

# The Barbless Hook

April 2024

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

## April Meeting – Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm

### Matt McCourtney on the Lost Sierra

We are pleased to have Matt McCourtney speaking to the club regarding the wild and scenic Lost Sierra region. He will guide us through the waters of the Lost Sierra, touching upon the best times, access points and presentations. This promises to be a don't miss, highly informative, and entertaining presentation.

Matt is one of only a few fishing guides to be permitted with the US Forest Service to guide the Middle Fork Feather River and The North Fork Yuba. This will provide a unique perspective to fishing opportunities in the area.



You can reach Matt at 530-616-5376 or at [www.lostsierraflyguide.com](http://www.lostsierraflyguide.com).

### New Members!

TVFF welcomes the following new additions to the club:

- Raul G.
- Paula G.
- Jim H.
- Don M.
- Al O.
- Ethan P.
- Warren R.
- Steven S.
- Scott S.
- Lucie U.
- Scott W.

We look forward to seeing you at a club meeting or outing soon!

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## President's Corner

### Rob Farris

OK, it's time to set the record straight; TVFF is first and foremost a fishing club. Yes, we are involved in important tangential activities such as conservation, social, and education to advance our skills, and that's all to benefit the time we spend on the water. But make no mistake; we were born to fish hard.

We operate as a club to promote fly fishing and to participate in it all over the globe. Take advantage and jump into one of our events this year; try to learn a new fly fishing style and skill; experience some new water; chase some heritage and rare trout; or just get out there to relax and enjoy what awaits you. Of course, there are several ways to do that: join in on a Club outing, take an education class with on-stream sessions, or connect with a Club member that has a similar interest and is looking for company (i.e., the recent [Tag-Along with Ken Brunskill](#)).

Well, how are we doing with that? Denis Haire has now scheduled sixteen (16) events and outings on the [website](#) with many more to come. From lakes to learning new fishing styles (e.g., streamers, etc.) to world class water here in California (e.g., Lower Sac, Hat Creek, the Trinity & Klamath, the Delta, Baum and Manzanita lakes, the Truckee, the McCloud, and the surf, etc.) we have a bit of everything for our members to enjoy.

Are you hesitant on how to fish these waters on a Club trip, or new to the Club and want to get more engaged? Ask any Board of Director's member to recommend a good trip for you and know that we always have many members attending these trips eager to help and introduce you to other members. Find something that excites you and get on the road this year as the conditions look very favorable for an excellent fishing season. Want something different? Please contact Denis Haire and let him know what you're interested in. Now that I've said that, get your butt off the couch and get into your waders...

Finally, I will have a special show and tell on Wednesday evening. My continuing skin health issues are a warning to get your stuff taken care of early, and often. See your dermatologist if anything looks strange. And lucky you; you'll get to see my bandages this coming Wednesday 😊. Let's all stay safe out there, in and out of the water.

## 2024 TVFF Board of Directors

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Rob Farris
<b>Vice President</b>	Denis Haire
<b>Secretary</b>	Al Mansky
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris McCann
<b>Past President</b>	Marty Loomis

### Directors

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

## In Memory of Derrell Bridgman

### Rob Farris

Unfortunately, Tri-Valley Fly Fishers lost a long-time member and friend with Derrell Bridgman's passing on March 15, 2024. Derrell was instrumental in many different areas of the Club with deeply supporting fly fishing, conservation, and club activities.

Derrell was a long-time resident of Pleasanton who thoroughly and robustly enjoyed the outdoors with scuba diving, hunting, hiking, camping, and of course fly fishing and fly tying, where we knew of his passions for so many years. From their cabin on the Stanislaus in Dorrington, Derrell could be found fishing the nearby lakes and rivers, as well as hosting club get-away events. Always involved in volunteering, he also was a volunteer for the Alameda County Underwater Sheriff's unit.

Perhaps we best knew Derrell for his long-time work with both Trout in the Classroom and his leadership in getting that program developed to the point where the Club has introduced it to over 30,000 kids throughout the years. Many of our existing members' kids were able to experience and to help launch their appreciation of the outdoors and their broader engagement with fishing through Derrell's TIC programs.

But Derrell was much more engaged than with just Trout in the Classroom. Through his over 25-year effort with the Alameda Creek Alliance, the Alliance secured multiple agency fundings and grants to build the new fish ladder at Niles Canyon this past year that enabled salmon and steelhead to migrate up and spawn in the creek for the first time in the last 25 years. We know that he was very proud of those accomplishments for which he was honored several times.

Derrell's full obituary can be accessed at the [East Bay Times](#).

We were indeed fortunate to have Derrell as a participating TVFF member and to enjoy his wisdom, humor, and engagement over the years. He will be sorely missed. As has been our recent practice, we will honor Derrell with a memorial (possibly in a joint effort with the Alameda Creek Alliance) for club members to remember him in the near future. Watch for a subsequent email announcing the schedule for Derrell's memorial.



## May Special Raffle

### Steve Johnson – Raffle Coordinator

At the May meeting we will be raffling off a Redington Crosswater Fly Fishing Combo. This is a 5 weight, 4 piece, 9 foot system. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at the [TVFF store](#) or in person at the April and May meetings. As always with the special raffle **you do not need to be present to win.**



#### Product Information

Excellent for beginners or as a backup, the Crosswater Outfit Fly Fishing Combo features an all-water, medium-fast action rod equipped with a fly reel pre-spooled with RIO Mainstream WF fly line. In addition, the rod has an anodized machined aluminum seat and alignment dots. The Redington Crosswater Outfit Fly Fishing Combo includes a cotton rod sock and cordura rod tube.

#### Features:

- Fly fishing combo
- All-water, medium-fast action rod
- Anodized machined aluminum seat
- Alignment dots for easy rod set up
- Pre-spooled with RIO Mainstream WF fly line
- Includes cotton rod sock and cordura rod tube

## Outings and Activities

### Denis Haire – Outings Director

Our club season opener at [White Pines Lake](#) is approaching quickly! Slated for April 28, this is planned as a family-style event. This small, picturesque high-country lake, only a two-hour drive from the Tri-Valley, is often overlooked by visitors scurrying up to Big Trees State Park, Lake Alpine and even the Lower Stanislaus for fishing. This small lake is home to both trout and bass, making it a great location for anglers of all skill levels.

The lake offers plentiful shore access as well as a launch ramp. This lake is ideal for float tubes and other non-motorized watercraft. There is a nice picnic area where we will be having our family-style picnic. The fishmeisters will be serving tri-tip sandwiches for lunch, and we ask participants to bring something to share. For families, a nice playground, a swimming beach and hiking trails can make for a welcomed change of pace. Historically the lake has been stocked before opening day, so this could make for a great day! With the weather improving, this is sizing up to be a great outing to catch up with club friends, as well as make new

ones, and maybe find a new buddy to fish with. And maybe at the end of the day stop in Arnold for a nice dinner. I hope to see you there!



White Pines Launch Ramp



White Pines BBQ and Picnic Area

For other outings planned for this season, take a look at the [events page](#). If you have interest in a particular outing, please contact me.

## Education Updates

### Mitchie McCammon – Education Director

Education isn't just about taking a class, although that will give you the best opportunity to really dive deep and ask questions. Most of the classes that TVFF offers include an on-stream class to connect the classroom with real-world conditions.

If you aren't the type to step into the classroom or don't have the time, online resources are a great way to enhance your skills and knowledge. There is a section on our website called "Tips and Tricks." It is a small compilation of tips that various members have found helpful and interesting. This month I am highlighting an article titled "Become a Master Observer...before you enter the water." It is a timely tip and good reminder to take a few minutes to look around at your surroundings and see what's hatching.

In addition to "Tips and Tricks," there is a Resources section on our website where you can check water flows, air quality, road conditions and read fishing reports from various fly shops. It's a great planning tool for your upcoming outings.

### Coming in May

Starting May 1, our casting instructor Gary Turri will once again offer "Skills and Drills Development" prior to our meetings at Watenburger Park in Livermore. More info coming soon.

## Another Strategy for Access to the River

### Denis Haire – Outings Director

Have you ever wondered, “How many more years will I be able to fly fish?” I’ve tried to avoid that question for a long time, hoping that if I didn’t think about it, I’d never have to deal with the inevitable effects of an aging body. But a recent shoulder injury, seeing a college friend lose his fishing desire due to mobility issues, and seeing club members that miss the “tug” but can’t physically access the water easily, has planted that question in my brain. My thought was to keep an eye out for solutions.

At the recent Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, I struck up a conversation with Jason Thatcher of River Pursuit Fly Fishing. They offer float trips on the Lower Sacramento River out of the Red Bluff area. I noticed a card about mobility impairment accessible drift boat trips that caught my attention. Jason was both eager and excited to share they had acquired a fully customized wheelchair accessible drift boat to offer trips that accommodate anglers of varying mobility levels. The 18’ drift boat, with a fold down transom and removeable boxes, allows great access for both powered and manual wheelchairs, as well as walkers. The boat also allows for supportive adjustable chairs.

Here is a [video](#) showing how this type of unique drift boat can work. If interested in going out with Jason, contact me and we can work to find an opportunity for you.



## Living Arroyos Cleanup Project

### Greg Blandino – Conservation Director

[Living Arroyos](#), a multi-agency partnership to enhance and maintain the urban streams and streamside habitats of the Livermore-Amador Valley, is sponsoring a volunteer cleanup event of a riparian restoration site.

- When: April 20, 2024 from 9:00am-12:00pm.
- Where: Alamo Canal in Dublin
- Registration: Living Arroyos has reserved ten spots for TVFF in their system, as these events tend to fill up quickly. Registration on their website is not required.

Suggested clothing/gear:

- Shirt/pants/shorts you don't mind getting dirty
- Sturdy shoes
- Hat (in sunny weather)
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Gardening gloves if you have them

Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Member Reports

### Bob McCollum

Jim Knect and I fished a foothill reservoir for largemouth bass today. Collectively, we landed about 50 fish, mostly smallish. Jim landed a very nice 4.5 pound largemouth bass. It was a great day on the water with wonderful weather. Jim had the magic touch today and landed the lion's share of the fish.



## Martin Plotkin

Weather wise, Monday the 18th was a great time to be on the Delta. Daniel Kitts and I fished the area from False River to 3-Mile slew. We picked up a half dozen shakers and two nice strippers.



## Eric Drew

Woot, awesome day for Trout at shadow cliffs. Caught four, released two, kept two that were bleeding badly from where they were hooked. Intermediate sink line, medium sink tippet, 7' of 5 pound test flat mono to the fly.





## Central Valley Rivers See Robust Steelhead Returns

California's Central Valley rivers have seen what the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has described as "incredibly strong" steelhead returns this year.

This is in contrast to the record low fall-run Chinook salmon returns on the mainstem Sacramento River that have led to another year of severely limited salmon fishing opportunities or closures.

A new record for the number of steelhead returning to the Mokelumne River was set this year. A total of 1,749 steelhead, including 968 adults and 781 fish under 18 inches, have come back to the system this season, reported William Smith, manager of the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery.



The previous record for total steelhead was in 2018 when the hatchery reported 530 adults and 638 juveniles, a total of 1168 fish. However, there was another year when the total number of adults was over 700 fish.

The majority of steelhead are in the 18 to 24 inch range, with a few larger fish mixed. One of the steelhead returning this year weighed 13-1/2 pounds, but it was apparently from Nimbus Fish Hatchery on the American River, said Smith.

A total of 210,000 yearling steelhead have been released into the system this year, according to Smith. The hatchery has taken close to 770,000 steelhead eggs this season.

Smith attributes the record steelhead run to the big water years in 2023 and 2024 to date, along with the CDFW and EBMUD's analysis of genetic studies and release strategies to improve the fish population.

The record steelhead run follows a record salmon run. A total of 28,614 fall-run Chinook salmon returned to the Mokelumne River in 2023 — 5,700 of those fish were grilse (two-year-olds) and the rest were adults, said EBMUD Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife Michelle Workman.

However, the Mokelumne River is a tributary of the San Joaquin River, not the Sacramento River, so it isn't included in the Sacramento River ocean abundance estimates developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service that are the basis for determining ocean and river salmon fisheries in California every year.

The Mokelumne provided anglers with some solid steelhead fishing this year. Samuel Boyd Yoro of Watsonville and his nephew Bodhi had a great trip steelhead fishing on the Mokelumne below Camanche Dam in February.

“Bodhi caught and released his very first chrome-bright steelhead,” said Yoro. “His Mokelumne River hatchery fish fought a solid bout, jumping and flipping out, but obviously not able to spit the hook out of its mouth.

Other Central Valley rivers saw robust steelhead runs also, according to CDFW data.

The Feather River Fish Hatchery exceeded its 2023 total of some 1,200 steelhead on the very first day it opened its fish ladder in January, wrapping up the spawning season with 2,277 returning fish.

The Nimbus Fish Hatchery on the American River, home to both Central Valley steelhead and a larger coastal strain of Eel River steelhead introduced decades ago, saw 3,178 steelhead return to the hatchery in 2024. That is one of its highest totals in many years, according to CDFW staff.

Meanwhile, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has produced three options for ocean salmon seasons beginning May 16, 2024, CDFW reported. Two of the three alternatives would authorize short ocean salmon season dates and establish small harvest limits for commercial and sport fishing off California in 2024. The third alternative would close the ocean fisheries off California for a second consecutive year. The alternatives were approved by the PFMC for public review Monday.

The 2024 stock abundance forecast for Sacramento River Fall Chinook, usually the most abundant stock in the ocean fishery, is only 213,600 adults. Abundance of Klamath River Fall Chinook is forecast at 180,700 adults.

## Fly Fishing Film Tour – April 6<sup>th</sup>

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) is back on the road with a top-notch selection of short films that are sure to get you fired up for the season ahead! There will be films that take you into the science of the Costa Marlin Project, to the deep depths of the jungle for the massive Peacock Bass, and to a Steelhead story with characters as rare as the fish itself, plus many, many more! The F3T is the original and largest fly fishing film event of its kind and are proud to be an annual community event for all anglers.

Our local showing at the historic State Theater in Modesto is hosted by the Stanislaus Fly Fishers (SFF) and is a fundraising benefit for Rivers of Recovery, a non-profit organization providing outdoor, recreational, rehabilitative therapy for combat disabled veterans. Rivers of Recovery trips host up to eight combat veterans on a four-day, science-based, experiential rehabilitation program focusing on confidence building, outdoor activities, and talk therapy. Trips are conducted in a relaxed, positive environment using proven techniques on the self-management of symptoms, stressors and responses.



The show starts at 2pm and will end around 6pm. SFF will have a raffle and silent auction, including a custom graphite rod, a custom bamboo rod, and a prescription pair of Costa Del Mar glasses.

SFF president Paul Wallace is also new member of TVFF. Paul says, "I am hoping this will be a fun event where we can tell some fish lies and commiserate about the "rivers too high to fish" frustration. I encourage TVFF members to wear their swag and show off their club affiliation. Please don't hesitate to email me with any questions!"

## Items for Sale

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

### Ron Grady

Plano travel rod case. 4" diameter expands from 63" to approx. 96", lockable hard case. Cabela price \$99. Used once. \$50 obo.



## Alan Wyosnick

This Creek Company Sport LT inflatable fishing boat is in nice condition. \$275 (new one is \$599 plus \$79 swivel seat plus sales tax). Check out the [product page](#) and this [Youtube video](#) for more information.



- Frame – Full take down, no-tools-required, heavy-duty powder coated steel frame
- Swivel seat – folding plastic seat that rotates 360 degrees
- Pontoons – 8 Feet long, 16-inch diameter heavy-duty 840 denier nylon outer covers with 30 oz. PVC coated bottom panels, 30 gauge PVC Single Chamber Bladders fitted with Boston Valves
- Oars & oar locks – 6.5', three-piece take down oars, heavy-duty brass slide through oar locks with nylon bushing inserts for smooth rowing
- Cargo pockets & stripping apron – Two large side cargo pockets for tackle and gear storage while on the water. Large mesh stripping apron with raised edges for line control.
- Cargo deck – PVC coated mesh cargo deck
- Footbars – Walk through foot bars with 6 position adjustment to fit most anglers
- Weight capacity – 350 lbs.
- Overall weight – 50 lbs.
- Overall width – 54"
- Overall size – 96" x 54"

## Ron Dueltgen

FishCat "Scout" pontoon boat. \$150. Approx. 7' x 55". 400 lb load capacity. Olive/grey. Believe me, rowing is much easier than leg propulsion! Package includes hand pump, 12V air pump, anchor, ~50 ft. poly anchor rope, Outcast over-boot fins + mesh carrying bag, strap-on rod-holder and large poly tub for storage. For comparison to new, go to [Outcast Boats](#).



## Mike Freitas

RoofNest Falcon – Used a handful of times for fly fishing trips. Stored indoors. \$1,500 cash only



**Sleeps:** 2

**Interior:** 86" L x 48" W

**Exterior:** 88" L x 50" W

**Height:** 6.5" when closed

**Max Headroom:** 60" when open

**Width left-right between Roofnest mounting rails:** 31.5"

**Minimum distance front-back between rack crossbars:** 30" (Includes a Malone Airflow roof rack with keys)

**Weight:** 160 lbs

**Included With Tent:** 2" Memory Foam Mattress, 8.5' Ladder, Universal Mounting Kit, 4x4 ground mat, Gear Grid, Anti-Condensation Mat, Dual-Detachable Pockets, Privacy Tent, and LED Lights

**Shell:** Insulated Honeycomb aluminum shell with extruded aluminum sides. 2 accessory channels can support 75 lbs of gear per side. Compatible with M8 hardware

**Tent Material:** 320GSM coated Polycotton with blackout coating. (waterproof rating of 3000mm)

**Ladder:** 8.5 foot aluminum telescoping ladder with angled rungs

**Mattress:** Integrated 2" true memory foam mattress with cover

**Gear Grid:** Ceiling mounted gear grid with 5 large pockets and 1 clear tablet pocket

**Lighting:** USB-powered LED light strip, Dual-Detachable Pockets, Privacy Tent, and LED Lights

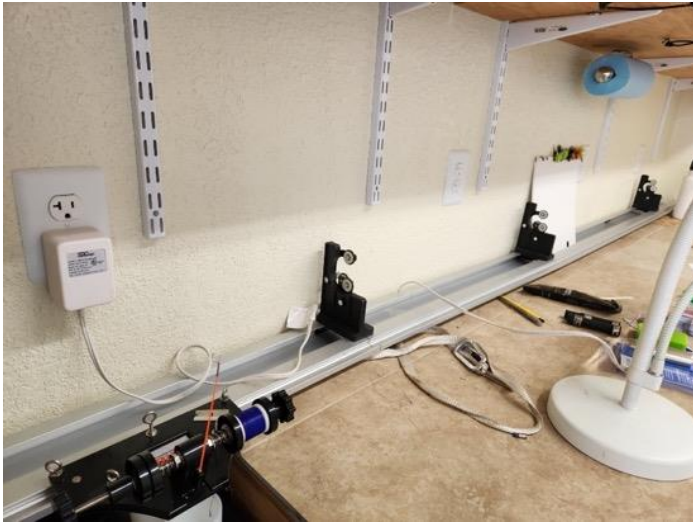
Website: <https://roofnest.com/product/falcon/>

## Ken Brunskill

**Scadden Outlaw Frameless Pontoon – asking \$550**



### Rod Building Setup #1 – 10' long, asking \$500



### Rod Building Setup #2 – asking \$300, or BOTH rod building setups for \$750



## Gary Turri

### Rods for Sale (New Condition in Tubes):

- Redington RS3 9 foot 10 weight 2 piece \$100
- TFO Blitz 9 foot 8 weight \$250

### Two Hand Spey Rods:

- TFO Deer Creek 12'6" 5/6 \$230
- TFO Deer Creek 13 foot 6/7 weight \$230
- Echo Dec Hogan 2 13' 7 weight \$230

### Fly Lines for sale (New in Box and 50% off):

- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6 \$50
- SA Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain \$50