

The Barbless Hook



March 2011

2011 Board of Directors.

President's Message

Tom Vargas

March is the slow time of the fishing year as we complete our steelheading and prepare for bass and trout fishing. It's a good time to take stock of our gear, do any necessary purchases and repairs, and fill in the holes in our fly boxes. Most of the manufacturers are introducing new equipment and last years models can often times be found at a good discount. As I write this I am planning to attend the big Pleasanton Fly fishing show this weekend with hopes of learning some new techniques.

The future of the California Delta remains in the news and we have some guardedly optimistic reports regarding our fall Chinook salmon returns on the Sacramento River.

We will have two speakers at the March meeting who will cover the best way to take advantage of the fly fishing opportunities in our local waters at Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs. This is in preparation of our new club outing on April 9th at Del Valle. At the Del Valle outing we will also have some of our friends from the Oakland Casting Club available to assist with casting problems and teach us a few new things.

Tight Lines!

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**Incoming 2011
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and Coordinators**

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Education	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Martin Plotkin
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
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“Like” TVFF on Facebook

TVFF has it's very own Facebook page. Just search for us under “Tri-Valley Fly Fishers”.

The TVFF Facebook page is a great place to post and share your latest fish stories. “Like” TVFF on Facebook and join the fun!

**2011 Membership Dues
are PAST Due!!**

2011 Membership Dues will remain at \$35.00 (Individual and Family) if paid on or before February 3rd, 2011.

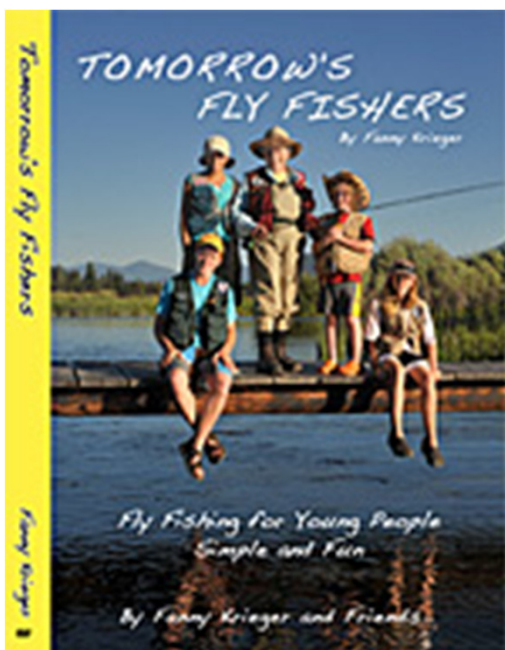
After February 3rd, a \$40.00 Membership dues will be applied.

2011 Meeting Schedule:

The schedule of meeting topics is presented in the table below. Please contact Martin Plotkin if you have suggestions for speakers for these topics.

Month	Topic
March	How to Fish Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs, Vaughn Willet & Mike Willet
April	Silent Auction - No Speaker
May	Advanced Nymphing Technique
June	Fishing the Eastern Sierra
July	No Meeting
August	Pizza Nite - No Speaker
September	Fishing the Redding Area
October	Taking Better Photos
November	Fly Fishing Tahoe Truckee Area
December	Still Water Fly Fishing

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2011 Outing Schedule:

3. April 9th -Del Valle Picnic/Casting, fishing, family outing
4. April 14th-18th - Pyramid Lake-Ken Javorsky and Rob Vellinger
5. May-TBD, Fuller Lake, George Allen
6. June 3rd-5th –Sonora Pass/Pinecrest
7. June-TBD, Davis Lake, possibly with Tracy-Jim Broadbent
8. June-TBD, Eagle Lake, Hal Wilson
9. June-TBD on flows, Upper Sac/McCloud-Russ George and Daniel Kitts
10. July-TBD, Manzanita-New Frenchmen Res.-Hal Wilson
11. August 25th – 27th Kennedy Meadows/Clark Fork-Bob McCollum
12. September 23rd- 25th -North Fork of the Stanislaus-Derrell Bridgman, Russ George and Tom Vargas
13. October-Lower Sac River Float-Ken Javorsky
14. October-December,TBD-Delta Stripers; Rick Mikla and Tom Vargas
15. November-Klamath River?
16. November 30th - December 4th , Trinity River Fall Steelhead-Bob McCollum



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Fishing Del Valle Reservoir

Tommy Clark

I've been fishing the south end for about six years now, almost always with a float tube. I live just down the hill on Mines Road so a lot of my trips consist of a few hours in the evenings after work. I don't know much about the morning bite.

I'm mostly a fair weather fisherman so I usually wait until mid-April to start fishing the lake. In the spring I do all of my fishing in the channel that goes down under the bridge. There is usually plenty of water there until summer grows and the area gets too shallow except as you get closer to the main lake. I am usually a diehard top water fisherman but in the spring bass aren't hitting top water so I usually fish a 3 inch rubber Crème "trout"

worm with a split-shot. Woolly worms and other underwater presentations will catch fish but I've had incredible luck with the little rubber worms. In that stretch of water in the spring I have caught bass (largemouth and smallmouth) trout, bluegill, crappie and catfish (lots of catfish). The Cats usually go 16 -24 inches. I don't try to catch catfish but I always fish barbless just in case I do catch one. It's easier and quicker to unhook the cats. Sometimes of course you can get a top water bass to blow-up on a popper even in the spring but not too much action like that.

I drive across the bridge and park in one of the spaces just on the other side of bridge. It is a short hike down to the water. The advantage of parking here besides being closer to the channel section is that your truck will not be locked inside the park when they close up at night just in case you stayed out too long. The south side beach area is near where I put-in but you can't take boats too close to the swim area. I always fish the north side of channel working out towards main lake throwing at the brushy shoreline. As you get closer to the open lake there is a long stand of reeds that is usually productive. I have never had any luck fishing the south side of the channel. I am not sure why but I think of it as barren water. No fish there? There is a little bend halfway up on the north side of the channel where the water seems to deepen. This is usually a good area for bass strikes (and catfish too).

If you float tube all the way around the point on the north side of the channel and get into the lake proper, it will take close to half an hour to get back to your put-in. Keep this in mind as it gets darker. The climb back up to the truck is pretty tough when you are tired. In the summer time the mosquitoes are really thick at this put-in.

When things start to heat up I start fishing poppers in the main lake on the south end. This area weeds-in pretty good. I fish any open water exclusively with poppers. My two favorites are the smallest (fly rod)hula-popper made by Arbogast. These are light enough to toss with my six weight and a bass taper. These hula poppers are no longer made but I got some copies online. My other favorite is the dancing frog. This is a weed-less deer hair popper with lots of flopping yellow skirt. This frog has two mono loops for the weed-guard and these really are almost weed-less. They always come back to me. The bass hit the dancing frog so violently the frogs often lose an eye. I have lots of one-eyed dancing frogs. They do get waterlogged after a long day. I think the fly shop at Bass Pro has started carrying these. I found a source on the internet also. Of course you could try making your own. Mostly it seems to me that bass will hit anything in the right place with some movement and noise. They are really aggressive and will hit again and again if you miss and throw it right back. I've had them hit 3-4 times before they quit. Sometimes bass just smack near or behind your popper just as a warning or something. I don't think I've ever had a bass doing this actually bite.

Sometimes in the summer I park on the north side of the south end of the lake in the third parking lot from the entry kiosk. There is a landing not far from the parking lot. I put in here and go south along the bank where there



Fishing Del Valle Reservoir - Continued

is a deeper channel that use to always stay clear of weeds except the last two years. I throw to the shore or to the edges of the weed beds and sometimes to open water as this whole area is shallow and weedy bottomed in the summer. The point of land that separates this area from the bridge channel is usually productive. I have caught a number of nice (15-17 inch) smallmouth in this area.

I usually like to hit the lake on hot summer nights with temps in the mid nineties and the lake calms down good around dusk. Some nights I will get a dozen big blow-ups in two hours and the next night I will get zip. Can't figure it out. There is a very short window when conditions are optimum. Maybe a half hour before darkness, call it dusk or twilight. You'll know because the hits start. There is never much top water action until the sun starts to set.

In the summer time at dusk the lake comes alive with lots of fish jumping and there are big (sometimes tremendous) splashes all around you and you are tempted to throw at them. I think and have been told that most of these are carp or catfish. Anyway I seldom hookup by throwing at a big splash. I have caught several catfish on poppers in this south end area. Usually in September when they start draining water and it gets shallower.

Park rangers will kick you out if you are on the lake too late. I know, I have been run off a number of times. Just make sure you get out of the water and out of the park before they close the gates. The park attendants want to go home also.

There are often people bait fishing from the landing where I put-in (excellent spot BTW). Be careful approaching in semi-darkness as lines may be in the water. There are no other good put-ins in this area.

The south end area is not good for bank fly fishing. There is just too little access because of overgrown banks and the water is too deep for wading. A float tube, pontoon are best (only) bets. I heard the BBQ was going to be at Del Valle this year instead of at Kistler. Kistler is much better for the family experience where wives and kids can fish from the bank. At Del Valle, if you don't have a float tube better bring your bait fishing outfits.

Bass caught are usually largemouth and usually 14- 18 inches. I fish for bass with straight mono 10 lb after losing too many on lighter line.

The last couple of years have not been good. Not sure if it is the tampering with the water-levels or what. The patterns for the weed beds have also changed but that might be because of changing water levels. A lot of Christmas trees have been planted in the last couple of years.

Float tubes get boat inspections at the lake. An annual pass is about \$45 but just pays for parking. There is a fishing fee \$5 I think this year up from \$4. Last year was a \$2 float tube fee and I they charge you for the boat inspection at least the first time. I think that's all I know. Oh, there is usually no one else fishing there among the weed beds and the wind can be a bear sometimes.

I would be glad to take any one along (after it warms up). I have complete extra set of gear in case someone needs to borrow a float tube.

Club Picnic at Del Valle Reservoir in Livermore Saturday April 9th, 2011

Our club will be hosting a picnic at the Coyote Corner site at Lake Del Valle on Saturday April 9th. TVFF will be providing burgers, hotdogs, buns, salad/ appetizers, paper plates (etc.) and non –alcoholic beverages. This will be a great outing for you and entire family. Just come out ; kick back and relax.

We plan to have casting lessons for those who are interested as well as other activities permitted with the park. Never fear, there will be plenty to do that day . Or, if you wish, just take in the day and vegetate.

This event is free to all TVFF members and their families. The only costs are the park fees (parking, boating, fishing) charged by East Bay Regional Parks.

Come out and enjoy the sun!

Please contact Ken Javorsky if you have any questions. (kjavorsky@sbcglobal.net)



2011 Installation BBQ

About 50 members and family members attended the Installation BBQ. Good food and good company made for a very good time. Barry and Sue Hoffer handled the BBQ duties with excellent results. Jim Broadbent won the grand prize in the Volunteer Incentive Program drawing. More pictures are available on the club web site.



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PAUL WASSER

February New Melones Outing Bob McCollum

Five TVFF members gathered in the balmy days of early February to explore fly fishing at New Melones reservoir near Angel's Camp. New Melones is a big lake and requires a boat to access and explore the water. This time a year, trout congregate in the shallow bays near the inlet streams. In the end, our group focused on House Boat Cove and caught one fish: a 17 inch rainbow caught on a wooley bugger. The outing was a good introduction to the possibilities and potential of this enpoundment. More picture are available on the club web site.



TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake, Nevada April 2011

Fishmasters: Rob Vellinger & Ken Javorsky

Outing Dates: Thur - Sun, April 14,15,16,17

Rob & I would like to welcome all members to join us and experience the thrill of pursuing the legendary Lahontan Cutthroat trout in their native waters.

Pyramid Lake is 40 miles north of Reno (33 miles northeast of Sparks). During March and April when the water temperature gets over 50 degrees F, these monsters enter the shallower waters to feed. . While there is no guarantee of fishing success , this factor makes fishing in April prime.

Shore fishing is the norm at Pyramid where anglers make casts to the drop offs using 6 or 7wt. rods. One unique aspect of this fishing is the use of step ladders to help your casts reach the drop-off zones where the fish are located.

Details on the meeting place, accommodations , recommended equipment , line set up, and regulations will be given to the members who sign up for the trip. Last year most of us stayed at Crosby Lodge (775) 476-0400 which is on the shore of the lake near Sutcliffe, NV. There are also plenty of places to stay in Sparks or Reno.

Please sign up at the monthly meeting or see Rob or myself if you have any questions.



Fly Tying Classes - Hal Wilson

Add a New Dimension to Your Fly Fishing Experience

Many TVFF members were enthralled by watching some of the best tiers in the Bay Area demonstrate this skill last month. Now is YOUR time to learn to tie flies!

Come join us for the Club's fly tying class and learn steps necessary to tie known patterns and to develop your own ideas into fish-catching flies.

For the first time in several years, we are offering a four-session class teaching the basic skills of this interesting aspect of our fly fishing sport.

Basic instruction teaches the use of tools and of many of the materials used in this craft, and techniques for tying nymphs and dry flies.

The class will be on Tuesday evenings, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 and 3/22, at the Rod and Gun Club from 7:00 to about 9:00 pm.

Tools and materials will be supplied for these sessions.

At a cost of \$30, this is a great opportunity. Contact Jim Broadbent (925)455-1046 nob8@prodigy.net or Hal Wilson (925)846-8766 HalBMax@aol.com by February 15 to reserve a place in this class.



Perched atop Crane Ridge overlooking the beautiful Livermore Valley wine country is where you will discover White Crane Winery, one of the premier Livermore wineries. Guests enjoy a wide variety of small lot - limited production ultra premium wines. Our award winning wines are available through our wine club, wine tasting room and special events.

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CONSERVATION CORNER Derrell Bridgman

Politics vs. Science

It seems almost impossible to keep up with the ever-changing climate of status of the management plans for the water issues of our state. Once in a while (but not too often) we seem to make some meaningful progress on resolving a few of the issues that will benefit the restoration efforts of some of our fisheries and water supplies. No sooner do we start to feel good about our accomplishments when another bombshell is dropped on us.

I have been encouraged about how negotiations have been going on some of the major crisis facing us. After years of negotiations on resolving the problems causing the devastation of the Klamath River Fisheries agreements have been reached on a way to start the restoration of the river. These agreements appeared to be valid and binding, and were most definitely very encouraging.

Likewise, agreements on restoring the Trinity River seemed to be in place and I really thought the restoration was going to be a reality.

The San Joaquin River was also on the road to recovery after intense negotiations had culminated in an encouraging agreement.

Although we are a long way from reaching any sort of a compromise that would resolve all the problems with the water management of our Delta, it did seem like some measure of progress was being made, and there might be a slim glimmer of hope that some day a logical resolution might actually become a reality.

Some of the negotiations that made the above agreements possible have been in progress for almost 20 years, and involved many courtroom battles.

Suddenly the progress that was achieved in these battles is facing a new danger. The US House of Representatives recently approved legislation designed to solve the major economic issues facing our nation.

Unfortunately, attached to this legislation was a "Continuing Resolution" clause included for the sole purpose of defunding the water restoration projects listed above. This means that if the legislation gets through the Senate those projects are, for all practical purposes, dead.

This is really a sad situation. The agreements were negotiated by very knowledgeable people with a good understanding of the problem, based on related scientific facts as an acceptable compromise to some very complex issues. The fact that a group of politicians with only a limited understanding of the complexity of the issues, has the power to totally nullify the agreements seems completely unjust to me. "Politics trumps Science"

I understand that our economy is in dire straits and we are facing critical cutbacks, but the water issues of our state are likewise in serious trouble. We definitely need to fix our money problems, and the fix will undoubtedly be painful, however, we also desperately need to fix our water management problems. These problems are not just related to the declining health of our fisheries, they are very critical to human water needs as well. Both issues are so critical that we cannot afford to sacrifice the fix for one of them at the expense of the other.

Hopefully our Senators will understand this and come to their senses. There must be a better solution.

Tight lines.

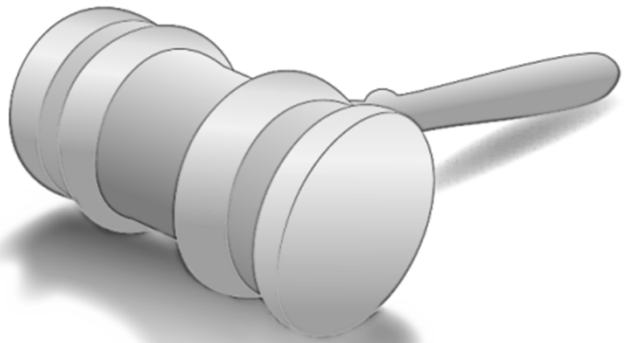
Derrell

Silent Auction Update

– Bob McCollum

Bring Auction Donations to the March Meeting

Please bring you auction donations to the March meeting. We need all types of items, Fishing equipment, flies, non-fishing items, wine, services. We especially need donations of Buddy Fishing Trips and vacation rentals.



Associate Chairman Needed For 2011 Auction

I've been chairman of the auction for several years, and I've decided to take a break from it next year. So, I'm looking for someone to serve as an Associate Chairman this year to work with men on the 2011 auction, learn the rope, and become chair the auction in 2012. Please contact me if you're interested.



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The Tier's Corner No. 15 - Jim Cramer

The Tier's Corner No 18 : Thread Control - Tension and Torque

One of the most basic and fundamental acts of fly tying is the attachment (tying) of materials on to the hook. What appears to the untrained eye as simply wrapping the thread around the material and hook shank involves subtle techniques to insure desired results.

Such a simple process on the surface, just pinch or lay the material on the hook at the point you want and wrap the thread around it. But are the tail fibers exactly where they should be or have they slipped around to the side; have the fibers flared out or remained neatly bunched together; does the material continue to move around the hook as you add tightening wraps; are your wings slightly off center or cocked at odd angles? If this ever happens to you, then as Prof. Hill says, "You've got problems in River City."

Don't despair, most of the problems are caused by thread tension and thread torque. By thread torque I am referring to the tendency of the thread to carry the material around the hook shank as it is tighten. Thread tension should be self explanatory and I'll cover it after discussing thread torque.

Proper technique will allow a tier to either take advantage or to counter the effect of thread torque as needed. For example, the tier is taking advantage of thread torque when spinning deer hair and he is countering it when stacking a bucktail wing.

A prime example of using thread torque to our advantage occurs when tying in hackle fiber tails. Proper technique uses thread torque to place the fibers on top of the hook shank. After wrapping the thread base place the hackle fiber clump against the near side of the hook at about a 45 degree angle (butts pointing down) and make your first wrap of thread around them. The tension should be light until it reaches to the far side and starts down. At this point tighten up on the thread and immediately make two more tight wraps towards the butt ends of the material. It is very important that the first wrap you make around the tail fibers lays directly on top of the last wrap of the thread base. If it slips to the bare hook you will be kinking the fibers into the step between the thread base and the bare hook. This will cause all sorts of undesirable things to happen such as flared fibers and the wrong angle. If the first wrap is forward on the thread base it will show up as sloppy work. Assuming that you have done everything correct, the thread will have rolled the fibers to the top of the hook into the proper position. Now is the time to carefully check your results and redo if necessary.

For many years I tied a lot of flies without thinking about the whys and wherefores of tying. Many of the little aggravations I just accepted as being a part of fly tying in general. I was not experienced enough to recognize my mistakes. Tying on duck quill wings was always an exercise in frustration. Split and twisted wings were generally the norm, and I rationalized by telling myself that they fished just as good as the "perfect" wings and when fished would soon split anyway. (Probably true, but they didn't look as pretty in the box.)

To eliminate the problem of migrating materials a technique called the soft loop is employed. What I find interesting is that in looking back at my fly tying books of yesteryear, say 30 or 40 years ago, this technique was never mentioned. As books were my only source of instruction I had some excuse then, but no longer.

Like many knots, there is the basic version and a so called improved version of the soft loop. The basic version is performed by first wrapping the thread to the exact point on the hook where the first tie down wrap of the material is to be made. Now pinching the material in the left hand between the thumb and forefinger, place the material directly on top of the hook, pinching both the hook and the material at the same time. Now bring the thread straight up between the left thumb and the material. Leave some slack in the thread above the thumb and guide the thread straight down on the far side between the left forefinger and the material, being sure not to remove the slack at the top. Holding the pinch point tighten the thread by pulling straight down. You have just performed the first wrap of a soft loop tie in. Repeat the same steps one or two more times and the material will remain at the top of the hook without "migrating" around it. If you are tying in duck quill wings make sure that the second and third wraps/loops progress towards the butt end of the wing rather than towards the tip.

The "improved" version of the soft loop calls for bringing the thread back up the near side between the thumb and the material before tightening by pulling straight up. Several noted tiers recommend tightening the loop with a quick snap of the thread. I can't really say if this adds to the effectiveness of the procedure.

The Tier's Corner No. 15 - Jim Cramer

The second way of countering the torque effect is so simple minded that no one ever discusses it. All you do is to continue to hold on to the material until you finish tying it in. Just say no to letting it twist around the hook. Sometimes you need to pull it slightly to your side of the hook to counter the torque of the thread as you wrap. This works well with long materials like marabou and bucktail.

Some materials are just more "difficult" than others. Hard hair, such as squirrel tail, tends to "migrate" around the hook. Adding more thread wraps just compounds the problem. To reduce this problem, first try tying in two or more small bunches of material instead of one large bunch. Second, instead of adding wrap after wrap around both the material and the hook, move the thread off the material and take a couple of wraps around just the hook. This locks the thread in place preventing the torque from pulling the material out of position. Use this little step after you've posted your wings and you'll avoid having the post wraps come flying off the post when you tighten the thread. Been there, done that, right?

Now let me back up a few paragraphs and clarify a point. I have often said, "add one or two wraps" or "add two or three wraps." Well just how many is it? The correct answer of course depends on the application and the material you are securing to the hook. In general hair requires more wraps than soft materials. Most tiers use far too many wraps to secure material which leads to bulky flies, which then leads to the tier using much finer thread than necessary. Stop a moment and think about the process. You have just tied in one material, say the body material and now you need to tie a hackle or a ribbing at the same location. The wraps used to tie in the second material will also secure the first material so conserve on the first wraps and tie neater flies.

One should generally tie with as much tension as the thread will take, however there are occasions when this can cause problems. Take for example deer hair tails on dry flies or bucktail wings on streamers, the hair will flair if tied with too much pressure. The solution is to back off of the pressure at the rear and increase as you move forward. (A way to cheat on this is to stroke a drop of head cement or super glue into the hair).

Two other instances of where reduced tension is advised are when tying foam flies and when building steeply sloping heads. Too much thread tension on foam bodied flies will either cut the foam or compress the foam to the point that much of its flotation is destroyed. It is sometimes necessary when building a steeply sloping head to reduce the thread tension at the rear of the head to keep the thread from slipping.

Hey Guys --- I have been doing this article for a year and a half and I am getting no feedback. Is the information of any value to you; do you want more or less detail; do you want info on new patterns ??? If you don't see me at the meeting you can call me at 408-531-8221. All input would be appreciated.

ATTENTION NOVICE FLY FISHERS

DATE: Saturday, April 30, 2011

TIME: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PLACE: Heather Farm Community Center
301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek

COST: Club Members: ~~\$ 45.00~~ *DVFF - members*
~~Non-Members: \$ 90.00~~
(fee includes lunch, handouts and
membership for non-members)



NOVICE FLY FISHING SEMINAR 2011

We have expanded our capacity for this seminar to handle all those who are interested. To reserve your spot in the class, send in your registration fee as explained below. Non-members must become club members in order to attend (included in fees shown above). Remember, family members (spouses and children under 21) are covered under one primary membership.

REGISTRATION: Enroll by sending a check, made payable to DVFF, to Willy's home address shown below. Please include your name, mailing address, email address, & home phone number with your check. Non-members should also include their completed membership application down loaded from the DVFF website www.diablovalleyflyfish.org
Cancellations after April 1, 2011 will not be refunded.

INSTRUCTOR: Willy George
FFF Certified Casting Instructor
87 Danbury Court
Alamo, CA 94507
(925) 943-2211 Home

PURPOSE: To satisfy the needs of those club members who have yet to be adequately exposed to the basic knowledge and skills of fly fishing. This includes all members of the family—spouse and children (15 years and older).

OBJECTIVE: To provide the beginner with enough information including knowledge of equipment, casting, basic entomology, fly selection, knots, and reading water for their initial experience with the sport.

BENEFITS TO THE NOVICE: The beginner should leave this seminar with a wealth of "how to" information coupled with, hopefully, accomplished basic casting techniques from which to further build his or her fly fishing skills and knowledge.

WHAT TO BRING: Rod, reel, line and whatever leader set up you might already have attached. For those of you that do not have equipment, wait until after the class to make a purchase. We have loaner rods available, but please arrange for this gear at the time you register for the class.



Items For Sale

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Modern kitchen opens onto large great room with propane pot-bellied stove. Master suite with queen bed and large bathroom. Garage with parking for one car. Ample outdoor parking. Elevation: 3400 feet.

NO PETS. NO SMOKING.

Contact: Bob McCollum 925-989-2358



California Sportfishing
Protection Alliance

We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

Directions to

Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club: 4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore, California.

Exit Highway 580 on North Livermore Avenue

Proceed North on North Livermore Avenue to May School Road (~2.5 miles).

Turn right onto May School Road and proceed to stop sign at intersection with Dagnino Road (~1 mile).

Entrance to Rod and Gun Club is directly across intersection

