

The Barbless Hook

March 2024

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

March Meeting – Wednesday March 6th, 7pm

Jim Roberts – Fishing Northern California

We are fortunate to welcome Jim back to our club. This month he will be here in person to speak to us about reading waters and matching techniques in Northern California waters. This promises to be a don't miss, highly informative and entertaining presentation.

For over two decades Jim Roberts has guided, explored and fished the area around Mt. Shasta and the Yellowstone/Montana areas. Jim will talk to us about his experiences and share tips about where and how to fish the Northern California area.

Jim Roberts first picked up a fly rod at 13 and since has spent countless days fishing different waters from Argentina to Alaska. He has accumulated a wide range of experience in the fly fishing industry, from producer of fly fishing videos, fly shop owner, instructor, guide, writer, and manufacturer.

Jim first got his guide license in 1995 and currently guides on the Lower Sacramento River for rainbows, the Trinity River for steelhead, the McCloud for rainbows and browns, and the Klamath for steelhead and salmon. He still enjoys the thrill and excitement of getting somebody into a fish or sharing knowledge with a fellow angler.

Jim is a sought after fly-fishing speaker. With thirty years experience and his professional training as a teacher, Jim is able to share his knowledge to help other anglers make it to the next level. His goal both on the water and at a presentation is to make fly fishing instruction as fun and rewarding as possible. After 30 years his passion for chasing any fish with a fly is matched only by his desire to teach others about fly fishing.



Contents

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| President's Corner | 2 |
| Raffle Information | 3 |
| Outings and Activities | 4 |
| Education Updates | 5 |
| Fly Tying Get Together | 6 |
| Help for Club Store | 6 |
| Fly Fishing Film Tour | 7 |
| Burney Falls Closure | 7 |
| Items for Sale | 9 |

New Members!

TVFF welcomes Ken B., Mike F., Mike H. and Kevin Y. We look forward to seeing you at a club meeting or outing soon!

President's Corner

Rob Farris

What an exciting time of year! The Fly Fishing Show is now behind us, the spring hatches are on their way, the Club outings are hitting the website, and the educational programs are moving along nicely. That also means that we're close to better weather to get us back out on the water, so I hope that y'all are ready. Yep; that's my Virginia background coming out...

Thanks to Marty and the Board's leadership this past year, the Club is in great shape with an increasing membership, expanded offerings, and an excellent financial position to support our future and charitable programs. We are refreshing our Board of Directors with a continuing set of young and energetic members to help build our future and to bring new ideas to the club. As a normal course we try and rotate our Board of Directors to keep programs fresh for you, and we highly encourage everyone to participate and attend our monthly Board meetings. We'd love to hear your ideas, comments on club issues, or if you just want to observe what happens in the "smokey back room" of Tri-Valley Fly Fishers.

I'm very pleased at what Greg Blandino and our new Membership Director, Victor Polverino, have accomplished in growing our membership with 14 new members this year to 118 total as I'm writing this. As you may be aware, there are a few Bay Area Clubs that have had to shut down their operations, and that is a continual issue that we focus on. It requires us to develop new programs, think outside the box, connect more closely with our members and their needs, and introduce innovative ideas to keep TVFF an energizing club.

But we do need your help; to push us into new areas, to challenge our past assumptions, to step assertively into the future, and to drive maximum value for everyone. Please do connect with any of the Board with suggestions, and hopefully offers to help our 100% volunteer club out with a bit of your time. Without the support and help we cannot continue to offer those

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 |



Outgoing club president Marty Loomis with a token of the club's appreciation for his service: a shadow box containing flies tied by club members.

expanded programs that everyone enjoys. Enough of my soapbox...

Speaking of new ideas, check out the article in this month's newsletter about our intent to launch a Club Store soon with TVFF logo items for sale, and links to other supportive vendors. And to launch a new program we will need help, so evaluate whether you might have some skills and a little time that could help with this project.

I was asked to discuss what my objectives are for the Club going forward. After a good bit of thought I have a few key objectives for the Board of Directors this year and those include developing a long term strategy for the Club, how to best increase the value that the Club provides for our members, how to develop a more self-sustaining model for our revenue and cash, and how to best support our rapidly growing reputation as a premier fly fishing club within the Bay Area and throughout the country. That's a tall order, but I couldn't be more confident with the leadership team that is driving your club, and with our members' enthusiasm and energy. Welcome to the 2024 fly fishing season... enjoy, and let's get out there!

May Special Raffle

Steve Johnson – Raffle Coordinator

At the May meeting we will be raffling off a Redington Crosswater Fly Fishing Combo. This is a 5 weight, 4 piece, 9 foot system. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at the [TVFF store](#) or in person at the April and May meetings. As always with the special raffle **you do not need to be present to win.**

Product Information

Excellent for beginners or as a backup, the Crosswater Outfit Fly Fishing Combo features an all-water, medium-fast action rod equipped with a fly reel pre-spooled with RIO Mainstream WF fly line. In addition, the rod has an anodized machined aluminum seat and alignment dots. The Redington Crosswater Outfit Fly Fishing Combo includes a cotton rod sock and cordura rod tube.

Features:

- Fly fishing combo
- All-water, medium-fast action rod
- Anodized machined aluminum seat
- Alignment dots for easy rod set up
- Pre-spooled with RIO Mainstream WF fly line
- Includes cotton rod sock and cordura rod tube



Outings and Activities

Denis Haire – Outings Director

Check out the [event calendar](#) on our website to sign up for upcoming outings. There are still plenty of days this year for you to be a Fish Meister and plan another outing. Just let me know, and I will make sure your trip info gets on the calendar. Tight Lines!

“Tag Along” Big Lagoon Near Orick, CA - April 10-12, 2024

Join fishmeister Ken Brunskill for Steelhead and Sea Run Cutthroat [outing](#) along the Redwood Coast.

White Pines Lake Club Opener – April 28, 2024

This is a one-day club event at White Pines Lake in Arnold, CA. This will be a family style event with a BBQ lunch. Details are being finalized and will be on the website soon, so check back often. Your fishmeisters are Steve Holtzclaw and Jeff Fadden.

Lower Yuba River – May 4-5, 2024

There is still space available on this trip, but each day is limited to just 20 people. The cost for each day is \$45 per person and includes the BBQ lunch. Our 2-day club event on the Yuba will be on the private property owned by the University of California. The weather and hatches should be great. Sign up for one or both days. You are responsible for your own lodging if you choose to stay overnight. Your fishmeister is Denis Haire. Register separately for fishing on [May 4](#), fishing [May 5](#), and [volunteer to help](#).

Hat Creek Salmonfly with Baum & Manzanita Lakes – May 12-15, 2024

This is a three-night, four-day club trip to explore the 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek, with optional days on Baum and Manzanita Lakes. Arrive on the first day with late evening fishing, then three full days of fishing to follow. It is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly and Golden Stonefly hatches that occur during this period, as well as several other hatches. The third and fourth days will be on Baum and Manzanita lakes. It is recommended to utilize a watercraft on both lakes, although fishing can be and is often successful from the shore locations as we did last year. This trip is fully subscribed but there is no cost to join the waitlist!

Truckee Water Shed Camping Trip – June 17-20, 2024

This is our annual three-night, four-day camping trip headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three days of fishing the Big Truckee and Little Truckee, for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river wading opportunities. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques. This trip is fully subscribed but there is no cost to join the waitlist!

Kennedy Meadows Day Trips – July 16, 17 2024

These are weekday one day trips to Kennedy Meadows on the Stanislaus River to fish for wild browns and rainbows. The Stanislaus River is located off Hwy 108, just a three-hour trip from the Tri-Valley area. This is a walk and wade trip on a small to moderate stream with great access. This is an ideal outing for new members and beginning fishers. Your fishmeister is Gary Prince. Register separately for fishing on [July 16](#) and fishing on [July 17](#).

Southeast Alaska Fishing – September 6-12, 2024

This [international trip](#) will be going to the Island Point Lodge, just south of Petersburg, Alaska on the Wrangell Narrows. This trip will be targeting salmon, sea run cutthroat, rainbows and Dolly Varden trout. Halibut fishing is also available. This non-guided trip includes the use of a boat, room accommodations and all meals. Your fishmeister is Martin Plotkin.

Lower Sacramento River Guided Float Trip – October 13-14, 2024

The Lower Sacramento River is a world-class rainbow fishery right in our backyard. This trip will be [two days on the river](#), guided by Jim Roberts and other NorCal Fishing Guides. The fish are large, 16-20+ inch fighters that give a good battle coming to the boat. Lunch is included on the river. Guides are happy to provide their own pre-rigged rods for anglers. Don't forget to buy and bring your Steelhead Report Card. Your fishmeister is Gary Prince.

Coming Soon

Surf Fishing (location TBD) in May

O'Neil Forebay for Stripers and Bass in October

McCloud River Nature Conservancy in October

Steelhead on the Klamath River in November

Education Updates

Mitchie McCammon – Education Director

The entomology class just finished up the classroom portion and is looking forward to the on-stream portion. Putting the classroom knowledge with real-life is when things begin to click. Our classes are a great way for you to improve your fishing knowledge and to hopefully catch more fish.

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing – This class is taught by experienced club members for new and prospective members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. This class consists of six sessions. Tell your friends and family. Class begins March 13.

Streamer Classes with Lance Gray – The two sessions are currently full, but if you are interested, sign up on the wait list. If an opening becomes available, or if there is enough interest in an additional class, I will call you.

Classes coming soon

Rod Building Class – There has been some interest in this class, and I am pleased to let you know it will be available soon. Mike Foster has been building rods for 30+ years and will be teaching this class.

Lakes Class – In addition to Rod Building, there is interest in another Lakes Class. I have been talking with Mark Spruiell to teach this class once again.

Be watching your emails for more details on these classes.

Fly Tying Get Together – March 13th, 7-9pm

At this month's "Get Together" we will be tying the productive Jay Fair wiggle tail fly. I will be unable to attend so Gordon Cordova has graciously volunteered to step in and lead the meeting. It's mostly a stillwater pattern and it can be tied in various colors to represent a swimming nymph, damsel nymph or leech.



Materials:

- Hook – scud hook, short shank nymph hook, size 10-12
- Tail – Marabou in olive, burnt orange, burgundy, black
- Body – Jay Fair swim hackle, short or medium, same color as tail
- Thread – 6/0 or 8/0, same color as fly or black

Not to worry if you do not have all the listed materials (such as swim hackle) as we always share, just bring what you have.

Help Wanted to Launch a Club Store

Rob Farris



The last few years we've wrestled with tackling this project for our members, and we've decided to launch the "TVFF Club Store" this year. It involves providing TVFF logo'd merchandise, links to fly fishing vendors with commissions paid back to the club for any sales (from their standard website offerings), and bringing our newsletter classifieds on to the Club Store to join today's availability of raffle tickets. This will require several people with diverse skills for the project development such as: 1) a merchandise manager to select appropriate wear, 2) someone to work with vendors and affiliates (to get the program started), and 3) an individual with some technical/IT skill to help manage the site pages with Mark Spruiell. Additionally, we will create a new Director's position on the Board of Directors to manage the overall team success and maintenance of all aspects of the program.

This will be a fun project to get involved with and launch. Once underway it will only require sporadic time to keep it functioning, adding new products and affiliates, and monitoring of the program. If you have an interest or skills that could help, or if you would like to discuss the program in more depth, please contact me.

Fly Fishing Film Tour – April 6th

The 18th annual [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) is back on the road with a top-notch selection of short films that are sure to get you fired up for the season ahead! There will be films that take you into the science of the Costa Marlin Project, to the deep depths of the jungle for the massive Peacock Bass, and to a Steelhead story with characters as rare as the fish itself, plus many, many more! The F3T is the original and largest fly fishing film event of its kind and are proud to be an annual community event for all anglers.

Our local showing at the historic State Theater in Modesto is hosted by the Stanislaus Fly Fishers (SFF) and is a fundraising benefit for Rivers of Recovery, a non-profit organization providing outdoor, recreational, rehabilitative therapy for combat disabled veterans. Rivers of Recovery trips host up to eight combat veterans on a four-day, science-based, experiential rehabilitation program focusing on confidence building, outdoor activities, and talk therapy. Trips are conducted in a relaxed, positive environment using proven techniques on the self-management of symptoms, stressors and responses.

The show starts at 2pm and will end around 6pm. SFF will have a raffle and silent auction, including a custom graphite rod, a custom bamboo rod, and a prescription pair of Costa Del Mar glasses.

SFF president Paul Wallace is also new member of TVFF. Paul says, “I am hoping this will be a fun event where we can tell some fish lies and commiserate about the "rivers too high to fish" frustration. I encourage TVFF members to wear their swag and show off their club affiliation. Please don't hesitate to email me with any questions!”



Burney Falls Closure

One of California’s most iconic natural features will be closed for much of 2024 as the state works to repair trail and environmental impacts caused by constant use of the area, according to California State Parks.

All of the main trails to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park will be closed on April 1 through the summer and possibly into the fall, according to state parks.

Plans are in place to do a repair and improvements worth \$835,000 on Falls Loop Trail and Burney Creek Trail due to “high visitation and substantial use of these sensitive areas for foot access to the pool.”



Although the namesake feature of the park will not have any open access points, other areas of the park will remain open. The Rim, PSEA, Headwaters and Pioneer Cemetery trails will remain open, along with the Rim and Pioneer campgrounds, Burney Falls General Store, Marina, Visitor Center and day-use areas.

Those planning to travel to the park should also know that Caltrans is working on a large rehabilitation project along Highway 89, which can cause traffic, delays and intermittent closures near the entrance.

FFI Update – S.F. Bay-Delta Ecosystem

Mark Rockwell, FFI VP Conservation

The below article recently printed in the Sacramento Bee newspaper is a critical article to read and understand if we ever hope to actually find solutions to the continuous problems of managing the state's water resources in ways that balance human needs with those of the environment. I and many others have spent more than 20 years working to achieve balanced water management in the [S.F. Bay-Delta](#), the largest estuary in the west coast of the Americas. This system supplies water to more than 27 million people and serves as the hub of the world's 5th largest economy, providing much of the water needed for both agriculture and businesses of all types. It also supports one of the world's most diverse and largest ecosystems, with thousands of different species dependent upon its support for their existence. Of course, fish are part of this system, with salmon and several others now listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened or on the verge of extinction.

The fact is, this system has been out of balance for many generations as a result of increasing withdrawal of water for human needs. As the below Sac Bee article shows, it is past time to stop bickering over what to do, and simply do what the State Water Board started back in 2013 under Felicia Markus's direction. She was a [most qualified leader for the Board](#).

The updating of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan is legally required to be done every seven years, but had not been done since 1995 when Ms. Markus and the Water Board began their effort to update the Plan in 2012. In 2018, after years of scientific review, they released and voted to approve the update of the [San Joaquin River and Southern Delta section of the Plan](#). It was finalized earlier in 2018, but in December a vote to fully implement the plan was deferred to allow the water user community to see if they could meet the requirements mandated in the new plan through a "**Voluntary Process**", thus avoiding the regulatory mandate (the law) of the new regulation. **To date, there is no Voluntary Agreement that meets the requirements developed by the Water Board starting in 2018.** Below is a good article from Felicia Markus, now working on water policy at Stanford University, on what needs to be done to begin the process of recovery of the Bay-Delta watershed. It's a "**Must Read**" for anyone interested in water in California.

Felicia Marcus - [It's taken California too long to get serious about protecting the Bay-Delta ecosystem](#) | Opinion

Items for Sale

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

Mike Freitas

RoofNest Falcon – Used a handful of times for fly fishing trips. Stored indoors. \$1,500 cash only



Sleeps: 2

Interior: 86" L x 48" W

Exterior: 88" L x 50" W

Height: 6.5" when closed

Max Headroom: 60" when open

Width left-right between Roofnest mounting rails: 31.5"

Minimum distance front-back between rack crossbars: 30" (Includes a Malone Airflow roof rack with keys)

Weight: 160 lbs

Included With Tent: 2" Memory Foam Mattress, 8.5' Ladder, Universal Mounting Kit, 4x4 ground mat, Gear Grid, Anti-Condensation Mat, Dual-Detachable Pockets, Privacy Tent, and LED Lights

Shell: Insulated Honeycomb aluminum shell with extruded aluminum sides. 2 accessory channels can support 75 lbs of gear per side. Compatible with M8 hardware

Tent Material: 320GSM coated Polycotton with blackout coating. (waterproof rating of 3000mm)

Ladder: 8.5 foot aluminum telescoping ladder with angled rungs

Mattress: Integrated 2" true memory foam mattress with cover

Gear Grid: Ceiling mounted gear grid with 5 large pockets and 1 clear tablet pocket

Lighting: USB-powered LED light strip, Dual-Detachable Pockets, Privacy Tent, and LED Lights

Website: <https://roofnest.com/product/falcon/>

Ken Brunskill

Scadden Outlaw Frameless Pontoon – asking \$550



Rod Building Setup #1 – 10' long, asking \$500



Rod Building Setup #2 – asking \$300, or BOTH rod building setups for \$750



Rob Farris

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

Fishpond fishing vest in excellent like-new condition. Asking \$39. 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.



Caddis Nevada Float Tube. New in box. Great for those starting out with float tubing, easy to carry, floats 250 lbs. Also great for back up. Just ask Rob Farris, who had his pontoon bladders explode at a backcountry dirt road lake and was a landlubber for the rest of the trip. \$49 for tube and fins. Tube sell for \$129 and fins \$39 at Cabelas. Both are yours for \$49 total.



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

