

The Barbless Hook



September 2010
Issue 161
No. 23

A rowdy crowd of fly fishers at TVFF's Annual August Pizza Nite!!!

So long, John! We'll miss you!

The President's Message by Bob McCollum

John Bjorkholm Moving to Oregon in September

TVFF will lose one of its most dedicated members in September when John Bjorkholm and his wife Mary move to Medford Oregon. John is a long time member who has served the club in many roles on the Board of Directors. He has also generously donated his time and energy to club programs and events such as Trout in the Classroom and the Silent Auction. John has also been a tireless evangelist, telling many about the club and bringing in new members.



I will always remember John because he was my first point of contact with the Club. I had been looking for a fly fishing club our area and posted an inquiry on the NorCal FF Board. John replied immediately and gave me the skinny on the then Livermore Fly Fishers. So, I am in the club today because of John.

I spoke with John about his planned move and told him we're just going to have to start adding Oregon destinations to our outings. The Rouge River isn't far from Medford...

John tells me he'll be at the September meeting, so be sure to give him your best wishes when you see him there.

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Current Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators

President	Bob McCollum
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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			
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!
November- December	Delta	Striped Bass	Fishmaster Needed!
November 5-8	Klamath River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum
December 1-5	Trinity River	Steelhead	Bob McCollum

September Speaker: Mark Cottrell

Mark Cottrell, a fly fishing guide from Sonora, California will speak on fly fishing the Stanislaus River and surrounding lakes from Kennedy Meadows to Oakdale. Mark grew up in the Burney area, fly fishing Hat Creek, the Pit River, and other trout waters in Northern California. Mark has tied commercially and taught fly tying for over 25 years. He has guided for 10 years, both for the Mother Lode fly shop and independently.. You can learn more about Mark and his services on his web site: www.markcottrellguideservice.com.



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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www.whitecranewinery.com /
info@whitecranewinery.com

Steelhead Class – Traditional “Swinging” Casting Style

By Brian Endlich

When: 6:00- 6:50 P.M.; September 2nd, 2010 before TVFF September Meeting



Brian with a nice Trinity hen.
(Yes, this could be you after taking
Brian's class.)

Brian Endlich will offer a class on fishing for steelhead using traditional swinging fly techniques before the September meeting. No pre-registration is required, those interested only need to show up at 6 PM on Thursday September 2nd. There will be no limit on the class size.

The topics to be covered will be taken from the articles by Brian in the November 2009 *Barbless Hook*, *Swinging on the Trinity* and the December 2009/January 2010 article *Swinging on the North Coast for Winter Steelhead*.

Topics will include:

- Types of water conducive to swinging flies
- Methods of the swing
- Covering the water
- Hooking fish
- Appropriate gear and traditional flies

If there are any questions please contact Brian_Endlich@hotmail.com .

LAST CALL FOR MANZANITA!!

By Hal Wilson

Not really, but I hope that headline gets your attention. The annual trip to Lake Manzanita is scheduled for September 10 – 12, the weekend after Labor Day. With Lassen Park (the site of Lake Manzanita) being a fairly long drive away, many of the TVFF fishers arrive on Thursday or Friday to set up camp and get a preview of the great weekend ahead.

Current signups show that there will be six of us enjoying fishing on the lake nestled on the side of beautiful Mt. Lassen. I sent contact information for those who are signed up to all who signed up, so driving and camping arrangements can be made if desired. If you signed up and didn't receive this info, contact me ASAP.



I remind the participants that without special arrangement made in advance, guests are not allowed on Club trips due to insurance policy regulations. Contact Bob McCollum or Jim Hirzel if necessary.

My usual route to Manz is up Highway 5 to the Deschutes Road off ramp near the town of Anderson. Follow Deschutes northeasterly to Dersch Road. Turn right on Dersch and go east to Highway 44. East on 44 to Lassen and Manzanita Lake campground. This route takes you off of Highway 5 several miles before the Churn Creek Road exit, so if you are planning last minute equipment purchases at The Fly Shop at Redding, it probably won't work for you.

As soon as George and I have decided on a camp site, I will post a notice on the Bulletin Board. We will attempt to camp on Loop A since that is closest to the lake.

The lake is close to 5900 feet elevation, so be prepared for cool nights, maybe rain. As a ranger told me once, "The forecast for Sierra weather is about 85% accurate, 15% of the time!!"

If you have any questions, please call me.
Hal Wilson, (925) 846-8766



August Pizza Night a HUGE Success!!!

Bob McCollum

About 30 TVFF members, spouses, and friends met up at Gay Nineties Pizza for our Annual August Pizza night. As you can see from the pictures, we had a great time. If you missed it this year, please make a point to join us next year.



Conservation Corner

by Corey Cate

“Didymo” Alert

The following is a press release from Ken W. Davis, Aquatic Biologist (ken@creekman.com) (916) 747-8537)

Sections of the Bear River in Central California are infested with the algae *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as “Didymo” or “Rock Snot.” Dr. Sarah Spaulding, with the USGS in Boulder, Colorado, has confirmed the initial identification made by aquatic biologist, Ken W. Davis. A concerned angler asked Mr. Davis - a consultant to the fly-fishing industry and various governmental agencies - to look at the river and the algae. The image above was taken August 14, 2010 on the Bear River near Auburn, California.



Didymo is transferred via microscopic cells that can be carried in water, boots, and other wet items to new locations. Live algae cells can survive for 40 days in damp boots, canoes, etc. In severe cases, rock snot can have dramatic effects on fish, aquatic invertebrates, and other riparian wildlife. Massive amounts of algal mass - in a “nuisance bloom” - can clog infrastructure such as filters and screens. Some areas of the Bear River, between Rollins and Combie Reservoirs, are significantly covered by the algae that looks and feels like wet toilet paper. The geographic extent of this Didymo “infestation,” is unknown.

Today, Dr. Spaulding confirmed that the sample provided by Mr. Davis is *Didymosphenia geminata*. The California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) was immediately notified. DFG has regulatory authority over whatever action will take place in the Bear River.

HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERS: Please forward this alert to fly fishers, angling stores, and other interested parties. Current information about decontaminating equipment is available at: www.creekman.com. For more information about Didymo: www.creekman.com (blog, articles, multimedia, decontamination) www.fedflyfishers.org (articles, decontamination protocols, informational DVD).

Photo by: Body Wildlife Survey & Photo Service 2443 Fair Oaks Blvd. # 209 • Sacramento, CA 95825 • (916) 747-8537

An advertisement for the Leland Golden Trout Club. The background features a scenic view of a river flowing through a mountain range. In the foreground, a fisherman is shown in silhouette, casting a fly into the water. Below him, a large rainbow trout is depicted. The text is arranged as follows:

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*For Online Orders Only

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PAUL WATERS

ATTENTION NOVICE FLY FISHERS

DATE: Saturday, September 18, 2010

TIME: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PLACE: Heather Farm Community Center
301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek

COST: Club Members: \$ 45.00
Non-Members: \$ 90.00
(fee includes lunch, handouts and membership for non-members)



NOVICE FLY FISHING SEMINAR 2010

We have expanded our capacity for this seminar to handle all those who are interested. To reserve your spot in the class, send in your registration fee as explained below. Non-members must become club members in order to attend (included in fees shown above). Remember, family members (spouses and children under 21) are covered under one primary membership.

REGISTRATION: Enroll by sending a check, made payable to DVFF, to Willy's home address shown below. Please include your name, mailing address, email address, & home phone number with your check. Non-members should also include their completed membership application downloaded from the DVFF website www.diablovalleyflyfish.org
Cancellations after September 1, 2010 will not be refunded.

INSTRUCTOR: Willy George
FFF Certified Casting Instructor
87 Danbury Court
Alamo, CA 94507
(925) 943-2211 Home

PURPOSE: To satisfy the needs of those club members who have yet to be adequately exposed to the basic knowledge and skills of fly fishing. This includes all members of the family—spouse and children (15 years and older).

OBJECTIVE: To provide the beginner with enough information including knowledge of equipment, casting, basic entomology, fly selection, knots, and reading water for their initial experience with the sport.



BENEFITS TO THE NOVICE: The beginner should leave this seminar with a wealth of "how to" information coupled with, hopefully, accomplished basic casting techniques from which to further build his or her fly fishing skills and knowledge.

WHAT TO BRING: Rod, reel, line and whatever leader set up you might already have attached. For those of you that do not have equipment, wait until after the class to make a purchase. We have loaner rods available, but please arrange for this gear at the time you register for the class.

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. A link to the complete listing of the inventory of the Club video library can be found on the home page of the club website: www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org. 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

Ride Along with a California Department of Fish and Game Warden.

by Kent and Kyle McCammon

My son Kyle and I attended the Tri-Valley Flyfishers meeting December 2009 featuring Nancy Foley, California Department Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief, as the guest speaker. We both enjoyed the talk and followed up on the offer for a ride along with a DFG Warden in May. Kyle enjoyed a ride along day with DFG Warden Lance Sheeley while visiting Sacramento. The Warden patrolled the Sacramento Delta area. After writing a ticket for a person fishing without a license, they came upon a poor guy who did not set his parking brake and his truck rolled into the River. Nobody was in the truck fortunately. The Warden became the acting officer due to their responsibility of DFG for waterway pollution due to the potential of leaks of oil or gas from the truck. Fortunately no spill of petroleum occurred. They had to wait some time for the scuba divers to connect the tow truck cable and pull the truck out of the depths. Kyle learned about a typical day in the life of a DFG game warden and the service they provide to the citizens of California protecting wildlife and fisheries. Both youth and adults can ask for a ride-along.



**Kyle McCammon and
Warden Lance Sheeley –
May, 2010**

Member Activities from the Summer of 2010



Photo- Garry Turri

Blue Creek near 8000 feet.
All Brook Trout on dry flies. Brookies
were 5-10", caught and released
using a 3wt. rod.

-Gary Turri Summer, 2010

My son and I have been
fishing the Lower Stanislaus
for the last month, in the
evenings. Good dry fly action
on midges, small paraduns
and caddis late. Nymphing
#14 to #18 BH nymphs,
will work just about anywhere.
The fish aren't big but I did
manage an 18" rainbow a few
weeks ago.

**-Ken and Alex Tetzl
August, 2010**



Photographer Unknown

A Great Afternoon on the Clark Fork

Bob McCollum

I spent a few hours on the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus on a Monday afternoon in late August. It turned out to be one of the nicest afternoons of fishing I've had in a while.

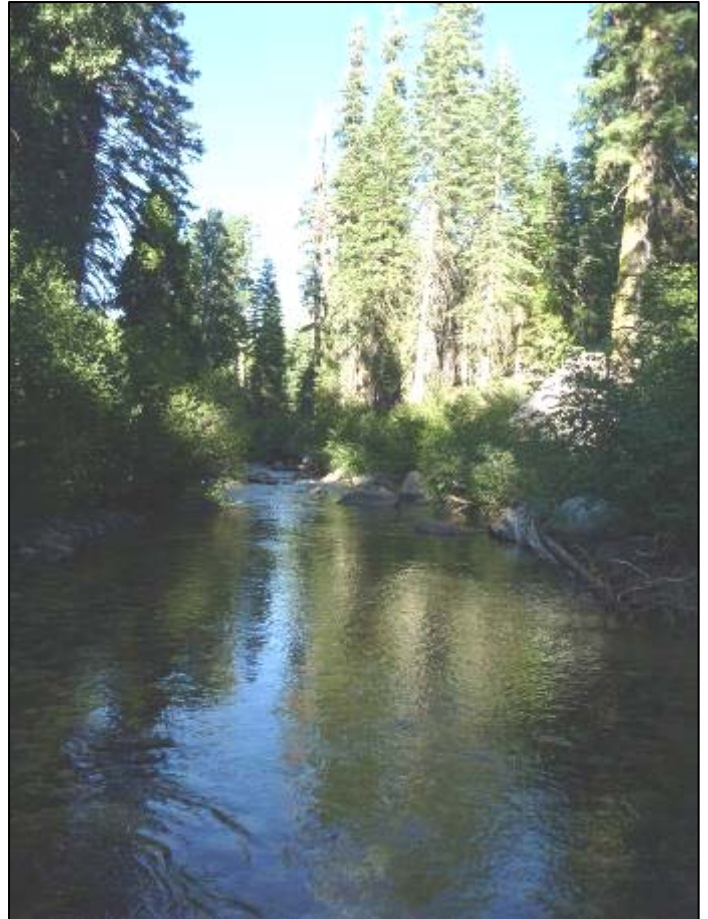
Before this excursion, I met up with our resident expert on the Clark Fork – Rich Lobrovich – who gave me some pointers on locations and flies. I also downloaded topo maps of the area from the USGS web site.

The Clark Fork is an arm of the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River that drains snow melt out of the Iceberg Wilderness. It's accessible from Clark Fork Road off Highway 108 about 15 miles past Strawberry. The DFG plants weekly near the picnic area and two camp grounds, which are popular with bait dunkers. The river is rarely more than 150 yards from the road and accessible from a number of turn outs. It's pretty easy to find a spot to fish, eventually. Especially mid-week.

Armed with information and my 3 weight, I got on the water about 3:00 PM. I spent the first hour on the first half mile above the bridge without even seeing a fish. So I moved about three miles up to the picnic area and pulled three trout out of a run: a small wild rainbow on a #18 Elk Hair Caddis and a couple of planters, 11 and 13 inches, on a parachute ant.

I finished off the afternoon further upstream. I came upon a nice run and notice a fish jump next to a rock about 30 feet upstream. I worked my way carefully into position and cautiously worked the water in the lower half of the run with no takes. Although the quarters were tight, I shot a cast above the holding spot near the rock. My unusually lucky cast landed perfectly about two feet past the rock. I stood frozen, focused on the white post of my ant.

After a delay that seemed like minutes, the trout I had spotted earlier grabbed my parachute ant with a vigorous splash. The lovely 13" female rainbow exploded on that ant like a hungry bass on a popper. Truly a memorable fish and a great afternoon of fishing.



The Tier's Corner No.13

Dry Fly Hackling

by Jim Cramer

There are at least three completely different approaches for applying dry fly hackle to flies and of course each approach has a couple of variations. The three hackling approaches are the traditional, the parachute, and the paraloop methods. We covered parachute hackling a couple of months ago so I won't repeat myself in this month's column.

Traditional Hackle

The first approach is the traditional method where the hackle is simply wrapped around the hook shank. This is typically done at the front of the hook, fore and aft of the wings. A variation which I will discuss in more detail later at another time is to palmer the hackle in evenly spaced wraps around the body of the fly as is done on the classic Elk Hair Caddis.

The technique normally seen in the US is to tie the hackle in by either the butt or the tip behind the wings and wrap the hackle forward, tying it off at the head. While millions of flies have been tied using this approach, it does have one major flaw that plagues most novice and numerous intermediate tiers. The difficulty comes when trying to form a neat head after tying down the hackle. Invariably some of the hackle fibers end up being incorporated in the head, crowding the hook eye and making for a sloppy looking fly. Numerous gimmicks such as hackle guards have been sold to beginning tiers to solve this dilemma but there is a much better solution.

The English method not only results in a much cleaner method but also a much more durable fly. To hackle by this method tie in the hackle by the butt in front of the wings one heads length behind the eye. The thread is then moved to the point behind the wings where the hackle will end. The hackle is now wrapped from front to rear and tied off with about three wraps of thread at the rear most point. The thread is then wrapped forward through the hackle further reinforcing it against breakage. A small neat head can then be formed with a minimum of wraps as there is nothing to tie down. Another neat thing about this approach is that as you wrap the hackle the bobbin and thread are to the rear and out of the way as you make the hackle wraps, a small thing but it does make for easier wrapping of the hackle.

Paraloop Hackling

Paraloop hackling is a relatively unknown method of hackling although it has been receiving some attention in recent years. In simplest terms paraloop hackling involves wrapping the hackle around a flexible post which is then pulled over and secured to the hook. This results in all the hackle ending up on the top side of the hook in sort of a bundle. The post can be either pulled down tightly on top of the hook or tied down so as to leave a loop above the hook. The size of this loop can be either high or low, long or short, depending on the style or fly design. This method is particularly useful for emerger patterns. The area of the hook to be covered by the hackle is adjusted by positioning the front and rear points of the loop. Paraloop hackling also allows the tier to create a very densely hackled fly if desired for heavy water use. I often use twenty or more wraps of hackle for my fast water dries.

(Continued on page 14)

The Tier's Corner (Continued from previous page)

Now for some of the specifics on tying paraloop hackled flies. The post can be monofilament, a very strong tying thread, or flex-floss. Either of the first two should be used when one wants the loop to extend above the hook shank. When using mono or the strong thread it is advised that the material be tied in as a loop so that a finger on the left hand can be inserted to provide tension on the post as the hackle is wrapped. Some tiers use a gallows tool to assist them when tying this style of hackle but I have never been fond of the gallows tool and never use it. When using the flex-floss I wrap it around my left ring finger and adjust the length to obtain the correct tension. This leaves the other fingers available to assist in the wrapping of the hackle.


I only use saddle hackle on the paraloops because the fine center stem and the length of the feather make the job so much easier. The hackle should be tied in as close as possible to the base of the loop or flex-floss. After tying in the hackle butt, but before wrapping the hackle relocate the thread to the point that you will be tying in the other end of the post. Secure it at that point with a half hitch. You will have your hands full later and will not want to have to readjust the thread before tying down the post.

Make about ten wraps of hackle starting at the bottom and working up the post. Keeping some mild tension on both the post and the hackle use your thumb and finger nail to compress the hackle wraps toward the base of the loop. At first you may think that you need an extra hand or a few more fingers, but as you develop the dexterity, the task is quite easily done with what you have. *grin!* Continue wrapping and compressing the hackle until the length of the covered post is sufficient for the style of fly you are tying. When using flex-floss, I stretch it a bit more during the compression stage.

After wrapping the post simply fold it and the hackle over to where you left the thread hanging and tie it down on top of the hook. When using flex floss it is very easy to simply stretch it to the desired tie in point and have it lie snugly on top of the hook.

One last tip. It is often difficult to neatly tie in the post and the hackle at the head of the fly. To avoid this problem I often start the operation at the head of the fly and tie off the loop behind the thorax for example to avoid the clutter at the head.

If you wish to experiment with paraloop hackled flies I recommend that you try it on a Griffith's Gnat. This is one pattern that I believe is dramatically improved by the paraloop hackle. Instead of the fly being supported above the surface on the hackle points, the peacock body sits in the surface film and is supported by the bunched hackle above it. Using flex-floss on this pattern makes it a cinch to tie.



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Contact Gary Turri (925) 830-1128

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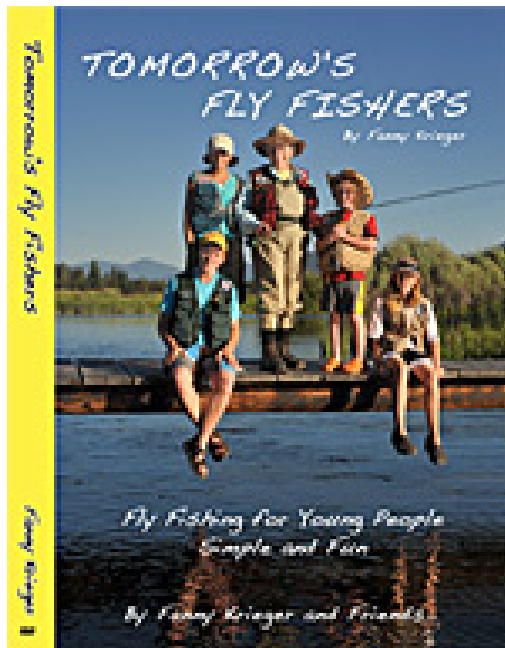


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Tri-Valley Fly Fishers Club
PO Box 231
Livermore, CA 94551

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

