Leader’s Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President

With my first Board of Directors and General Meeting under my belt, this whole thing is starting to seem a little less scary. Speaking of the Board, we are working on new ways to improve our website to provide more information to the membership, which is going strong.

I hope everyone is getting a chance to get out and go fishing. Please remember you may feel cool and comfortable in the water, but the sun is shining strong, and temperatures are running high. Be sure to keep hydrated and fully covered. I do not want to see any lobsters at the next meeting!

Now, for a small bit of business; Trout Unlimited (TU) has brought a petition to the attention of the Board. It is called, “Sportsmen’s Petition for Support of Public Lands.” Please take the time to read the petition, and if you wish to

Continued on Page 2

Monthly Program

Our speaker this month is Grady Garlough, who will present a program on fishing the Middle Fork of the American River, a largely remote stretch that gets little fishing pressure due to its difficult access.

A brief bio: “I grew up in the woods of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, fishing Lake Winnipesaukee. I got hooked fishing the small surrounding ponds and streams for bass, trout, salmon, pickerel and brook trout. I moved to California in 1984, and by 1986 was kayaking and commercially running whitewater rafting trips up down the west slope of the Sierras. Any chance I got I was fishing sections of many rivers that most anglers don’t get a chance to see. In 1999, I was turned onto the art of fly fishing and it quickly became what’s now my life passion. I traded in the adrenaline rush of whitewater for the rush of a tug from a trout.

Since the early 2000s, I have been figuring out trout feeding patterns on the fluctuating waters of the American rivers. For the past ten years, during the summer months, I’ve been guiding unique trips that combine some whitewater with streamer fishing in the remote areas of Middle and South Forks of the American River. I fill the other months guiding on the Lower American and Yuba for steelhead, shad, stripers and trout.”

More info at https://riseuprivertrips.com/
Leader’s Line - Continued from page 1

Webber Lake has been a private property and lake from the early 1860s. In recent years, it has been a private fishing club with camping and fishing. Two years ago, the Trust for Public Land and Truckee Donner Land Trust raised funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Resources Agency, the Northern Sierra Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to complete the $8M acquisition. Truckee Donner Land Trust owns and manages the property. The 3,000-acre Webber Lake property is a look back in time. The land, nestled between Perazzo Meadows and the Jackson Meadow Reservoir, hosts a pristine mountain meadow, a naturally occurring lake at the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, forested uplands, and approximately 7 miles of riparian habitat along Lacy Creek and the Little Truckee River.

The lake has lots of established weed beds and as a result, good hatches of insects. The usual midges, mayflies, caddis and terrestrials are available to the fish. Baitfish are also in the mix. Fish 4-to-6 weight rods with floating lines, and 9-to-15 foot leaders tapered to 3x or 4x. The floating line is used for surface feeding.

Webber Lake Fishout
Aug 21, 2019

by Doug Kytonen, Fishmaster

Further information for the fly tying jam:

- Support it, print and bring a signed copy to the next meeting, or send it directly to TU at the address listed at the bottom of the petition. We will also have extra copies at the August Meeting.
- I posed a new challenge at the July meeting, my first as President. I would like to see each member attend a fly tying jam between now and December. I am sure most of you have more flies than you know what to do with, but this is about more than just flies, it is about meeting new people. So come tie a fly with me…

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Continued on Page 3
fish and for nymphs under an indicator. A clear intermediate line for stripping nymphs and a type III line is great for stripping streamers when the fish are deeper.

**Fishing:** Webber Lake is legendary for anglers, and arguably the birthplace of sport fishing in the Sierra, when Dr. Webber first stocked the lake in 1860. Conventional gear fishing and fly fishing are permitted. Fishing is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Sierra District General regulations.

**RULES, REGULATIONS, GOOD TO KNOW**

Webber Lake Lacey Meadows are open to the public from dawn to dusk for day use. Camping, fires, and motorized vehicles are prohibited on the property, except in the campground. Dogs must be leashed in the campground and in the day use area, and under voice command elsewhere. Pets must not endanger wildlife. For nearly 150 years, sheep have grazed from late summer to early fall in the meadow. There may be sheep in the meadow when you visit; please stay clear of the herders’ dogs.

**HOW TO GET THERE**

From Hwy 89, about 17 miles north of Truckee, take Jackson Meadows Road west about 8 miles to the sign for Webber Lake. Turn left and proceed down a dirt road for about a quarter mile. At a closed gate, the road forks to the right, and in about another quarter of a mile is a dirt road to the left and a sign pointing to the TDLT Lacey Meadows parking area. Follow this road for about 0.6 mile to the parking area, interpretive kiosks, and maps of the area.

**Boating:** Watercraft of all kind are welcome, but there is a 5-mph speed limit. Due to concern about aquatic invasive species (AIS), your craft is likely to be inspected. A boat ramp and trailer parking are available. Sierra Country requires an AIS form be completed before launching that you [download here](#).

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Before you get on the water, gear up at Sacramento’s only full-service Orvis fly shop and lifestyle store. Here, you’ll find the newest Helios fly rods, reels, waders, and more fly-fishing gear; plus a full line of luggage and men’s and ladies apparel. Stop in and say hello today, and find exactly what you need.

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North Fork Yuba River Fishout

by Kim Lloyd

Nine club members met on Saturday, July 13th, to fish and explore the Wild Trout section of the river. This section starts above the town of Downieville at Ladies Canyon Creek (Mile Marker 24+15) on Hwy 49, and runs upstream through Sierra City. The weather was perfect: a blue sky day with no wind and temperatures in the high 80s. The river was running a bit high this year, somewhere in the neighborhood of 550 cfs, but that did little to dampen the spirit or productivity of the group.

We initially met at the Loganville Rest Area at 9:00 AM only to learn that the restroom facilities were locked. A contingency plan was implemented, and we re-grouped at 9:30. Dale Spear and Victor Maiello, Jr. discussed short-line nymphing techniques and different methods of rigging a fly line. Kim Lloyd, the fishout leader, tried to explain—without success—why he left his flies home on his work bench.

The group then split up to fish the surrounding area using Eric Palmer’s highly detailed map for guidance. This map is essential to help find seldom-used access roads to the river...think roads that require high-clearance vehicles...and is not available to the general public.

We met for lunch around 1:00, reported exaggerated fish counts to each other, and then headed out around 2:00 for more fishing. Some members continued to nymph, while others used dry flies, especially those that travelled upstream to the Salmon Creek area. A number of fish were caught and, as is typical for this section of the river, they tended to be on the small side. However, a small wild trout will outfight a planted trout by a wide margin; hence, the reason we focus on the Wild Trout section of the river.

The North Fork of the Yuba is a beautiful trout stream, and only a two-hour trip from the Granite Bay area. There are literally miles of access directly from Highway 49, plus those secret spots previously mentioned. Burn a day and take a trip, you won’t be disappointed.

Fuller Lake Fishout Report, July 12th

by Jim Degnan

This was the first evening fishout for Granite Bay Flycasters. We started at various times, but most showed up right after lunch. The weather was cool and clear, the lake was beautiful, as always, full to the brim. Old hands were Wendell Edwards, Eric Palmer, Doug Kytonen, Michael Kaul, assisted by Barry Kaul, and Mike Bone. New members were Tom Guisto, Ed Underwood and Pat Brady. The fishing was hard.

Mike Bone, a returning club member from the 90s, caught 11 with a mix of rainbows and browns. Michael
Fuller Lake Fishout Report - Continued from page 4

Kaul got two, and Doug Kytonen got one, or almost one. The rest, unfortunately, came away with touches, but nothing to the net. (I hate the word "skunk.")

Mike gave us some pictures of his flies. His most productive was an olive bugger with a nymph dropper tied off the bugger hook that got a few of his fish. It looked like a “partridge and orange.” He also got fish on a #16 pheasant tail nymph. The dropper was only 12-14” below the bugger, too.

The fishmaster, me, figured it was the nearly-full moon that threw the lake off, but Mike proved that wrong. We were glad to have him join us.

Note to members: It’s fine if you show up right at the last minute for this type of informal fishout.

Cruising the Fuller Shoreline

Upper Sacramento “Spring?” Fishout

by Tony Jelinek

The 7th annual Upper Sacramento Spring Fishout was pushed well into Summer this year by high flows. If the fishout had taken place at it’s usual end-of-May/beginning-of-June time-frame, the anglers would have been “enjoying” flows of around 2,000 cfs—very high for a river that for the last seven years has had flows of 250 to 450 cfs in early June.

By the time the fishout took place from June 27th to June 30th, the fishing gods had smiled on us, and the river flow dropped to a respectable 535 to 600 cfs. The flows made for a much different looking river in many places, so different at times that the usual trails and river crossings were only accessible by a giraffe. Just ask Tom Kuzmich and Paul Estridge, who were led on a wild goose chase by...
yours truly for the invisible trail. Tom did land his first fish on the Upper Sac, and Paul caught the biggest fish of the trip—17.5 inches; so I think most all was forgiven.

The rain over the last couple of years has been very kind to the blackberries and other shrubbery (you Monty Python fans should appreciate that word). Just ask our bushwhacking members—Chris Warren and Dave Fujiyama. They were bound and determined to find the easy access at Gibson Road, which they never did find; so they gave up and headed up to fish the McCloud, having heard there were nice big boulders to wade around, and several easy access points. They found the boulders, but not the “easy access points,” so went back to their bushwhacking. Chris and Dave did end up being successful, landing a few prized McCloud river trout.

While Chris and Dave were bushwhacking their way through northern California, Frank Stolten and Eric Palmer were moseying their way to the river to pick off a few of the wild trout that the Upper Sacramento has to offer. After a while, though, Frank left to enjoy the tunes and frivolity of the local pub, Dunsmuir Brewing, leaving Eric to continue his quest for the Holy Grail—the perfect short-line leader.
Dave Baker was hitting his usual haunts on the river, and was coming up a little short with his short-line nymphing, so he got a longer line—no...he resorted to dry flies, catching several and saving the trip. Steve Pitts, the night owl, let the rest of us battle the sun, while he went to his favorite spot in the evening, catching fish on his trusty hopper-dropper combination. Kim Lloyd, or Mr. Stealth, as many call him—have you ever been around when he drives up in his truck? We could hear him on Highway 5 from the house where we were staying, and we were a mile off the highway—spent his time finding new roads or dirt trails that he made into roads to prime fishing spots, and even found some time to catch some fish on nymphs and Stimulators.

Overall, we had a great trip. Base camp was Soda Creek Farm, which had plenty of parking, a great kitchen and deck, where we would gather in the evening to share fishing facts. We started with the traditional tri-tip dinner Thursday evening, followed by Tom Kuzmich’s delicious Cioppino on Friday. Saturday was left-overs, or a visit to Dunsmuir Brewery. Many fish were caught and lost on all types of methods—short-line, dry flies, hopper-dropper, and Tenkara.

Zen and the Art of Nymph-Fishing:
“Should I Set the Hook Now?”

by Eric Palmer

This title should be familiar to anyone who’s read John Gierach’s, Trout Bum, his first work from 1988, and he’s now got over 20 popular fly fishing books to his credit. I’m not clever enough to have come up with his cool title that’s perfect for the topic at hand: When to set the hook while nymphing?

There may also be some déjá vu for any who have been reading The Leader since 2012 or 2014, when shorter versions of this article appeared. Because this is one of the most important issues with nymphing, and we have acquired many new members, I thought it deserved a fresh and deeper look. I’ve also discovered an interesting anecdote from another iconic fly fishing author, Dave Hughes, to help shed some light on this for us...or not.
Zen and the Art of Nymph-Fishing: - Continued from page 7

John Gierach, in his short story, tackles head-on the issue that frustrates many of us, and comes up in the end-of-day chatter over beers or burgers after a day trout nymphing with what’s variously called Short-Line nymphing, Tight-Line nymphing, High Sticking, Czech Nymphing, or the now trendy ESN for Euro Style Nymphing. Deep sigh...Don’t they know the method was invented and popularized here in California on the Upper Sac starting in the 1920s? (see GBF articles page). Anyway...

Many of us will likely be employing this nymphing method as we hit the Truckee, Upper Sac, McCloud, North Yuba, East Carson or any other comparably structured high gradient NorCal stream with lots of fast pocket water. This type of water just cries out for the short-line technique because it is so effective.

Gierach opens the chapter with this slightly facetious Zen Master-Student exchange:

Student: "Master, how does one tell when the trout has taken the fly?"

Master: "The moon is reflected in the still pond my son."

For further clarity, he tosses out a couple more Zen brain-twisters ("Koans” actually) like “What’s the sound of one hand clapping?”, and my favorite, “Two sisters are crossing the street, which one is the older sister?” Gierach continues, a little more practically, but still not with much that we can take to the river...

"The actual mechanics of short-line nymph-fishing aren’t very complicated or difficult – you don’t even have to know how to properly cast a fly rod - but detecting the strike of an unseen trout to an unseen fly is one of the hardest things a fly-fisher will ever have to learn. It’s a skill that relies largely on intuition and the ability to see things that aren’t immediately evident, or rather, to see things that are evident in their own way."

The underlined emphasis is mine, since that is the crux of the matter, and probably the “Zen” in the equation.

Now, I can hear indicator nymphers muttering to themselves, “Ah-ha...that’s why we use indicators you idiot! Indicator bobs, fish-on!” Whoa, not so fast! Bobicator fans have a big problem too. But first, let’s back up a bit to lay a common foundation for users of either method. And of course, most of us bounce back and forth between the two equally legitimate methods as conditions dictate.

Another prolific fly fishing author, instructor and guide, Ralph Cutter, in his writings, and Kirk Deeter too, in his 2007 Field and Stream article, “Going Deep in the name of Trout Research” (see GBF articles page) describe something very clever and revealing.

Using SCUBA gear, they laid on the bottom of trout streams to observe fish behavior while an accomplice up on the bank, using various rigging methods, cast flies to the trout being observed.

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Zen and the Art of Nymph-Fishing: - Continued from page 8

The results were a real eye-opener. And, by the way, trout apparently do not care if you lay on a stream bed motionless observing, as a human under water is not seen as a predator, perhaps just an odd-looking downed tree.

What they both observed was that the angler missed over 50% of the fish because they felt no take, nor did the indicator even budge a millimeter on the missed fish, the takes are so soft and fast. The fish gently mouths the fly, does not like the feel, then ptoooey. Out it goes in a microsecond.

Now, many of us have had good days on a river where we may net 4-5-6 fish, and depending on the particular stream’s understood “degree of difficulty,” head home, or to camp, or cabin feeling pretty good. But, here’s the thing. Unless we took measures to initially set the hook, the fish we hooked were likely what our late GBF nymphing guru and mentor Bill Carnazzo would call “suicidal fish.” The easy prey who skipped school the day the fish professor covered how to be a picky eater. They attacked your fly with zeal and wild abandon with no hook setting required on your part; they set the hook for you. And, aren’t we glad there are a lot of fish out there who played hooky!

So, here’s the hard part of fly fishing: We should be able to follow one or two other anglers up or down river and hook fish from spots they’ve pounded just a few minutes earlier, only to declare with disgust, “Nobody home.” Most of us have had this humbling experience, including my partner and me on the North Yuba some years ago, with Bill Carnazzo a few minutes behind us; “Hey guys, I just pulled 4 fish out of that spot on the far bank you said you’d thoroughly covered with no hits.”

OK, now we’ve come full circle, and we still don’t know when to set the dang hook.

John Gierach had a fishing buddy named Ed who he’d known for many years. Ed worked for the U.S. Forest Service and had spent years in the woods where he had developed both a factual and spiritual sense of how things worked in nature, and he always seemed to be getting more fish. In Gierach’s words, Ed had developed fish sense—game sense—the thing that all great hunters and fisherman have had. He realized that fish evolved along with humans on this planet and are not aliens. They are not that much different, except they are no smarter than they need to be to survive, while humans are often too smart for our own good.

Ed, a fly fishing minimalist to the extreme and ardent fan of the “chaw,” became Gierach’s nymphing coach and mentor. He taught him how to rig his line, where to place the split shot, where to stand and cast. Then in true Zen master fashion, he walked away in his faded denim coveralls and CAT baseball cap, shooting a wad of chew over his shoulder. “How do I know when a fish strikes?” Gierach shouts... “You’ll get the hang of it,” as Ed walked on. Gierach was miffed. What kind of teacher is this? He expected an answer. Problem is there is no answer.

Student: “So, how do you tell when the trout has taken the fly?”

Master (Ed): “How much did you pay for that reel?”

Gierach began setting the hook on anything. A bird’s shadow
passed over the water. A squirrel dropping a pinecone, the fly ticking the bottom. Over time, he began to sense unusual movement of the leader where it enters the water—or for us, movement of the colored amnesia indicator. While the current causes the line to dance, twitch, and jiggle, a fish’s take adds a certain amount of intelligent life to the movement. Purpose. Ultimately, he was able to detect this motion in his peripheral vision without even focusing on the line. Over time, the hook sets became instinctive. He’d set the hook with no conscious realization of why, and there’d be a fish. Our Bill Carnazzo had this knack, if not a bit of ESP tossed in for good measure.

Fly fishing author, Dave Hughes, made the same observation after he finally “got the hang of it.” In his 2010 interview in *Sierra Fisherman* magazine with publisher Bill Forward he said, “The real key is experience... just go fishing a lot, and you’ll eventually begin to sort out things that at first were not noticeable to you,” (again, my emphasis).

He continues that he was fishing a yarn indicator on a river in Chili. His indicator was drifting along placidly when suddenly without his permission, his arm reared up and set the hook and he caught a nice trout. His guide asked him what caused him to do that, since the yarn had not moved. He didn’t answer. He had no idea himself.

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

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer’s Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in August 2010)

Fly Patterns - Black Sparkle Wooly Bugger

**Materials:**

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<td>Tail:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body:</td>
<td>Black/green sparkle chenille, size medium or small</td>
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<td>Hackle:</td>
<td>Wooly Bugger saddle hackle (black)</td>
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![Black Sparkle Wooly Bugger](image)

**Description**

Why feature something in *The Leader* as basic as a Wooly Bugger? A reasonable question, for sure. Every beginner fly tying class opens with a WB—and for good reason. It’s simple to tie, materials are cheap and commonly available, and, of all things, it really does work. But, having said that, I need to add that there

*Continued on Page 11*
The hook. It is my view that a straight-eye, bent shank hook will create the best profile and enhance hooking fish. I prefer the Daichii 1260 because it is 2X long, has a nice, wide gape, a straight eye, and a nicely shaped shank that suggests life, as opposed to sterile straight-shank hooks.

2. Sparseness. Over the years I’ve harped on sparseness of materials applied to the hook. There are, of course, some exceptions such as bass hair bugs which demand as much material as can be jammed onto a hook. Most natural critters are slender and sleek—so why gob on the material? Store-bought WBs are way over-dressed: a big blob of marabou for the tail, too large chenille for the body, and hackle fit for a size 3/0 hook. Keep it slender: use a small amount of marabou for the tail; small- or medium-size chenille; and small, appropriately sized hackle.

3. Winding the hackle. Most non-dry-fly hackle is tapered—smaller at the tip than at the butt of the feather. We need to take advantage of this characteristic in order to achieve a good profile. Here’s the question: should the hackle be tied in by its tip, or by the quill at its butt? The latter method would produce an unnatural and incorrect profile, in my view—wider at the tail end of the fly than at the head. So, it’s best to tie the feather in by its tip. There is another issue here: How many hackle wraps are best? Stillwater guru Denny Rickards urges tyers to limit the wraps to 4 or 5 because if the wraps are too close to each other they will inhibit motion in the current or on the retrieve.

4. The “brushed back” look—meaning that the hackle, when palmered up the shank, should appear to be swept rearward when wrapped through the body. If done properly, this will enhance the fly’s motion. There is a way to force the hackle to sweep rearward: As you wrap forward, twist your hackle pliers clockwise at the end of each wrap. This will usually work on even the most resistant hackles.

5. To bead or not to bead...? The jury is out on this one. Some tyers like a bead at the head to aid in sinking the fly; others vehemently insist that the bead inhibits fly motion in the water and looks unnatural. Personally, I always carry some of each and avoid debating the topic.

OK, let’s go ahead and tie one using these ideas.

Tying Instructions

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

1. De-barb the hook and place it in the vise. If you are going to use a bead, put it on the hook now. If you are going to weight the fly, place the weight on the hook now. Tie the thread onto the hook and run it back to the back of the barb.

2. Tie in a small bunch of black marabou. Select the type of plume that has long, wavy barbules. The marabou tail should be about 1.5x shank length.
Fly Tyer’s Corner - Continued from page 11

3. Tie in a black saddle hackle by its tip, above the back of the barb. At the same point, tie in a nice, long saddle hackle with barbs equal to about 1.5x the hook gape in length, and a piece of black sparkle chenille after skinning about ¼” of the chenille off the core.

4. Wrap the chenille forward in tight turns, being careful to not overlap the previous turn.

5. Grab the hackle with your hackle pliers and wrap it forward through the chenille. Four or five wraps is sufficient. Use suggestion number 4 at the top of the article to give the hackle a “swept back” appearance. Tie off the hackle at least one eye’s length behind the eye (or directly behind the bead if you are using one), and wrap a small, neat head. Whip finish and apply a drop of super glue.

Fish this bug on the end of a long leader with an intermediate line, using a slow retrieve.

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

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: editor@gbflycasters.org. All ads must be submitted 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 http://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 http://gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: $30; Family memberships: $35; and youth (under 18): $10. There is also a $12 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, contact Don Whitecar at 916-804-5384, or visit the website at http://gbflycasters.org.

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

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - TinaLyn Sell
916-765-9265  president@gbflycasters.org
Past President - Wendell Edwards
916-989-1442
VP Membership - Eric Palmer
916-987-1359  membership@gbflycasters.org
VP Conservation - Ed Lloyd
949-939-0540  conservation@gbflycasters.org
Secretary - Dave Fujiyama
949-212-8545  secretary@gbflycasters.org
Treasurer - Gordon Tornberg
916-983-2953  treasurer@gbflycasters.org

Directors:
Through June, 2022 - Victor Maiello
916-276-9010
Through June, 2022 - Kim Lloyd
916-425-7680
Through June, 2021 - Drake Johnson
916-791-1039
Through June, 2021 - Ron Davidson
530-320-3598
Through June, 2020 - Dale Spear
530-677-1504
Through June, 2020 - Ron Fay
916-791-2752
Director at Large, 1 year term - Bruce Emard
916-601-9566

Committees:
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Annual Picnic
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Casting Instruction
John Hogg 916-709-7340
Rick Radoff 916-870-9637
Classroom Egg Prog.
Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
Education
Ron Davidson 530-320-3598
Fishmasters
Tony Jelinek - streams
916-751-9249
Doug Kytonen - stillwater
916-772-6654
Fly Tying
Jim Holmes 916-967-6709
Golden Trout Program
David Jones 916-474-4986
Leader Editor
Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
Leader Layout
Vivian Mavorah 916-408-0678
Librarian
Kim Lloyd 916-988-3828
Merchandising
Victor Maiello 916-276-9010
Monthly Programs
Ed Lloyd 916-939-0540
Webmaster
Eric Palmer 916-987-1359
Kent Ripley 916-797-6940
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