

The Barbless Hook

August 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

August Meeting – Wednesday August 3rd, 6pm

Annual Club BBQ!

What better way to spend a Wednesday summer evening than with other club members at the Rod & Gun Club facility? We will be using the outdoor and shaded picnic area to enjoy a great dinner of tri-tip, BBQ chicken, and club-provided refreshments, in addition to all the side dishes contributed by other club members. The event starts at 6pm but we won't eat until around 7pm. Please [register](#) by July 30th so that we know how many will be attending.



Free Casting Tune-ups with Gary!

How about some free fly casting instruction before the monthly meeting starts? Gary Turri, a Master Certified casting instructor, will be at **Wattenburger Park from 4-5:30pm** on August 3rd to help you with your casting. Bring your casting ailment and let him have a look at it. Maybe you just need a little tweak.

If you bring your own rod, please use a yarn fly for practice, **no hooks** please for safety reasons. Loaner rods and yarn flies will also be available. The best leader for practice is about 7-8' and tapered to 3X or heavier.

Wattenburger Park is located on Honeysuckle Road in Livermore.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have spent more time in front of the boob tube than at any other time in my life. I also discovered YouTube and sadly to say that I have become addicted to it. The short venues fit right in with my limited attention span. It's amazing what can be found but I'm also thinking there are way too many people out there that have way too much time on their hands. But once in a while, something pops up that makes it all worth it. If you are into euro nymphing, I found a channel from an outfitter called [White Dog Outdoors](#). They are a flyfishing guide service from some distant land called New York and have put together a five-part series on euro nymphing that goes from the basics to advanced techniques. I thought it was very informative and caused me to change some of the things I've been doing including buying a new fly rod, the downside. Spend some time watching it and you may also get addicted to YouTube.

Starting to feel like a nag about our annual BBQ. If you have not signed up yet, well, what's keeping you?

Raffle Information

The winning raffle ticket for a Jim Roberts guided trip will be drawn during the club's [annual picnic](#) on August 3rd. [Online ticket sales](#) will close end of day on August 2nd and tickets will also be available for purchase at the picnic. You do not have to be present to win.

The trip includes lunch, flies, and a full day of fishing from a drift boat. It is good for one or two anglers. Anglers must have a valid fishing license and a steelhead report card.

Tickets are \$20. The trip value is \$600, so a \$20 investment is just a fraction of its worth.

2022 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President | Martin Loomis |
| Vice President | Alan Wyosnick |
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| | |
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| Fly Tying | Jim Broadbent |
| Member at Large | Martin Plotkin |
| Membership | Greg Blandino |
| Newsletter | Mark Spruiell |
| Publicity | Open Position |
| Raffle | Open Position |
| Refreshments | Gary Prince |
| Speakers | Dave Fontaine |
| Trout in Classroom | Daniel Kitts |
| Video Library | Steve Johnson |
| Webmaster | Mark Spruiell |



Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Coordinator

Stay tuned for Delta trips in the fall, North Fork of the Yuba, possible float trips down the Lower Sac and more. If you want to get a trip together, let me know and I will help you become a Fishmeister.

Annual Membership Picnic – August 3

The club will be holding its annual picnic at the Rod & Gun Club's covered patio. This event is open to all TVFF members, their spouses, significant others, and family members. This is always a terrific time to enjoy the sharing of great food and drinks, and to engage with other members in an informal and fun atmosphere.

The cost is \$10 per person (kids under 18 are free). The club will provide grilled tri-tip, chicken, and drinks, while each member is expected to bring along a side dish or dessert. Please [register](#) by July 30th so that we can get an accurate count for food and drink purchases. We also need [volunteers](#) to help with setup and cleanup.

Raffle tickets for the Jim Roberts guided trip will be available for purchase at the picnic, or you can buy them in our [online store](#). The winner will be drawn during the picnic, but you do not need to be present to win.

Fly Tying Get Together – Jim Broadbent

This month's "Get Together" was going to be held on Wednesday, August 10th, but unfortunately or fortunately for me, I will be fishing in Alaska. If there is anyone who would like to host the Get Together, please give me a call and we can work something out and notify the membership. Our September meeting means fall is approaching so how about investigating the October caddis fly along with discussing fishing low water conditions.

Exploring the Eastern Sierras – September 15-19

This is a 3 night-4-day [trip to explore the Eastern Sierras drainage](#) along the US395 corridor. This is a wading trip, although it is recommended to stay out of the water unless absolutely necessary as the fish are very skittish due to the fishing pressure. It is barbless hook, catch and release waters only. Fishing styles can include Euro nymphing, streamers, and indicators in the riffles, with dry fly presentations on the flat water. We will plan to share a local AirBNB/VRBO property in the Mammoth Lakes Area.

Member Reports

Dave Meister – West Walker

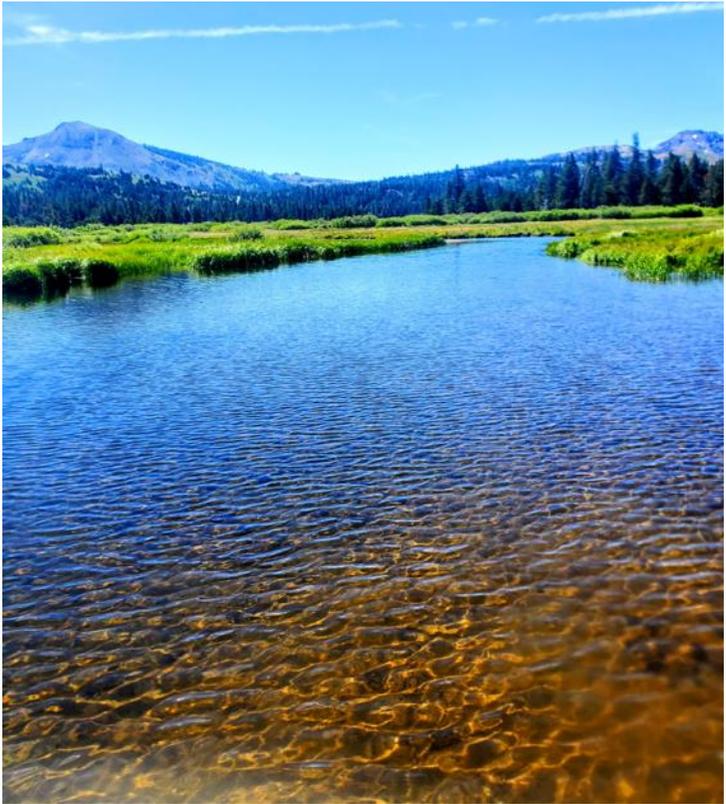
Up on the West Walker last weekend. Caught small rainbows on dries. Everything is low water!!!



Eric Drew – West Fork Carson

Just got back from fishing the Beaver Ponds on the West Fork of the Carson River off of Blue Lakes Road above Hope Valley. I landed 17 trout in 2 days on a #16 black Parachute Adams using a 3wt rod and 6x tippet. It's a great place to free camp.





Bob McCollum – O’Neill Forebay

Pretty good day at O’Neill Forebay. Caught a few feisty striped bass.



Rob Farris – What the heck is a Tag-Along?

This TVFF program started four years ago and of course got sidelined during Covid. But it's back!



Alan getting a head start on a good pool



Gearing up before heading up the easement

So Rob wakes up one morning and decides he wants to go fishing for a simple day trip. He calls Gary Prince who is always up for that, although always over packed for such an excursion (but that's just Gary trying his best to fill up the car...). And why not invite any other Club members that just want a quick one day get-away with three days notice. That's called a ***Tag-Along***. So we get up on the website (thanks, Mitchie!) and the next morning I wake up to 4 others wanting to go. Note that I am not teaching (finally), instructing, or buying the beer. In other words, Rob is fishing full time and looking forward to it. No Fishmeister is assisting, so give it your best shot. Just a bunch of TVFF members wanting company, and sharing the gas for a quick trip.

6:30 AM comes early Tuesday at the Safeway parking lot where we stage a carpool up the hill with 6 attendees (John Reyes, Alan Wyosnick, Gary Prince, Marty Loomis, Denis Haire and myself). Sounds like a TVFF Board meeting, but no, absolutely no business was discussed, except Gary's recent improvement with refreshments. The target: an unexplored section of the SF of the Stanislaus at Fraser Flat for me and walking up the old railroad easement. Then on to Clark's Fork for the afternoon with more giggles.

Yep. Fish caught on the SF and Clarks Fork. Typical high elevation small mountain streams with hungry rainbows chasing Elk Hair Caddis, Parachute Adams, and anything else that looks interesting. Planters, who cares? We were after giggles. How hard is that? A relaxing and entertaining day that got even better. The fish counts were high around 10 per person with upwards of 30 strikes by quick fish.



Another one of Alan's euro nymphs finding a home

And if you wanted a lesson in how many different ways to terrorize a fish, then this was for you. Fish were caught on dries (Rob, of course), dry droppers (Gary), puro Euro (Alan, naturally), Euro and dries (Denis), Tenkara (John), and Euro (Marty). How much fun was that seeing everyone successfully tackle the streams in a different fashion?

Highlight of the day was watching Denis try to “cold cock” Marty with a tuna set on a five-inch fish. Denis thankfully missed the fish but shaved off a couple of Marty’s whiskers with the hook on the backcast. Well, maybe not the highlight, as dinner in Sonora on the way home was fun as usual at the Diamondback Grill before heading back home. A day well spent in the company of good friends. Going out and want company? Put together a Tag Along and enjoy the trip.

Mitchie’s Quest for Heritage Completion: “the Hunt for Gold”

Written by Rob Farris (Mitchie’s Heritage Guide, Chauffeur, Camping Director, and Net Man)

Why? Why not, she says. But there is more to the story as Mitchie and her late husband, Kent, both qualified for the Heritage Trout Challenge in 2018 with the first six fish. But there were four more remaining for full completion and they made it a bucket list item to finish with all ten. Be assured however that the “Challenge” is far more about the overall experience than just the size of the fish, and that is what stoked their adventurous spirit. And so off she went this year to satisfy that bucket list objective that they both adopted before Kent’s untimely passing.

Getting there. Over 800 miles roundtrip, driving through the scorching heat of 114 degrees, excellent Mexican family food in remote places, getting over high mountain passes, seeing Joshua trees (not a fishy area, LOL), chilly camping nights at 7,000’ in remote undeveloped campsites, staying hydrated and preventing altitude sickness, enduring mile after mile of burned out forests and dirt forest roads, doubting that a small creek could survive, finding Golden in the brush and willows in small streams, being rewarded for perseverance with Kern River Rainbows, suffering the disappointment of road fire closures and missing out on a two-day three fish Golden Trout Slam. All in a few days’ work for our intrepid TVFF Director of Outings. What’s the payoff? Read no further if you’re looking for a report on the huge fish caught...



The fish, oh, the fish! One puts in a lot of effort to tackle the California Heritage Trout Challenge. Miles and miles of windshield time to fish small streams that we’d all normally pass up. But wait! They are called Heritage because they are unique, wild, skittish, hard to find, gorgeous (Mitchie calls them cute!), and often in only one or two streams in the entire state. That frequently means waaaaayyyy out there where no man or woman has gone before (well, almost). And so she went; the fishergirl led by her Heritage Trout guide and net

man after three critically imperiled wild fish. Full disclosure, however: I was contracted and compensated with promises of future baked goods from her new kitchen.

California Golden Trout, while well known as California's official state fish, are rare indeed. And it's challenging to find them in areas that are accessible. That means getting up between 6,900 and 10,000 feet in elevation in the streams or lakes where they reside. Finding them in well disguised small streams with undercut banks, overhanging brush, and very, very spooky fish makes for a significant challenge in itself. But oh, that coloration makes it all worthwhile as you can see with Mitchie's gorgeous Golden Trout. Number 8 of the 10 California native fish that she is after is complete after some serious effort! Two more to go... and she just loves this stuff!!



So on to the next fish; a member of the Golden Trout family known as the Kern River Rainbow (yes, they are in the Golden family, as well as the Little Kern Golden). A good 3.5 hour drive away from our success with the California Golden and departing over a 9,200' pass and down into a severely burned out area from the 2020

and 2021 fires. Up a winding road through the blackened hulks of trees wondering if the creek we are after even still exists. And while the creek was ground zero for the fire, it only burned through in the overhead trees so the streamside riparian growth is very healthy. Yes, more serious effort around small pools with overhanging vegetation (got a good bow & arrow cast?). But, are the fish OK? Why yes, yes they are. Mitchie loses two on her quick hooksets, and shows the disappointment (head down, frown ☹️, F bombs, etc.). More missed hookups are endured and the doubt sets in after such a long and arduous drive.



These fish are quick and with barbless hooks they can be tough to get to the net. And lo and behold, look at what her guide finds... a pool of 6-8 fish all 4-8", and all hungrily contending for who gets the fly. The fish are fighting each other with chest bumps and tail swipes to get to that tasty Parachute Adams. But getting them on the hook takes a lot of concentration and careful hook setting. But make no mistake, Mitchie can be tough when she wants to be. So she teases the entire pool of eager KR rainbows by dapping the surface up and down with the fly while she hides behind a streamside boulder. "Pick me, pick me, pick me" they say... She obliges, laughing the whole time... And Mitchie gets Native Trout number nine; the Kern River Rainbow! Way to go, fishergirl!



Next up on the Golden Trout Slam: the Little Kern Golden. Well, she already had this fish from an earlier trip, but we wanted to try and accomplish the Golden Slam with the three natives of the Golden family within the two days. But it was not to be. That same fire damage that we encountered at 2,000' in lower elevation had also decimated our National Forest Road access higher up the mountain. You never know what you will find on these trips including the mountain goat rodeo on the road out that reminded me of a TVFF Board meeting. But stay tuned, as Mitchie has but one fish to go to get all ten in the Challenge with the remaining Eagle Lake Trout. But I think that I'm gonna need a bigger net this time...



Member Spotlight

The member spotlight has been a feature of the newsletter in years past and we're starting it up again. This is an opportunity to get to know a fellow club member a little better. Hopefully you'll be able to greet him or her at a meeting soon. – Editor

Gary Prince

How long have you been a club member?

Approx 10 years

Do you currently or have you ever held an office in the club?

Yes. Refreshments and Conservation

What occupies your time other than fishing?

Surfing, and family

Classify yourself as a fly fisher:

- Beats the heck out of working
- I can't wait to wet a line



- I dream about fish & flies
- I need some serious help for my addiction

What is the fly rod set up you use for the majority of your fly fishing?

9' 5wt

What is your favorite species to fish for and why?

Trout and its big brother, steelhead. They are challenging, fight hard, and live in beautiful places.

What body of water do you fish most often?

Little Truckee, Yuba and wherever the club goes next. Variety is the spice of life.

Do you consider yourself a dry fly or a nymph fisher?

Both – got to go with "What are they biting on". My favorite line in A River Runs Through It.

Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?

Streams

If you could only fish with one fly, what would it be?

Dry – parachute adams. Nymph – pheasant tail.

Do you have a fishing license for any states other than California?

Calif. annual. Other states temp as needed.

Items for Sale

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

Mike McAlpen

Deluxe breathable stockingfoot waders in like-new condition. I'm selling these for \$89 (current retail is \$158).

Designed to be a breathable option that provides comfort in all temperatures. For colder temperatures use breathing wick dry products for insulation under breathable waders.

Product Details:

- Two Tone Tan & Copper Color
- Heavy-Duty Polyester Material- 180 denier
- Reinforced Knees
- CaddisDry™ Breathable Technology
- Front Hand Warmer Pocket
- Attached Gravel Guards
- Seams Taped, Glued and Stitched
- Foot Taped Inside and Out
- H-Style Suspenders
- High-Density Neoprene Sole

Size = XXL Stout

- Inseam = 37"
- Girth = 64"
- Boot Foot Size = US 13



Scientific Anglers System2 8/9 with extra Spool. Both with like new Rio Floating line. \$60 (OBO) for both.



Penn Gold Metal IMS 6890 4P Made in USA Rod with Case: \$50 (OBO)



Penn Gold Aluminum Spools: \$35 (OBO) for both



New Never Used Orvis Wonder Line DT-9-F and SA Standard Taper Shooting line: \$40 for both



New never used Frog Togs Men's Breathable Wading Jacket: \$60 (OBO) (Currently selling for over \$100)



Men's Stream Line XXL Vest: \$30 (OBO)



I will bring these items to our upcoming August 3rd BBQ get-together.

Gary Turri

Rods and reels:

1. Redington Trace Fly Rod. 9 foot 6 weight, new condition \$200
2. Orvis Streamtime 8.5 foot 5 weight 2 piece with Orvis 5/6 Battenkill Reel and Orvis WF-5 floating line. Complete outfit ready to fish. This is a great back up outfit or a great outfit for someone just starting out. New condition \$150
3. Redington Vapen Fly Rod. 9 foot 9 weight. Great rod for Stripers or for a Saltwater Trip. New condition \$200
4. Redington CPS Fly Rod. 10 foot 7 weight 4 piece. Great rod for Steelhead on the Trinity. One of the best rods Redington ever made and way underrated. Excellent condition \$175
5. Sage 796 RPL Fly Rod. 9.5 foot 7 weight 4 piece. Great Rod for Steelhead on the Trinity. The RPL rod series has a cult following and are highly sought after by collectors. Excellent condition \$300
6. Orvis Battenkill 3 Reel. Fully machined, very durable reel. Click and Pawl drag. For 4-6 weight fly lines. New in box. \$100
7. Bauer M2 Fly Reel. Fully machined, comes with backing and Scientific Anglers Mastery GPX WF-5 fly line. Very good condition \$175

Fly Lines for sale:

Fly Lines for Casting Practice. All are bright orange color and new condition.

RIO Grand WF-6 \$60

RIO Gold WF-7 \$60

SA Mastery Expert Distance

WF-5 \$50

WF-6 \$50

Cortland Modern Trout

WF-5 \$45

WF-6 \$45

Cortland Trout Boss

DT5 new condition \$55

DT6 new condition \$55

RIO In-Touch Single Hand Spey

WF6 new condition \$65

Mitchie McCammon

Redington Stratus II fishing rain jacket. Size XL. This jacket has pockets large enough for your fly boxes and any other gear you want to put in them. There is a waterproof pocket on the front as well and a D-ring for a net. Only worn a handful of times. The color is actually a light blue, not gray. \$50. Contact me for more information.



James Kirchner

Echo Shadow X 3WT 11ft rod. This is Echo's top of the line euro nymph rod. In excellent shape. Comes with all the counter-balance weights to balance out with your reel. I got a brand new top section from Echo so it's essentially a new rod minus dirty cork. Asking \$400 so you basically save \$80 bucks or so after tax and shipping. Rod tube and rod sock included just not pictured. I'll also throw in a spool of Orvis indicator tippet and two new Rio euro nymph leaders.

If someone's interested I'll sell my entire euro outfit for \$700. This Shadow X rod, a Ross Colorado reel, Rio euro line, two new Rio euro leaders, and two-tone sighter tippet spool. Everything is like new condition.



This is an early model Loop Evotec 7130 MF. Very light in hand for how much backbone it has. Only used a dozen or so times. Great salmon/winter steelhead rod for bigger areas of the American, Trinity, Klamath, etc. I'd say it's in like-new condition minus the cork being a little dirty.

Asking \$850 and will include a Scientific Anglers Scandi UST line with s3 tip.



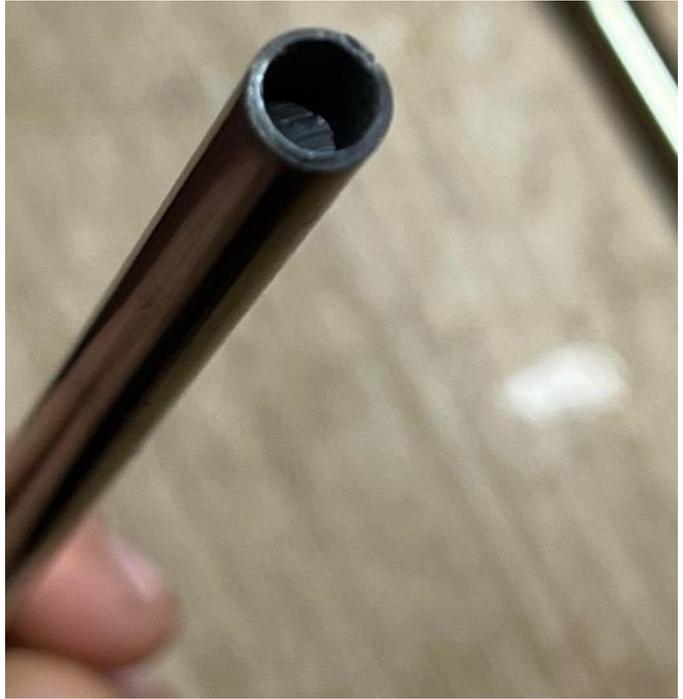


I Hardy'ly use this next rod so I thought someone else might enjoy it. It's a **Hardy Demon Switch 5/6 10'6"**. Only fished it a handful of times on the Trinity and American. Great little rod, very light in hand. Fished it with an OPST commando and never really found myself looking for more distance. Casts medium leech patterns and weighted small stuff great.

Rod is in great condition minus one splinter at the top of the handle section that occurred from a faulty rod sock having a hole in when putting the rod away for the day. Happened my first day with the rod and had fished/held up fine ever since. Tried to get a good photo showing that there is no crack through the actual rod.

I really don't know what to ask for this rod but figured \$350 seemed in the right range. Rod tube and sock included. Amazon is the only place I've seen these Hardy rods still available and they're selling for \$650. I can also make this Hardy Demon a package/full outfit, including an OPST Commando head and Cabelas Prestige reel for \$450.







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

