

The Barbless Hook



February 2010

Issue 157

No. 22

Dan Vargas' monster 31" steelhead caught on the TVFF Steelhead Outing

The 2010 Silent Auction Needs You

The President's Message by Bob McCollum

Opportunities for Everyone to Contribute

I know it's barely February, but the 2010 Silent Auction is just around the corner. How do I know? Because I recently mailed 175 letters soliciting contributions from fly shops and manufacturers. But those contributions are generate the smallest part of the auction returns. The greatest proportion of the funds are generated by contributions from our generous members and their friends and family.

There are many, many ways every that we all can contribute items for the auction. I have bulleted a few below, but I'm sure there are more – limited only by our imaginations.

- Donate some flies. No matter your fly tying skill level, all files donations are appreciated. Flies yield more net funds that any other type of offering in the auction. Please get your flies to Gary Turri ASAP. If you don't tie, considering cleaning out your fly boxes and donating a few to the cause. Or, I can give you links to inexpensive flies on the internet – consider buying a few dozen and donating them to the auction.
- Donate your unneeded or unused fishing or camping gear. We all have some gear lying around that we haven't used in a while or don't need any more. Bring it to meeting or give me a call and I'll arrange to pick it up
- Consign an item to the auction. If you have a rod or a canoe or

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The President's Message (Continued from page 1)

a float tube, or other high-value item. We can sell it for you through the auction and you can share some of the revenue with the Club and keep the rest for yourself. Contact me if your interested in exploring consignment.

- Donate non-fishing items. Donate wine, tickets to a sporting event or concert (especially you season ticket holders). Last year a member donated a beautiful turned wooden wine stopper. Donate a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Anything you can think of could make a great donation.
- Donate a service. Do you or someone you know have a special skill or a small business? Donate a service, like an oil change, tree trimming, guitar lessons, tax preparation, business consultation, home repair, furniture refinishing, car detailing, resume writing, computer repair, cooking lessons, fly tying lessons, rod building. Bake a cake or provide a home cooked meal. Use your imagination.
- Donate a weekend at your vacation home. Do you have a cabin in the mountains or a condo at the beach? Donate a weekend getaway to the auction. I've done this for my daughter's school auction and will do it again for TVFF. Contact me an I'll help you get it set up.
- Donate a "Fishing with a Buddy" trip. This is simply a promise to host an outing for one or two anglers on waters that you love to fish. It is customary to provide your expertise and knowledge, some flies specific to the waters and lunch. This a great way to introduce fellow club members to new waters and share your skills with others while helping out the auction as well. Note it is not a "guided trip" and no one expects you to be a guide, it's just being a good host and sharing your passion and home water knowledge. Give me e call and I'll provide an example of a "Buddy" certificate that outlines the terms of the offer.

This list barely scratches the surface. Please consider every opportunity to provide value to the 2010 Silent Auction. It's important because the auction is the largest single source of funds for the club – even more than membership dues – and, because the funds go to support our donations to conservation organizations as well as the clubs own education, conservation, and recreation programs. Last year, we the auction raised \$2500. I'm confident that we can beat that mark if we all work together.

Earn tickets for the Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) drawing!

In addition to doing good for the club, your donations can earn tickets for the VIP drawing for a new rod! See below for details.

Volunteer Incentive Program Update

Bob McCollum

The Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is intended to recognize the efforts of our volunteers and provide an incentive for members to become more involved in the club through volunteering. Simply put, members who volunteer to support the club will earn tickets for a special drawing for a new name-brands fly rod (e.g. Sage, Scott, etc.) or similar major prize. The drawing will be held at the 2011 installation event in February 2011.

The more volunteer activities you participate in, the more tickets you earn for the drawing. Here are some examples:

- Fish Mastering: two tickets per outing that you lead. Assistant fish masters earn one ticket per outing.
 - Auction and monthly raffle donations: One ticket per \$50 in value donated or one ticket per 6 half-dozen flies donated.
 - Service projects: One ticket per volunteer event, for example: Trout in Classroom egg delivery day
 - Club offices: one ticket per position held.
 - Refer a new member: One ticket for every guest you bring to a meeting and another ticket when they join.
- I will keep a master log book and bring it to every meeting to keep accurate tallies of earn tickets.

Annual NCCFFF Hall of Fame Dinner Set for March 20

Bob McCollum

The NCCFFF Annual Hall of Fame Dinner will be held Saturday, March 20th, 2010 at the Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa California Social hour, silent auctions starting at 5PM – Dinner at 7PM – Followed by live auction.

The inductee this year is Mike Michalak, the owner of the Fly Shop in Redding. Mike travels to several locations each year to personally experience each of the quality fly fishing destinations. Mike's contributions to the art and sport of fly fishing will be recognized as he becomes the 30th inductee into the NCCFFF Hall of Fame.



The Hall of Fame dinner is one of two major annual fund raising events of the NCCFFF, and they deserve our support. As Derrell touted in his article in the December/January Barbless Hook “What is the NCCFFF”, the organization is doing a great deal to protect California's fish habitats as well as elevating and expanding the art of fly fishing in the Golden state.

Please consider joining us. A complete table for eight is \$400 (\$50 per person – a \$10 savings). We'd like to get a full table together for this event. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in attending. Individual tickets are \$60.00.

Attention All TVFF Fly Tyers!!!

The club's annual auction is coming up soon. Please bring your fly donations to me at the monthly meetings as soon as possible so I can prepare them for the auction. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for your generous donation. Gary Turri

Current Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators

President	Bob McCollum
Vice President	Tom Vargas
Secretary	John Bjorkholm
Treasurer	Jim Hirzel
Conservation Director	Corey Cate
Editor & Membership	Ken Javorsky
Raffle coordinator	Rob Vellinger
Member at Large	Daniel Kitts
Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Jim Broadbent
Instruction	Gary Turri
Speakers	Russ George
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Richard Tarbell
Video librarian	Frank Gordet

The Barbless Hook is published monthly for members and visitors of the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. Comments and / or opinions should be directed, by the 15th of the month, to: Ken Javorsky: kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net

Please begin e-mails with “Newsletter” as the subject.

2010 Membership Fees Due

2010 Membership Dues will remain at \$35.00 (Individual and Family) **if paid on or before February 4th, 2010.** After that, a \$40.00 Membership Fee will be applied. Please sign the attached 2010 Membership Application form and mail with your check to:
25230 Canyon Oaks Court
Castro Valley, Ca 94552.
Please make checks payable to TVFF (TriValley Fly Fishers)

2009 Club Calendar

Month	Club Meeting	Special Events	Board Meeting
February	Thursday the 4th	Pre-Meeting Class on Bass Fishing 6:00-6:45 Speaker: Fishing the Delta for Large Mouth Bass - Jerry Neuberger	25th
February 26 to 28: The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton Fair Grounds			
March	Thursday the 4th	Pre-Meeting Class: Fishing Lakes (esp. Pyramid Lake) Speaker: Fly Fishing Freestone Rivers of NorCal - Craig Neilsen	25th
April	Thursday the 1st (no foolin'!)	Silent Auction	22nd

February Meeting to Focus on Fly Fishing for Bass

In anticipation of spring bass fishing and the Kistler outings, the February will focus on taking bass on a fly rod. Gary Turri will present a pre-meeting class on bass fishing from 6:00-6:45 PM. The class will focus on what you need to know for fly fishing our upcoming outings to Kistler Bass ponds.

Our speaker that evening will be owner of Delta Stripers Guide Service, Jerry Neuberger, who will speak on Fly Fishing the Delta for Large Mouth Bass from Personal Water Craft. Jerry has lived in the central valley of California for over 60 years, fished for over 55 of those years and fly fished for over 25. He's caught more than 50 species of fish on a fly rod.

TVFF 2010 Outings			
Month	Outing	Species	Fishmaster
February 20th	Commanche South Pond	Trout	Bob McCollum
March 20th	Kistler Ranch #1	Bass	Kent McCammon
Date: TBD	Lower Stanilaus	Trout	Gary Turri
April 24th	Kistler Ranch #2 and Club BBQ	Bass	Hal Wilson
Date : April 9th, 10th, 11th.	Pyramid Lake	Lahontan Cuthroat Trout	Ken Javorsky, Rob Vellinger
May 14-16	Fuller Lake Rucker Lake	Trout/Bass	George Allen
May 21-23	Beardsley Afterbay/Pinecrest	Trout	Bob McCollum
June 10-13	Lake Davis	Trout	Jim Broadbent
Date: TBD	Upper Sacramento	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
July 3-10	Baja Bluewater Fly Fishing		Jim Broadbent
September	Manzanita Lake	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
	Carson River, East Fork Heenan Lake	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
October	North Fork, Stanislaus River	Trout	Tom Vargas, Derrell Bridgman, Russ George
November	Delta	Striped Bass	Fishmaster Needed!
	Lower Sacramento Drift Trip		Fishmaster Needed!
December 1-5	Trinity River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum

February Commanche Outing

Fishmaster: Bob McCollum

The Commanche outing, on February 20th, is an “exploratory outing”. This means that it’s a body of water that we have NO experience with but want to try out. This will be a one-day/day-trip outing, subject to weather conditions.

I’ve wanted to try winter fishing at Commanche. I have heard that big trout migrate to the shallows such as the south shore “Trout Pond” of Lake Commanche in the winter and that the fishing can be good. Folks I’ve talked to use personal water craft such as pontoon boats, kayaks, and canoes. Float tubing should be possible, although it might be cold. Renting or launching your own boat is also an option.

Lake Commanche is best known for great bass fishing, though it is also a favorite of trout anglers. Each year, 80,000 pounds of trout are stocked between October and June, each weighing over 1 pound. There is also a highly unique Florida-strain largemouth bass plant each year. Other species found in Lake Commanche include rainbow trout, large and small mouth bass, spotted bass, catfish, kokanee, crappie, bluegill and sunfish.

A State Fishing License is also required for all fishermen 16 years of age and older. A \$4.00 fishing access fee is charged per angler, per day.

Sign up at the meeting or e-mail me if you’re interested in joining me for this experiment.

Kistler Outing Saturday March 20th

Fishmaster: Kent McCammon

New Tri-Valley Fly Fisher's club members and seasoned veterans alike will congregate at the Kistler Bass Ponds on March 20th for a great day of fishing for bass and other warm water fish. This has been a favorite outing for about 10 years for our club. You can fish in a tube or wade along the shores of 3 lakes. Flies like the woolly bugger, bass poppers, and leeches are just a few types you can try. Bring a lunch and drinks as this outing does not include a BBQ, the one in April will feature a BBQ.

Bring clothes for warmth and rain as this is a rain or shine trip. Last year, the trip when the weather was cold and windy, the trip made for better fishing.

Kistler is only a 75 minute drive from Livermore to Kistler. Kistler is zero limit fishing. Please sign up at the Feb or March meetings. You can pay in advance to save time paying at the Lake. This particular outing does offer the opportunity to bring a paying guest. I urge you to bring a kid fishing here and let them enjoy a day outside as we need more youth fishing.

Call for questions, Kent McCammon,
sewreel@pacbell.net.

Fanny Krieger Releases “Tomorrow’s Fly Fishers”

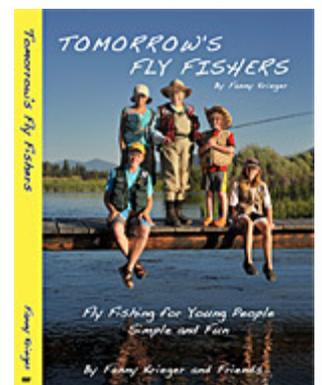
New DVD Teaches Young People the Sport of Fly Fishing

Geared toward teaching young people a love of using a fly fishing using a simple and fun step-by-step method, the new video is great for beginning fly fishers of any age. Instructions include: casting a fly rod, entomology, fly tying, wading, reading the water, playing a fish, handling the line and fly reel – tying together all the aspects of fly fishing. Advanced techniques are also covered.

The presentations are clear and the fly casting and fly fishing practice are fun and engaging. Kids are encouraged to connect with nature, to help one another and be creative.

“Tomorrows Fly Fishers” provides a model for teaching fly fishing to children and adults that includes the varied techniques, strategies and styles of the five instructors as well as lessons on conservation, learning patience and the simple pleasures of spending a day on the water in the company of family and friends.

Fanny has kindly donated a copy of this DVD for our club library. “Check it out!”



Conservation Corner

The Current Crises

Corey Cate

Preservation is what was applied to buying out people who owned what are now our National Parks. Keeping things as they always have been or close to it, while adapting to influxes of people for their enjoyment has underpinned the National Park philosophy. A big fence was what each needed, with rangers, roads, and porta potties.

Fences don't Conserve. Conservation of resources is what our country and state try to do with agencies to reduce degradations like soil disappearing from farmland or water being tainted. Fences don't conserve. For all their agency programs, lawsuits and individual efforts, the onslaught of economic pressures by individuals and corporations to use public resources continues to grow, to attempt to bypass, and to fight off efforts to conserve. Always jobs are invoked. Rarely, poisoned lands and waters are protected from being poisoned.

As fishermen, we want fish, habitat for fish, and places to fish. Which of these is your priority? Is your "want" a "need"? How important are these to you?

A complex of issues is before us. They are growing, getting more press than ever before, and each affects us today and especially affects our future generations.

It no longer is enough to put rocks in creeks, to clean up trash on riverbanks, or to fence cattle out. The water is being removed from creeks now to the point where the rocks in the creek don't matter, creek beds are being dried up.

It isn't enough to ask for legislators to resist. They react to money. They react to lawsuits on behalf of their voter base by passing laws bypassing the last law.

Let's not forget why we fish, where we fish, or what the fish need. Examine your motives. Resist the temptation be silent and keep your wallet closed.

The need for your money by organizations dedicated to conserving what is being lost is real. Your support is what keeps these issues in front of the public. You can do something.

Upcoming Classes from the Federation of Fly Fishers Handbook

Gary Turri

I will present the following pre-meeting classes in February and March (6:00-6:45 PM):

- February 4th 6pm-6:45pm- Fly fishing for Bass, The class will focus on what you need to know for flyfishing our upcoming outings to Kistler Bass ponds.
- March 4th 6pm -6:45pm- Fly fishing the Lakes, The class will cover all lakes in general, but will have info on what you need to know for our upcoming outings to Pyramid lake, Manzanita Lake, etc.



TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake, Nevada April 2010

Fishmasters: Rob Vellinger & Ken Javorsky

Tentative Dates: Fri-Sun, April 9,10,11

Rob & I would like to welcome all members to join us and experience the thrill of pursuing the legendary Lahontan Cutthroat trout in their native waters.

Pyramid Lake is 40 miles north of Reno (33 miles northeast of Sparks). During March and April when the water temperature gets over 50 degrees F, these monsters enter the shallower waters to feed. . While there is no guarantee of fishing success , this factor makes fishing in April prime.

Shore fishing is the norm at Pyramid where anglers make casts to the drop offs using 6 or 7wt. rods. One unique aspect of this fishing is the use of step ladders to help your casts reach the drop-off zones where the fish are located.

Details on the meeting place, accommodations , recommended equipment , line set up, and regulations will be given to the members who sign up for the trip. Last year most of us stayed at Crosby Lodge which is on the shore of the lake near Sutcliffe. There are also plenty of places to stay in Sparks or Reno.

Please see Rob or myself at our next meeting if you are interested in this outing.

Ken Javorsky

email: kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net



"The Line" May 2009



Ken Gotelli –fish on! Gary Turri looks on. May 2009

The Tier's Corner No. 6

By Jim Cramer

In the past months I have made suggestions on top of shortcuts and how you can increase your speed at the vise. This month's column is devoted to that subject.

Some readers may ask why speed is of a concern as they tie for relaxation, and three or four flies an hour is plenty for their needs. Others will say they would rather have a well tied durable fly than one that is hastily tied. On the first point I have no argument if that is why and how you like to tie. On the second point, speed by itself has little to do with a fly's quality or durability assuming the tier knows what he is doing.

Let me briefly give my philosophy on tying speed and then I'll proceed with the subject of this month's column. I believe that speed tying increases one's tying skills for two reasons. First, it forces one to think through the process of what they are doing at the vise. Second, with speed more flies are tied, more flies tied equates to more practice, more practice leads to better tying. As tiers gain experience, simple acts become second nature and are performed with out thinking. Personally I derive a great deal of satisfaction in being able to quickly produce a well tied fly.

From another point of view, I believe that speed tying will make you a more successful fisherman. How so? Visualize a huge brown trout steadily rising to the hatch of the day. A major problem is that he is safely settled several feet back under a low overhanging branch and a nasty snag lies a few feet up stream. It will take a near perfect cast to have a chance at this fish. The branch and the snag are already adorned with numerous flies and sections of tippet material. If you have invested 15 minutes tying the fly you intend to use, or worse you just purchased it at the local shop for \$2, how many flies are you willing to lose before giving up? Will you worry about losing a fly on each cast and will this affect how you make that cast? On the other hand if you have only three or four minutes tying time, six or seven cents invested, and a dozen identical flies as backup in your box, I believe you will be much more aggressive in your approach. You are no longer concerned with losing a few flies and your chances of bringing that brown to net will be greatly increased.

Now back to the topic at hand. We often watch an accomplished tier and we are amazed at how quickly the flies come out of their vise. Unfortunately, most often even when we get to watch a fast tier, we only get to watch at slow speed because they are generally demonstrating a special technique or pattern and are talking their audience through the process. Even worst they are often demonstrating several different patterns and we never get to see them in their rhythm at production speed.

We know they are fast, but somehow we just can't put our finger on the "what" that generates their speed. Too often we make the mistake of simply chalking it up to lots of experience or practice. Both experience and practice help, but they are not the total answer as we know lots of tiers with plenty of both that are so slow that one can take a short nap between flies.

The answer is a combination of many small things which all add up to shave time off of each fly. Here are some recommendations that should help.

1. Sort your materials, especially the hackles, and organize you work space before you start. Get in the habit of having your wax, cement, tools and any other essentials at the same spot on the work table. Lay out all the materials you need for the specific pattern that you are going to tie. Clean the leftovers from your previous sessions off of the table top. Put away all that material you won't need for this session.

2. Establish a rhythm to your tying. You can most easily accomplish this by tying only one size and pattern when you sit down at your vise. As a good rhythm develops you will find yourself using the same number of

(continued on next page)

Tyer's Corner (continued from previous page)

wraps without counting them as you did on the prior fly at each step, your thread will be hanging at the same spot when you have to let go of the bobbin, and you can pick up the next piece of material almost without looking.

3. Cut off enough material at one time to tie several flies but not so much that you loose control or that it hinders your tying. For example, cut off enough chenille for a half dozen flies at one time, not only is this faster but there is less waste of material. Another example, when cutting and stacking hair for wings, cut as much as your stacker can effectively handle at one time. After stacking, separate what you need and leave the rest in the stacker for the next few flies or carefully lay it on the edge of your table where it won't get knocked off and you can just pick up what you need for the next fly.

4. Avoid handling of materials more than necessary. This is especially true of loose materials like deer hair and bucktail that you have just stacked. Always try to take it out of the stacker in such a manner as to reduce the amount of transferring from hand to hand. Not only will you save time but you avoid loosing control of the material.

5. Eliminate unnecessary steps from your tying where ever possible. Avoid unnecessary thread wraps and half hitches. If the material is properly tied in place, extra wraps only add bulk and time. Half hitches are unnecessary after each step and those buried within the fly do little to increase the durability of a well tied fly.

6. Learn to work with a short amount of thread outside the bobbin. Small circles are faster to make than large ones.

7. Use the largest thread size with which you can neatly tie the fly. This is somewhat an individual thing that will vary with your skill, experience and technique. It makes little sense to use 8/0 thread on a #8 Woolly Bugger.

8. This one may be hard for some tiers because old habits are hard to break, but keep your hands at the vise. You have tied in the tail, the ribbing material, wrapped the body and cutoff the excess material; now instead of lowering your hands and admiring your work as you may have done between each of the previous steps keep your hands at the fly and start wrapping the ribbing! You will be amazed at how much the elimination of this simple nonproductive act will speed your tying.

9. Many steps are best done as a separate step from the routine tying process of the individual fly. I cement all the heads at one time after a tying session rather than after each fly. If the pattern calls for bead chain or lead eyes, or a weighted body I will prepare the hooks in advance so the cement will have a chance to dry.

10. Think about what you are doing, how the fly is assembled, and what changes you might make without sacrificing quality. Is there a better order for tying in the materials, is there a better spot at which to tie them in or tie them off?

11. Practice tying faster. Start with simple steps like wrapping the thread base on the hook or figure-weighting bead chain eyes. wrap the thread as quickly as you can without losing accuracy of placement. As your speed on these simple steps increases so will your speed on the rest of the fly.

12. Tie daily, even if for just a few flies. With our busy lives this may be the hardest of my recommendations. Set a goal for yourself of say four flies a day. At the end of ten days, I guarantee you'll be a faster tier.

In summary the keys to faster tying are: (1) organization; (2) elimination of unnecessary steps and time consuming steps; (3) learning to control your materials rather than letting them control you; (4)giving careful thought to how you are assembling the fly; and (5)dedicated practice.

Items For Sale



Trout Unlimited Colorado Pontoon Boat,
9 Ft, sage green, used once. \$300.
Contact Jim Hirzel 925 648-0555.

For sale: Brand new Outcast FAT
CAT float tube. Bought last year but
never in water. New cost \$350 will sell
for \$250. Inflated size 45X64", weight
12 lbs with load capacity of 300#.
Force fins X-large \$50
Please call: Harry Levin
925 784-6465.

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Perched atop Crane Ridge overlooking the beautiful Livermore Valley wine country is where you will discover White Crane Winery, one of the premier Livermore wineries. Guests enjoy a wide variety of small lot - limited production ultra premium wines. Our award winning wines are available through our wine club, wine tasting room and special events.

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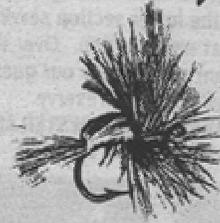
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PO Box 231
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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

Directions to

Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club: 4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore, California.

Exit Highway 580 on North Livermore Avenue

Proceed North on North Livermore Avenue to May School Road (~2.5 miles).

Turn right onto May School Road and proceed to stop sign at intersection with Dagnino Road (~1 mile).

Entrance to Rod and Gun Club is directly across intersection

