

The Barbless Hook

May 2022

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

May Meeting – Wednesday May 11th, 7pm

Water and Wading Safety with John Murphy

TVFF club member John Murphy will be our May speaker with a talk on Water and Wading Safety. John's talk includes a water rescue story that he was personally involved in and also covers proper technique, equipment, etc. All club members that want to share their water or fishing safety story are invited to chime in as well.



Free Casting Tune-ups with Gary!

How about some free fly casting instruction before the monthly meeting starts? We have an area next to the clubhouse that we can use for casting practice. Now you can practice your casting for a while and then walk to the clubhouse for the meeting. What could be easier?

The casting will start around 5:30pm and end just before the meeting starts. 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.

So the "Casting Doctor" will be in from May-October! Bring your casting ailment and let him have a look at it. Maybe you just need a little tweak.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Once again we will be moving our monthly meeting to a different date. Because of a conflict with the LPRG Club, we will be moving our monthly meeting to May 11th. As far as we can tell, this will be the last reschedule for the year. As a reminder, our club meetings have permanently moved to the first Wednesday of each month.

Last month was our first live meeting in two years and the turnout was great. It's been a long time coming and it was great seeing people that we have not seen for a long time. We had 38 members at the meeting with an additional six on Zoom. That comes out to almost 50% of the club's membership getting together. Personally, one of the best parts of the club are the social aspects, it's great being able to get together face to face and talk about stuff. Here's hoping that nothing crazy happens and we can all get out and do what we enjoy most.

Starting this month, Gary Turri will be hosting monthly get togethers for fly casting skills tune ups. Gary is a Certified Master Casting Instructor with Fly Fishing International and a long-time member of our club. Many of us have taken classes from Gary and I encourage members to take advantage of this great opportunity. The get togethers are not beginning classes but tune-ups for those who already have basic skills.

Raffle Information

Steve Johnson – Raffle Coordinator

There will not be an online raffle for the May meeting. Attendance will be required to purchase tickets for the prizes that will be offered at the meeting. Hope to see all of you there.

Our next big ticket item raffle will be drawn at the June meeting. With the surge in popularity of Euro Nymphing, the club will be offering an ECHO Shadow II 3wt, 10' 0", 4 piece fly rod. This is an excellent, fast action rod that will perform well for both the beginner and serious angler.

2022 TVFF Board of Directors

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Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Video Library	Steve Johnson
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For those that are serious, an optional competition kit can be purchased for the rod (not included in this raffle). The competition kit comes with a fighting butt, 5 10gr counter-weights, and two 6" extensions.

For more information on the rod, please visit [ECHO Shadow II](#).

The rod is valued at \$290 and comes with the ECHO lifetime warranty.

Tickets for the rod are \$10 and will be available online in our [club store](#) as well as in person at the meetings. You will not have to be present to win.

Coaches Needed for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge!

Daniel Kitts

Over the last 9 years, 1,000+ scouts and adult leaders have taken the Fly Fishing Merit Badge at Wente BSA Scout Reservation, located in Willits, CA. The program has been instructed by fly fisher men and women who volunteer a few days of their time during the 7-week summer camp. This is not just a TVFF endeavor and there have been coaches from throughout CA who participate. This year we have a shortage of instructors and I'm reaching out to people who would be interested in helping. If you can volunteer some of your time to help teach the merit badge that would be great. If you aren't able to volunteer your time, you can help by passing this request on to friends, relatives, neighbors or any other people you think might be interested in volunteering a couple of days to instruct the Fly Fishing merit badge at Wente this summer. Thank you for any help you can give. For more details, please contact me at dckitts@aol.com or (510) 816-2846.



Outings and Activities

Hat Creek Salmonfly with Baum & Manzanita Lakes – May 12-15

This is a three-night, four-day [trip](#) to explore the 3.5 miles of fishable wild trout water at Hat Creek, with optional days on Baum and Manzanita Lakes. Arrive on the first day with late evening fishing, then three full days of fishing to follow. It is scheduled for the traditional large Salmonfly and Golden Stonefly hatches that occur during this period, as well as several other hatches. We will be fishing five different areas on Hat Creek from knee-deep riffles at the Powerhouse and mid-stream to the gin clear, quiet flats, and the downstream area of thigh-deep water.



Basic Indicator Nymphing Class – Starts May 25

This [course](#) is designed for beginner to intermediate fly fishers that wish to learn and improve their skills with indicator nymphing techniques. The course includes two classroom sessions and an on-stream session with TVFF instructors to assist attendees with applying the classroom skills. The on-stream session cannot be registered for separately as leader construction, setup, approach, and basic skills will only be covered in the classroom setting.

North Fork Stanislaus – June 4

This is a weekend one day up and back [trip](#) to the North Fork of the Stanislaus with a few TVFF members. The fish are active almost all day on dries with #16-20 parachute adams being a favorite. You can catch 6"-15" brownies and rainbows.

The North Fork of the Stanislaus can be fun water to fish that offers a nice day trip being only 2:30 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. Dinner at the end of the day can be had in Arnold or Murphys before the drive home.

Truckee Watershed – June 9-12

This is our annual three-night, four-day camping trip headquartered at Logger Campground, Stampede Reservoir with three days of fishing the Big Truckee, Little Truckee, and Milton Lake for rainbow and brown trout. It coincides with the peak of multiple aquatic hatches in the area and will include river wading opportunities and an optional day of fishing at Milton Lake. Fishing techniques to be used include traditional indicator nymphing, Euro nymphing, streamers, and dry fly techniques.

West Fork Carson – June 25

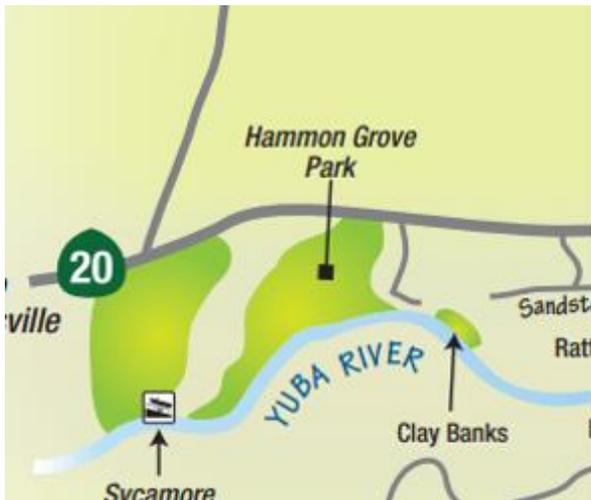
This is a weekend one day up and back [trip](#) to the West Fork of the Carson with the possibility of staying overnight at the free BLM campground or staying at a resort not far from the river. The fish are active almost all day on dries with #16-20 parachute adams being a favorite. You can catch 6"-10" brownies and rainbows.

The West Fork of the Carson can be fun water to fish that offers a nice day trip off highway 88 near Carson pass being about 3 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. Dinner at the end of the day can be had at a resort like Sorenson's.



Member Reports

Euro Nymphing On Stream, Session II – Denis Haire



Armed with our knowledge from the classroom session and euro style fly tying session, it was time to pull it together with an on-stream session. With a fortunate break in the weather, we all gathered on a clear blue-sky day at the Hammon Grove entrance to the Yuba River. The plan for the day was for the group to split time with our instructors Alan Wyosnick and John Murphy. The group included Martin Plotkin, Jim Felardo, Denis Haire, Jim Knecht, and Bruce and Chris Patrick.

After a review of rigging setups, it was off to the river. A quick entomology session by John of turning rocks over helped us understand a little bit more of target insects. We found caddis (pulling it out of its case!) and smaller stonefly nymphs. This helped with a suggested selection of a Walt's worm and a Perdigon for a starting point. Spreading out above and below a riffle we all entered the water with high hopes. After a few casts, I think we all quickly realized that euro style nymphing requires concentration and patience. Cast, lift, drift, occasional snag, repeat. I know the class had me thinking about the Rubik's cube and tying with 5X tippet. Learning how to work out of a snag became one of the best lessons for the morning. No fish hooked in the

morning, but there is always the afternoon. We could see birds feeding on the surface, so we knew there was a hatch of some type...

After a quick lunch it was back to the river. One group waded across the river to head up stream to work another section of the river. The water was a little bit deeper and faster there, so there were some adjustments required. We did have a little more success with some strong hits and landing a small trout (no picture at this time). At the end of the day, we counted a total of five hookups and one to the net.

As we all crossed the river back to climb up the trail, I believe we all had a sense of accomplishment. Knowing that the Yuba is a tough river to wade, and the fish have seen many an angler, not catching or landing a fish is all part of the game. Knowing that we have all started to learn a new technique that can catch fish will keep us all coming back. Now for some ibuprofen for my tired shoulder....



Jeff Fadden

My wife Genny and I went fishing on "The Other Lower Sac". Our guide was Jason Thatcher, owner of [River Pursuit Guide Service](#) on April 27th. He had a booth at the Pleasanton Fly Show. Met Jason at 9am on his private property right next to the Sac, so very safe parking. From there we took a 30 min. drive up the river from Red Bluff where we put in. The day was absolutely perfect. I took the back and had my wife fish up front where Jason could work with her as she hasn't had much drift boat experience. Jason anchored in the middle of the river and took the next half hour to explain his sliding indicator set up and how to fish it. Jason's boat also has a small outboard on it to get upriver when needed. This is the perfect part of the river to learn on as there's not too much fast water to deal with but I must say there are plenty of fish.

Genny had a slow start but I hooked up and landed three straight bows. Genny then hooked up several times and got better with each fish on. We lost count but Genny landed at least 15 bows for the day with many more tugs. The scenery was great as we saw around a dozen eagles and some ospreys. We got out of the

water at 5:30pm. I have to say it was the best fishing and enjoyment days my wife and I have had with a guide. These fish aren't as big as up near Redding, around 14 to 18 inch range, but there's a lot of them. I highly recommend this trip to anyone. Fish On!



Lake Amador – Eric Drew

Lake Amador last weekend: Camp spots were easy to come by. Fish not so much. There were a lot of anglers out on boats, on the shore and in kayaks. We were there Saturday and Sunday.

It poured Friday night until mid-day Saturday and we fished from 1 to dusk and not even a hit. Tried streamers, woolly buggers, even trolling lures on a spinning set up. Nothing. Nobody else was catching anything either. The lake is 9 feet below full and my fish finder said that the water temp was 63.9F.

On Easter Sunday the sun was out and the wind was calm. We fished for 5 hours. I had one hook up on a black woolly bugger with green tinsel. Figures that I didn't land it.

I did get really proficient casting my 10' Orvis rod and I found a really good position for the pontoons on my Hobie. Not too much drag yet great stability while casting.



O'Neill Forebay – Bob McCollum

Tough Fishing on the O'Neill Forebay this weekend. The weeds are gone, so there is no structure for the fish and they are scattered everywhere on the lake. You just have to cruise and hunt for them. Few large groups of fish. Mostly 1-3 fish chasing small groups of bait fish. I managed one striper about 14 inches.

I talked with a ranger about the schedule for the San Luis dam raising projects and potential impacts to fishing. Latest is that the boat ramps at San Luis will be closed for 7-10 years beginning in June/July 2022. The project may impact the Forebay as well as there are plans to use the Mederios area as a staging area for dirt and gravel for the dam project. So we may lose boat access, or all access, to these waters for up to a decade.



Del Valle – James Kirchner

Fishing at Del Valle has been good. Been fishing locally for bass and trout with good success. Small minnow patterns have been the best bet.



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

Ron Grady

How long have you been a club member?

Four or five years

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

Not yet

What occupies your time other than fishing?

Home maintenance and walking our 70# standard poodle

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?

8.5 ft 4 wt, floating line

What is your favorite species to fish for and why?

Trout, done it for 75 years

What body of water do you fish most often?

Wrights Lake, El Dorado National Forest



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

Definitely dry

Do you prefer fishing stillwater or streams?

I prefer streams, but most of the time on the lake mentioned earlier.

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

Elk hair caddis, 14-16

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

Not currently, but have had for Wyoming, Montana, Oregon and Alberta

Education Update

Rob Farris – Education Director

OK, you've been to our Fundamentals and Entomology courses, and you're enrolled in our upcoming Nymphing class. Maybe you've even been Alan Wyosnick's star pupil in Euro Nymphing. But man cannot live without the visual take of a dry fly eat (or at least I can't). And especially during this, and next month's major bug hatches. But fishing dries can be challenging, so read on, and take advantage of our Club resources, for a few tips courtesy of [MidCurrent](#).

3 Tips to Try When Trout Refuse Your Dry – [The Catch and the Hatch](#)

You finally made it out on the river for some fishing. You are even more blessed to find yourself in the middle of a great hatch and rising trout. Using your fly fishing entomology skills, you have identified that they are small olive mayflies, likely blue wing olives. The problem is, you've tried all your flies that imitate that insect and you still can't get them to eat.

This can be a frustrating reality of fly fishing that even the most experienced anglers have to address. Even with matching the hatch correctly, you can be left fish-less and frustrated. We're going to share three easy tips that you can do right on the river to improve your chances of catching fish when they refuse your dry fly.

Tip #1: Go a size smaller; maybe even two sizes smaller

Often times in a situation like above where you can't get them to eat, they are spooked by the hook on the fly, or the fly is just too big. Going one or even two sizes smaller will help the trout be more comfortable with your fly. Trout are cautious but they are always more comfortable eating something smaller than bigger so when in doubt, go down a size or two on the exact same pattern.

If you struggle to see it in two sizes smaller, just fish the bigger pattern up front and tie a smaller pattern behind it 18-36 inches off the bend of the hook. I almost always fish two dry flies and if you're confident the fish are eating that insect, then two different sizes of the same fly is a great way to cover your bases.

I've been on a tailwater up in Estes Park, CO once where I literally saw the fish rise to my fly, bump the hook with its nose and then refuse the presentation. I was fishing 7x and it was a perfect imitation, they just saw the hook. I went down two sizes (could barely see the fly at that point) and 3 casts later I hooked that same fish. I have dozens of other stories to go along with this one sharing the same experience.

We all want to fish bigger flies cause it's easier and they float better etc. However, when the situation calls for it and the fish are refusing your fly, go smaller or you may be going home frustrated.

Tip #2: Perfect the drag free drift; nothing turns off a fish like a skated fly

When you're fishing somewhere and the fish keep refusing your perfect fly, and you've gone down a few sizes until you're as natural as the insects on the water and they *still* won't eat, it's probably your presentation.

You'd be amazed how little your fly has to "skate" or move unnaturally to turn the fish off and put them down. Up on the Missouri River in Montana, even drifting the line over the fish is enough to put them down. You have to fish from upstream down to them so all they see is the fly. If 6x line is enough to spook them, a small micro twitch that's unnatural on that fly is enough to spook them back into the hole.

The number one culprit of a bad drift is drag. In order to create a drag free drift, you need to allow enough slack in your line to let the currents move the line, not your fly. At the same time, you can't lob 20 ft of slack out there cause you'll never be able to set the hook. The best trick is to do some aerial mends or pile casts.

Apply the [pile cast](#), [wiggle cast](#) or [aerial mend](#) to give the fly the chance it needs to be drag free.

TVFF Member note: need to learn how to do these casts? Contact Gary Turri, who teaches these casts in his Presentation class.

Another good tip is to add 12-24 inches of tippet to your leader. Use one size smaller than what your leader tapers to. So if you're fishing a 9ft 5x leader, add 12-24 inches of 6x before tying on your fly. This creates a more delicate presentation and creates 6-12 inches of slack in your cast because the energy transfer fails from your cast making your fly land softly on the water with just a hint of slack. When fishing slow water behind a rock, or the far side of the river over a quick current, this can give you that 1-2 seconds of extra drift needed to get that fish to eat your fly.

You'll need to be quicker on your hookset to compensate for the slack, but when the fickle fish test your limits, this is a great solution.

Tip #3: Use CDC patterns; fish can't refuse duck butt feathers...

Good ol' duck butt. For those of you who don't know what CDC is, it's a tying material that stand for Cul de Canard and is the soft, buoyant, water-resistant feathers straight from the butt of the duck. God has a sense of humor no doubt, and the brave man who found this material found fly fishing gold. It comes in a variety of colors now in fly shops as they dye it and it just creates a soft profile on the water that fish seem to be unable to resist. It's simple and effective and often tied messy on the fly to have it just imitate everything. See some patterns below and you'll see what I mean.

If your non-CDC pattern isn't working, this is a good chance to try a CDC pattern. These patterns work well because they are forgiving. You may think they are eating BWO mayflies, but they are actually eating small olive caddis. Well, you're in luck cause with an olive CDC pattern, you'll probably imitate them both and in a small enough pattern the fish won't be able to tell the difference.

TVFF Member note: need to learn how to tie these flies? Contact Jim Broadbent or attend one of his Fly Tying sessions to learn these patterns.



CDC Midge Adult

CDC PMD Tailwater Dun

CDC PMD Cripple

CDC Elk Hair Caddis

So after you've tried the three tips above and they *still* won't eat, it's time to face your last decision. First, it's likely at this point that you were wrong about your fly selection. You may see BWO on the water but they are actually eating midges or something of that nature. Get out your trusty bug seine and get below the fish and collect your sample. Then try to match the hatch correctly this time around repeating the same tips above if needed.

If that doesn't work, you're left with your last decision, drink a beer or throw a streamer at them: I prefer to do both at the same time personally. Hopefully you can save your beers for celebrating the dry fly fishing, not throwing meat out of frustration.

Here's to hoping it doesn't come to the streamers! Apply these tips and you'll find more fish on your dry fly efforts.

Protect Dogs from Deadly Disease

Dog owners in the northern reaches of the Golden State were urged to protect their furry friends from a potentially fatal condition, Salmon Poisoning Disease, wildlife officials said this week.

The disease occurs naturally in waters of Northern California, a native range for fish that carry the illness. Owners were urged to keep their dogs away from salmon, steelhead, trout and other freshwater fish carcasses, The California Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement on Friday.

The bacteria-like parasite, Nanophyetes salmincola, cannot survive in cooked fish and is not harmful to humans or other pets, but it can be fatal for dogs.

Owners whose dog may have eaten raw fish were cautioned to watch out for the following symptoms.

- Rising body temperature
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Listlessness
- Rapid weight loss

Dogs with these symptoms should be taken to a veterinarian immediately. The condition is treatable if it's caught in time. If left untreated, a dog can die within two weeks of eating the infected fish. Up to 90 percent of untreated dogs die from the disease, officials said.

Items for Sale

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

Gear Sale – James Kirchner

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

