

The Barbless Hook

June 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

June Meeting – Wednesday June 7th 7pm

Andrew Harris on the Fall River

Our speaker this month is Andrew Harris from Confluence Outfitters. Andrew has extensive experience guiding Fall River, California's biggest spring creek. It has consistent hatches, big fish, and cold, clear water. Andrew's presentation covers public access, hatches, and spring creek techniques for Fall River.

Andrew Harris has been guiding in northern California since 1997. He lives in Red Bluff, California with his wife Katie and daughters Mackenzie and Madison. In 2007 Andrew created Confluence Outfitters with help from partners Gino Bernero and Jon Hazlett. Andrew puts the "Outfitter" in Confluence Outfitters, as he is the one who answers the phones and emails. Andrew can help you select the right guide, destination, and time of year for your next fly fishing trip.



Don't Forget!

Gary Turri's **free** pre-meeting casting lessons have started up again. See the article in this issue for more information.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Conservation is one of the hallmarks of TVFF since its very beginning. The club has always strived to support the many organizations dedicated to preserving our national waterways and to furthering our sport. Last month and with a very big thank you to the members of TVFF, we had a very successful auction bringing in just over \$6600 after paying our bills. I thought I would share where part of that money went to:

- \$500 Donation to the church where the auction was held
- \$300 Boy Scouts of America Youth Campership
- \$800 Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club
- \$500 CalTrout
- \$500 Trout Unlimited
- \$200 Alameda Creek Alliance
- \$300 Project Healing Waters
- \$100 Amador Fly Fishing Club to help provide a Porta Potty at Heenan Lake
- \$250 Yellowstone National Park Restoration

The rest goes into our general fund for insurance, operations, guest speakers, refreshments and for all the other stuff that it takes to run the club.

June's meeting will be our last meeting until the annual BBQ in August. We will not be having a July meeting and further details for the August BBQ will be coming out next month. But that doesn't mean we are not fishing! I'm going to Mexico with several club members and I'm so looking forward to it. Mexico will be the first time in the past six months that I have been able to get out. I hope everyone else finds time and a place to get out to fish regardless of what's happening with our local rivers, but most importantly, be safe out there.

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

August 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. For a limited time you can also purchase online through the [TVFF store](#).

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

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

So, you want to fish? Time for us to get creative in where and how we fish. After the record snowfall this year, most of the streams we would be fishing now are raging or inaccessible. But all is not lost! If you haven't tried fishing lakes, now is the time to do so. Don't have a float tube, pontoon, or boat? Some of the lakes can be fished from the shore. Also, guided trips are a great way to get on the water and learn techniques from the professionals.

What does this mean for TVFF outings? It means that we will be fishing well into the fall and winter, something that doesn't always happen because of low flow years. I will continue to monitor the flows and road conditions.

Upcoming Events:

June 29 – July 1 – Lake Almanor for the famous hex hatch. Anglers need to make their own campsite reservations, but we will gather at Rob's campsite each day to discuss the evenings hatch, and possibly depart for local small stream fishing during the day.

July 25 – West Fork of the Carson, Ladies trip – This is one-day up and back trip. We will carpool there, fish the morning, break for lunch, then fish some more!

September 26 – 27 – McCloud River Nature Conservancy – This is NOT a beginner trip. We plan to camp at Ah-Di-Nah campground and fish the Conservancy one day then the surrounding rivers on the other day.

For more information or to sign up for these trips, go to the TVFF [events](#) page. Be sure to check back frequently for new outings. As the water flows and road conditions change, I will add more outings.

Until then, tight lines!

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 lessons will be from 5pm to around 6:30 or 6:45pm. 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

Hat Creek Outing – Rob Farris

Attendees: Denis Haire, Bob McCollum, Rob Farris, Rigo Ortiz, Greg Blandino, Gary Prince

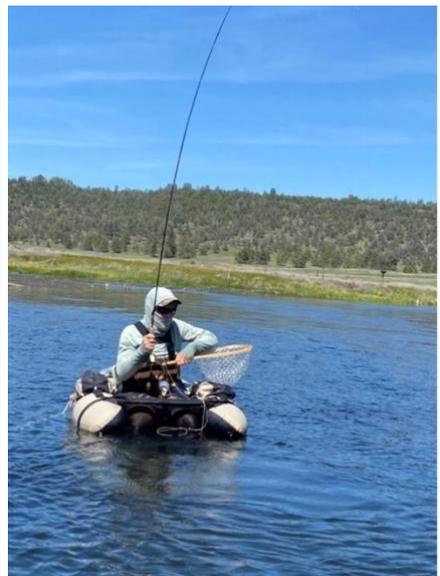
Our annual spring pilgrimage to Hat Creek and Baum Lake started with setting up camp at our usual Hat Creek Hereford Ranch RV Resort. A big name for a wonderful place to stay and possibly for a TVFF family-oriented event someday soon. Within nine miles of Hat, four miles from Baum, and 27 miles from Manzanita/Lassen it is camping in "elegance" with grass sites, showers, washing machines, camp store, pavilion with BBQ, horseshoes, and even an onsite stocked trout pond for those still desiring a tug or two after the challenge of Hat Creek.

Once organized and with camp built I set off with the early arrivals and Dry Fly Class attendees for their on-stream practical session at Hat. Where else would we go since Hat Creek is a terrific stream but does require A+ dry fly skills to master its multiple hatches and devilish micro currents with cautious wild trout. And out we go with Gary, Greg, Rigo and Denis for an afternoon of approaching the water, waiting on the hatch, and perfecting advanced presentation tools of the reach and parachute casts. The plan was to practice the casts that Gary Turri taught the class in a live, on stream,



current disruptive environment without the pressure of necessarily catching fish. So after a few hours with new skills honed we adjourned to camp, beer, and whisky along with dinner. Oh, and yes, the salmonflies were nestled all snug in their bushy beds so that hatch is well underway.

Friday sees the whole group (less Bob who would show up on Sunday) at Baum Lake in the TVFF boat flotilla of tubes and shakedown cruises by Rigo and Denis on their new watercraft purchased at the auction. Now Baum is not a difficult lake to fish if you know the right spots (thanks to much personal education from Mark Spruiell and Chris McCann) and have the right flies. Rigo entered the water first in his tube and was set up at the top of the main lake bend above the parking lot. I finally make it up to him in my pontoon about 20 minutes later and he's already into 9 or 10 fish to the net, so this looks like a promising day!!



We do get everyone set up above the parking lot, and move around a bit and within 10 minutes or so everyone is in to multiple fish on wiggle tails just below the surface. And it continues un-abated until noon. Fish after fish were netted. with most being stockers in the 11-13" size, but a few larger along the way with my netting a nice 20 inch rainbow in the bend as well. And then after lunch on the water, it goes stone cold dead...I mean, nothing! High noon and high sun force me to put on my thinking cap, Hat Creek experience and entomology learnings.

So I try a few things, and then the chaos begins again. This time changing flies to a Zebra midge fished right above the bottom where the fish were hiding in the weeds to avoid looking into the sun. Voila!!! Everyone re-rigs and resets their indicators, and we are off to the races again with Greg and Gary leading the way with fish after fish on almost every cast. I love it when a plan comes together and you finally solve the puzzle on the water... Total catch for the day was over 100 fish between the five of us. Turned out to be a great and fun day for all on the lake.

Sunday sees Bob and Denis hitting Baum Lake again and both pick right up from the previous day nailing many fish. Meanwhile, Gary led a contingent to the oft overlooked lower Hat Creek reaches with very different conditions including shallow riffles, very deep pools at the bottom, and lots of pocket water. It's a challenging and quieter environment with different fishing styles resulting in quite a few fish to the net. After the full day we reconvened at the wonderful Crumbs restaurant in MacArthur with what was originally planned for Mitchie McCammon's surprise birthday celebration. Except... she decided at the last minute to come down ill and ditch us. So we collectively improvised with a pre-arranged birthday cake and a live video with Mitchie (via WhatsApp) while the whole restaurant sang happy birthday to her. She cried, predictably and as usual, but unfortunately she missed a wonderful trip. Next time, Mitchie!

While everyone else checked out of the campground on Sunday, Rob and Denis returned to Hat Creek on Monday morning to take on the "Challenge" again. And the stars aligned... We pull in to the riffles and there is NO ONE on the creek. We had it to ourselves for the entire morning and it was an epic and unusual experience. What a difference when there aren't people standing on top of the fish and constantly slapping the water. We wait, pick apart the side channel, get into a good rhythm, and then look at the number of fish rising in the main channel for the caddis hatch, which is right on time at 9:15 AM. We chase them up and down the riffle as they rise and try Elk Hair's (nope), E/C Caddis (one taker), Missing Link (nope), and then I try a tan downwing caddis lying flat on the film.

The Hat Creek Caddis sampler..... (for this day, anyway)



Elk Hair (nope)



E/C Caddis (yep)



Missing Link (nope)



CDC Downwing Caddis (winner!)

And off we go: Dennis catches his first Hat Creek fish on a dry (a nice 14" rainbow), and I get into a very nice 17" rainbow and an unusual 14" brownie (my first brownie after 40 years) on Hat. And as soon as we get the fish to the net we're back at it again with several other fish to the net and continuous rises and lost fish in the

challenging current fights. It really doesn't get any better for a dry fly angler with a very, very memorable day on the creek to top off a great trip this year. We'll be back!!!



Rainbow Trout in Alameda Creek

Livermore Vine

Local conservationists focused on restoring Alameda Creek as a habitat for steelhead trout and other fish species who carry out most of their lives in ocean waters before migrating to inland waterways to spawn are celebrating what they call a milestone after finding a young fish they have been seeking to see accommodated in the local tributary to San Francisco Bay last month.

A juvenile rainbow trout was found in the creek by Alameda County Water District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, who issued a joint statement on April 24 along with the Alameda Creek Alliance.

"We've made incredible progress building fish migration infrastructure in the lower urban portion of our watershed, allowing spawning adult salmon and steelhead to swim upstream to reach good habitat in Niles Canyon and the upper watershed toward Sunol Regional Wilderness," Jeff Miller, director of the alliance, said in a statement. "But the successful downstream migration of juvenile fish is just as critical; it's gratifying to be able to document some of our trout moving toward the Bay to complete their dramatic life cycle."

The young rainbow trout's appearance in the creek's lower watershed means that things are going as planned for conservationists at the alliance, as well as ACWD and SFPUC officials, who have collaborated for more than 20 years to restore the creek as a viable habitat for adult steelhead to spawn, and for juvenile rainbow trout who result to migrate through in order to carry out the majority of their adult lives in the open ocean.

Tagged juvenile trout were first detected in the upper watershed in October, with the completion of a "fish ladder" that enables fish to navigate through a previously impenetrable barrier to the open bay being completed in December. This means that in addition to being born and growing in the creek, the juvenile fish can return as adult steelhead for their own spawning process.

SFPUC biologist Brian Sak said that while it was gratifying to see results from the decades of work aimed at restoring the creek as a spawning habitat for steelhead, conservation efforts such as those leading up to the milestone marked last month are necessarily long, painstaking processes, with SFPUC having been monitoring steelhead -- or the lack thereof -- in the creek since 1998.

"We've always expected that some of the resident rainbow trout in the upper watershed that have been shown to be directly related to the system's historic steelhead make it out to the Bay and ocean when the conditions are just right," Sak said. "But we have been hoping that reservoir water releases designed to improve spawning and rearing, along with passage improvements, would make things easier for fish."

"Having confirmation for the first time that trout from upstream are making it downstream to at least Fremont is wonderful news for the countless people that have worked so hard for the shared goal of bringing steelhead back to Alameda Creek," he added.

Prior to the most recent fish ladder installed in December, the first fish ladder was installed in 2019 slightly upstream from the current one, with both being aimed at giving steelhead an opportunity to bypass flood control and water supply infrastructure that was blocking them from traveling up the creek.

In total, the ongoing Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvements Program is set to cost \$80 million, with more than \$30 million in grant funding secured.

"This epic event of fish passage demonstrates how communities and stakeholders can come together with a united goal of improving such an important resource," ACWD Board President Paul Sethy said. "It is wonderful to see this positive first sign, and it shows that even in an urban environment we can have natural beauty and functioning ecosystems -- right here in our own backyard."

Yuba River Restoration

State of California

At the launch of one of the most ambitious watershed recovery efforts in California, Governor Gavin Newsom today joined state, federal and local officials to announce a landmark framework agreement that will reopen miles of habitat to multiple native fish species. The agreement sets the stage for the return of imperiled spring-run Chinook salmon to their native habitat in the North Yuba River for the first time in more than 100 years.

This collaboration between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Yuba Water Agency and the federal NOAA Fisheries agency resolves years of conflict and includes major actions to help recover imperiled fish:

- **Building a new fishway** – a channel resembling a natural river that salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and lamprey can follow to get around the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Daguerre Point Dam to reach over 10 miles of healthy spawning habitat.
- **Building a modernized water diversion** at Daguerre Point Dam to supply irrigation water south of the lower Yuba River that will protect fish passing the intake.

- **Launching a comprehensive reintroduction program** to support recovery efforts of spring-run Chinook salmon with a goal of returning them to their original habitat in the North Yuba River above New Bullards Bar Reservoir as soon as 2025.



Rendering of the planned fishway, a channel that will allow fish to reach healthy habitat.

The agreement will restore unimpeded access for fish to the full reach of the Yuba River from the confluence with the Feather River up to Englebright Dam for the first time in nearly a century. Last year, California invested \$100 million to support salmon and \$30 million of that will go to this project on the Yuba River.

What Governor Newsom said: “California is taking action to restore vital habitats and return fish to their historic home – turning the page on outdated water infrastructure that has blocked passage for these fish for over a century. Together with historic investments, we’re restoring crucial waterways across our state and laying the groundwork for a salmon resurgence that’s not only good for fish, but a lifeline for the communities and Native peoples who rely on a healthy fish population.”

FFI Monthly Report

Mark Rockwell – Fly Fishers International

Hi all, and I hope you’re able to get out and do some fishing these days, though most rivers are not really fishable yet. I am hearing that the lakes are in good shape and fishing has been good in most of them - trout & bass especially. Nice to see Spring/Summer has arrived.

I wanted to let you know about events we have coming in different regions here in Northern California. Here is a list of activities and events you can attend and join in on the fun:

- **June 17th, 2023** - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - **Fishing Technical Water Workshop**. Brown's Valley on the Lower Yuba. Come learn to fish waters where fish are picky but large. Contact Clay Hash - ClayHash.fft@gmail.com to register!
- **June 24th, 2023** - **Fly Casting Skills & Development (FCSD) Program**, Los Gatos Creek County Park, Campbell, CA.
 - **9 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Train-the-Trainers** - For club casting teachers to come learn how to construct & run this fun program for your fly club. **Must Register at: nccffi.org**
 - **12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** - Opportunity to actually learn the casts for each of the 3 skill levels and actually take the test if desired. Registration not required. Come & have fun. Bring your fly rod.
- **June 29 - July 1, 2023** - Women's Connect **3 Day Float Trip Deschutes River, OR**. See NCCFFI May Newsletter for details or **contact Anne-Marie Bakker**, 707-721-6184, ambconsulting@sbcglobal.net. This will be great fun on a beautiful river!
- **July 9, 2023** - **Bay Area Youth Fly Fishing**, - Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club, Golden Gate Park. Opportunity to get kids into fly fishing and casting. Great teachers & beautiful place. Contact Ron Beltramo for times - 415-999-8348, rjbeltramo@aol.com.
- **August 12, 2023** - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - **Fishing the Lower Yuba River**. Sycamore Ranch County Park, on the Lower Yuba. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Taught by Clay Hash, Yuba Expert! Contact Clay Hash to register - ClayHash.fft@gmail.com.
- **September 30, 2023** - **Yuba Fest** - Sycamore Ranch County Park - **A Celebration of Fly Fishing** - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - **Save the Date!!** This promises to be the event of the year for all of us to gather and just have fun together. More to come out next month!!
 - **Will include FCSD program** for club casting teachers - Train-the-Trainers 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. **Register at: nccffi.org**
 - Noon - 4 will be practice casting and teaching & testing for FCSD skill levels.
- **October 1, 2023** - NCCFFI/Fly Fishing Traditions - **Swing/soft Hackle/Trout Spey Workshop**. Sycamore Ranch Park on the Lower Yuba River, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Clay Hash to register: ClayHash.fft@gmail.com.
- **October 29, 2023** - **Bay Area Youth Fly Fishing event** - Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club in Golden Gate Park. Contact Ron Beltramo for times & details: 415-999-8348, rjbeltramo@aol.com.

As you can see, we have many fun events planned for all of you to participate in and learn some skills you may have thought about but keep putting off. Now is the time. Sign up with the contact person. Remember - Yuba Fest on September 30th - It will be great fun. You can also camp at the park. Go [here](#) to reserve a space.

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:

- Sage Motive Fly Rod, 1190-4, 11 weight 9 foot, new in tube with Orvis Hydros SL-V reel and RIO Tarpon Line WF11-F. New condition \$560
- Scientific Anglers Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$40
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-6, \$30
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-7, \$30
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-5, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$40
- RIO Single Hand Spey 6wt line \$60

Mark Spruiell

I'm giving away this kayak cart that I no longer need. Hopefully another TVFF member can find a use for it.



Mitchie McCammon

Flambeau 22060 tackle box – Condition is like new and has only been used to store fly tying materials. You can also put a lock on it. Sorry, but the fly tying materials in the photo are not included in the purchase price. The dimensions of the box are 19" w X 11" d X 15" h. I've seen this box on eBay for \$65 but I am asking \$50 for it.

