

The Barbless Hook

August 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

August Meeting – Wednesday August 2nd, 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.



August Special Raffle

At the August BBQ meeting we will be raffling off a Redington Crosswater Fly Fishing Combo. This is a 5 weight, 4 piece, 9 foot system that includes a medium-fast rod, a reel with floating line, and a rod case.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available for purchase at the meeting. You can also purchase online in the [TVFF store](#) through August 1st.

As always with the quarterly raffle, you will not need to be present to win.

Contents

President's Corner	2
Outings and Activities	2
Casting Lessons	3
Member Reports	4
Fly Fishing Podcasts	13
FFI Yuba Fest	13
Items for Sale	14

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Help Wanted, yes, we really do. TVFF is looking for a few good individuals who would be willing help out on the board. Since 1965, the club has been a very active fly fishing organization with many outings and activities, and we would like to be able to continue that legacy. Several of our long-time board members are stepping down this coming year and we are looking for people willing to join the board and help out. Terms are usually one to two years and can last longer if desired. If you are willing, come talk to me or any other board member and find out what it's all about. Without a board, there is no club.

I don't remember if I put this out already or was keeping it a secret, but it's really not a secret. Since joining Fly Fishers International (FFI), we were given access to their on-line library of training, skills development, and a bunch of other stuff. Take a look and maybe find something that you can use.

Club Name: Tri-Valley Fly Fishers

Club Member #: 99980

Password: Flyfish1

BBQ this week, bring your appetite.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

Good news! The rivers are fishable! Hatches were delayed by about a month and the high water has receded in most places to a fishable level. Lakes and reservoirs are full too. I've been scouting places and have found that the fish seem to be in weird places in the water. When you get out, try to catch those fish in fast current, in the shallows, and everywhere else. You might be surprised at where they are biting. Just get out and fish!

Speaking of getting out, we are always looking for fishmeisters. Do you have a favorite place to fish? Let me know, and I will help you to get an outing organized and on the website. Outings are a great way to get to know other members of the club. And, fishmeisters get \$25 to go towards gas.

2023 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Martin Loomis
Vice President	Alan Wyosnick
Secretary	Al Mansky
Treasurer	Chris McCann
Past President	Jim Broadbent

Directors

Auction	Denis Haire
Conservation	Gary Prince
Education	Rob Farris
Outings	Mitchie McCammon
Fly Tying	Jim Broadbent
Membership	Greg Blandino
Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Raffle	Steve Johnson
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell

Upcoming trips

September 16 - Fall River Guided Float trip with Confluence Outfitters – There are two openings left for this trip. The cost is \$300 per person if we can fill the second boat. See if you can find a friend and share a boat. The Fall River is beautiful, and access is limited, so going with a guide is a great way to fish and learn about this water.

September 26-27 – McCloud River Nature Conservancy – This is not a beginner trip. You must be fit enough to walk distances and wade in difficult conditions. The trip is currently full, but if you are interested, sign up on the waitlist. If an opening comes up, I will go down the list.

For more information on these and other outings and events, or to sign up, visit the [Events](#) page. Time to get fishing again! Keep checking your emails and the events page for new trips.

Tight Lines,
Mitchie

Free Casting Lessons

Gary Turri – FFI Master Certified Casting Instructor

As we did last year, we will again have free casting lessons prior to the May-October club meetings. The August session will be from 4-5:30pm. This will allow enough time to get to the club house before the club meeting starts.

The location will be at the same place, Wattenberger Park in Livermore. This year I have decided to use the Fly Fishers International (FFI) Fly Casting Skills Development program at these pre-meeting casting sessions. The reason is that I have observed great improvement in the casting skills of the students that I have worked with using this program. Several of our club members that attended the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show this year did the Skills Development program there on that weekend. I know some of them have completed the Bronze Level Skills and are now working on their Silver Level Skills.

All the casting skills have a related and very useful fishing application. Bottom line is the more skills that you learn and can do with consistency, the more fish you will catch, which will make your time on the water much more enjoyable. Trust me on that one!

There are four casting skill levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. I will set up three casting courses at each of pre-meeting casting sessions. If a member has completed Bronze and wishes to work on the Silver level skills, any of the courses can easily be set up to Silver.

I have all the necessary equipment to facilitate the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program, including the fly casting courses and the supporting paperwork. I have been involved in this program since its inception in 2018 and had the pleasure helping many anglers achieve all the various casting skill levels.

I will also have our TVFF club loaner rods available if you wish to use one or bring your own rod if you wish. You just have to show up, be prepared to have fun improving your current casting skills and for sure learn some new skills to become a better caster and angler.

Don't worry "This is not a test or exam"... rather it's about improving your current casting skills and learning new casting skills. You will leave each evening knowing what skills are great and which ones to practice!

Here's how to learn more about this great program between now and the first casting session in May.

Google FFI Fly Casting Skills Development, then click on the Angler Guide.

You can skip the Foundation level skills and mainly focus on the Bronze level skills as that's where we will start in May. Be sure to also read the Performance and Tackle Guidelines on pages 16 and 17.

I'm looking forward to helping any of our club member improve their casting skills, regardless of your current skill level. Don't miss this great opportunity to develop your casting skills while having fun with other club members.

Hope to see you there.

Member Reports

Green River, Utah – Jeff Fadden

I took my annual trip to the Green River Utah for the 9th year in a row. I usually go with a group in August, but this year I went in June and took my son who's never been fishing there and also his first time in a drift boat. As it is here in California, the river is about a month behind in the hatches and is usually one of the best months to fish.

For the third year in a row, I drove my Tesla and we took two days to get there with a stopover in Elko. We stopped off in Rock Springs Wyoming to get some groceries, and then another hour to Dutch John, our destination. We arrived at 6:30pm and checked in. We got in touch with our guide Todd Brown for what we were going to have for lunch the next day and what time we're gonna leave. We were going to fish three days in a row Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and usually we only drive fly fish there, but Todd said it hasn't been good yet, so we indicator fished the first day from 10am until 7pm. We fished the A section and it has the most beauty with 1,000 foot steep red canyon walls all through the 8 mile stretch. We got quite a few fish and I caught my best rainbow ever, a 20 incher that just took off and ran about 50 yards before I could stop it.

Except for the wind all three days, the weather was perfect. We threw dries the last two days on the A and B section. B is my favorite section on the Green River. We actually did pretty good throwing the dries and my son caught on pretty fast and got quite good at casting right off the bat. We left Dutch John Thursday morning at 7am and decided to drive straight through and arrived at his house in Sacramento at 7pm. All in all, a great road trip.



Carson River – Eric Drew

We had a great weekend at Faith Valley on the west fork of the Carson River. It's located 4.7 miles up Blue Lakes Road from the Junction of Hwy 88 on the East Side of the Sierras, about 3.5 hours from Livermore. Part of the appeal aside from the beauty is the abundance of free dispersed camping.

Since I was last there, they have implemented a meadow restoration project using BDAs (Beaver Dam Analogs). I can see there being a dramatic change for the better for the meadow, river, and wildlife (better fishing too) in the next few years as the project matures. Here is the [link to the project](#).

The river is running high due to snow melt and the early effect of the BDAs. The original beaver dam ponds are still there and have a nice population of Brook trout. The water level in the ponds was waist deep and the brookies were hitting on #14-16 dry flies (parachute Adams, Royal Coachmen, Royal Wuff), 6x tippets 7 feet long.

Of note the silty areas are really sticky and a wading staff is handy and also outside of the beaver ponds the water is moving swiftly and for anything deeper than your knees you will also want a staff. There are some really deep holes with fast water. My partner slipped into one and got shoved into a boulder (tight wading belts are a must). We covered over 6 miles of river in one day and it really beat us up.





(Lots more pictures on the [TVFF Facebook](#) group)

Ken Tetzel

My wife, son and I fished Manzanita in mid-July. Pretty slow. A few locals said the fishing was great the week before! Lots of callibaetis hatches. Our week had very few bugs and virtually no hatches? My bad luck again. We did catch a few fish each day with some nice 18-19" brown trout. All subsurface.

My son and I fished Fall River one day and the same thing there! No Hatches and few risers!! We caught most of our trout on damsel nymphs!! Go figure. We caught a few large browns there also.

Hat Creek was dead for me, but my son caught a few small rainbows. Tough week for sure.

Are our rivers ever going to drop!!??

Wente Scout Camp – Bob McCollum

Wente Scout Camp is off to a good start. All the scouts in the morning class caught at least one fish on a fly rod. I caught a small bluegill. As I was retrieving the fish it was struck by a large bass and the hook was transferred from the bluegill to the lip of the bass in the process. The scouts helped me land it.





Baja Outing – Tom Vargas

On Saturday, July 15th members Jim Broadbent, Steve Johnson, Marty Loomis, Robert Nishio and Tom Vargas met in San Francisco and departed for Gary Bulla's resort at Baja Joes in La Ventana, BCS. We had an incredible week of great saltwater fly fishing, superb food and new and old friendships while chasing some hard-fighting saltwater fish. The weather was hot and the drinks were cold!

We found a large pod of Dorado where all six boats with two fishermen were constantly hooked up. We all said "give" with tired forearms as we lost count of the fish caught. Some of these made for great fresh fish tacos!



Jim's Nice Rooster (they were able to revive and release this fish)



Robert's 30lb Dorado



This year's menu



Marty landing a Dorado



Tom with a nice Dorado



Daybreak



Steve kicked back enjoying the morning ride out



Kenny's (from Redding) 30lb Bluefin Tuna supplied Sashimi and Poke for all



Getting bait at Isla Cerralvo



The famous lighthouse at Punta Arena de La Ventana



The ladies preparing another feast

Hope Valley Ladies Outing – Mitchie McCammon

The first annual Hope Valley/West Fork of the Carson River Ladies Trip was great fun! The weather was beautiful, the water was clear and a bit higher than normal, but we were able to wet wade for the first time this year.

Anticipation was high to catch a few of those cute, little brookies, but first we had to set up our rods and reels. After gearing up and tying on the ever-popular Parachute Adams, we headed to the water. The bank looked a bit different from the last time with evidence of raging water carving out a few new channels. There were also weirs that had been put in near a favorite bend. While the weirs were not very attractive, they did create new habitat for the fish.



We hunted for those little brookies in the pools and soft water. It wasn't until we rounded a bend and bushwacked a bit that we saw a couple of fish hiding in a small cove. The fish spooked when they saw us, so we moved to a different position to let them settle down. Cassie worked hard to get the perfect presentation and hooked one in that little cove. She was the big winner of the day and landed three.



As we worked our way downstream, we had quite a few strikes and a few hook ups. I brought my Tenkara rods to try out. It was a learning curve, but fun, nonetheless. When I asked Genny what she enjoyed, she said it was trying out the Tenkara rod. I must agree even though it was harder to hook a fish.

As we got back to the cars, Cassie asked, "When can we go again?" Soon, Cassie, very soon! Yes, it was great fun to make new friends and to chase those cute, little brookies.

Fly Fishing Podcasts

Mark Spruiell

Podcasts are audio recordings that you can listen to at home on your computer, or on the go with your mobile device. Listening to podcasts is especially helpful when you're in the car driving to your next fishing destination as it makes the miles go by faster and can get you excited about trying a new technique or location.

If you subscribe to an audio streaming service such as Spotify or have the Apple Podcasts or Google Podcasts app available on your mobile device, you should be able to find all these podcasts with a quick search. Alternatively, most of these podcasts also have websites where you can view and listen to their episodes. Keep in mind that many of the topics in fly fishing are not time-sensitive, meaning there's a very large catalog of past podcast episodes that are still relevant today even if they were published a few years ago.

The podcasts listed below are all free of charge:

- Orvis Fly Fishing Podcast – Most of you are probably familiar with Tom Rosenbauer from Orvis. Each of his podcasts typically features a Q&A session called the “Fly Box” followed by an interview with a guest. [Click here](#) to browse or search the catalog.
- Wet Fly Swing – [Click here](#) for the complete catalog.
- Fly Fishing Insider – You can find this show on the podcast apps, but they also have a [Youtube channel](#) that you may find more useful, especially for their tips & tricks.
- Wade Out There – [Click here](#) for the complete catalog.
- In the Seam – [Click here](#) for more information.
- Troutbitten – [Click here](#) for the complete catalog.
- Peaks – [Click here](#) for the complete catalog.
- Wild Fly – [Click here](#) for their Youtube channel.
- Fly Fish Food – The online superstore occasionally publishes podcasts in addition to lots of great [Youtube videos](#).

One more tip: If you're planning to listen to podcasts in the car on your way to go fishing, make sure to download the episodes in advance so that you can continue to listen when you (inevitably) lose cellular service.

If you have a favorite podcast that's not mentioned above, send me an email and I'll update this article in a future newsletter. Thanks to Phil Reggiardo for the podcast recommendations.

FFI Yuba Fest

Mark Rockwell – Fly Fishers International

On Saturday, September 30th we will hold the fly fishing event of the year in Northern California! We're calling it the **Gathering of the Clan** - bringing like-minded people together for Yuba Fest. If you fly fish, love rivers, recreate on the water, or have an interest in conservation - **This event is for you!**



Saturday will offer a full day of fly fishing learning, casting with certified casters, fly tying with experts, and the opportunity to learn what is happening in Conservation from numerous organizations. A great lunch will be available for purchase during the day, along with drinks (more details on food service coming soon), and you'll enjoy live mu- sic in the afternoon. In addition, there will be a raffle, silent auction for fly boxes and other great items & a live auction for selected high value items. Be sure to stick around for the Social Event from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.



There is a lot to do in and around the Grass Valley/Nevada City/Yuba City area and it is a great place to spend a delightful full weekend. For more information about Yuba Fest (and things to do in the area), go to the [NCCFFI Website](#) to get all the information you will need and register to join us for this great celebration at Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Lower Yuba River.

More details to follow soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Items for Sale

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

Gary Turri

New in Box Floating Fly Lines at 40-50% Off:

- Scientific Anglers Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$40
- RIO Single Hand Spey 6wt line \$60