

# The Barbless Hook



**February 2011**  
**Issue 163**  
**No. 28**

**Bob McCollum** with a nice Trinity River steelhead.

## Thank you, Bob for your two years of leadership as President and your ongoing support of TVFF

President's Message: Tom Vargas

As we start the new year we have much to be thankful for and I want to recognize the hard work and countless hours that Bob McCollum has contributed to the club. Under Bob's leadership we have had many well attended events and programs including our highly successful annual auction which he has chaired, many well attended outings, a club survey to identify areas of educational and program interests and a healthy budget surplus. Bob also continues to be the technical guru for our website and the newsletter.

I am also very thankful for the club members who have stepped up to fill the various positions for the outgoing 2010 year and the new year in 2011. The hard work of these folks is what allows our club to function in a way that meets all of our needs without overburdening anyone.

We have a great year planned which will include a presentation on fishing our local waters of Lake Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs in March and a club outing and BBQ on April 9th at Del Valle. We have many educational programs planned including a weekly fly tying program during the month of March, a LARPD class in beginning fly fishing and a diverse speaker and outing program throughout the year.

Lets all have fun and enjoy the wonderful sport of fly fishing that we share in common. Consider introducing someone new to our club and the sport in 2011 or volunteering to assist in one of our programs like Trout in the Classroom. This is a great way to insure that there are new fisherman to share in the long term conservation of our resources and the survival of our sport.

I hope you can make the Annual BBQ and Installation potluck dinner on February 3rd at the at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club.

Tight Lines and Happy New Year!

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## **Incoming 2011 Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators**

President	Tom Vargas
Vice President	Ken Javorsky
Secretary	Daniel Kitts
Treasurer	Russ George
Membership	Richard Tarbell
Conservation Director	Derrell Bridgman
Raffle Coordinator	Rob Vellinger
Member at large	Tom Fessenden
Member at large	Robert Nishio
Newsletter Editor	Bob McCollum
Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Jim Broadbent
Education	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Martin Plotkin
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Robert Nishio
Video Librarian	Frank Gordet

## **"Like" TVFF on Facebook**

TVFF has it's very own Facebook page. Just search for us under "Tri-Valley Fly Fishers".

The TVFF Facebook page is a great place to post and share your latest fish stories. "Like" TVFF on Facebook and join the fun!

## **2011 Membership Dues are now Due!!**

2011 Membership Dues will remain at \$35.00 (Individual and Family) if paid on or before February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

After February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a \$40.00 Membership dues will be applied.



# February Meeting: 2011 Installation BBQ

Join us at our regular meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the first annual TVFF Installation Potluck BBQ. The Club will provide the BBQ'd meat and beverages as well as the paper plates, etc. In addition to a sumptuous dinner, we will honor the out going Board members and install the new Board for 2011. We will also have our VIP (Volunteer Incentive Plan) drawing for a Winston 6 weight rod and a few other goodies.

Contact Tom Vargas if you wish to attend the BBQ but have not yet signed up for this event. You may bring your spouse and any guests that you'd like to introduce to the club. Just be sure to indicate the number of guests when you sign up so we have an accurate count for the BBQ.

See you there!



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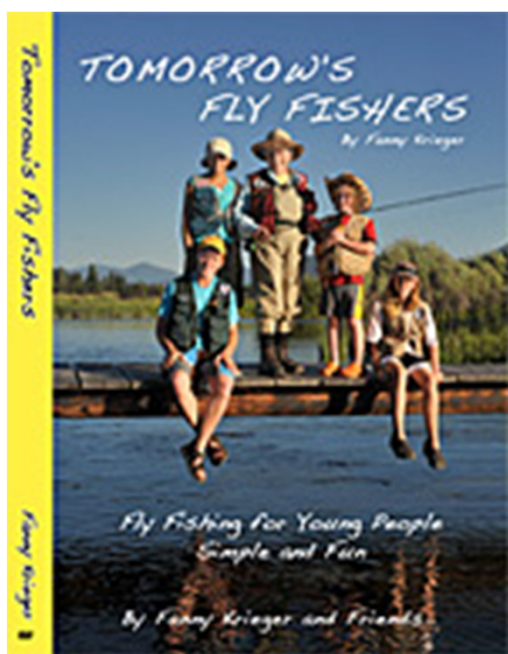


# 2011 Meeting Schedule:

The schedule of meeting topics is presented in the table below. Please contact Martin Plotkin if you have suggestions for speakers for these topics.

Month	Topic
March	How to Fish Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs, Vaughn Willet & Mike Willet
April	Silent Auction - No Speaker
May	Advanced Nymphing Technique
June	Fishing the Eastern Sierra
July	No Meeting
August	Pizza Nite - No Speaker
September	Fishing the Redding Area
October	Taking Better Photos
November	Fly Fishing Tahoe Truckee Area
December	Still Water Fly Fishing

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# January Trinity River Winter Steelhead outing

## Tom Vargas

On January 19<sup>th</sup> eight anglers from TVFF converged once again on the town of Weaverville to ply the waters of the Trinity River for winter steelhead. Steelheading demands hard work, enduring cold weather, and many casts in order to enjoy the reward of the tug. Everyone gave it their best during the two days of guided fishing. Several fish were hooked, fewer were boated and everyone had a great time. This was the first outing for metal-heads by Trevor George, who was able to boat 2 out of the 3 fish he hooked, a great record for a rookie! Here are a few of the pictures from the trip and more can be found in our Clubhouse on the TVFF website.



# Fishing the Upper Sac – Daniel Kitts

For several years I have fished the Upper Sacramento River and this year Russ and I going to co-meister a club trip. This will be primarily a wading trip with lots of access to the 30 miles of river available to us. For those of you interested in fishing the area but don't want to wade there is also the possibility of floating the Klamath, Fall or Lower Sac Rivers. The dates are now the 4th week end in June and I will be there from June 22 thru the 26th. You can come for as many or few of the days you'd like.

This river drains a large area so the timing may shift depending on river flows which have a major impact on the ability to wade and fish safely. The best wading and fishing is up to 650 CFS and while normally the end of June works, in 2010 it was at 2000 CFS forcing us to reschedule to the middle of July.

For me the best fishing is the last several hours of the day but there is good fishing throughout the day. I typically fish several hours in the morning and return to the hotel for a big lunch, re rig, and take a nap to recharge for the evening fish. This might be a good time to have a group barbeque lunch. It's also a good time to dry out your gear if you are like me and sometimes take a dunking or get in over the top of your waders! Back on the water about 4 or 5 and I am usually hiking back to the car using a head lamp to be able to see.

By the time I get off the water restaurants in the area are generally closed. We stay near the river, light a lantern, sit around and have something to eat like cold ribs or chicken, cheese and crackers or what ever you like while enjoying a couple of libations. A good pot luck possibility! This is a time to relax, enjoy the night and the stars and tell a few fish stories. Or if you prefer to come off the water earlier there are several good restaurants in Mt. Shasta.

You will be doing both dry fly and nymph fishing. Remember this is the area that Ted Fay developed "high stick" nymphing for pocket water. A 4 – 6 wt, 9' rod with a floating line works well. A sturdy wading staff and felt boots will work and I haven't found the need for studs on the Sac. Some of the guides in the area do suggest if you have the new sticky bottom boots that studs are needed.

I have historically stayed at the Swiss Holiday Lodge in Mt. Shasta because it is inexpensive, double for \$65 / night and \$55 for a single, clean and in a great location. There is also camping and more luxurious hotels available in the area. We do need to get reservations now so if you're interested in the trip let me know and I'll see what I can do to get a block of rooms.

If you are adventurous the McCloud is about an hour away with 45 minutes over a gravel washboard road. Be sure to bring that sturdy wading staff and STUDDER boots because the rocks are as slippery as they say and be prepared for some tough wading.

Guides are not needed but available. You might recall we had Craig Nielson as a guest speaker in March of 2010. I spoke with him and he is available at \$395 / day and he also works with several other guides that specialize in the Upper Sac and McCloud. If you are interested we can try to pair some people up to share a guide. For local knowledge and to pick up that gadget you forgot there is Ted Fay's in Dunsmuir and The Fly shop in Redding

It isn't uncommon to catch 16" -18" Rainbows with some Browns. These are primarily native fish with a lot of fight and spunk. I have not landed any of the monsters we hear about but I have given a couple of them early releases. And sometimes you get a two for one like I did. It may not have had a lot of girth but the length was there.

If you want more information see me at the meeting or give me a call.





## New Casting Series Planned

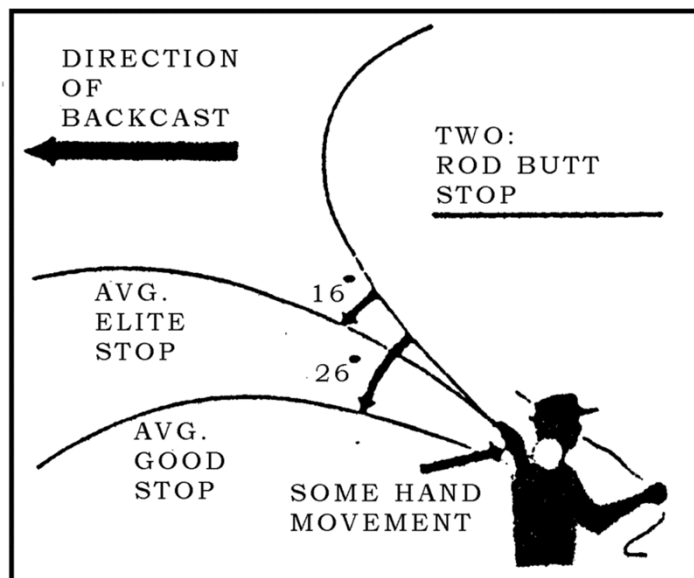
### Hal Wilson

Can you cast a fly 70 feet into an opening in the weed patch without fail? Roll cast 50 feet?

Neither can I, but through the generosity of the casting instructors of the Oakland Casting Club, we can come closer to being the fly casters we have always wanted to be !!

The Oakland Casting Club has agreed to make instructors available to meet with members of our club for a **series** of lessons this spring. They are letting us suggest a schedule of our choosing, e.g., three Saturdays in a row, or every other Saturday or once a month, etc., for three or even four meetings. Of course we will look for a schedule that minimizes conflict with TVFF fishing trips. The OCC will make every effort to accommodate our proposed schedule.

Those who have learned from the instructors at the casting ponds in Oakland will remember the benefit even one session provides – just think how much can be gained by several lessons, where you build on what you learned the previous sessions.



As always, there is no charge for this expert instruction, which will be by knowledgeable instructors, some of whom have been certified by the Federation of Fly Fishers. We must realize, however, that the instructor(s) will be setting time aside for us, and we must recognize our commitment to faithful attendance at these lessons.



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# Fly Tying Classes - Hal Wilson

## Add a New Dimension to Your Fly Fishing Experience

Many TVFF members were enthralled by watching some of the best tiers in the Bay Area demonstrate this skill last month. Now is YOUR time to learn to tie flies!

Come join us for the Club's fly tying class and learn steps necessary to tie known patterns and to develop your own ideas into fish-catching flies.

For the first time in several years, we are offering a four-session class teaching the basic skills of this interesting aspect of our fly fishing sport.

Basic instruction teaches the use of tools and of many of the materials used in this craft, and techniques for tying nymphs and dry flies.

The class will be on Tuesday evenings, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 and 3/22, at the Rod and Gun Club from 7:00 to about 9:00 pm.

Tools and materials will be supplied for these sessions.

At a cost of \$30, this is a great opportunity. Contact Jim Broadbent (925)455-1046 nob8@prodigy.net or Hal Wilson (925)846-8766 HalBMax@aol.com by February 15 to reserve a place in this class.



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# Conservation Corner –

Derrell Bridgman

Within the last few days I received a letter from “The Friends Of The Trinity River” (FOTR). The subject of the letter was that the FOTR was being dissolved. The group had decided that the timing was right, and that a significant percentage of the goals that they had set for the organization had been met.

The FOTR did not claim complete success but cited a list of major accomplishments that had been achieved. They also admitted that there was still a lot of ongoing issues to be addressed, and some battles to be fought. The leaders of the group vowed to remain individually involved in resolving those issues, and fighting the battles that need to be fought.

I would have to agree that there are still issues, related to the health of the river, that need the dedicated attention of responsible conservationists. However, I would also have to agree that the FOTR has pretty well accomplished their mission.

Of course the primary cause of the decline of such a fantastic river and great fishery was the “improvements” that were added to the watershed. Improvements like the dams, water diversion projects, and water management practices have all but destroyed the river. For years irresponsible, government subsidized water diversions to the vast arid, poisonous wastelands of the western San Joaquin Valley for inefficient agricultural projects took a damaging toll on the health of the river and its fishery. Attempts to reverse this decline were almost worthless for a long time.

The activation of the FOTR in the early 1990’s was a major contribution to the reversal in the decline of the health of the river. The organization in partnership with other environmental groups was instrumental in the implementation of several effective restoration projects that started to make a difference. They also played a significant role in achieving major accomplishments in many other issues on the Trinity. A list of some of those accomplishments is as follows:

They helped obtain an Interior Secretarial Decision that returned a large amount of the Trinity River’s original, pre-dam water flows (47 percent). This achievement will go a long way in restoring the

health of, not only the entire Trinity, but also the Lower Klamath River. Furthermore they helped assure that this water (that was returned to the river by the Secretary’s Decision) is permanent and will not be lost.

In the 1990’s a so-called restoration project was launched that altered and manipulated the river channel. The project was deemed worthless and harmful to the natural riverbed. FOTR was credited with putting a stop to it.

The original River Restoration Program expired in 1994, but FOTR helped obtain a reauthorization (plus enhancement) to the program.

They were instrumental in obtaining fishing regulations that helped protect wild fish, while allowing hatchery fish to be harvested. They have helped achieve an increase in the Steelhead and Coho populations.

The FOTR was responsible for publicizing the 2002 major fish kill on the Lower Klamath and gaining the support of Regulatory Agencies to alter water management policies to protect the remaining fish in the fishery,

They have made significant achievements in establishing and implementing restoration projects on tributaries in the river’s watershed. This will help restore wild fish in the fishery.

The efforts and accomplishments of the FOTR will undoubtedly make a big difference in helping to insure that our future grandchildren, and their grandchildren have an opportunity to experience good fishing and other recreational activities on this beautiful watershed.

I am sure that there will still be battles to be fought on the management of the Trinity, and hopefully, there will be other groups that can be as effective at fighting them as the FOTR. At any rate, kudos to the FOTR for what they have accomplished towards the restoration of this river.

Tight Lines – Derrell

# Silent Auction Update

– Bob McCollum

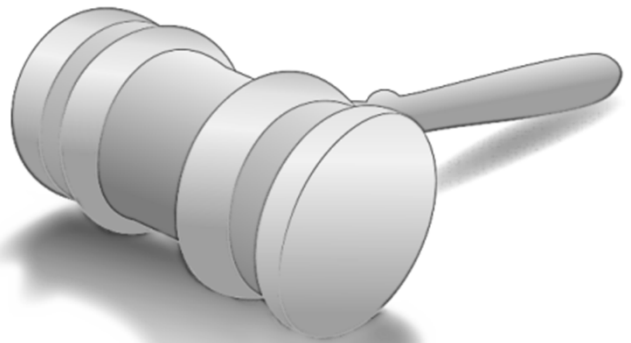
The Silent Auction will be held at the April Meeting. I've posted a couple of updates below. In addition, I will hand out an Auction Support form at the February BBQ and will e-mail it soon thereafter. Please consider how you can help support the Silent Auction.

## Associate Chairman Needed For 2011 Auction

I've been chairman of the auction for several years, and I've decided to take a break from it next year. So, I'm looking for someone to serve as an Associate Chairman this year to work with me on the 2011 auction, learn the ropes, and become chair the auction in 2012. Please contact me if you're interested.

## Time to Work on Auction Donations!

These long winter evenings are perfect for tying flies or crafting other donations for the annual silent auction. April will be here before you know it and we'll need all of the donations we can get. Flies and other member donations are one of the primary sources of proceeds from the auction. Thanks! - Bob



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# The Tier's Corner No. 15 - Jim Cramer

While at the National Federation of fly Fisherman's Conclave in Idaho Falls several years ago, I had the opportunity to rub shoulders and observe a couple hundred tiers from around the world. The tiers covered a broad spectrum of flies from the very simple to the complicated and the exotic. Most were demonstrating their own specialty and a fair number were concentrating on Atlantic salmon flies, discussing the cock of the wing or the specific use of a rare feather. Not being a tier of those flies and belonging to the school of thought that believes, "One should not spend more time tying a fly than the time it takes to lose it.", (a semi-quote from my friend Hans Weilenmann of the Netherlands); I searched out tiers with that frame of mind.

One such tier was Gordon Mankins of Phoenix, Arizona who was demonstrating his Puff Paint Ants. Now ant patterns are one of my favorite and there are hundreds of patterns and techniques for tying this simple fly. This month's column describes a novel approach that any tier should be able to duplicate. This is another one of those patterns that was the product of a creative mind wandering around in an arts and crafts store. Unlike so many flies from that origin of birth, this fly has real merits. Besides, it looks like a fly should look rather than a miss directed tree ornament.

Gordon produces his ant bodies in mass. Although it takes several days to produce the bodies, the actual time involved is very short; unless you count time watching paint dry as productive time! Multiple ant bodies are produced on a string and cut off as needed when tying. Much like having a bead chain made of ant bodies.

Materials needed for this project are simple: a short length of Dacron backing line (lb. test unimportant), two or three tubes of Tulip Brand puff fabric paint available at any good crafts store (color to match the ant color), and a couple of matching felt pens.

Start with a piece of backing about 12 to 15 inches in length and tie in a series of overhand knots spaced to represent the size of ants desired. One knot for the front part of the ant and another knot for the rear half the ant. A couple of tricks I discovered as I worked this technique on my own will make the pattern even easier to tie and will slightly improve the looks. If you place a needle upright in your vise and slip the overhand knot over it before tightening, it is very easy to adjust the knot one way or the other to obtain the proper spacing. A second tip is to use a felt marking pen to color the Dacron before adding the puff paint. I doubt that it makes any difference to the fish but the finished fly looks a bit better to the angler.

Add a large drop of puff fabric paint to each knot and hang up the string to dry for three days. It helps to clamp one end of the string in your vise so you can maintain some tension on it as you work down the string. With a little practice you can size the amount of paint added to the knots so you can represent the front and rear half of the ant. I could go do some research so I would know what these ant parts are called, but I'm sure that you all get the picture.

A skin will first form on the outside but you must let the paint thoroughly dry before proceeding. When the paint is completely dry, slowly apply heat by whichever method suits you. I generally just place a hot plate over the burner on the stove and hold the dried paint string over that. The heat will cause the paint to puff, and viola! - you have a string of ant bodies ready to cut off and tie on the hook.

Completion of the ants could not be simpler. Tie the preformed body to the top of the hook and add legs of your choice. Legs can be made of hackle, hair, rubber legs or Crystal flash or a number of other materials. Wings can be added for flying patterns. Gordon likes to add a couple of wraps of peacock herl at the center for a fuzzy ant effect.

The Puff Paint Ant is a durable high floating pattern that is quick and easy to tie. It is certainly possible to tie them faster than one can lose them. Again my thanks to Gordon Mankins. This will be a pattern that has filled a spot in my boxes and that I recommend for yours.

# Items For Sale

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Contact: Bob McCollum 925-989-2358



## Trout Unlimited Colorado Pontoon Boat:

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## Rods For Sale:

G. Loomis GLX Classic FR1086-4: 9 ft. 6wt. 4-piece. Like new condition \$310.00

Contact Gary Turri (925) 830-1128

Philipson T7L Powr-Kast. This rod can be converted to bait or fly rod and comes with a carrying cast/tote. Asking \$100.00 or best offer. If interested contact Rick Tisdale at e-mail [ricktisdale@comcast.net](mailto:ricktisdale@comcast.net).

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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

