

# The Barbless Hook

January 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



[tri-valleyflyfishers.org](http://tri-valleyflyfishers.org)

## President's Message

by Albert Mansky

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Santa got what you wanted on your wish list. I got mine, which was totally unexpected.

I lost my yellow Lab, Lady, in June and have been wanted to get another dog. But, my wife didn't want to go through the puppy stage for a third time. I've been looking for a "starter dog" and boy are the expensive. Well, my wife surprised me at Christmas and agreed to get another puppy. So, the search is on to find another female, yellow Lab. This time of year I do more duck hunting than fishing, but I haven't had much luck lately. It seems that I load my gun in the dark and unload it in the dark and never touch it all day. There are plenty of ducks sitting on the Colusa refuge, but not flying over my duck blind.

I hope that you can make the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors installation dinner. I plan on cooking up some tri-tip and chicken for the event. It would be helpful if you could bring some sort of side dish, salad, desert or whatever is your favorite to share with others. We'll start at 6pm with some drinks, with dinner starting at 6:30-7pm. I hope we can share some good fish stories about the big one you caught or that big one that got way. After a few drinks the fish seem to get bigger all the time. Fishermen have been known to stretch the truth, just a little bit. As in past years, the installation dinner will be held at the Livermore Rod and Gun club house. So, mark your calendar and I'll see you then. In the meantime, have a Happy New Year and drive safely.

*Al*



A chinook salmon spotted in lower Alameda Creek, below the new fish ladder that is under construction.

*Photo by Alameda Creek Alliance member Dan Sarka.*

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## Jim Roberts' Fly Fishing Guide Service



Lower Sac Floats, Upper Sac and McCloud, Klamath River, Steelhead

Tri-Valley FF Special Offer  
2<sup>nd</sup> day is ½ off!

**Jim Roberts**

**916-765-8668 – flyfisherjim@charter.net**

## Fly Tying Get Together



Join us on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the fly tying room at the Livermore Rod & Gun Club.

Soft hackle flies are on the docket this month. This pattern has been mentioned in writings as early as the mid-1400s. It's a great fly and should be in everyone's fly box. We'll go over different materials and several ways to apply the hackle collar.

## 2019 TVFF Board of Directors

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Albert Mansky
<b>Vice President</b>	Martin Loomis
<b>Secretary</b>	John Price
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris McCann
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Perry

### Directors

<b>Auction</b>	Open Position
<b>Conservation</b>	Mitchie McCammon
<b>Education</b>	Kent McCammon
<b>Outings</b>	Rob Farris
<b>Fly Tying</b>	Jim Broadbent
<b>Member at Large</b>	Ron Dueltgen
<b>Member at Large</b>	Tom Vargas
<b>Membership</b>	Steve Johnson
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Spruiell
<b>Publicity</b>	Martin Plotkin
<b>Raffle</b>	Gary Phillips
<b>Refreshments</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Speakers</b>	Patrick Donovan
<b>Trout in Classroom</b>	Daniel Kitts
<b>Video Library</b>	Steve Johnson
<b>Webmaster</b>	Tom Fessenden

## Membership Dues

Dues for most returning members are due January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## January Meeting – Fly Tying Expo & Pizza Dinner

Join us on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for our annual [pizza dinner and fly tyer's event](#), where we'll have several local tyers demonstrating how to tie their favorite patterns. If you tie flies, or are interested in learning, this is a great opportunity for you to chat with some experienced tyers, and hang out with your fellow club members of course. The dinner starts at 6:15pm and the meeting starts at 7pm.

The dinner includes pizza, salad and drinks for \$10. RSVP required! Click the link above to RSVP, or contact Jim Broadbent directly to let him know you want the dinner.



## 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

Wow! Everyone really jumped on our release of the first half 2020 outings a few weeks ago with the result that many are already full. But don't let that deter you if you are interested in a specific event. You can still register and be automatically enrolled on the "Waitlist" and be included if someone cancels, or if the Fishmeister opens up additional slots. And, you won't be responsible for payment until you are included. So don't let that hold you back.

Speaking of such, we still have some open slots for a few terrific winter and spring opportunities, including:

- The Mokelumne steelhead trip – a great, low cost, weekday, one day up and back trip
- Jon Baiocchi's weekend Skwala workshop with Yuba river fishing, again a one day up and back trip to prepare you for the February/March Skwala hatch. This includes a half day of instruction on reading the water, rigging, fly choices, presentation, and a half day of fishing under Jon's guidance with dramatic takes by feisty Yuba rainbows.



- Andros Island Bonefish trip, which still has room for three more on this terrific trip with five other club members during a great time of year. Go catch dem ‘bones!
- Kistler weekend and weekday trips both still have openings, a great way to “ease” into the season with local bass fishing on the 3 ponds. And a Club BBQ on the weekend date. Only being 1.25 hours away, this is an easy day trip for willing bass with or without a float tube.
- Pyramid Lake has two more openings, although I’m sure that Chris will open this up since we’ll hardly be crowded on Pyramid. Big fish that can be had from shore, on ladders or by a watercraft. Not to be missed if you want to experience the huge “Lahontan Cutthroat thrill”.

Need some “best in class” information on how to stay warm and fish the winter opportunities? Check out our [Tips & Tricks section on the website](#) and the recent addition with access to a full seven-part series over on TroutBitten.

We’re now starting to plan for the second half outings and I have several Fishmeisters already committed and thinking about some potential trips, including a possible Central Oregon trip in September, our usual trip to the MF Stanislaus, a trip to the McCloud, perhaps a Shad outing in mid-June, the possibility for a Fall River float trip, a potential Green River Utah trip, another Baum Lake excursion, a new trip to the NF of the Kings River, and of course we just have to visit the Lower Sac on a float again. Have an idea of something you’d like to put together, or somewhere you’d like to fish as a trip for the Club? Call me and I’ll be happy to help put it together with you. Until then, be happy and go catch some steelies, bonefish, rainbows, bass or Lahontans...

**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.**

## Feather River Steelhead – January 4 & 7 (weather permitting)

These are one day, up and back trips to the Feather River in Oroville to fish for fresh steelhead with a few TVFF members. It is a walk and wade trip, typically involving crossing the river in shallows and fishing down the mid-stream gravel bars with indicators and high stick nymphing. You’re encouraged to bring a wading staff to facilitate your river crossings as you may be wading in quicker water that is up to waist high.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for this club trip, we are anticipating similar results to last year when we had eight members bring a total of 23 fish to the net, including chromers up to 24” in length. The Feather is a productive and exciting water that offers a nice day trip being only 2:45 hours away from Pleasanton/Livermore. Our day will encompass a full day of fishing (bring your lunch) and an evening recap at the Oroville Brewing Company, just across the street from the river.

We’re doing a [weekday trip](#) and a [Saturday trip](#) this year. Both trips are currently full but there’s no cost to add yourself to the waitlist in case someone has to drop out.

## **Mokelumne River Steelhead – January 9 (weather permitting)**

Last year the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, operated by CDFW, reported some of the best steelhead runs on record, with 983 fish, including 489 adults 18 inches or over. It's been reported that most fish hooked were in the 18 to 20-inch class. The top fly patterns are those that imitate salmon fry emerging from the gravel. The two major public fishing accesses are at the hatchery and Stillman Magee Park near Clements.

Anglers will have the choice of wading the area from below the hatchery for a half-mile to below the Mokelumne River Day Use Area, or floating from the Day Use Area down-stream about 4 miles to the Stillman Magee Park outside of Clements.

We will plan to leave the Tri-Valley around 7am returning about 8pm with a stop for dinner along the way. If weather becomes a problem we will reschedule for the next break in the weather. This trip will be updated and all registrants advised of conditions when they are available. Please register on our [event page](#).

## **International Sportsmen's Expo – January 16-19**

The [ISE at CalExpo in Sacramento](#) is billed as California's largest annual gathering for anglers, hunters, boaters, offroaders and others seeking outdoor adventures nearby or around the world. It's worth a day trip even if you're only interested in checking out the offerings related to fly fishing.

## **Skwala Hatch Workshop – January 28 & February 1**

TVFF is offering Skwala workshop outings with guide Jon Baiocchi for four anglers each day on the Lower Yuba river near Marysville and the Highway 20 bridge. Jon has been a recent speaker at the club and the Yuba has been his home river for over twenty years. In these one-day workshops, Jon will provide key information to be successful with the current Skwala hatch on dry fly/dry dropper and nymphing presentations and tactics specifically for the Skwala stonefly hatch. This includes leader formulas, fly recommendations, access areas, local inside knowledge, and insight on the hatch and all the details that pertain to it. Leaders, tippet, lunch, drinks, and handouts included. Click the links for the [weekday](#) and [Saturday](#) workshops to register.



## **Andros Island Bahamas Bonefish – February 5-11**

This is a great opportunity for bonefish fishing in the flats off Andros Island, and possibly terrific Dorado fishing if the weather cooperates. Why all the fuss about a little silver fish? Anyone asking that question has never stalked the beautiful flats of the Out Islands. Bonefishing brings together skill, finesse and stealth like no other form of fishing. Your quarry is the bonefish, a mirror-finished flash of a fish with bright eyes and a soft underslung mouth designed to suck down clams, crabs, and shrimp.

The Flats is what Andros is all about. There are endless flats for poling and hard-bottom flats for excellent wade fishing opportunities. Nearly every day presents shots at double-digit bones. We'll be fishing on the prime Bahamas bone fishing grounds of Andros Island's North and Middle Bites between Behring Point, Moxey Town and the West Side – where legendary guides like “Crazy Charlie” Smith, Rupert Leadon, and Frankie's late uncle Ivan Neymour pioneered the art of fly fishing for bonefish.



Beside bone fish there are opportunities for other tropical species (tarpon, barracuda, dolphin/dorado, snook, etc.). Check the [trip page](#) for more information or to register.

## 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!

## 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, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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 are creating the LTP. The LTP has 2 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.

LTP kicks off, at the meeting, on Thursdays so bring your Trades and Donations.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> with a supplemental practical on water session at the Kistler Lake trip on April 25<sup>th</sup>. See the Events listings for more detailed information. Signups are available directly on the [event page](#).
- Fly Tying that occurs the first Monday of most months in the Fly Tying back room at the Livermore Rod & Gun club. We are also hosting the annual Fly Tyers pizza dinner with multiple tyers at the club meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> so there is plenty of opportunity to expand your capabilities into new areas this year.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup>. The class finishes with an on stream practical session including fishing at Putah Creek. Signups are available directly on the [event page](#).
- 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.

## Website Tips & Tricks – Rob Farris & Mark Spruiell

It's been almost a year since we launched our new website and it seems be working well for our members and those looking to learn more about the club. Since there is so much information on the website, we have decided to help those that may not have had the opportunity to dive more deeply into the website. Each month we will be introducing some of those "hidden" resources to reveal them for your use.



This month we are highlighting the capabilities of the [Resources](#) page, which is designed to be your "guide" for fishing throughout California. "How would I use it" is a key question and one that we'll explore this month. It's very easy and tempting to just hit the road without doing the homework, and find that it's a wasted trip due to low/high water, lack of fish, wrong flies, etc. So with that in mind, here's a pathway to help make your trips more successful.

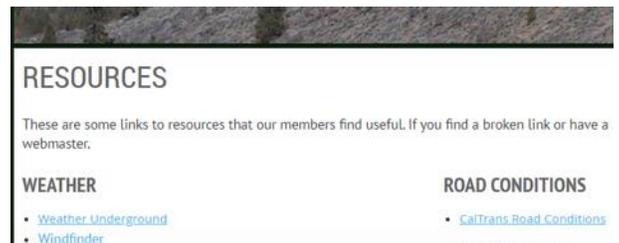
### Step 1

"Where do I want to fish?" Maybe check the latest Fishing Reports on the Resources page to validate your location or select a different one. Click on one of the recommended sites/guides for up to date fishing reports that you see on the page.



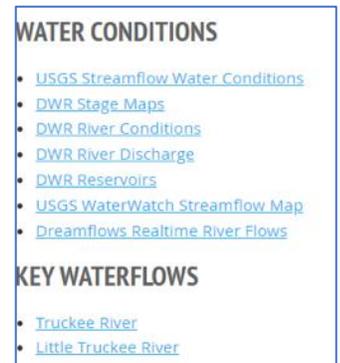
### Step 2

Better check the weather this time of year, so go to the Weather Reports on the same page. Weather Underground will give you great reports for 10 days out, and check out WindFinder for forecasts if you're thinking of floating/boating as an option. And while you're at it, you had better check out road conditions on the same page.



### Step 3

OK, I'm headed to fish the Truckee River. The weather is cold but OK, I-80 is open without chains, and there's not much wind. Mountain Hardware's fishing report says go deep with midges (Zebra's) but I better check the flows to make sure it's not too low. So I have several ways to check them including the USGS Streamflow and the rafter's real-time Dreamflows among others (Truckee is marginal now at 110cfs, but OK as it'll force pods of fish into the deeper pools). We've also made it a bit easier for the key rivers with direct single click access (see "Key Waterflows") to the rivers you like.



### Step 4

Alright I'm nuts and in for the Truckee river right now although it will be cold with snow on the ground (it's just frozen water, and you are wearing waders, right?). But it is time to renew my license for next year so jump

down the page and pick up a direct link for renewals. And don't forget to get the salmon and steelhead tags (it takes 15 days to get them by mail, so beware). And maybe a Nevada license for the lower Truckee in the Nature Conservation area where it's warmer this time of year. Wait... better check the regs as well, and that's right there too at "CA DFW Fishing". OK, I'm set; river's open all year. Now just go find the fish, and enjoy...

So there you go; easy and a single page to access what you need to help make your trip successful. Try it out, and let us know if you would like any other information included on the page to make it even easier. Fish hard this winter; the fish haven't gone anywhere...

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:gjturri@comcast.net) or (925) 786-5184 cell

### Gear Collection – Todd McDaniel

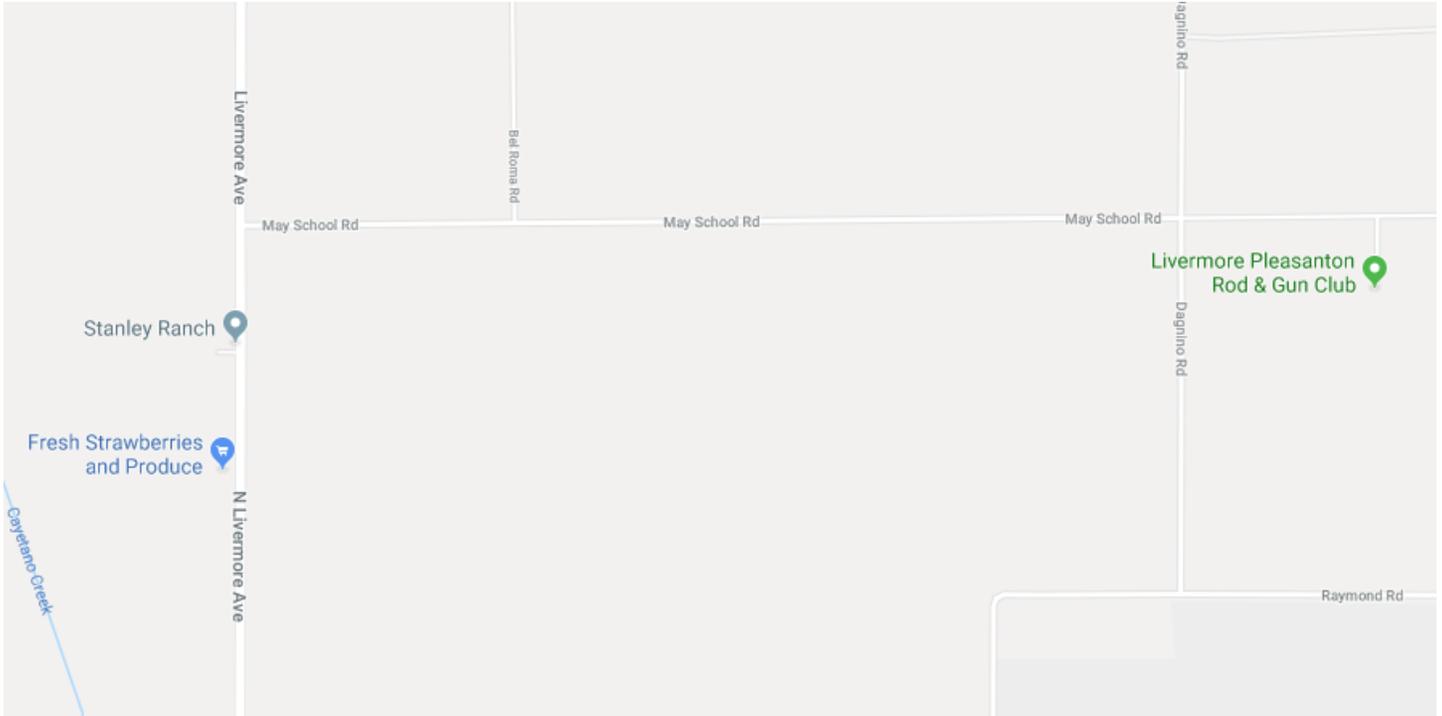
<b>*New*</b>	2018 Simms G3 Stocking foot Waders, Size LL 9-11 Foot, Cinder Color	\$420.00
<b>*New*</b>	Fishpond Summit Sling Bag, Gravel Color	\$65.00
<b>*New*</b>	Galvan Torque 8 Reel, Bronze	\$330.00
<b>*Used*</b>	Galvan Torque 6 Reel, Green. Some rash and nicks but fully functional	\$200.00

Contact Todd – 925-588-6388 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

