

The Barbless Hook

September 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

September Meeting – Wednesday Sept. 7th, 7pm

Ryan Williams – Steelhead Fishing on the Feather River

Ryan is a full-time guide & fly tier, best known for his re-discovering of the Float N' Fly with the fly rod, and its application for stillwater bass during the winter. He's also been a major proponent of top-water fly fishing on CA's public reservoirs. Ryan has sixteen years of Northern California fly experience and has been guiding for eight years. Ryan now resides next to Lake Oroville, guiding the Feather River for steelhead, Lower Sacramento River for trout/shad, foothill lakes for bass, and Clear Lake for bass and crappie.



Free Casting Tune-ups with Gary!

How about some free fly casting instruction before the monthly meeting starts? Gary Turri, a Master Certified casting instructor, will be at **Wattenburger Park from 5-6:30pm** on September 7th to help you with your casting. Bring your casting ailment and let him have a look at it. Maybe you just need a little tweak.

If you bring your own rod, please use a yarn fly for practice, **no hooks** please for safety reasons. Loaner rods and yarn flies will also be available. The best leader for practice is about 7-8' and tapered to 3X or heavier.

Wattenburger Park is located on Honeysuckle Road in Livermore.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer! Can't believe it is winding down so quickly but judging by the outing feedback from various members, it has been a good summer, regardless of the lack of water. As usual, I didn't get out as much as planned but when I did, it was great. What I tell myself each year, that I'm going to get out and fish more but as usual, life gets in the way.

Last month, we had 30+ members attend our annual BBQ at the LPRG Club and from the feedback I've heard, it was a great success. A big thank you to our BBQ crew and to all those who helped with setup and contributing to the fantastic potluck. Everyone had a good time. Stories were told, lots of food was consumed (a little alcohol) and everyone left with ideas for stories to tell at next year's BBQ. Congratulations to Robert Chacon for winning the Roberts guided trip raffle.

I'm not sure how many of you saw this in Fly Fisher Magazine but another big name got bought out:

July 28, 2022 – An agreement was announced on

Wednesday for Vista Outdoor to purchase fly-fishing industry titan Simms Fishing Products for \$192.5 million. Vista is the parent company of 39 outdoors-related brands, including Bushnell, CamelBak, and Remington Ammunition.

This is part of a longer article and can be found for more details. More and more companies are being bought up by the likes of Farbanks that owns Sage, RIO and many others. I find it interesting that all the individual companies are owned by a small collection of big corporations.

In other club news, TVFF will once again have a booth at the Fly Fishing Show in February 2023. We're looking for someone willing to take the responsibility of setting up the booth for next year. It's not a lot of work, straightforward, and the person will have as much help as necessary. If interested, let me know.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Coordinator

Stay tuned for Delta trips in the fall, possible float trips down the Lower Sac and Trinity, and more. If you want to get a trip together, let me know and I will help you become a Fishmeister.

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Raffle	Open Position
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
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Webmaster	Mark Spruiell

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

Fall is here, although very hot, so time to throw a few October Caddis into your fly box. We will tie a fox tail pupa and a CDC bubble caddis. Check out [River Keeper Flies](#) for a bunch of caddis pattern photos. We can also talk about California's low water situation and where to fish this fall and winter.

Anyone with insight or sleeper destinations they would like to share?

As always, we share ideas and material. You don't have to be a fly tier to join in the discussions and you might just learn something.

Contact Jim Broadbent if you have any questions.

Member Reports

John Saylor

Great time at the TVFF picnic. Great variety of offerings and deserts. Can't beat a good potluck. Sat with Tosh Okano at dinner. Discussed Alaska fishing. He goes to AK annually, fishes out of the Kenai River and vicinity.



Rob Farris, Dave Meister, and Dennis Haire at the grill

Bart Hughes

Here are a few pics from a recent Alaska trip that I, Robert Nishio, Jim Broadbent, my daughter, and friends took. We fished in the Dillingham/Lake Aleknagik area, and we targeted Silvers of which we caught plenty - plus pinks, char, dollies, rainbows and grayling. Good time was had by all, and I had a proud papa moment when my daughter Paige caught the largest silver of the week (30in)!



Ken Tetzl

I have fished the Middle Fork of the Stan a few times the past few weeks. It's been very hot but decent dry fly fishing in the late afternoon. Good hatches of #16 mayflies have been coming off. Some good size fish too. A couple 16" and 18" rainbows. Haven't seen too many other anglers either, not bad!!

Corey Bennett

Fishing a beaver pond on the West Fork Carson River with Eric Drew. Great weekend. Beautiful views, lots of action, and even a visit from the beaver.



Jeff Fadden

Stephen Holtzclaw, his wife and I went to the Green River for a week of drift boat fishing. There were ten of us total for the trip. My 7th trip there myself and for Stephen his first. All of us drove but one and our trip takes two days to get there as we stopped over in Elko for the night before moving on to SLC for lunch the next day at the Red Iguana. Our final destination is the town of Dutch John where we stayed for the week and where we meet up with the guides in the mornings. Dry Fly is the name of the game and big browns are the menu. Most are 16 to 21 inches and some rainbows in the mix. We use Trout Creek Flies for our guides. Most of us catch 8 to 12 fish each day and always several are in the 17 to 20 in. range. We all had lots of fun and good camaraderie for us all. In the photo with the boat that is Stephen's wife Allison with a big brown on. If anyone wants any info about fishing there, just ask me as I would be happy to help.





Gary Prince

SILVER LAKE, Highway 88, Carson Pass – I've driven by this lake perhaps 100 times to ski Kirkwood, to fish other places, or travel to So. Lake Tahoe. Fished it once as a boy on a family trip over 55 years ago. I don't recall doing well at that time. Better luck this time. My family and I stayed three nights at a Kit Carson Lodge cabin on the lake last week. It was a family time trip, with my wife daughter and two dogs.

I fished the lake three times for 1 1/2 to 3 hours. I was surprised to find that it was fishing well into late summer. Scott, a lodge employee gave me some tips, and I'd seen a fish being caught across the cove at dusk the night we arrived. I caught eight rainbows from 11-14", wade fishing in the cove and lost at least that many. Also had at least that many more strikes. The first day out was calm and glassy and a hopper dropper worked with a black zebra midge. Half the hits were on the top fly. The other day fished was whitecap windy. Still caught four by standing behind a 20' volcanic outcropping that provided protection and fishing 4-6' down below a small indicator with small green wiggle tail fly and zebra midge that bobbed through the water (when almost nobody was on the windy lake).

The Kit Carson Lodge is running a stay two nights in Sept., get one night free deal. There are several other close lakes and the Carson River within 30 minutes. It's also 55 minutes from Heenan Lake that just opened for its three-month season.

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

Trent Pridemore

How long have you been a club member?

I'm a "lifetime member" of the club.

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

TBD

What occupies your time other than fishing?

I'm a Director at Bear Yuba Land Trust and am on three committees. In retirement from 42yrs in dentistry, I am also a writer. On sabbatical from California Fly Fisherman after writing for them for 15yrs. Other writing projects and committees.

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?

5wt with floating line for lower Yuba, others for stillwater trout and a Sage RPXL 11 for bass fishing

What is your favorite species to fish for and why?

Probably top water bass

What body of water do you fish most often?

Lower Yuba and Lake Wildwood, Davis Lake

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

Dry fly or whatever needed. Like to swing soft hackles.

Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?

Stillwater. Balance issues forced me to give up wading for safety reasons.

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

Parachute Adams, Sneaky Pete for topwater bass

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

Not this year. Usually Mexico and Oregon.

Lower Yuba at Highway 20 Bridge Posted "No Trespassing"

Rob Farris

"Changes are a foot" as boat launching access by the bridge on the south side of the river has been posted as "No Trespassing". Apparently the owner of the property got tired of the rudeness of the off-roaders who have been tearing up his land. Likely also due to the growing homeless camps on the road in that area. There is still some wade access along Hampton Rd on the south side, but everyone is advised to respect any no trespassing signs you may encounter.

Rob's note: Access is still available to the river on the north side of the Highway 20 bridge (into the industrial area), at Hammon Grove Park, and at Sycamore Ranch (the campground). Hoppers are starting to show up and there are reports that anglers are having success with dropping a small PMD (Pale Morning Dun) or Caddis jig-fly imitation below the hopper. Fish can still be caught however dead drifting small red flies such as a Red Headed Stepchild or bright green Perdignons. Tom at the Reel Fly Shop in Grass Valley again reports that all the dry fly action is in the evenings. PMD and Caddis adult imitations do best. Have some #16 rusty spinner patterns in case there is a PMD spinner fall at last light.

The Yuba is a river that will test your skills, but with the right fly and great presentation you can have a successful experience. If you go (and we recommend that you do) make sure you have PMD parachutes (pink and pale yellow), cripples, soft hackles (a #18 Pheasant Tail soft hackle will do) and #18 Quigley style cripples and soft hackles to mimic emerging PMDs and BWOs (Blue Wing Olive).

October Caddis – They're Almost Here

Rob Farris

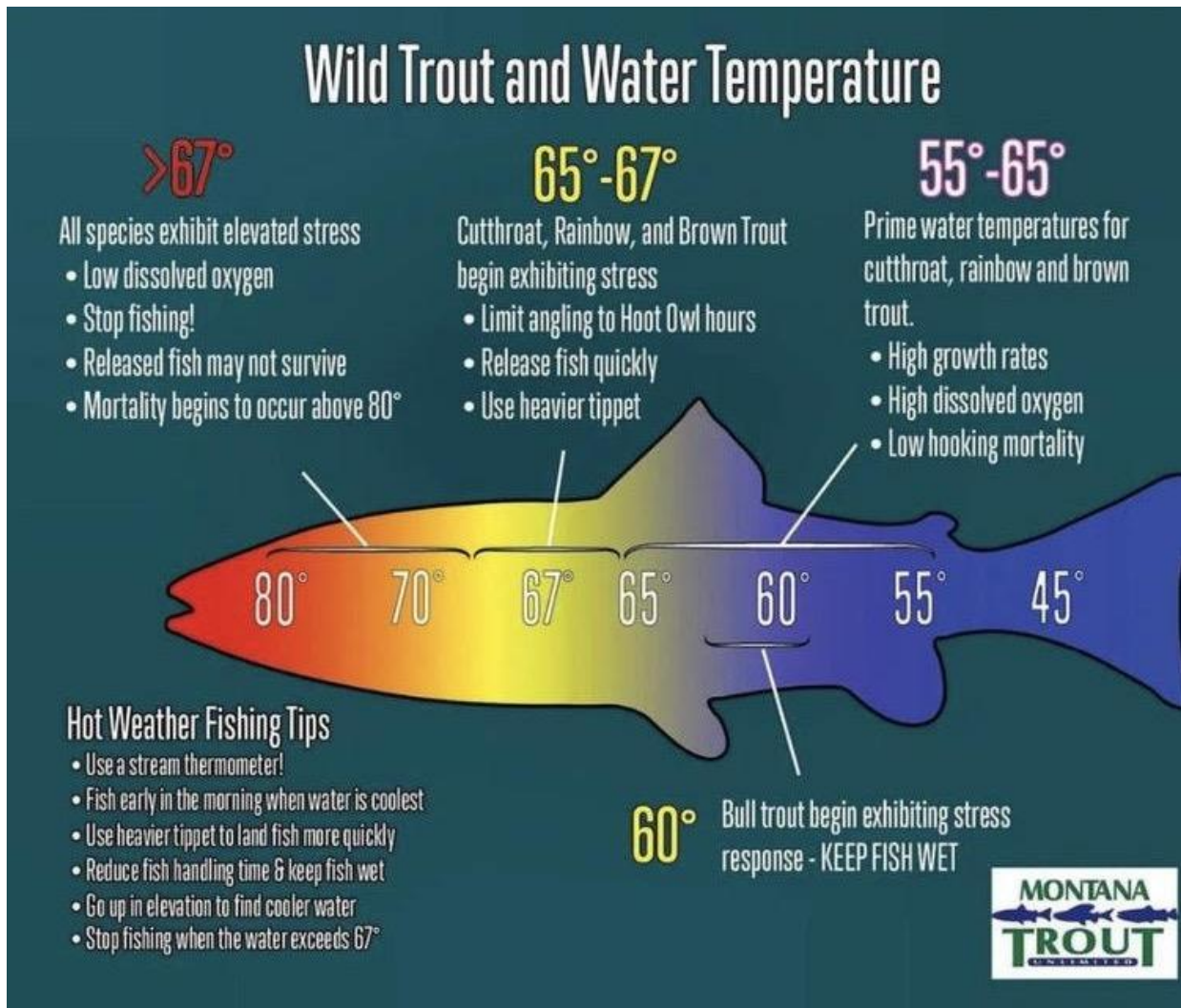
What to do? Maybe the McCloud will be in good shape from the Mud Creek turbidity, maybe not. But the Upper Sac always has a good October Caddis hatch as well. Have you got a good selection of what you are going to need to fish it when it does turn on? Well then, Jim Broadbent has just the solution for you. The club Fly Tying session on Wednesday September 14th (the week after our monthly meeting) will feature how to tie up the October Caddis. Get ready, they're almost here!



Hoot Owl Closures

CDFW

A reminder that CDFW is recommending that anglers voluntarily avoid fishing after 12 p.m. on select waters throughout California. This approach directs anglers to focus fishing efforts during the cooler "hoot owl" periods of the day when water temperatures are lowest. These recommendations are generated by ongoing monitoring of select fisheries across California. As conditions change, CDFW will post updates on the [Hoot Owl information page](#).



Major Milestone Met for Klamath Dams Removal

CalTrout

On August 26, 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Klamath River Renewal project. California Trout is very pleased to report that FERC staff are recommending approval of the proposed license surrender, decommissioning, and removal of the project with staff modifications and mandatory conditions. Removal of the Klamath dams has been the subject of national attention for nearly two decades.

The final EIS states: “Project removal and implementation of mitigation measures proposed in management plans would protect environmental resources, restore project lands, minimize adverse effects, maximize benefits to protected fish, and restore the landscape of the areas that are currently impounded within the project reach to a more natural state. Commission staff recommends approval of the proposed license surrender, decommissioning and removal of the project with staff additional recommendations and mandatory conditions.”

The Klamath dams currently block salmon and steelhead from reaching more than 300 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in the upper basin. Historically, the Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers spring-run Chinook salmon was the most abundant run on the river. Today less than 3% remain, in large part because they cannot access historical habitat in the Upper Klamath Basin.

Over 40 organizations, irrigation districts, and many Native American Tribes support taking the dams out. Tribal leadership has been a central component of the dam removal effort. The Yurok, Karuk and Klamath River Tribes have led the effort to restore part of their cultural heritage and subsistence fishing for salmon and lamprey.

Congratulations on this milestone to all the people and organizations that have worked hard for the last 20 years on getting the Klamath dams taken down.

Got Fishing Equipment Failures? Fix them locally...

Rob Farris

We've all had our equipment issues, whether over time or neglect or damage experienced on the stream, or a manufacturer defect. So what to do in that event? Try and get the manufacturer to replace it at no charge, or buy a new set of wading boots at \$200-300? Or perhaps you've had a failure on a watercraft? Or perhaps you've lost an expensive wading staff; now what?

Been there, done that unfortunately, but this story has a happy ending. For me it comes down to being creative since I want to save my money for my well-known fly addiction (yes; dries). I've been to professional help for that to no avail, so lots more PMDs and Caddis emergers for me if I can save a bit... How to do that?

Case study 1: I've had Orvis Pro wading boots for eight years with the BOA laces, and they've held up well over that period. I'm a firm believer that quality pays for itself, but now they are end of life. The soles finally began delaminating from the boots and I'm staring at a \$200-300 replacement cost. But wait, that's 75-100 new flies, so this is painful. Forced withdrawal if you will. Shopped extensively online and this is going to cost me, new or used. In the shower one morning I have a brainstorm.

Take it to a local cobbler and just maybe they can help. So I head off to Maseli Brothers in Pleasanton where I've been going for 25 years. "Sure, we can do that". What? So they re-laminated the soles back onto my boots; no problem in their high end hydraulic press. After two in-the-stream sessions they are working and holding up great. Cost, you ask? \$40 plus tax. And they will guarantee my boots for life (how much better can it get?) Let's see; I saved \$260 which is 85 high-end finely tied flies for me (don't tell Jimmy B!).

Case study 2: Feeling giddy I ask if they can re-sew my 30 year old felt Gary Borger leather boots (my early pair that I only use for boat floats with guides) where the stitching had degraded (of course). I haven't used those boots in a loooooonngggg time, but why not have a useable pair for float trips. Yep, cost of \$20. Maseli Brothers again, and I'm a strong supporter and advocate on their quality.

Case study 3: I just loved my heavy duty Folstaf wading staff (cost of \$150). Great for collapsing for travel to Yellowstone and my trip to the Great Smokies. But it just disappeared off my hip on a trip this winter to the Feather chasing steelhead. Shoot; that's another 70 flies... Nope. Instead it's a quick trip to Home Depot for a

¾" dowel (\$2) cut down to staff size. Then a \$5 purchase of parachute cord to attach it, followed by a \$1.50 caribiner for the belt attachment, and finally a trip to Mike's Bikes for a handlebar grip at \$5. I'm back in business for \$11. No, it's not collapsible for the plane, but it sure works around here. Let's see: I feel a few more tan E/C Caddis flies coming my way.

Case study 4: Last week's event up on Milton Lake with Mark Spruiell and my pontoon, was different. Great, lots of fish, while it lasted. Water was good with the morning temperature at 48 degrees. I follow Mark out onto the lake before daybreak and we're both into lot of fish by noon, when we head back to park the boats and have a leisurely lunch and snooze during the heat of the day (90 degrees). While I'm waiting for him on shore we hear a "gunshot" that sounds like it's from up the valley. Not good... Now he's almost back in, and we hear another. But wait! I'm looking at my pontoon boat and it suddenly shakes big time, and sags over. Did my pontoon just explode? Nope, but the heat of the day expanded my pontoon bladders while I had it dragged up on shore so much that both split the stitching for the covers over them. Crap! That's a quick \$160 for two new ones and another 60 flies that won't find a home in my fly box. And a lesson learned to deflate them a little if they are parked on shore in the sun without the coolness of the water at 5,700' in elevation. It's time to fish from shore at Milton, which is not productive (well, one fish). Mark uncharacteristically laughs at my folly.

But another brainstorm hits me. With a recommendation from my boys at Maselis, I take my two covers to Pleasanton Upholstery on Main Street (you know; people that do this for a living). "Sure, senior, we can do that. Do you want to wait?" I go back after lunch and they are stitched up again, good or better than new in an hour!! And with a quick \$40 in cash for both, and I'm back in business. Yea! More flies, but I'm running out of flybox room now (saga sure to be continued, unfortunately)...

The lesson: Don't give up too quickly and don't think that fly fishing equipment can't be repaired. Just be a little creative and inquisitive. It's a very good idea to access and use your local merchants and shops; you never know how easy it can be, and how helpful they are. You'll have more flies to add, too. But of course, also be sure to take care of your watercraft at higher elevations and in the heat. Don't be a Rob!

Items for Sale

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

Trent Pridemore

For Sale: 16', 4" Hog Island Shallow Water Skiff has economical 40 HP Honda four stroke engine with low hours, regular maintenance, electric start and tilt. Honda is the most reliable motor out there. Rotational molded polyethylene skin-foam-skin construction makes for quietness and unsinkability. With light load at mid elevation can reach 29 mph. One 2.5 gallon tank takes you to the far end of Englebright and back with reserve. Second tank and one gallon reserve allows longer trips with safety. Extended tiller steering frees the cockpit, as does the handheld or foot-controlled remote Motorguide 56 lb. thrust trolling motor that is easily removed.

Chine and gunnel to gunnel width makes for a stable fishing platform. Two quality pedestal swivel seats with comfortable backrests, Lowrance Elite 5 fish finder and spare prop. Unlike Gregor and similar aluminum skiffs, Hog Island has a lidded bench seat with lots of storage and another lidded compartment forward. Rigged for stillwater fly fishing and bass fishing. Fore and aft quit pulley/chock drift boat anchoring system allows for easy

set up on fishing spots. Running lights. Boat comes with 10 ft. graphite composite oars and hardware and is rated for class I rivers. Karavan sealed bearing single axle trailer. New tires. Boat is easy to maneuver on land or water and trails effortlessly, not requiring large truck or SUV. Google Hog Island Boats for lots of images and testimonials. Call for more information and test run. Lots of boat and rigging for \$10,000.



Mike McAlpen

Bass Pro White River Conservationist 3 Large Arbor Reel with Power Pro 80lb Backing: \$45





Penn Gold Medal (made in U.S.) IMS 6 Graphite #8Wt. 9' 4-Piece Fly Rod with Penn Rod Tube and Sock. Great for Bass, Steelhead, Salmon, Bonefish and have caught small Tarpon with it. Used but in great condition: \$40



Orvis 9 Wt. Floating Fly Line: \$15



Brand new Gold Penn 1.5 Fly Reel Spools: \$15ea.



Stream Line Fly Fishing Vest with Fly Box, Tippet/Leader, Hand Warmer Pockets and large "back pack" style back pocket: \$29



Frog Togs Breathable/Waterproof XXL Fly Fishing Jacket with fly box pockets, hood with visor, hand warmer pockets and dual snaps and zipper front. (Have two of them but they are too small for me. Never worn.) \$35ea.



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

James Kirchner

Echo Shadow X 3WT 11ft rod. This is Echo's top of the line euro nymph rod. In excellent shape. Comes with all the counter-balance weights to balance out with your reel. I got a brand new top section from Echo so it's essentially a new rod minus dirty cork. Asking \$400 so you basically save \$80 bucks or so after tax and shipping. Rod tube and rod sock included just not pictured. I'll also throw in a spool of Orvis indicator tippet and two new Rio euro nymph leaders.

If someone's interested I'll sell my entire euro outfit for \$700. This Shadow X rod, a Ross Colorado reel, Rio euro line, two new Rio euro leaders, and two-tone sighter tippet spool. Everything is like new condition.



This is an early model Loop Evotec 7130 MF. Very light in hand for how much backbone it has. Only used a dozen or so times. Great salmon/winter steelhead rod for bigger areas of the American, Trinity, Klamath, etc. I'd say it's in like-new condition minus the cork being a little dirty.

Asking \$850 and will include a Scientific Anglers Scandi UST line with s3 tip.



I hardly use this next rod so I thought someone else might enjoy it. It's a **Hardy Demon Switch 5/6 10'6"**. Only fished it a handful of times on the Trinity and American. Great little rod, very light in hand. Fished it with

an OPST commando and never really found myself looking for more distance. Casts medium leech patterns and weighted small stuff great.

Rod is in great condition minus one splinter at the top of the handle section that occurred from a faulty rod sock having a hole in when putting the rod away for the day. Happened my first day with the rod and had fished/held up fine ever since. Tried to get a good photo showing that there is no crack through the actual rod.

I really don't know what to ask for this rod but figured \$350 seemed in the right range. Rod tube and sock included. Amazon is the only place I've seen these Hardy rods still available and they're selling for \$650. I can also make this Hardy Demon a package/full outfit, including an OPST Commando head and Cabelas Prestige reel for \$450.





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

