



THE BARBLESS HOOK

TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Picture: Ken Tetzel with a Lower Stanislaus River Rainbow.

February 2009

Issue 102
Number 2

The Presidents Message

By Jim Hirzel

It's a time for change. Not only for our country, but also for our club. At the February meeting, we will ratify our new 2009 Board members and long-time member Bob McCollum will stand forward as your new president.

It has been an interesting and fun two years serving as your club president. I had the privilege of working with our membership, expanding the club's horizons and meeting some interesting and informative people in the fly-fishing and conservation arenas.

I will continue as the club Treasurer and focus my energy on obtaining the "cherished" 501 C.3 tax status for our club. I also want to expand my participation in the various conservation initiatives. There are complex problems we must address in our beautiful state and every person can make a difference.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for your help and support. We have a great club with great members. I'm confident that 2009 will be another fun year for us.

Tight Lines - Jim

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TVFF To Teach LAPRD Class: Introduction to Fly Fishing

TVFF is providing instruction for a class called "Introduction to Fly Fishing" through the Livermore Parks and Recreation Department (LAPRD).

Course Description:

Students will be given a comprehensive introduction to the sport of freshwater fly fishing. They will develop an understanding of the basic knowledge and skills that will permit them to successfully participate in the sport. Equipment will be provided and the students will be offered the opportunity to practice their (newly learned) fishing skills with members of the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers. 4 classes. 12-15 yrs. can sign up with a parent. The cost of the class is \$52.

Class Schedule:

The class will be held on three successive Wednesday nights: March 25, April 1, and April, 8, plus one Saturday session (date TBD) to cover casting.

Tell a Friend!

We are hopeful that staffing this class will raise awareness about TVFF and bring new members to the club. This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends and neighbors (and maybe even your spouse!) to the sport of fly fishing. For more information, contact [LAPRD](#). Or, you can contact the class coordinator, Derrell Bridgman.

The class was originally scheduled for late January to mid February, but was rescheduled due to low number of sign ups. Help us get this class filled. Also, contact Derrell if you want to help with him the class.

Incoming Slate of Club Officers for 2009:

TVFF will vote to ratify the following slate of officers for 2009 at the February meeting:

Officers

President	Bob McCollum
Vice President	Jim Broadbent
Membership coordinator	Ken Jovorsky
Secretary	Tom Vargas
Treasurer	Jim Hirzel
Conservation Director	Corey Cate

Other Board Members

Newsletter publisher	Open
Raffle coordinator	Rob Vellinger
Member at Large (1)	Russ George

Coordinators

Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Gary Turri
Instruction	Gary Turri
Speakers	Mario Abruzzini
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Richard Tarbell
Video librarian	Gordon Cordova

DUES FOR 2009

Please note that 2009 dues are **PAST** due.
The cost is \$35.00 for the entire year.
FFF Membership is recommended, but optional.

The Barbless Hook is published monthly for members and visitors of the Tri Valley Fly Fishers. Comments and / or opinions should be directed, by the 15th of the month, to: Roger Perry: rlperry13@sbcglobal.net

Please begin e-mails with "Newsletter" as the subject.

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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Conservation Corner—Corey Cate

Meat Fishin'

The urge to keep my catch is real. I always think about whether I'm going to eat what has just eaten my fly, lure or bait. The fish is the prey. Prey gets eaten. Think osprey and trout. Osprey starve if they don't catch fish. But in my case, when I choose, I don't kill my catch. Sometimes I decide where I will fish based on if I can keep my catch or not.

Conservation issues must certainly come back to what's not taken. In the case of fishing, and catching fish, joy of sport is not always about the kill or take. DFG considers take to be killing of fish. You kill, it's take. Taken fish are lost to the population, lost to genetic futures and often taken away to eat. Take is the basis for most Endangered Species Act violations.

Taking fish is no longer why I fish. I started out taking all the fish I caught, and my luck was measured by how many I caught and kept. Did I get my limit? If I got my limit, my measure of luck was the maximum. If I didn't get my limit, I wasn't lucky.

Conservation of populations by limiting take is pretty reasonable to me. If I am a law abiding citizen and I catch fish and take no more than my limit, I am both lucky and being a good citizen. Today take limits seem to get smaller and smaller over the years.

The trouble for me comes when I try to measure my joy. I no longer measure my joy by limits taken. I measure it some other way, and I am sure mine is not unique, but I don't talk much about it, so I don't know if it's shared by others. I can have joy on a cold wet day and without a fish caught. I don't know why, but I can. If you and I measure our joy by meat, by limits taken, by pounds, we will eat, we will have fun and we will live to fish another day. Our joy may not last if the last fish we caught was the last fish.

Because I no longer measure my joy by meat measurements, I have the freedom to decide what it is about fishin' that satisfies me. If I let the meat go, never reach a limit or decide the day away from whatever it was that I was doing yesterday is wonderful, I never put the population in jeopardy.

California fish populations are in jeopardy. I believe our water problems are part of why. I know that a fish kept, a fish taken, is a fish no longer able to breed and repopulate whether we have big water years or small. Conservation starts with what is not taken.

Lower Stanislaus River Report

My son, Alex, and I fished the Lower Stanislaus River on Monday January, 19th. We did fairly well with most fish caught on nymphs fished deep. We did manage a couple of rainbows on top, but they were very selective to small midges. Both of us lost quite a few fish also, so the action was fairly consistent. The rises lasted for most of the afternoon when we started fishing. Great weather. Enclosed is a pic of the bigger rainbow landed (Editor's Note: Ken's Picture is on the front page of our newsletter).

Ken Tetzl

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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

TVFF 2008 Club Calendar

Month	Board Meeting	Club Meeting	Special Events
Jan.	22-Jan	Jan. 8th 7:00 PM Annual Fly Tiers Event - pizza served	
Feb.	26-Feb	Feb. 5th 7:00 PM Movie night at TVFF featuring the new fishing DVD "Drift" snacks & refreshments served	Feb. 27 - Mar. 1 Fly Fishing Show - Pleasanton Feb. 28th - Hall of Fame dinner
Mar.	26-Mar	Mar. 5th 7:00 PM Speaker TBD	Mar. 7th - Stanislaus outing Mar. 14th - Kistler bass outing I Mar. 25—LAPRD Class
April	30-Apr	Apr. 2nd 7:00 PM TVFF silent auction	Apr. 1 and Apr. 8: LAPRD Class Apr. 18th - Kistler bass outing II Apr. 25 Trout season opens
May	28-May	May 7th 7:00 PM Speaker TBD	
June	25-Jun	June 4th 7:00 PM Speaker TBD	

Items Needed For 2009 Silent Auction

Bob McCollum

The 2009 TVFF Silent Auction will be held this spring. This seems far away, but it will be here before we know it. We need all TVFF fly tyers to hit the bench and crank out some flies for the auction. I wanted to ask for your help now so that you have time to do some tying on these long winter evenings.

Flies are an important revenue generating feature of the silent auction, but the club can benefit from donations of all types: used or unused fishing gear, as well as items of general interest (wine, etc.).

Thanks in advance for helping out with the auction..

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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

2009 Steelhead Outing Scheduled

Bob McCollum

The dates for the 2009 Steelhead Outing have been set for December 2-6 with guided drift fishing available on December 3rd and 4th. Sacramento River Outfitters will provide the guide services again. They are holding their prices to 2008 levels and will provide the same discount: \$170/angler/day.

For 2009, we will provide the option of signing up for one or two days of guided drift fishing. This change is intended to provide flexibility for those who may not want to commit to two days of drift fishing or might not be able make both days fit in their schedule. Contact fishmaster Bob McCollum for details. Participation in the guided float trip is optional. All club members are welcome on the outing, regardless of participation in the float trip.

A guided float trip is a great way to experience steelheading on the Trinity River: You will cover a lot of water over the course of the day (typically 5-



(Continued on page 8)

Attention TVFF Fly Tyers!

Our next Annual Auction is scheduled for April of this year. As in previous years, I will collect all the donated flies and mount them on bid sheets for the silent auction. Please donate whatever you can and bring them to me at the Jan, Feb, and Mar. meetings. The flies will be sold by the half dozen, so if possible bring in multiples of six. Last year we had a record donation of 98 half dozen. Because of these generous donations from club members, our club was able to raise money for cash donations that we make to the organizations that the club supports.

Thank You for your support,

Gary Turri

Consider Being a Fishmaster:

Please consider being a fishmaster for one or more outings. You do not have to be an expert fly fisher. You only need to be familiar with the outing location. Your responsibilities as the fishmaster are

1. Select the day or dates that the outing will occur. Contact the Outings Coordinator, Wynn Smith, to be sure your outing will not overlap with another.
2. Set meeting time and location for the outing.
3. Gather camping and lodging information if needed.
4. Recommend equipment and flies.
5. Phone those signed up to confirm participation, provide need information and arrange ride sharing if desired.
6. Report the outing results at the next monthly meeting or write a short article for *The Barbless Hook*.

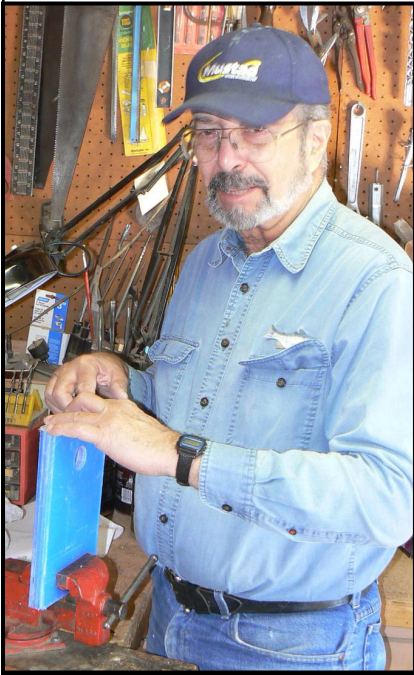
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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Many Hands Make Light Work

Bob McCollum

A group of TVFF volunteers got together over the holiday break to prepare 10 new aquariums for the Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program. Derrell Bridgman, chairman of the TIC Committee, organized the work parties at his home in Pleasanton. Steve Ruley, Hal Wilson, Harry Levin, John Bjorkholm, and I stepped up to work on this project.



Hal Wilson prepares plexi-glass mounting plates for the aquarium chillers.



Steve fits an aquarium tank with rigid insulation.

The work consisted of insulating the aquarium

tanks – first with ¼” flexible foam and again with 1.5” rigid insulation. The crew also washed gravel and fitted the tanks with electric coolers to keep the aquariums at a comfortable 50-55 degrees. Derrell had the project well organized and the work was completed in two two-hour sessions.

The new tanks will allow the TIC program to expand to 29 classrooms for this school term. This is the largest group in the history of the program – a very positive sign.

By the end of the term, approximately 700 young students with

have had an indelible experience

with trout and will have learned important lessons in biology, conservation, and water management. These are lessons that we hope will last a life time and influence the decisions these youngsters make as they grow and become the leaders of tomorrow.



Cap'n Harry hard at work.

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Many Hands Make Light Work

(Continued from page 6)

Please consider volunteering to help with this important project in the future. The work is easy, the companionship is great, and the rewards are many.

Picture: Hal and John apply the first layer of flexible foam insulation.



Gear for Sale

Expedition DLS inflatable pontoon boat. 9 FT long in excellent condition that can no longer use. Cost me \$630 in 2005. Available for a reasonable price, negotiable. Call Herb Marshall, 925-462-0345.

Gear for Sale by Gary Turri (925-830-1128)

Simms Guide Boots. Felt Soles. Size 8. New Condition. \$50.00.

Orvis Fishing Vest. Super Wading Tac-L-Pak model, Size Medium, Color Tan. Like new. \$50.00.

Patagonia Fishing Pack Vest, size medium, color green, new condition, \$ 70.00

Orvis Fishing Vest, Super Wading Tackle Pac model, size medium, color tan, new condition, \$ 45.00



Simms Rivertek Studded Boots. Size 11. Only used about 8 times. Excellent condition. \$50.00.

Call Steve Ruley at 925-449-2245

2006 Ford Explorer Sport Utility 4X4 XLT.

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\$19,995 (Kelly blue book = \$23,995). Phone: 510-889-8049

Gear for Sale by Ken Gotelli (925 426 9022)

One Cabela's insulated rain jacket Color: Advantage Wetlands, worn once, like new, size: Reg. adult or XL/Youth. \$40.00

One Cabela's 5mm neoprene stocking foot wader, Color: Advantage Wetlands or brown, reversible), worn once, like new, size: Large. \$40.00

For Rent: Sonora/Twain Harte vacation home:

Easy access to excellent fishing along upper South fork of the Stanislaus. Thirty minutes from Pinecrest and Two Mile Bar. Beardsley afterbay, Kennedy Meadow, Clark Fork, Spring Gap and more within an hour or so. Three-bedroom, 2-bath, nearly-new single level home with beds for 4-7. Full kitchen and large great room. Garage and ample driveway parking. Access to swim lake within walking distance. Renting to "friends and family" at below market rates. Contact Bob McCollum for details 925-989-2358.

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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Barbs

The barbs on hooks surely were designed ages ago to allow one to get a fish to hand, land, grill and stomach without losing it and going hungry. Spears and harpoons are no different in their purpose. You and I fish with flies, and we may not need the fish to come to hand. It's a different age.

Some places have laws or regulations that insist anglers use hooks without barbs. Many places do not have regulations regarding barbs. There, choice rules.

It's thought and advocated by many that a barbless hook gives the fish a better chance to live after release, reducing tearing of flesh or jaw or wherever the hook was set, making for an easier and less traumatic removal. It's also seen as giving the fish more of a chance to get away, unbuttoned as it's known. A long distance release, LDR, is more apt to happen.

If I'm fishing for a record, or for food, barbs are for me. I may or may not choose fly techniques. If I'm fishing flies, intent on putting a lot of pressure on a fish, maintaining zero slack, then maybe I'm going to crush my barbs or use hooks that are already barbless. That's when the challenge becomes my priority over some other reason or purpose. It's part of my catch and release ethic, a personal choice.

But if one's fly fishing for a big striper, using a big fly, like a weighted Clouser Deep Minnow, you may also want to crush barbs for a different reason. Safety. The speed of a fly on the forecast is, well, fast. Sink a barbed 2/0 hook in an ear, a shoulder, an arm, or a partner, one will be thankful that the barb was removed, crushed or simply not there to begin with. Barbless allows ease of removal, can be less traumatic on the flesh, and perhaps easier to disinfect.

Barb use is mostly by choice, but if you fish a place with barbless-only regs, you'll want to be careful to get it completely crimped, closed down, or filed off to satisfy your local warden. Fishing according to the regs is a good thing. Fines or jail time sucks.

Corey Cate

2009 Steelhead Outing Scheduled

(Continued from page 5)

river miles). You will access areas of the river that maybe difficult (or impossible) to reach by foot. Experienced guides will put you over fish and will help you improve your fishing skills.

Fourteen TVFF members participated in the 2008 trip in December. While the fish numbers were lower than 2006 and 2007, everyone hooked up at least one fish and most brought at least one fish to net. In addition to steelhead, the river is home to large resident and searun Brown Trout. Out group caught several on the 20-25 inch range.

Put yourself in the picture. Sign up at Club meetings to secure your place in the party. Sign ups will be taken or via e-mail (fishmaster@Tri-ValleyFlyFishers.org). Confirmations will be granted on a first-come-first served basis to anglers with paid deposits.

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TRI VALLEY FLY FISHERS

Thank you Sponsors

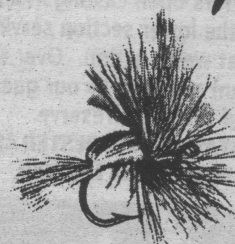


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Tri-Valley Fly Fishers Club
PO Box 231
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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM

Directions to Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club:

4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore, California.

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

