

# The Barbless Hook

November 2021

Edited by Mark Spruiell



[tri-valleyflyfishers.org](http://tri-valleyflyfishers.org)

## November Meeting

### Pat Dorsey on the South Platte River

The South Platte River is one of America's top tailwater fisheries. From the headwaters to the outskirts of Denver, the South Platte River has something for everyone. Pat takes us on a tour of the South Platte watershed, plus offers helpful advice on river access, entomology, matching the hatch, fly selection, and much more.

A native of Colorado, Pat has been guiding for nearly 30 years. He spends well over two hundred days a year on the water, a combination of guiding customers, hosting destination travel-trips, and personal days on the water. Pat is the head guide and co-owner of the Blue Quill Angler fly shop in Evergreen, Colorado. He is a Simms Ambassador, a member of the Sage Elite Pro Team, Fishpond Ambassador, Orvis Pro Team Member, Yeti Pro staff, and Scientific Anglers pro staff. He is also the Southwest Field Editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine.

Please join us on November 4<sup>th</sup> to hear Pat's presentation on this wonderful Colorado river. Check your email for an invitation to the Zoom meeting.



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## President's Message

### Albert Mansky

Hi guys & gals,

Well, I'm writing this message on Friday, October 22nd and it's raining. We're off to a good start with the forecast of a real storm to hit on Sunday and Monday. By the time you read this message, it will be old news. I just hope that the weather pattern doesn't reflect what has happened the past couple of years. We start out strong and then the rain just peters out for the rest of the season. The Tri-Valley Times the other week projected that this storm was a 5 on their scale. Channel 7 news last night upgraded the coming storm to a 3. We'll see who's right. Like they say, the weatherman is only right half the time. In any case we'll take whatever mother nature has to offer. Something is always better than nothing. At least on the bright side, this might finally put an end to the fire season.

It's that time of year to start thinking about next year's Officers and Board of Directors for the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers Club. This is my third year as your President. This is a record, I believe, as President for your organization. Normally the President only serves for two years. For the past couple of years, it's been the same members holding offices in your club and in some cases in different positions. What I'm saying is, we could use some new members, new and more ideas and your knowledge to enhance the board. So, if you are at all interested in serving on the board, please let me or another board member know. It's not too late to be a more active member than now.

I'm putting a slate of Officers and Directors together for the coming yearly election in December. I would like to see new names on the slate than just the past Officers and Directors who have served you in past years. Our club is only as strong as the members who support it. I encourage you to participate and be more active in your club than just going out on fishing trips. Your experience and knowledge are what make this club what it is today.

I'm going to float the Lower Sacramento River in mid-November for Rainbow Trout and hopefully some Steelies. I hope to have some pictures and a story to tell you in the December newsletter. Till next time, stay safe and stay healthy. I got my booster and flu shot. Did you get yours?

*Al*

## 2021 TVFF Board of Directors

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Albert Mansky
<b>Vice President</b>	Martin Loomis
<b>Secretary</b>	John Price
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris McCann
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Perry

### Directors

<b>Auction</b>	Open Position
<b>Conservation</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Education</b>	Rob Farris
<b>Outings</b>	Martin Plotkin
<b>Fly Tying</b>	Jim Broadbent
<b>Member at Large</b>	Ron Dueltgen
<b>Member at Large</b>	Tom Vargas
<b>Membership</b>	Todd Hyrn
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark Spruiell
<b>Publicity</b>	Open Position
<b>Raffle</b>	Open Position
<b>Refreshments</b>	Gary Prince
<b>Speakers</b>	Dave Fontaine
<b>Trout in Classroom</b>	Daniel Kitts
<b>Video Library</b>	Steve Johnson
<b>Webmaster</b>	Mark Spruiell

## Raffle Information

For the club's next meeting on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, winning participants in the raffle will have their choice of any of the items. As always you must be present, or in this case still online, to win. Tickets must be purchased online through the [club store](#) by end of day on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. An email will be sent to you prior to the meeting with your ticket numbers. Cost of tickets are \$5 for 6 tickets, and \$20 for 25 tickets. The raffle items are listed below.



Cortland used 10wt Floating Line



Used Shooting Head with integrated running line



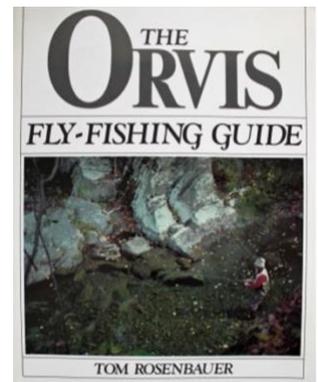
Montana Fly Company Horseshoe double zinger



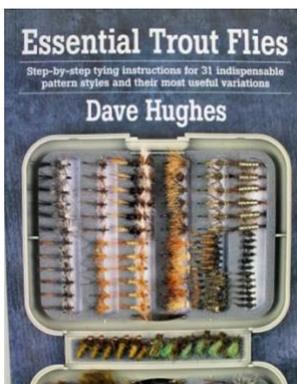
Montana Fly Company Cork Floatant Caddy



Nordica Fishing Lanyard



The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide by Tom Rosenbauer



Essential Trout Flies

## Outings and Activities

We have three outings scheduled for November and one for next March.

After I scheduled our Annual Fall Striper Outing on November 21<sup>st</sup> for members with boats, I spoke with Barry Penner who agreed to coordinate a Striper Outing for float tubers, pontoons, kayaks and the like. It will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't done so, this is a great opportunity to Bass fish the Delta. This event will launch from Discovery Bay Marina.

It appears that there are few if any spaces left for the March 5 and 6, 2022 outing at the UC property on the Yuba River.

Let Al Mansky know if you're interested in a December or January float on the Lower Sac.

Anyone who hasn't organized an outing and would like to do so, I'll team you up with an experienced Fish Meister. You don't have to be an expert; you just need to be interested in the activity to organize and coordinate.

Let's go fishin'.

*Martin Plotkin, Outing Coordinator*

### Lower Sac Float – November 14-15

This [outing](#) is a great opportunity to drift the Lower Sacramento River between Redding and Red Bluff. Jim Roberts will guide us to fish for 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 salmon eggs during this spawning time. Rainbows as well as Steelhead can average around 18" up to 24". This is an exciting time to be on the river. Plan to fish for two days, although a single day of fishing can be arranged. Note that this event is fully subscribed, but there is no cost to join the waitlist in case someone drops out.



### Float Tube/Pontoon Striper Outing – November 20

This is our Fall Striper outing for float tubes, pontoons and other non-motorized crafts on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. This is for members who **do not** have a boat.

These fish are great fun on a fly rod. This is a great opportunity to experience hard pulling, double digit freshwater fish on fly gear. We will fish in Discovery Bay, launching from the Discovery Bay Marina. Visit the [event](#) to register or learn more.

## Striper Outing – November 21

This is our annual Fall Striper outing on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. This is for members who have a boat and their member guest. Others can contact me and I'll put you in contact with anyone who has room in their boat for another angler.

These fish are great fun on a fly rod. This is a great opportunity to experience hard pulling, double digit freshwater fish on fly gear. We will fish the southern bays of Discovery Bay in the morning and after lunch move to the sloughs and canals around the area. Visit the [event](#) to register or learn more.



## December Meeting – Devin Olsen – December 2

Join us on December 2<sup>nd</sup> as Devin Olsen gives us a Zoom presentation on Euro nymphing. Devin has been competing for Fly Fishing Team USA since 2006. He has earned a bronze individual medal and silver and bronze team medals from these championships and numerous medals from competitions in the United States.

Away from competitive fishing, he holds a bachelor's degree in Ecology and a master's degree in fisheries science. He worked as a fisheries biologist for several years before starting his company [Tactical Fly Fisher](#). He has produced two instructional films *Modern Nymphing: European Inspired Techniques* and *Modern Nymphing Elevated: Beyond the Basics*, and authored the book *Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned from Competition for All Anglers*.



## Fly Tying Get Together – January 3

We're planning to restart our monthly **in-person** Fly Tying meetings on January 3<sup>rd</sup>! Jim Broadbent, the club's director of Fly Tying, will select a pattern for the meeting. Members bring their vises, share materials, and get some practice tying the pattern. More details to come later.

## January Meeting – January 6

We're also planning to restart our monthly general club meetings in person on January 6<sup>th</sup>! The speaker hasn't been finalized yet so we don't know whether the presenter will be in person or remote, but either way we'll reopen the doors at the Rod & Gun Club. If the speaker is presenting in person, we plan to broadcast the meeting via Zoom for those who can't make it to the meeting. We'll have more information for you soon.

## International Sportsmen's Expo – January 20-23

The [ISE at CalExpo in Sacramento](#) is billed as California's largest annual gathering for anglers, hunters, boaters, offroaders and others seeking outdoor adventures nearby or around the world. It's worth a day trip even if you're only interested in checking out the offerings related to fly fishing.

## Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show – February 25-27

The [Fly Fishing Show](#) returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds and never fails to provide interesting seminars and lots of exhibitors willing to take your money. The show schedule has not been published yet, but you can buy tickets for the show as well as for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4) on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to stop by the TVFF booth and say hello!

## Lower Yuba River – March 5-6, 2022

Our club events on the Yuba will be on the private property owned by the University of California. We have contracted for TVFF's exclusive use of the facility for the weekend, with a maximum of twenty anglers per day. There is approximately 2.5 miles of available river that is the tailwater section a mile or so below Englebright Dam. The river has easy and level access, so it's ideal for those less comfortable in heavy current wading situations, although that is also available for those Euro Nymphing.



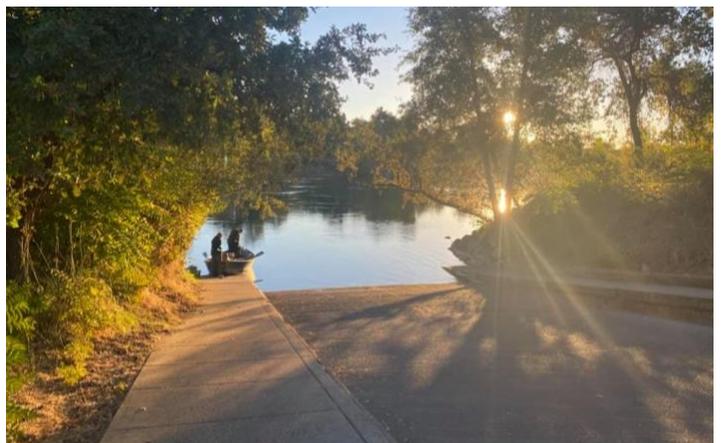
The UC facility is on many acres in a pastoral valley leading down to the river. Most of the research here is for cattle, grazing land management, and erosion control so it is very quiet with no nearby roads, ranches, or houses. There is a covered picnic area for use that sits above the river with 8-10 picnic tables and a restroom that is also available on site. All in all, it's a very scenic and serene site.

BBQ lunch included! Visit our [event calendar](#) for all the details.

## Member Reports

### Lower Sac – Bob McCollum

Fished the Lower Sac for a couple of days. Landed some very nice fish. Lots of salmon in the river; more than I have ever seen. Many are staging and building redds but still waiting to drop their eggs. The peak of the egg bite is still to come.



## Fall River – Bill Pots

I recently went fishing on Fall River for three days. First day was unfishable due to a wind event. Got two days of fishing in. There was a nice hatch of PMDs, Caddis and a few large Callibaetis each day at around 3:30. I picked up a few fish on Zug Bugs fished on a 6wt intermediate line. I also picked a couple up on a size 18 Loopwing Paradun, an old Bob Quigley pattern I have tied for over 35 years, still works well. Best fish was 18 inches. Not red-hot fishing, but always beautiful.



## Lower Sac – Jim McCabe

Spent a day on the Sacramento River near Anderson on October 6<sup>th</sup> drifting for salmon. Weather was a bit cloudy at first, but we saw the sun about noon. Four of us caught seven fish, one going to 33 pounds!! This one was my first fish of the day. Guide was excellent, good gear and a clean boat. All in all, a great day on the water!!!



## Putah Creek

### *Fall is a Great Time to Explore It*

So here we are, back at the transition to fall season again. Sierra rivers are still low after the recent deluge, and lakes have also been slow with the big guys diving deep for the winter. What is one to do? Well, how about our best nearby fishery at Putah Creek in Winters. Yes, that Putah Creek; the much-maligned tough fishery of a thousand casts and big fish but only 1.5 hours away. And after the May presentation by Steve Kerr on how to fish Putah, why not go? So a few TVFF members ventured up on different trips to Winters this month to check it out.



**Overall conditions:** Clear and sunny days with water levels now at winter levels of 240 cfs (vs. 450 summer cfs). Last year's fire burns are very evident from Access 1 at the bridge all the way down through Access 5. While the bad news is that the burn scars are there, the good news is that access is much more direct and easier to the creek. The blackberries and poison oak mostly burned out, but are starting to come back.

If you have the time, I highly recommend checking out Putah before the voluntary closure on November 15. From mid-November until the end of February, all local reputable Putah guides and responsible fisherpersons voluntarily close their fishing on Putah during the rainbow spawning period. But right now, the fish are fattening up for the spawn and seem to be on the bite with the cooler weather.

## Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> – James Kirchner

Took a friend fly fishing for the first time yesterday (Saturday 10/9/2021) to Putah creek. Wasn't expecting much of anything at all considering how hard Putah can be to fish and crowded the water gets on weekends.

We were on the water at 7:30am. All the lots already had plenty of cars in them, so we started at the last lot before the dam. We fished across from the campgrounds for a couple hours with no luck. I had my friend who is a new angler on an indicator set up while I was swinging and stripping small streamers.

We eventually made our way to the staircase riffle around 10am. I switched over to a tight line/euro set up. Within 10 minutes we were getting hits. I got one in the tail out of the staircase and one in the fast water tightlining a Walts Worm and a 16 natural pheasant tail nymph.

After about an hour we decided to head toward access 5 to finish off what would be our half-day trip. Again 10 minutes into fishing the riffle at the end of the long stretch at 5 we were on the fish. All in all I had 10 to hand in the day while my buddy had his first 3 fish to hand on the fly rod. There were plenty more we hooked and lost (clean released). The highlight of the day was when I hooked into my personal best: a 25" stud of a fish shaped like a football. On the 11' 3wt I wasn't sure we would get him in, but we managed.

What I expected to be a typical 0-3 fish day at Putah turned into my best day there in the 10 years or so I have been going. All the fish for the day were on 16-20 pheasant tails. Natural looking seemed to be the key. Tight line is ideal but you can definitely get some good fish on smaller streamers in the morning and evenings. There were even fish rising and rolling for emergers.



## Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> – Mitchie McCammon

We started out fishing below the access 4 riffles, and I finally conquered my fear of wading Putah with the slick rocks. Taking my time, it turned out to be much easier than I thought with carefully picking my way across the creek with no problems. And that opened up a great new fishing area on the south side of the creek where I had never been before. As it turns out our group got four fish. Two on an indicator setup throwing beaded olive midges. The others were also on olive zebras using a euro setup and missed another 6 fish on soft takes. But I finally got my very first fish at Putah Creek which is always known as a tough fishery. So the trip was a complete success and very exciting for me personally. And we found that last year's burn really helped clear out the access to the creek so it's much easier until the lower brush begins to fill in. I'm so excited to learn the creek that is so close for a spur of the moment trip.



## Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> – Rob Farris

Started out at Access 1 and fished under the bridge with euro and with indicator setups. Not much activity except one good grab by a 16 incher that chucked the #20 olive Zebra hook on the run down the riffles. Such is life on Putah. Moved downstream a bit, but too many people in the water at the staircase, and didn't observe any hookups. Too bad, it's a great area.

Decided to head back to my usual haunts and moved back down to access 5 in the late afternoon. Promptly hooked up with a small 12 incher in the riffle on an indicator setup with a tan Pheasant Tail, followed by another small one lost on a euro setup. Then around 5pm got a big fish hooked up on the euro setup again with a Pheasant tail trailed by a size #16 olive Sexy Walt's Worm on 6X tippet. And so the game was on!

What could go wrong: light tippet, clearly a big fish, fast current, nearby brush pile, and the adrenaline going off the charts? When she first surfaced it was clear that this was a big slab of a fish, so just a bit of added pressure to keep her buttoned up. Got her to the net the first time, and she bolts for cover. Worked her back into the soft water just a bit, re-positioned, and get her back close to the net again. But no, she bolts again and isn't done yet. Work her back in against the current, but half-way in she bolts upstream in the riffle, which is to my liking in finally getting her upstream. Worked her back downstream with her head up and plane her into the net. Then comes the hard job of lifting the net! This is one heavy, typical Putah Creek female that we see in the fall. Gorgeous color, 26" in length and an estimated 6 pounds of eggs waiting for the November/December spawn coming up. What a party girl!



Three different club members took the challenge in October, and all were rewarded with either their first fish, or in the case of James and Rob, very large, exciting fall fish. If you are anxious to get out, you should definitely give Putah a good shot. Find someone in the club that knows the creek well and go for it this fall before it closes up.

## Yuba River – James Kirchner

I was attending a wedding in Grass Valley so I decided to take a rod and some flies in case I had some time to kill. Ended up that I had plenty of time so I made my way to Reel Anglers fly shop in Grass Valley to see what's happening in the area. Todd who owns and runs Reel Anglers is actually originally from Dublin so we got to talking about some of our local spots as well as his.

I'm pretty familiar with the north fork of the Yuba and the Lower Yuba but didn't have time for either of those. Luckily Wolf Creek, Deer Creek, and Bear Creek all flow through Nevada City and Grass Valley and have plenty of fish and cold water. Todd pointed me to a quick spot to access Wolf Creek near my hotel and I was able to get an hour in the water.

The fish are starting to get on the October caddis hatch and I was able to land a few on a dry dropper using a larger October caddis dry and an orange psycho prince nymph. Nothing big, but in the time I had it was a nice

pit stop to make. I know around this time last year I was on the north fork and the hatch was in full swing. So if you have time I suggest heading up to Downieville and fishing between there and Sierra City. You won't find the biggest fish, but you'll definitely find them in numbers.

Here's a small local from Wolf Creek:



## **Bollibokka – Mitchie McCammon**

This past month I had the opportunity to go to a CalTrout event at Bollibokka. The name sounds mysterious, exciting, and very special. It was that and so much more for me. This trip was emotional and empowering, as it was the first fishing trip I have taken by myself. I didn't know anyone who was attending this event, nor had I ever been there. As excited as I was to be there, it was also bittersweet because I knew Kent would have loved to be there with me. In a way, he was. I carried him in my heart and fished a river that we both loved. I brought his rod and reel and hoped to catch a fish with his gear. That was a lot of expectation to be bringing with me, and I hoped I wouldn't be disappointed.

Bollibokka is a private fishing club that was built in 1904 on a seven mile stretch of the McCloud River. It is located on the north side of Shasta Lake. The trout are wild and can be challenging to catch. The 17-mile drive

from I-5 to the gate of the dirt road was winding and beautiful, and my anticipation was building. I had been told the water was murky due to glacial melt from Mt. Shasta, but I wasn't prepared for the milky aqua color of the water when I finally saw it. How was I going to fish this water if I couldn't see the bottom of the river? How were the fish going to see my tiny flies? It was now time to go through the gate and follow the dirt road to the lodge for my new adventure. I was headed to a rustic retreat, free from cell phones, TVs, and social media.



As I was driving to the lodge, I met Curtis Knight, CalTrout Executive Director, and his father, Buzz. They had been on the water fishing and were heading back to the lodge. Once at the lodge, I found my room upstairs. I had a view of the river and could hear the gushing water through the open windows. The water was beckoning me, so I decided to gear up and try my luck at landing a fish before dinner.

The trail to the water was not as easy as it appeared at first glance. I was alone and had to figure out how to get to the water. There were boulders and poison oak to maneuver around and only a few places that led directly to the water. Once at the river, you couldn't see the bottom due to the pearly color. I was using a 6wt rod and decided to start with an Autumn Splendor stimulator, size 16, with an October caddis nymph, size 18, dropper. My first casts were terrible, and I ended up wrestling with the foliage at the water's edge. I hoped no one could see me because it was rather embarrassing. I finally managed to get a few casts in the water but had no strikes. I gave up after a short time so I could meet the other guests and get a snack before dinner. Although it wasn't a great start, it felt good to be outside by the river.

Soon it was time for dinner in the beautiful dining room. The live-edge table and handmade, twig dining chairs added such charm to this rustic setting. Gas wall lamps lit the room because there was no electricity. Dinner was prepared by a chef and was served family-style to our small group of seven. We had pasta with shrimp and delicious tomatoes with burrata. Dessert was warm, freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Conversation around the table was lively and mostly centered around travel and fishing. It was fascinating listening to the stories. It all felt so decadent.



The next morning, we made our way back to the dining room for a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon, fruit, and other delectable offerings. After finishing our breakfast, we picked up our lunches from the kitchen and met our guides, the Kennedy brothers. My guide was Greg Kennedy, a 6'9" wonderful man. I only mention his height because I am 5'1". Greg's brother, Chris, was guiding Curtis and Buzz. I was given a choice of fishing the McCloud or doing a float trip down the lower Sac. I chose to fish the McCloud. Off we went to get our gear and head upstream on the trail.

Greg put an indicator set up on my line with a tungsten head, rubber legs, top fly, and a smaller, weighted nymph on the bottom. Once again, I was dodging poison oak and climbing over boulders to get to the water, but this time I had someone who knew the trail leading me. We made our way to the water, and Greg explained to me where and how to cast. About the third cast, I hooked a fish. Unfortunately, he was an early release. At least we knew there were fish in that milky water and that they were feeding. A few more casts later and I hooked another one. This time, I was able to land him. It was a beautiful, wild, McCloud River rainbow. The elation I felt with that one fish can only be described as breathtaking. The splendor of the surroundings, the turbid waters, the joy of using Kent's gear, and the adventure all combined in that one, beautiful, wild, fish. We continued upstream and hooked a few more fish, but that was the only fish I landed that day.



That night at dinner, we all had fish stories to share, including our CalTrout hosts. As we finished our delicious dinner of pork chops, veggies, and warm brownies, we were treated to a video about the Nigiri Project. The basics of the Nigiri Project is that salmon small fry grow larger in the flooded rice fields in the winter and therefore have a better chance of surviving. We were able to ask questions and have a conversation with Jacob Katz, the scientist in charge of the project. It is a fascinating concept that combines agriculture, water, and fish management for the benefit of all. I highly recommend learning more [here](#). A great day fishing, delicious food, inspiring conversation, and the anticipation for more fishing the next day, what better way to end the day?

The day before, half of our group did a float trip down the Lower Sac while the rest of us fished the McCloud. Today, we switched places. I was paired up with Tracey Diaz from CalTrout and was looking forward getting to know her. Like me, she had not done a float trip either. It was all so exciting! After packing our cars, we began the drive down the dirt road and quickly came to a stop. In the middle of the road was a large tree branch that had fallen in the night from all the wind. Luckily, we were able to move it off the road so we could get to what we wanted to do most, fish.

Greg was once again the guide and met us at the boat launch by the rodeo grounds. There was a lot of traffic on the water that we later learned was because a women's fly fishing club had come to fish the Lower Sac too. Excitement was in the air at the prospect of catching large rainbows and steelhead. After a few instructions, we were off. As Greg rowed us down the river, he pointed out the salmon spawning grounds known as redds. These were the areas we were going to target as we fished.

We used 9 ½ foot, 6wt rods with an indicator set up. The flies we used were pink beads, which Greg had painted with light pink nail polish, a bare hook, size 16, tied a few inches from the bead, and an S&M nymph, size 18, tied to the bare hook. He showed us how to do a water load as we cast and how to set the hook. I had heard stories of how large, fast, and strong these fish are and was a bit nervous about what I would do when I hooked one. It didn't take long to hook into one and find out. It felt like I was going to lose the rod overboard, so all I could do was hold on tight and try to follow instructions on how to reel it in. Even though I couldn't get the fish to the net, I now knew what to expect with the next fish. Tracey hooked one and was able to get it to the boat. She was shaking with adrenaline and pure joy. The next fish was mine. The size was small but no less thrilling.

As we continued down the river, we saw zombie salmon. They truly looked like zombies. White spots on dark bodies swam hauntingly through the river. Greg told us to cast to their tails as we rowed by the redds because the rainbows and steelhead would be in those areas looking for salmon eggs. Almost every time, we hooked into a fish. Landing them was not always successful. Eventually, both Tracey and I hooked a big fish and landed them. Mine was about 24" long and about five pounds. It was the largest fish I had ever caught and by far the most exciting.



At the end of the day, we each caught about five fish and learned so much. Greg was the most patient guide and was very fun.

By the end of the two days, I was tired, happy, and my arm was bit sore. This new adventure was all about fishing and yet, so much more. I gained more knowledge about rigs, nymphing, rivers, casting, setting the hook and fighting the fish, but most of all, I learned about myself. The river fills my soul and rejuvenates me. Adventure gives me energy. Catching a fish makes me smile, and releasing it gives me the hope of catching it again another day. Those high expectations I had at the beginning of my journey? Well, they were far exceeded. And I have taken to saying now, there is no crying in fly fishing.

## **Baum Lake and Burney Falls – Mitchie McCammon**

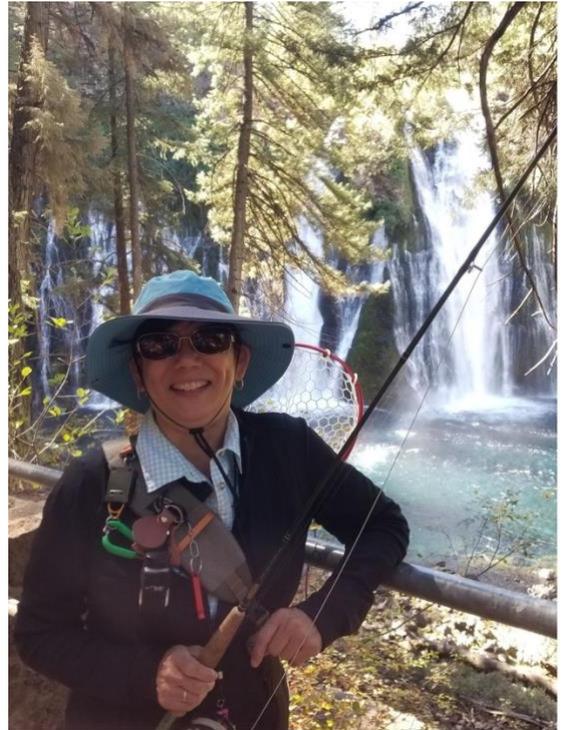
When you are asked if you want to go fishing, there is no other answer except, “Yes!” With the high temperatures, drought, fires and smoke, there are not many streams to fish right now, so it was time to get out my WaterMaster raft and learn to fish lakes. It has been many years since I last took out the raft, and I never really learned how to fish from it. So, off to Baum Lake I went with my fishing guide, Rob Farris.

We got to the lake about 3 pm or so and checked out the conditions. It was a clear day with the temperature in the high 80’s. A short walk to the edge of the lake, and we could see fish hitting the surface. The excitement was building as we set up our rods. Today we were only fishing from the shore with no wading and no boats. The trail was easy, but the shore was muddy. We saw a muskrat scurrying into a hole near the water and realized we needed to be careful that we didn’t twist an ankle in one of the holes.

We had 6wt rods with a fly I like to call the Mark Spruiell Special, otherwise known as the Jay Fair Wiggletail, size 16 in olive. As soon as the indicator went under, a hard set was almost guaranteed to hook a fish. Each cast was almost guaranteed to get a fish as well. The only drawback? Lots and lots and lots of thistle behind us which resulted in every second cast getting tangled in the thorns! For the two hours of fishing we did, we caught about 9 or 10 fish, all about 12–13-inch rainbows.

The next day it was quite windy, so option number one, Baum Lake was out. The forecast for the following day was much more favorable for the lake. Option number two was to fish the pool under Burney Falls. Off we went to explore. It was the perfect choice! The air was crisp and rapidly warming, but the wind was less as we hiked down the paved trail to the falls. Once at the bottom, the mist and wind picked up a bit. It took some careful scrambling over big boulders to get to the water. We could see fish swimming in the pool with some hitting the surface.

This day it was my 5wt rod with an elk hair caddis, size 18. Casting into the wind with the mist was a bit challenging but so exciting when the perfect cast landed where I wanted it to go. I managed to hook about 3 or 4 fish and netted one. It was a beautiful rainbow about 12.” What made this even more exciting was that there was an audience of hikers who had taken the trail



to the falls. In my head I was saying, "Gotta catch this fish. Gotta catch this fish." I wanted to look like I could flyfish and to show other women and children that anyone can try it. After fishing for a few hours, we hiked the loop trail along the river and up to the top of the falls. It was a beautiful hike that has me wanting to come back and fish again.

The next morning, we loaded the car and headed back to Baum Lake. It was the day I had been looking forward to because I now had the opportunity to fish from my WaterMaster raft. Rob had me practice setting up my WaterMaster in my garage a few days before we left. It was a good thing because I had never used the piece that is used for the anchor, and it some time to find it. I also had to purchase an anchor. At last, I had the opportunity to get my raft on the water and fish! It took about an hour to assemble everything and get myself situated.



I had two rods this time, my 6wt with an indicator and wiggletail, and my 5wt with an elk hair caddis. As we rowed out to the curve in the lake, we could see the fish rising. That meant I could start with my dry fly. Each cast was in the right spot, but I had no takers. Looking in the water, we saw spinners, lots of spinners. A quick (ok, maybe not that quick) fly change to something that would resemble the spinners, and I was casting again. The fish were picky this day and didn't want that either. It was time to try the wiggletail and indicator. Another cast or two or more and finally a strike! I finally managed to catch a few fish.

After fishing the curve for a while, we moved to another spot. By this time, the sun was beginning to set, and I wasn't ready to get off the water. Like they say, there is always one more cast. My guide, Rob, gave me a few more casting lessons to try for a few more fish. I managed to catch a couple more fish before it was time to head back. At the end of the day, we netted about 15 fish and hooked a few more. It was time to row back to shore and head home.



I've been told that you should learn something with each trip and each fish you catch so here is my takeaway.

1. Make sure you are familiar with your gear before leaving home. In my case, it was learning about my raft again.
2. Be prepared to shift gears according to the weather or other conditions, like wind.
3. Embrace those things that make you happy. I loved the challenge of casting into the wind and the mist of Burney Falls. I also loved the audience when I caught a fish, go figure, since I'm not comfortable being the center of attention.
4. Treat your fish with kindness because you don't know how they grew up. The fish I caught at Baum were hatchery fish and were not fighters like wild trout. They tired out easily and sometimes needed a longer rest before swimming off.
5. Casting from a raft is much different than casting from shore. My arm was tired and sore because I was using too much wrist among other bad habits.
6. Have fun! That is something I do every time I'm on the water.

## California Fishing Licenses

California will now issue 365-day fishing licenses, under a new law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Previously, the state issued a calendar-based license that expired on Dec. 31, regardless of when it was issued.

Assembly Bill 817, authored by Assemblyman Jim Wood, D-Santa Rosa, also authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow for sport fishing licenses to be displayed electronically on a mobile device.

"Tourism is one of the largest parts of the North Coast's economy, and anglers come from all over to enjoy fishing in our ocean and many lakes, rivers and streams," Wood said in a statement, "and it's only common sense to move past the calendar-based license to a model that is used for so many things in your everyday life, like your Costco membership card."

The new law seeks to reverse a trend that has found California annual resident sport fishing license sales down 55% since 1980, despite the state's population growth by 60% in that same period, according to Wood's office.

"While California has a population of more than 39.8 million people, one of the country's longest coastlines, more than 3,000 lakes and thousands of rivers and streams, it has the lowest fishing participation rate per capita in the country," Wood's office said in a statement.



With the new law, California joins 14 other states in transitioning from a calendar-based fishing license system to a 365-day license system, including Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

“Providing anglers access to a fishing license that provides greater value and technology that makes fishing more accessible is long overdue, and what better way to achieve these goals than to boost the value of a license purchased by an angler? It’s kind of a no-brainer,” said Wayne Kotow, executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association of California, a sponsor of AB 817.

Wood said in a statement that it was time for California to abandon its “antiquated” fishing license system.

“Modernizing our sport fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase will encourage more Californians to fish and increase fishing license revenue that fund critical state fishing and conservation programs. Making fishing more accessible really supports communities that rely on outdoor recreation and tourism, like my Northern California district,” he said.

## Trinity River

A new water management program is being proposed for the Trinity River to help dwindling salmon populations. The Yurok Tribe helped develop the plan through its participation in the [Trinity River Restoration Program](#) (TRRP), which is comprised of tribal, state, and federal agencies, and then submitted it to the Bureau of Reclamation for approval where it currently lies. The new water release plan will



shift some of the water normally released from Lewiston Dam in late spring to the winter and early spring, which will create conditions that more closely mimic a free-flowing river. The Yurok Fisheries Department contributed to and thoroughly analyzed this proposal to manage the Trinity “in a more holistic manner,” the Tribe noted. This is one of the biggest, recent opportunities to facilitate positive change on the Trinity.

According to the Yurok Tribe, “the current flow management plan creates artificial river conditions that diminish juvenile salmon’s ability to recognize natural cues to migrate to the ocean. By the time the fish out-migrate, the Klamath is too warm and water quality is extremely poor.”

Currently, the Trinity River wild salmon and steelhead populations are a small fraction of their former size. This flow plan is a step in the right direction to establishing the river into a more natural state and restoring critically important fish runs. Elevating the winter and early spring flows when fish are rearing in the upper

Trinity will greatly improve the river environment for salmon, as well as every other species that evolved in the Trinity River watershed.

## Truck Advertisements

### Chris Wood – Trout Unlimited

Several years ago, Jeep ran a dumb ad on Super Bowl Sunday showing a truck running up the middle of a creek. My then 8-year-old son asked, “Isn’t that bad for the stream?”

Earlier this year, Ford pulled the same stunt. And now, Nissan. Its 2022 Frontier has been breaking into the baseball playoffs to barrel through streams.

Trout Unlimited invests tens of millions of dollars every year to care for and recover our rivers and streams. Our efforts to protect headwater streams also serve to reduce downstream drinking water filtration costs. When we reconnect rivers to their floodplains, we help diminish the effects of devastating flooding. When we restore rivers and streams, we are creating high paying family wage jobs in rural communities across America.

We are all about cold, clean, fishable water. Layer climate change on top of logging, mining, and other development, and you can begin to understand why seeing a pickup joyriding in a stream gets me a little worked up.

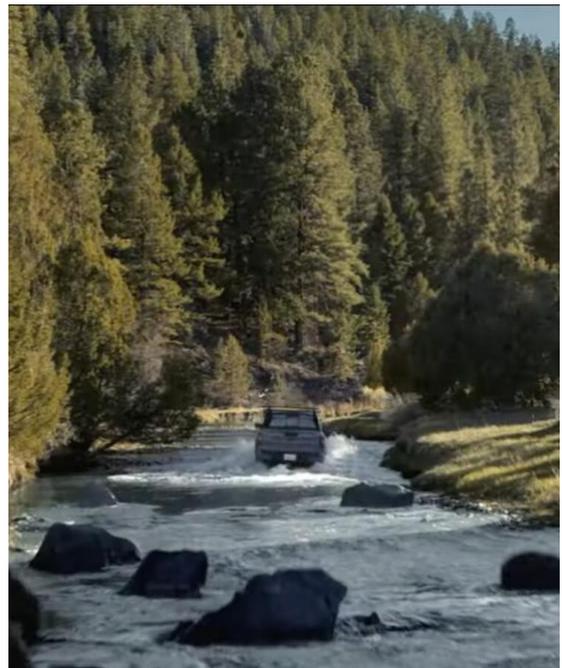
I am certain that these truck companies pay a lot of money to Madison Avenue advertising firms. But it is time for Madison Avenue to knock it off. No serious sportsman or woman would ever advocate running a truck up the middle of a creek.

So last week, I reached out to Nissan with an idea.

Flip the script: Instead of showing people using their trucks to tear through fish habitat, why not show them using them to do something productive—like fixing fish habitat.

“TU members and supporters are doers,” I wrote to Nissan. “We get our hands dirty through the hard work of fixing rivers. We work to undo the decades of damage to our streams—from logging and mining and drilling, from dams and development. We work to make our rivers and communities more resilient to a future that will bring more flooding, drought, more intense wildfires.

“It is important work—taking down dams; reconnecting rivers to their floodplains; planting trees along creeks; installing boulders and large wood to reconstruct damaged fish habitat.



“Ditch the advice of the fast-talking guys in expensive suits that glorify people tearing up the places we love to fish, hunt, and recreate. Instead, show the good work of caring for and recovering our lands and waters. The people who buy your trucks want to know how to pass their love for the outdoors to their kids and grandkids, not ruin it for everyone.”

That’s the sort of story the world’s truck manufacturers should be telling.

We’re waiting to hear back.

## Items for Sale

If you need contact information for a member, use the club’s online [roster](#).

### Gear Sale – James Kirchner

Leland Fly Co Sonoma Series Steelhead reel. Was a backup reel and only used a few times. Comes with neoprene case, backing and big game mono shooting line. Good first spey reel or back up reel. Click n pawl drag. Asking \$150



Simms wader/gear bag. Fits waders and boots in bottom compartment to separate from dry clothes and gear. Tons of storage up too for jackets, warm clothes, socks, etc. more compartments up top for access to fly boxes, reels, etc. bungee style rod tube holders on both sides. Water repellent material. These are discontinued. In great shape minus missing one stop button on handle. Doesn’t affect use. Asking \$200 obo



Simms G4 waders size large king. If you know Simms, you know the G4's are what the guides use. Repaired many pin hole leaks but still going strong. Comes with opros belt rod holder. Only selling because I've grown out of them. Asking \$350 obo.



White River Hobbs Creek 9ft 5wt. Great cheap back up rod. \$20



Wet fly 3/4 reel with Dacron backing \$30

