

# THE LEADER

VOICE OF THE

GRANITE BAY  
*Flycasters*

FEBRUARY 1987  
Volume 2, No 1

GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS  
P.O. BOX 458  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661-0458

BULK RATE  
PERMIT  
NO. 101  
ROSEVILLE, CA



## FLY TYER'S BENCH

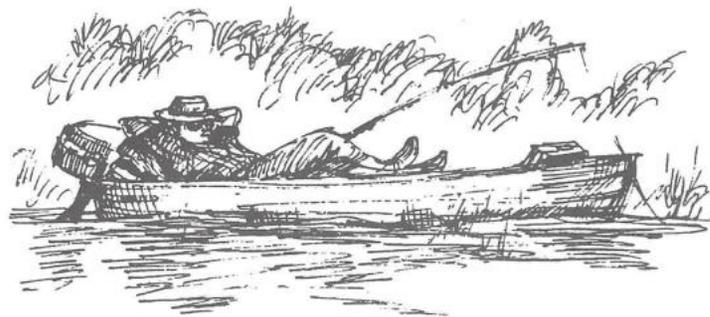
by Stan and Terry Hellekson

The pattern for this month is one that was developed by Steve Hays. We have had the chance to use it and have become believers. The development of this pattern began during a Pale Morning Dun hatch on the North Fork of the Feather River. While analyzing the underwater life on his kick-screen, Steve was able to watch some of the Pale Morning Dun nymphs actually emerge on his screen. He noticed that the emergers were noticeably darker and glossier than the nymphs, which is what he tried to simulate in this pattern. In the smaller sizes, 18 and below, remove guard hairs from the dubbing blend.



### ELECTRIC RABBIT

Hook: Mustad 3906B, sizes 12 thru 20.  
Thread: Size 6/0 No. 60 Olive Flymaster.  
Tail: Guard hairs from the ear of an English Hare's Mask.  
Ribbing: Fine silver wire.  
Body: Dubbed with a mixture of 60% English Hare's Mask fur 40% Olive Rabbit/Antron Blend.  
Wingcase: No. 18 Dark Olive Crystal Hair fibers.



### GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

#### Officers

President	Morris Schlesinger	782-5277
Vice President	Jim Victorine	652-0408
Secretary	Warren Shoenman	725-2542
Treasurer	Dave Davies	885-0289

#### Directors

Morris Schlesinger	782-5277
Jim Victorine	652-0408
Warren Shoenmann	725-2542
Dave Davies	885-0289
Tom Richie	624-1571
Nicolai Laquaglia	783-4001
Jim Pratt	966-0136
Marge Vingom	645-1742
Terry Thomas	391-5324

#### Committees/Chairpersons

Conservation	open	
Gatekeeper	Brad/Dave Vingom	645-1742
Librarian	Warren Shoenmann	
Leader Editor	open	
Raffle	Marie Stull	663-2414
Workshop	open	
Youth Advisor	open	
Programs	Ken Winkleblack	988-7129
Refreshments	Stan Hellekson	786-3470
FFF Membership	Stan Hellekson	786-3470

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The center fold of this Leader is the survey that was distributed at the last meeting. I am including it in this publication to insure that everyone has an opportunity to give the Board of Directors input on the direction the club should move this year.

If you have any contributions to make please complete the form and bring it with you or sent it with someone to the next club meeting.

Watch this column for the results of the survey.



## MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 1987

The meeting was called to order by the newly elected President Morrie Schlesinger.

### Old Business:

The completion of the following club organization tasks have been assigned to club officers: Incorporation and non-profit status, an internal audit of the club financial records, membership drive, and club patches.

The board has passed a motion to become an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishermen. The cost of membership will come from the club general fund.

I was hooked on the Merced as a fine river for winter fly fishing. Wanting more information about the Merced, I contacted California State Fisheries Biologist, Phil Bartholomew.

Phil lives in Oakhurst, California, not far from Yosemite, and has done extensive research on the Merced as a trout fishery.

My first question was his opinion of the Merced as a winter trout stream.

Phil feels that the Merced should be ranked with the better trout waters of the state.

"It would be hard to find a stream better situated for winter trout fishing," he stated. "It is located at an altitude that receives very little snowfall, no fog, and more than an abundance of warm winter sun."

A few years ago, Phil did a trout count of the Merced in the Park. Here is an example of a 3 mile stretch: From Sentinel Bridge, downstream to the El Capitan Bridge, Bartholomew counted 678 brown trout and 126 rainbows. He judged that the largest fish, a brown, would go an easy 6 lbs. Enough trout in the 18 inch category were seen to please any fisherman.

Some years ago, a 12lb. brown was found dead in Park waters. Proof that the river can grow 'em big.

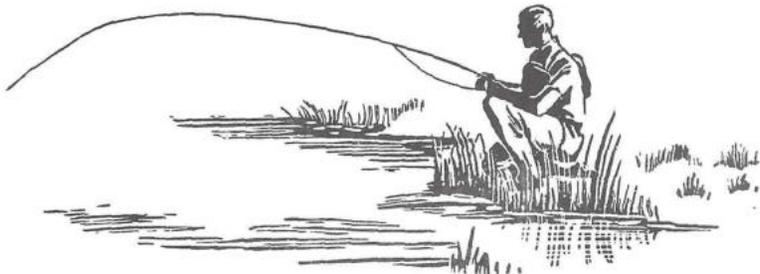
The trip I described in the first part of this piece happened way back in 1975. Since that time, I have fished the Merced several times during the winter. Usually, it was good to me. However, I have not been able to make a trip for the past several winters. Hopefully, if all goes well, I will be making at least one this winter. How well the fishing has held up I cannot say but there is only one way to find out.

Next morning was a wet One. Clouds hung low down the canyon, and it was raining a cold drizzle.

When Bob picked us up at our motel, I asked if we could expect muddy water conditions if the rain got any worse? He explained there was no need for worry, because the Merced remains clear even during wet weather.

I watched, with my camera ready, as Clint, dwarfed by larger boulders, drifted a weighted nymph. Suddenly, he struck. For an instant there was a deep arc in his rod, then nothing. The tippet broke. It had been a heavy fish.

After replacing the nymph, he moved to the next pool and resumed casting. Just as the nymph reached the end of a drift, he had a strike. This time, Clint landed an 11 inch rainbow.



In the next hour or so, before we had to leave, four more fish fell for his nymph.

#### New Business:

Terry Eggleston will begin a series of classes on workshop night (the third Thursday of the month) on the art of fly rod building. The first session will cover orientation and discussion of the supplies you will need and where to get them. Jim Victorine will also be on hand to instruct those interested in bamboo rod building.

Starting this month a new section will be added to the Leader. The Sale and Trade corner. If you have an item (fishing tackle only) to sell or trade, contact Warren or Morrie and it will be published in the next newsletter.

We are looking for a newsletter editor. (Someone to do it not just oversee it) If you are interested or if you know of someone who is interested have them call Morrie. He and Marge will do the job until the position is filled. Thanks for pitching in you two.

This evenings program was on flyfishing for Bass in the Stockton area and was presented by Leo Gutterres.

Visitors this evening were, Robert Bittens (who join our club tonight) Mike Glass, and Eddie Slacken. Welcome to the club Bob. I didn't get a chance to verify the names so accept my apology if your name was spelled wrong.

The raffle was conducted by the new raffle chairperson, Marie Stull, who I might say, and was also told by others, did a real fine



job, first time out.

Refreshments were provided by Stan Helleckson. Thanks Stan, its always nice to have coffee and cookies or the like at the meetings. (do remember to feed the cookie kitty)

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 10pm.



#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you are not sure when your membership expires, check the upper right corner of the address label on your newsletter. It indicates the month and year and type of membership you hold: R- regular, F-family, Y-youth.

A notice will be sent in advance of your expiration date.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February:

Membership Meeting            Thurs. Feb.13, 7:30pm

Our speaker for this meeting will be Dennis Lee. Dennis leads the inland fisheries department of the California Fish and Game.

In past years he was incharge of the Klamath and Trinity drainages and as such is an expert on these waters. He will be sharing some of this knowledge with us.

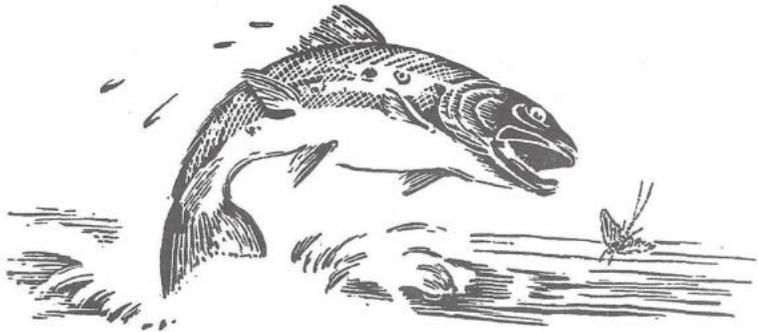
Hopefully, we will have the FFF presentation on "Float tube experience" This show tells us what to look for when purchasing a float tube. The type of waders used in "tubing" and how to fish from a float tube.

Unknown to many, the Merced is open for winter trout fishing. Believe it or not, November through March are the best months of the year to fish.

Springtime means snow run-off time. The river can become a raging torrent. Summer is tourist time. The crowds can be unbelievable. Reflected rays of the summer sun, off the many granite cliffs, in the narrow canyon at El Portal, can make one think they were in a giant broiler oven.

Our first days fishing was done under a warm blue sky. With the able guidance of Bob, a number of fish fell for our flies. They were well formed and in tip-top condition. Rainbows outnumbered the Browns about 5 to 1. In the Park the reverse is true. While we were unable to hook any bragging size fish, the trout we caught fought exceptionally well.

I asked Bob what he thought his most memorable day on the river has been. "Well," he slowly began, "it was probably a day in January. I was about to quit for lunch, but decided to give a favorite pool a try first. It was the right decision. In half an hour I caught three fish of 19, 18 and 17 inches." "I can understand why that stands out in your memory," I enviously replied. "What fly pattern were you using?" He looked at me out of the corner of his eye and chuckled a bit before answering. "You won't find this pattern in any of the books, but it's my favorite for the Merced. I tie it on a No. 16 dry fly hook. Take three stiff hackles, two light brown and one white. Start at the eye of the hook, wrap them palmer fashion to the bend, tie them off, using the hackle tips for the tail. Not very fancy, but the pattern works well."



WINTER FISHING ON THE MERCED  
by Jack L. Parker

After the fourth jump, the trout gained the rapids and plunged, full speed, over a three foot waterfall. I could just hear the screech of my reel over the river's roar.

"Well, what do you think of the Merced's trout?" laughingly, asked guide Bob Boyer, as I released the fish. "I've never had a 12 inch rainbow fight any harder," I answered matter of factly.

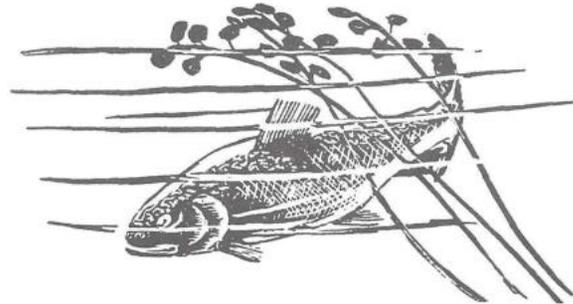
It was late November and myself, Clint Pace and Merced River guide Bob Boyer were fishing the Merced River, as El Portal. Yosemite National Park was just a few miles up the road.

In the floor of the Valley of the Yosemite, the crystal Merced is a gentle flowing, dry fly fishermen's dream. Farther downstream its character changes. It becomes a roaring, crashing river full of huge granite boulders. Here, it is a river that must be respected.

Coming attractions include:

Lew Palmer on "Jump Fishing for Thread Fin Shad"

Ralph Cutter on "Wild Trout Waters of California"



PLACES TO FISH

MILTON RESERVOIR (Nevada and Sierra Counties)

Sometimes you can "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." Milton is a small hydropower impoundment on the Middle Yuba River which is rich in productivity but which suffered historically from domination by brown bullheads. The traditional answer to the problem was to poison the lake every few years, stock with hatchery trout until they were crowded out by the bullheads, then repeat the process. CalTrout had a better idea. Basing our thoughts on the concept of biological pest control, we sought to establish and maintain a robust population of wild trout, featuring squadrons of large bullhead-eaters to keep the pesky critters in check. To accomplish this, we said, it would be necessary to not allow anglers to kill the predatory trout, and we proposed a 12" MAXimum size limit, 2 fish daily, artificials only. This innovation was adopted amid great controversy and debate. It was the first time in California a MAXimum size limit ever was imposed, and its later proven success and public acceptance opened the door for applying this type on regulation elsewhere where needed,

like Fall River and Manzanita Lake a few years later. Now, wild self-sustaining populations of Brown trout cruise Milton Reservoir, doing their job and providing spectacular sport-fishing. Rainbow trout, though fewer in number, provide about one-half the annual catch. (Tubes, prams or canoes are a must. Spring and summer are prime. The fall run of spawners into the Middle Yuba is phenomenal, where the special regulations also apply. Milton is a wild trout gem.)

#### BABINE LAKE RESORT BARGAIN

Ken Winkleblack has been working with Bob Brown (the owner of Babine Lake Resort) and has worked out the details of the trip that Bob offered us in his talk to the club in November. In a nutshell, Bob has offered the Granite Bay Flycasters club the week of July 18 thru 25. The package includes 7 nights lodging, all meals, use of his boats with motors, and his assistance in trucking us around to the various streams and rivers on the southern end of Babine Lake in northern British Columbia. Bob wants to make it clear that that he will not be guiding us but rather we will be helping him explore the flyfishing potential of these waters. Very few people fish this area and almost no one with a fly.

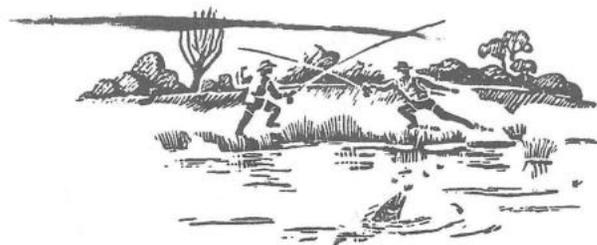
The cost will depend on how many people go, up to a maximum of 14:

less than 6 persons	\$400/person
7 to 10 persons	\$325/person
10 to 14 persons	\$250/person

This price does not include transportation to and from the lodge which will depend on how

you plan to get there. There are three potentials for this. One, there is one commercial flight a day into Smithers BC (Sacramento to Smithers and back \$350 Approx.) From Smithers, we would have to get Bob to drive the approximately 3 to 4 hours (one-way) to pick us up and bring us back. He would charge us extra for this service but split several ways I am sure it would not be a large cost. Second, you could drive. It is approximately 1500 miles, one way. Third, if you are a private pilot you could fly to Burns Lake which is within 30 miles of the lodge and Bob would be willing to pick you up there for free.

Ken and his wife Sherry are planning on going and have volunteered to organize the trip for the club. Ken will take sign ups on a first come first serve basis. Bob requests a deposit of 50% to hold reservations and the balance due on or before June 1st. Ken, therefore, has requested that you give him a check made out to Babine Lake Resort for \$125/person when you reserve your spot. For more information call Ken at 988-7129(home) or 786-8000 ext 4420 (work)



To: GBFC Members

JAN. 31 , 1987

From: Morrie Schlesinger

Subject: Club survey form

As I indicated to you at the last meeting, it is my desire to find out what the membership wants in the format of their meetings and the goals for their club. Suggestions were made to me verbally after the meeting ie, have flytying demonstrations after the guest speaker, have the conservation chairperson present alternatives for the upcoming year, or set aside time for rap sessions for "fish" stories, ect. I am sure that there are many more suggestions that the board of directors should consider when they formulate their program plans for the '87 year. We need your help.

What type of meeting program is the most interesting?

Lecture format, films and work session or both?

Would you prefer a work session after our meeting? (ie, flytying, rod-building, fly-casting, ect.) or would you prefer a second meeting night or both?

How long should our evening meetings last?

9:30pm or 10pm

Is the raffle satisfactory? If not what improvements do you suggest?

What would you like to see our club accomplish this year?  
i.e.:

- a. Conservation
- b. Youth program
- c. Fishouts
- d. Flycasting program

Please use the remainder of this page and the back side to make your suggestions.