

Jump Start - You, GBF & Facebook

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Ok, you've heard a lot about Facebook, what's the big deal? In this article we are going to discuss what's in it for you with the GBF page on Facebook, and what other Facebook features (especially the Marketplace and Groups) can help your fly fishing experience.

I must admit using Facebook has become addictive (and expensive), trolling is something we can do now even away from the lakes.

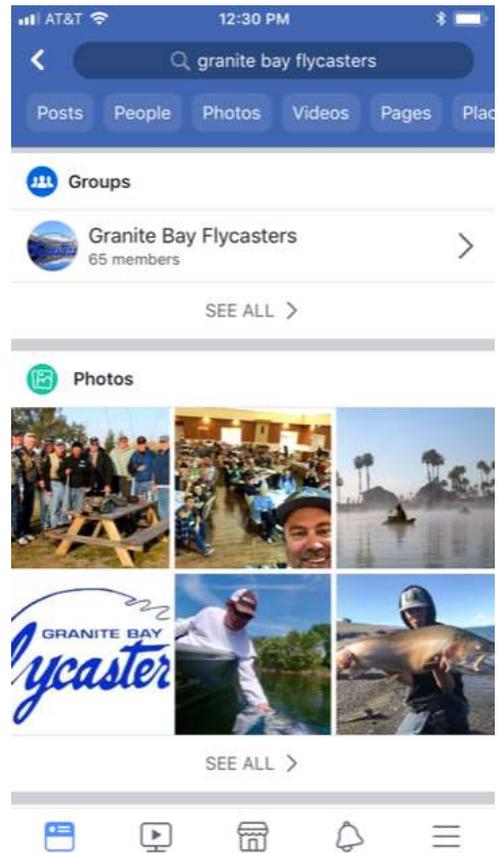


All of the screen shots in this article are from my iPhone for the sake of taking up less real estate in this article; however, everything is also offered in the online version of Facebook from your home computer.

For Starters

You'll need a Facebook account in order to access Facebook, this will get you into joining various pages so that you view recent posts from these pages. As you search for various topics, you will see posts from those people, where you can choose to follow those that you find worthy.

Along the bottom of your Facebook mobile app are 5 buttons, from left to right, the first is News Feed and is for scrolling through various pages and posts from groups you are active within. You'll spend a lot of time in this area looking at topics you have followed. The next button is for watching movie clips based upon your following. The middle button is the Facebook Marketplace; you can search for things being sold within a 100 mile radius of your location. Items can be searched by name and category. The next button is for the various notifications and possible people you might know (I don't use this option very much). And finally, on the far right, there's the Groups option; this is a gold mine of groups

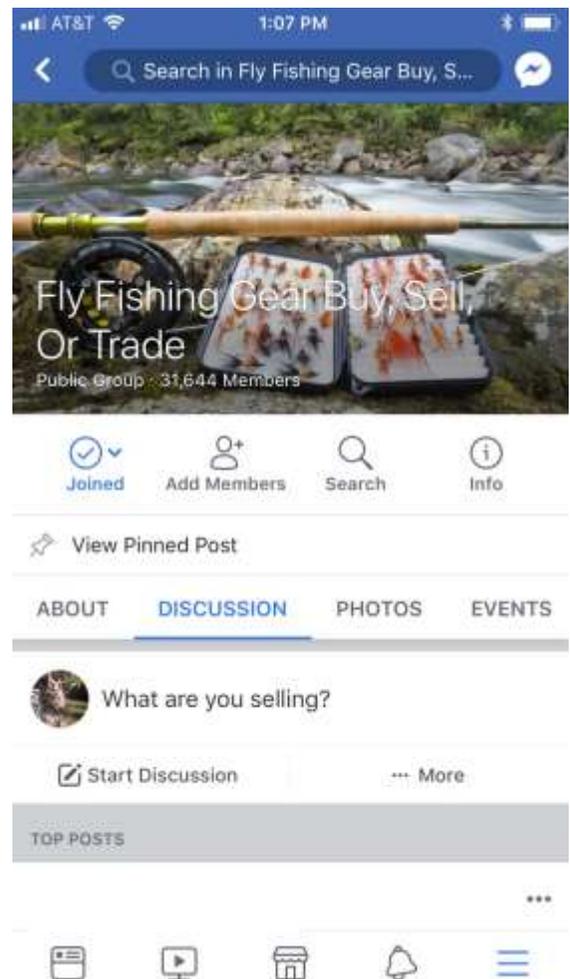


you can request to join; and once a member indulge in their offerings (more on this below).

GBF and Posts

Searching for Granite Bay Flycasters, you should be able to come upon a page that looks like this on your mobile app. This is the GBF group home page. On this page, you can read what others have posted and photos that have been uploaded. Here's where you can share (post) your fishing experiences with others. Ask questions and answer questions. You will find that over time the more activity by readers, the more you'll be returning to this page for updates. Over time, users will learn to have discussions, list events and post even more photos.

The features offered here will supplement our website's message board. Post your fishing trips, fish catches, favorite fly ties, items for sale, items you are seeking to find and upcoming events; you are free to post away, just keep it on topic, not political, and not questionable in nature. There are common sense rules to follow, and GBF Admins are monitoring your posts, offensive content and inappropriate users will be banned from the group.



Facebook Marketplace

The Marketplace is a buy and sell area of Facebook that is limited to a 100 mile radius of your location. Go ahead, search for fly rods, reels, fishing guides, you get to name it as your search.

I spend some time in the Marketplace for local items, but find myself truly addicted to the Groups pages which are discussed next.

Facebook Groups

Facebook groups are places where you find a group by searching using keywords, and then request to join the group. Once joined, you are free to scan the posts by others, respond to posts and add new posts. Here are my favorite groups:

- Granite Bay Flycasters
- Fly Fishing Gear Buy, Sell or Trade
- ~Renegades on the Fly (although this site can have some questionable posts)
- Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Gear For Sale & Trade
- Pyramid Lake Fly Fishing
- Fly Tying & Fly Fishing
- And of course groups for my 6.7 F350 and my Audi A6

A group like Fly Fishing Gear Buy, Sell or Trade with more than 31,000+ members is a fabulous place to learn about fly fishing gear, its value, its appeal; and then to buy, sell and trade. Once you find something you want to discuss you can either post a comment to the group, or you can use the Facebook Messenger application and privately correspond with the other party.

Since writing this article I have bought several rods, several reels, flies and accessories. I find myself trolling these groups many times daily (even while float tubing in Discovery Bay last weekend). One thing I've quickly learned is to not ship using the U S Postal Service. I have experienced firsthand not receiving a wonderful Winston rod and Hardy reel that didn't even make it to the first barcode scan at the Postal Office in Breckenridge, Colorado. The seller is still struggling to collect his insurance claim. I now only use UPS and FedEx.

Summary

In closing, Facebook offers a place to learn more about fly fishing, ask questions, where to fish, what gear to use, favorite flies, and buying, selling or trading your gear, and lots more. What has been discussed herein is only a small portion of the Facebook experience. It's quite simple to use once you get started and comfortable.

Like any online transaction or social forums, be careful with your identity and money transactions; always feel comfortable with your actions. Don't fall victim to a bad experience.

Give me a shout-out by email or phone or in person if you have any questions. Let Wendell Edwards (President), Gordon Tornberg (Clinics Director) and myself know if you think we should have a Facebook clinic so as to spread the word and increase the user experience in our fly fishing reality.