

# The Barbless Hook



**March 2010**

Issue 158

No. 22

*Sunset at Kistler Ranch – when the big bass come out to play (and eat!).*

## Spring Fishing Is Here!

The President's Message by Bob McCollum

### *Time to "Kick Some Bass"*

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow," says a proverb. Fortunately we've had a pretty good El Nino winter with some excellent rains and a respectable snow pack. The Sierra trout streams will need this water in August and September. But, since spring is literally around the corner, my mind is more focused on bass.

I like spring because it brings with it our annual pilgrimages to Kistler Ranch. There is something satisfying about participating in a annual tradition. It keeps you grounded in reality and lifts you out of the daily grind that makes each day indiscernible from another. Traditions also expand our sense of community by providing a common experience that we can share throughout the years.

So, it's time to dust off your Sneaky Petes, deer hair frogs, and leech patterns and get back to Kistler! We now have two Kistler outings. The March outing is a "no-host" outing (BYO lunch). The April outing will be our annual family BBQ with no charge for children 16 and younger. So gather your wife, kids, and grandchildren and come on out for some great fishing and a good time.

It's like Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" Come on out and join the fun!

See you on the ponds!

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## Don't Forget Your Auction Donations!

Bob McCollum

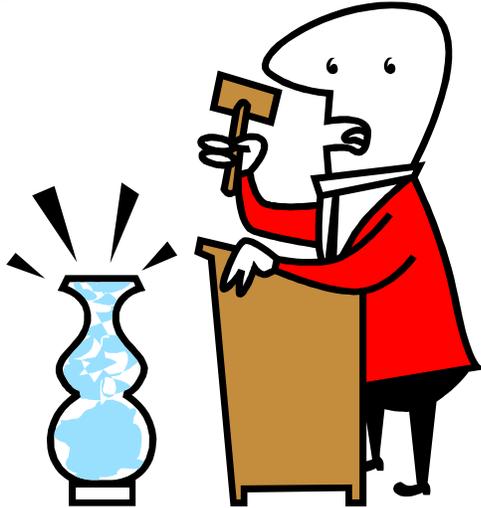
**Please remember to bring you donated items for the annual silent auction to the March meeting.**

As I wrote last month, all types of donations are wanted and needed:

- Donate some flies
- Donate your unneeded or unused fishing or camping gear
- Consign an item to the auction
- Donate non-fishing items
- Donate a service
- Donate a weekend at your vacation home
- Donate a "Fishing with a Buddy" trip

**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!



## 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](mailto:kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net)

Please begin e-mails with "Newsletter" as the subject.

## 2010 Membership Fees

2010 Membership Dues are \$40.00 (Individual and Family) for the 2010 Calendar Year. For membership information, please see Ken Javorsky at the at the monthly meetings or email him at [kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net).

# 2009 Club Calendar

Month	Club Meeting	Special Events	Board Meeting
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

## March Meeting: Fly Fishing Lakes and Freestone Rivers

Gary Turri will present a pre-meeting class on fly fishing on lakes from 6:00-6:45 PM. The class will focus on what you need to know for fly fishing our upcoming outing to Pyramid Lake.

Our speaker that evening will be owner of Shasta Trout Guide Service, Craig Nielsen, who will speak on Fly Fishing Freestone Rivers. A Northern California native, he has been chasing trout with a fly rod for over 45 years and guiding professionally since 1992. He especially appreciates the angling diversity Mt. Shasta offers. From presenting tiny dries to selective McCloud Redbands, swinging streamers with switchrods for the Klamath's fabled steelhead, or nymphing the Upper and Lower Sac for trophy 'bows, Craig enjoys it all.



TVFF 2010 Outings			
Month	Outing	Species	Fishmaster
March 20th	Kistler Ranch #1	Bass	Kent McCammon
Date: TBD	Lower Stanislaus	Trout	Gary Turri
April 24th	Kistler Ranch #2 and Club BBQ	Bass	Jim B. and BoD
Date : April 9th, 10th, 11th.	Pyramid Lake	Lahontan Cutthroat 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	Hal Wilson
	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

# Comanche Outing Report

## Fishmaster: Bob McCollum

The Comanche outing, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, was an “exploratory outing”, since we had no experience with the this water. Corey Cate, Rich Lobrovich, Don Gardner and I fished the south shore “Trout Pond” which is a small impoundment near the South Marina. At about two tenths of a mile lone and one tenth of a mile wide, the pond is a perfect size for float tubing. Corey, Rich and I trolled in our Fat Cats, while Don plied the waters with his very cool Porta Bote.

The pond is a heavily planted for put-and-take fishing. We saw several fish taken trolling black woolly buggers. While we got some hits on the buggers, none of us hooked one. I broke off a nice fish that took my blood midge on the surface. Judging from the size of it’s tail, it was a 3-4 lbs fish (really!).

Don and I stopped on at the county park below Comanche dam and watch locals hook an endless parade of 8-9” trout from a side channel pool of the Mokelumne River. The pool literally boiled with small fish rising for midges. We hooked a few on some dry files and Don brought one to hand. Good casting practice.

We had a good time, even though we were skunked at a trout pond. This would be a good pond for new anglers to try out and learn new still water skills.



# TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake, Nevada April 2010

**Fishmasters: Rob Vellinger & Ken Javorsky**

Outing 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 (775) 476-0400 which is on the shore of the lake near Sutcliffe, NV. 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](mailto:kjjavorsky@sbcglobal.net)



# Kistler Outing Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>

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 wooly 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 Its 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.

For questions, please email Kent McCammon @ [sewreel@pacbell.net](mailto:sewreel@pacbell.net).

## Driving Directions

Kistler ranch is located between Oakdale and Jamestown, CA. To get there from the Livermore/Pleasanton area head east on I-580 to I-205 and continue past the Tracy area to I-5. Go north on I-5 a couple of miles to Hwy-120. Take Hwy-120 east. After a few miles it will intersect with Hwy-99 north for a very short distance. When you head north on 99 stay in the right lane and exit at the first off ramp, which will still be Hwy-120 east towards Sonora/Yosemite. Continue east on 120 to Oakdale (approximately 20 miles).

As you leave Oakdale **note your odometer mileage** as you pass the Oakdale Rodeo Grounds on the left. Continue east on Hwy's-120/108 for about **18 miles** from that point. First there will be a Kistler Ranch sign on the right side of the road, and then the ranch and BIG RED BARN will be on the north (left) side of the highway, shortly beyond the sign. Turn left at the break in the center divide, onto the road to the ranch. (If you miss the turn just proceed on up the highway for a short distance where there will be another break in the center divide where you can make a "U-turn" and come back to the entrance.)

A short distance down this road there will be a gate into the ranch property on the left. As you enter you will see another gate that heads down to the three ponds. NOTE: there is a **restroom** (for our use) on the left near this (second) gate. The gate to the ponds will be open around 6:00 am and will close about dark. You may drive on down to the ponds. All three are available for us to fish and the choice is yours. You may park anywhere along the road at any of the ponds. Caution, if the fields are very wet and muddy it is easy to get your vehicle stuck, so be careful. If it is dry there should not be a problem.

**REMEMBER - Barbless hooks, and "Catch-and-Release" only. No motors allowed on lake please.**

Have a great day - enjoy the company of the other club members and guests - "tight lines".

Contact: Kent McCammon: [sewreel@pacbell.net](mailto:sewreel@pacbell.net)

# Conservation Corner

## State Anadromous Fish Proposal

Corey Cate

Begin forwarded message by :

### **Assembly member Jared Huffman Introduces Legislation to Restore Chinook Salmon Populations to Sustainable Levels and Declare Chinook Salmon California's State Anadromous Fish**

**Sacramento, CA**— California's native Chinook salmon have for centuries been an integral part of California's natural environment, supporting tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries, and serving as an economic, cultural and ecologically vital resource for the people of the state. Today, California's Chinook salmon runs are threatened with extinction, as the numbers of fish returning to spawn have dropped to record lows, prompting the unprecedented closure of the salmon season for the last two years. The economic impact of the closure is estimated at over \$2 billion, with as many as 23,000 jobs lost. This year the numbers of returning fish are again extremely low, making it likely the season will be closed for the third year in a row.

In recognition of the unique values of this iconic species, Assembly member Jared Huffman has introduced AB 2063 which establishes three important state policies for Chinook salmon.

- Declares the Chinook salmon as the official state anadromous fish.
- Establishes a state goal to restore Chinook salmon to sustainable levels within a decade.
- Calls upon the state Department of Fish and Game to work collaboratively with other public and private partners to implement the goal of restoring Chinook salmon, and to prioritize conservation planning efforts for recovery of Chinook and other salmonid species.

"Given their incredible resilience, their important role in California's history, and the critical values they provide today for both healthy ecosystems and the state's economy, it is fitting that the Chinook salmon be officially recognized as the State anadromous fish," said Assembly member Huffman. "It is equally important that the state renew its commitment to recovery of Chinook salmon to levels sufficient to once again support viable tribal, recreational and commercial fisheries, and to ensure these fish will still be around for our grandchildren to enjoy and appreciate."

"Salmon have been part of California for thousands of years and we're losing them," said Zeke Grader, Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "If we wipe our salmon out, we'll also be wiping out generations of fishing families from the central California coast to northern Oregon. We commend Assembly member Huffman for introducing this legislation which will help renew the state's commitment to recovery of Chinook salmon, and educate the public about the importance of these unique fish."

# The Tier's Corner No. 8

## Custom Dubbing and Onion Skin Dye

By Jim Cramer

I have never been much into the dyeing of my own materials with one exception which I'll get to in a bit. I do, however, enjoy the blending of dubbing materials, especially some of the brighter synthetics.

Two of my favorite materials with which to work are "Pseudo Seal" and "Polar Aire" both by Spirit River Inc. Pseudo Seal is a bright glossy material available in thirteen colors. The standard colors are solid colors which are OK for some applications but when blended yield some absolutely spectacular combinations. Most food forms to my eye are a blend of several colors and tones. Maybe this is why grizzly hackle is so popular with both fish and fishermen. Polar Aire is bagged in long hanks, comes in seventeen colors, and is used primarily in wings and tails as a substitute for polar bear hair. When used in blended dubbing it is chopped into short pieces.

Blending dubbing is a lot like mixing paint but a lot less messy and a whole lot more fun. There can be some real surprises too. I tried blending black and bright yellow Pseudo Seal and ended up with a simply lovely olive. Mix black rabbit, mohair or Pseudo Seal with a bit of red and green Lite-Bright or Angel Hair and you have a super body mix for the Hairless Bugger (A Hairless guber is one without hackle), or a great leech pattern.

I use the kitchen blender when I'm really serious about blending but if you need only a small amount you can make do using two small blocks of wood with the hook portion of a Velcro strap glued to each. Use the blocks to comb the material back and forth until it is well mixed. With the blender start out with a couple of good size wads of your base colors and materials and then start subdividing and adding more colors or different materials. In a short period you'll have a lifetime supply of dubbing and may never again have to buy more.

Two of my favorite base materials to which I add the other ingredients are Aunt Lydia's Yarn and Australian opossum, but any of the soft furs such as rabbit, beaver, or muskrat work well. If you want something with a bit more spike in it use squirrel body or hair hare's mask.

### Onion Skin Dye

Dyeing materials with one exception has never been something that I felt was necessary to my tying hobby. As more and more suppliers enter the market place with their vast array of products and color selections my need to dye my own materials has all but vanished. Onion skin dye is the only dye you'll ever see me use. With this dye I have been able to get everything from pale ginger to lemon wood duck, to a rich rust. I also use it almost exclusively on grizzly hackle. To make the dye add a double handful or more of yellow onion skins to one quart of water and a cup of vinegar. Cover and let the mixture seep for several hours over very low heat. Strain off the skins and test the dye with a few test feathers. Wash your materials in a light detergent suds and rinse thoroughly before dyeing as they must be free of oil and any dirt.

# The Tier's Corner No. 7 (continued from page 8)

By Jim Cramer

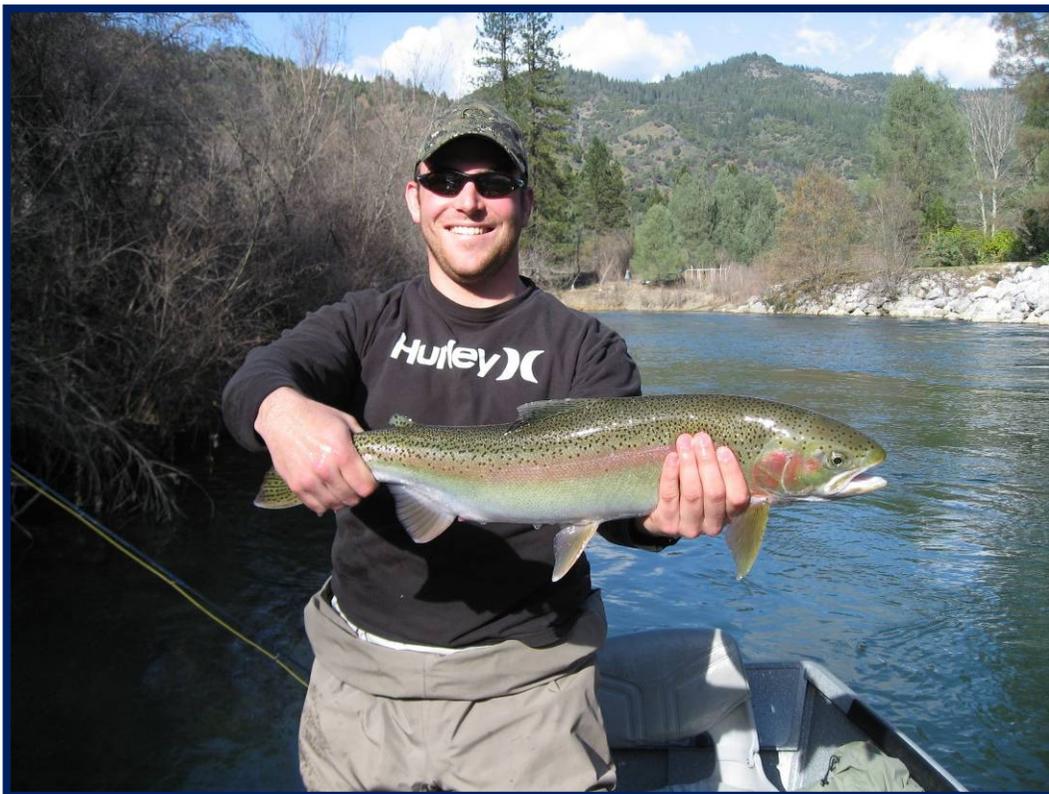
The dye should be quite warm but not so hot that it might damage the feathers. Do some trial runs with a few feathers to determine how long they should remain in the dye. I can't advise you on this because it depends on so many factors. The fortunate thing is that it is hard to go too wrong, almost any shade you end up with will be useful. If you rinse the material briefly in a mild salt water solution it seems to set the dye. Follow the salt water rinse with a good rinse in fresh water then pat it dry between some paper towels or absorbent cloth and set it aside to air dry. For best results the feathers must be completely free of oils or grease before introducing them to the dye.

I prefer the lighter shades of grizzly as they seem to show off the effects of my labor better. The light grizzly dyed a wood duck lemon makes an absolutely beautiful mayfly. The dyed grizzly also makes a good substitute for cree hackle which is sometimes hard to find in the better grades.

Now one would wonder that if yellow onion skins make a useful dye, what would you get with red or purple onion skins? The answer is nothing, nada, zip. Like many of my fly ideas it seemed like a good idea but it just didn't work. Maybe some organic chemist can explain it to me some day.

There is one more natural dye that I have to try sometime and that is walnut. I don't have any directions for it but I remember that when I used to build gun stocks the sawdust would stain my hands. Maybe we can come up with a good Coachman Brown. So many ideas and projects and so little time.

\*\*\*\*\*



**My son Dan and I just returned from the Trinity River where we were on a long weekend trip. He was the lucky fly fisher. He was 2 landed out of the 3 steelhead that he hooked-up, while I was skunked. This is a nice picture of his first fish.**

**Tom Vargas  
February 2010**

# Sports Fishing Advocates and Environmentalists: Partnership Required? by Kent McCammon

Hal Wilson and I represented Tri-Valley Flyfishers at a Jan 13 meeting of NCCFFF that featured John McCammon, the Director of CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG), who discussed the budgeting process.

To my surprise, I heard about the lawsuit filed against DFG against stocking hatchery fish. The Center for Biological Diversity filed the lawsuit in an effort to protect native species which they claim are hindered by hatchery fish stocking. Studies regarding amphibians in high mountain lakes where fish are planted indicate declines of Salmon runs partially from hatchery stocking. The director shared a concern that the impact may be that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has to be produced for each of the hundreds of stocked waters in California. With CA already suffering a financial budget crisis, the Director was facing the possibility to pay for EIR's for hundreds of waters stocked.

An end to stocking 'breaks the model' where people buy licenses to catch fish and fish are planted for the many Californians who buy licenses to catch fish. No stocked fish means fewer licenses sold in the future and a reduced budget pool from licenses means less money for many DFG programs including hatchery programs.

I am not an expert on biological diversity and the facts regarding the impact of hatchery fish on frogs, native fish, etc. I am also not yet informed enough to offer a view here to my fishing club friends. However, the discussion shook me up when I realized I may have to decide between identifying myself as a fishing advocate or identifying myself as an environmentalist. So I ask the question, can fishing advocates and environmentalists partner together on a common set of goals on hatchery stocking in California?

I think we can all agree that conservation is a common goal of fisherman and environmentalists. Therefore, partnering should serve both interests. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a local success story on partnering and many in our club have supported this cause with time and money for good reason. Ending recreational fishing and stocking in Alameda Creek came with little controversy to protect an endangered fishery in recovery. I leave you with some questions. Should the Alameda Creek model of no stocking to protect a native species be the model to apply to every body of water in California? Should all fishing advocates of native and stocked fish unite together to preserve stocking in California? Who will pay for EIR's to derive a science-based reduced list of stocked fisheries going forward and those places where stocking should end to protect natives?

## **Upcoming Classes from the Federation of Fly Fishers Handbook**

(held before TVFF Monthly Meetings)

by Gary Turri

- 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.

# Items For Sale

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



Fish Cat 4 Float tube. Very good condition. Great tube - keeps you high out of the water. Retail for \$189.00. Asking \$120. I will donate any proceeds over \$100 to TVFF. Contact Bob McCollum 925-989-2358



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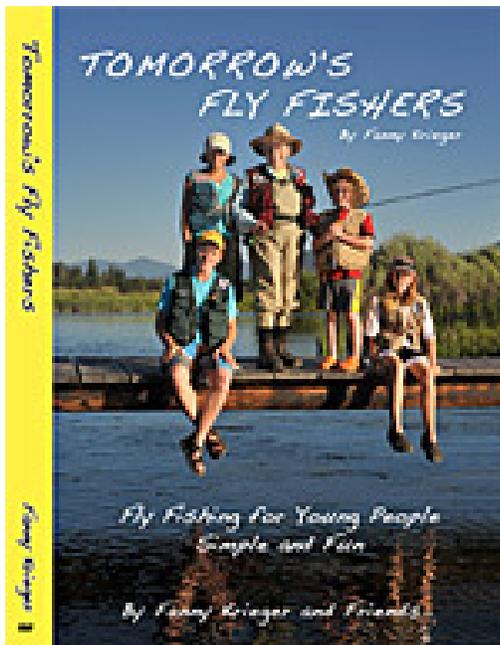
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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

**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

