

The Barbless Hook

December 2020

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

President's Message

by Albert Mansky

Hi Guys and Gals:

I hope this message finds you all safe and in good health. Considering the recent surge in the pandemic lately, a vaccine can't come too soon. From the most recent news reports, as President Trump would say "we've just turned the corner."

There's going to be a few changes in responsibilities for next year's Board of Directors. Those changes will be announced at the January Zoom monthly club meeting. So, if you haven't attended our monthly Zoom club meetings, now would be a good time to sign in and catch up on what's going on within your club.

I know some of you have been fortunate enough to get out and do some fishing, myself included. I hope you'll share your adventures with us and write an article for our monthly newsletter, also enclose some pictures. Like they say "a picture is worth a thousand words." You can read the report of my fishing trip on the Feather River for Steelhead in this issue.

Unfortunately, we will not be having our normal January TVFF club meeting at the Livermore Rod and Gun Club this year, due to the restrictions imposed upon us by the pandemic. Like I said earlier in this message, "Zoom in" and keep abreast of what's going on. Till next time, stay safe and I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with your family.

Al



Happy Holidays!

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December Meeting – Joe Contaldi: Eastern Sierra Fishing

Join us on Thursday December 3rd at 7pm as Joe Contaldi of Performance Anglers Guide Service & Pyramid Lake Anglers Guide Service gives a presentation on Fly Fishing the Four Seasons on Hot Creek, East Walker and Upper Owens Rivers.

We'll be having a more traditional raffle at this meeting where a ticket **must be purchased in advance**. You can buy your ticket by logging into the [member store](#) on our website.

Please check your email for the meeting invitation and for more information about the raffle.



The Season may be Closed, but the Fish aren't

Rob Farris

Ah, the bittersweet closing of the official fishing season. Lots to look forward to next year; gear cleaned and refreshed, "blue-lining" maps for new waters to explore, replacing flies for the fish or trees, and watching YouTube videos to build up new or enhanced skills. So build a fire, and enjoy.



But you don't have to... "official season"; Pffft!

Living in California, we have many places to fish all year round, if you are hearty. And with occasional warm days with some overcast you'll likely to be joined by several friends: Blue Wing Olives, Midges, Skwalas, and March Browns. Or perhaps by some friendly Delta Stripers chasing baitfish.

So what's an angler to do this winter in the waters that are still open?

1. Go big with Steelhead and the many Club float or wade trips going on right now.
2. Go remote in NW California with the Trinity or Klamath, or really remote on the Mad or Eel, etc.
3. Oh, you want really BIG? Pyramid is back open and always a winner.
4. Want big rainbows? How about a guided float down the Lower Sac? As close to guaranteed as you can get.
5. Take a trip to the Delta with one of our members and boat it for Stripers, or use a personal watercraft for Largemouth bass to take the shut-in edge off.
6. Not much time? Go big; go local for the day with Steelhead in the Feather and Yuba rivers.
7. Even less time? Break off from work at noon and be on Putah Creek by 2pm for a few hours hunting big rainbows.
8. Combine skiing with great water as a two-fer? Try the Eastern Sierra. The Upper Owens, the Lower Owens wild brownie section, E Walker, and Hot Creek are all open. Sorry Chris and Mark, that's a no go on Crowley Lake.

9. Try some picturesque winter trout fishing in the Truckee and Little Truckee. Dine well by the fire in Tahoe after fishing with a hot toddy. Don't mind the snow... you have waders, right?
10. Oh, you like the scenery do you? Take a trip to Yosemite, and then fish the Merced River below the park.
11. Get out in your personal watercraft at Baum Lake. Big fish, lots of fish, and some still rising. Dress warm...
12. Take up ocean fishing after our workshop. Talk about close to home. And back home by dinner.

There's a lot to do if you feel the "need" to have a fly rod in your hands. We are so fortunate to be living here; we could be in Montana where it's -20 degrees, and the fishing? Even colder. Watch our website for Events; we are still having them frequently to keep everyone on their game.

Fish hard, stay safe, and stay warm.... Rob



Outings and Activities

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

Lower Sac Float Trip with Jim Roberts – December 9

This is a one-day guided float trip on the Lower Sac during the egg drop. Note that the trip has an early start time of meeting up in Redding at 6:15am on the day of the trip. Maximum participants are four anglers in two boats.

Contact Ron Dueltgen if you have any questions about this trip.



Feather River Steelhead – January 5 & 9 (weather permitting)

These are two separate one day up and back trips to the Feather River at the town of Oroville to fish for steelhead with up to six TVFF members each day. As of now we will observe the Club protocols around Covid-19... more updates on this as we get closer to the actual dates.

It is a walk and wade trip, typically involving crossing the river in knee high water and fishing up/down the mid-stream gravel bars with indicators and



high-stick nymphing. It is suggested that you bring along a wading staff as you may be wading in quicker water that is up to waist high if you want to gain access to more fishing spots.

This will be the third year for this Club trip. The first year we had eight members bring a total of 23 fish (wild and/or hatchery raised) to the net, including chromers up to 24" in length. The second year was less productive as the main wave of Steelhead moved through the system the month before the season was open in this section (the hatchery person I spoke with said they had over 1000 fish come into the hatchery one day!). The Feather can be a productive and exciting water that offers a nice day trip being only 2:45 hours away from Pleasanton/Livermore. Our day will encompass a full day of fishing with a streamside break for lunch, you will need to bring your own food and beverages. Please note you will also need a Steelhead Report Card in addition to your 2021 license.

[The January 5th date is fully subscribed but a waitlist is available. The January 9th date is still open.]

Contact Alan Wyosnick if you have any questions about this trip.

Lower Yuba River Skwala Workshop with Jon Baiocchi – January 27 & 30

TVFF is once again offering a Skwala workshop outing for up to four anglers on the lower Yuba River near Marysville with Jon Baiocchi. We are getting a head start on the other clubs for these workshops, which will also allow us to be fishing the river after the workshop for the entire season.

Jon has been a recent speaker at the club and the Yuba has been his home river for over 20 years. In this one-day workshop Jon will provide key information early in the season so that attendees will be well prepared to fish the hatch for the entire hatch season through the end of March. He will concentrate on the current Skwala hatch on Dry Fly/Dry Dropper and nymphing presentations and tactics specifically for the Skwala stonefly hatch, including Leader Formulas, Fly Recommendations, Access Areas, local inside knowledge, insight on the hatch and all the details that pertain to it. Leaders, tippetts, lunch, drinks, and handouts included.



The Skwala hatch has been widely promoted in the early season, and the wild trout and steelhead that live in the Yuba River key in on this first big meal of the new year. Fishing a Skwala dry is the most rewarding way to catch large educated trout on the Yuba, and seeing the take happen in real time is the epitome of fly fishing. The Yuba River has one of the best Skwala hatches found in the west, and it is the perfect classroom to hone your skills and your ability to match the hatch for challenging trout and steelhead. You will learn much from this most informative workshop centered on entomology that you can apply all over the west.

[Both dates are fully subscribed but waitlists are available. There is no cost to join a waitlist.]

Contact Rob Farris if you have any questions about this trip.

Member Reports

Fly Fishing the Feather River for Steelhead – Al Mansky

Dave Fontaine and I were lucky enough to fish the Feather for Steelhead in October and November and we had a BLAST. In October the river was full of Salmon, dead, swimming and spawning. Even though we were not targeting the Salmon, you could not help but hook into them. It reminded me of the twenty or so fishing trips that I've made to Alaska, for Kings, Silvers and especially the Sockeye. The river was just alive with Salmon and so were the Steelhead, feasting on the Salmon eggs. Our guide, Ryan Williams, hadn't seen this many Steelhead and the size of them in years. Dave and I probably landed five or six each, that were between eighteen and twenty four inches. We had as many hits and misses, but who's counting. On both outings we basically had the whole river to ourselves. It did make for a long day, with a three hour drive up and back, and a 6:15am launch time.



At last year's fly show, I had bought a new seven weight fly rod that I wanted to try out and I almost lost it. I failed to take the plastic off the cork handle. This all happened on our November trip. It rained on and off all day and the wind kicked up in the afternoon. Anyway, to make a long story short, I hooked up on a BIG Steelhead, at least I think it was a Steely, and when he took off, he pulled the rod right out of my hands because the plastic on the handle was wet and so were my gloves. I was able to grab the rod just before it went out of the boat. Needless to say the fish got away, but I didn't lose my rod and reel.

The last five or six years I've been doing the Trinity River trip that Gary Prince has put together. The last few years the Trinity just hasn't been fishing well at all. In fact, I've been skunked on my last two trips on the Trinity. I think that I've found a new river to fish, that holds both quantity and quality of Steelhead. I'm looking forward to my next rip on the Feather, probably next spring. Fishing the Feather is more cost effective than fishing the Trinity, considering the distance to drive to Weaverville, the cost for gas, lodging and meals. I'm not knocking the Trinity, I enjoy fishing it and it does have some bigger Steelhead in it. I'll be fishing the Trinity again, but not just yet. I know some of you guys have fished the Feather by walking the banks, with limited success on Steelies with occasionally hooking up on a Salmon. It seems to me that in order to really catch Steelheads you have to float the river and fish the riffles and seams. Of course, having the Salmon spawning at that time really helps the



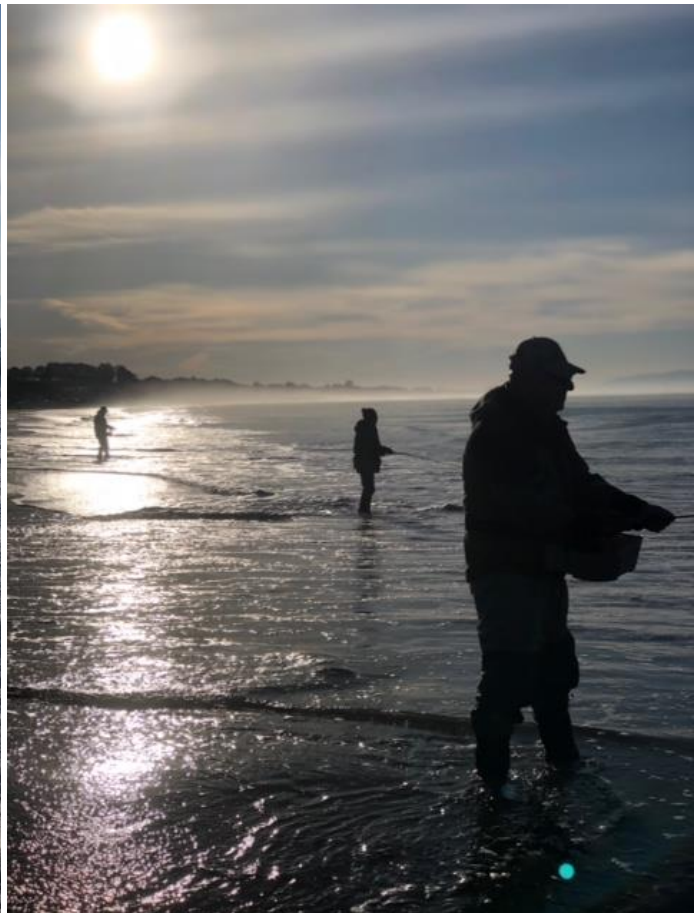
bite on eggs. Considering this was my first fishing trip out this year, I rate it a 100% success. I think that I've been bitten by the fishing bug and I need to scratch it some more.

Surf Fishing with Evan Praskin – Dave Fontaine

After a few hiccups Al Mansky, James Williams and I braved a dark o'clock drive down Hwy 17 for the club trip to a beach in Aptos for the Surf Fishing Workshop with Evan Praskin. Evan worked with each of us to tune up our rigs and loaned each of any gear we were missing including leaders and flies.

We hit the beach at sunrise and started fishing with Evan providing coaching and instruction as we went. Once we had the basics in hand he worked us down the beach instructing on various beach structures - how to read it and how to fish it. He has a very relaxed style and we settled into a rhythm of walking into and out of the surf while casting and stripping in the flies. The nice part with a sand bottom there were few snags and with short 30lb leaders few tangles. We all may have had hits but no hook ups.

We worked our way back up the beach to the cars by around 1pm for lunch. Overall it was a great day. I'm now very comfortable with the technique and will definitely be headed back to try again.



Feather River Steelhead Guided Float Trip Report – Mike Prokosch

As part of the Feather River Steelhead Guided float trip event organized by Dave Fontaine, I booked the second offered day with guide Ryan Williams. The original date of October 28th was rescheduled to November 10th. After an early start from Livermore, I met Ryan in Oroville at 5:30am. A short drive to the river and we were in the water by 6:00 as a chilly 32 degree morning was just dawning.

Drifting beads under a float, my first fish, a nice 21" hatchery hen, was on within ½ hour. Floating the beads with a dead drift was a new challenge that took some time for me to get the hang of. The day followed with three other nice 20-22" feisty valley steelhead to the net. Pictured are a 22" native hen with a 14" girth and a 21" feisty hatchery buck.



It was a long day trip, but a very enjoyable day with Ryan and the Feather River.

Baum Lake – Mark Spruiell

I had a productive couple of days on Baum Lake, for November anyway. With surprisingly warm morning temperatures in the upper 30s, I was able to get an early start on both days. The most effective flies for me were a #18 zebra midge and the wiggle tail pattern that I tie on a jig hook, both fished under an indicator usually just a couple of feet down. Over the two days, I hooked around 35 fish and landed 25. Highlights of the trip were two 22" browns (which I swear were the same fish) and a 20" rainbow, and I sacrificed a rod tip to the fish gods for that rainbow. I also picked up a dent in the truck from a close encounter with a deer in "downtown" Burney.



Bob McCollum

Did a little striper fishing. Did OK. Half a dozen stripers and one large mouth bass to hand. Marked some big clouds of baitfish with a few stripers working them on my fish finder. Beautiful day on the water.



Tom Olinger

I've been meaning to send Mark fishing reports in the past months but have never gotten around to it, so I promised to block out a little time over Thanksgiving to tell you what I've been up to this season. I feel very fortunate during the COVID pandemic to have a place in Truckee (a retirement dream of mine), which has allowed me to fish this year while others in the club maybe have had a harder time getting out. I also belong to the Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers which has helped. By virtue of the location, it's been easier for that club to arrange socially distanced events.

Prosser Creek Reservoir

I have never fished the reservoir before this spring, but being only a few miles away from town it was a place I really wanted to try. It's known as a pretty good smallmouth bass fishery and I was interested in doing more smallmouth fishing which I've rarely done in the past. I fished the Prosser Creek arm a few times in May from my frameless pontoon, accessing the lake via the Hobart Mills turnoff from Highway 89. This is a deep lake (for fly fishing, at least) so I stuck to water less than ~20' deep not far from shore. The water was about 55 degrees at that time and it was pretty windy on both trips. First time out I was skunked throwing streamers on sinking lines, but the second time I had more luck. I picked up one fish in several hours pulling olive wooly buggers on a type 3 line. I noticed birds diving near a shallow rocky flat (2-6') where I launched, which makes me think "bug hatch" although I didn't see many bugs coming off. I switched to a sink tip line and a #12-14 hares ear nymph and in the next hour or so I caught a ~16" rainbow, two smallmouth bass in the 15" range, and one very nice fish (picture below) that went a shade over 18", all on the nymph in shallow water near shore.

I went back to Prosser in August hoping to get a topwater bite going. This time I tried the Alder Creek arm, which can be accessed off the dam road. The water temp was about 70 degrees and I launched my pontoon early in the morning and threw poppers to rocky structure near shore. No luck getting any rises. I switched to a type 3 sinker and an olive wooly again for no luck. I marked a few fish on my fish finder about 12-15' down. Then I switched to my fastest sinking lines (a type 4 and a fast sink shooting head) and got a few grabs trolling in 15-20' of water. I landed a few smaller fish in the 13-14" range and had a few other hook-ups and solid hits.

Overall, I'd say this is not my favorite fishery but I will try it again in the future when I have an itch to get out on a lake (I love lake fishing in my pontoon) and don't have a lot of time. There are some great mountain views, especially in the spring. Some guys from the Truckee club had more luck fishing Stampede for smallmouth in the summer so I may try that sometime as well.



Round Valley Reservoir

This is a mid-size (400 acre) private lake located on the largest ranch in California (5 Dot Ranch) about 15 miles northeast of Susanville, not far from Eagle Lake. I knew nothing about the lake but was fortunate that the Truckee fly club arranged a May event there. It was a big success and the club held the outing again in October. The lake is part of a private club but is available to non-members on certain days via reservation and a fee (roughly \$90/day). Only 15 rods/ day are allowed, it's all catch and release with barbless hooks only. The club had the place to ourselves for two days each time (the 15 slots filled up very quickly).

The lake is stocked with big triploid rainbows and seems to have a lot of bug growth, with midges being the most prolific hatch. I saw midges coming off, a callibaetis hatch and an ant hatch that really had the fish coming to the surface. It seems that any reasonable technique would catch fish, but the big numbers were

caught by those fishing midge patterns (red, or black with red ribbing in about #12-14) under indicators in about 10-15' of water. I'm not really an indicator guy, so I fished a variety of patterns (streamers, midges, hares ears, ants, etc.) on sinking and sink tip lines and caught fish on all of them. I landed ~5-10 fish per day with an average size of around 3lbs and a few that went 4+. For every fish landed you probably hooked/lost one or more others and had many other solid hits. One guy trolling streamers netted 17 the first day, some of the bobber/midge crowd caught over 30 in a day. One of the guys landed a 7lb rainbow on a midge and says he lost a fish that was pushing 10. A bunch of guys caught fish on dries.

There was a potluck dinner one night with the club providing barbeque tri-tip included in the \$185 trip fee. There is an area for primitive camping on the lake and everyone camped. This is a great lake if you don't mind pay fishing and I think the guys in TVFF would love it. It would make a great club event, downside of course is that it's a long way from Livermore. I'm looking forward to fishing it again in the spring.



Sierra Creeks: North Fork Yuba River/Jamison Creek

The small streams in the "Lost Sierra" north of Truckee provide a great fishing experience during the dog days of summer. I've been enjoying fishing the NFYR in July and August the past several years, including this year, when the flows drop somewhat and other trout fishing slows (the water is cold through the summer if you move higher up towards Yuba Pass). I usually just find a good-looking spot and pull off of highway 49, walk the short distance down to the river then hike upstream fishing from pool to pool. Another good spot is off of Wild Plum road in Sierra City, parking just past the bridge and hiking upstream or downstream. I haven't fished a lot down from Sierra City but I know many guys do and the fishing is good. The water is a little larger downstream of the Wild Plum bridge where Haypress Creek flows into the river.

It's small water up from Sierra City with pools holding a lot of small, wild rainbows that will rise to a well-presented dry fly. It's a great place to practice dry techniques; the fish are not selective, but they are easily spooked by noise or a bad cast/line over them, and will respond only to a drag free drift. On a typical trip you can expect to catch large numbers of small fish (a 9" fish is a big one). Long casts are not needed.

This is also a great place to break out the 2 or 3 wt or smaller rod. I fish both, but my favorite rod for the Yuba/nearby creeks is my 6'2" 2wt fiberglass rod with a DT2F or DT3F line. A 6" fish puts a bend in that rod. Most dry patterns work, I typically seem to have the most luck on a #14-16 Elk Hair Caddis or a #14 or so

yellow Stimulator, although Adams, Humpies, Royal Wulffs, and similar will all work. Small flies will yield more fish, but smaller ones. Also fish a dry/dropper rig, the fish will readily take a small PT nymph, Copper John, or similar nymph in #14-18 hung 12-18" off a dry. If big fish are your thing, this is not the place for you, but it's beautiful water with wild fish willing to take dries. It's a real change from most fishing in the Truckee area. Other creeks in the area include Salmon Creek and Haypress Creek, which both empty into the Yuba, but I have yet to fish them. All the pictures below are from the NFYR.



A few years ago I participated in one of Jon Baiocchi's clinics on Fishing the Creeks of the Lost Sierra. It was a great event, with Jon showing the group access points on his favorite creeks and techniques for fishing them, followed by an afternoon of fishing one of the creeks. One area he showed us how to access is what he calls the Jamison Creek Grand Canyon near Johnsville. Jon warned us that it's not easy access and involves a lot of boulder hopping so he recommended not fishing the canyon alone, but for those fit enough the creek holds a lot of wild rainbows and you'd never see another fisherman. He guides the canyon in the summer for those willing to hike. I never thought I'd fish it but a friend from the Truckee club talked me into fishing it with him this August. Hiking in and out was doable, but it took some bushwacking and was a fair amount of work. Hiking up the creek was a challenge. I fell a few times and ended up spraining a pinky and skinning a shin, but the fishing was good. It took us 5-6 hours to cover the 2 miles or so of water until we walked out near the waterfall by Johnsville. Compared to the NFYR, Jamison has more fast water and fewer pools but the techniques and flies were very similar. The fish readily took dries and dry/dropper rigs; they obviously see fewer flies than the fish in the YR. Jon said Jamison holds larger fish, on average, than the NFYR, but I'd say what we caught was similar small, wild fish. I did hook a bigger fish throwing a nymph in a deep hole but didn't land it. We fished 2 wt outfits again and pretty much the same flies (EHC, Stimulators, Parachute Adams, Humpies, etc, and small nymphs). If you like hiking and fishing more remote waters with few if any other

fishermen, this maybe a good option for you. Go with a friend, bring plenty of water, and be ready to work a bit for your fish.

Middle Fork Feather River

I signed up for a Jon Baiocchi clinic on the MF Feather River in May, which was cancelled due to COVID. However, a friend from the Truckee club and I hired Jon to show us where and how to fish this river one day in late May. We toured the river and access spots for a while, but most of the day was spent fishing the river near the Mt. Tomba road turnoff by Jackson Creek between Graeagle and Sloat. We hiked down the canyon and crossed the railroad tracks to access the river, then worked our way upstream for a mile/mile and a half or so before hiking back via the railroad tracks. We brought two rigs, one for Euro-nymphing and one rigged with a dry/dropper. We Euro-nymphed the deeper holes and fished dry/dropper on the runs. Both techniques produced fish, we probably caught more nymphing but enjoyed the dry fly fishing more. Yellow Stimulators in about size 10 worked well, and we caught a few fish on a red Copper John as the dropper. The fish were not large, mostly in the 10-14" range, although we landed a few rainbows of about 16" on nymphs. I didn't make it back to the Feather after that trip, but I feel like I gained enough information about the river to fish it again in 2021. It's a great option to add to your fishing arsenal.



Lake Davis

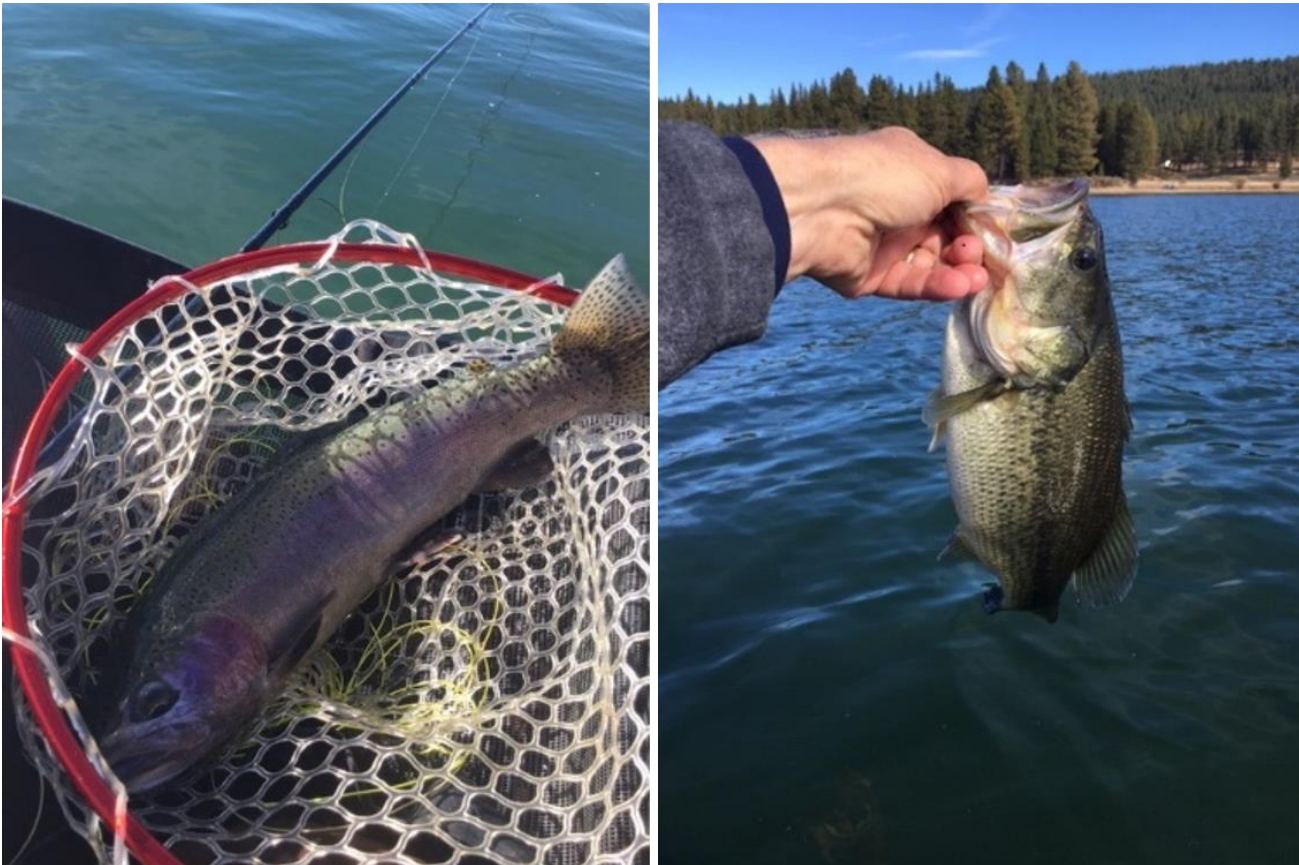
Lake Davis is probably my favorite fishery. That may be due in part to the fact that I've fished the lake almost every spring and fall for the last 20-30 years, so I've learned a little bit about the lake and fish. Most of that time I fished with fellow TVFF club member Ray Cole, who introduced me to the lake sometime in the 1990's. The other reason I love it is its beauty, wildlife (especially birds), big, hard fighting rainbows, and I enjoy just being on the water in my tube/pontoon. I also have fond memories of eating at the Log Cabin in Portola (now closed), other restaurants in Portola and Graeagle, and having a big beer after a day in a float tube on the lake.

This year, I fished the lake 3-4 days in May, and maybe 8-10 days this fall. After a couple year period when the fishing was down (roughly 2016-18), apparently due to a lack of stocking by DFW, the lake has been fishing much better the last two years or so. The lake still has plenty of 20+" rainbows and now has a population of

browns (planted by DFW) and a population of good size largemouth bass (see the surprise catch, an 18" largemouth in the picture below).

The key to catching fish on Davis seems to be finding the fish. They can be scattered, and I have noticed that you can fish for hours with little action then all of a sudden you hook a bunch of fish in an hour. I can't explain why, but my educated guess is that the fish are on the move looking for favorable feeding locations and they moved into the area you were fishing when the bite "turned on". This year was not an exception. The fish seemed to be found in shallow water (1-5') on/near weed beds, and the fishing this fall seemed to be best in the afternoon, particularly from about 2 or 3 PM until roughly 4-5. A variety of flies worked; guys from the Truckee club had a lot of luck with big Jay Fair Trolling Flies in rust (size 8 or so). I caught fish on Denny Rickards seal buggers (olive body with burnt orange tail and hackle in size 10), wiggle tails in burnt orange and rust (#10-12), and Sheep Creeks and sunken ant patterns in about #10-12. I used a variety of slow sinking and sink tip lines depending on water depth. I spent most of my time fishing Jenkins Point/Camp 5 areas on the west side and Fairview/Mosquito Bay on the north side of the lake. I was thrilled to catch a brown (about 18") again this fall and a bunch of beautiful rainbows of around 20-21".

There were a number of tubes and pontoons out by Fairview during the nice weather in early November and almost everyone was catching some fish. Two guys in pontoons I watched on the west side opposite the parking lot at Fairview were catching a lot of fish in very shallow water. I spoke to one who said they were fishing hover lines with small burnt orange woolies in 1-3' of water. Overall, it was great to fish Davis this year, and in particular I made an effort to get out more often this fall and really enjoyed it.



Other

I really didn't fish the Truckee or Little Truckee much this year. I was put off a bit by the reports of crowds on the rivers and my own experience in the past is that these rivers can be very crowded. I do fish them sometimes but I tend to look elsewhere first if I can. I only went out once on the Delta (Whiskey Slough) this summer, an early morning trip in my float tube fishing topwater for largemouth and I had no luck. I usually catch something on poppers and deer hair bugs but not this time. Lastly, I backed out of the Kistler Bass Pond trip this past March/April due to COVID and in hindsight regret doing that, but I hope to be able to make it in 2021.

Website Tips – Hatch Charts and More

This month we are introducing a monthly tip section to help you get the maximum use out of the TVFF website, and also bringing two new capabilities to the website as well.

Hatch Charts

We have just introduced a series of hatch charts for a number of popular rivers that you can find on the [Resources](#) page. We'll be adding more and more to these as we build it out, but be sure to check here before leaving on a trip. With one stop you can now check out the weather and wind, the road conditions, water flow and reservoir storage and release, current fly shop fishing reports, presentation materials, and podcasts that might be of help for your trip. All this is available on our Resources page. Give it a shot and let us know if there is any other information that you'd like to see. Note that some of the resources are restricted to members only, so you will need to be logged in to see them.

Raffle Tickets

We added the ability for members to buy raffle tickets for our monthly virtual meetings from our online store. You can find a link to the store on the [Members](#) page, or [click here](#) to go directly to the store (login required). Tap on the Raffle Ticket item to purchase a ticket for the meeting's raffle via credit card. There is no extra credit card fee for members and the \$5 raffle tickets are limited to one per person.



[December 2020 Monthly Meeting Raffle Ticket - Limit one per member](#)
\$5.00

Donations

Recently we have been asked by a number of members for a facility to donate money or equipment to the club in an easy fashion, including for those that wish to donate the remainder of their annual membership fee that was discounted for next year. This month we added a "Donate" button on the Home page taking the user to a page that explains how someone can donate via check or equipment, and includes a form for donating via credit card. We are also adding a Donor Recognition section on this page for all of our current and past donors who we will gratefully acknowledge as we capture all of them from past years.

Renew your Fishing License

Licenses for 2021 are now available, and CDFW has added a new auto-renew feature. You no longer need to worry about when your California fishing license expires if you sign-up for the new auto renewal option. All you need to do is go online to the [CDFW licensing website](#), set-up a password, provide a payment method, and choose the items you want to have auto renew. CDFW will then automatically send your fishing permits to your door before the others expire. Reminder emails will be sent prior to any charges hitting your payment method.



Conservation

Pebble Mine Stopped – [Save Bristol Bay](#)

In a move welcomed by millions of Americans, Alaskan communities, and admirers of the most prolific wild salmon fishery in the world, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) denied the application for the key permit for the proposed Pebble mine. The Corps had said the mine would cause significant degradation and significant adverse effects to the waters and fisheries of the Bristol Bay region.

“The Corps’ denial of the permit for the Pebble Mine is a victory for common sense,” said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. “Bristol Bay is the wrong place for industrial-scale mining, and we look forward to working with the people of the Bristol Bay region, Alaska’s Congressional delegation, the state, and other partners to permanently protect Bristol Bay and its world class fisheries.”

The Corps announced in August that the project could not be permitted “as currently proposed” and required Pebble Limited Partnership to create a new compensatory mitigation plan. Since then, technical experts concluded that it would be nearly impossible for the company to meet those mitigation standards.

CalTrout Annual Report

California Trout posted their [annual report](#). Here are a few excerpts:

“We were grateful and humbled that donations from individuals didn’t miss a beat, exceeding our unrestricted revenue goals for the fiscal year ending in June. Added to that, we secured over \$22M in new project funding—a 50% increase over the previous year—to be implemented over the next several years. ... We close out this most unusual year with total revenue of \$8.6 million, **86% of which went directly to program work**. While the revenue was lower than projected due to COVID-19 delays, that work and revenue has shifted into fiscal year 2021 with an approved budget of \$15.7 million. A big step reflecting the large, landscape-level projects underway across the state.”

Klamath Dams - CalTrout

PacifiCorp and Warren Buffett have agreed to the full terms of dam removal on the Klamath River, thus clearing a major obstacle in the long, concerted effort to restore one of California's largest watersheds. This monumental decision validates decades of work on the part of more than 40 partner organizations, including

the Karuk, Yurok, and Klamath Tribes, the states of California and Oregon, and commercial fishing and conservation groups.

Warren Buffett's support as one of the world's most successful investors signals to the conservation world that he is fully invested in the health of the Klamath River and communities that depend on it.

California Governor Gavin Newsom, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, as well as representatives of dam owner PacifiCorp, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, and the Klamath River Renewal Corporation announced a Memorandum of Agreement that clears the way for the final steps of Klamath dam removal.

Removing the Klamath dams will open more than 300 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. It will also be the first time the Klamath will flow freely in over a century and start the healing process for the watershed and the communities that depend on it.

Salmon Habitats

Over \$10 million in grants was awarded to 27 projects dedicated to benefiting the state's salmon habitats, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced.

The grants, amounting to \$10.7 million, were awarded through the agency's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program for the restoration, enhancement and protection of anadromous salmonid habitats, and to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead throughout California and surrounding states.

In response to the 2020 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grant Solicitation, CDFW received 80 proposals requesting more than \$40.6 million in funding. Following a rigorous technical review, 27 projects were selected to receive the funding, officials said in a release on Tuesday.

The 27 approved projects will further state and federal fisheries recovery plans, including removing barriers to fish migration, restoring riparian habitat, monitoring of listed populations, and creating a more resilient and sustainably managed water resources system that can better withstand drought conditions.

"The ongoing momentum to restore California's habitat for these historic species hasn't stopped as we face a global pandemic and devastating wildfires," CDFW director Charlton Bonham said.

