

The Barbless Hook

April 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

April Meeting – Wednesday Apr. 5th 6pm

It's Auction Time!

The TVFF auction returns with bargains galore! Our auction with 150+ items features a broad selection of fly-fishing equipment and accessories. With 25+ fly rods, four watercraft (float tubes and pontoon), and a broad selection of flies, there is surely something for every angler. We will also feature outings with members of the club (buddy trips), as well as wines, hotel, and even Costa Sunglasses!



As both a silent and live auction, we will have items for preview prior to bidding opening up. Speaking of live auctions, we will have the following items:

- Alpha Omega Cabernet Sauvignon 2018
- Semper Fly Enyo Competition 3wt Fly rod
- Sage Spectrum LT 4/5 Reel
- Jim Roberts One Day Float Trip on the Lower Sacramento River for two people

We will also be having some finger food available (I know I can't bid on an empty stomach!). If you have not done so already, please register on the [TVFF website](#) for an accurate headcount.

What to expect on the night of the auction:

- Having some fun!
- Items will be displayed for participants to inspect, including an item description
- In front of each item is a bid sheet to record bids
- Bidders place their bid using their name or bidder number
- Bidders can return to the bid sheets throughout the night and raise their bid

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- Beginning around 8PM, tables will begin to close down. Be sure to listen for the announcements! Bid sheets will be collected at that time with winning bids being recorded.
- Live Auction will begin after the last table closes
- Celebrate the victors!
- Payments will be processed and your items collected

Particulars:

When: April 5, 2023

Where: **Cornerstone Fellowship
348 N. Canyons Parkway
(Across from Costco)
Livermore, CA
Look for signage for the Student Center**



Time: 6PM Preview and Social Time
7PM Bidding starts

Purchases: Payment can be made with **cash, check or credit card**. All credit card transactions will incur the 3% processing fee.

2023 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

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

Directors

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

Newsletter Archive

Martin Plotkin has scanned issues of The Barbless Hook from the 1990's and they are now available in the Members area of the club's website. They provide some interesting reading about The Livermore Fly Fishers (as the club used to be known) and give some insight into the history of our club. Thanks Martin!

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Listening to the news and from the various ski resorts, I'm wondering if we will be doing much fishing at our favorite spots in the mountains, maybe we will all become flatlanders and doing most of our fishing in lake and ocean this year. From what I understand, we are or have reached the 1952 record for snow in the Sierras. Several years ago, I remember trying to get into the back country of Lassen and it being closed in August because of snow. It's hard to imagine coming from a severe drought of the last several years to where we are today worrying about spring floods.

After much deliberation and discussion, the TVFF Board has decided to rejoin Fly Fishers International (FFI). The club at one time was part of the organization but decided that the cost was not worth the value we were receiving. The FFI has been going through a re-vamping process and hopefully will bring value to the club. Re-joining will bring us closer to the fly fishing community, opening new opportunities for education and skills development, and also to meet our liability and insurance needs.

May Raffle

We have given away several fly rods in quarterly raffles so in May you will have the opportunity to win a prize to purchase whatever you want. We will be raffling off a \$250 gift certificate to Lost Coast Outfitters in San Francisco. The gift certificate can be used in the store or online.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available for purchase at the May meeting. You can also purchase online through the [TVFF store](#).

As always with the quarterly raffle, you will not need to be present to win.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

It has been a rough start to the new year regarding fishing. So much rain and snow has severely hampered our ability to fish. All of this water is so appreciated and will keep the fish happy, and likewise will keep us happy. To put things in a bit of perspective, we canceled the annual UC trip to the Yuba due to weather. There was snow in Grass Valley where chains were needed just to get around town. A couple of weeks after the snow melted the river was running at about 24,000 cfs! We normally fish the Yuba when it's about 1,500 cfs. The good news about all this water is that the rivers will be cleaned of sediment that will create new spawning areas, and we should have good fishing for quite a while. The bad news is that it may take a while for all the snow to melt which may keep us from trekking to some of the places we want to fish.

What does all this mean? It means we need to get creative in how we fish and to learn new techniques. Learn how to fish high water by talking to experienced anglers in the club and learn to fish lakes when that class opens up. Hint, hint!

Upcoming Outings:

Hat Creek in May and **Truckee in June** are full with waitlists, however, if you are interested, sign up anyways. Often there are cancellations, the first person on the list will be contacted and so on.

June 16-18 – Lake Almanor – This is the time of the famous Hexagenia or Hex hatch. It is a fishing experience like none other. The fishing gets crazy just at dusk and you have about a half hour or so to catch a big lake trout. Hexagenia are the largest mayfly in North America and are filet mignon for the trout. It's exciting to watch the bugs swim up to the surface, rest once they have broken the meniscus, then take off in search of a partner for a night of fun. The wings look like little sails on the water and the trout gorge themselves on this feast. Sound like fun? Yes, it is. You will have to make your own reservations for transportation and lodging, but we will have a campsite on the lake to meet at for a community meal. If you are interested in this trip, sign up now and make your reservations for accommodations quickly. Motels and campgrounds fill up fast because this is such a unique fishing opportunity. For more information on this outing, contact the Fishmeister: Rob Farris.

July 25 – Ladies Fly Fishing Day Trip to Hope Valley – Note the date change. This is now a midweek trip and a great beginner trip. We will leave the Tri-Valley about 7 am and return about 8 or 9 pm. There will be a fun day of fishing for little brookies and a picnic lunch at the parking area. Bring a lunch, a chair, plenty of water, and your gear. It is all dry fly fishing and the fish are hungry! I will also bring my Tenkara rods for those of you who would like to try it. We will stop somewhere on the way back for dinner. Fishmeister: Mitchie McCammon

September 26 – 27 – McCloud River at the Nature Conservancy – This is NOT a beginner trip. This outing requires difficult wading. If you are not in physical and mental shape for a long day of very difficult hiking, climbing over rocks, slipping and risk of falling, and battling currents this trip is NOT FOR YOU. The plan is to camp at Ah-Di-Nah campground. We have reserved spots on each day at the Conservancy. September is prime for the October Caddis hatch. Sign-ups will open soon for this trip.

The website offers a wealth of information for river conditions and water flows under the [Resources](#) tab to help you plan your next fishing trip. Check the [Events](#) tab frequently to see what's coming up. I am always looking for Fishmeisters to host new trips. Not sure what to do to become a Fishmeister? Contact me and I will help you! More outings coming soon!

Tight Lines!

Education Update

Rob Farris – Education Director

There is a lot going on in the 2023 Education realm these days as we move to a great spring this year. The January Entomology class led us off and has completed with eleven attendees, and now we are in full swing with our Fundamentals of Fly Fishing class with eleven more. Notable is that ten of our attendees are new club members coming to us primarily from the Fly Fishing show in February. They will be the ones trying to snatch a good bargain to buy their initial equipment at the Auction, so please give them a hand if they ask for help.



Oh, and we also have our new Advanced Dry Fly Class well under way with yet again another eleven attendees. My class is screaming for help as I torture them with building custom dry fly leaders for better presentations, and with the much to be feared and dreaded blood knot. And then they've been tortured further with understanding the impact of color, size, shape, and movement by season, not to mention when,

where and how to use searchers, attractors, and imitators. They asked for advanced, and they are getting it with both barrels while the guest instructor snickers...

Coming up we have the California Heritage Trout Challenge overview class on May 24th which is still open for registration. And then later in June or July Mark Spruiell and Chris McCann will collaborate on a new class on how to successfully fish lakes. That is, if we can convince them to stay off the water long enough for a couple of sessions.

Jim Broadbent has been busy for us as well with his monthly fly tying and it's been fun to share the meeting room with him while both classes are going on simultaneously. If you are interested in tying specific flies you should definitely get Jim to put them on the agenda and jump into one of his second Wednesday sessions. Maybe talk him into the March brown fly above after you read the Tips & Tricks blog (see below) on how to fish them this spring.

Tips & Tricks Blog: <https://tvff.wildapricot.org/Tips>

Have you had the chance to take a trip through our Tips & Tricks pages on the website? How about how to fish that March Brown you are going to tie with Jim? We have over 105 other miscellaneous tips on eight pages gathered from our members, guides, and other sources to keep you busy with learning new techniques, tools, and approaches. And anyone can easily enter a suggestion of their own by just clicking on the "Create" button. Have fun with it; it's there for your use and enjoyment.

Topic	Last message	Replies
Early season: different styles for Blue Wings vs March Browns	April 01, 2023 7:34 AM Rob Farris (Administrator)	—
Better indicator floats with drop mends	March 10, 2023 10:05 AM Rob Farris (Administrator)	—
Winter Hatches in the Western US with Fly Links	November 27, 2022 8:40 AM Rob Farris (Administrator)	—
Fly Fishing Cold Winter Water for Trout	November 20, 2022 9:59 AM Rob Farris (Administrator)	—
It's August and Terrestrial Season!! How to	August 17, 2022 9:18 AM	—

Got more Education requests? **Fergit about it !!!**

I'm going fishing after these classes finish up. You can find me at Hat Creek, the Little Truckee, the Yuba, Putah Creek, the MF of the Stan, the McCloud, Baum, Manzanita, Eagle, and Almanor lakes. And then try chasing me with 21 days in Yellowstone (for the conservation project), Idaho, and the Wyoming range chasing the Cutthroat Slam this August. Sure, I'll take new requests starting September 1st. In the meantime, fish hard and well, and put all that new knowledge to work...

Fly Tying Get Together

Jim Broadbent – Fly Tying Director

April's Get Together will be geared towards cranking out as many simple flies used at Wente Reservation scout summer camp as we can. For the last 10 years, volunteers have donated their time to teach young scouts the art of fly fishing at Wente. As you can imagine, first time casters wielding rods like bull whips go through numerous flies. Star thistle, cat tails and trees also gobble up a ton.

Calling on all members with a vice, tools and thread to come on down to the gun club and tie these easy blue gill flies. Daniel Kitts is leading this meeting and will bring all materials. In an hour, Daniel can teach an 11 year old to tie so I'm sure, in a few minutes, he can have you producing fish catching masterpieces. These are simple foam beetles, tied on size 14 or 16 hooks. If you have a favorite pan fish pattern, feel free to share it with the rest of us.



Join us on Wednesday, April 12th from 7-9pm at the Rod and Gun Club.

World's Largest Salmon Restoration Project Underway

Gary Prince – Conservation Director

Yreka, CA – Work has officially begun on removing the four dams that comprise the Lower Klamath Hydropower Project. “Crews are already in the field doing the preliminary work for dam removal,” explained Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC) Chief Executive Officer Mark Bransom. “This work includes bridge upgrades, new road construction to access the dam sites more easily, worksite development, and more.”

The plan to remove the lower four Klamath River dams and restore the 38-mile river reach to a natural free flowing condition stems from an agreement between previous dam owner PacifiCorp, the states of California and Oregon, the Karuk Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, and a host of conservation and fishing organizations. The plan was formally approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission late last year.

“These dams provide no irrigation for agriculture, are not operated for flood control, and generate very little power,” explained KRRRC Board president Brian Johnson. “But they do play a huge role in the decline of Pacific salmon. This project aims to fix that.” The project is funded by \$200 million from PacifiCorp and \$250 million from a California Water Bond passed in 2014.

“We have several milestones associated with the project to highlight this year,” noted Bransom, “this includes the replacement of a drinking water line for the city of Yreka in May and the removal of Copco 2 Dam by September.”

The three larger dams are to be removed next year with removal of all four dams completed by the end of 2024; however, the restoration of the 38 mile reach of river impacted by the dams will take longer. That restoration process is already underway as well. “We wanted to get a running start on this project,” explains Dave Coffman, the Northern California and Southern Oregon Director of Resource Environmental Solutions (RES). “Our crews spent several years collecting thousands of native seeds from plants around the reservoir sites that we propagated at commercial nurseries to become 17 billion seeds and thousands of saplings. As soon as the reservoirs are drawn down, we will immediately start the restoration process by seeding these areas.”

This particular project is one of several highlighted in the film Restoring Balance. RES will be reconnecting critical tributaries and ensuring fish can once again access over 400 miles of historical habitat upstream of the dams. Added Coffman, “we are excited to help bring this reach of the river back to life. RES will be here as long as it takes to make this project successful.”

Local tribes have led the effort to remove the dams for over 20 years and are particularly excited to see the project begin. “Dam removal is the first giant leap towards a restored Klamath River,” noted Wendy Ferris, KRRC Board member appointed by the Karuk Tribe. “We look forward to welcoming the salmon back home to areas they haven’t visited in more than a century.” Similar sentiments were shared by Karuk Tribal Chairman Russell ‘Buster’ Attebery. “Many people told us this day would never come. Well, it’s here now and the salmon are coming home. I can tell you this is just the beginning - there’s a lot more restoration coming to the Klamath Basin.”

“We want to thank everyone who helped make this dream a reality,” noted Yurok Vice-Chairman Frankie Joe Myers. “It just goes to show what we can accomplish when the Tribes and our allies in the conservation movement join forces in common cause.”

Items for Sale

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

Gary Turri

New in Box Floating Fly Lines at 40-50% Off:

- Scientific Anglers Amplitude Smooth Creek Trout WF-6, \$50
- Scientific Anglers Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$50
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-6, \$40
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-7, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-5, \$50
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$50