

# The Barbless Hook



## May 2011

Rob Vellinger with a nice Pyramid Lake Cutthroat.

## President's Message

**Tom Vargas**

Our annual auction was once again a huge success thanks to the hard work of Bob McCollum and his many volunteers from the club that made everything run so efficiently. It looks like we will net about \$3,700.00 this year which will be used to support our club activities, education programs and conservation efforts.

Ken Javorsky and Daniel Kitts are to be thanked for coordinating our first-time picnic event at Del Valle on April 9th. Mother nature cooperated with nice weather, we had great food and all enjoyed the camaraderie of our fellow club members and guests. A special thanks goes out to Gary Turri and the members of the Oakland Casting Club who provided excellent casting instruction.

Now is the time to hit your favorite bass pond or trout lake while the high river flows are settling down. Spring is also the time to go after stripers and largemouth bass ready to spawn in the Delta. Soon shad will be showing up in the Sacramento and American Rivers and I hope to be able to give them a try this year.

One of the great things about living in Northern California is our close proximity so many different fly fishing opportunities. I hope to see you at the May meeting and out on the water!

Tight Lines,

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## 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

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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

## DeltaStripers.Com - Jerry Neuberger

DeltaStripers.Com is dedicated to guided catch-and-release fly fishing for stripers and large mouth bass on the waters of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

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Phone: 209-369-5752, Cell: 209-327-5993

# 2011 Outing Schedule:

May-TBD, Fuller Lake, George Allen

June 2nd-5th –Sonora Pass/Pinecrest

June-TBD, Davis Lake, possibly with Tracy-Jim Broadbent

June-TBD on flows, Upper Sac/McCloud-Russ George and Daniel Kitts

July-TBD, Manzanita-New Frenchmen Res.-Hal Wilson

August 25th – 27th Kennedy Meadows/Clark Fork-Bob McCollum

September 23rd- 25th -North Fork of the Stanislaus-Derrell Bridgman, Russ George and Tom Vargas

October-Lower Sac River Float-Ken Javorsky

October-December,TBD-Delta Stripers; Rick Mikla and Tom Vargas

November-Klamath River?

November 16-20, Trinity River Fall Steelhead-Bob McCollum



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# Club Picnic at Del Valle Reservoir

It seemed everyone had fun at our club picnic on April 9<sup>th</sup>. There was plenty of food, activities, and fish stories for everyone to enjoy.

I would like to thank John Brandi , Richard Tarbell, and Tom Vargas for cooking up a wonderful lunch. Thanks also go out to Nancy Phillips and Roberta Taylor for managing the food preparation.

We also had expert casing instruction led by Gary Turri and the members of the Oakland Casting Club ( Elaine Gong, Billy Jones, John Schueller, Al Tom, Dan Zimmerman). The casting lessons were a hit with everyone that participated.

And how about the site that Daniel Kitts picked out? Wasn't it great? I thing he picked the best spot in the park.

On the fishing side, Hensen Wong's daughter I believe out fished us all with two fish in the net. Wait until she learns how to fly fish.

Hope to see you at the picnic next year!

Ken Javorsky



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# TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake

Don and Anna Gardner, Roberta and Tim Taylor, Bob McCollum, Rob Vellinger, Mike Rosano, and Ken Javorsky all enjoyed fished Pyramid lake for Lahontan Cutthroat trout in mid April. All of us caught fish, some caught more than others.

Dan and Anna had success fishing Pelican Point using black woollies. Don especially like to fish early and late which gave him the best results.

Roberta and Tom focused on the South Nets using beetles and snow cones. The Taylors' caught and released 30+ Cutthroat in 2 days of fishing.

Mike Rosano and Ken Javorsky also had success fishing the South Nets. Ken Javorsky caught all his fish using a white and chartreuse beetle.

A work of advice when you go up there; don't get stuck in the sand.

Ken Javorsky

## Reflections of Pyramid Lake

This is my second visit to Pyramid Lake with the TVFF. I am just starting to appreciate this amazing lake and the most beautiful trout I have ever seen. First of all, I am not happy being tied to a ladder throwing "batting practice" at fish with weighted line. I am also not thrilled by watching a "bobber" on flat water for hours at a time. I suppose if there was a hot bite and I was catching twenty-plus fish a day my ADD brain would be amply entertained. I am told that hot-bites occur often but usually when "Alaska Type" weather rolls in and you catch lots of fish or die of hypothermia.

Both outings with TVFF to Pyramid Lake have been blessed with beautiful weather and flat water, making fishing much more challenging. I found fishing most productive early in the morning and late in the evening near rocky areas of Pelican Point and Separator Beach. I caught a total of 16 fish and lost another 6 mostly on black wooly buggers and white foam beetles. Next time I fish Pyramid Lake, I plan to troll mid-day in my Porta-Bote or go sight-seeing or shopping in Sparks/Reno until evening. I love this high desert lake and the cozy community around Sutcliffe. Don't forget to visit the Hatchery to learn about the husbandry of these amazing Pyramid Trout.

Donald Gardner

Bob McBride is an accountant and was bemoaning the fact our club trip fell out during his busy season - taxes. I told him I'd go up with him this week. Good trip.

Martin Plotkin





# Pinecrest/Sonora Pass Outings - Bob McCollum

Two outings are planned this summer for the Sonora Pass area:

**Pinecrest Outing:** This outing is intended to tap into typically excellent late spring/early summer fishing at Pinecrest lake, but there are several other opportunities— depending on flows – including Beardsley reservoir and after bay, the Upper South Fork of the Stanislaus or the lower Stan. The date is currently set for June 2-5 but may need to adjusted depending on the weather and snow melt. For Pinecrest, fishing from a watercraft (float tube, kayak, boat, etc.). usually works out best. Shore fishing can be OK, especially at the inlet, but is usually not as productive as from a watercraft. The current plan is to stay at my cabin and perhaps other cabins in the area. Camping at Pinecrest is also available.

**Clark Fork/Kennedy Meadows, August 25-28:** Late summer is a great time to access the upper headwaters of the middle fork of the Stanislaus and its feeder creeks just below Sonora Pass. The plan is to camp in the Sand Flat campground on Clark Fork. There are has many different fishing options available from this base camp. This is a great place to break out your 3 or 4 weight rod and experience intimate high-country fishing on small rivers and streams. Lots of eager resident trout from 6-12 inches and stockier planted rainbows can be caught on dry flies. A few small lakes are also accessible via foot or four-wheel drive/high ground clearance vehicle. The Walker River, Pickle Meadow, and Kirman Lake are about an hours drive on the eastern side of the pass.

You can sign up for these trips at the next meeting or you can contact me directly.

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# CONSERVATION CORNER - Derrell Bridgman

## Good News/Bad News

There really is some good news on conservation issues with regards to our fisheries. Some of it has to do with the additional rainfall we have been blessed with this season, and some with the water management policies that have been implemented.

As you have probably heard by now there are positive indications that our salmon population is making a recovery. It is apparent now that our commercial salmon fishermen will be able to enjoy a full (or near full) season of fishing this year. This really is good news, and we can only hope that the recovery is going to be a long term one.

In other good news, conservation groups have recently won a battle to force the Merced River water users to include plans for restoring and protecting the rivers fishery before they can obtain the new hydroelectric licensing they need for operating on the river. We have high hopes that this will result in a major improvement for the anadromous fish populations that try to use the river for spawning.

Of course, any good news we get on these issues seems to always be offset by an equal or greater bundle of bad news, and that is the case again this time.

Many of our legislators have been quick to jump on our nation's economic recovery efforts, to weaken the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which has been very beneficial in efforts to restore some of our fish and wildlife populations. The legislators see the urgency of this recovery as an excellent opportunity to cut funding to fish and wildlife programs that have already been approved. In addition they are attempting to attach "riders" to critical economic recovery bills. These "riders" have little to do with the economic recovery but are carefully designed to destroy protections established under the ESA. Budget cuts, economic reform, and sacrifices need to be made, however, reasonable caution must be taken when establishing the priorities for these reforms.

We can only hope that the conservation oriented groups that work so hard to prevent further degradation of our fisheries will find a way to win some more of the battles again this time.

In the meantime; more good news is that trout season is opening, and since we are a "Fly Fishing Club", dedicated to the enjoyment of the sport of fly-fishing, "let's go fishing".

Derrell

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# The Tier's Corner - Jim Cramer

## The Tier's Corner No 19 : Thoughts on a Fly Tying Travel Kit

Generally I do not take a tying kit on my fishing trips as I carry enough flies to choke a horse and most fish I've found have an passion for horse meat. (Just kidding.) Never-the-less I do have a well stocked tying travel kit that I use mostly for tying demonstrations.

Before going any further with this topic let me try to ask and answer the question of why does one want or need a travel tying kit? One of the most common answers is, "I'm going to a new area and I want to be able to match the hatch or local hot fly." Another answer might be, "I enjoy tying and want to tie in my spare time on my trip."


OK, These seem to be legitimate answers, but wait a minute! Now ask yourself what is the best type of kit to fill those needs? In the first case, since you don't know exactly what you will need to tie, you'll need a wide range of different material to have all the bases covered. In the second case just how many flies do you expect to tie in your spare time? In neither case does one need or expect to crank out dozen after dozen of flies. Keep these thoughts in mind as we continue.

In my travels I have seen all sorts of tying kit bags ranging from expensive wooden multi-drawer chests and rolling suitcases to simple cardboard boxes. All of the commercial tying bags in my opinion seem to be ill designed for the real needs of a tier. For example, many come with numerous plastic tubes to hold row after row of thread spools. How often does one use multiple colors of thread to tie their normal selection of flies and just how many spools of thread are needed to tie at most a few dozen flies? One, two, three at most if you feel the need for a couple of different sizes, but if push came to shove you could certainly survive for a two day demonstration or a normal fishing trip with one spool of thread. Likewise, many bags come with ridge plastic multi-compartment boxes for dubbing. Have any of you ever come close to emptying one of those compartments on a trip?

So what are the prerequisites of an ideal travel kit and more importantly how does one stock it?

First it must be easy to carry. In other words, not too large, not too heavy, and equipped with a comfortable handle and/or shoulder strap. My bag of choice is a satchel made by Eagle Creek. It measures approximately

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## The Tier's Corner (continued from previous page)

15X11X7 inches” and has three zippered compartments, large medium and small. In addition to a sturdy handle it has hidden, padded shoulder straps so it can be worn as a small backpack. This has turned out to be a handy feature when your hands are full of other luggage or tackle. Going through a luggage shop last weekend I saw many such bags that would serve admirably for a kit bag at prices far below those touted as tying bags.

The three zippered compartments are enough to allow for simple organization of your materials. Inside the satchel most of my material is organized in two foldup heavy cloth bags lined with velcro strips to which a series of zip lock plastic bags can be attached. Four or five zip lock bags are sewn together in a set on a velcro strip which fastens to the velcro in the bag. The larger of these bags will hold eight sets of four zip lock bags giving me 32 zip lock bags each 5X7 inches, neatly held in an organized fashion. Into these bags go all the small stuff, partridge feathers, peacock herl, CDC, bits of Larva Lace, biots, you name it. I stock these bags by going through my home supply and picking out a bit of this and a bit of that with emphasis on “bit”.

Hooks, dubbing, and hackle deserve special comment. Hooks I organize by style rather than size as I find it more convenient. One does not need a hundred of hooks of every size and style in a travel kit. A dozen or so hooks of each size, all of the same style, are stored in small brown coin envelopes available at most office supply stores. Several of the envelopes are easily stored in one of the aforementioned zip lock bags.

I love dubbing, all kinds of dubbing. Storing it for a travel kit was always a problem until I stumbled on the idea of packing it into small sections of soda straws. A more than adequate supply of any dubbing can be packed into a 2” section of soda straw. Use the largest diameter straws you can find as it makes the job of packing a bit simpler. Again the straw sections are placed into one of the zip lock bags for easy organization.

Hackle can take up a lot of space in a travel kit if you insist on taking the entire cape or saddle. Granted a whole cape or saddle is a thing of beauty but not the best choice for a travel kit. Neck capes should be plucked and sized. Each size is stored in one of the coin envelopes with the size and color recorded on the outside. Useable feathers from three or four necks can then be stored in a single 5”X7” zip lock. This is a considerable savings in space and much more convenient when conducting a demonstration.

Saddle hackle is even easier. I simply pluck a dozen or so feathers from each of my favorite saddle patches and place them in business sized white envelopes. One envelope for natural colors and one for dyed colors.

Again mark the outside of the envelope as to contents.

(continued next page)

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## The Tier's Corner (continued from previous page)

Tools are stored in a sturdy plastic box about the size of a large fly box. At least two bobbins already threaded, one as a standby in case, heaven forbid, you should break a thread during a demo. Two pair of scissors, bodkin, hair stacker and what ever else you like complete your tool set. Head cement and super glues if you use them should be double bagged for safety.

Brass beads, dumbbell eyes and cone heads are stored in a film canister or a small plastic compartment box.

Bucktails and deer hair strips can take up a lot of space. Rather than carry full bucktails I carry small pieces of several colors in a large zip lock freezer bag. I sit on the bag to compress it before sealing it. My favorite light is not made for travel and while I detest the small tying lights on the market I have little choice if I want a light.

When doing demos it is easy to lose materials and end up with materials spread all over your bench. Since I am generally tying only one or two patterns at these events, I find it much easier to place all the materials that I am going to need for these specific patterns in one large ziplock bag before leaving home. Then at the demo leave everything else in the travel bag.

So far we have organized, compressed and eliminated enough excess stuff that there should be plenty of room remaining for your vise. Remember, for a tying kit, a small amount of any item is generally more than enough and you don't have to carry all the material you have. Organize, compress and eliminate excess stuff and you will have a truly useful tying travel kit.

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