

# The Leader

Voice of

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DECEMBER

2002

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## Granite Bay Flycasters

**Mission:** The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat and promoting Fly fishing and good sportsmanship.

**Meetings:** Granite Bay Flycasters general meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay clubhouse located in the Granite Bay Group picnic Area at Folsom Lake. For directions call Denny Welch at (530) 889-8562.

The doors open between 6:30 and 7 p.m. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30 followed by a quick refreshment break after which the main program begins, which usually consists of a slide-show talk and/or demonstration. A dynamite raffle follows the show.

**Membership:** To become a member of Granite Bay Flycasters, a nominal fee is required: \$35 for a family, \$30 single, and youth (under 18), \$10. There is a \$7 initiation fee for new members. The cost of membership is pro-rated throughout the year. For membership information, call Jeremy Gray at (916) 797-3312

Frank R. Stollen  
8290 Country Lake Drive  
Orangevale, CA 95662

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 conservation Committee Mtg. 7P.M.-9P.M.	6	7 Tackle Swap 9 A.M.-1P.M.
8	9	10	11	12 General Mtg. Xmas Party 7P.M.-	13	14 Fishout O'Nnill Forebay Sturmer White
15	16	17 Fly Tying Jam And rod build-	18	19 Board Mtg. 7-9P.M.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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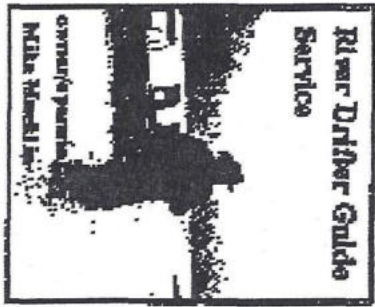


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## President's Message

By Denny Welch

It's Wednesday now, the day before Thanksgiving and Jack Ramos has been on my case unmercifully to get this message done so he can get The Leader to the printer. I'm having a hard time writing it though because I usually get melancholy and gushy during the holidays. (I once gave Ray Mahlberg a holiday hug. He tried to give me a hug in June. Now I keep my distance.) I'm also having trouble writing it because my mother-in-law passed away last week. There are some of you (Ramos, Hunter, Ross, etc.) that would quip that the passing of a mother-in-law is surely something to be thankful for, but I'm above making such comments and won't do it here.

Mom lived with us for the last several months of her life and was confined to a hospital bed. Her days were spent sleeping or watching the leaves fall with the weather. We'd all spend time with her and tell her of our day and she really looked forward to that. I told her of my trip to the Upper Sac and told her of the 20" rainbow I caught. Gary, Paul, Paul's wife Dede and I went in at Soda Creek and hiked downstream about 500 yards. I was decked out in the latest fashion of flyfishing wear. I was wearing my new Filson hat and had my new wading staff with the pretty blue strap draped over my shoulder. My Sage Guide Vest weighed about 20 pounds too much because of all the stuff I carry with me. I told her of the Patagonia waders and boots and of the Sage RPL+ 5 wt. rod. I laid it on pretty thick and I'm sure she had this mental image of what a really good looking guy like me looked like on the river.

Anyhow, I told her of me stopping to fish a particularly good looking pool. The water was gin clear and had a little ripple on it from the wind. I explained drift to her and told her of the importance of having just the right number of split shot on your tippet. I tried to describe a "Bill's Stick Caddis" fly but wasn't very successful. I told her of my first cast into that pool and the sudden explosion as that rainbow tried to gorge itself

The Leader

with that fly. The once tranquil pool had turned into an angry sea of high waves and whitecaps. The fish came out of the water several times screaming for freedom. My rod was doubled over, I told her, and people were starting to gather...some rooting for me and some for the fish. I landed the fish, of course, and I described it's beauty to her. The fish, in a last ditch effort to survive, spit the hook and leaped one last time into it's watery haven. In so doing it embedded the hook deep into the palm of my hand. I still remember kneeling streamside grasping my bleeding hand as drops of blood dripped into that fish's home. I guess it won after all.

"That was such a good fish that I gave it a name, Mom", I told her. "I named her Mary Elizabeth, but I call her Libby for short." That was Mom's name. Well, she shut her eyes and smiled this big smile. I knew that she knew that I was full of BS, but she was much too polite to say that. Instead, we just enjoyed a good fish story.

I hope you all have a good holiday season. Don't forget the swap meet on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Until next time.

Denny

## TACKLE SWAP/CHILI COOKOFF

Saturday, Dec. 7th

9:00am. To 1:00 pm

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You All Come Now

## DRIFT-BACK FOR GREATER DISTANCE WITH LESS EFFORT

In his book, "Salt-Water Fly Fishing," George X. Sand refers to an article by Lefty Kreh titled "New Way to Fly Cast" published in the March 1964 issue of *Outdoor Life* magazine. This new way to cast was the first widely publicized description of the drift-back; a means whereby the length of the casting stroke is increased appreciably for greater casting distance. Here's a summary of why it works and a suggested method for easily integrating the drift-back into your casting.

The drift-back works because it virtually doubles the distance that the rod tip travels during the forward cast, allowing the caster to carry much more fly line than with a shorter casting stroke.

The procedure calls for a normal back cast stopping at about 11:00; (observer's clock watching a right-handed caster from the right side), immediately followed by a slow drift-back of the casting hand without power until the casting hand is well behind the caster with the rod in a horizontal position. That's the easy part.

Thereafter it simply "feels" awkward to begin a forward cast with the casting hand and rod in such an unconventional position. So, here's the trick. While moving into the forward cast, keep the rod horizontal until the forward progress of the casting hand passes the elbow. The easiest way to get the "feel" of this hand-past-the-elbow timing is to practice while wade fishing. Make a back cast of about forty feet, allowing the line to fall to the water. Next, make a forward cast keeping the rod parallel to the water as long as possible. The water will grip the line helping to load the rod as it begins to rise from horizontal. The greatest resistance should be felt when the casting hand passes the elbow.

The rest of the forward cast is easy since it is the same as that without a drift-back, but the resulting cast will probably be 50% farther.

(Copyright; Daniel L. Lagace, 2002, of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

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## Eagle Lake Fishout Report

Frank Stollen

True to form, our Eagle Lake Fishout was a bit of an adventure for the nine of us who made the trek. The weather, especially in November, is always a wild card but that's part of fishing too.

After a cold spell the previous week the fish seemed very scattered, anywhere from 2 to 10 feet deep, in the tules as well as open water.

Everyone caught some really nice fish with most going in the high teens, typical size for Eagle Lake. Gene Goss had the magic touch again on Thursday with 7 fish landed and nearly three times as many hookups. I've got a great photo of a 5 pounder he caught while demonstrating his "slow & easy" technique. On Saturday, Mother Nature delivered a sucker punch, lulling us out early with a glassy smooth surface only to turn around and blow everyone off the lake by 10:30 as a powerful storm front went through the area.

As always, we had fun and learned something too. Mike Brune showed us how to sit cross-legged in a kayak all day and still be able to walk at the end of the day. I'm still not sure I want to try that one. Mike also showed us a rat's nest of monofilament he removed from the legs of a desperately struggling duck, which then showed its "appreciation" by biting him until untangled.

Then there was the "secret" red road, not visible from shore, which gradually disappeared into the depths and provided excellent angling along both sides. Except the secret appeared widely known with some fly fishers camped out there every morning before sunup. I'll even tell you where it is if you promise, of course, not to tell anyone else.

Most importantly, we had a great time together, learned something about each other and caught large fish in a uniquely attractive setting. There's really no secret about that. Join us the next time.

**Editor Jack Ramos (916) 774-9972**

[jocowboy@msn.com](mailto:jocowboy@msn.com)

*Copy due to Editor no later than the 25th of the month*

# FUN AT LAKE AMADOR PHOTO'S BY KARL WOLFF

Drifting in a pontoon boat can be an enjoyable experience, follow common sense rules & the following simple reminders will go a long way in keeping you out of trouble on the river.

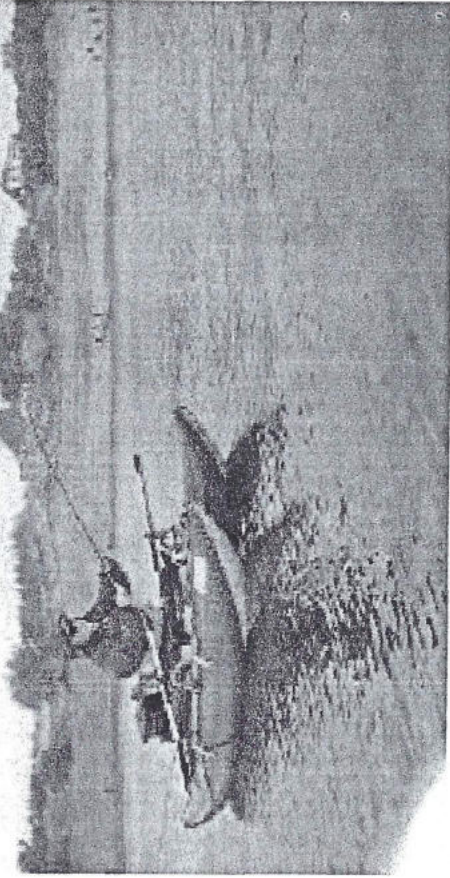
1. Learn to read the water. The real secret to successful drifting is to let the natural flow of the river do the work. Use it to your advantage!
2. Safety is always a concern. A personal life vest is mandatory on most waters. **Caution:** Some states/riverers do not allow inflatable life vests. Vests should always be worn in rough/unknown water or windy conditions. It is a good idea to tie down your oars as they can easily be pushed out of the oarlocks if struck by an object. A spare oar is not a bad idea. I always tie a loose 10ft. line between the bow-stern pontoon rings which can be used to tie down when exiting/tethering the boat or otherwise can be grabbed easily if needed in an emergency. I usually carry a hand pump as air pressures change during the day. A patch kit is optional but I always carry a Leatherman type tool in my side pouch.

3. Anchors are another issue. They should always be used when the boat is beached, scope out at least 8ft. of rope regardless of water depth. I have chased several boats down river when anchored too tightly. Anchors can be used midstream, in mild flowing water. Always deploy the anchor when the boat is facing straight down stream, if the boat is angled a pontoon can dig in or otherwise tip you over. Take care when anchoring in very fast water, my motto "if not sure don't anchor". **Caution:** Anchors do get caught in rocks & may not be retrievable, cutting the rope & abandoning the anchor may be the only option.

4. What to do about rods? Tie them down or tether if in unknown or questionable water. I personally do not care for vertical rod holders as I have seen many rods lost when pulled out by overhead branches. My preference is to lay/string my rod lengthwise along the pontoon. A plastic case, rope loops or shock type cord all work well. Remember to pay attention to what is above & below you when floating down a river. Banging into obstacles in the river or on the bank can expose rod tips to breakage.

5. While drifting down river it is common to get into shallow water, to graze the bottom, hit a rock or bank. The pontoons normally are rugged enough to withstand most impacts. Always face down river & let the natural current do the work. The key is to keep away from **sharp objects!** Watch out for sticks, sharp rocks & overhead sweepers (trees or branches hanging over the water). Keep your feet on the pegs, out of the water when drifting or they

(Continued on page 6)



# Lake Amador

Gary Flanagan

It was a cold and overcast morning as we pulled in to the restaurant at the lake. After a filling breakfast, the GBF Navy hit the water for a fun filled day of catching big trout. Well, almost everyone caught fish. I watched Gene Goss kick butt on several nice trout, so I copied what he did and tied on a similar type fly but the fish gods just weren't smiling on me. I watched the Hunter boys catch fish, John Peterson catch fish, Brian Lawton catch fish, Karl Wolff catch fish, Art Hawkins catch fish, Dick Davis catch fish and Mike Kuhl catch fish. Ryan, a young friend of Mike Kuhl is a beginning flyfisherman and he showed everyone how to catch a lot of fish.

Ron English showed me his latest creation designed to catch hatchery fish. This fly looks like a big wad of green Power Bait. He and Jeanne caught fish although I don't know if they caught them on the POWER BAIT FLY.

Even though I didn't catch a fish, I had a great time watching everyone else show me up. We had close to thirty members at this fishout.

As a suggestion, get together with a few members and give Amador a try on a weekday. Find a cove that doesn't have people fishing from shore and work the edges. The fish tend to cruise the shoreline any are easier to catch. But, what do I know?



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\*certain restrictions may apply

The Leader

(Continued from page 4)

- may get caught & pull you out of the boat. I do not use fins on moving water for similar reasons.
6. Reading the water is important. As the river flows you will encounter fast, slow, shallow & deep water. Water will form a natural "V" indicating the channel, follow through the "V" where practical. An inverted "V" indicates a submerged object, pass to one side or the other. When there is a bend in the river the deeper channel is usually towards the outside bank.
  7. When faced with an obstruction or anything else you want to avoid - point the boat towards the object & row away from it. Short, shallow, strong strokes work well for adjusting boat direction. Many times the object creates a "bow wave" which may help by pushing you away from the obstruction. In very swift water flow however, the current can carry you directly into the object. There is usually a depression after passing an object midstream & you may be drawn back towards the obstacle (back eddy).
  8. It is common to encounter small waterfalls (drops) along the river & many times we become overly concerned when faced with the dilemma "find a way around or go over". If there is no other easy option, face them, take on straight forward & normally the boat will porpoise straight through.
  9. Hydraulics are similar to depressions except they are created by object(s) under water & not always visible. Hydraulics can be scary, they are rough, can bounce you around, spin, or otherwise hold you in place for what seems like an incredible length of time. Rowing either forward or backward will help stabilize/control the boat & eventually will carry you out/through the rough water.
  10. Holding the oars down into the water can assist in aiding the current to carry you down stream & stabilize the boat. A hard upstream wind can halt your progress & even push you backwards. Just holding the oars submerged in the water can be more effective than rowing, assists in offsetting the wind influence & can keep you moving down stream.
  11. If you fall into the water, don't panic, roll onto your back & face down stream with your legs in front to protect you from objects. Stroke backwards with

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# Fish Outs for January & February

Gary Flanagan

Mike Conner is the superintendent of the UC Davis Sierra Foothill Research and Extension property on the north side of the Yuba River upstream from the highway 20 bridge. Mike is allowing us to trespass with the intent to fish on the UCDC property.

GBF has secured permission for a fishout on Super bowl Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and on February 23, 2003

This is a great fishing opportunity for GBF members to access the upper section of the Yuba without having to make a long hike. There should be plenty of Rainbow Trout and Steelhead to go around.

The Super bowl day fishout has become a tradition with GBF members mainly due to less people fishing and more people staying home to watch the game. Hopefully, by the time of the February fishout, the Skwala Fly Hatch will have begun and the fish will be taking surface flies.

We will be limiting the amount of flyfishers on the water and there will be a \$5- commit fee. There will be more information available as time

## Henderson Springs

Those that have signed up for Henderson Springs and have not paid your deposit yet, the deposit must be in by Dec 7th or your spot may be taken by someone else. Contact Joe or Barbara Bania at (530) 677-4263



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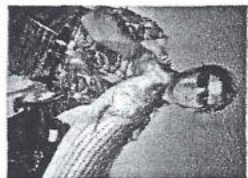
You'll hit the river either right at dawn, or in the early afternoon and spend 5 or so hours angling. That way you'll be on the water during the low-light times of the day. That's when it's best for stripers. You'll have the opportunity to cast your flies in front of stripers (all year) and shad (May through July).



The stripers range in size from 1 pound to over 50 pounds! They are fierce fighters, and aggressively chase flies. They are no dummies, however, so catching the big ones isn't always a snap

Shad, in contrast, are frequently easy to catch. They don't grow as big as stripers—the biggest are 6 or so pounds—but they fight really hard and are far more numerous. In a morning or afternoon session an angler can catch more than 20 of the ras-

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# FLY TYING SKILLS PROGRAM

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Pattern for November Program:  
(featured in the October Leader)

*Don't be shy submit a fly! Ask for a critique from a more experienced tier; it will ultimately increase your chances at catching fish and winning certificates to help support your habit.*

For the winner of each category, American Fly Fishing has generously donated the following prizes for each monthest's contest.

**Beginner: \$15 Gift Certificate**

**Non-beginner: \$25 Gift Certificate**

\* The winner of the gift certificate in the non-beginner category will be determined by a drawing between those who have entered that specific contest.

**Sept. Winners:**

Experienced:

\$25 Gift Certificate

Bragging rights

Beginner: \$ 15 Gift Certificate

Nov winners will be in the Jan. Leader Sorry no info

**Program rules:**

- \* judging will be during the meeting
- \* best tied fly announced with instructions from the Leader (right or wrong, and irrespective of whether you find another version of the pattern in a book somewhere), in order to keep the playing field level. The judges need to make a choice based on a single pattern.
- \* two categories: beginner and advanced. Anyone who has won the beginner category twice will have to compete in the advanced.

3. Turn the hook upside down, and pull the yellow yarn forward, tying it off at forward end of body, on underside. This imitates the underbody.
4. Return the hook to normal position, and rib the body and underbody with the black rug thread or rubber leg material. You can find rug thread at the yardage shop.
5. Strip the fuzz from a large brown neck hackle. Put a drop of flexament on the hackle, and stroke it backward until it is about 3/16 inch in width. Set it aside to dry. When dry, tie it in atop the fly, right on top of the forward end of the body.
6. Trim the rear end of the hackle to a rounded shape, letting the feather stick out over the back end of the body about 1/4 inch.
7. Tie in a nice, stiff neck hackle on the still-bare front 1/8 inch of the hook, and wrap as a dry hackle. Trim the hackle top and bottom, so that only the barbs which stick out to the sides remain.
8. Form a nice head, tie it on a 4X tippet, check the river edges and margins for rising fish, wade in quietly, observe what's going on, cast to a rising fish, avoid all drag, visualize the take as it drifts, and hang on!!!

See ya on the creek!!!!

**Flytier's Corner**

**BY**  
**BILL CARNAZZO**  
**December, 2002**  
**Little Winter Stone (dry)**

Several years ago, while fishing the Yuba for steelhead I noticed fish taking adult stoneflies on the surface. After capturing a specimen, I took it home and began to design an imitation. The natural had a tannish body, a yellowish underbody, a black head and a dark wing. The bugs seemed to average about 1 1/8 inch in length, and were fairly slim of body. The result is the pattern depicted below.

**MATERIALS**

**Hook** Tiemco 200R or similar light wire hook, size 10-12  
**Thread** Black 6/0 or 8/0  
 Body Synthetic dubbing of hare's ear color (e.g., Spirit River "Fine & Dry")  
 Underbody Yellow polypropylene yarn  
 Rib Black rug thread or fine rubber leg material  
 Wing Brown hackle (reversed)  
 Hackle Brown hackle  
 Head Black thread

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cover hook with thread. At a point just above back of barb, tie in rug thread or rubber leg material on top of hook, and yellow yarn on bottom of hook. Let these hang out of the way for now.
2. Dub up a slender body, leaving about 1/8 inch behind the eye bare.

**FRESHWATER STRIPERS**  
**AT**

**O'NEIL FOREBAY**

Saturday December 14th.

O'neil Forebay has vast areas of gently sloping, weed covered flats and they can be a fisherman's dream at times. The water ranges from 3 to 15 feet deep with plenty of surface vegetation to sustain the baitfish stripers feed on the most. Striped bass are schooling species and few fish hit a streamer harder. If no fish are taken in one area, we will move until we find the fish. Occasional ally we will find only 12 inch fish. That's O'Neil Forebay Flats. A 30 pounder may eat your fly on the next cast.

Most of us will be using float tubes, pontoon boats, or regular boats with fishfinders which could help everyone. Getting the fly down quickly to the level of the bass and keeping it there during the entire length of the retrieve is extremely important for success. High -- density lines accomplish this very effectively. This is important because stripers are known to stalk a lure or fly for great distances. There may be a few members that do not know enough about this fun fishery and what is needed to fish effectively. I can talk lines, leaders, flies and strategies with interested people if they will call me.

The Medeiros Area is open to camping on a first-come basis. No problem this time of year. Chemical restrooms and tables with shade Ramadas are available. It takes about two hours to get there. Some people may want to camp over and get two days fishing. (See the map). The cost for camping, fishing and launching your boats is not too expensive.

The weather this time of year can change quickly. If it is too foggy or too windy we can cancel the evening before the trip. For this reason, I will need your telephone number when you sign up. Until then, think stripers -- -- -- --BIG STRIPERS. Sturmer White --(916) 791 -- 2618

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