

The Barbless Hook



October 2010
Issue 161
No. 24

Our man Jim Hirzel - Flyfisher, Treasurer ,
501 (c) (7) Architect .

Non-Profit Status Finally Achieved!

President's Message, Bob McCollum

Jim Hirzel's persistence pays off!

After many years of humming and hawing and hoping, Tri-Valley Fly Fishers has finally achieved IRS non-profit status as a 501(c)(7) a non-profit social club.

As most of you know by now, this is end result of at least two years of hard and persistent work by our Treasurer, Jim Hirzel. Jim began with extensive research of the ISR web site and guidance documents, discuss with of other non-profit fly fishing clubs, and consultations with CPA's. Earlier this year, Jim completed his research and felt ready to recommend submitting the application once the club had enough money for the application fee. The proceeds for the Silent Auction gave us the funding to move forward and the application was submitted in late spring.

Over the course of the summer, Jim made frequent contact with the IRS agent assigned to our application. Jim stresses that the IRS agent was very helpful and professional, but also very detailed. Jim spent most of the summer responding to multiple rounds of questions and requests for more documentation and information. It was worth all the effort when we received the IRS approval letter earlier this month.

The Board of Directors is confident that our new non-profit status will help us with fund raising for Trout in the Classroom and several conservation organizations through the proceeds of the monthly raffle and Silent Auction. Please join me in thanking Jim for his excellent efforts in achieving this important milestone.

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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

Nominations for 2011 Board of Directors Coming in October

It's that time again! Nomination process for the 2011 officers, board members, and coordinators will occur at the October meeting.

If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the club, please contact any one of the leaders listed in the box above. They'll tell you that volunteering for the Board is rewarding and *fun!*

All positions are open for nominations. There are a wide range of positions to match virtually all skills, backgrounds and interests.

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-mail with "Newsletter" as the subject.

2010 Club Calendar

TVFF 2010 Outings			
Date: TBD	Carson River, East Fork Heenan Lake	Trout	Fishmaster Needed!
November 5-8	Klamath River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum
November 20	Delta	Striped Bass	Tom Vargas/Rick Mikla
December 1-5	Trinity River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum

October Meeting: A Night at the Movies

In the upcoming October meeting we will be viewing the movie Rivers of the Lost Coast .

This recent film is a feature length documentary film about the rise and fall of Northern California 's wild salmon and steelhead rivers through the stories of the legends who fly fished them.

At the turn of the 20th Century, a handful of pioneers carried their fly rods into California 's remote north coast and gave birth to a culture that would revolutionize their sport. For a select few, steelhead fly fishing became an obsessive pursuit without compromise. Leading the pack was the mythical, Bill Schaadt, an off-kilter angler famous for his ruthless pursuit to be 'in the fish'. The new endeavor was ruled by a demanding, unspoken code, which made 'breaking in' almost as difficult as 'breaking out'. By the early 1980s, the Golden State 's coastal fisheries found themselves caught in a spiraling decline. As California searched for its disappearing salmon and steelhead, these men foraged for their souls.



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Conservation Corner by Corey Cate

Conservation Groups, Local Residents Blast Proposed Highway Widening in Niles Canyon

Project Would Cut Native Trees, Harm Alameda Creek and Mar Scenic Beauty of the Canyon

The California Department of Transportation will close the public comment period next Thursday on the draft Environmental Impact Report for a controversial proposal to widen Highway 84 through Niles Canyon, an unnecessary and damaging project that would cut 439 native trees and build nearly two miles of cement retaining walls adjacent to Alameda Creek. The Alameda Creek Alliance and California Native Plant Society are submitting formal comments this week opposing and questioning the need for the project, and Caltrans has received written comments and heard testimony from hundreds of local residents against the project during public hearings in Sunol and Fremont earlier this month.

“The impacts of this folly on Alameda Creek, habitat for endangered species, and the scenic and aesthetic values of Niles Canyon are unacceptable,” said Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance. “The need for highway widening and damaging the creek corridor is unproven and the environmental review fails to meet state and federal legal requirements. We insist that the project be withdrawn.”

The proposed Niles Canyon Safety Improvement Project would construct a median barrier, increase curve radii, create new roadway shoulders, install guard rails, and place retaining walls and rip-rap along more than four miles of State Route 84 in upper Niles Canyon. It would require cutting 439 native trees from the Alameda Creek riparian corridor and pouring nearly two miles of concrete retaining walls, some adjacent to Alameda Creek. Along with cutting and filling in the canyon for retaining walls and road shoulders and

(Continued on next page)

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PAUL WATERS

(Continued from Previous Page)

installing rip-rap down-slope of retaining walls, this would destroy and impact important habitat for steelhead trout, California red-legged frogs, Alameda whipsnakes, rare sycamore forest habitat, and other native wildlife.

“Caltrans should hold another public hearing before they close the comment period, since the agency stated they will not respond to the extensive public comment from the last two meetings,” said Ralph Kanz, Conservation Director with the Alameda Creek Alliance. “Significant issues were raised at both meetings that must be addressed in the environmental review, and Caltrans is trying to ignore these problems.”

“People use Niles Canyon Road because it provides a link to history and there is a spiritual connection to the canyon that will disappear when it becomes just another funnel for speeding traffic,” said Michelle Powell, a local resident who has organized opposition to the project. “There will be economic hardships in the towns on both ends of the canyon when people no longer use the road to decompress from daily life - people won’t stop in Sunol, people won’t take that winding drive to get on the historic train ride, people won’t go through to Niles to visit and shop. Niles Canyon is more than a blip in somebody’s regional traffic scheme and should be treasured, not destroyed.”

The proposed project is ostensibly for highway and bicycle safety, but safety statistics cited by Caltrans show that Niles Canyon does not have a relatively high accident rate, and in fact is below the state average. Fatal accidents are a problem in the project area, but Caltrans has not shown that the project would reduce fatalities, and it may actually increase them by allowing cars to travel at higher speeds through the canyon. Caltrans statistics indicate that 2.5% of the traffic in Niles Canyon is trucks, yet 38% of the accidents there involve trucks. Local residents feel that one way to improve road safety would be to limit truck traffic since it is an open secret that trucks often use the canyon to avoid the truck scales on 680, contributing to possible overloaded and unsafe truck traffic. The EIR acknowledges that the project is inconsistent with a scenic highway and notes the proposed upslope walls “will remain a highly prominent and, in some locations, visually dominant feature of the Niles Canyon corridor.”

The EIR did not evaluate less environmentally damaging alternatives such as trimming or removing selected trees, installing radar speed signs, median barriers, and rumble strips, focusing on localized problem areas, or other measures within the existing roadway footprint. The EIR did not fully analyze cumulative impacts to Alameda Creek, riparian habitat, endangered species habitat, water quality, hydrology, or scenic values of the project, especially in conjunction with three other current or pending Caltrans projects in Niles Canyon , and did not have the proper level of analysis to receive federal permits. In August the Regional Water Quality Control Board sent a letter to Caltrans stating the agency “would be unlikely to issue the necessary approvals for this project” due to significant environmental impacts.

Alameda Creek is considered to be an ‘anchor watershed’ for steelhead trout, regionally significant for restoration of the threatened ocean-going trout to the entire Bay Area. Since local steelhead were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1997, numerous organizations and agencies have cooperated on restoration projects to allow migratory fish from the Bay to reach spawning habitat in upper Alameda Creek. Thirteen fish passage improvement projects, including dam removals, construction of fish ladders, and installation of fish screens, have been completed in the watershed since 2001, aimed at allowing steelhead and other anadromous fish to reach suitable spawning and rearing habitat. Several more fish passage projects in the lower creek are expected to be completed by 2011-2013, allowing steelhead to migrate freely upstream into Niles Canyon , the Sunol Valley , the Arroyo del la Laguna and Arroyo Valle tributaries, and upper Alameda Creek, for the first time in half a century.

Delta Striper Outing

November 20, 2010

Tom Vargas

As TVFF Fishmasters, Rick Mikla and I will lead the striper outing on Saturday, Nov. 20th. This is a great opportunity to experience hard pulling, double digit freshwater fish on fly gear. We will fish the Southern bays of Discovery Bay and plan to launch out of Orwood Resort by 7:00AM. You should arrive at least ½ hour earlier in order to set up and get your boat in the water. We will head South about one mile to the Kellogg Creek entrance of Discovery Bay. This is an all-safe 5 mph area and it works well for both small and larger size watercraft. The outing will take place in rain or shine, but plan on a cold morning and the possibility of morning fog for a few hours (we hope the weather cooperates).

A boat is required to participate in this trip. Boaters and non-boaters will need to make arrangements and get paired up before the outing.

Equipment: 8 or 9 wt rod with Hi-Speed / High Density shooting heads. Lead core heads, Teeny 300, Rio Outbound or Mastery Custom Tip Express lines trimmed to match the rod all work well. The integrated style lines are easier to cast than lead core. Your leader is simply 5-6 ft of 15 - 20 lb mono (Maxima). Flies that simulate baitfish patterns such as 3-5 inch Clouser minnows, Flashtail Whistlers, Deceivers, etc. work well. The 2/0 chartreuse and white Clouser is a standard. Take a look at past newsletters for December and January of '07, '06, '05 for what has been successful. We will provide more information as we get closer to the outing and we can get more specific as the stripers move in, usually around mid to late October.

A sign up list will be available at the October and November meetings.



9lb. Striper from my first outing in 2006. I had never fished for stripers with a fly before and this was a great learning experience and a ton of fun.

EARLIER NEXT YEAR FOR MANZANITA LAKE

By Hal Wilson

Our Manzanita Lake trip this year was a close replica of last year's, unfortunately.

After a couple of good, fish producing trips in previous years, the last two have been successful only in providing a weekend of camaraderie and beautiful, (but chilly) weather. Jim Broadbent, Richard Tarbell, Doug Witmore, Bart Hughes, and I tried valiantly to catch world-record trout but to no avail.

Actually, we did come up winners in another area, however. Our Club overall Outings Coordinator, Jim Broadbent, clued us into and led us to another very fishable lake near Manzanita, North Battle Creek Reservoir. This PGE facility is just a few miles out of Lassen Park, on the other side of Hwy 44, with signs marking the accesses. There is a 10 site campground, (one for Handicapped) with running water and toilet facilities. The campground was closed when we went through it, but self-contained campers were still enjoying its tranquility.

As a result of our low fish count for Manzanita, I called the Fly Shop for advice. The response was immediate –Manzanita doesn't fish well this time of the year. (I have to agree with this, even though we have done well there in previous years. Just lucky, I guess). The best time for Manzanita is from ice-out through June into July. In general discussion with an angler from Redding we had heard the lake was iced over through June this year. Early season brings Callibaetis and damsel fly hatches, although the damsels are not as prolific as at Davis Lake. The Fly Shop then suggested North Battle Creek Reservoir as a good option, so that's two knowledgeable recommendations for that water.

The problems with early season angling are campground availability and cold weather. Due to variable times for PGE and Park Service campgrounds' opening, planning much in advance is impractical. Also, as popular as Manzanita is, there is a good possibility we would have difficulty in finding three or four campsites near each other. Certainly the time before school is out would be most promising from that aspect. As far as cold weather- dress in layers and be sure you have a good sleeping bag. It's also amazing how the singing of your reel with a strong fish on warms a person.

Optional campgrounds are available in Lassen National Forest land, not in the Park. These less improved facilities are farther up Hwy 44/89, near Old Station.

More to come as we get near next season.



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TVFF Fish Photos Sept./Oct. 2010



← A nice Brown caught in the McCleod - **Gary Turri**
September 24, 2010

Striper caught in The Delta- **Mike Rosano** →
Oct 1st, 2010



Delta Sardine- **Ken Javorsky** Oct 1st, 2010

A 19" Rainbow from the Pit River →
- **Gary Turri**
September 25, 2010



DVD Recommendations

by Frank Gordet

Below are three new DVD's the club has purchase to help you develop your skills as a Fly Fisher. The DVD's are available for your use at any club meeting, so take the time to review the DVD Library and check out a couple and improve your game.

Enjoy!

Frank

Rio's Modern Spey Casting

The most comprehensive film on spey casting techniques ever made. This is a Triple disc DVD from Rio with a whole slew of experts to help you improve you're casting. Folks like George Cook, Simon Gawesworth, Mike McCune, Scott O'Donnell, Dana Sturn and Ed Ward. Not only will you learn from the masters the classic Single spey, Double spey, Switch Cast and Roll cast, but also the Modern spey cast, Spiral spey, Spiral spey, Spiral double spey, Jelly roll, Perry poke, and Skagit casting. This film also teaches viewers the most common faults to recognize and avoid and has superb bio-kinetic footage so you can study the detail of each hand, arm, and body movement of each cast. With clear and concise instruction from the very basics of spey casting to top tips for advanced casters as well as sinking line methods, single handed techniques and saltwater spey casting. It's everything you need to know about Spey Casting.

Total Time is 4hrs.

Sierra Fly Fishing Vol. 1

Nymphing, Kern Czech Nymphing, Kern Dead Drift, Streamer Techniques

Sierra Fly Fishing is an instructional fly fishing show that features the rich and diverse world of fly fishing in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. We follow Guy

Jeans expert guide and all around sierra fly fishing aficionado. Vol1 focuses on fly fishing the lower Kern River, notoriously challenging tail water flowing from Lake Isabella. We spend a day on the river showing Guy as he shows us the techniques he uses in finding and catching beautiful trophy rainbows that elude most anglers on this section of river.

Total Time is 29min

Sierra Fly fishing Vol.2

This DVD is an epic fly fishing adventure into the golden trout wilderness. Guy Jeans guides you deep into the backcountry in search of the wild native Kern River Rainbow Trout. Volume 2 is 75 minutes of pure fly fishing pleasure with 90 minutes of special features. The show goes from fast paced exciting fly fishing action to the majestic mountains landscapes that we all dream about. There are 13 educational scenes of varied techniques and flies intercut with the beautiful scenery of the Kern River Canyon in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Let Guy show you his favorite tips and techniques to hunt and catch the abundant yet elusive Wild Native Kern River Rainbow.

Total Time is 75min

August 2010 trip to Island Park, Idaho and Yellowstone Country

Tom Vargas

In late August the Vargas and George families had a mini family reunion, celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary and vacationed at Henry's Lake, Idaho. Together we enjoyed the majesty of Yellowstone and the spectacular scenery of the area. We also had the opportunity to fish!

We were able to wet our lines in the Henry's Fork of the Snake in the "Coffee Pot" area and all of us had success, with the average fish being in the 8"-10" size range, quite plentiful and located in this scenic canyon area above Harriman State Park.



We fished Henry's Lake for some of the famous Brook Trout, but only had one hook up before we unfortunately encountered starter problems. Henry's Lake is beautiful, but will turn treacherous in the late morning and afternoons when the winds pick up. Since you are located at 6500 feet, the weather changes quickly and thunderstorms are common. The preferred fishing method is to cast sinking lines with a wooly bugger into the areas where cool waters are entering the lake, especially at this time of the year.

On Wednesday we had very calm weather and our first guides of the trip suggested a trek to Hebgen Lake, near the Montana border, in pursuit of "Slurpers". There is a consistent callibaetis hatch at this time of the year and it presents the opportunity to cast dry flies to moving fish.

The fishing on Hebgen Lake was great and Ben and I lost count of the number we caught, but we boated more than 20 fish. We found an equal number of German Browns and Rainbows that were from 16" to 20". The hatch lasted well into the afternoon when we finally left at 4:00PM.



On Friday the winds picked up and the suggested place to fish was the South Fork of the Snake River, about a 1.5 hour drive from where we were staying. This is a large river about the size of the Lower Sacramento and it is the tail-water fishery of the Palisades Dam. We fished the "Canyon" section and once again found that the fish were rising for dry flies from the time we started at about 11:00 AM until around 4:00PM. A size 14 PMD in a peach or tan color with a Flashback PT nymph dropper was the best combination. We also had some luck with "hopper-droppers" late in the afternoon. I fished with my son Dan and we too lost count of the fish. There is a mix of Rainbow, German Brown and Cutthroat trout in this river. The State of Idaho has a bounty to encourage you to keep the rainbows, a non-native fish, but the guides are resisting this policy.

Items For Sale

Vacation Home For Rent:

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NO PETS. NO SMOKING.

Contact: Bob McCollum 925-989-2358



Trout Unlimited Colorado Pontoon Boat:

9 Ft, sage green, used once. \$300.

Contact Jim Hirzel 925 648-0555.



Rods For Sale:

G. Loomis GLX Classic FR1086-4: 9 ft. 6wt. 4-piece. Like new condition \$310.00

Contact Gary Turri (925) 830-1128

FOR SALE

ALBRIGHT XXT SINKING FLY LINE
350 GRAINS
100 FT

Albright company has this line on sale for \$36.99, I have it on sale for \$15. This integrated line at 350 grains is suitable for a 11-12 weight rod, and I found out quickly that I couldn't make it work on an 8 weight, so it has been used for only about 10 minutes at the Oakland Casting ponds.

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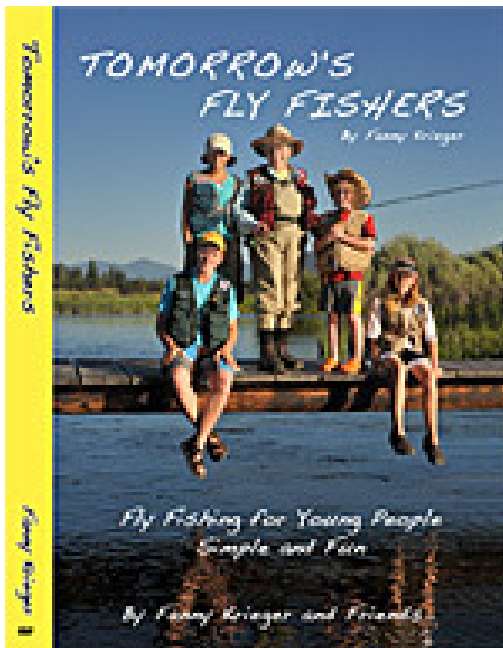


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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

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

