

The Barbless Hook

July 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Hey folks, I hope everyone is having a great summer so far. Finally getting some great warm weather and personally hope it stays for a while, tired of always being cold.

We will not be having a July club meeting. Our next meeting will be at the August BBQ on August 2nd. More information will be coming out as we get closer to that date. Start working on those fancy menus that you have always wanted to try on someone.

River fishing is sure getting off to a real slow start this year. Several of us were out on the Little Truckee last week and it was mighty damn scary. My river fishing is done until flows start slowing down significantly. I heard yesterday that the southern Sierras still had 80% of their snowpack or about four million acre feet that still needs to melt off.

This past winter we had a presentation by John Murphy of the Diablo Valley Fly Club on an incident during one of their outings. They had a member that almost drowned and John essentially saved that person's life. John was nominated and awarded the Carnegie Hero Award Medal for his actions during the rescue. John was one of sixteen recipients of this medal which is only awarded for extreme acts of courage.

The Carnegie Hero Fund awards the Carnegie Medal to individuals in the United States and Canada who risk death or serious physical injury to an extraordinary degree saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

August Raffle

At the August BBQ meeting we will be raffling off a Redington Crosswater Fly Fishing Combo. This is a 5 weight, 4 piece, 9 foot system that includes a medium-fast rod, a reel with floating line, and a rod case.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available for purchase at the meeting. For a limited time, you can also purchase online through the [TVFF store](#).

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

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He will receive a bronze medal and monetary recognition. One never plans for something like this, but you never know when it will be thrust upon you.

Recently, our meetings have been uploaded to our website and I would encourage everyone to go back and look at those presentations. Fly fishing can be dangerous, be careful out there, not only for yourself but for others around you.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

Good news on the river flows! Water is finally coming down after our amazing winter storms. Now is a good time to get on the water for summer fishing. It appears that the traditional hatches are about 2-3 weeks later than normal. With that being said, let me know how I can help you become a fishmeister.

July 25 – West Fork of the Carson/Hope Valley Ladies

trip – This is a one-day, up and back trip to fish for little brookies. The water has been high, and the meadow could be a bit muddy, but I expect the flow to be great for our trip. Cost: \$25 per person. Fishmeister – Mitchie McCammon

August 2 – TVFF Summer BBQ - The club will be holding its annual picnic at the Rod & Gun Club's covered patio. This event is open to all TVFF members, their spouses, significant others, and family members. This is always a terrific time to enjoy the sharing of great food and drinks, and to engage with other members in an informal and fun atmosphere. The cost is \$10 per person (kids under 18 are free). The Club will provide grilled tri-tip, chicken, and drinks. Please bring along a side dish or dessert to share. Register by July 30th so that we can get an accurate count for food and drink purchases. Additional details coming soon!

September 26-27 – McCloud River Nature Conservancy – This is not a beginner trip. If you are not fit and are not able to hike and wade, please do not sign up for this trip. We will be there during the October Caddis hatch, and have two passes to the Conservancy one of the days and three passes the other day. We plan to camp at AH-DI-NA campground. Located on the Lower McCloud River at an elevation of 2300 feet, this remote campground has 16 sites with tables and fire rings, flush toilets, and drinking water. The dirt access road from Lake McCloud is very rough and rocky. Low clearance vehicles, trailers, and RVs are not advised. Cost: \$25 plus the cost for the campground. Fishmeister: Mitchie McCammon

Upcoming TBD Guided trip to Fall River with Confluence Outfitters. Stay tuned for details and to sign up for this trip.

For more information or to sign up for these trips, go to the TVFF [events page](#).

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Member Reports

Baum Lake Buddy Trip – Ron Duelstgen

I was fortunate to be the high bidder for Mark Spruiell's buddy trip to Baum Lake, offered at this year's TVFF Auction. I had not fished there and was eager to try it out, especially with Mark's expert advice.

We met at the fabulous Green Gables motel in Burney, a few miles west of the lake. After dinner we retired early because Mark likes to be on the water really early. The next morning, we were, of course, the first anglers at the launch ramp, where Mark got his slick, well-appointed boat ready and in the water.



We were soon surrounded by surfacing, rising and jumping fish. We rigged up with one of Mark's sparkly wiggle tails and I got my first lesson of the day on how to rig a New Zealand wool strike indicator. Placed between two bobber-stoppers, the indicator can easily be moved to the proper depth.

We started in the famous 'bend' area of the lake, using the drifting method that was described in glowing detail in last month's newsletter and the fish started biting. It wasn't quite the hook-fest Rob described, but we kept busy landing nice rainbows, following the rising and jumping fish.

Later, Mark took us downstream to another productive spot, and the fun continued. It was a great introduction to Baum Lake for me and a good chance to get to know Mark a little better.



The next day I hit the lake by myself in my pontoon boat. Just as I was about to push off, three kayakers put in and proceeded to camp out in the bend, chucking their lures with spinning poles. So, I tried a couple of other spots nearby, with no luck. Interestingly, the number of rising and jumping fish was about ten percent of what we had experienced the day before, and that proved to carry throughout the day.

After lunch I paddled downstream to the last spot Mark had showed me, and all of a sudden, I was into the fish. After anchoring amid some rising fish, an enjoyable afternoon of hooking and landing nice 12" to 14" 'bows followed. Tired but happy, I rowed back and packed it in.

I want to thank Mark for offering this trip in the Auction, and encourage other members and friends to do the same, giving others a chance to fish new waters with expert club members. And, next Auction, all of us need to pay attention to those buddy trips and take advantage of these great opportunities, while contributing to the Club's income.

The Great Pollen Blizzard of 2023 and the Fish who Hide from it – Rob Farris

Attendees: Rigo Ortiz, Gary Prince, Rick Watts, Mitchie McCammon, Marty Loomis, Mike Prokosch, Rob Farris (Fishmeister), Robert Nishio, Michael Freitas



Location: Everywhere that there was water, which means there were no restrictions and that even the parking lots and meadows were fair game

River conditions: high, swift, and cold

Catch rate: Move along; nothing to see here...

Evening around the campfire: a rip-roaring time commiserating over fish seldom found, but celebrating newfound bourbons with a sweet blackberry and leather nose...



Oh yes; this was not your typical Truckee watershed Spring trip with wonderful green drake, stonefly, PMD, and Pink Lady hatches. The only hatch going on were those miserable little size 24 midges. So down you go with streamers being thrown, deep running indicators and heavy euro rigs. All the usual Truckee and Little Truckee haunts were abandoned as non-fishable and so the hunt was on for decent water. Rob adjusted the itinerary and new areas of the Truckee upriver from the town with less water were explored as well as some of the local smaller creeks and a few new areas of the Little Truckee.



Sagehen Creek yielded a handful of small native Brookies for Rick after putting in some miles to find them. However, Gary tackled the renowned Prosser Creek and went fishless there, in spite of a local friend bringing him to the “secret spot”. Which just so happened to be the story of the weekend; lots of work, and few fish. But all was not as dour as it would seem. After all, we are talking about nine very experienced anglers looking to solve the puzzle, which Robert did netting a small rainbow on the upper Truckee. And with much ado (and

bragging after the fact) Mitchie found a nice small Brownie hiding under a bush from the high water on the Truckee. And Rick, once again, found a few willing fish at the Boca inlet.



What to do when the fishing is as cold as the 42-degree water in the LT? Start up a campfire, pop open the beer and bourbon, and devise the next day's plan. Back to the LT with new tactics that are sure to work, except when they don't (again...). Very disappointing for Michael as he fished the entire length of the river hard and was sure he had the keys, but no unfortunately. On to Plan B for the day which was to see if the fish were holding in Boca Reservoir at the LT inflow, which almost always works. And it did with five of us netting over 30 fish in a couple of hours. Rob caught a nice 16' rainbow and another smaller one, and then the chaos began with everyone catching Kokanee salmon that all proceeded to go airborne for our long-suffering egos. Kokanee you say? Yep, but with modified tactics as the high winds eliminated the typical euro approaches and sent us all into tightline nymphing styles. Kokanee are great little fighters and they sure saved our trip from the seemingly imminent humiliation.



Now about that Pollen Blizzard thing; what is that all about? We are sitting at the campfire with headlamps on Friday night and looking up into a virtual snowstorm of bright yellow pine pollen in the air. An amazing sight but pure torture for anyone suffering from pine tree allergies (thankfully no one in our group). But my black Lexus might as well have been yellow, and was, by the time I left Truckee. The tent, sleeping bag, cooking and table utensils, clothes and fishing gear were all covered with the fine dust and needed a full cleaning on my arrival back home. At least we all got to spend a few days chasing and finally grabbing a few fish with the snowcapped mountains providing a great backdrop.

Lake Almanor Outing – Mitchie McCammon

We just got back from the Lake Almanor trip for the Annual Hex Hatch. With the big winter storms, it appears the peak hatch is delayed by a few weeks. The good news is that you still have time to get up there to fish the famous Hex Hatch.



Greg Blandino gave us a heads up that Butt Valley Reservoir also has Hex and appeared to have additional fishing opportunities. He was the big winner on this trip by catching a nice 18" rainbow. It's really amazing to see this largest mayfly pop up on the surface of the water as the sun goes down. Once it gets dark, the frenzy is over, and the bats come in to clean up. Rick Watts managed to catch a bat. Yes, it can be that crazy.

Other areas we fished were Crater Lake in California, not Oregon. It is a small lake off Hwy 44 near Lake Almanor. There is lots of dry fly activity all day and a 20 fish day is not out of the question. Greg Blandino and

Bob McCollum fished it one day, Rob Farris, Mitchie McCammon and Rick Watts fished the second day. Both groups caught a total of 85 fish or more each day. The lake is stocked with Eagle Lake and Rainbow trout. Sorry, but these Eagle Lake Trout do not count for the Heritage Trout Challenge, but it is still a fun day of fishing. You can fish from the shore, but a float tube, pontoon or boat are best. Don't be afraid to get away and check out the Hex hatch and new water!

FFI Monthly Report

Mark Rockwell – Fly Fishers International

It is with great pleasure I announce that the Northern California Council, FFI will be having **Yuba Fest on Saturday, September 30th** at Sycamore Ranch Park on the Lower Yuba River. It's the same location as last year, and it will be more fun!

We will be starting a bit earlier - 9 a.m. and running until 6:30 p.m. The agenda for the day includes:

- Great casting instruction by Russ Carpenter & Sarah Trenchel and their team from Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club. Fly Casting Skills instruction & testing will be done, as well as beginner & above teaching.
- Clay Hash will teach two courses - Fly Fishing 101 and how to fish the Lower Yuba River. Something for the beginner as well as seasoned angler.
- We'll have Gary Bard teaching fly fishing knots for kids and fishers.
- We'll have a rigging table to learn how to rig all the different set-ups for different fishing situations.
- Raffle & silent auction of great fly fishing equipment & flies
- Fly Fishing Learning Center - What makes rivers and fish tick!
- Several local guides will attend to answer questions and set up trips. Pick their brains on fishing and our rivers.
- Entomology By Ken Davis and Laurie Banks. We're hoping they will do a 1-2 hour presentation on bugs and their activities so it will be easier to catch the fish that feed on them.
- We'll have many conservation groups attending to both inform and talk about fishery restoration in our Northern California region
- We'll have some of the best fly tyers in our region to both demonstrate & teach
- Great BBQ lunch available as well as many types of drinks



- Women Connect will have a booth and we invite all clubs to have their women’s groups attend. Anne-Marie Bakker & Penelope Gadd-Coster will host.

**Starting around 4 p.m. we’ll have “The Gathering of the Clan!”
It’s party Time!**

- **Live music**
- **Good food & drinks** (BYOB for alcohol)
- **Great social time** - meet fly fishers from all over our North State.
- **Talk about fishing** local and distant places and what works and doesn’t
- **Have a really fun time together** with people who like what you like & do what you do.
- **Announce winners** of the auction & raffle

Our purpose is to bring fly fishers together just to spend some quality time talking about our sport, and the fun we have doing it. We’ll finish in time to get home (if you don’t stay over) at a decent hour.

Camping is available on site:

https://www.yuba.org/departments/community_development/parks_&_campground.php

It will be like no other event all year. Please plan to attend and support NCCFFI and fly fishing.

Klamath River Dam Removal Update

The deconstruction of Copco No. 2, the smallest of the four hydroelectric dams being removed from the Klamath River, is underway. This week, crews removed the gates, walkway, and two of the five bays down to the spillway. This work was done to direct waters around the dam, rather than over it, allowing construction crews to do work through the summer months.

“While this is just the first step, it certainly is an exciting moment,” said Mark Bransom, CEO of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC). “Crews are making fast progress in these early stages of the project, and we are on track with our removal timeline.”



Crews placed around 10 feet of rock on either side of the dam in order to reach the gates and bays for deconstruction. Much of the Copco No. 2 infrastructure remains in place below this rock surface. Deconstruction of this dam will continue through the summer, with final decommissioning and complete removal occurring sometime in September.

“We are pleased that we were able to make so much progress this week,” noted Dan Petersen, Kiewit’s Project Manager overseeing the removal of Copco No. 2 “But removing Copco No. 2 is still not a done deal. We expect to officially wrap up this phase of the dam removal project sometime in September.”

The other three dams, Iron Gate, Copco No. 1, and JC Boyle are expected to be removed next year, beginning with the drawdown of the reservoirs in January of 2024. Their incremental deconstruction will continue throughout the year, with construction activities expected to conclude sometime in late 2024.

Hat Creek Conservation Easement

Shasta Land Trust

We are pleased to announce the permanent protection of 1,722 acres along Hat Creek, world-renowned for fly fishing, recreation, and scenic beauty. Spanning from the town of Cassel, north toward the Pit River, the property joins two additional Shasta Land Trust conservation easements, protecting a total of 4,147 acres of contiguous lands along Hat Creek toward the Pit River confluence.



The property contains precious water resources, including 2.9 miles of Hat Creek, the entirety of Baum Lake and Crystal Lake, portions of the Rising River and Rock Creek, and expansive wet meadow habitat. These riparian habitats are an essential conservation zone for aquatic species like blue heron and osprey, as well as a variety of endangered and threatened species like bald eagle, bank swallows, Shasta crayfish, rainbow trout, and sculpin. Additionally, the biodiverse property’s Montane hardwood, conifer, ponderosa pine, grasslands, and sagebrush habitats support a variety of native wildlife species.

A popular fly fishing destination, the property contains ecologically important trout habitat along Hat Creek, designated as a “Wild Trout Water” by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Famous locally and worldwide for its unique trout habitat conditions, the Hat Creek Wild Trout area provides some of the best fly fishing in the state, lauded by fly fishing tours and recreational organizations. “The Wild Trout section of Hat Creek begins at Powerhouse #2, where the creek cascades down a long riffle before tapering off into the deep

weedy water below. This riffle is probably one of the most popular – and productive – portions of water in the entire state. Every day of the season there are likely to be several anglers working the riffle,” said The Fly Shop’s Mike Mercer, in reference to the Wild Trout Water portion of their Hat Creek fly fishing tour.

The ecologically precious habitats present on the property have led to several restoration projects by numerous agencies to support endangered and threatened species. The Rock Creek Restoration Project led by the Spring Rivers Ecological Sciences, LLC., improved Shasta Crayfish habitat along the upper Rock Creek area, with habitat reconstruction efforts, creek diversions to prevent invasive species threats, and the introduction of Shasta crayfish populations into the enhanced habitat. The Hat Creek Restoration Project led by CalTrout and the Lomakatsi Restoration Project supported wild trout populations with riparian habitat improvements and native ecosystem plantings.

The property’s Crystal Lake Hatchery, maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, also supports local fish populations with approximately 1.5 million fish reared annually on-site. Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Easter Brook Trout species are bred and raised at the hatchery and distributed to approximately 60 lakes and streams in northern California. The exceptional fishing available on the property can be accessed by the public via Crystal Lake, Baum Lake, and trails along the Rising River and Hat Creek.

In addition to fishing, the property’s many other recreational opportunities are accessible to the public. Cassel Campground offers 27 sites suitable for RV and tent camping located near the property’s numerous lakes and waterways. These aquatic habitats provide opportunities to see native and migratory waterfowl, with multiple picnic sites along a noteworthy pelican-inhabited area of Baum Lake. Hikers can enjoy numerous trails including the historic Hat Creek Carbon Bridge Trail, a scenic trail spanning along the rolling hills and gentle currents of Hat Creek, in addition to 4.3 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail contained within the property. Swimming, canoeing, and kayaking are also popular activities.

We are thankful for our partners at the Stewardship Council and PG&E for their support of this conservation project. This property of immense ecological, recreational, economic, and scenic values can remain safe from the risk of development forever!

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 Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$40
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-6, \$30
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-7, \$30
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-5, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$40
- RIO Single Hand Spey 6wt line \$60

Mitchie McCammon

Flambeau 22060 tackle box – Condition is like new and has only been used to store fly tying materials. You can also put a lock on it. Sorry, but the fly tying materials in the photo are not included in the purchase price. The dimensions of the box are 19" w X 11" d X 15" h. I've seen this box on eBay for \$65. Price is now reduced to **\$30**.

