

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

July 2016

www.gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by John Hogg, GBF President



Our June meeting saw our annual election with three new faces joining the Board:

Don Whitecar, VP – Membership

David Bennett, Director at Large

Ron Fay, Director at Large

Leaving the Board with our thanks are **Ted Way**, **Doug Kytonen**, and **Tony Fabian**.

The Upper Sac fishout had a great turnout the first week of June, and **The Annual Picnic** at Rancho Seco Park had 50-plus attendees, with great chow in the form of grilled chicken and tri-tip, plus free use of paddle boards and pedal boats, all paid for by the club. A big **THANK YOU** to **Wendell Edwards**, his crew, and chefs **Lester Grigsby** and **Doug Kytonen** for their expertise.

July offers three fishouts:

- a [Tenkara workshop](#) with **John Pellegrin** on the West Carson (July 16)
- [Virginia Lakes](#) with **Mike Kaul**, ([July 13-17](#))
- a mid-week fishout on the [Little Truckee](#) with **Ed Lloyd**, (July 20).

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Sorry about the date conflict on the first two, but [the Virginia Lakes event had to be re-scheduled from June](#) because the campgrounds were still snow-bound. Details and contact information are elsewhere in *The Leader* and on the website.

Tenkara Fishout - West Carson River Tuesday, July 16, 2016

Leader: **John Pellegrin**

Come and learn about the wonderful world of Tenkara fishing by our own "Tenkara Master," **John Pellegrin**, on an idyllic stream in the eastern Sierras, the upper West Carson. Tenkara is simplicity—a fixed line to a telescoping rod, with a plethora of techniques to fish the fly and entice unsuspecting trout. Bring your own gear, or if you don't have your own set-up, the club does have a few loaners.

Space for this fishout is limited, so check the [fishout message board](#), and if you're interested in attending, contact John at john.pellegrin@comcast.net.

J U L Y 2 0 1 6

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	13.	14. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM Virginia Lakes Fishout July 13 - 17	15.	16. Tenkara Fishout
17. Virginia Lakes Fishout July 13 - 17	18.	19. Fly Tying Jam	20. Little Truckee Fishout	21.	22.	23.
24.	31. 25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.

Monthly Program



Our speaker this month is **Jim Andras**, an Arizona native who grew up among the cactus and rattlesnakes of the desert. Fishing entered his life through a spinning rod, and later—when he eventually got religion—he became a fly fishing disciple, and moved to Redding where he guided on the Lower Sac and Trinity rivers.

In 2005, he moved to Southern Oregon's Rogue Valley, and now guides the upper Rogue and Klamath Rivers for summer and winter steelhead, as well as resident trout. In his presentation, he'll discuss the seasons for each river, and the techniques proven effective over 10 years of guiding on these special fisheries.

Jim Andras

www.andrasoutfitters.com

Little Truckee River Fishout Wednesday, July 20th

Leader: Ed Lloyd

The Truckee River flows south out of the Eastern Sierra into Stampede Reservoir, then upon exiting below the Stampede Dam, flows three miles through a meadow and canyon section into Boca Reservoir. Once it

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Little Truckee River Fishout - Continued from Page 2

leaves Boca Reservoir, it flows about 100 yards to its confluence with the Truckee River. The prized stretch of water between Stampede and Boca is the Little Truckee River.

The Little Truckee River is more like a large creek consisting of riffles and pools. The volcanic rocks of the river's bottom contribute to a large variety of bugs, providing a great food source for the trout that inhabit this water. Come the end of summer, hoppers are a significant food source. Chironomids are present throughout the year.

The fishout will be a great chance to learn more about fishing this amazing stretch of river. Recently, *Trout Unlimited* performed extensive work on the river to increase trout habitat. Come and explore the changes to this magnificent trout stream!

Space for this fishout is limited, so check the [fishout message board](#) and contact Ed at edlloyd@att.net if you're interested in attending.

Classes and Clinics

Gordon Tornberg, Director of Education

Below is a list of the classes and clinics that are offered to members. Some have scheduled dates, while others will be scheduled shortly. If you have suggestions for other classes or clinics, be sure to contact me to discuss your needs and ideas. Look for specific dates and times on the web site, at upcoming meetings, and in future *Leader* articles.

Scheduled Classes and Clinics

Fly Tying Jam
Fundamentals of Knots
Short Line Nymphing Clinic
All About Leaders
Rod Building

Dates

Third Tuesday of each month
September 20th
October 8th, Dunsmuir City Park
October 18th
On-going as needed

Upcoming Classes and Clinics

Introduction to Spey Casting
Pontoon Boat Clinic
Fishing with Floating Indicators

Tentative Date

July-August 2016
Fall, Lower Yuba River
Fall 2016 w/ Clay Hash

Classes and Clinics still to be scheduled

Fly Tying Basics
"Beyond the Basics" Fly Tying Class

Classes and Clinics for 2017

Net Building
Fly Fishing 101
Fly Casting Fundamentals

January – April 2017
February 2017
March 2017

President's Annual Picnic

by Wendell Edwards, Picnic Chair

The annual picnic was held on June 11th, and the 50+ attendees agreed that the event, our first picnic at Rancho Seco Park, was very successful. We ate, played games, and rode paddleboards, paddleboats, and kayaks, along with beach and swimming fun during the afternoon. Even had reports of fish caught before and after the picnic. New friends were made as the many guests mingled.

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President's Annual Picnic - Continued from Page 3

GBF provided a table covered with abundant amounts of tri-tip, chicken, watermelon and all the fixings. Yes, the dinner was a bit late, and chef **Doug** humbly apologized. He made up for the late arrival by sharing his wonderful Blueberry BBQ sauce recipe (listed below).

Thank you to **Lester, Eric, Doug, Mel and JoAnn, Michael Gervais** and my wife, **Marilyn**, as well as the folks who helped clean up.

I am looking ahead to next year's fun at the park!

By popular request!

Doug's Blueberry BBQ sauce:

2 cups dark brown sugar
½ cup apple cider vinegar
½ cup balsamic vinegar
2 cloves crushed and diced garlic (I use 2 tbs. of jarred diced garlic)
1 cup yellow mustard
1 cup catsup
¼ wine red of choice
2 tbs. liquid smoke
6-8 oz. of fresh blue berries (can substitute blueberry pancake syrup or canned blueberries)



Virginia Lakes Fishout **NEW DATE: July 13 - 17, 2016**

Flycasters, it is time for the annual Virginia Lakes trip. We will be going up on July 13th and coming home on July 17th. We will have a taco dinner on Saturday the 16th for all who attend. All you need is a chair, a beverage and an appetite.

For those of you unfamiliar with Virginia Lakes, they are on the eastern slope of the Sierra just past Bridgeport and before you drop down to Mono Lake. The scenery is "eastern side incredible." We will be staying at Trumble Lake campground at 9,700 feet, so you can expect cool to cold nights. If you are concerned about the elevation, you might consider staying a night at Twin Lakes or the Tahoe area on the way. This is a nice campground with water and very nice pit toilets. Reservations can be made on line, but we usually are able to secure sites without them (why we are going up on Wednesday). There is also unimproved camping a short distance down the road by the creek (Road 139). These are also very beautiful and right next to a Virginia Creek, and free. The two Virginia Lakes are easy walking distance from the campground, which sits right next to Trumble Lake. There is excellent fishing at all three lakes. Great stream fishing is available all around: Virginia Creek, Green Creek and dry fly fishing for Brook trout in a couple of lakes a short walk up the trail. There is a store at Little Virginia with high priced goods, a little restaurant (very nice breakfasts), and hot showers. They also rent cabins (usually for a week), but will do a weekend at the last minute if they aren't rented: <http://www.virginalakesresort.com>. Bridgeport is a 30-to-45 minute drive, and there are motels if camping is not your thing.

The fishing is generally float tube with sinking line (intermediate - fast). Catching twenty fish in a day (mostly rainbows but some brooks and browns) is not extraordinary, and I will be available to help anyone who desires it. Flies will be plentiful, as I will bring my tying stuff, as will others. There will be extra equipment available (float tubes, fins, waders and rod/reels with line) for anyone to use. Rods from 3-6 wt. are the norm.

This is a great family outing, as there are a variety of things to do besides fishing. The hiking is excellent, with relatively short distances between lakes. Just down the road there is horseback riding, and the old gold ghost-town of Bodie is within 45 minutes. The city of Mammoth is less than an hour away, as is the entrance to Yosemite.

Please call me if you have any questions, and let me know if you are planning to come so I can get enough camp sites and bring enough taco fixin's.

Michael Kaul
mikedkaul@gmail.com
(530) 677-8022 or cell (916) 337-5468

Conservation Corner

by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

CANTARA SPILL

In June of this year we had a club fishout on the upper Sacramento River, one of our favorite fishing sites. The Upper Sac, as it is commonly referred to, is a 41-mile stretch of high quality trout habitat consisting of pools, runs, riffles, cascades, and pocket water. The River is known for its wild native trout population and an abundance of invertebrate life that supports it. However, this was all temporarily destroyed by a single catastrophic event.

Twenty-five years ago, on the night of July 14, 1991, a 97-car train climbing out of the Sacramento River Canyon derailed spilling several cars, including a chemical tanker, into the Upper Sacramento River at a

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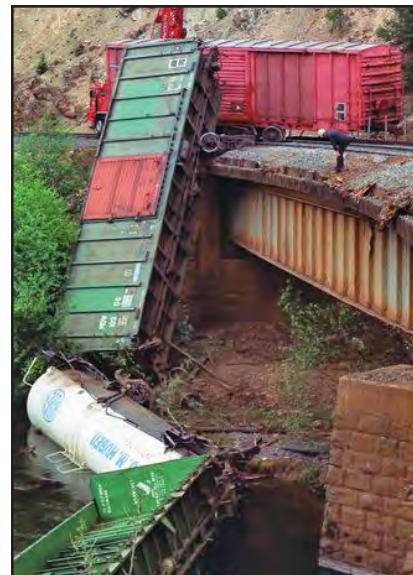
sharp bend of track known as the Cantara Loop. The tanker ruptured, spilling more than 19,000 gallons of metam sodium, a soil fumigant intended for agricultural use that kills nematodes, fungi and weeds. As the metam sodium came into contact with oxygen in the water, the toxins began killing all aquatic life. Every living creature in the river downstream from the spill died. Some of the toxins volatilized into the air, creating a toxic cloud above the river as the chemical plume moved downstream. Traveling at just under one mile per hour, the plume entered Shasta Lake on the morning of July 17, 1991.

Wildlife dependent on the river's ecosystem either starved, or were forced to move because their food sources were no longer available. Over a million fish, tens of thousands of amphibians and crayfish, and millions of aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants were destroyed. This destruction also involved alders and cottonwoods. The chemical plume left a 41-mile wake of destruction from the spill site to the entry point of the river into Shasta Lake. Occurring approximately 2.3 miles below Box Canyon Dam, the Cantara spill affected nearly the entire river ecosystem.

The Department of Fish and Game, as lead Trustee for a contingent of state and federal trustee agencies, initiated a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process under federal law to identify the injured resource, and estimate the type and extent of injuries. In 1994, an out-of-court settlement was settled against Southern Pacific Railroad. The plaintiffs received \$38 million in damages, of which \$14 million was deposited in an interest-bearing account to be used for various programs intended to restore the system and mitigate for the injuries. The account earned over \$3 million in interest.

A 12-year restoration program managed by the Cantara Trustee Council (CTC) was initiated to direct the restoration program. The CTC funded numerous projects, including restoration activities, land acquisition and protection, research, and public use restoration. The decision was to let the river mostly heal itself, waiting four years until resuming trout introduction. The system had to grow from the bottom up before the trout could again take hold. To do otherwise would release trout into an ecosystem that would not support them.

As catastrophic as this spill was, some good has come from it. Since 1938 until the spill, about 25 miles of the upper Sacramento River were regularly stocked with hatchery fish. Although hatchery programs are very popular and provide more fish for the angling public, wild native trout are becoming more valued by a segment of the fishing public, especially by fly fishers, and there is concern that the genetic qualities of trout are being compromised through hatchery inbreeding. A genetic study of Sacramento River trout funded by the Trustee Council, established that Upper Sacramento River wild trout were genetically different from Mount Shasta Hatchery trout. Results of the study were instrumental in the development of angling regulations that insured that wild trout were re-established before fish harvesting was permitted. These regulations remain today, and have resulted in a premier wild trout fishery.



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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 6

Other projects that directly benefit the fishing public are the Pollard Gulch River Access Project; Prospect Avenue Fishing Access Project; Tauhindauli Park and Trail; Cantara Loop land acquisition; and Dunsmuir Park land acquisition.

It is said that the Cantara Spill was an accident waiting to happen. With the newly buttressed Cantara Bridge, it is unlikely that this accident will repeat. However, all of us who have fished the upper Sacramento know firsthand how precarious the rail line is as it hugs the banks of the river on a narrow twisting roadbed.

Train derailments are not rare events. Chemicals such as metam sodium and other highly toxic materials are shipped by rail in large quantities. A new threat is 100-plus car oil trains carrying highly volatile and flammable Bakken oil from the fracked shale fields of North Dakota and Montana, and heavy crude from the oil tar sands of Alberta, Canada. Whereas the metam sodium is water soluble and non-explosive, spilled crude is persistent and flammable, and much more difficult to remove and remediate. The oil train routes will take them along the banks of the Upper Sacramento, Feather River, and Truckee River. We can only hope that the necessary steps will be taken by government and the railroads to minimize the probability of future spills. Next time we might not be able to recover as well as has been done with the Cantara Spill.

Cameron Park Fishout Report

by Doug Kytonen

The day started off with coffee and doughnuts from **Ray Ito** to get the juices flowing. As we worked our way out through the channels of weeds, we made it to the far end of the lake with more open water. The weather was great with virtually no wind. The fishing started a little slow, but as the day went along, it got better. All that attended were skilled (or lucky) enough that everyone landed fish. My best part of my day was in the afternoon, when I landed 4 total from 10-18 in. That was a lot better than I did in the morning, losing the tip of my rod somewhere in the canal when I launched. I first thought it was broken and, when I put my gear away, I only had 3 of the 4 pieces.

The lake was quite weedy, which made kicking through the weeds in a pontoon boat a real chore. That provided adequate motivation for some to try wading off the tip of the peninsula, which turned out to be very productive. A useful bit of information to file away, since the lake gets weedier each year.

It seemed everyone else also did better in the afternoon, so it must have been due to the excellent BBQ lunch, along with Ray's wife's side dishes that reinvigorated everyone.

Thank you, Ray. You always do a heck of a job with lunch! Looking forward to doing it again next year.



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Size Does Matter

by Tony Jelinek

In last month's *Leader* article, I was trying to figure out what color fly to use. This month, it's what size. Again, I turned to my copy of Ralph Cutter's, **Fish Food: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Bugs and Bait**, in the hope of getting an answer to what size fly to use. For those who did not read last month's article, or are unfamiliar with Ralph Cutter, Mr. Cutter is known for his column on trout foods in *California Fly Fisher* magazine, and has snorkeled rivers and lakes to better understand the habits of trout and their prey.

Unfortunately, size does matter. You could be throwing the right color fly, in the right part of the river, at the right depth, and still no success because the fly is not the right size to interest the trout. A trout's vision in the water must be incredible. I am amazed every time I cast into a pocket of water just behind a rock, and seemingly, just as the fly touches the water, the trout is going for the fly. How did it see the fly and react so quickly? Of course, there are all of those times that I feel like I have made the perfect cast to the same perfect spot, and no action (I don't really want to mention those), but, maybe it is because the fly was the wrong size.

Ralph says that 9-out-of-10 people use a fly that is too big. Sometimes, we do it because it is simply easier to get that teeny tiny tippet through the teeny tiny hole at the end of the hook, but many times it is because the live fly appears larger to us than it really is.

Of course, the easiest way to determine the right size is to catch a natural bug and measure it. You will see, once you catch it, the bug is much smaller than it looked flying about with the sun dazzling against its wings. If several kinds of bugs are out and about, imitate the size of the most numerous. I experienced this last year on the Upper Sac. I had had some good success at the start of a rise of fish with a size 12 Yellow Sally,

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Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

To place a classified ad, you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Classified ads will run for only one issue of The Leader, unless the seller requests it to run longer. Submit your listing to: fstolten@comcast.net with subject line: 'GBF: Classified'. Or mail your info to: Frank Stolten, 8290 Country Lake Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662. All ads must arrive by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

For Sale:

I'm selling my Dave Scadden Freestyle H3 float tube/pontoon boat. It's in excellent condition with very little use.

- Has 4 bladders, 2 of which are in the seat and seat back
- Lots of D rings for ropes, straps and whatever
- Large pocket on the back of the seat with additional storage behind
- Two large storage bags mounted on pontoons for fly boxes, rain jacket, water bottle, etc
- Stripping apron with measurement scale
- Easily portable, only 15 pounds



Geez, having said all that I'm having second thoughts about selling it. If interested, contact me soon before I regain my sanity and decide to keep it !!

Yours for only \$120.

Contact: Ray Ito at 530-401-3896 or email: itor@pacbell.net

Size Does Matter - Continued from Page 8

but, soon the water started boiling with rising fish, there must have been a fish in every cubic foot of water. I could get fish to be interested in my fly, but they would quickly turn away with a sassy flip of their head.

What if you are nymphing? You arrive stream-side to find the spider-webs have captured size 16 bugs from the previous evening's hatch. What size nymph should you choose? A size 14 would win you the prize. Why, you may ask? "The mayfly, caddisfly, or stonefly adult in the spider-web had to fit inside the skin of its former aquatic self." For emergers, size is not as big of a factor. "The adult might be a size 16, and the nymph a 14, but in their combined state of emergence, the size might be a 10, or even an 8." The trout see the hatchlings in various arrays, varying from "nymphs with bulging wing pads to almost fully escaped adults with only the tips of the abdomens still in the nymphal exuviae."

An even better idea would be to get your arms a little wet, and reach down and pull out a couple of rocks to check for bugs. Pick a nymph that "approximates the size of the average bug on the rock. If the water is murky, you might bump it up a size to make it easier for the fish to see."

Get out there, get your arms wet, catch a few bugs, check the size, and match your fly to the size, and maybe, this season you will have a little more luck catching fish, because size does matter.

Bridgeport Fishout Report

The 2016 Bridgeport fishout went as scheduled, thanks to 14 brave souls, including 3 ladies who made the long drive. The drive to Bridgeport was exciting. Going over the Sierras, there was rain and snow flurries. Once that obstacle was completed, the next challenge was the high winds through the Carson Valley. Wind advisories were up on Hwy. 395, with gusts over 45 mph. It was "fun" driving in those winds. Once we got to Lower Twin Lakes Campground, we realized that it was windy and cold. Some of our brave fishermen stayed in cabins, some in RVs, and some extremely hardy folks stayed in tents. Along with the wind, the temperature ranged from 58° during the day, to 23° at night.

All the rivers were flowing very well, and the lakes were full. While we didn't get in a lot of fishing on this trip due to the wind and cold weather, those who fished did catch fish. Fish were caught at Upper Twin Lakes, the East Walker and Robinson Creek. The highlight was the annual Bridgeport Fishout Tri Tip dinner. It was cold! As you can see in the pictures, we were all bundled up. As always, the best part was getting to know others in the club.

Until next year,

Bev and Bill



Upper Sacramento River Fishout Report

June 1st to June 5th

by Tony Jelinek

There is water in them hills! For the first time in four years on the drive up to Dunsmuir, Lake Shasta actually looked like a lake; so if you have been wanting to spend some time there on a houseboat, this is the year. In previous years, the flows on the Upper Sacramento River have been around 350 cfs. This year the flows on the Upper Sac were around 500 cfs, which meant we had to get a little more lead out and fish some of the slower tail water to catch fish.

We had three neophytes to short-line nymphing on the trip—**Chris Warren**, **Dave Fujiyama**, and **Michael Biggs**. The first full day of fishing, Dave, under the tutelage of **Frank Stoltzen**, caught the biggest fish of the trip, an 18-inch brown in City Park. Chris, “John Wayne” Warren, found that it was easier to hook his thumb than a fish. “Hey, Tony, do you have a pair of pliers, or more importantly, wire cutters? I have a hook stuck in my thumb.” Well, we had no wire cutters; so Chris just kept on fishing. He even tried short-thumb fishing. **Eric Palmer** looked for some information on short-thumb nymphing at the Dunsmuir museum. Look for an upcoming article on the technique originated by Tom Thumbdolly. Michael Biggs found out the importance of good glue, wading so aggressively that the soles of his wading boots actually separated from the boot.

Friday night, seeing no hatches happening on the river, we headed over to the Dunsmuir Brewery for “open mic night.” The local talent



was mixed, but our own **Michael Biggs** (see **inserted photo**) stole the show. **Dale Howell** learned that puppies have rights, and it is your fault if you are bitten. “What could you have possibly been thinking sitting there with your hand by your side? Of course, my dog is going to bite you.” Fortunately, all is okay, and Dale is back to catching trout and enjoying nice cold water from his Yeti tumbler (thank you to our sponsor).

While we were enjoying the local scene in Dunsmuir, **Bill Corbin** and **Leaman Houston** were at the right place at the right time—a massive salmon fly hatch at Cantara loop. Bill and Leaman brought a total of 35 fish to net. Bill used one fly the entire evening, an Orange

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Upper Sacramento River - Continued from Page 10

Humpy, which was thrashed beyond recognition by the time it was too dark to fish. Leaman was throwing an Orange and a Yellow Humpy, along with a Yellow Sally—no, not at the same time, or haven't you heard of the famous Ted Fay 3-fly rig? The next night they were back at it. The hatch was shorter, only about 20 minutes, and during that time they threw everything they had, but could not interest even one fish in one of their tasty morsels. Frank Stolten managed to entice a couple of the wild rainbows.

On Saturday, **John Gordon** joined us to participate in the short-line nymphing clinic conducted by **Ron Rabun**. Ron worked Chris, Dave, Michael, and John hard teaching them all about leaders, flies, and techniques. Thank you, Ron, for sharing your expertise.



We enjoyed gatherings, meals, and even an impromptu Sierra Nevada beer tasting (thank you to our sponsor) on the deck, while **Ron Davidson**, **Mel Oldemar**, Frank Stolten, and Eric Palmer discussed the merits of the

copper Copper John versus the red Copper John, along with other productive nymphs—Jimmy Rubber Legs, Prince Nymph, Psycho Prince Nymph, Dark Lord, Hare's ear, and Zug Bug. They debated which short-line leader system is best—version 1 or version 29. I think Eric is leaning toward version 28.5—the Bill Carnazzo—Ron Rabun—Ted Towndolly—Doug Ouellette mix, which uses a bit of local blackberry vine in the upper section. Overall, we had a great fish-out, and are looking forward to the next spring gig—May 31st to June 4, 2017.



Our website is designed to be a resource for club members who want to enhance their fly fishing experience through participation in various club activities. Check often at www.gbflycasters.org for information on club fishouts, conservation projects, classes & clinics, and other activities that support our mission.

Rancho Murieta Fishout Report

by Doug Kytonen



Rancho Murieta was a great day of fishing, and a great lunch. Thanks to **Bob DeRoss**, **Dick Shannon** and others who co-hosted and helped with the cooking. I think **Sturmer** was first out, and had his first bass of the morning. **Scott** got out and started landing fish about the same time. I went across the lake from the docks to some very promising looking water, to no avail of landing any bass. There was not a lot of chatter on Ch. 6 walkie talkies, so I was not sure how everyone was doing during the morning fishing period.

While relaxing and having a great BBQ lunch and beverages, the talk turned to a discussion of

where the fish were. We launched for the second round on the water and cruised the rock dam. Then it stared—the fish bite was on—starting with some nice largemouth taking my damsel nymph, getting a couple of nice ten-inchers, and then late in the afternoon, casting right to shore and a slow pull, I thought I was snagged in the shore line weed bed, then my rod started to vibrate, and then the pull of the line, I knew I had a good one. After a few minutes of tug-a-war, I got the beast to the tube, and I grabbed him by the lip, and this 18 in. beauty was mine.



A few yards away, Scott did the same with his little black wiggle tail, and Sturmer, using his secret weapon, his "Robo Fly," landed some nice ones. By the end of the day, everyone landed some fish. **Carol** and **Dave Tevlin**, first timers to the lake, told me at the dock while taking their tubes out that they both landed some nice bass. Overall, it was a great day. Thank you all for making a great fishout.

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Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
 (Taken from the Article Written in July 2012)

Fly Patterns - Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle (Modified)



*Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle
 (Modified)*

Materials:

Hook:	Tiemco 101, sizes 18-12
Thread:	70 denier flat nylon, olive
Beads:	None
Tail:	None
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail
Ribbing:	Copper wire
Legs:	None
Wing:	None
Thorax:	Fine, small peacock herl
Hackle:	Partridge
Weight:	None
Head:	Thread

Description

This month I'm going to give away a little secret about nymph fishing for trout, and soft hackle flies. It's no secret, of course, that my method of nymph fishing is the "short line" or "tight line" technique. The rig sports two flies. The bottom fly (aka "point fly") is normally a large, heavy fly such as Bill's Stick Caddis or a Jimmy Legs; the upper fly, usually a small nymph such as a Dark Lord or PT is on a perpendicular dropper. OK, so what does that have to do with soft hackle flies? Well, here's the rub: I almost always add a third fly to the rig by tying a short (12-14") piece of 5x fluorocarbon to the bend of the point fly, and lash a soft hackle fly to the other end. Of course, this complicates the situation because, if this rig is aerialized for any reason (which would be a bad mistake resulting from either striking upward instead of downstream, or from actually trying to back cast the rig), it will inevitably, horribly tangle mercilessly.

The soft hackle adds a new dimension to the short line drift. Normally, the short line drift ends when the line is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ downstream. With the addition of the soft hackle, the line should be allowed to continue to drift all the way to the immediate downstream position. The reason for this is that beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ point in the drift, the leader begins to rise in the water column due to the upward pressure of the moving water on the tight leader. This upward movement is where the soft hackle shines, and does its work by resembling an insect (mayfly or caddis) in the process of emerging by swimming upward. The soft partridge hackle moves subtly in the current, imparting life to the fly. The secret, then, is that your drift serves two different purposes, doubling your chance of a hookup. I've been quietly testing out this theory for a long time, and I'm now convinced, based on actual results, that it really works. And there is a bonus: Sometimes a trout will take the soft hackle during the short line part of the drift.

I realize that this all sounds highly technical—and I suppose it is. But if you want to increase your catch rate (assuming you know how to properly use the short line technique), you should give it a try. I have chosen the Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle fly pattern because it is on my "ten deadliest flies" list. If you want to read up on soft hackle flies, there are two good, relatively recent books on the subject: one written by Dave Hughes, and the other by Allen McGee. They are available at most fly shops, or through www.Amazon.com.



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Tying Instructions

For best viewing: (1) Maximize your Computer Screen Window. (2) Type "Ctrl + or -" to enlarge or contract the photograph display. (3) Use the Horizontal and Vertical Scroll Bars to scroll right and up/down to display larger photos on your screen.

1. Crimp the hook barb. Cover the hook shank with a single, flat layer of thread; stop immediately above the hook point and leave the bobbin there.
2. Cut a short piece of fine copper wire and tie it in at that point, along with 3 natural pheasant tail fibers. Tie the pheasant tail in by its tips and trim the excess. Move the thread forward to a point about 2 eye widths behind the eye.



Steps 1 & 2



Step 3

3. Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward along the shank and stop where you left the thread. Tie off the pheasant tail and leave the thread at the same spot.
4. Tie in two pieces of fine peacock herl at the same spot, by their tips. Trim the excess, and move the thread forward slightly. Take 2 or 3 wraps of the peacock herl—one backward over the pheasant tail, and one or two directly in front of it—but don't crowd the eye. Tie off the herl, trim the excess, and leave the thread there.



Step 4



Steps 5 & 6

5. Tie in a well-marked partridge feather by its tip and trim the excess. Move the thread to the hook eye, and leave it there. The feather should be sized so that when tied in and wound around the shank, the barbules reach to the rear of the hook bend.
6. Sweep the barbules of the partridge feather rearward, and take two full winds around the hook. Tie the feather off, and trim the excess. Whip finish, trim the thread, place a tiny drop of superglue on the end of your bodkin, and cement the thread.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. Keep the fly sparse, and avoid a thick body.
2. Use your bodkin to apply superglue rather than squeezing a drop from the bottle directly onto the fly. Your placement will be much better.

Now go crank one of these bugs, go fish it. I live by that simple philosophy.

Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

Granite Bay Flycasters

4120 Douglas Blvd. #306-356

Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936

Granite Bay Flycasters

Mission: The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat, advancement of the art of Fly Fishing, and good sportsmanship.

Meetings: General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check www.gbflycasters.org.

Doors open between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show, or other presentation. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Membership: Applications are available on-line at www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, contact Don Whitecar at 916-804-5384, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

The Leader: To send articles, photos, ads and other materials, please e-mail to: Frank Stolten at fstolten@comcast.net. Please put **GBF Leader** in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month.

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