

The Barbless Hook



June 2010
Issue 161
No. 22

On the Pinecrest Outing:
Martin Plotkin lands a nice, fat Rainbow
on the So. Fork of the Stanislaus River

Summer Is On Its Way (Hopefully...)

The President's Message by Bob McCollum

El Nino Delays Start of Summer Fishing

It's official. We have survived the coldest April and May every recorded in the Bay Area. Old El Nino seems to have a firm, icy grip on the weather for now. This was made clear to the participant's in the recent Pinecrest outing who were pelted with snow and chilled by unseasonably cold temperatures.

One thing is for certain, summer will come, in its own sweet time. The recent spate of cold weather will eventually give way to the warmth of summer – perhaps as early as next week. The cold weather may delay the start of the summer fishing season, but the above-normal snow pack should ensure excellent late-season fishing in the Sierra streams.

As we prepare to break for summer, I want to encourage you to get out there and do some fishing! We are blessed with many excellent fishing opportunities through our great state and beyond. So, make sure you take the time this summer to build your base of fishing skill, knowledge, and experience - and build your library of fish stories!

Please remember that there is no Club meeting in July. Our next meeting will be our Pizza night on Thursday, August 5. The details on the location for this event will be announced by e-mail, so keep an eye on your in box.

Tight Lines! See you in August!

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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 Club Calendar

| TVFF 2010 Outings | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---|
| June 10-13 | Lake Davis | Trout | Jim Broadbent |
| July 3-10 | Baja Bluewater Fly Fishing | | Jim Broadbent |
| September | Manzanita Lake | Trout | Hal Wilson |
| September 24-26 | North Fork, Stanislaus River | Trout | Tom Vargas, Derrell Bridgman, Russ George |
| Date: TBD | Carson River, East Fork Heenan Lake | Trout | Fishmaster Needed! |
| September 24-26 | Delta | Striped Bass | Fishmaster Needed! |
| November 5-8 | Klamath River | Steelhead | Bob McCollum |
| December 1-5 | Trinity River | Steelhead | Bob McCollum |



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Pinecrest Outing Report

Bob McCollum

Cold weather, but a great outing

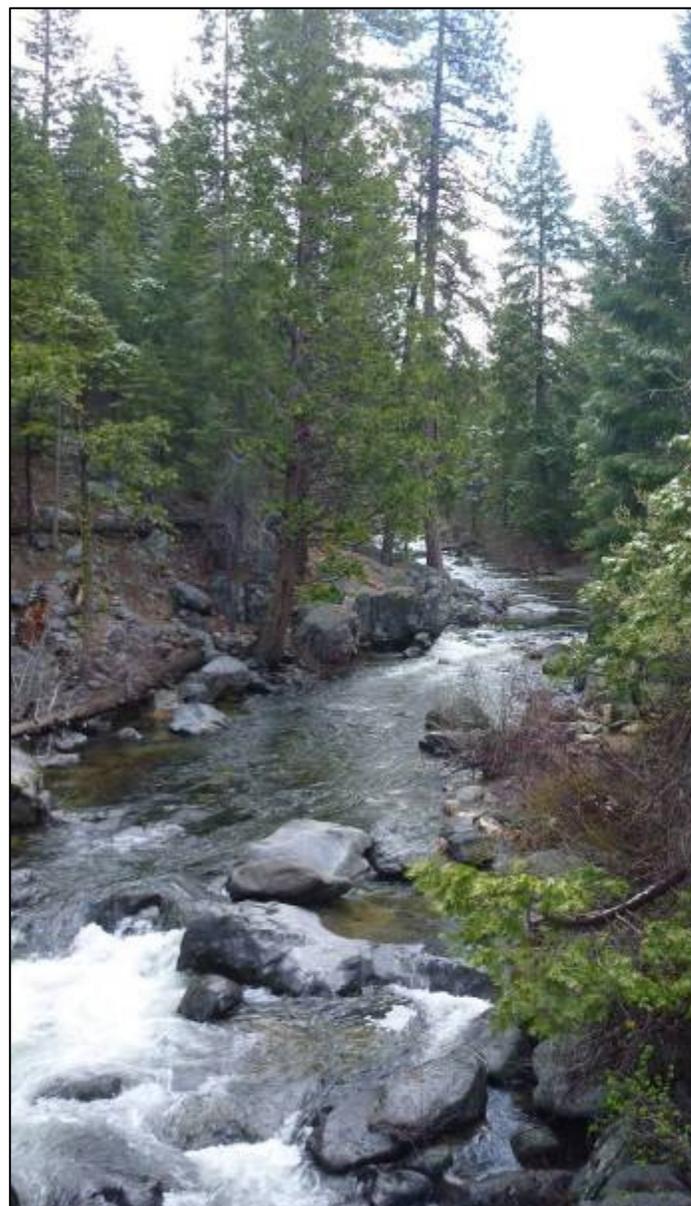
Weather-wise, we had a little bit of everything on the Pinecrest Outing last weekend: rain, snow, sleet, wind, incessant overcast. You name it. It was enough to stop a postman in his tracks! Despite the best efforts of El Nino to ruin our weekend, we still had a great time and we caught fish.

We started on Friday afternoon fishing Pinecrest lake. Temperatures at mid-afternoon were in the low 50's with a biting cold wind. Despite the cold, several members caught some nice hold-over trout from last season. Most fish were in the 12-14 inch range. Many of the fish were caught on wooly buggers. We ended the day with a hot meal at Diamond Jim's restaurant in Mi Wuk.

On Saturday, the group split – some fished Pinecrest again and others headed down hill a bit to fish the South Fork of the Stanislaus River near Frazier Flat. The stream fishers focused on nymphing and took a few nice fish. With the unsettled weather and temps in the mid-40's, no one was surprised when they were pelted with snow in the afternoon. The Pinecrest group also did well, despite the weather. Don Gardner caught over two dozen fish over two days!

We finished the day with a BBQ at Bob's house in Twain Harte.

We may just need to try to fish this area again under better conditions – perhaps in the fall.



Conservation Corner by Corey Cate

Subject: [Conservation Network] Disappointing ruling on injunctive relief on salmon/steelhead]

It is with great sorrow that I report that federal judge Oliver Wanger has found in favor of the plaintiffs and has granted relief in the form of allowing full pumping of water from the Bay-Delta in California. The injunctions will be in place until the two challenged Actions expire, on May 31 and June 15. The judge based his decision in large part on the fact that NMFS expert, Jeff Stuart, was not able to testify that issuing the injunctions would cause jeopardy to the listed fish, primarily CV steelhead and spring-run Chinook, although he did provide testimony about how important the late emigrating fish are to the survival of the species as a whole.

The ruling means that pumping will be ramped up and will be controlled only by state law restrictions that both NMFS and the Court have previously found were not adequate to prevent jeopardy to the salmon, as well as the smelt biological opinion which is currently being challenged and may not be in effect much longer, depending on the outcome of the PI proceedings in that case.

There is little doubt that this is a blow to the recovery of populations of all runs of salmon, including non-listed fall run, the backbone of salmon fishing in California and Oregon. Attorneys are huddling now to discuss next steps, including appeal. That said, much damage can be done in these final 3 weeks of needed protection, as many fish are now trying to leave the system and migrate to the ocean. Increased pumping means they are likely to be pulled into the interior Delta, the killing zone for anadromous and pelagic fish species.

Dr. C. Mark Rockwell, D.C.

V.P. Conservation, Northern Calif. Council,

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PAUL WATERS

The Tier's Corner No. 12

Split Tails

by Jim Cramer

I just finished tying a couple dozen size 20 Thorax Blue Wing Olives. As you know most recipes for this pattern call for a split tail of Microfibbets, stiff hair or stiff hackle. In the final analysis the trout probably don't care if the tails are split or not, however, properly tied split tails serve a very important function on thorax patterns and spinner patterns. First the split tails act as stabilizers to assure the fly lands correctly on the water's surface and second the long fine split tails with the aid of surface tension do a fine job of supporting the rear of the hook.

This month I will describe four methods of splitting tails. Each method works but some take a bit more time to master. I advise that you try all four methods and use the one that works best for you. By the way, I almost always tie my tails in first followed by the wings and then the body, as I find it easier not having to work around the wings as I tie in the tails.

Method 1: Form a very small ball of tying thread or dubbing at the very rear of the hook. The thread should be stacked to form a ball with a sharp front edge. The tails are then tied in just forward of this ball. As the thread is wrapped back against the front of the ball, the ball will cause the tails to splay. Often with this approach each side of the tail is tied in separately.

Method 2: Double the tying thread as you fasten it to the hook so that you end up with a loop of thread a couple of inches long extending beyond the bend of the hook. Tie in the tail in the normal fashion ending with the thread hanging at the very rear of the tie in point. Now bring the loop of thread forward splitting the tail. Tie the thread loop down on top of the hook down with two or three light wraps of thread. Now pull the loop forward under the wraps you have just taken to adjust the amount of division you want on the tails. Finish by adding a few heavier wraps to firmly secure the loop before cutting off the excess. The reason you need to loop the thread is that the single tag end of thread is generally not sufficient to split the tails. (continued on next page)



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The Tier's Corner No. 12 (Continued from previous page)

Split Tails

by Jim Cramer

Method 3: This approach involves using the tying thread to split the tails by making a cross wrap between both sides of the tail. It must be done as described to avoid having the second half of the wrap pull one side of the tail out of position. Tie in the tail in the normal fashion ending with the thread hanging at the very rear of the tie in point. Now take the tying thread and split the tail going from the top through the tail, down the far side of the hook, then up the near side of the hook between the near side of the tail and the hook to the starting point. Generally one such wrap will do it but a second can be performed if you feel it is necessary. Basically you are making a figure eight between the fibers to separate them.

Method 4: Tie in the tail in the normal fashion ending with the thread hanging at the very rear of the tie in point. Now take a separate piece of thread 3-4" long and loop it around the bend of the hook. Split the tail and bring both ends of the thread through the tail and tie down on top of the hook as you did in Method 2.

There are several other methods of splitting tails but these are most common.

One last thing. This is one of the few times I will use head cement during the actual construction of the fly. I do recommend the application of a very small drop of cement at the base of the tails (except when using the dubbing ball method) to reinforce their position.

Upcoming Event by Corey Cate

SPECIAL EVENT: Dam Removal Celebration, June 23 in Fremont

Come help us celebrate recent fish passage projects in lower Alameda Creek! The Alameda County Water District will hold a dedication on Wednesday, June 23rd for their recent Rubber Dam 2 Fish Passage Project and their Bunting Fish Screen Facilities within the lower Alameda Creek flood control channel. The dedication will be held from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at Niles Community Park in Fremont . All Alameda Creek Alliance members are invited to this event. [More information](#) about the ACWD's fish passage projects.

A First Trip for Bonefish

Bill Nevins

The author with a nice (maybe 5 lb.) bonefish. The largest one caught (not by me) was 9 Lbs



Bone fishing is great fun! If you haven't tried it yet, you should. I'd heard a lot about bone fishing when a friend who I often fish with in Alaska invited me to accompany him on a trip to Grand Bahama this May. This was my first bone fishing trip. I'd heard stories of long waits waiting on the bow of a flats boat punctuated by a few high-stress opportunities to place a perfect cast to an easily spooked fish cruising by at a distance of 70 feet (or more). I was not at all confident that I would be able to put my first cast even close to the target at that range.

We arrived in Freeport on Grand Bahama on Monday. My luggage did not arrive with me—it seems that the Transport Security Administration in the Miami thought it was suspicious, and found it necessary to search the bag (a process which involved pouring water into it). Fortunately, the bag had arrived by Tuesday morning, and I was not forced to borrow equipment on my first day of fishing.

A van appeared at our hotel at 8:00 am Tuesday morning (as scheduled) and we were off to meet David Pender, our guide. He had a wonderful flats skiff with a powerful outboard motor under the polling platform, two comfortable seats for his clients and a nice aluminum support for us to lean against while we were standing on the bow waiting for our chance to cast to a bonefish. After an early-morning run across several flats, David found a promising creek and began polling up it. This involves standing on a narrow platform above the outboard motor, and pushing his shallow-draft flats skiff along the flat with a ~25 ft. fiber-glass (maybe graphite?) poll.

The weather was warm (and humid) with scattered clouds and a bit of wind, which made it difficult for me to spot fish at any distance. Fortunately, David Pender is an expert at spotting bonefish. When it was my turn on the bow he would shout directions (12 O'clock, long cast — to the right — to the right — shoot it now! — strip! — strip! — stop! — strip! — Stop! — you've got him!). On the first day, I never saw the fish until the hook was set, and would not have had a clue without David's help. However, I'm good at following directions, and reasonably accurate with my casts. It was rarely necessary to cast as far as 70 ft. — often only 30 or 40 feet were required. The only important thing was to take a deep breath, not hurry too much (as that leads to mistakes), and do what your guide says. This got me a total of 12 bonefish over four days. Not bad for a first trip.

The exciting part comes when you set the hook. The water is shallow — no more than knee deep — and bonefish are strong. The first run usually takes out the entire fly line and, depending on the size of the fish, a good deal of your backing. A couple of times I hooked a fish from a large school. After setting the hook, the entire school would spook leaving wakes heading toward the horizon with my fish doing his best to keep up with them against the drag on my reel. Bonefish are a very exciting fish! I hope that I can go back to the Bahamas for bonefish again next year.

Items For Sale

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Three-bedroom/2 bath modern home in Twain Harte/Crystal Falls area.

Sleeps up to eight in five beds (1 queen, 1 double bed, 1 double loft bed, 2 twins).

Close to winter and summer sports: skiing at Dodge Ridge, sledding, hiking; fishing at Pinecrest Lake, Beardsley Reservoir, Kennedy Meadows and South Fork of the Stanislaus River. Close to historic Sonora and Columbia. Access to homeowners association swim lake.

Modern kitchen opens onto large great room with propane pot-bellied stove. Master suite with queen bed and large bathroom. Garage with parking for one car. Ample outdoor parking. Elevation: 3400 feet.

NO PETS. NO SMOKING.

Contact: Bob McCollum



Trout Unlimited Colorado Pontoon Boat:

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Contact Jim Hirzel 925 648-0555.



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Redington CPS 1074: 10 ft. 7wt. 4-piece. Like new condition \$180.00

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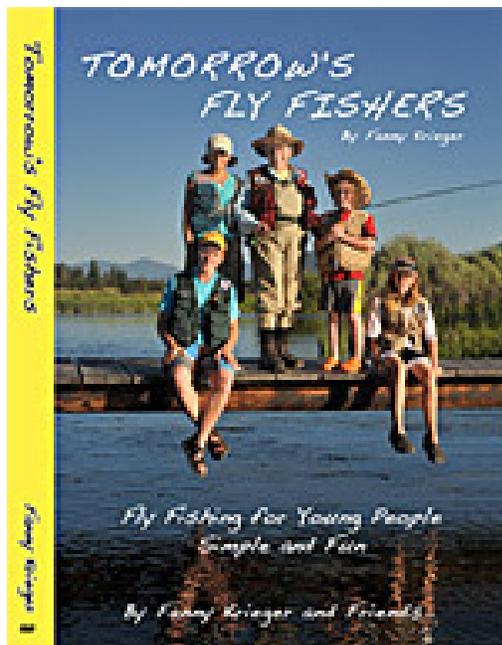


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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

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

