

The Barbless Hook

January 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

January Meeting – Wednesday Jan. 4th, 5:45pm

Dagur Gudmundsson – Double Feature – Again!

The meeting will start at **5:45pm** with a live in-person roundtable discussion with Dagur on rigging and reading the surf waters. Our main meeting starts at 7pm for a second talk from Dagur on fly fishing central California waters for striped bass.

Dagur Gudmundsson was born and raised on the wind-swept rock of Iceland, where he grew up chasing everything from arctic char and ice age brown trout to Atlantic cod and pollock. During his teenage years he moved to the Central Coast of California, where the fishing is quite different from the cold waters of Iceland. When he was 18, Dagur started guiding at the world-class salmon river West Rangá, which in addition to having some of the most prolific Atlantic salmon fishing in the world, also has huge native brown trout in its upper reaches. In between spending his summers guiding in Iceland, Dagur attended California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, where he acquainted himself with the local fisheries through lots of trial and error. He recently started a fly fishing guide service in San Luis Obispo with a focus on the area's overlooked fisheries when it comes to fly fishing, such as bass, carp, and surf perch. Dagur also ties and sells flies, is a regular contributor to California Fly Fisher magazine, and teaches clinics on carp and bass through the Central Coast Fly Fishing fly shop in Carmel.



Contents

President's Corner	2
Raffle Information	2
Outings and Activities	3
Member Reports	5
Joe Sparks	8
Snow Report	9
TVFF Auction	10
Items for Sale	12

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

A little trivia, did you know the first holiday card was published in London in 1843?

Welcome to the new year. I cannot believe that this past year has gone by so quickly, where did all those promised fishing days go?! On the other hand, the TVFF board and club members are putting together an incredible new year with many opportunities for getting out to fish and up your game with our educational classes. Everyone is probably sick of hearing this, but volunteers are always welcomed to be fishmeisters or help in teaching classes. Mitchie McCammon and Rob Ferris would truly appreciate your help.

Member-at-large is an excellent position to consider if you are interested in learning more about the activities of the Board but don't want to make a big commitment or take on a lot of responsibility. Members-at-large simply attend the Board meetings, provide counsel and advice to the Board, and help on Board activities as needed. Please contact me if you have any interest or questions about board position and roles.

Mark your calendars for next month's club meeting on February 1st, which will also be our annual potluck and officers' installation dinner with the club providing the meat and beverages. Be sure to [sign up](#) for this fun event. Also, we will be having a quick vote on the slate for the 2023 club officers. Please check your email and respond to Al's message.

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.

2022 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Martin Loomis
Vice President	Alan Wyosnick
Secretary	Al Mansky
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Martin Plotkin

Directors

Auction	Denis Haire
Conservation	Gary Prince
Education	Rob Farris
Outings	Mitchie McCammon
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Member at Large	Roger Perry
Membership	Greg Blandino
Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Publicity	Open Position
Raffle	Steve Johnson
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell



Outings and Activities

Fly Tying Get Together – January 11, 7-9pm

Our monthly fly tying meeting takes place at the Livermore Rod & Gun Club. The Get Together this month will be a fun style of emerger type pattern called hackle stacker. This style can represent any number of mayflies from size 12 to 20. The application of the hackle can be a little tricky so those of you who can't walk and chew gum at the same time might find this a little frustrating but I'll help you through it and show alternate methods we might find easier. If you don't challenge yourself you'll never get better.

Material Suggestions

- Hook – standard dry fly, Klinkhammer, light wire scud or caddis, size 12 to 16
- Tail – Antron fibers, mallard flank, Coc De Leon, hackle barbules
- Abdomen – turkey biot, thread, dry fly dubbing
- Rib – wire, mono
- Post – mono 5x, Spanflex, Sexi-Floss
- Hackle – cape, saddle
- Thorax – dry fly dubbing

Pick colors that represent the fly you are imitating such as Adams, or Dark Hendrickson or Light Cahill. We talk about all sorts of fly fishing subjects as we tie so drop in and get answers to the questions that have been keeping you up at night. Bring what material you have and mooch what you don't have. Non-tyers are welcome too. If you have any questions give Jim Broadbent a jingle.

Feather River Steelhead – January 10

This is always a popular trip, and as expected, is already full. However, don't be afraid to sign up on the wait list as there may be a cancellation. This is a day trip to the Feather River in Oroville. Be prepared to dress warmly as the weather could be cold. The cost is \$25. Fishmeister: Alan Wyosnick

Entomology Class – Starts January 10

This [class](#) is designed for the beginner to intermediate levels of entomology with the objective of educating attendees to be more effective fly fishers. This is a detailed course covering all aspects of the entomology lifecycle with focus on Mayflies, Stoneflies, Midges, Stoneflies, and Terrestrials for both streams and lakes. This course is also a prerequisite for the Intermediate/Advanced Dry Fly class.

International Sportsmen's Expo – January 19-22

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.

February Meeting – Board Member Installation Dinner – February 1

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 dessert offerings. Please [register](#) so that we can accurately estimate food for all attendees.

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.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 24-26

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 has not been published yet, but you can buy tickets for the show as well as for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4) on the 24th. Make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

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.

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.

Member Reports

Al Mansky – December 2022 Trinity River Fishing Trip

Well, after two years of the pandemic and sheltering in place, I finally got out to do some real fishing. I've done the Trinity River Steelhead fishing trip a number of times over the past couple of years with James Williams. The last two times that I've made this trip I was totally skunked, but as luck would have it, I finally connected over two days of fishing with a count of ten steelhead, two of which were twenty-two and twenty-four inches, plus one twenty-eight-inch salmon. Since I didn't have a measuring tape with me these are my best estimates, give or take an inch.

The weather cooperated for the most part, with a light drizzle in the morning or early afternoon, on and off for two days. I'm glad that I brought my long johns along because it was cold the entire trip, in the mid 30's to low 40's all day long. This is the first time that I can recall in all my prior trips to the Trinity River that I actually saw snow on the ground, not only at the higher elevations but also at the Red Hill Motel. I hope to get out again early next year, maybe this time to the Feather River for steelies.



Bill Potts – Trinity River

I had two very enjoyable days of fishing on the Trinity river with Ron Dueltgen as part of the club trip December 3-5. We were lucky to hook over twenty fish and got over fifteen to the boat. The guide said it was his best day so far for this season. Jim Roberts put a great deal together for us.



Martin Plotkin – Annual Delta Striper Outing

After being rescheduled for weather, the TVFF annual Delta Striper (and anything else which would bite) Fish Out took place on Wednesday, December 7th. The weather cooperated and we had a bright sunny, low-wind day. We had three boats and six anglers. Jim Broadbent was in Rob Fletcher's boat, Marty Loomis was in Daniel Kitts's boat and Barry Penner was in Martin Plotkin's.



Daniel Kitts and friend

We had a very civilized start, launching at Orwood a little before 9am. The flotilla spread out and headed for and spent the morning at TVFF's favorite spot in Discovery Bay. Everyone caught fish. We paused about noon for lunch and then moved to the area South of the Light House on Indian Slough.

Joe Sparks Obituary

This obituary for Joe Sparks was provided by his family. Joe founded Tri-Valley Fly Fishers in the 60s. TVFF made a donation to Cal Trout in Joe's memory. – Editor

Joseph T. "Joe" Sparks... Not an ordinary Joe!

October 27, 1926 to November 26, 2022
Pleasanton / Fort Bragg

Joe started his life in Chicago, Illinois on October 27, 1926, born to parents Joseph Wesley Sparks and Mary Margaret O'Brien Sparks. Joe left his high school in Hammond, Indiana very early in his senior year as he was accepted into the US Army's Specialized Training Program.

This program was established to identify, train, and educate academically talented enlisted men, extraordinary Joe. He had a choice of returning home after completing his training in 1946 or re-enlisting for one more year. He chose to re-enlist to allow those soldiers who had seen combat a chance to return home. Joe was then dispatched to Northern Germany. Having studied German in high school to keep from having to take Latin, he was a natural to serve in an Intelligence Unit searching out underground Nazi contingents.

After returning home, Joe attended the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated in 1950 with his B.A. degree. This B.A. was not enough for "this" Joe, so he continued his education in the field of Physics earning a PhD at the University of Kansas in 1956.

After working a year for Dupont in Delaware, Joe accepted a position at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory doing what he loved as a physicist for 20 years.

Joe had a great passion for fly fishing and taught himself by reading books on the subject, nothing ordinary there and not easy. He enjoyed it so much that he wanted to share his hobby with others, so he started the Livermore Flyfishing Club in the 1960's. The club today is called the Tri-Valley Flyfishers. He also authored a column in the Livermore Herald called "The Barbless Hook" for many years.

In 1972 Joe met the love of his life, Ruth Johnson on a blind date...then within months of that first meeting they were married on the SS Oronsay at Pier 35 in San Francisco.

After the celebration the guests left the ship and Joe and Ruth cruised on their honeymoon.

A year later they started a travel agency called "Travel Key" in Castro Valley which became very successful, having received many awards throughout the years including "The Best of the Bay Area". During this busy time



in their lives, they helped raise two of their grandsons and loved becoming “gray-haired soccer parents”. Very Extraordinary!

Joe retired in 1976 from the Livermore Laboratory to become the CFO of Travel Key. Then in 1996 it was time to fully retire and move to Fort Bragg, a place they loved for its beauty and climate. They built their dream home in the redwoods where they would reside for over 26 years. They made many wonderful friends there and volunteered for numerous charitable and service organizations.

The one that was near and dear to Joe’s heart was his time spent as a Mendocino Rotarian serving as the first advisor to the high school’s Interact Club. He loved helping so many great kids. He was always eager to see them and hear their stories after they graduated.

After celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in July, Joe and Ruth broke a lot of hearts in their beloved Fort Bragg by moving in October to Rocklin, California to be closer to family.

In less than two short months Joe passed away at 96 years of age on November 26, 2022, leaving behind his wife Ruth, and two daughters from his first marriage, Ginger Avila and Lisa Wilson. He was the proud father of three stepsons, Gary, Greg, and Grant Amaral. He was also the loving grandfather to Kerry and David Avila; Danny White (deceased), Ryan White, Jay Sparks, and Cameron Wilson; Ali Amaral Barta, Austin, Wyatt, McKenzie Amaral; Lauren and Rachel Amaral. Joe was also a great grandfather of nine. He was definitely not an “Ordinary Joe”! We all miss you and will love you forever!

Great Sierra Snow Base Building So Far

Rob Farris

We’ve waited quite a while for this weather, so let’s hope that it continues through January to March. Please, no more December miracles followed by late winter droughts. Our fish need a break and a good water year in 2023 to grow fat and sassy. But the current snow situation from the SNOTEL report is looking good for the first two months of the snow season in the Sierras. [Here’s your link](#) if you want to read the full report that is very comprehensive, and not just my abbreviated one. As you can see, we are well in excess of 100% of where we should be this week, and about 50% of what the expected total snowfall for the year will be. All in all, good news so far.

Note that if you are thinking about sneaking into Heenan Lake (we’re talking to you Chris McCann), you can furgit about it with Monitor Pass being 300% of today’s median snowfall. Not that he would fish the lake or the West Walker river in Leavitt Meadows during the closed season, I’m sure...

Basin Site Name	Elev (ft)	Snow Water Equivalent				Percent of	
		Current (in)	Today's Median (in)	Median Peak (in)	Median Peak Date	Today's Median	Median Peak
LAKE TAHOE							
Heavenly Valley	8534	12.6	7.4	23.8	Mar 30	170	53
Palisades Tahoe	8013	21.8	14.6	50.8	Apr 05	149	43

Echo Peak	7653	22.3	11.2	43.0	Mar 28	199	52
Rubicon #2	7619	12.6	6.0	26.5	Apr 05	210	48
Tahoe City Cross	6797	7.3	3.2	14.1	Mar 08	228	52
Basin Index (%)						186	49
TRUCKEE RIVER							
Mt Rose Ski Area	8801	19.3	11.1	37.4	Apr 15	174	52
Independence Lake	8338	18.1	11.3	45.1	Apr 25	160	40
Independence Camp	6980	12.9	4.5	17.4	Mar 24	287	74
Truckee #2	6509	9.1	5.0	17.8	Mar 14	182	51
Basin Index (%)						178	48
CARSON RIVER							
Ebbetts Pass	8661	18.1	11.0	35.1	Apr 12	165	52
Carson Pass	8360	14.7	9.1 ₍₁₆₎	30.1 ₍₁₆₎	Apr 07 ₍₁₆₎	162	49
Monitor Pass	8306	12.6	4.2	15.6	Mar 28	300	81
Blue Lakes	8067	15.7	7.6	29.2	Apr 14	207	54
Basin Index (%)						196	56
WALKER RIVER							
Leavitt Lake	9604	24.0	17.2	59.0	Apr 25	140	41
Virginia Lakes Ridge	9400	8.6	3.9	16.2	Apr 18	221	53
Sonora Pass	8770	12.9	6.7	23.4	Apr 17	193	55
Leavitt Meadows	7198	9.3	2.4	N/A	N/A	388	*
Basin Index (%)						202	53

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

