

The Barbless Hook

October 2019

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Well, Autumn is officially here, as of Monday September 23rd. The days are getting shorter and hopefully cooler, especially after this latest hot spell we experienced in September. I'm looking forward to the coming October and November fishing trips. I'm doing the Lower Sacramento River trip with Tom Fessenden and other TVFF members for fat rainbows feeding on spawning Salmon eggs. I've fished the Lower Sac a few times, with good success, but never during the Salmon spawn. I'll let you know in the next newsletter how we all did, hopefully with some pictures.

If you haven't done the Trinity River trip for Steelhead, you're missing out on some great fishing. Hopefully we can hit it right this year. The last couple of years it's been rather hit or miss, with the fishing moving up river. If we get some rain in November, the fish should start moving up river to spawn. The price for each of these trips has gone up to \$500 for two days of guided fishing. Overall it's still a good bang for your buck.

If you haven't already, checked out September's newsletter. There's a great write up on the first week of fishing in Montana for those members who made the trip this year. A lot of fish were caught, including some really big ones.

Just a reminder that on October 3rd, there will be a [Bamboo Rod and Casting Clinic](#), which will be held at Wattenburger Park from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. There is a link to a Google map if you don't know where the park is. If my memory serves me right, I caught my first trout on my father's old bamboo fly rod. I remember this because I broke the tip on his rod. Thankfully, the rod came with an extra tip. This all happened back in the 50's, and the rod hasn't been used since my dad passed



A rainbow from the Madison River near \$3 Bridge in Montana.

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away in 1968. The rod has been hanging in my garage for the past fifty years. Considering the rod's age, it might be worth something today. Who knows?

Before our October 3rd monthly club meeting, there will be a Ladies fly fishing meet and greet starting at 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Mary Ann Dozer. There will be a light dinner and refreshments served at no cost. So for those wives and ladies who want to spend more time with their man in the outdoors, this is a great opportunity to learn about fly fishing, or if you just want to meet other women fly fishers.

At our October 3rd monthly club meeting, our guest speakers will be Dave and Mary Ann Dozer. The subject will be Bamboo Rod building and fishing. It's been a long time since I fished with a bamboo rod. I have forgotten how they feel when casting. I know they can be very expensive, up to \$2,000, for those that I have checked out at the various fly shows. I hope to get some tips on how to refurbish my father's old bamboo fly rod. Considering its age, I'm afraid to use it, with the possibility of breaking it and never being able to repair it.

December is just around the corner and it will be time to vote for our Board of Directors for 2020. Patrick Donovan, who is our Director of Guest Speakers, would like to step down from this position next year. This is a very important position to our club, getting guest speakers for our monthly club meetings. Patrick is willing to help out, but we are going to need someone to fill this position. If you are at all interested or know someone who would be interested in being our new Director of Guest Speakers, please contact me or any of our board members. I don't know at this time if there will be any other open positions on the 2020 board, but if you have any interest in serving on the TVFF board next year, please contact me or any other board member.

Till next month, tight lines and remember to play it safe when out there on the water.

Al

2019 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Albert Mansky
Vice President	Martin Loomis
Secretary	John Price
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Roger Perry

Directors

Auction	Open Position
Conservation	Mitchie McCammon
Education	Kent McCammon
Outings	Rob Farris
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Member at Large	Ron Dueltgen
Member at Large	Tom Vargas
Membership	Steve Johnson
Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Publicity	Martin Plotkin
Raffle	Gary Phillips
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Patrick Donovan
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
Webmaster	Tom Fessenden

Next meeting on Oct. 3rd!

Please join us at our next monthly meeting on Thursday, October 3rd at 7pm. Our guest speakers will be Dave and Mary Ann Dozer.

TVFF meets at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club. See the last page of this newsletter for directions.

New TVFF Event Policy Change – Rob Farris

This past week the TVFF Board of Directors approved a new policy regarding Events that we would like everyone to be aware of. This change in policy was necessary due to a good number of last-minute Event/trip cancellations this year where the Club had made previous financial commitments for campgrounds/housing, and local guides. In two such cases the Club had to draw from its General Fund to cover the lack of participant funds to satisfy our financial liabilities. In order to continue offering the large number of events each year (15 in 2019) it will be necessary for the Club to reduce its financial responsibility for such events, and to enable our Fishmeisters to plan more effectively.

As part of our exploration of this issue, we surveyed multiple other Bay Area Fly Fishing clubs regarding their policies and have sought to achieve consistency with what they have utilized and successfully experienced over many years.

TVFF Event Policy (as approved by the Board of Directors)

To sign-up for a TVFF Event that is currently open for registration and chargeable (as set by the Fishmeister), you must *both register and pay online, or via check or cash, within two weeks of registering (sent to the TVFF Treasurer)* whatever fee is described for that particular Event (trip) at the time of registration. There may be multiple payments required before the trip is actually taken (usually in the case of expensive trips), but it is necessary that you do make payment in the above timely fashion for the initial amount to secure your position on the trip. However, please note that you are still responsible for the entire amount of the trip if you should need to cancel.

Once you are registered, there are no refunds for chargeable Events and trips. In the situation that a member is, for any reason unable to attend, they may resell their registration slot to another TVFF member (by first pulling from the waitlist if one exists). New participants must come first from the waitlist in the order they signed up.

This is necessary as many facilities and/or guides require either advance payment or responsibility for the full payment, regardless of actual on-site participants. It is the sole responsibility of the member, and neither the Fishmeister or Club, to secure a replacement and manage this transaction and to notify the Fishmeister and Treasurer of the change.

If an event/trip is fully registered and closed to registration, you may still sign up on the Wait List to be notified if there are any cancellations. In such a case of registering provisionally on the Wait List, you do not have to pay until such time that you clear the Wait List and are confirmed for participation.

Policy Notice:

This modification of our existing policy will be posted in the most current newsletter, on the master Events page, and in each individual chargeable Event during the year.

Effective Date:

This policy is effective October 3, 2019.

Outings and Activities

Some of our outings are described below. Please visit the [Event Calendar](#) on the TVFF website for a complete list of all upcoming meetings, outings and activities.

Bamboo Fly Rod Casting Clinic – October 3

Our October speakers, Dave and Mary Ann Dozer, will be offering a bamboo rod casting clinic prior to the monthly meeting. They'll bring rods to try, and our own Gary Turri will be in attendance as well. If you're interested in casting a bamboo rod for the first time, tuning your skills, or just want to see what they think of your own rod please join us below. Time and location are selected in mind with providing time for dinner and then getting to the evening meeting. The casting clinic will be held on October 3 from 2-4:30pm.

Lady FlyFishers Meet & Greet with Mary Ann Dozer – October 3

All ladies are welcome to attend an open forum about women and fly fishing on Thursday, October 3rd from 5-6:30pm. If you are new to fly fishing or just want to meet other women fly fishers, we invite you to join us. Light dinner and refreshments will be provided. Cost is free.

Please feel free to bring your friends (not required to be a TVFF member), and to [RSVP on the website](#) so that we can plan accordingly for all attendees!

Mary Ann Dozer

Mary Ann is a Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor and a licensed Oregon Fly Fishing Guide. Mary Ann has taught and lead at many Women's Fly Fishing Events for 15 years, and often teaches at the annual Pleasanton Fly Fishing show in February.



Join Mary Ann in a women's only round table conversation regarding women's presence and involvement in fly fishing. The goal is a candid conversation on the benefits and challenges for a woman hobbyist or professional.

She'll be happy to share her perspectives, answer any questions, and lead a conversation for all to engage.

Veterans First Fly Fishing at Quarry Lakes – October 18

This is a volunteer event where Tri-Valley Fly Fishers have the opportunity to assist Veterans First Fly Fishing (VFFF) with engaging disabled veterans. Numerous Bay Area fly fishing clubs will be assisting in this third annual event at Quarry Lakes in Fremont, which is always very worthwhile to the veterans and to those volunteering their time.

A section of the lake will be netted off and stocked with several hundred pounds of Rainbow Trout. This is a catch and keep event with the trout donated by Lassen Trout. Visit our [website](#) to register or learn more.

Creek Clean Up – October 19

On Saturday, October 19th, from 9am - noon, we will be cleaning up our spot on the Arroyo Mocho by the rodeo grounds in Livermore. Our spot is along the arroyo on Robertson Park Rd between Concannon Blvd and Arroyo Rd. Meet at the dirt parking lot on the west side of the soccer fields (closest to the covered arena). All supplies will be provided, plus water and snacks. [Sign up online](#) and help us to do our part for our community.



For more information contact Mitchie McCammon.

Lower Sac Rainbows – October 21-22

This is an opportunity to join Jim Roberts and friends who will guide us to fish the Lower Sac Rainbows during the traditional fall "Egg Bite". The egg bite occurs as the salmon arrive in the Redding area to spawn and the trout are particularly anxious to feed on the eggs that the salmon produce. Rainbows generally average around 18" with some up to 24" so it's an exciting time to be on the river. The trip includes two all-day guided drift boat floats on the lower Sacramento with two fishermen to a boat. Guides provide leaders and flies, lunch and beverages. Rods and reels can be included upon request. Cost is \$500 for two days of guided fishing. Additional cost for tips, hotel accommodations, California fishing license and steelhead card, and food. Visit the [TVFF website](#) for more information or to register for the trip.

Mexico Madness Ocean Fishing – October 30-November 6

This is a broad-based guided fishing excursion across two resorts in Baja Mexico with fishing for snook, mangrove snapper, bonefish, grouper, jacks, marlin, tuna, Dorado, rooster, wahoo, and cabrilla pargo.

Cost including all food and accommodations is \$1,980 per person, not including airfare, drinks, airport shuttle, licenses, and guide tips. All lodging and food is provided as is daily guide services.

Contact Don Jower: djowerclay1@gmail.com, 510-735-5167



Trinity River Steelhead – November 17-19

This is the annual TVFF outing to the Trinity River for steelhead. The club will stay in Weaverville and fish each day with professional guides on the Trinity depending on the location of steelhead at that time of year.

To sign up or find more information, [visit the event](#) on our website.



Member Reports

Baum Lake Trip – Chris McCann

Well myself and Rob Farris made a short two day trip up to Baum lake outside of Burney Ca. I was able to coax Rob for an early start and we were on the water by 9:30 am on Thursday. The lake was quiet and there was only a guide boat launching, otherwise we had the lake to ourselves. Temps were mild and there was some cloud cover, not much wind until the afternoon. Although the fish were not rising, there was a good bite. The guide was nymphing with indo's while Rob and I were stripping. I am happy to say the fish were receptive to the presentation, on my third cast I hooked a beauty, right out off to the east of the launch ramp. The takes were subtle but the fights were epic.



Between the two of us we landed over 90 fish in the two days, nothing under 14" as most were 18-20" range. What a couple of days of rod bending. In fact, both Rob and I caught our personal lake best fish at over 24". Although it's a long drive, the action sure made worth it.

Montana Outing #1 – Rob Farris

And so they went; the intrepid TVFF Week 1 group on the annual sojourn to Montana and Yellowstone National Park. Arriving by plane, motor home, and truck, everyone had a different method, but all targeted on a week of exceptional fishing, housing, meals and comradery with other TVFF members. And what a great and successful week it was. Am hoping that the Week 2 group has just as much fun.

Todd Hyrn, Marty Loomis, and Rob Farris all joined up and drove up in Marty's truck with stops at the Owyhee in Eastern Oregon, the South Fork of the Boise river in Idaho, and then the final leg into West Yellowstone. A few fish were caught along the way but a passing storm the day before quieted down the Owyhee, leaving us a full day on the SF of the Boise. What a terrific and beautiful river with a wide diversity of water, few folks fishing, and great campsites. Better fishing as Marty hit a few big rainbows while Todd and I were heavily prospecting resulting in my getting three... mountain whitefish. Now they fight hard and long, but a bit of a disappointment at the net. But "Whitefish do Matter..." J. I am still longing to duplicate Marty's big rainbow in the SF though.



On to the gorgeous West Yellowstone house on Hebgen lake to meet up with Gary Prince, Dave Fontaine, Bob McCollum, and our hosts for the week, Jim Roberts and his nephew Brandon. And a first night of rigging up for the week based on Jim's recommendations (he does know his stuff very, very well as you will hear).

We fished a different river or section everyday including the storied Madison River below Quake Lake (a story there if you haven't been) at Reynolds Pass and \$3 Bridge. Now the Madison has a reputation of great fishing and HARD fighting and fast running rainbows in the heavy current. Oh yes; they jump, run upstream with screaming reels, and then test your large arbor reels with abrupt U-turns and quick runs downstream in heavy current. They know the game, and you are in their house. Not prepared? Come back another day after you learn how to control them because they take no prisoners. Great fishing though, and an excellent learning experience on how to find the right seams in fast water, present your flies accordingly with a tight line rig, hook a big rainbow, and then HANG ON... The views from this river are incredible with the mountains casting of shades of green, yellow, pink and other colors. Fast moving waters with quick changes in structure add to the challenge of fishing but also add to the reward of a fish in the net.

Jim doesn't coddle you and throws you into the Madison first. It's a learning experience (at least for me) that will help you the rest of the week on the other five rivers fished. So off we went the next day to the Ruby River (a club favorite) with greenish water and many huge browns and rainbows (and yes a few Mountain Whitefish) to be had. Easily wadeable with everyone catching a good number of large fish; lots of chuckles, grinning, and ribbing to be had at no extra cost as well. We all enjoyed it so much went back a 2nd day later in the week and

caught even more fish that you'll see in the Event page gallery on Week 1. The flies of choice this year were a red San Juan, zebra midge and prince nymph.

Next up was the stunning and awesome Soda Butte Creek deep in the NE section of Yellowstone. Yea, it takes 2.5 hours to get there, assuming that the Buffalo aren't blocking the way, and the "looky-loo" tourists aren't overcrowding the roads looking for elk and wolves. A great part of the Soda Butte experience is the location is in the most prolific wildlife section of the park and its amazing beauty (again check out the photos in the gallery). Your reward? The opportunity to catch a stunning Yellowstone Cutthroat trout in its native habitat. And yes, many were caught via the tightline nymphing and with dry flies, which is a great experience. TVFF pretty much had the stream to ourselves, with a few exceptions, and were able to spread out over a mile or so of prime water for a great day in the Park.

The next two days were also spent in the Park fishing the Gallatin (medium pocket water and a nice meandering meadow river in the NW), as well as the Gardner River up by Mammoth Hot Springs in the central area of the Park. Our day began at the 45th Parallel. The Gallatin was a bit slow but picked up in the afternoon in the undercuts and river bends with some nice browns, rainbows, and an occasional whitefish in the net. Did I mention yet that "Whitefish Matter" ?



But the Gardner the next day was a whole different story; faster current like the Madison, but not as big and burly. Everyone tackled a different section and by late afternoon Rob found and began to hook a lot of fish podded up in a nice riffle pocket. The hooting and hollering drew everyone to that spot and it was turned over to everyone to try their hand at working over the Yellowstone Cutts. Which everyone did, one after another. And then Jim came along and pulled a good sized 17" Cutt out on a Hopper (which were everywhere). Since when does Jim fish dries...? Check out Marty and Jim's picture in the gallery fishing the "hole" with the Elk upstream keeping a close eye on them. After more yucks, laughter, giggles, and a local visit by an Elk across the stream, we all ventured off to Mammoth Hot Springs for the famous Huckleberry ice cream before heading back. The social fishing aspect of this afternoon will go undoubtedly be talked about for years to come.



With all that fun, what do you do next? Why, head right back to the Ruby River for more fun and games. Lots of fish once again as we all took turns working our way downstream and tackling the current seams and pools. Not quite sure of the accurate count but my bet is that the group caught more than 30 fish by lunch. It is that great of a fishery. Best of all; Dave broke his longstanding challenge with the Ruby and liberally washed the "skunk" off his hands for good... Check out Bob McCollum's picture of a fat rainbow he picked up that morning in the gallery, one of Todd's many fish, and Rob's big Brown; all awesome fish with many others caught by everyone. The picture on the website Event's page is from last year with four guys hooking

up on the Ruby at the same time. It's a very productive and fun river, and Todd's favorite swimming hole. Not to be outdone by the river he did net Rob's fish so his reputation as a top rate "net-man" remains intact.



As we left on the last day, Gary just couldn't bear to leave quite yet so he booked a late flight and spent a few hours at Quake Lake fishing the shoreline, which he was dying to do all week. And with his favorite hopper, ant, and beetle in hand he landed three nice fish right off the shore. What a great way to end the trip.

So the fishing was great, and the laughter and discussions after dinner were a lot of fun, with a liberal amount of "grape juice" and scotch added in. Especially so with Gary Prince regaling us with his incredible memory, in unbelievable and hilarious detail, from 30 years ago on obscure topics. How does he do it?

I would be remiss without thanking Jim and Brandon for an incredible time. The house was a first-class facility with beautiful views, and Jim's cooking three meals a day were always worth looking forward to. He does an amazing job. While he doesn't "guide" this trip in the traditional fashion (at your side, changing flies for you, netting your fish), he is always checking up with attendees to make sure that everyone is catching fish, or adjusting and recommending changes to what you are doing. I can't say enough of how much he personally helped me with fighting and landing big running fish, getting drag free drifts, understanding currents and prospecting in seams, and fly presentations.

If you haven't yet done this trip, it is a terrific experience that cannot be duplicated on cost, or experience wise by doing it on your own. You owe it to yourself to do this at least once in your lifetime as a fly fisher. The experience offers nature's beauty at arguably it finest; every "fish on" is sure to get your heart rate up; and memories of a lifetime will be created from the social activities of the week.



Creative Sports – Martin Plotkin

Several people had told me that Creative Sports had closed up. This turns out to be only partially correct – they've moved locations.

On a recent visit to Slow Hand, my favorite BBQ restaurant, across from where Creative Sports used to be and being a sceptic I decided to see for myself if Creative was gone. What I found was they had really moved to 1712 Linda Dr. in Pleasant Hill – closer to Sun Valley Mall. The shop is smaller and the impression I had was that they are less into equipment and more into classes, trips and tying supplies. They are online at www.creativesportsflyshop.com.

Jim Roberts' Fly Fishing Guide Service



Lower Sac Floats, Upper Sac and
McCloud, Klamath River, Steelhead

Tri-Valley FF Special Offer
2nd day is ½ off!

Jim Roberts
916-765-8668
flyfisherjim@charter.net

The Tier's Bench

Monthly Club Get Together

Monday, October 7th, 2019 from 7-9pm at the Rod and Gun Club; small room next to the BBQ area.

This is a monthly get together where members can drop in and participate in discussions, learn skills, or tie flies. During each meeting we decide what subject will be discussed the following month.

Fly Tiers Library and Trading Post (LTP)

Most fly tiers, like me, have materials which would probably last several life-times. Often, to tie a new fly, we need a small amount of material which means buying some from the net, which may arrive next week, or jumping in the car for an hour+ drive to a fly shop in the area.

To remedy this, we are creating the LTP. The LTP has 2 resources: the Library for getting small amounts of material (a couple of feathers, small swatch of hair, etc.) and the Trading Post for exchanging your excess with others. Here are the details of how it will work. Both the library and Trading Post are only available to members.



Library: The library will be supported by donations of fly tying material from members. The material will be packaged in gallon sized zip locks with colored labels about the contents. Any member may take a small amount of material for a project and make a modest donation (\$1 min). The donations will be used to buy supplies and, if any is left over, other material for the library.

Trading Post: The trading post allows members to exchange excess tying material for other material. Any member may submit a gallon sized zip-lock bag with the material along with a very brief description to Jim Broadbent. Jim will assess a point value to the material based on his experience (Jim's decision is final). The material will be labeled with a different colored label than the library. Members may exchange their points for material in the trading post. Martin Plotkin will arrange for the LTP to show up at all general, board and fly tying meetings. It can also be accessed by special arrangement made with Martin.

LTP kicks off, at the meeting, on Thursdays so bring your Trades and Donations.

Education

TVFF Classes

TVFF periodically offers the classes described below. Click the link for each class to see more information and to register your interest.

Fly Fishing Fundamentals

Our popular Fundamentals class is perfect for new members, and especially for those beginners just starting their fly fishing journey. The three-part course consists of two evenings of classroom instruction and one Saturday outdoor session with certified FFI casting instructors.

The class agenda is a comprehensive one that incorporates all of the necessary essentials to become a proficient fly fisher, and to enjoy participating in club outings. At the conclusion of the class a beginner will be well-prepared for advancing to the fishing activity of their choice.



Pictures from our recent Fundamentals class.

Entomology

The Entomology class gives beginners and intermediates a detailed understanding of aquatic “bug” types and characteristics to help improve their fly fishing success. The four-part course consists of three evening classroom sessions and a morning of on-stream practical experience on a nearby stream.

Casting

TVFF offers extensive instruction in fly rod casting for all levels as introductory, refresher, and advanced classes. Each course is taught by a certified instructor for about a three-hour period. Rods and reels can be provided by the club, or students can use their own rods as well. Multiple courses are available including back to basics, improved accuracy and loop control, single and double haul, shooting heads and sinking lines.

Items for Sale

Rods for Sale – Martin Plotkin

1. Sage 14', 8WT Spey Rod w/RIO Skaget Line (hardly used) - \$150
2. Cabela 9', 3WT - \$40 (barely used)
3. Wright McGill 9', 8WT, BRIGHT Blue (good bass rod) - \$40

Fly Lines for Sale (lines are new in box or like new condition)

1. RIO Bonefish WF-7. \$50
2. RIO In-Touch Salmon/Steelhead WF-7. \$50
3. SA GPX WF-9. \$45

Contact Gary – gjturri@comcast.net or (925) 786-5184 cell

Gear Collection – Todd McDaniel

New	2018 Simms G3 Stocking foot Waders, Size LL 9-11 Foot, Cinder Color	\$420.00
New	Fishpond Summit Sling Bag, Gravel Color	\$65.00
New	Galvan Torque 8 Reel, Bronze	\$330.00
Used	Galvan Torque 6 Reel, Green. Some rash and nicks but fully functional	\$200.00

Contact Todd – 925-588-6388 cell

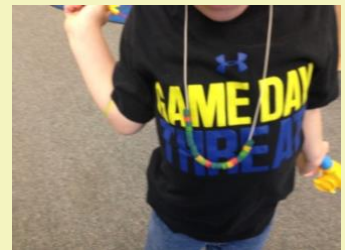
Don't Throw Away Your Old Fly Lines, Recycle Them

I am a preschool Special Ed teacher and the floating fly line comes in handy for many projects that preschool children make: necklaces, lacing, hanging art, fishing poles... I would be happy to collect it and give it away to other preschool teachers.

Dave or I attend the meetings pretty regularly; we could have the members bring it to the meetings?

Thanks for the consideration.

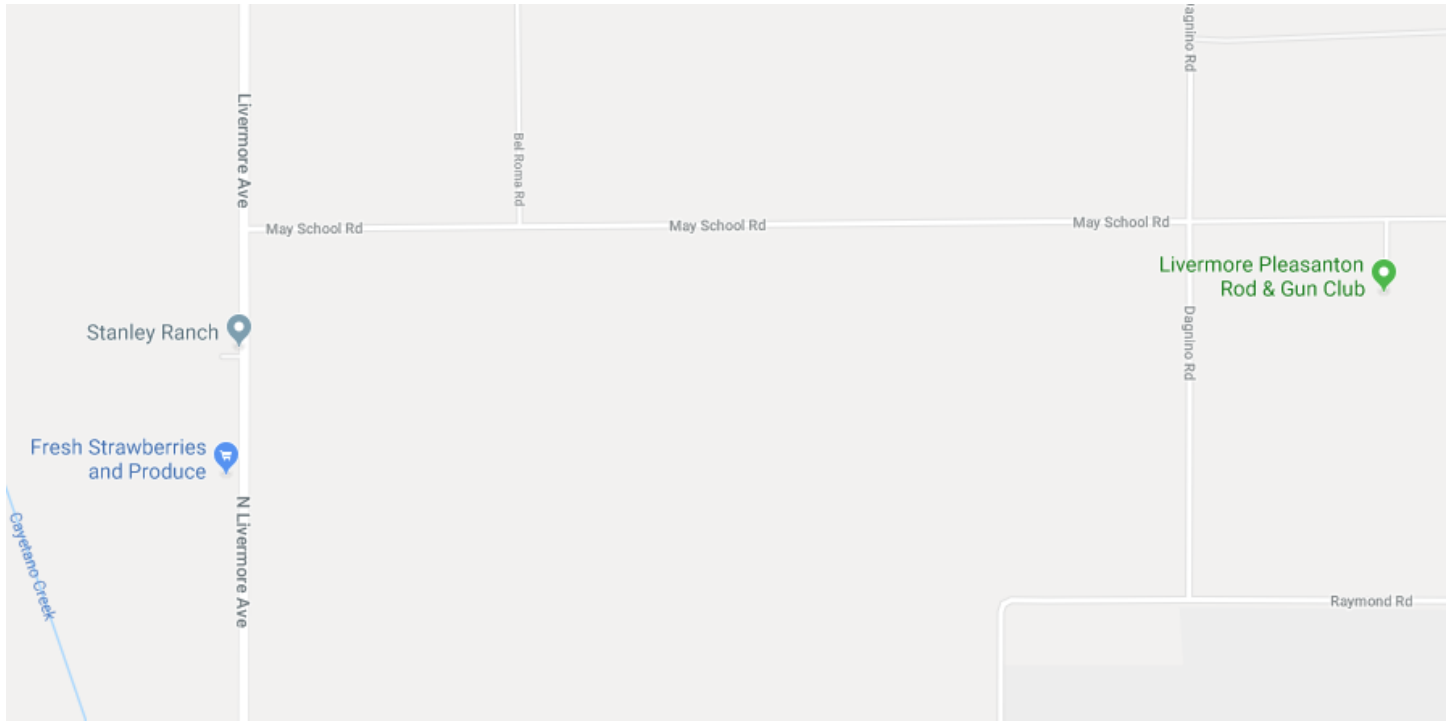
Cathy Hiromoto



Directions

We meet at the Livermore Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club at 7pm, typically on the first Thursday of every month. Check the club's [event calendar](#) for upcoming meeting dates.

Click the map for Google Map directions to 4000 Dagnino Road:



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

