

The Barbless Hook

February 2024

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

February Meeting – Wednesday Feb. 7th, 6pm

Officer Installation Potluck Dinner

Our Officer Installation dinner is a club tradition where members get to socialize and enjoy food and drink as we celebrate the accomplishments of the outgoing board members. Additionally, we will be welcoming our newly elected officers and board members. This is a great opportunity to meet the incoming directors and board members and to see what is planned for the club in 2024!

The Club will provide chicken and tri tip, as well as beer and wine with members contributing other potluck sides, appetizers, salads and dessert offerings. As always, family members are welcome to attend.

Social hour begins at 6pm with dinner beginning around 6:45pm.



New Members!

TVFF welcomes Faisal C. from Pleasanton, Paul W. from Newman, and Steve & Sue T. from Pleasanton to the club. We look forward to seeing you at a club meeting or outing soon!

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Steelhead season is here, and I have finally been able to get out and catch my first steelhead of the season. I have been hearing some great stories and seeing some even greater pictures of members with some beautiful fish. I plan to do my best to get out as much as possible this year and add successful days to my list. As far as for myself, if I bring in just one Steelhead, I consider that a fabulous day. When you do go, don't forget your Steelhead card, Wardens are watching, and do your reporting at the end of the season. California Fish and Wildlife will nag you if you do not.

For better or worse, this is my last President's Corner, as my term as Club President is over. It was a wonderful experience representing TVFF. We are especially fortunate to have a wonderful board of directors dedicated to providing a great program to our club members and to making the job so much easier. But the most important part of our club is its members and sometimes I feel we forget that. They are the ones who go out and bring back tidbits, stories, and information and share them with everyone. Fishing is access to adventure. It provides camaraderie and the opportunity to make new friends. It's the serenity of being in nature and off "the grid" for hours, days, and sometimes weeks. I look forward to fishing and enjoying our club outings and activities in 2024. I do plan on continuing to be an active member of the board but in a support job.

Thank you to all the TVFF members, and to my board for all your help and support, you made it easy. See you at the annual dinner.

Raffle Information

At our February meeting we will have three different raffles occurring with a chance to win two different rods and a Kraken 10 wt. reel.

For the first raffle, everyone in attendance will receive a ticket for a chance to win a Targus Gary Borger 805 Light Touch fly rod. This is a used rod in like new condition. It is a 5 wt., 4 piece rod with sock and tube and includes a spare tip section. No additional tickets will be sold for this raffle so everyone has an equal chance to win.

2024 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Rob Farris
Vice President	Denis Haire
Secretary	Al Mansky
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Marty Loomis

Directors

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

The second raffle is our standard one and the prizes include:

- Loon Aquel Premium Gel Floatant
- Carson Fish'n Grip 4.5X magnifier tool with serrated-grip tweezers, precision line clippers, and hook-eye cleaner
- Carson +3.00 Clip on, flip up visor magnifier
- Used Fenwick Class 6 8wt fly reel with 8wt floating bonefish line (set up for RH retrieve)
- Streamer flybox with 10 flies and "The Complete Guide to Fishing in Northern California"
- Plastic Utility Box and "How to Fool Fish with Feathers" by Joe Margolis and Jeff MacNelly
- 5X and 6X 9 ft. leader and "A Textbook of Entomology" by Herbert Ross and line cutter
- The Final item in the regular raffle will be an Orvis graphite rod 9' 6", 8 wt. This is a 2 piece used rod in good condition with sock and tube.

The third raffle will be for the Allen Kraken 10 wt fly reel. This is a new reel with a retail value of \$330. It is currently setup for RH retrieve. Tickets are \$10 each.

Outings and Activities

Denis Haire – Outings Director

February 23-25: Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton. It's a great place to see new products and to purchase gear, lines, leaders, tippet, flies, and anything else related to fly fishing. Friday night is the film festival where you can see short films about fly fishing. TVFF hosts a booth at the show that proudly displays what we do as a club, from our outings and education to our conservation work. [Volunteers](#) are needed to work the booth. You can purchase tickets in advance for both the [show](#) and the [film festival](#). Make sure to bring cash if you're buying tickets at the gate.

May 4-5: University of California private property on the Yuba River - The dates of May 4 and 5 put us on the front end of the traditional Spring hatches of Pale Morning Duns, Baetis/Blue Wing Olives, Pink Alberts, Little Yellow Sallies, Pale Evening Duns, Golden Stones, and four varieties of Caddis. This event includes a BBQ lunch each day with fishing in the morning and the afternoon. Each day is \$45 per TVFF member. Additional family members (spouses and children up to age 23) are charged \$15 to cover the cost of the BBQ. Should you choose to spend the night, individual arrangements for camping or hotels are up to the participant.

Fishmeister: Denis Haire

Education Updates

Mitchie McCammon – Education Director

Grip and Grins – Please email or text Mitchie McCammon your favorite fish photos from the past three years. Don't forget to tell me where you caught your fish. We are compiling a "Grip and Grin" album for the Fly Fishing Show at the end of the month. Photos are due no later than February 18th.

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing – Tri-Valley Fly Fishers is offering the popular Fly Fishing Fundamentals Class beginning on March 13th. This class is taught by experienced club members for new and prospective members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. The class includes four classroom sessions, a casting lesson, and an on-stream practical. Feel free to share this with your friends and family who are interested in learning the basics of flyfishing. The cost is \$70 per person for members. Non-members will be required to join TVFF prior to signing up for the class.

On-stream Streamer Class with Lance Gray – Although the two dates we have are currently full, if you are interested, please sign up on the waitlists. An opening may become available. If there is enough interest, I will contact Lance Gray to see if there is another date available.

We are working on developing additional classes based on the surveys that were filled out. If you didn't get a chance to fill out the survey, contact me and let me know what you are interested in.

Fly Tying Get Together – February 21st, 7-9pm

Please note that our February Get together has been moved, due to Valentine's Day, to Wednesday the 21st. Don't forget the chocolate and flowers so you won't be in the doghouse. How to construct a fly shadow box and Nevada fishing opportunities are on the agenda for this meeting.

Shadow Box Construction – Jim will provide the ins and outs of shadow box construction. Bring several size 12-14 dry flies and nymphs, and super glue.

Nevada Fishing Opportunities – Although Nevada is known as a dry state with remote desert regions, home to lots of jackrabbits, pronghorns and reptiles but very few trees, people nor sources of water, there are a surprising amount of fishing opportunities. If you have knowledge and or experience fishing Nevada please come and share your wisdom and of course your secret fishing spots! Bring a Nevada map and pen or pencil.

Member Reports

Mitchie McCammon

The air was cold and still with a blanket of fog. Apparently, we weren't the only ones beckoned to the lake as the parking lot was already getting full with more cars and trucks showing up. A quick look at the lake showed a few fish rising. The anticipation was great, but my Watermaster still needed to be assembled. After about half an hour, the boat was ready to go and so was I.

The first fishing trip of the season is always a learning curve. Did I put my boat together correctly? It was way too easy to put together this time. Do I remember how to cast? Did I bring the right flies? Do I even remember the names of my flies??? I am teaching entomology, so I



better remember! Now that I'm on the water, did I lock my car? Oh well, the fish are calling, and I must go.

I row out toward the cove. The fish are rising all around me. Excitement mounts as I tie on what I'm sure is THE fly. Yay! I remembered how to cast, but it wasn't exactly where I wanted it. Oh well, I have more opportunities to cast again. Somehow, the fish have decided my casting isn't quite right and THE fly isn't right either. They have decided to rise wherever I'm not. Time to change flies and reposition the boat. I'm sure it's the position of the boat that is causing the problems. It couldn't be my flies or my casting. Again, fish to the left of me, fish to the right, but not a nibble in sight.

The sun starts to come out of the fog and the temperature warms up. The bugs start to hatch. Lots and lots of midges. Lots and lots of blue wing olives, or are those callibaetis? They are light gray, have two tails and are about size 16, but the wings aren't speckled like a callibaetis. The two tails aren't right for a blue wing olive. I collect samples of both bugs and make a note to myself to look them up when I get home.

Now that I know what is hatching, I'm sure to catch a fish. I tie on Hare's ears, Flash Back Pheasant tails, SBS (Small black s**t) and a myriad of other flies. Once again, fish to left and right, but nothing. I can see fish swimming below me, but they are not interested. My fly graveyard is growing (those are the discarded flies on my drying patch.) Time to move again.

I row to the deeper trough and try again. I pick a weighted Hare's ear that I had used before and tie it on. As before, the fish are rising wherever my line is not, but I'm determined. It's a good thing! I get a take and set the hook. This fish was big and strong and hefty. Every time he came close to the boat, he took off. I talked to myself by saying, "Give him some line, but not slack. Get his head up." Finally, I get him close enough to the boat to get him in the net. He was almost too big for the net. I measured him at 19". It was a good fight, and I was elated. So much fun!

We were the last to get off the water because there is always one more cast. Unfortunately, we should have left a bit sooner. The parking lot was now empty, and it was getting dark and cold. The car was finally loaded, and we were ready to leave, but the car wouldn't start. The battery was dead. We had no cell phone service, and my satellite service was less than helpful. We decided to walk a ways to see if we could get some coverage. Thankfully we got a couple of bars and were able to get in call another member of our party who came to the rescue. He had a portable battery jumper. What a life saver! The drive home was five hours, and we never turned off the car. We took turns keeping the car running whenever we stopped.

Things I have learned from this trip: The fish don't always bite. I don't always know what the bug is, and the best preparation doesn't always go as planned. The incoming storms may have put the fish down, the car battery is replaced, and that bug? Well, I'm pretty sure it's a blue wing olive. I did some research and found that yes, a blue wing olive adult has two tails. Learn something from every fish, every body of water and every trip. I'm ready for the next trip.

Klamath River Dam Removal

Greg Blandino – Conservation Director

For nearly 100 years, dams on the Klamath River have blocked salmon and steelhead trout from reaching more than 400 miles of habitat, encroached on Indigenous culture, and harmed water quality for people and

wildlife. But now, four dams – J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate – built between 1908 and 1962, are coming down. **This river restoration project will have lasting benefits for the river, salmon, and communities throughout the Klamath Basin.**

The country's largest ever river restoration & dam removal is in process! Here's a few of the latest activities happening.

- Timelapse of the [removal of Copco 2 dam](#), the first dam to go
- Here's a [good story on NPR](#) about the process
- Here's a video showing the "[blow-out](#)" of the [drain plug for J.C. Boyle Dam](#), allowing drainage of the reservoir in prep for dismantling
- [Copco 1 drain plug blowout](#), drawdown begins
- [Drawdown at Iron Gate Dam & Reservoir begins](#) - The lowest dam being removed
- [Restoration of the Klamath River](#) - Restoring Balance, RES & Swiftwater Films
- Recent [news video](#) on the impacts of this restoration given by the Yurok and Klamath Tribes

Here's the schedule for activities through October when dam removal of all 3 remaining dams will be complete.

Drawdown & Dam Removal Timeline



1. Operational Drawdown:

Lowering reservoir to its minimum operating level

2. Initial Drawdown:

Reservoir water evacuation below the Operational Drawdown limits

3. Reservoir Refilling and Releasing Period:

Inflows exceed outflow capacity periodically, causing reservoir levels to rise and fall

4. Dam Demolition:

Reservoir water elevation remains at the top of the historic cofferdam while dam concrete and embankments are removed

5. Klamath River Reconnection:

Breaching of the historic cofferdam, allowing the river to permanently flow in a riverine condition

Items for Sale

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

Rob Farris

Looking for help seeing those big fish sulking on the bottom this year?

Smith *Guide's Choice* Sunglasses; 60% off



Asking \$125. Retail for \$265. **Never used and in original case** and bag (I use prescriptions, so the gift wouldn't work for me, and no; I am not a dealer nor a thief). Check them out [here](#). Matte Havana wrap-around frames; non-prescription polarized brown lenses with high end polarized "ChromaPop+" to pick up those pesky camouflaged fish on the bottom. *The Guides Choice in sunwear.*

Vision

- Lightweight, scratch-resistant polarized and scratch-resistant glass lenses
- ChromaPop+™ lenses are polarized to cut glare; enhance contrast and natural color to make the details pop
- Lenses are bronze (best color for cutting/seeing through water to spot fish)
- Smudge and moisture resistant coating for easy cleaning and clear optics
- Anti-reflective coating improves clarity and reduces eye strain
- Broad arms help screen out extraneous side glare with 100% UV protection

Fit / Integration

- Medium-large fit, medium-large coverage
- 8-base lens curvature offers a wraparound fit
- Megol temple and nose pads provide non-slip grip so glasses stay put
- Spring hinges self adjust to your face for a snug, comfortable fit

What's Included

- Integrated, detachable sunglass leash
- Hard case
- Microfiber bag
- Limited guarantee to catch big Brown's... :)
- If you want more information, call Rob Farris. I will have them at the meeting for you to inspect if you'd like.

Renting a fully furnished or unfurnished bedroom for a month-to-month rental for male or female

A work friend, and now my Grandson have moved on, and room is available immediately. 1 Bedroom in a 3-bedroom quiet condo in Dublin, close to Santa Rita Road. The room is fully furnished on 2nd floor with bed, armoire, side table, lamp, and fully carpeted with closet. The 2nd bathroom with dual sinks and full shower and bathtub is separate from the master bathroom. Sorry, but unfortunately, I can't accept any pets. Rent is \$1350 per month which includes utilities and wi-fi access. Use of washer, dryer, kitchen, and pantry space also included. A one-month security deposit is required. Call Rob Farris for more information and pictures.



Gary Prince

Reddington 9', 5 wt Crosswater Fly Rod. Like New. It's been fished for one hour and I found this medium fast action fly rod easy to cast and accurate. I'd keep it if I did not already have two 9' 5 wt medium fast action rods that cost more, but honestly do not seem to perform any better. I guess the technology today might trump my 15 and 30 year old 9' 5wt rods. Yours for \$49 and I'll throw in 5 wt Rio Mainstream fly line for another \$10. Also one hour old. (Does not include a rod tube or sock).



Fishpond fishing vest in excellent like-new condition. Asking \$49. Retail approximately \$160. Mesh back, many pockets. Size is very adjustable with four adjustment straps. Best for average to large size angler. Too big for my 5'5", 150 lbs unless worn over heavy jacket.



Gary Turri

Rods for Sale (New Condition in Tubes):

- Redington Classic Trout 8.5 foot 4 weight \$100
- Redington RS3 9 foot 10 weight 2 piece \$100
- TFO Blitz 9 foot 8 weight \$250

Two Hand Spey Rods:

- TFO Deer Creek 12'6" 5/6 \$230
- TFO Deer Creek 13 foot 6/7 weight \$230
- Echo Dec Hogan 2 13' 7 weight \$230

Fly Lines for sale (New in Box and 50% off):

- Mastery Expert Distance WF-5 orange color \$50
- Mastery Expert Distance WF-6 orange color \$50
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6 \$50
- RIO Single Hand Spey WF6-F \$50
- SA Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain \$50

Martin Plotkin

FREE – Several 5- and 3-gallon buckets. Call Martin to arrange pickup.

