

The Barbless Hook

February 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi all. Well 2019 is behind us and 2020 is just starting before us. It has been a pleasure being your President for 2019, and again to continue this position in 2020. As I've mentioned in my previous e-mails and in the newsletter, there are a few changes to your Board of Directors for 2020. I'll just recap what's changed, if you forgot or haven't kept up with the current events. Mitchie McCammon, Tom Fessenden, Gary Phillips and Patrick Donovan have all stepped down from their positions on the board as Conservation Director, Webmaster, Raffle Coordinator and Speaker Coordinator, respectively. It has been a pleasure working with all of them this past year. I'll miss their input at our monthly Board of Directors meetings. I want to especially thank Tom for all his years of service as our Treasurer and most recently as your webmaster. Also I'd like to thank Gary for his ten years of service as our Raffle Coordinator. A special thanks to Mitchie for all her conservation work and Patrick for arranging speakers for our monthly club meetings.

Mitchie's position is still open going forward into 2020 as our Conservation Director. Mark Spruiell, in addition to his responsibility as our monthly newsletter editor, has also assumed Tom's role as Webmaster. Martin Plotkin has given up his role as Publicist and assumed the responsibility as our Raffle Coordinator. After our December officers election, Patrick's position as Speaker Coordinator was still open. Dave Fontaine has stepped forward and has assumed this responsibility, which your Board of Directors at their December monthly meeting approved his installation as Speaker Coordinator.



A motley crew enjoying a day hunting steelhead on the Feather River.

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I'm looking forward to another great year in 2020. With the help of Rob Farris, I think we will have as many outings planned and a few new ones, if all goes well. Remember, Thursday February 6th is our installation dinner for your new 2020 Board of Directors. We'll start at 6pm with some drinks at the Livermore Rod and Gun Club, club house. Again I'll be your chef with dinner starting at 6:30pm with some Tri-tip and chicken. It would help if you could bring some side dish to share with your fellow members. Gary Prince will be supplying all your beverage needs. Raffle tickets will be handed out upon your entry and registration at the door. We have some great prizes this year, but I can't tell you what they are. So, you'll just have to come Thursday night and enjoy a good meal and have a good time. Oh, and please [RSVP on the website](#) so that I can estimate the amount of food we'll need.

Till then, see you there.

Al

Fly Tying Get Together



Join us on Monday, February 3rd at 7pm in the fly tying room at the Livermore Rod & Gun Club.

Drop in and share your “tips and tricks”. Any facet of fly fishing: home-made tools for fly tying, rigging techniques, advice, hints, shortcuts, how to trick your fishing buddy into paying for dinner, whatever.

2020 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President | Albert Mansky |
| Vice President | Martin Loomis |
| Secretary | John Price |
| Treasurer | Chris McCann |
| Past President | Roger Perry |

Directors

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Auction | Open Position |
| Conservation | Open Position |
| Education | Kent McCammon |
| Outings | Rob Farris |
| Fly Tying | Jim Broadbent |
| Member at Large | Ron Dueltgen |
| Member at Large | Tom Vargas |
| Membership | Steve Johnson |
| Newsletter | Mark Spruiell |
| Publicity | Open Position |
| Raffle | Martin Plotkin |
| Refreshments | Gary Prince |
| Speakers | Dave Fontaine |
| Trout in Classroom | Daniel Kitts |
| Video Library | Steve Johnson |
| Webmaster | Mark Spruiell |

Membership Dues

Dues for most returning members were due January 1st. Our new website will automatically send you renewal reminders. For your convenience (and the club's!), we ask that you pay your dues online. There are no additional fees for paying dues online with a credit card. Please contact Steve Johnson with any questions.

February Meeting – Board Member Installation Dinner

Join us on February 6th for our annual installation dinner to welcome the club's new board of directors. There is no cost to attend, but please [RSVP on the website](#) so that AI can estimate how much food to prepare, and plan to bring something to share: appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert.

Social time starts around 6pm and dinner will be served around 6:30pm.



Club Auction – April 2021

Marty Loomis – Vice President

Well, we are going to do it. The club will be having an auction not this coming year in 2020, but the following year in April 2021. There is just not enough time to put it together for this coming year. The reason for announcing it now is that a large part of the auction is member donations. The committee will be looking for donations, new and used, from club members to be included along with vendor donations. So don't throw it out or give it away, I will accept stuff between now and the auction. Periodically I will be putting something into the newsletter to remind everyone and get everyone excited. This is our biggest money maker for TVFF to help fund the club's conservation activities and other club expenses.

Outings and Activities

Rob Farris – Events Director

Just a quick update on current outings and events as we turn the page into February.

Last call for this year's [Entomology class](#) (several openings) beginning Wednesday evening on February 5th at 7pm. See the website for much of the detail. The class is designed to improve your overall fly fishing success by getting a very clear understanding of what bugs the fish target, when to fish larvae, nymphs, emergers and dries, and by season. And no, it is not a UC level class with a minor in Latin names but a very practical one. The program runs for three classroom sessions at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, and one on the stream Saturday practical session with afternoon fishing at Putah Creek.

We also have our annual upcoming [Fundamentals class](#) for new fly fishers and for those looking to expand their knowledge starting on April 15th. See the website for more detail but this is a program with three classroom sessions and a practical session at the Club BBQ Kistler Bass Ponds trip on April 25th. This class is usually filled by new members from the show, but this is a good time to register on the website if you are interested. The course is a great overview to get you prepared for the upcoming season and attending the multiple Club outings we have scheduled for this year.

Kistler Bass Ponds registration opportunities still exist for both the [March 28th day outing](#), as well as the [Club BBQ on April 25th](#). The Club will hold a BBQ lunch on the 4/25 outing and should be a great way to meet other Club members during the day. This is always a great way to tune up your fishing to start the season and only a 1.5 hour drive away. All registrations are taking place on the website so that we can get an idea of how much food to buy for the BBQ event.

The [Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show](#) is coming up quickly. I have received a number of questions of how to sign up for our booth duty during the three days of this great event. Marty Loomis will be sending out an email shortly with a scheduling app and we encourage all members to sign up for at least one session (2 hours) to help support the Club at this show. We have done a full booth review and re-design this year using a continuous loop presentation on the Club that we will be displaying on a large flat panel display. Additionally, we are moving to an iPad versus our old paper form method for collecting interest in the Club by show attendees, as well as re-designing our brochure, introducing QR codes on our brochure for attendee quick access to our website, and enhanced business cards for handout at the show. Please take advantage of the great speakers at the show and support the Club by spending a couple of hours in the booth.

Fish hard!

Many of our outings are described below. Please visit the [Event Calendar](#) on the TVFF website for a complete list of all upcoming meetings, outings and activities.

TVFF Entomology Class – Starts February 5



Back by popular demand, this class is designed for the beginner to intermediate levels of entomology with the objective of educating attendees to be more effective fly fishers. It's comprised of three Wednesday night classroom sessions of 2.5 hours each, finalized with a full day (Saturday) session on Putah Creek for a practical discovery session followed by four hours of fishing.

Visit the [class page](#) to register and review the complete class schedule and curriculum.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 21-23

The [Fly Fishing Show](#) returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds and never fails to provide interesting seminars and lots of exhibitors willing to take your money. The show schedule is now available on their website as well as tickets for the show and the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4). Also make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

March Meeting – Jim Roberts – March 5

Join us at our club meeting in March as we welcome back Jim Roberts. Jim first got his guide license in 1995 and currently guides on the Lower Sacramento River for rainbows, the Trinity River for steelhead, the McCloud for rainbows and browns, and the Klamath for steelhead and salmon. He still enjoys the thrill and excitement of getting somebody into a fish or sharing knowledge with a fellow angler.

Jim is a sought after fly-fishing speaker. With thirty years' experience and his professional training as a teacher, Jim is able to share his knowledge to help other anglers make it to the next level. His goal both on the water and at a presentation is to make fly fishing instruction as fun and rewarding as possible. After 30 years his passion for chasing any fish with a fly is matched only by his desire to teach others about fly fishing.



Kistler Bass Ponds – March 28 & April 25

Kistler bass ponds are located outside of Oakdale, California. These are unguided trips, and excellent ones for both families and those new to fly fishing. The ponds are close to the Tri-Valley, have excellent shore access as well, and can accommodate large groups such as TVFF on several different ponds. Fishing is available from either the shoreline or from float tubes or pontoon boats.

Two dates are available: [March 28](#) and [April 25](#). The April date includes a BBQ lunch.



Fly Fishing Fundamentals Class – Starts April 15

TVFF offers our popular Fundamentals class for new members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. The course objective is to educate and prepare new fly fishers with sufficient depth to enable each attendee to fully enjoy the sport and begin to effectively fly fish on their own in both streams and lakes.

The course consists of three nights of classroom instruction and a Saturday morning casting lesson with a certified FFI casting instructor, all for just \$40. Space is limited. Visit the [class page](#) to register or see the complete course agenda. The club's [event calendar](#) shows all of the class dates.

Pyramid Lake – April 16

This is our annual spring trip to Pyramid Lake fishing for large Lahontan trout. [This event](#) may be either a fully guided event using local guides or individual fishing, based upon interest. In any event, the fishing will primarily be from ladders, or watercraft if the prevailing winds allow.

Several of our members will be on site the entire five-day period, but individuals can determine how many days they prefer to fish and set their schedules accordingly.



Hat Creek Salmonfly Hatch – May 15-17

This is a 2 night-3 day trip to explore the 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek. It is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly hatch that occurs during this period, as well as several other hatches. We will be fishing five different areas on Hat Creek from knee deep riffles at the Powerhouse and mid-stream to the gin clear, quiet flats, and to the downstream area of thigh deep water. This is a wading trip although it is recommended to stay out of the water unless absolutely necessary as the fish are very skittish due to the fishing pressure. It is barbless hook, catch and release water only. Fishing styles can include Euro nymphing, streamers, and indicators in the riffles, with dry fly presentations on the flat water.



Lake Almanor Hex Hatch – Late June

We'll be fishing the traditional Lake Almanor Hexagenia hatch in the late afternoon and evenings, plus early and mid-day fishing of local small creeks while awaiting the late, sundown hatches. This is a very exciting hatch and surface explosion of both large brown trout and bass just as the sun sets, so it is a frantic one-hour period of time, with pre-hatch deep nymph fishing earlier in the afternoon. This is primarily a float trip at the lake for the Hex hatch and wading for the small local streams. Two events are available for registration: [weekday](#) and [weekend](#).



Baum and Manzanita Lakes – July 9-12

This is a three night, four day camping trip to [Baum and Manzanita Lakes](#) in the Shasta and Lassen National Park watersheds. You can fish from shore at both lakes but a watercraft is recommended. Participants can attend whichever days work for their schedules.

We'll be camping at Manzanita Lake campground in Lassen National Park. Manzanita is a wild trout fishery with special regulations hosting rainbows and browns. Baum Lake, near Burney, also contains rainbows and browns and is stocked by its on-site hatchery. Both lakes offer excellent dry fly fishing, and nymphs and streamers work well too.



La Paz Mexico Ocean Fishing – July 11-18

This trip is a broad-based fishing excursion in La Paz, Mexico hosted by guide [Gary Bulla](#) with fishing for Dorado, rooster, mangrove snapper, yellowfin, grouper, wahoo, and cabrilla pargo. Cost includes all food, beverages (including beer) and single-occupancy accommodations. Gary runs a superb all-inclusive trip with the best fly fishing captains in the area and two lovely sisters that prepare great Mexican meals. He'll be on hand in La Ventana to share his vast knowledge, and he fishes with a different "pescador" every day to get you well acquainted with Mexican fish. His season, which runs April thru October, is mostly full for 2020 but he has held this week exclusively for our club. He will open it up to all others at the Pleasanton Fly Show. This is a great trip that should be on your bucket list.



Truckee Watershed – July 24-27

This is a three-night, four-day [camping trip](#) at Logger Campground on Stampede Reservoir, with four days of fishing the Big Truckee, Little Truckee, and Milton Lake for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river wading opportunities and a day of either float tube or bank fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques. On the first evening, we are planning to have local guide Jon Baiocchi join us over dinner to discuss where to fish, how to fish, and the current flies that are working in the areas at that particular time. It should be a great kickoff for 3-4 full days of fishing in the area since we won't be going in "blind" to the conditions.



The Tier's Bench

Monthly Club Get Together

Monday, February 3rd from 7-9pm at the Rod and Gun Club; small room next to the BBQ area.

This is a monthly get together where members can drop in and participate in discussions, learn skills, or tie flies. During each meeting we decide what subject will be discussed the following month.

Fly Tiers Library and Trading Post (LTP)

Most fly tiers, like me, have materials which would probably last several life-times. Often, to tie a new fly, we need a small amount of material which means buying some from the net, which may arrive next week, or jumping in the car for an hour+ drive to a fly shop in the area.

To remedy this, we created the LTP. The LTP has two resources: the Library for getting small amounts of material (a couple of feathers, small swatch of hair, etc.) and the Trading Post for exchanging your excess with others. Here are the details of how it will work. Both the library and Trading Post are only available to members.



Library: The library will be supported by donations of fly tying material from members. The material will be packaged in gallon sized zip locks with colored labels about the contents. Any member may take a small amount of material for a project and make a modest donation (\$1 min). The donations will be used to buy supplies and, if any is left over, other material for the library.

Trading Post: The trading post allows members to exchange excess tying material for other material. Any member may submit a gallon sized zip-lock bag with the material along with a very brief description to Jim Broadbent. Jim will assess a point value to the material based on his experience (Jim's decision is final). The material will be labeled with a different colored label than the library. Members may exchange their points for material in the trading post. Martin Plotkin will arrange for the LTP to show up at all general, board and fly tying meetings. It can also be accessed by special arrangement made with Martin.

Education

Kent McCammon

In 2020 we are continuing our popular series of educational programs from 2019 designed to accelerate the learning of both new members to Fly Fishing, and more advanced topics for those also looking to expand their knowledge. Detailed information and registration for all club educational offerings can be found on the [Education](#) page of the club website. We encourage you to register early as classes have maximum sizes and fill up quickly every year. And if you have any requests for specific classes please let me know and we'll explore introducing them.

Here are our educational opportunities for 2020:

- Fly Fishing Fundamentals consisting of four sessions (expanded from three in 2019) beginning April 15th with a supplemental practical on water session at the Kistler Lake trip on April 25th. See the Events listings for more detailed information. Signups are available directly on the [event page](#).
- Fly Tying get togethers that occur the first Monday of most months in the Fly Tying back room at the Livermore Rod & Gun club.
- Entomology returns again as an educational offering this year after a popular launch in 2019. The class is for beginner and intermediate fly fishers and consists of three sessions on caddisflies, mayflies, stoneflies, midges, and terrestrials beginning February 5th. The class finishes with an on stream practical session including fishing at Putah Creek. Signups are available directly on the [event page](#) with openings for the class still available.
- Fly Casting is available throughout the year with many different specific classes from basic tight loop casting to double hauls, shooting heads, and sinking lines. Our excellent resident certified instructor schedules these Saturday morning classes depending upon interest. Please complete the form on the [Casting page](#) to express your interest.
- Guest Speakers are a consistent element of the club educational program. In the past we have welcomed guides, equipment manufacturers, safety experts, rod builders, and experienced club members to share their knowledge on specific topics and fishing styles (e.g., euro nymphing, lake fishing, etc.). Our Director of Speakers is always interested in your input so don't hesitate to contact Dave Fontaine if you have any suggestions for speakers.

Enjoy the coming year and I encourage you commit to learning something new to expand your fishing possibilities. And please let me know if you have an idea for an educational topic that the club could consider offering.

Items for Sale

Rods for Sale – Martin Plotkin

1. Sage 14', 8WT Spey Rod w/RIO Skaget Line (hardly used) - \$150
2. Wright McGill 9', 8WT, BRIGHT Blue (good bass rod) - \$40

Contact Martin – angler@outlook.com

Fly Lines for Sale (lines are new in box or like new condition)

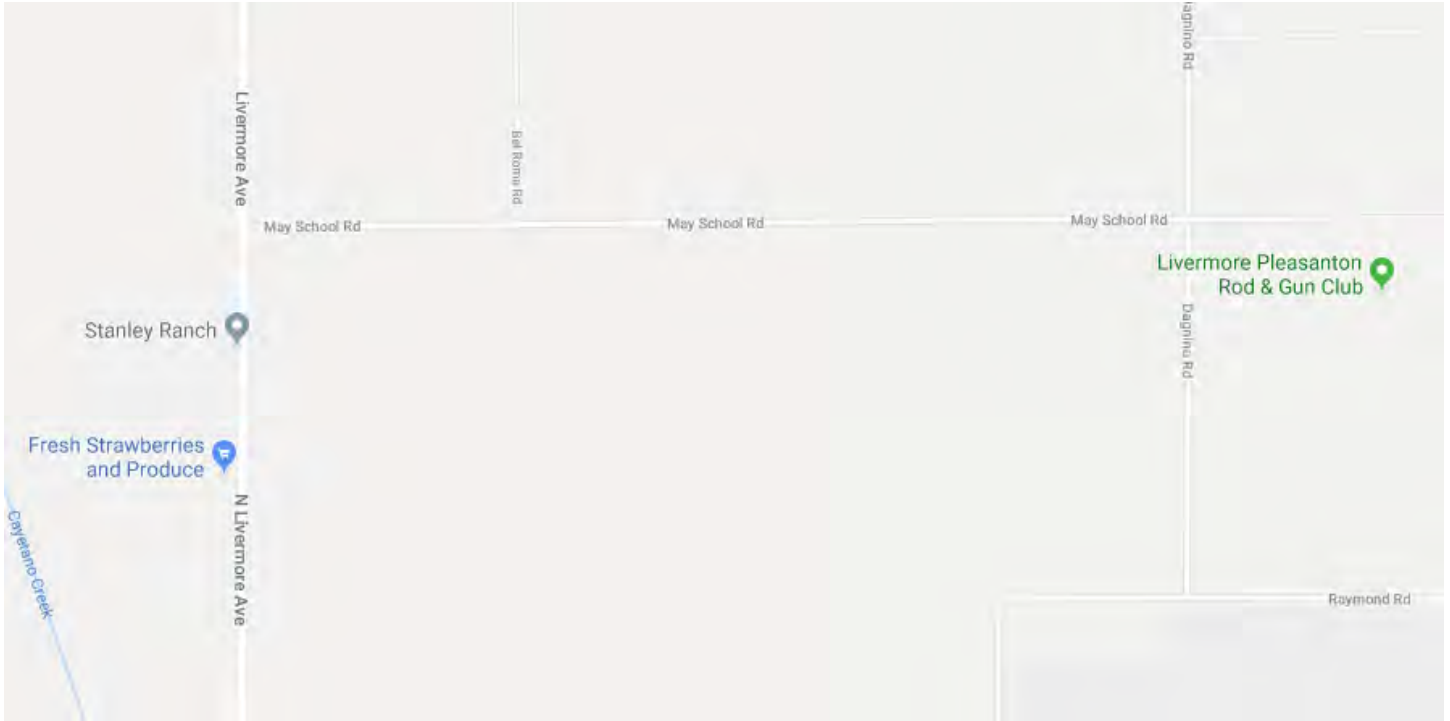
1. RIO Bonefish WF-7. \$50
2. RIO In-Touch Salmon/Steelhead WF-7. \$50
3. SA GPX WF-9. \$45

Contact Gary – gjturri@comcast.net or (925) 786-5184 cell

Directions

We meet at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club at 7pm, typically on the first Thursday of every month. Check the club's [event calendar](#) for upcoming meeting dates.

Click the map for Google Map directions to 4000 Dagnino Road:



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

