

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

August 2015

www.gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by John Hogg, GBF President



At the July general meeting we had the privilege of hearing from our own **Jack Parker**—a highly successful writer whose novels combine mystery, intrigue and fly fishing. He gave us an inside look on the long road to becoming a successful author.

For our next general meeting, which is August 13th, we have **Tim Fox** for our speaker—a great friend of GBF who managed Kiene's Flyfishing until just recently. He will be coming down from Redding to talk about his guiding services and experiences in that area—something he has done for many years.

Meanwhile, I and several other GBF members are packing up to head for the Big Horn Mountains in eastern Wyoming, and a 5 day horse pack trip with Bighorn Outfitters. They gave GBF members a great deal, and 10 of us are headed out. (We just hope they have a tripod and winch to get some of

us onto the horses!)

I hope you are fishing as well. See you in a few weeks.

Milton Lake Fishout • August 27th - 28th

Fishout Leader: Leaman Houston
Maximum participants: 8

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Milton Lake (reservoir) is known as one of the premier still water fisheries in the west. The lake is located on the Middle Fork of the Yuba River about two miles below Jackson Meadows Reservoir, and is home to browns and rainbows. Five campsites exist on the lake, and there is a campground at Jackson Meadows. Often, there are browns feeding on dry flies in the morning.

The lake consists of ten-foot deep channels with a constant flow of 45-degree water from the Yuba River—it's like the Little Truckee with a lake to keep the fish there all year round. The fish rise from these channels to feed and, hopefully, feast on the dry fly that you have presented for them.

You can wade fish here some, but a float tube, pontoon boat, or small pram is better. You need very long leaders, light tip-pets and small flies to be successful. It has a large lake mayfly, the Siphonurus or Gray Drake, which is a nice large swimming nymph, and is a large adult about a size #10-12. It also has

Continued on Page 3

AUGUST 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	12.	13. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	14.	15.
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam	19.	20.	21.	22.
23.	24.	25.	26.	27. Milton Reservoir Fishout August 27 - 28	28.	29.
30.	31.					

Monthly Program



Tim Fox

Our speaker this month is **Tim Fox**, who needs little introduction if you're either a fly tyer, or have simply used one of his many fly creations. His program, "**Fly Selection for Northern California – Tying demonstration and discussion,**" will consist of tying 4-5 of his favorite patterns for northern California while discussing why they are his favorite pattern, why he chose the pattern, which bodies of water the fly works best on, and the optimum conditions. He will then answer any questions regarding tying and using the pattern.

Tim grew up in Northern California fishing all the rivers and streams and, from the start, had a special interest in fly tying. He started tying flies commercially at the age of 14, and ultimately worked in

several fly shops, including notably, *The Fly Shop* in Redding, and *Kiene's*, at which he was the general manager. Tim now makes a living guiding both fly fishing (most northern CA rivers and streams) and hunting (wild pigs and turkeys), and working on the family ranch, but also doing some light construction work as well.



Milton Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 1

a good callibaetis mayfly population, and the damsel fly is another prolific insect here. When these aren't hatching, you can fish midges early and late, if the water is smooth.

If you are looking for a small, beautiful lake that is very quiet, then you will enjoy Milton.

Stay Tuned for other upcoming fishouts.

With the low flows, the fishouts on the Truckee River have been cancelled. The Little Truckee fishout is still on, though, for September 19th. Other fishouts for August and September may be added, so please stay tuned. Our recently appointed Communications Czar, Eric Palmer, will get the word out, once the fishouts are finalized.

Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

As a club member, you are notified that there will be a voice vote at the September meeting to amend the Club's bylaws by inserting the following paragraph. This paragraph was in earlier Bylaw versions, but was inadvertently left out of the last revision. This change was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors at their meeting of July 7, 2015.

Section V, Article VII: Vice President - Conservation Job Description

The Vice President-Conservation shall be responsible for developing and implementing the Organization's conservation program. Additionally, the Vice President-Conservation shall have and may exercise all the powers and duties of the President during the absence or disability of both the President and Vice President-Membership.

A Stretch of River East of Town (Part one of a three part series)

by Eric Palmer

Anyone who has fished the Truckee River at the Glenshire Dr. access east of town should be at least vaguely familiar with a section generally referred to as "Flycasters." It's easily recognizable as you begin working your way downstream under, and then beyond the Glenshire Dr. bridge where you will see ample signage informing you that you are approaching, or now on private property. This is all a gentle nudge that it's time to seriously consider making a "U" turn back up river. At this point, you are at the southern end of a 3.5 mile stretch of private water that ends to the north at the I-80 bridge at Prosser Creek, and is surrounded on both sides of the river by 334 acres of private land owned by the *San Francisco Fly Casting Club*, or SFFCC.

Anglers who frequent that area, of course, also know that the club plants very large trout in their water—under today's low flow conditions, 2-3 lb. rainbow triploids from the Mt. Lassen hatchery, and they plant a lot of them. Under more normal weather and river conditions, the fish are much larger, and there are more of them. SFFCC is blessed with some deep channels and runs on their stretch, and the fish know where they are.

This is not your usual run-of-the-mill fly club that most of us are familiar with. It's a relatively small club of less than 45, shall I say "accomplished" individuals of means who have managed to keep their club under the radar since its inception on May 4, 1894. The date is not a typo.

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A Stretch of River East of Town - Continued from Page 3

When I first became aware of the club's existence some years ago, a Google search produced nothing whatsoever. Not only is there no club website, but I could find no mention of it anywhere. Does this club even exist? Maybe it's a myth? A Google search today produces little more than a map showing the approximate location of the club's lodge.

How do you join? You don't. If you're a potential candidate, I'm guessing they will find you, and there's likely a waiting list. What's the membership demographic? Think not just accomplished anglers and casting gurus, but prominent movers and shakers of the corporate, legal and medical world. It also helps to be active, and very generous, in charity and community service work. Underachievers and slackers should look elsewhere for fly fishing companionship.

Now I'm going to tell you a fascinating story of serendipity and chance that still has three of your fellow GBF members scratching their heads. In June, **Gordon Tornberg, Don Lounsbury** and I went up to Truckee to hopefully fish the river—or perhaps some lakes depending on river conditions—which were looking bleak, given the drought conditions. Don and I drove up in my truck, and I saw a rule somewhere—I forget where—that says on arriving in Truckee to fish, you must first stop at *ACE Mountain Hardware* for some gear, or at least to browse. On this particular occasion, Don needed a new fly line, and I always welcome an opportunity to browse.

On reaching the fly shop area, Don began his fly line quest while I headed for the fly bins for some eye candy. There's another fellow standing there similarly browsing. Small talk ensues; he then asks, "Where are you guys fishing?" I respond, "We're up here for a few days to fish the Truckee, but it's in such dismal shape, we'll probably hit some lakes instead."

To this, he replies, "I'm a river guy, I prefer fishing rivers." I respond, "Well, I am too, truth be told, but what are you going to do when nature conspires against you?" I'm now intrigued, assuming he's planning to fish the Truckee with conditions such as they are, plus he looks like a savvy angler. So I ask, "What area of the river do you like?" He replies, "A stretch east of town." OK, "...how east...Hirschdale, Farad?" "It's a private stretch off of Glenshire."

Now visualize lightbulbs going off over my head, then violently exploding with sparks everywhere as my brain privately screams, "Holy crap!" I calmly respond, "You mean the private *San Francisco Flycasters* stretch?" "Yeah, that's the place...a bunch of rich arrogant bastards [his actual words—with a wide grin], and I'm one of 'em. You know the place?" To which I reply, "Ah, yes, we know it well, it's legendary—lots of signs." To this he replies, "Yeah, we're trying to soften our approach on that." I'm now as giddy as an eight year old boy on Christmas morning, but am doing my best to maintain some level of composure and decorum.

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A Stretch of River East of Town - Continued from Page 4

I grab Don's shoulder to get his attention, "Hey, Don (motioning to my new acquaintance), *San Francisco Fly Casters!!!!*" As he turns, Don's face lights up as he shares my reaction. Next come formal introductions. We learn that the fellow I've been chatting with is Chip Brown, a bonafide member of *San Francisco Fly Casters*. Small talk follows, and then, "I'd like to invite you to fish at the lodge some time as my guests."

Don and I exchange glances as we try to process what we just heard. We were both a little stunned, so it's not clear who said what next, but there was a request for his phone number. He tears off a scrap of paper from something on the counter, scribbles down his number, hands it to me, and with a wave heads for the door, and he's gone.

Did we go fishing? Did we get big fish? Anything else happen?

To be continued...

Conservation Corner

by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

["Drought causes Delta smelt index to hit zero."](#) So reads a July 11, 2015 article in the *Sacramento Bee*. This follows the news that the 2014 run of winter run Chinook salmon suffered a reproductive failure because of elevated water temperatures. Lester Snow, former Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, and Director of the Dept. of Water Resources, (*Editor's note: he is also one of us, since he's a former GBF and Board member until he was tapped to serve in the Schwarzenegger administration as head of the DWR*) wrote an editorial in the July 12, 2015 *Sacramento Bee* titled, ["Drought is wake-up call for major changes."](#) The main thrust of Lester Snow's editorial is that it is time to stop the blame game and start addressing the problem, not just the symptoms. The water crisis is a threat to all Californians, and the undeniable fact is that because of our mismanagement and climate change, we are witnessing catastrophic fisheries losses.

An excellent discussion on the present drought situation and the direct and indirect impacts the drought is having on our fisheries appears in the July newsletter of the *Delta Fly Fishers Inc.* written by Ron Forbes. You will find the referenced article [here](#).

The main thrust of Ron's piece is the harmful impact of present and past water policies and practices by the governmental agencies responsible for managing our water resources. Ron quotes Bill Jennings's (Executive Director of CSPA, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance) testimony to the State Water Board (SWB) charging them with "egregious malfeasance" in managing our water resources. I am reluctant to place primary blame on the SWB, but there is no doubt that water has been mismanaged in California, and a case can be made for malfeasance. Personally, I tend to believe it is more a case of nonfeasance. We, as a State, have seen this ecological train wreck coming for many years, but have spent our energy pointing fingers rather than facing the problems head on.

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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 5

The demise of California's anadromous salmonid populations began well before the State and Federal water projects were created. Spring run Chinook salmon in the western Sierra slope rivers were the dominant salmon run prior to the arrival of Europeans. These runs were much reduced, and in some cases extirpated by the beginning of the 20th century because of gold dredging and dewatering of rivers to get to the gold. Now these rivers are blocked by dams. In the north and central coast, watersheds Coho salmon and steelhead runs have been reduced to remnants of their former levels, and in the case of Coho salmon extirpated, primarily because of logging practices and the deforestation of critical watersheds.

California's natural aquatic ecosystems are complex. Every aspect of the ecosystems required for the survival of anadromous salmonids has been altered in some way or destroyed. Now there is the reality of climate change which will exacerbate these stresses. Our native freshwater aquatic resources are dying the death of a thousand cuts with no single culprit to blame.

The primary legal tool used for limiting water diversions from the system for the benefit of fish has been the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Enforcement of the ESA has led to the pillorying of Congress by the water lobby and political pundits—witness the billboards on Hwy 5 blaming Congress for creating a dust bowl in the southern San Joaquin Valley. There is a movement to gut the Act. Without the power of the Act, there would be little that could be done legally to protect these endangered resources. If either the Delta smelt or the winter run Chinook salmon goes extinct, the power of the ESA to protect the Delta and other anadromous salmonids will be severely blunted, and the gutting of the ESA may become moot. Another reality we must deal with is that the average man and woman on the street is not sympathetic to the protection of Delta smelt and winter run Chinook salmon at the expense of agricultural and domestic water use. Here in the Sacramento area many area residents see the lowering of Folsom Lake to increase fisheries flows as a waste of "their" water.

The drought has brought a renewed search for additional water storage facilities, which will increase water supplies by about only 7% according to reports in the paper. There is also talk of transferring New Melones Dam, a Bureau of Reclamation facility on the Stanislaus River, to an irrigation district. These actions will further reduce Delta outflow. Research clearly shows a positive correlation between higher Delta outflows and salmon spawning, and out migration success.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin fisheries crisis has been a long time brewing, and we have been on a collision course towards fisheries collapse for some time. We are witnessing a "perfect storm" of manmade and climatic events that are leading to irreversible resource losses. California is dependent on the State and Federal water projects. **Those projects are not going away.** Delivery of this water requires transit through an antiquated and failing Delta delivery system, the maintenance of which is critical for the survival of the resources that use the Delta. As Walt Kelly's character Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

We can only hope that the California public and State Legislature will realize that our water policies must be changed, and that California's aquatic resources are worth saving. Unfortunately, the ecological crisis is now, and the remedies will not come in time to avert resource losses.

What can we as members of the Granite Bay Flycasters do? I believe we are doing the right thing by financially supporting non-profit environmental NGOs that are fighting the good fight. Our eggs in the classroom project fosters an environmental awareness in young people, and our support of graduate fisheries students at HSU will produce the resource scientists and managers of the future. Hopefully, our efforts will produce better stewards of our natural resources than were previous generations.



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Fishmaster's Corner

by Tony Jelinek

Lightning!!

Lightning and fishing definitely do not mix. From the National Weather Service website, the areas that one is supposed to stay away from during thunder and lightning storms are usually where we are found when fishing:

- Outside. No place is safe outside when thunderstorms are in the area.
- Isolated trees. Do not stand by an isolated tree
- Cliff or rocky overhang. Do not use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Ponds, lakes, rivers. Do not be near ponds, lakes, and rivers.
- Objects that conduct electricity. Your fishing rod.

What can you do to stay safe? Of course there is the obvious—avoid the storm entirely, but if you find yourself in a thunderstorm, the following are some steps to keep you safe:

- Observe the 30/30 rule. If the time between the lightning flash and the resulting thunder is 30 seconds or less (meaning that the thunderstorm is six miles or less away), take action. Thunder can be heard up to ten miles or so. (Thunder is an acoustic shock wave caused by the extreme heat created by a lightning flash.)
- Immediately get off any open slopes, ridges, or water.
- Place your fishing rod on the ground and move away from it
- Find shelter. If you can make it back to your car, do it. A cabin or house is also a good place, but not so readily available when out fishing.
- If no shelter, moving into an area of the smallest trees and shrubs may provide some shelter. Avoid tall trees or anything that stands out that may attract lightning.
- The idea is to make yourself the smallest structure in the area.
- Get into a ditch or depression.
- Use the *Lightning Crouch* to minimize risk (even when in a ditch or depression). This position consists of crouching down on the balls of the feet, placing the hands on the forehead and the elbows on the knees. This creates the smallest amount of contact with the ground and is felt to create a safer path for an electrical charge through the body should you be struck. Do NOT lie flat on the ground. Lying flat on the ground has been proven to be dangerous and should not be followed.
- Resumption of activities should not take place until 30 minutes after the last flash. This is because the trailing storm clouds may still carry enough lingering charge to create lightning.

Studies of lightning strikes show that most people are struck at the beginning and end of a storm. Follow these guidelines and stay safe this thunderstorm season.

Sources:

Laurie Sammis, et al. *The Trail Book – Lake Tahoe*. Peak Media. 1997.

National Weather Service. <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/struck.shtml>

Chi Wulff. Fly Fishing and Lightning Safety – Part 1.

<http://chiwulff.com/2009/04/08/fly-fishing-and-lightning-safety-part-1-illuminating-the-issue/>

Chi Wulff. Fly Fishing and Lightning Safety – Part 2.

<http://chiwulff.com/2009/04/09/fly-fishing-and-lightning-safety-part-2-be-smart-be-safe/>

Chi Wulff. Fly Fishing and Lightning Safety – Part 3.

<http://chiwulff.com/2009/04/10/fly-fishing-and-lightning-safety-part-3-help-I've-been-hit/>

Sierra Trout Camp

by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

Sierra Trout Camp is a fishing camp for 9-11 year olds sponsored by TU and The California School of Fly Fishing. GBF donated \$600 to the camp during FY 2014/15 for the sponsorship of one student, plus support for the operation of the camp.

This year's camp was held July 11-12 at Sagehen Creek, a University of California research facility used by GBF in the past for entomology clinics. The students were taught basic fly fishing skills and conservation. Topics included a description of fly fishing gear, casting, knot tying, watershed management, trout habitat and insect life. Twenty students attended.

The Truckee River Fly Casters out of Reno, and Trout Unlimited provided the teaching staff. I volunteered to learn more about the camp and to judge whether this is something GBF should support in the future.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and I was impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the students. Some obviously had some fly fishing parents and have fly fished, and there were a few parents in attendance. Others were completely new to the experience, and showed varying degrees of interest. The activity that was the biggest hit was the bug collection, identification, and matching the bugs to the appropriate flies.

GBF has been looking for a youth activity in the past, and this could fill the bill. If there are any club members that are interested in leading a youth program and believe that this might be the appropriate one, please contact me. I'm confident that the club will support funding the program in the next round of conservation donations.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Ted Way, VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

Jim Field

Dennis and Peggy Grapatin

Guy Howard Klopp

Gary Owen

and renewing Charter Member, Nicolai Laquaglia

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:

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Virginia Lakes Fishout Report, June 23rd to 28th

by Michael Kaul

One minute after we left the campground to make our way home, it started to rain. The rest of the weather during the six-day fishout was absolutely beautiful! Accompanying **Michael, Sandy** and **Barry Kaul** were returnees: **Lester Grigsby (aka, Bill), Art Livingston**, and **Ron Davidson**. New comers were: **Dave and Carol Tevlin, Mel Odemar**, and **Randy and Debbie Lenehan**.

All fly casters on this trip used float tubes. The hot flies were hoppers, Rickert's Stillwater Nymphs, Sheeps Creek; Wiggle Tails in cinnamon, olive and orange, olive and black, and black. Fish were caught in all three lakes. Folks averaged about 6 fish a day.



Taco Dinner

This perfect weather also lent itself to wonderful hikes of varying lengths. All enjoyed relaxing in the majestic surroundings. No one left the taco dinner hungry. Thank you Lester (Bill), for the delicious cookies.



Fishing Buddy

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in August 2011)

Fly Patterns - Flashy Chick Caddis



Flashy Chick Caddis

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260 or Spirit River's 312, size 14
Weight:	3 wraps of lead-free weight at thorax
Thread:	Tan or grey 8/0
Tail:	Tan or grey chickabou
Body:	Spoiled Mylar tinsel
Underwing:	Same as tail
Wing:	Tan hen feather tip
Hackle:	Same as tail
Head:	Thread

Description

If you have not read Ralph Cutter's "Fish Food," you need to do that. This book is clearly in the "must read" category for fly fishers, whether experienced or not. One of the phenomena that Ralph discusses in his book is the egg-laying (sometimes called "ovipositing") habits of certain caddisfly species. Unlike mayflies and stoneflies, adults dive beneath the surface, crawl along the bottom, lay their eggs, and then (if not eaten by then) swim back to the surface and, ultimately, once again become airborne. Trout, of course, know this and anything resembling a caddisfly that looks like it is: (a) swimming down to the bottom; (b) crawling along

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9

the bottom; or (c) swimming to the surface, is fair game. There is much more to this than I can include in this short article, so reading Ralph's book is essential if this phenomenon tickles your curiosity.

The **Flashy Chick Caddis** is my creation for all three of the stages mentioned above. The "flashy" part of the name comes from the fact that the body is fashioned of mylar tinsel. The "chick" part of the name is derived from the material used for the rest of the fly: chicken marabou, or "chickabou" as it is sometimes called. Chickabou feathers are found at the bottom of a hen cape (see picture). Some hen capes come without the chickabou patch, so examine each cape to make sure that is not the case before you buy one. I have also seen chickabou feathers separately packaged.

There are only three materials needed for this fly, other than the hook: a spool of mylar tinsel (medium size is good); chickabou feathers; and a hen hackle. Some of the tying steps are from a pattern called the Tabou Caddis, which you will find at <http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/taboucaddis/>

Ah, blessed simplicity. Life is good.

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.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 10



Steps 1, 2, 3 & 4

- 4a. Move the thread to the hook eye. Wind the mylar forward to the hook eye and tie it off there.



Step 5

6. Pluck a feather from a hen cape, pull off all of the fuzz, and measure it so it is the same length as the underwing. Lay it flat, concave side down, on the hook shank and tie it in at the same place as the underwing was tied in. Make sure it stays flat as you tie it down.



Step 7

Tie one of these gems to the end of your tippet and fish it like you would a wet fly (i.e., swing it). Alternately, tie it as a stinger to the bend of the bottom fly on a short line rig; then do a short line drift, but let it swing into a wet fly swing, and...

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

1. Smash the hook barb. Wrap 3 turns of weight at the thorax area, which will be about 2 eye-widths behind the hook eye.
2. Cover the shank with thread, leaving it at the back of the barb.
3. Tie in a tail made of chickabou at a point on the shank that is just above the back of the barb. The tail should be about shank length.
4. Cut a piece of mylar tinsel from the spool and tie it in just above the back of the barb.



Step 4a

5. Tie in a chickabou underwing at a point about 1/3 shank length behind the eye (it's OK to wrap backwards over the mylar). The underwing should extend to the bend of the hook.



Step 6

7. Pull the wing case over the top of the thorax, tie it down in front of the thorax, and trim the excess. Tie in a chickabou feather by its tip, just in front of the wing base. Wrap it a couple of times around the shank and tie it off behind the eye. Moisten your fingers, sweep the barbules back, form a nice small head, and whip finish.

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, call Ted Way at 916-761-7115, 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.

Please notify if address change

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