

The Barbless Hook

February 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

February Meeting – Wednesday Feb. 1st, 6pm

Board Member Installation Dinner

Join us for our annual board member installation dinner with social time starting at 6pm and dinner served at 6:30pm. The club will provide chicken and tri-tip, with members contributing other potluck sides, appetizers, salads, and desserts. Family members are welcome too. Please [register](#) so that we can accurately estimate food for all attendees.



Fly Fishing Show

The show takes place at the fairgrounds from February 24-26. It's a great place to see new products and to purchase gear, lines, leaders, tippet, flies, and anything else related to fly fishing. Friday night is the film festival where you can see short films about fly fishing. TVFF hosts a booth at the show that proudly displays what we do as a club, from our outings and education to our conservation work. [Volunteers](#) are needed to work the booth. You can purchase tickets in advance for both the [show](#) and the [film festival](#). Make sure to bring cash to pay for parking.



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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Amazing how a person can get added to an email distribution list without even having to ask. Recently, I have received emails from the *Angling Trade* newsletter (no idea how) but once in a while they do have some really interesting stuff. I think everyone is aware that there are just not that many fly shops around anymore. I can only think of two local stores in the San Francisco area, Lost Coast in downtown San Francisco and Fish First in Albany. Thankfully, both stores are well stocked with all kinds of good stuff. *Angling Trade* did a survey of how important flies were to their business and the percent of their business. Personally, I did not realize how important flies are to a business, buy more flies.

- 15-30 percent (30%, 44 Votes)
- Less than 15 percent (28%, 41 Votes)
- 30-50 percent (18%, 26 Votes)
- Depends on the year/don't know (14%, 20 Votes)
- Over 50 percent (11%, 16 Votes)

Total Voters: **147**

By now everyone has received the [signup](#) for the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show, February 24-26. If you have not done so already, please do so. It's great fun hanging out at the booth and a convenient place to buy all those deals and treasures you have found.

Lastly, our installation dinner is this week on February 1st. Social time starts at 6pm with dinner at 6:30pm. Please [register](#) so we know how much meat and drinks we need to purchase. It's always been a great opportunity to meet other members of the club that we all don't see that often.

Raffle Information

We will be raffling off a Greys GR60 5wt, 8'6", 4-piece fly rod at the February meeting. Details can be found in our [online store](#). Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the meetings. You do not need to be present at the February meeting to win.

2023 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Martin Loomis
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Outings	Mitchie McCammon
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Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Raffle	Steve Johnson
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell



Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

The new year is starting out strong with one outing already in the books and more to come. Here is what's coming up next!

Lower Sac Guided Trip: New! Just added! – April 27-28 – The Lower Sac (Redding and below) is a world-class rainbow fishery right in our back yard. This trip will be two days on the river, guided by NorCal Fishing Guides. The fish are large, 16-20+ inch fighters that give a good battle coming to the boat. Lunch is included on the river. The cost for this trip is \$600 per person plus lodging. Fishmeister: Ron Dueltgen

West Fork of the Carson Ladies Fly Fishing Trip – July 15 – This is a trip I am looking forward to. Hope Valley has a small stream where you can hook a hungry brookie or two. Ok, many times it's much more than one or two! Wading is easy if you choose to wade. Bring a lunch and we will tailgate after a morning of chasing these little fish. It is an up and back, day trip. We will stop at a restaurant on the way back. If you don't have a rod and reel, the Club has one you can borrow. I will bring my Tenkara rods for anyone who wants to try a different kind of fly fishing. Fishmeister: Mitchie McCammon

Openings Still Available:

- Annual UC Yuba River Trip and BBQ: March 4 and 5 – Fishmeister: Rob Farris
- Hat Creek, Baum and Manzanita Lakes – May 12-15 – Fishmeister: Rob Farris
- Truckee Watershed – June 16-19 – Fishmeister: Rob Farris

Registration is now open for all these events and outings. If these trips are something you are interested in, sign up even if there is a waitlist. Many times, someone cancels and the people on the waitlist are contacted. If a trip has a long waitlist, some trips may have an additional day added as well.

In addition, don't forget that Fishmeisters get \$25 as a thank you! Without you, there wouldn't be the trips we have.

Visit the [website](#) for all the details on these trips and to sign up.

Tight Lines!

Introduction to the Skwala Hatch – February 15

Get yourself prepared for the Skwala hatches during the upcoming Yuba River outings. The [class](#) covers Skwala hatch entomology, suggested flies, recommended rigging, local maps, and successful fishing techniques, as well as local guide tips.

Yuba River Fishing & BBQ – March 4-5

Registration is now open for this annual trip and BBQ. There is still space available, but each day is limited to just 20 people. The cost for each day is \$45 per person which includes the BBQ lunch. It is always fun to trade fish tales over lunch at the picnic tables. The weather can be unpredictable at this time of year. Last year we had snow in Grass Valley. Sign up for one or both days. You are responsible for your own lodging if you choose to stay overnight. Fishmeister: Rob Farris.

Register separately for [fishing on March 4](#), [fishing on March 5](#) and to [volunteer to help with the BBQ](#).



Intermediate/Advanced Dry Fly Fishing – Starts March 8

These sessions are designed for fly fishers with existing practical dry fly experience that wish to advance their skills and dry fly techniques. The [class](#) is scheduled to coincide with the key entomology hatches during the spring season.

Fundamentals of Fly Fishing – Starts March 15

TVFF offers the popular Fly Fishing Fundamentals [class](#) taught by experienced club members for new and prospective members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. No equipment is necessary for participation in this class as the club has sufficient rods and reels for beginners to use. 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 this year consists of six sessions, including four classroom sessions, a three-hour casting instruction session, and an on-stream practical session with instruction.

Lower Sac Guided Trip – Apr 27-28

The Lower Sacramento River is a world-class rainbow fishery right in our backyard. [This trip](#) will be two days on the river, guided by [NorCal Fishing Guides](#). The fish are large, 16-20+ inch fighters that give a good battle coming to the boat. Lunch is included on the river. Guides are happy to provide their own pre-rigged rods for anglers. Don't forget to buy and bring your Steelhead Report Card. Your fishmeister is Ron Dueltgen.

Chasing the Heritage Trout Challenge – May 24

This [class](#) is designed to prepare club members for scheduling and completing the California Heritage Trout Challenge. To qualify for the Challenge, six different native trout must be caught within their historic range. The historic range, for the purpose of the Challenge, includes the trout's native distribution in California, prior to human influence (pre-19th century), and all waters that feed into this watershed. The course will focus on explaining the Heritage Trout Challenge in California and its objectives and benefits for the fly fishing community.

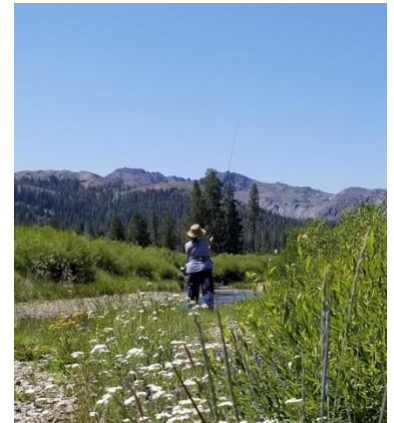
Truckee Watershed Camping Trip – June 16-18

This is our annual three-night, four-day [camping trip](#) headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three 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 an optional day of fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques. Your fishmeister is Rob Farris.



West Fork of the Carson River Ladies Trip – July 15

Ladies, if you have felt a bit intimidated to fish with the guys, then this trip is for you. It is an easy trip with beautiful scenery and hungry little brook trout. This is a one-day up and back trip to the West Fork of the Carson River in Hope Valley. Wading and access is easy, but it is suggested that you do bring along a wading staff. The drive is approximately 3 hours up Hwy 88. Our day will encompass a full day of fishing with a streamside break for lunch; you will need to bring your own food and beverages. Drinks and dinner are available for additional cost at one of the small towns at the conclusion of the day. Your fishmeister is Mitchie McCammon.



Member Reports

Jim McCabe – Float & Fly on Lake Oroville

In December, my brother and I had a chance to do a day of fishing with Ryan Williams on Lake Oroville. The day was overcast, but the lake was flat which made for good fishing (and casting) conditions. We were surprised to only see one other boat on the water the entire day! Thank goodness for the recent rains since the watershed was way down and it was hard to imagine it ever recovering. BUT I did read that the recent rains raised the water level 100+ feet.

Many of you remember the sessions that Ryan did for our club on "Float & Fly". While it took my brother and I awhile to get the casting process down with a bobber on a fly rod . . . it was an awesome day . . . and Ryan is a

great instructor! Between the two of us, we got 43 spotted bass into the net! And that doesn't include fish that we didn't manage to get a good hookset on.

If you have never done "Float and Fly" I highly recommend it! We used temple fork BVK rods. 10' 6wt. Lines were Rio Stillwater Floater in a 7wt. Leaders were about 7' down to 2x. The Indicators were Jaydicator Float n' Fly Pencils (Small). The flies we used were 1/32oz float n fly leeches. It's a fly that Ryan ties himself on weighted jig hooks. He says that his experience is that any basic black leech pattern is going to work as long as it is tied on the right hook! Ryan's favorite hooks are Wapsi Super Jig 1/32oz.

Ryan is a fabulous guide . . .and a great guy. Very professional and very knowledgeable. His boat and gear are first-rate and he really knows the water on that lake. He even provided the lunch and drinks. You won't go wrong setting up a day of fishing with him! You can reach him at: rwguideservice@yahoo.com or (707) 365-9891.



Mitchie McCammon - First Trip and First Fish of the New Year

The new year always starts out with a Club trip to the Feather River to go for a big, strong Steelie. Last year was my first time going. After fishing all day in a slight bit of drizzle, I didn't even get a nibble. This year, things were a bit different...

As always, the day starts at 4am so I can get ready to go. Why might you ask? Well, Alan Wyosnick, the Fishmeister for this trip likes to get an early start to try to be the first one on the water. For the record, this girl, me, likes to lounge in bed until at least 7:30am or later, much later. But, when the fish are calling, I'm there. I made it to Alan's house by 5:30 and Gary Prince is already there. We load up his car and get on our way.

This day is the only break in the weather we have had for a few weeks, so we are all excited about the expectation of catching a big fish. The sky was slightly overcast, and the temperature was very comfortable. Once we get to the parking area, we see there are already a few cars and others have the same fish calling to them. We meet Jim Knecht there and get geared up. As we walk along the levee, we can see a few people already in the water. Gary finds a spot and takes off down the short trail. Jim and I continue to the place we

affectionately call the Lunch Hole. There are a few people there and Alan is waiting patiently for us to get in the water.

Steelies have been called the fish of a 1000 casts. Although they are a Rainbow trout, they don't act like a regular Rainbow. Because these fish migrate to the ocean, they are much stronger and generally grow much larger than a stream-based Rainbow. Their feeding habits are different as well and they move around a lot more. Hence the 1000 casts to find one to take your fly.

The first trip of the year is the one where I have to remember how to cast and to get comfortable with wading again. This day was no exception. Starting out, I was tangling my line repeatedly. At one point my line wraps around Alan in slow motion and hooks his wader strap. I finally got my line in the water. After a bit, I was in the process of picking a new fly from my flybox when Alan hooked one. His fish took off in my direction and managed to tangle with my line that was in the water. We now had two lines on one fish. Alan made his way to me and handed me his rod to try to land the fish while he tried to untangle us. Sadly, that fish had an early release. Next up was me. I hooked into a nice steelie and was working hard to keep it in the Lunch Hole, but he took off to the riffle and the main current of the river. I had to break him off because I wasn't comfortable chasing him in the faster water. Darn, two fish gone.

We saw people around us catching a few fish including Jim. It was a day of a few tangles for him as well. He hooked his fish, but the line was wrapped around the tip of his rod and the only thing he could do was to move the rod back and forth and pray that the rod tip didn't break. There was tension in the air as we watched him wrestle with the fish that couldn't run, back and forth, back and forth. Eventually, Alan came to the rescue and was able to net the fish. It was all so funny and exciting at the same time. The smile on Jim's face said it all.



Eventually, I hooked into another one. I was determined to land this fish. The voices in my head were reminding me of how I should fight this fish. I slowly backed up as I kept tension on the line, keeping the rod tip low. Alan was working his way to me so he could help me net the fish when all of sudden, he went down in the water. He quickly got up and continued working his way to me. Other anglers were giving me tips on what I should do to land this fish. Alan netted my fish and was helping me get the hook out of its mouth when I saw something that looked like his rod float down the current. Thankfully it was not his rod, but his wading staff was now on its way down the river to Sacramento. At the same time, his net decided it wanted to join the swimming expedition, however, it was tethered to Alan. I was able to retrieve the net and place my fish back in it now that it was unhooked. Remember I said it was a day of tangles? Well, my rod was trying to get tangled with Alan's again, so I had only one hand free to hold the fish for a photo. It looks like a small fish, but it was 16-18". Finally, my first steelhead!



We didn't fish with Gary, but he caught a nice steelie where he was. He said he saw about dozen fish landed that day by the anglers around him. He didn't take a photo of his fish so we will never know if it really is just a fish tale. I'm choosing to believe his story, after all, who can argue if there isn't a photo? Later in the day, I watched Alan hook and gracefully land a nice one. I tried to absorb as much as I could by watching other anglers and stored those lessons in my head for the next outing. Photos or not, it was a great day to be on the water.



We had dinner on the way back at a restaurant in Linda that is a complete dive. Take your pick of fried, fried, or fried from the menu. The food didn't matter, and the sticky floor didn't matter. We enjoyed regaling each other with our stories of the day and other fish tales from times past.

Alameda Creek Alliance

Gary Prince – Conservation Director

Here's a message from Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance.

Alameda Creek Streamkeepers:

I hope everyone has recovered from the storms and flooding. The streamflow and timing are good for potential migration and spawning of steelhead trout. Please start regularly surveying your stream reaches for fish.

Let myself or Steven (steven@alamedacreek.org) know if you have creek access issues. Steven will be organizing monthly Streamkeeper meetings, trainings and activities, including site visits, in 2023.

Please let me know if you observed any chinook salmon this fall and winter upstream of the Niles Staging Area. Everyone should be using the Survey123 app to record fish sightings, but also please text me immediately or put out an alert on the Alameda Creek Signal app if you see salmonids.

The East Bay Regional Park District is offering free docent trainings in February and March for ACA volunteers. We encourage all ACA volunteers to attend, and the trainings are mandatory if you are surveying stream reaches within East Bay Parks (Sunol Wilderness, and along the Alameda Creek Trail at the flood control channel). Please plan on attending one of these trainings:

Wednesday, February 8

Thursday, February 9

Wednesday, February 15

Saturday, March 11

To sign up for the docent training contact Kristina Parkison at (510) 544-3243 or email svisit@ebparks.org.

Jeff Miller

(510) 499-9185

www.alamedacreek.org

Return of the TVFF Auction 2023

Denis Haire – Auction Chairman

Please plan to join us for the Annual TVFF Silent Auction on April 5, 2023 as part of our monthly meeting. It's been a few years since TVFF has held such an event, and with the increased interest in educational and conservation projects the club supports, the Board of Directors agreed that the time is now!

Funds raised from this event, as they have in the past, will benefit the club's strong commitment to conservation at several levels that supports local and national conservation organizations. Besides Trout

Unlimited, CalTrout, the Yellowstone National Park Volunteer organization, Alameda Creek Alliance, and fly-fishing programs for veterans with disabilities, we have a very active "Trout in the Classroom" program that has provided over 41,500 local school children with understanding of trout conservation and biology. In this program we provide local school classrooms with aquariums (at no expense to the teachers or the school) and expertise to hatch trout eggs and raise them to the "fry" stage which are later released by the students into approved local rivers and lakes. We also provide training and program materials for the teachers. Our education efforts also include helping more than 400 Boy Scouts achieve their Fly Fishing merit badge.

This is a terrific way to get prepared for next season's fishing season, and to equip your spouse, kids, grandkids, or yourself with the right equipment for next year, so take note of that date.

So how can you help? Your contributions of time, talent and donations will make this event a success and a great deal of fun. We always need volunteers, but sponsors, auction items and buddy fishing trips will also help make this event a huge success. Volunteers thankfully help spread the load, both with planning and running the event. No special skills are required other than a desire to help!

The auction really depends on donations from our members to be successful. In the past our auctions have featured a host of available items. This year we will also be introducing buddy trips as a separate donation item.

Buddy trips are one on one fishing trips with an experienced club member to a specific stream or lake that are bid on by auction participants. They usually consist of an area where a member is particularly proficient and knowledgeable that enables a full experience on the water. If you have a favorite piece of water and fishing style that would be worthwhile, please consider hosting a buddy trip.

Member donations consist of lightly used and valuable fishing gear, such as rods, reels, fly line, waders, float tubes, nets, wading staffs, and assorted other "gotta have" equipment. Additional popular items have included: clothing, lots and lots of tied flies, custom tied leaders, and other useful items. All proceeds go directly to the Club and this has been the backbone for our auction proceeds in the past. So check your gear closet and garage for items that you would be willing to donate.

Outside donations are also very effective items for the auction. These include guide trips, gift baskets from local merchants, local wines and other spirits, cabin or house rentals, and local and member art.

TVFF Auction Positions that need member support and volunteers:

- Overall Auction Chairman – Denis Haire
- Auction Marketing – Rob Farris
- Auction Website and Cloud Software Support – Mark Spruiell
- Club Member Donation Management – (open)
- Outside Donation Solicitation & Management – (open)
- Auction refreshments – Gary Prince
- Donation Item Photography – Steve Johnson
- Venue Set up and Tear Down – (open)
- Finance Integration and Management – Chris McCann
- Flies & Fly Box Arrangements – Mitchie McCammon

- Post Auction Item Delivery – Gary Prince

It takes an active Club with full participation to make our auctions a success and I highly encourage you to support the auction by volunteering for any of our open jobs. We cannot be successful without your help. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, or donating items, please contact Denis Haire.

Items for Sale

If you need contact information for a member, use the club's online [roster](#).

Gary Turri

New in Box Floating Fly Lines at 40-50% Off:

- Scientific Anglers Amplitude Smooth Creek Trout WF-6, \$50
- Scientific Anglers Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$50
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-6, \$40
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-7, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-5, \$50
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$50

