**President’s Message**

*by Dennis Baker, GBF President*

It is annual fund raising time, and our club’s 25th Annual Dinner is just around the corner. The date is February 19th at the Rocklin Sunset Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd. in Rocklin. The doors will open at 4:30 PM with Wine Tasting and Silent Auctions. We will have a deck-of-cards sale for the bass rod, reel and matched line combo donated by Kiene’s Fly Shop, followed by the Dave Scadden Escape float tube Fish Pool; buy a chance to win this $999.00 bladderless float tube. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. The evening’s events should be concluded by 9:30 PM. Coffee and water will be provided free of charge.

Our dinner time entertainment will be provided by an ELVIS impersonator. Our guest speaker is Jack Dennis, a well-known and respected Fly Fisherman and Fly Tyer. After the silent auctions have closed, we will have our live auction and raffle. Remember, with all the emphasis on having a great time, our purpose is to raise enough money to keep the club and all the activities we enjoy so much fully funded. So, buy your tickets and come to the Annual Dinner and have some BBQ ribs, chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob and dessert with your friends and fellow fly fisher.

Let’s have a great time together!

**Membership — Dues are Due**

*Jerry Devlin, V.P., Membership*

Well it’s that time of year again! No, not tax time or Super Bowl time. Once again this year we are holding our membership fees at $30 for individual members, and $35 for family memberships. New members, or those needing a new name badge, will pay an additional $10 as well.

For the convenience of our members, we are now able to accept your payment on credit cards as well as checks, and of course, cash. You can pay at our February monthly meeting, or you can mail your payments directly to me at 13780 Blackwood Way, Auburn, CA 95602. Your checks should be made payable to: Granite Bay Flycasters.

Membership fees and our annual dinner are the major components of the funds needed to keep our club one of the best fly-fishing clubs around, and early payment by our members is an important element in balancing our expenses and income each year, so your participation is very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for supporting your club, and I hope you’re all getting a chance to cast a fly in between the recent storms.

As of this writing, Granite Bay Flycasters has approximately 230 memberships (individual and family, which means we actually have a lot more people in our club than 230). Anyone wanting a copy of the membership list can obtain it by sending me an email message at wndycty3@aol.com, and I’ll send it in a reply.
### Monthly Program

Our program presenter for February will be well-known and respected angler/guide Jerry Neuberger. Here is how he describes his approximately 45 minute program: "Fly Fishing for Delta Largemouth -- A do-it-yourself set of instructions for fishing the delta for Largemouth bass from a float tube, pontoon boat, kayak or canoe. The program covers spring, summer and fall fishing including bass habits, equipment and tactics as well as how to construct furled leaders and some instruction on productive delta flies.

Here’s a little biographical information on Jerry, in his words: “I’ve lived in the central valley of California for over 60 years, fished for over 55 of those years and fly fished for over 25. I’ve caught more than 50 species of fish on a fly rod including, blue sharks, sailfish, dorado, skipjack, bonito, yellow fin, yellowtail, striped bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, piranha, bonefish, silver salmon, king salmon, chum salmon, pink salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, triggerfish, pompano, grouper, jacks, snook, the list goes on and on. I love fishing and love being on my boat, the "No Nonsense," where I can cruise the delta, looking for the ultimate striper.

- 60 years fishing experience
- 25 plus years fly fishing California, Alaskan, Mexican and Central American waters
- Seven years guiding on the California Delta
- Publisher and Editor of the California Fisheries Network
- Past Editor and Webmaster of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA)
- Co-founder along with Al Smatsky of , “Al and Jerry’s Excellent Adventures”

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What is a Switch or Spey Rod for that matter?  Switch & Spey rods are fly rods of somewhat longer length than traditional single-handed rods. In general they are inherently more balanced when casting by using two hands instead of one (distributes rotation across the body), require less energy to cast (longer rods), have the ability to make longer casts & are easier on the body (great for the more senior caster). Rod dynamics allow one to cast longer lines & eliminate the need to double haul. Spey casting may be considered having a more graceful casting appearance & arguably may require a little more attention to syncopation of movement. Eliminates false casting, thereby doubling the time your fly is in the water. They lend themselves predominately to “swinging” fly application, are most effective on flowing water, although great for still water & salt water applications. The length of the rods make them somewhat problematic to very fast stripping, use in float tubes, pontoon boats &/or somewhat more difficult to land fish in a boat. Longer rod length allows for easy mending of line. They are most notable for their ability to cast with virtually no or very limited clear space behind the caster. Switch/Spey rods in all probability will never fully replace the use of single hand rods.

Switch Rods:  Switch rods are fly rods of somewhat longer length (generally 10-6” to 11’-6”) vs. traditional single-hand rods (7’ to 9’-6”). Nominally rods longer than 11’-6” would require Godzilla strength to cast single hand. Switch rods can be cast either single or two handed, can utilize traditional overhead casts (however there is no need to haul) or spey casting techniques. Many consider switch rods offer an easy transition to spey rods/techniques without moving very far from the single-hand comfort zone. As in any casting application the fly line follows the rod tip & the tip must always move in a straight line (180 degree) delivery path from the back cast (sometimes referred to as the “round-up” in spey casting) thru the forward delivery & stop.

Spey Rods:  Spey rods are even longer than switch rods (generally 11’-8” to 14’), spey rod lengths of 15’ to 20’ or longer are not uncommon, but beyond the scope of this simplified introduction. They can be cast “two hand overhead” (very common for still or salt water application) but mostly utilize spey casting techniques.

So what are Spey Casting Techniques?  In a simplified traditional overhead cast the rod is “loaded” by moving the fly rod/line in a linear forward & rearward aerial path (back-cast, drift unload, forward-cast acceleration loading the rod & stop where the rod unloads stored energy from the rod to the line). The Spey cast on the other hand is where line contact with the water (friction) loads the rod when moved in a linear path backwards, rod rounds-up under continuous tension to forward-path acceleration to a stop where the rod imparts stored energy from the rod to the line. The starting point for water loading a spey cast is called the anchor point. Spey casting sounds very similar to an effective single-handed roll cast! Consider a simplified visual where a roll cast is normally formed somewhat to the side & in “front” of the caster where a spey cast incorporates a larger “D” loop developed to the side & behind the caster. Remember this is meant only as a visual reference, there are many spey casts that are developed in front of the caster, for every rule there may be an exception. Obviously there are other moves involved to change the direction of

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the fly from down stream to the “anchor point” which best can be described as a series of sweeps & spiral rod movements which I referred to earlier as “graceful.” At this point I’m not going to get into “casting styles,” Spey (short, medium, long lines), Scandi or Skagit. Remember: spey casting is a casting technique that can be used on any rod, be it on a single hand, switch or spey rod.

**OK, OK, but what about Lines?** Major concept: short lines for short rods, long lines for long lines. For all practical purposes spey lines are two line weights heavier for a given rod size, i.e. a 7wt. spey rod line would be somewhat comparable to a 9wt. single hand line. That being said there are many, many exceptions to line weights depending on use. Single-hand line grain weights for the most part are standardized for a 30’ head length; spey rod head line lengths vary from 2 to perhaps 5 times the length of the rod! Line lengths (& grain weights) are usually based on “casting style” but the most important aspect to successful casting of switch/spey rods is in matching the line to the rod. Why is this so? Loading a single-hand rod is achieved by the entire weight of the line being cast overhead in the air, front to rear to front, in spey casting the line forms a “D” loop where only a portion of the weight of the line is truly aerialized by the rod (say 2/3rds. for discussion purposes). This is an arguable interpretation but one that makes sense to me. The predominate single-hand line taper is “weight forward” (long rear taper, level body, short front taper) bass lines have very short front tapers. Typical spey lines are designed with an opposite taper (very short back taper, level body, long to very long front taper). Why? Energy transfer, you want the majority of the mass in the line to be aerialized to provide the power to pull the remainder of the line (water loaded) & fly out of the water. The lighter the fly (more finesse) the longer & smaller front taper diameter. Fly lines can be floating, intermediate, sinking or combinations there-of.

**So there it is:** I’ve tried my best not to overly complicate Switch/Spey rods & how they work in general. The interpretation expressed is my own. It really isn’t “brain surgery”; you notice I didn’t say rocket science, as there are flight dynamics involved! Switch/Spey rods are fun to cast & no more complicated than single hand rods. I would say that the learning curve is much faster on a switch rod than any single-handed rod. Think about it: an 11’ rod, 35’ to 40’ of fly line & 11’ of leader/tip, heck just flip out the line & you’ll be fishing at 57’ while still being able to mend & manipulate your fly!!!!

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### Classes and Clinics

**Art Livingston, Chair, Member Education**

Below is a list of clinics and classes that will be offered to members. Some have scheduled dates; the others will be scheduled shortly. If you have suggestions as to other clinics or classes, be sure to contact me and we can discuss your thoughts. Look for specifics on classes and clinics on the web site, and in future Leader articles.

**Scheduled Clinics/Classes**

| Fly Tying Jam: Jim Holmes, Pete Peterson | Third Tuesday Each Month (Continuing) |

**Upcoming Clinics/Classes**

| Rod Building: Larry Lee | Ongoing |
| Net Building: Art Hawkins | Scheduled Dates Beginning in January |
| Fly Tying Basics: Paul Egan | Dates TBD in April or May |
| Fly Tying Beyond The Basics: Bill Carnazzo | Feb. 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15 |
| Beginning Fly Casting: Sturmer White | February 13 |
| Intermediate/Advanced Fly Casting: Sturmer White | February 15, March 2 and March 5 |
| Knots, Lines, and Leaders: John Hogg | March 15 |
| Stillwater Fly Fishing: John Peterson, Jim Holmes | Dates TBD |
| Fish Food: Terry Eggleston | Dates TBD |
| Sagehen Entomology Clinic: John Carroz | June 2011 |
| N. Yuba Nymphing Clinic: Bill Carnazzo | June, July 2011 |

**Other Possible Clinics**

- Spey Casting
- Swinging Flies
- Steelhead/Shad Fishing
- Stripper Fishing in the Delta
- Map, Compass, and GPS
Conservation Corner

by Henry Sandigo, Conservation Chair

**Predator Bass key threat to Salmon?**

Mr. Matt Mahon, Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, Sacramento, lays out issues about the decline of the salmon population. Specifically, the decline is in the bay-delta environment. He also quotes Rep. Jackie Speier who wrote a recent op-ed in a letter to the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle “No water, no salmon.”

Ms. Speier writes of the loss of water as main the cause of the loss of Salmon, while Mr. Mahon claims the reason for the loss is predation (the preying of one animal on another). He states specifically non-native black and striped bass are the main cause of the reduction of salmon; 80% or more of juvenile chinook salmon in the Bay-Delta die before emigrating to the ocean.

The bass were introduced to the delta for sport fishing. I guess whomever went forward with this step way back when, did or didn’t look into the down side of the introduction. I suppose there are many opinions to this argument. I am quite sure the bass sport fishing person doesn’t particularly agree, while the salmon fishing person could argue otherwise. What is the answer?

There are other people out there that are interested in environmental issues other than fish population. I’m not a biologist or anywhere close to understanding the problems at hand. I attend many community meetings, most recently in Roseville and Lincoln, to listen to the citizenry. Most are interested in: preserving the open land, keeping the local waterways free of debris and neglectful pollution, and some don’t welcome change. They have a history of “what it was like when I was a kid” and want to hold onto what they thought was good.

In the meetings I attend with GBF members, and with the Conservation committee, each one has his or her perspective on what work should be done or continued.

We need to look at what else is stressing the delta environment. Is it water diversion, agricultural demands, urban runoff, wastewater discharge? Are the fore mentioned stresses causing the lose of the salmon population?

It is noted that adverse effects of predation have grown. Regulations protect the bass, but don’t necessarily take into account what is good for the salmon. Am I right? We must come to an agreement to protect what is good for both sides. I know you can’t scoop up all the bass in the delta. And we can’t track the salmon working their way down the river ways trying to get to the ocean.

We must also consider a desire to return to what is natural. Most fishing people and experts know that capturing the salmon, milking the eggs, incubating and turning them loose is not natural way either. We must allow what nature designed and return to the original ebb and flow to control our waterways.

I think we should take into account what steps were taken years ago and study them to make change with sound decisions. Do we give all the water to the farmer, so all fish become extinct? Do we cut back on water diversion, then farmers lose business, their heritage, their way of life? Do we continue to pollute with wastewater and fertilizer?

Your call to action is to remember to attend neighborhood, community, city, county & state meetings. Voice your considered opinion, offering to assist to do our best for the future of this state and the fish of this world.

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**THE LARGEST SELECTION OF FLY TYING PRODUCTS CAN BE FOUND AT FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES!**

Fly Fishing Specialties is proud to stock the largest inventory of fly tying products in Northern California. Only the best fly tying products from the best brands are sold. We have everything to tie up a #32 midge to a 10/0 billfish fly.

Fly Fishing Specialties also offers fly tying classes for beginners and seasoned fly tiers. Please contact us for details.

Fly Fishing Specialties
6360 Tupelo Drive
Citrus Heights, California 95621
916-722-1055
www.flyfishingspecialties.com
This class is for tyers who are in the intermediate to advanced category; it is not a beginner class. The format consists of six consecutive Tuesday evening sessions from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The first Tuesday session will be February 8th. There will be a different tyer at each of the six sessions, which provides members with a very interesting variety of opinions, techniques, styles, and viewpoints. Each of the guest tyers will be very experienced, and each will do something different.

Here is the tyer lineup and a general idea of what the tyer will be doing:

Feb. 8    Bill Carnazzo    “Tying outside the box”
Feb. 15   Pete Peterson   Bass flies
Feb. 22   Dennis Lee      Steelhead and their habits; flies to match mood
Mar. 1    Jim Holmes      Jim doing his thing
Mar. 8    John Daniels    TBA
Mar. 14   Sturmer White   Hair bugs

We have done this class annually for quite a long time; each time it has been a resounding success. There is no fee, except that individual guest tyers who opt to provide materials, hooks, etc., may need to be reimbursed by class participants. Reimbursement is expected at the beginning of the session. The cost, if any, will be nominal. The classes will be held at the clubhouse, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

To sign up, please send an email to Bill Carnazzo at bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net. You will be added to the list.
As of this writing (Jan. 15th) there are still some Annual Dinner tickets left. If you don’t already have yours, please keep reading to find out why you don’t want to miss this event. If you already have your ticket(s), thank you very much for contributing to this worthwhile effort…the revenues from which will pay club expenses for the year ahead!

• **Who:** Club members, friends, families, neighbors, co-workers...anyone who’d enjoy an evening out with good food, a great speaker, and an incredible raffle & silent auction.

• **What:** Great BBQ buffet dinner, huge raffle and silent auction, Elvis impersonator and special guest speaker, Jack Dennis, who’ll also do an informative day program at the clubhouse.

• **When:** Saturday, February 19, 2011. The day program usually runs 10AM-noon, and the dinner festivities get going by 4:30PM (bar opens at 4:30; dinner starts around 6:00).

• **Where:** The dinner, raffle & auction will be at the Rocklin Sunset Center in Rocklin. The day program will happen at the Granite Bay Flycasters clubhouse on Folsom Lake.

• **Why:** Because without your support GBF could not provide the clinics, fish outs, Charitable support or the conservation support needed to keep our fisheries healthy—along with the chance to win thousands of dollars in fishing gear, guided trips, and other prizes.

• **How:** Buy them at the February Meeting, or call Bill and Bev Hagopian to arrange purchase. It’s easy...just dial 916-771-5837! This year’s tickets are only $35 each.

• **Lastly:** If you can’t attend the dinner, please consider making a donation for the raffle or auction. If you can help in any way, contact Dennis Baker, ASAP, at (916) 580-7639.
Bill’s Starling Sally (dry)

The Swimming Starling Sally was featured here last month. In that article I briefly referred to a subspecies of the little yellow stonefly that will actually transform into an adult in the water column, contrary to the habit of all other stoneflies. That information was garnered from Internet articles authored by respected entomologists. What I didn’t mention is that there is no general consensus among scientists on this point. For example, Ralph Cutter, I believe (based on what he says in his excellent book, “Fish Food,”) would disagree with such a conclusion. In any event, it matters not one whit and I don’t know who is correct—the fact is that the soft hackle pattern works.

This month let’s look at the adult insect for clues as to how to create an effective floating imitation. That is the regimen that I follow when I sit down to design a new pattern. The adult Sally is very delicate, tiny, and slender. Its wings are gossamer, and its body is a pale yellow hue (with some variations). These characteristics render it nearly invisible when it is in the surface film. In flight it is somewhat more visible because of those same characteristics that make it difficult to see on the water—i.e., its pale colors reflect light against the sky and landscape. Still, as pointed out last month, it is readily and regularly mistaken for other insects.

So how do the Sally’s characteristics affect fly design? Obviously pale colored materials are required, but it is the manner in which those materials are applied that is critical, and somewhat less obvious. What it takes is actual, close-up observation and attention to detail. The watchword is sparseness—overdressed flies will be ignored by picky fish.

Using those principles as design guidelines, I came up with the Starling Sally dry fly. This pattern employs a new design concept: a marriage between a soft hackle fly and a dry fly. The hackle is starling, which of course is not intended to aid flotation; rather, it allows the fly to lie flat within the surface film with legs that move about, imparting some motion to the bug. The fly sports an egg sac made of fine rust colored dubbing (red is too bright), and utilizes the same pale yellow-olive dubbing as the nymph for the abdomen and thorax. The ribbing is fine gold or copper wire, to mimic body segmentation. The under wing is pale yellow CDC, and the over wing is fine (for translucency) deer hair in a pale yellowish color. Let’s sit down and crank a few.

**MATERIAL LIST**

| Hook: Standard dry fly hook, sizes 14-18 (I like Tiemco’s 900BL) |
| Thread: Pale yellow 8/0 or smaller |
| Egg sac: Fine rust colored dubbing |
| Ribbing: Fine gold wire |
| Body: Pale yellow natural dubbing with a slight olive tinge |
| Thorax: Same as body |
| Under wing: Pale yellow CDC |
| Over wing: Pale yellow fine deer hair |
| Hackle: Starling feather, tied soft hackle style |

Tying Steps:

1. Smash the hook barb; if you are using the “BL” type hooks, this is already done. Cover the hook with thread back to the bend (just above the back of the barb).
2. At that same point, tie in a tiny ball of rust colored dubbing for the egg sac, and then the gold wire for the ribbing.
3. At the same point, begin dubbing the body forward in a nice slight taper. It is important to keep the body slender but achieve a slight cigar-shaped taper as you proceed forward. Stop at the 1/3 point on the hook.
4. Rib the body with 4 or 5 turns of the gold wire and tie off the wire at the front of the body.

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5. Take two similarly shaped CDC feathers, lay them together, and trim the butts so that what remains is the tips of the feathers; they should be no longer than the hook shank. Tie them in just ahead of the abdomen, and don’t crowd the hook eye.
6. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of fine deer hair. Trim the butts so that the hair length equals the hook shank. Tie the hair in at the same point as the CDC was tied in, tightly securing the butts. Add a tiny drop of super glue to ensure that the CDC and deer hair remain directly on top of the hook. Again, don’t crowd the hook eye.
7. Dub a sparse thorax around the base of the wing.
8. Prepare a starling feather (see below) and tie it in by its tip, just in front of the thorax. Since the fly is designed in the soft-hackle style, the concave side of the feather should face the rear of the hook.
9. Wind the feather around the hook at least 3 times, sweeping the barbules back on each turn. Tie the feather off just behind the hook eye, trim the excess, and wind the thread in close wraps rearward to help sweep the hackle backward. Whip finish and apply a small drop of super glue to the head.

Tying Tips:
You will note that some of the steps for this fly resemble those for the soft hackle pattern. This is intentional, as it makes for easier tying and fewer necessary materials. The following tips were included last month but because they apply also to the dry fly version, I have included them again here for convenience.

1. Starling feathers from the neck area have an iridescent black shine and a tannish tip. These are the feathers you should look for.
2. To prepare a feather for a soft-hackle fly, there are several methods that have been written about. I prefer to follow these steps:
   a. Strip the fuzz from the butt end of the feather, but don’t cut the stem.
   b. Isolate the feather’s tip by grabbing it with a pointed tweezer and sweeping the remaining barbules rearward.
   c. Tie the feather in using the isolated tip as a tab.

Remember to tie sparsely, and…..See ya on the creek (which is where I’m headed today).
Fly Tying Equipment and Materials for Sale - Bill Carnazzo

I was recently asked to provide assistance to a person whose spouse recently passed away, leaving his entire collection of fly tying equipment, tools, and materials. The tools consist of a high-quality, complete set in excellent condition, including a Renzetti vise (complete with light, magnifier, gallows tool), a tying bench, a variety of excellent bobbins (including one Nor-vise bobbin with 3 spools), scissors (Dr. Slick), stackers, whip finishers, bodkins, hackle pliers, forceps, and a number of other handy items. The materials include a lot of spools of miscellaneous threads wires; a good supply of high-quality hooks, beads, and eyes; miscellaneous patches of natural and dyed hair; miscellaneous hackles and other feathers; and a host of other materials. There are 12 fly boxes (empty) that will be included. Also included is a small custom cabinet of quality construction for keeping tying materials organized and separated into drawers.

This package is ideal for a beginning tyer (far better than the “kits” that are on the market), or one who wants to upgrade and expand his/her tying equipment and materials inventory for a very reasonable price. The equipment and materials will be sold as a single lot (we are firm on this) for $500.00. Reasonable offers are invited, but please don’t “low ball” us. I am fully aware of what the retail values of these items are, and will not respond to low ball proposals. The package will be sold for cash to the highest bidder as of February 28, 2011.

For further information, please feel free to contact me at bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net or by phone at (530) 367-5209 (home) or (916) 295-9353.

For Sale: Lamson Konic 4.0 Reel. New, never used. Large arbor, uses 8-10 wt. line. Features fully sealed conical drag system & stainless steel roller clutch. $145.
Call Taylor Yates at 608-4560, or tdyatesfolsom@sbcglobal.net.

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.
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, or call Dennis Baker at 916-580-7639. 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 88 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, call Jerry Devlin at 530-878-8934, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

Please notify if address change

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

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