managed to catch a total of seven fish by the end of the day. Although I didn't take any photos on this day, the memory of my double will be etched in my mind. The crisp air and sparkling water rejuvenate me and keep me coming back to fish again, maybe to get another double one day.

## 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*

### Eric Drew

**How long have you been a club member?**

3 maybe 4 years

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

Nope

**What occupies your time other than fishing?**

Bike riding, hiking, kayaking and work

**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?**

3 weight, 7 piece 7 footer with a weight forward floating line

**What is your favorite species to fish for and why?**

Trout, because I love wading the streams

**What body of water do you fish most often?**

West Fork of the Carson River



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

Dry fly

**Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?**

Streams, I love reading the structure and nailing a perfect drift with a dry fly

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

Black Parachute Adams

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

Not really but I do buy non-resident licenses when I travel



# Return of the TVFF Auction 2023

## Denis Haire – Auction Chairman

Fly rods and reels 40-50% off... Float tubes 50-60% off. Fly line and leaders 50% off.



Custom tied flies 40% off.



Waders, boots, and wading staffs, all at ridiculously discounted prices!!!

One-on-one Buddy Trips with an experienced club member to productive water...



Get ready for the spring hatch this coming April...

And how can you tap into this? Why, it's the ***Return of the TVFF Auction!***

After a long COVID delay, we are excited to announce the return of the TVFF Auction! The auction is scheduled for the April monthly meeting in 2023. Auction proceeds support our many conservation and education programs throughout the year. Unfortunately during the pandemic, we had to put most of these programs on hold, deplete our treasury funds, and cut back on many of the worthwhile donations we make every year. Our

annual donations usually include support of California Trout, Trout Unlimited, the Livermore Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, and various conservation programs such as the Alameda Creek Alliance and Trout in the Classroom. Past auctions, with all of their moving parts, have been very successful in supporting our organizational donation strategies due to extensive membership participation.

In order to be successful this year ***we need your help***. We are seeking both member donations and volunteers to become part of our planning teams. Donations typically include new equipment (from fly shop and manufacturer donations), lightly used fly fishing equipment by our members, use of a member's cabin, discounted guide trips, or even setting up a buddy trip. We have many new members and those new to fly fishing that see these auctions as a great way to inexpensively get started and equip themselves to enjoy our sport, or perhaps get their children involved early.

Club volunteers are always needed for helping with venue logistics, procuring auction items, check in activities, item management, auction material storage, and post auction item deliveries (local). This is a complex event to put on so please think of how you could help this be a success.

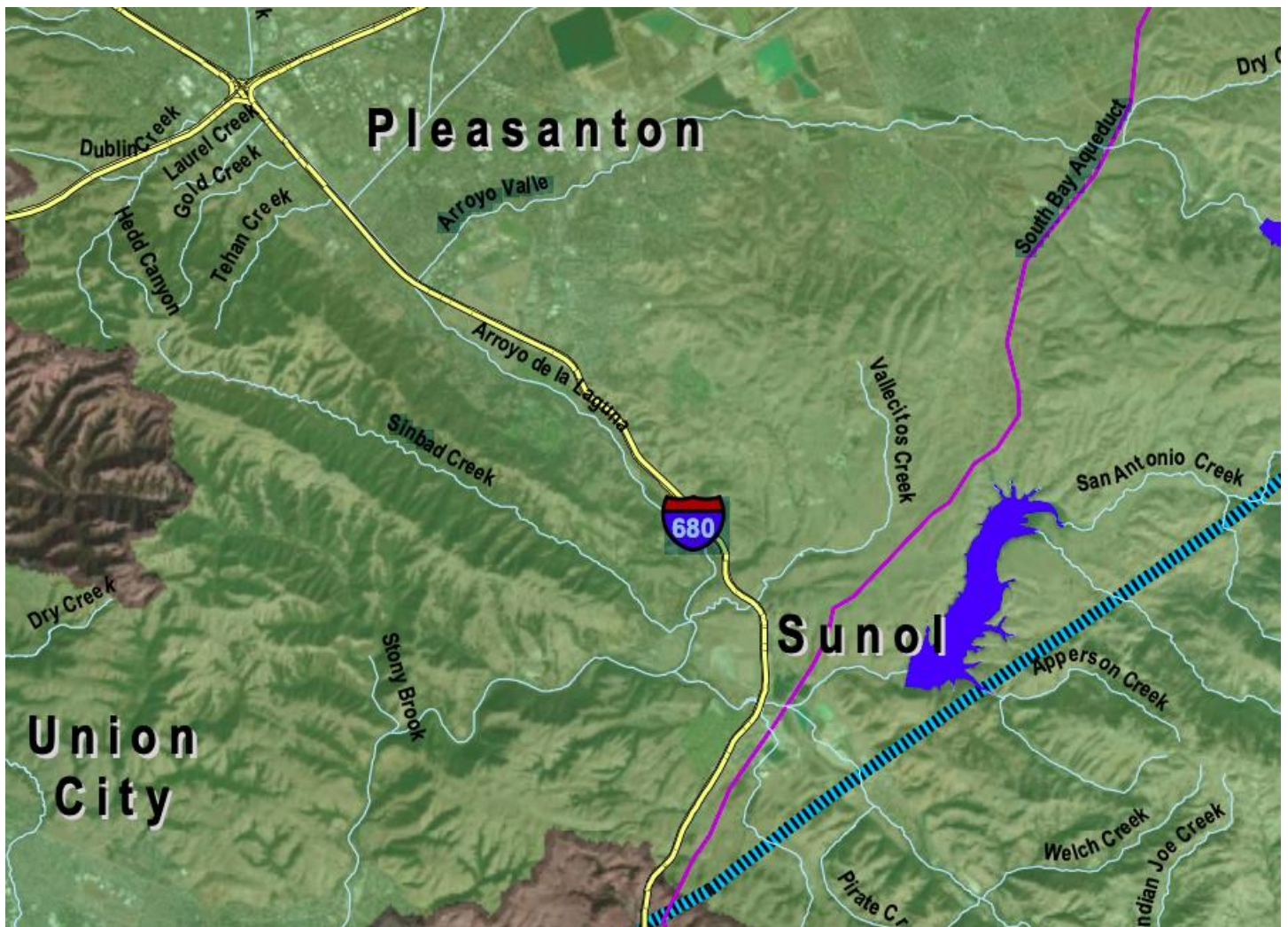
With your participation, this will be a fun, social and rewarding event for the club. Please contact Denis Haire to offer your skills and time to pull this event off, or contact any of our Board of Directors members if you have any questions.

## **Alameda Creek Steelhead and Salmon are Coming Back!**

### **Gary Prince – Conservation Director**

There have been multiple agencies striving to make this happen, and it's finally, really happening. Fish migration barriers (including dams) have been removed, fish ladders have been constructed, guaranteed minimum water flows are in place. Instead of a very small number struggling to spawn, hundreds of fish can grow to thousands.

To make this happen, the club's help is needed. The [Alameda Creek Alliance](#) and Cal Trout held a volunteer meeting at Sunol Wilderness Regional on September 25. The Tri-Valley Fly Fishers club was well represented. Our club is in the heart of the Alameda Creek drainage, and we have pledged to be observers of five reaches (areas of 1 - 1.2 miles each) along a major tributary route, Arroyo de la Laguna, from the Highway 680 overcrossing to where it joins Alameda Creek (approx. 6 miles). You are likely familiar with, and been very near, if you have been to the Pleasanton Dog Park off Bernal at 680, or to Castlewood Country Club and downstream. Our commitment is to be observers of this area, to visually check spawning activity and stream conditions. Derrell Bridgman (TVFF) has worked closely with Alameda Creek Alliance for years and his and others work has created a wonderful opportunity for us to be involved and see the fruits of their work.



It's expected that we will see only Salmon on our reaches (and not likely Steelhead) at this time. The Salmon come in as soon as late October – early December, while most Steelhead activity is November – January. This is very rain dependent. We will be recording their activity visually by taking pictures (with a mobile app) and commenting on what we see. This simple mobile app will automatically record the GPS location that will be reported to the Alameda Creek Alliance. Because Salmon die after spawning, we will be seeing some, post-spawn, easily on the bank or laying in the water next to obstructions. Anadromous fish move quickly and are hard to see. To record their activity will take many of us to get out on the stream, particularly after rain. The Alameda Creek Alliance will give us alerts as to when they particularly want us to be out there observing and reporting.

Please email me if you would like to help, and the number of reaches you can cover. I'll also be at the next TVFF meeting on October 5 to answer questions. I'll be providing details of each reach to observers at a later date. (The Alameda Creek Alliance is currently in communication with some of the private property and schools that border the creek to get us permission to be on those specific sites.) I'll also forward to the volunteers the details on loading the mobile app and other pertinent information. It's a great opportunity to get outside and take a walk along a stream that has large fish that will be returning after many decades.



## Apache Trout Recovery

After a half-century of federal protection, a unique trout species is being considered for removal from the Endangered Species List. Native only to the high country of northern Arizona, the Apache trout is a hard-fighting, olive-colored salmonid with a bright yellow underbelly. It lives exclusively in the streams around the White Mountains of northeastern Arizona. While the small streams that these rare fish typically inhabit only allow them to grow to about 10 inches in length, they can reach sizes of 20 inches or more under the right conditions.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is recommending the removal of the Apache trout from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The agency's proposal comes at the end of a five-year review process involving the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF), the federal government, and the Arizona Chapter of Trout Unlimited (AZTU).



“We would like to thank our partners for their engagement and collaborative efforts alongside the Service towards the recovery of the Apache trout,” said Amy Lueders, Regional Director for the USFWS, in a press release. “We are excited to say the recovery actions by the White Mountain Apache Tribe and other partners have led to the recommendation to delist the species from the ESA.”

The USFWS says that the recovery effort included non-native trout removal, fish barrier construction, and the reintroduction of hatchery-reared Apache trout back into their historic native habitat. The Apache trout is one of just two trout species native to the Grand Canyon State—the other being the closely related Gila trout. In fact, for many years, North American scientists didn't fully understand the taxonomic distinctions between the Gila and the Apache trout. “It was originally considered the same species as the Gila trout, which was listed under the Endangered Species Preservation Act in 1967,” the USFWS explained. “Apache trout [were] first described as a unique species separate from Gila trout in 1972. A year later, it gained protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and it was subsequently downlisted to threatened in 1975.”

Bringing Apache trout back to sustainable levels has been a goal of the federal government since at least 1979, but Indigenous tribes in the area have been working to restore the valuable native fishery even longer, the Arizona Chapter of Trout Unlimited AZTU tells Field & Stream. According to AZTU Chapter Chair Alan Davis, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has been trying to restore the fish since the mid-1950s. He says that the over-harvest of the yellow-bellied Apache trout by European settlers around the turn of the century played a big role in the native fish's decline. "Back then, the fishing for these trout was just incredible," Davis told F&S. "Like much of the excess that went on at that time, there would literally be strings of fish between trees."

The USFWS says that one impediment to the success of Arizona's Apache trout was the introduction of non-native game fish species. "The gene pool was threatened by hybridization with non-native rainbow and cutthroat trout," wrote the USFWS in its press release. "Additionally, non-native brook and brown trout pose threats through competition and predation." In order to remedy this issue, the USFWS and the AZGFD have focused on the removal of these species from the Apache trout's native range, measures that AZTU says it supports despite blowback from anglers who like to fish for the non-natives.

The next step for the USFWS in the official removal of the Apache trout from the long list of species protected under the ESA will be the publishing of a proposed rule to the federal register. That move will prompt a 60-day comment period seeking input from members of the public, as well as state, federal, tribal, and other government entities. To follow the process, you can use the USFWS's Environmental Conservation Online System.

## Items for Sale

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

### Ron Grady

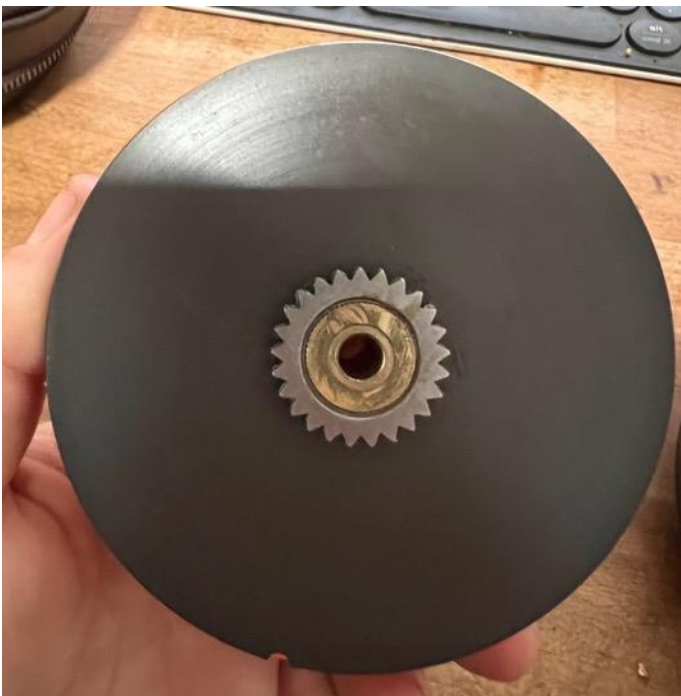
I have a magnetic rod holder for sale, used, good condition. \$50





## 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







Also have a Ross Colorado 4/5wt in excellent condition. Asking \$300 obo. Includes backing. Can also include used Rio Euro line for additional \$20.







## Gary Turri

### Rods and reels:

1. Redington Trace Fly Rod. 9 foot 6 weight, new condition \$200

2. Redington CPS Fly Rod. 10 foot 7 weight 4 piece. Great rod for Steelhead on the Trinity. One of the best rods Redington ever made and way underrated. Excellent condition \$175
3. Sage 796 RPL Fly Rod. 9.5 foot 7 weight 4 piece. Great Rod for Steelhead on the Trinity. The RPL rod series has a cult following and are highly sought after by collectors. Excellent condition \$300
4. Orvis Battenkill 3 Reel. Fully machined, very durable reel. Click and Pawl drag. For 4-6 weight fly lines. New in box. \$100
5. Bauer M2 Fly Reel. Fully machined, comes with backing and Scientific Anglers Mastery GPX WF-5 fly line. Very good condition \$175

**Fly Lines for sale:**

Fly Lines for Casting Practice. All are bright orange color and new condition.

RIO Grand WF-6 \$60

RIO Gold WF-7 \$60

SA Mastery Expert Distance

WF-5 \$50

WF-6 \$50

Cortland Modern Trout

WF-5 \$45

WF-6 \$45

Cortland Trout Boss

DT5 new condition \$55

DT6 new condition \$55

RIO In-Touch Single Hand Spey

WF6 new condition \$65'

