

The Barbless Hook

August 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals:

Well, things are still not quite back to normal. Face masks and social distancing seems to be the new normal, or least for the foreseeable future. It doesn't look like we're going to get past this virus until a vaccine is available and proven to be effective. Any virus vaccination, when available, could take us well into next year and considering the rest of the world population, probably another year or two. In the meantime, do your best to stay safe and healthy.

For those of you that signed in, we had our first club meeting since March, via Zoom video conferencing. We received a lot of favorable feedback on the meeting. Dave Fontaine is working on a similar video conferencing club meeting for our August and September meetings.

We will not be having our annual club BBQ in August. I felt it was in our club's best interest to cancel it this year.

A few of you have gone out and done some fishing. Some people have all the luck. I understand that Rob and especially Chris are on a hot streak. I hope to get out this fall on the Trinity for steelhead and the lower Sac for trout.

I hope more of you will sign into our next video club meeting. More information to come via email.

Al



This issue is dedicated to Kent McCammon.

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In Memoriam – Kent McCammon, 1964-2020

Rob Farris

We are sad to note that we recently lost one of our long-term members and a terrific contributor over the years to Tri Valley Fly Fishers. Kent McCammon passed away on August 2, 2020. I once read an article that said *"Fly fisherman steal time. For some reason, perhaps because of the streams, the art form of fly fishing and camaraderie seem to preserve our youthfulness and we believe that time has stopped. But we are immortal only when we fish. When we go back in the real world our mortality returns."* Many of us will remember Kent as our friend frozen in time on his favorite river, the McCloud, fishing for Smallies at Kistler, or in the mountains chasing small Heritage trout. Or perhaps educating a class of new fly fisherman and sharing his vast knowledge.

It is sad that we pass on as fly fishermen as there is always another stream to fish, and another adventure to experience. Kent will be talked about and will be toasted with a fine scotch, cognac, beer or even a cigar as long as we fly fish. Godspeed and thanks for your friendship, Kent...



In Memoriam **Kent McCammon** **1964-2020**

Past President & Education Chairman
for TVFF, and friend to everyone. A
fighter against a terrible disease, a
stargazer, a Heritage Challenge
Awardee, a loving husband to Mitchie,
and proud father of Kyle and Holly.
We'll miss you, Buddy!



Gone Fishin'

August Meeting – Evan Praskin

Please join us on Thursday August 6th at 7pm when our guest speaker Evan Praskin of StokeVentures will discuss Fly Fishing the Beaches and Surf around San Francisco.

Evan Praskin was born and raised in the Santa Cruz mountains of California. His parents introduced him to fishing at a very young age and he would spend most of his summers swimming and fishing the beaches of Santa Cruz County.

On his 9th birthday he was given his first fly tying kit and his addiction for the sport began. Some of his favorite memories are of early morning trips with his dad to the local San Lorenzo River in chase of Steelhead, or to the piers and jetties of Monterey Bay in hopes of catching the “big one.”



Evan began heavily targeting surf species in the mid 2000's, and once he realized they would eat a fly he never looked back.

Evan is currently an Ambassador for Galvan Fly Reels, BlackStrap Inc, Streamworks Fly Fishing, and Arcade Belts. He has a deep compassion for the sport, with conservation always in mind. Being a father of two himself, he strives to keep the fisheries thriving in hopes that his son, daughter, and future grandchildren will always have waters to wade in. Check out his website at <https://www.stokeventuresflyfishing.com>. He also has some great videos on YouTube.

If there is interest, we may try to set up a couple workshops with Evan on an unofficial individual “tag-a-long” basis.

There's no need to register online for the meeting. An email will be sent in advance to all TVFF members with the link you can use to access the Zoom meeting.

Meeting Content Survey Results

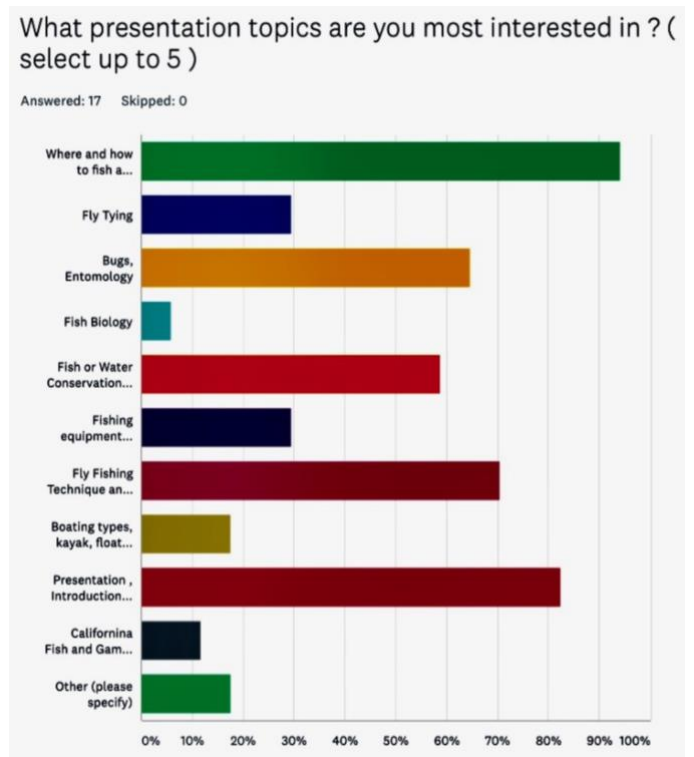
Dave Fontaine – Speaker Coordinator

We sent out a survey a few months ago on the what people wanted to hear about during our club meetings and some feedback on the talks they thought were better than others. We got 17 replies and here's a quick summary of the results. If you didn't reply and want to add your input, the survey link is at the end of this article.

One of the first questions was feedback on which presentations or types of presentations people liked. There was a clear winner. Maybe it's because he was our most recent speaker but the talks by Jim Roberts were by far the winner for that question (and his talks on varying subjects over the years).

One of the next questions was feedback on which talks were not received as well, or were not interesting. There was definitely specific feedback on those speakers and topics which didn't resonate with our members. While we won't go into the who's and what's here, we will use that feedback and selecting future speakers.

We then asked for feedback on what topics people were interested in hearing about. The most popular answer at 94% was talks that covered not only where to go fishing but then also the basic equipment, flies, techniques and access for fishing that area or type of water. The next most popular answer at 82% was talks that address similar topics but for a specific upcoming trip - so a workshop with either pre-trip instructions on equipment, what flies to bring, or just general preparation for a future trip. After these two topics came talks on various fly fishing techniques, how to rig leaders and rods, talks on fish conservation ecology, and talks on bugs and entomology. These all scored 60-70%.



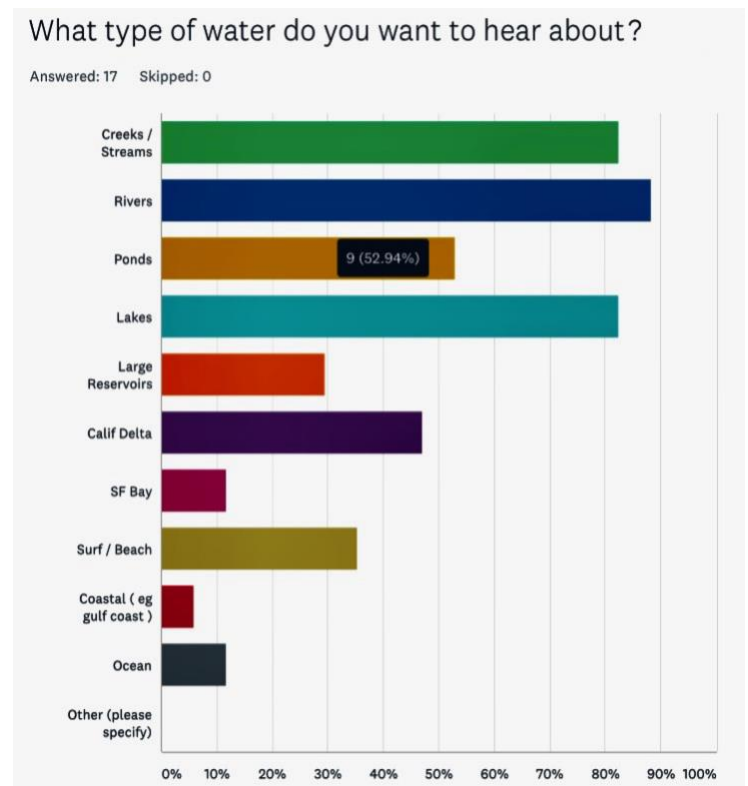
The next question asked about what type of fish species we would like the talks to target. The clear winner was rainbow trout at 100%, with brown trout closely behind at 90%, and then cutthroats, stripers and largemouth bass all came in around 60%.

We asked about what locations people were interested in and local/NorCal scored 100%, the Eastern Sierra scored 88%, the western US scored about 82%, with Canada and Alaska coming in at around 60%.

We asked about the type of water and the responses for creeks, streams, rivers and lakes all scored high around 80%.

We asked one question about the format of the meeting, including should we start up Zoom meetings during the virus, which got a very high score of 82% and resulted in our last meeting. Another positive response was for potential pre-meeting content for techniques or equipment demonstrations or extended discussion with the speaker when we get to meet together in person again.

Here is the link if you wish to take survey: [Begin Survey](#)



Member Reports

Bob McCollum – San Luis Reservoir

Kinda slow day at San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay. Three striped bass to hand were good sized fish that fought hard. Always nice to get out on the water and feel "the tug" of a good fish.



Rob Farris – Summer Fishing on the Truckee, Summer Danger...!!!

Ah, summertime fishing. Warm days and nights; camping, wet wading, avoiding the mosquitos, being outdoors, comradery with fellow anglers while social distancing, and catching some nice healthy fish along the way. And so it was on the Truckee Watershed "Tag Along" trip July 24-27 for Gary Prince, Todd Hyrn, Marty Loomis, Bill Potts and I.

However, everyone else seems to have the same idea these days and the area around Truckee was crowded in the stores, on freeways, and on the streams. Nevertheless, we avoided most of the crowds by fishing in more remote areas that don't see many fishermen on the Truckee River, by being on the Little Truckee early in the morning, and at the beautiful and uncrowded Milton Reservoir on the final day.

The trip started after camp setup at Stampede Reservoir where we had a very large group campsite for spreading everyone out. Then out with a late afternoon on the Little Truckee in the bottom meadow (Gary's favorite spot). Of course he hooked into a very nice fish of 18-19" that didn't make it to the net with its rambunctious runs in fast water and a scrambling Todd trying to catch up with a net. Not an auspicious beginning, but things would get better.



Fishing was generally slow on the Truckee the next day as we hiked up the canyon from Farad. This is the normal doldrums season on the Big T and it was hot. You need to hunt fish in the deeper pools and fast water as the water temperature continues to climb (62-67 degrees on our trip) and the fish search for more oxygen and cooler water. Between us we managed to get five smaller (~12-13") fish to the net, with Marty getting top honors with two fish. But a good deal of exercise was needed from all the beer, bourbon, Scotch, brandy and camping food consumed the previous evening.

DANGER LURKS!!!: Back to camp and an afternoon serious thunderstorm. It started over a mile away and we counted down as it moved toward Stampede Reservoir and the campground. Seeing and hearing lightning strikes only 1,000' away was sobering and we all headed into our grounded cars for the duration.

Unfortunately, it was deadly for an individual that was on the lake nearby in a Jet ski. According to the local Ranger he was hit with a direct strike and died on the way to the hospital. Another boat on the lake was also hit and the individual suffered a serious injury (biting off his bottom lip) as he was thrown into his console in the cabin. Late afternoon storms are a common occurrence in the Sierras during the summer, so please keep an eye out for them and seek immediate safe shelter if they occur near you.



Rob, the Fishmeister/Taskmaster, had everyone out of their tents with an early departure for a morning on the Little Truckee. Good thing, as we all got preferred spots on the normally crowded Little Truckee. Everyone managed to catch some excellent fish in the upper section with Todd bringing two very colorful and energized rainbows of 19" to the net on size 20 Zebra midges. Marty and I both got into similar sized fish with Marty's Euro nymphing and my use of Creamy Orange dry fly pattern (PMD lookalike). Down below in the meadow Gary and Bill were also chasing a few nice fish with Gary getting a nice 19" rainbow in the net. Again, it was another big rainbow for Gary on a Squirmy Wormy.

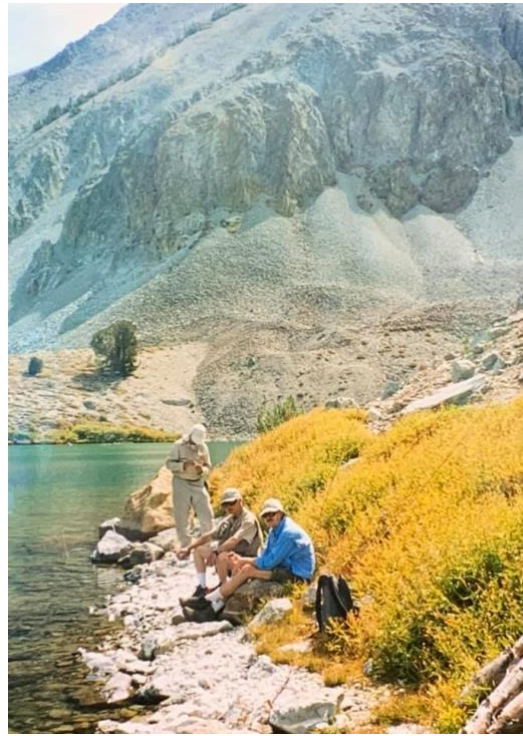
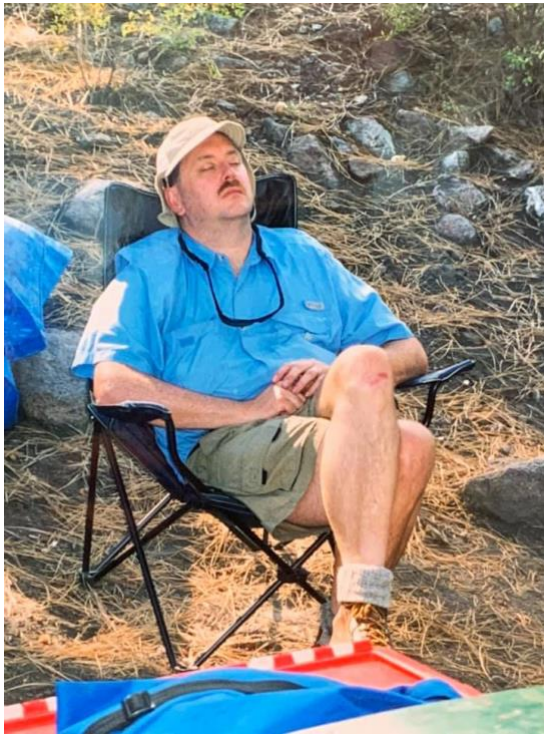
On Sunday afternoon we packed up and headed over to Milton Reservoir to camp (minimal facilities). As usual, Milton never disappoints with its remoteness, beauty, quality fish, challenge and accessibility. I am fortunate to have fished the lake many times with great mentors, so was able to bring seven typical Milton fish of 15-16" (6 browns and one unusual rainbow) to the net during the first evening hatch while Gary and Bill were in the learning curve. Todd was also successful with an additional one to the net in the evening. That learning curve continued the next day (the lake is a highly technical lake) for most with both Bill and I bringing five fish to the net including a gorgeous fat butter belly female brown of 19". A nice morning and I can't wait for the evening hatch.

Whoops, what was that I heard? A thunderstorm approaching at noon??? Lesson learned from the previous day and we all got off the water and packed up for home. Overall it was a good trip with fewer numbers, but with excellent quality fish of those caught. A word to the wise: afternoon thunderstorms are not to be dismissed lightly at high elevations. Fish hard, but get the heck off the water and seek safe shelter if they are approaching.

Bob McCollum – Blast from the Past

This was my first outing after joining the then Livermore Fly Fishers club around 2000. The outing was to Emma Lake and the streams around Bridgeport on HWY 395 at HWY 108. It was my first fly fishing experience. I remember how friendly and accepting the group was. I also recall Kent McCammon taking me under his wing and helping me learn the ins and outs. We found a pod of planted trout on Green Creek and spent a while feeding them various flies till we cracked the code. We both ended up catching fish from the pod. (Thanks Kent!). Emma Lake is a small, high altitude lake with a very hungry population of captive brook trout. I think we could have caught them fishing a bare hook! Good times.





Notice to Fisherman – Milton Reservoir

Cease and Desist Order by the Authority of the Nevada City Water Commissioner

On July 20, 2020 the Nevada City Water Commission issued a Censure consisting of a “Cease and Desist” order, per Nevada City Administrative Enforcement Chapter 1.22.20 (“Notice of Violation”) of the City Administrative Rules against a Mr. Mark Spruiell of Livermore, California. After due deliberation and the testimony of numerous witnesses, the Commission found Mr. Spruiell willfully conspired and engaged in consistent terrorism of the native Brown Trout population at the reservoir. His latest visit on July 20-21, 2020 to the reservoir was yet another example where he was observed catching and terrorizing over 45 fish in two days which was consistent with observed past behaviors, including by independently contracted Angling Observers.



His conduct involved the imposition of untold harm to the native fishes with significant ripping of fish lips, teasing of the native population with unnatural food items, and imposing his significant stature on less competent and capable fish species. The Commission is currently investigating additional actions against Mr. Spruiell for possible discrimination against the struggling and less fortunate fish within the Reservoir’s official boundaries.

As a result of this finding and the authority of Chapter 1.22.30 (“Authority to order abatement or impose administrative fine”), Mr. Spruiell is hereby “censured” and banned from any further activity on the grounds of the Milton Reservoir until further notice. In addition, he is required to submit all unnatural food items in his possession to the Deputy Sheriff – Wildlife Management, Nevada County by Thursday August 6, 2020 under the jurisdiction of this order. Failure to respond to this order can result in further actions. The submission of these materials should be sent, postage guaranteed, to Deputy Sheriff – Wildlife Management, Nevada County (aka Rob Farris) located at 4620 Sandyford Court, Dublin, California.

Conservation Updates

Two key issues occurred this past month which you may choose to support and become aware of. The first was the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act signed by Congress and the President, which is recapped below.

Trout Unlimited is asking everyone to thank the legislative and executive branches for their support of this act. They would also like everyone to consider supporting their petition to the Executive Branch to deny approval of the Pebble Mine project which could have dramatically negative impacts on the local salmon population in Alaska, and for the native tribes and local communities. If you need more information, it is widely available on the Internet with perspective from both sides as this battle has been ongoing for the last ten years.

Urgent Call to Action for those concerned about the Pebble Mine decision

The proposed Pebble mine reached a major milestone in the permitting process with the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS is the critical document that marks the end of the review process of the mine slated for the headwaters of the most prolific sockeye salmon fishery on the planet. In reviewing the FEIS, we've found the document lacks scientific information, critical project details, and vastly underestimates impacts to fish, people, and fish-based industries in the region. Why is this problematic? The FEIS

serves as the basis for a decision on whether Pebble will be granted or denied its most important federal permit. A decision could be made as soon as 30 days from now.

The decision to permit Pebble now falls in the upper-most hands of the Trump Administration. Please take action for Bristol Bay by sending another note to the President calling on him to deny Pebble's permit. [Take action](#), then join other Bristol Bay supporters for a [digital screening of Mark Titus' The Wild](#) on Thursday, August 6th. Ticket proceeds come back to TU's Save Bristol Bay campaign.



Great American Outdoors Act passes Congress!

Over the last few weeks, we've asked your support in contacting Congress and urging your representatives to pass the Great American Outdoors Act. Last Wednesday, the U.S. House voted 310-107 to pass the Great American Outdoors Act. This bill also overwhelmingly passed in the Senate by a 73-25 vote on June 17th. Thousands of TU members wrote and called their Members of Congress about this bill. Your advocacy matters. Please [take a moment](#) to THANK your members of Congress for helping to advance this bipartisan legislation.

Deer Creek – Western Rivers Conservancy

The West is full of streams named Deer Creek. But this one—which flows from the Northern Sierras to the Central Valley in California—is far from ordinary. That's because it's one of just a handful of Golden State streams that hold the hope of restoring imperiled runs of spring Chinook and steelhead in the Sacramento River system.

Deer Creek is celebrated for being free of dams for most of its length and relatively undeveloped, with two-thirds of the stream within the Lassen National Forest and Ishi Wilderness. It is not only a critical stronghold for salmon and steelhead, it also supports the Tehama deer herd, California's largest herd of migratory deer, and diverse wildlife that rely on the area's conifer forests, oak woodlands and grasslands.



In 2012, Western Rivers Conservancy filled a gap in the otherwise protected river corridor between the national forest and the wilderness. Our efforts preserved the stunning Lower Deer Creek Falls and improved public access for hikers, anglers and whitewater kayakers to explore this rugged mountain gem.

Deer Creek is WRC's [river of the month](#).

Items for Sale

Smith top-end “Guide Choice” Sunglasses in original package, and unused

I wear prescriptions so unfortunately these won't work for me. These are high-end glass (not plastic lenses) with Matte Havana frames with stainless steel hinges. The ChromaPop lenses are polarized bronze mirror color (best for fishing) with anti-reflective and hydroeleophobic coating and with an 8 base curvature. [Smith website](#) retail is \$239 + tax & shipping. Will sell for \$125 or trade for a new Thomas & Thomas 5 weight, 10' fly rod (LOL).



Contact Rob Farris – (925) 286-5502 – RFFarris@comcast.net

Wolff Apex Vise – Fred Lunday

I have a fly tying vise I wish to sell. It is an Apex vise from Wolff. It has a pedestal base and C clamp. It is rotary. It will fit 6/0 to 32 size hooks. Make me an offer.

Contact Fred – (510) 398-8276



Pontoon Boats – Dennis Rankin



9 ft Colorado Pontoon, Trout Unlimited, good condition (one fill valve needs work or replacing), complete with oars, 27# thrust trolling motor and old battery. \$150.



6½ ft Bucks Bag Pontoon, complete with oars, good shape, also has live fish bag. \$175.

Contact Dennis – (925) 784-5666

Dave Scadden Inflatable 13' Kayak – Gary Prince

Used only a few days. Can be set up as single or tandem. Green color. Includes carry bag, two seats, two oars, pump, two rod holders. Inflates in minutes. Very durable and stable with hard inflatable floorboard. New retail price is \$899. Price is \$490 firm.

Contact Gary – (925) 623-5360

