Greetings,

Can you believe our February general meeting is on Valentine’s Day! Take your Sweetie to a late lunch; by the way, he/she would be welcome to join us.

Thank you, Dale Spear and Ron Davison and the many volunteers that staffed our booth at the ISE Show. There were lots of interested visitors that stopped by each day.

You are welcome to visit our Board of Directors meeting, February 12, 2019. We meet at 6:30 pm, Folsom Lake Activity Center, the same location as our monthly meeting.

Membership renewals are due! If you have not renewed, please do it now at www.gbflycasters.org. While you are renewing your membership, you can make one click and BUY THOSE ANNUAL DINNER and Raffle tickets. Where else do you get the opportunity to make three transactions with such ease?

Lately, former and current members have reached out to us to ask about donating fly fishing equipment they no longer use. If you have equipment you need to find a home for, call me and we will arrange to pick up your donations. We also welcome raffle donations of new items for the Annual Dinner. GBF is a tax-exempt non-profit organization, and we will be happy to give you a donation receipt.

Fly tying jam with Jim Holmes will be February 12th. It starts at 6:00 pm at the Folsom Lake Activity Center.

Our speaker for February is James Haufler, Auburn Ravine. After doing volunteer work for other organizations concerned with the preservation of wildlife, and coordinating a Citizen Science Program along Auburn Ravine, Jim is now a Board Member and President of Friends of Auburn Ravine, which was formed in 2016.

Fly Fishing 101 will be Feb 28th and March 6th. Signups will be available at this month’s general meeting, or by contacting Jim Holmes at jwholmesjr@aol.com.

Fish out schedule for 2019 is taking shape—check for updates at www.gbflycasters.org.

Doug Kytonen (Stillwater) and Tony Jelinek (Rivers) would like to hear from you regarding fishouts that you think our...
Leader’s Line - Continued from Page 1

members would enjoy. You could have all the fun and lead a fishout on your favorite lake or river. Email for Doug is travelmaster@surewest.net. Tony, can be reached at jelinea@me.com.

It’s a great time of year to fish those valley lakes—many fish plants are taking place.

Need a fishing partner? Post your outing on the message board, you’ll get some volunteers responding.

Monthly Program

Our speaker for February is James Haufler of Friends of Auburn Ravine. After doing volunteer work for other organizations concerned with the preservation of wildlife, and coordinating a Citizen Science Program along Auburn Ravine, Jim is now a Board Member and President of Friends of Auburn Ravine, which was formed in 2016.

The group’s mission is to improve the wildlife habitats of the Auburn Ravine and Raccoon Creek watersheds through a coordinated/collaborative process based on information obtained from scientific studies and reliable documented observations.

His presentation will describe the group’s plans for replacing or modifying diversion dams in the watershed to improve fish passage, and implement a salmon counting program.

James Haufler fishing in Auburn Ravine
Annual Dinner Update

With the holidays behind us, it’s time to think about celebrating our club’s 32nd anniversary with a BIG PARTY!!! We call it our Annual Dinner event, and everyone’s invited to come and help the club ring in a new year—and rack up some great raffle prizes, auction items, and more! Here’s the lowdown on all the highjinks...

● **Who:** Club members, friends, families, co-workers, neighbors...anyone who’s interested in having a great time, winning great prizes, and supporting a great cause.

● **What:** Fantastic dinner, massive raffle, outstanding auction, plus...the chance to break bread and share a nice evening with club members, new friends, and families.

● **When:** Sunday, March 24, 2019. The festivities start by 3:30 PM (bar opens at 4:00; dinner begins at 5:30), and the closing remarks are scheduled to occur by 8:00 PM.

● **Where:** The dinner, raffle & auction will be at the Rocklin Event Center, at 2650 Sunset Boulevard in Rocklin. It’s easy to find, and there’s plenty of free parking!

Continued on Page 4
February 2019

Annual Dinner Update - Continued from page 3

• **Why:** Because you want to show support for your club at its biggest annual event—and possibly win thousands of dollars in fishing gear, trips, and other great prizes.

• **How:** Buy your dinner tickets at the next club meeting, or just visit our website (www.gbflycasters.org) to buy tickets securely online. Tickets are just $40 each!

Lastly... If you can’t attend the dinner, please consider making a donation for the raffle or auction. If you can help, just contact David Jones at djj6451@yahoo.com.

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Flyfishing 101

Announcing the Granite Bay Flycaster’s informational class on beginning fly fishing. Flyfishing 101 will be held Feb 28th, and finishing on March 6th at the Granite Bay Flycaster’s clubhouse. We will start at about 6:30, and go no later than 9:00 each night. There is a lot of material to cover!

Some of the subjects to be covered are:

• Equipment (Rods, reels, nets, lines, etc.)
• Potential target species of fish
• Flies/Fly tying
• Leaders/knots
• More equipment (waders, wading shoes, wading sticks, clothes, etc.)
• Types of fishing including wading, stillwater, warm water, ocean
• Entomology
• Conservation
• Still more equipment for still water
• Club stuff
• And much, much more!

Your main instructors will be **John Peterson** and **Jim Holmes**, both experienced fishermen. There may be a small fee to cover the cost of materials. Any extra money above costs goes to the club. You need to be a club member to participate in this excellent class. You can sign up with an email to: jwholmesjr@aol.com, or at the next meeting. If you have already signed up, don’t do it again.

If you have any questions, shoot me a message at the above address. We are looking to see you there!!!
Flyfishing Backcountry Sierra Streams

by Royal B. Pocketwater

Part VIII

(originally published in The Leader, April 1992)

[We left Royal and ATC last time on the trail out of the backcountry, after the “sucker” exploded, and in the midst of reminiscing over the humorous manner in which “Ice Box Hole” had gotten its name the previous year. Now we rejoin them as they continue their hike back to the truck.]

As they emerged from the canopied part of the trail into the waning, filtered fall sunlight, ATC said, “Royal, did you ever figure out why the water in Ice Box Hole was so cold? I checked it again today, and it was right at forty-eight degrees again.”

“Well, my curiosity did get the best of me,” replied Royal, “so I went back a few weeks later with Judith, while you were lollygagging around in your float tube on Quake Lake. It was hot, so we took a swim in Ice Box Hole—after getting skunked, of course. I swam across and against the far wall to see what the bottom looks like there, and why that big eddy and scum line form where they do. It turns out there’s a huge rock slab on edge there, and it acts as a current break to form a backwater. So, I floated down below to see where the current carried me. When I got to the big fissure in the wall, it felt like I was hit with an arctic blast. ATC, there’s a huge spring that shoots out of that fissure; that spring water must be really cold to take the pool temperature down like that.”

“I’ll be,” said ATC. “Well, that accounts for that weird current shift at that point. That cold water must attract Old Hookjaw.”

“I think so,” replied Royal. “There’s a deep slot and a boulder behind it right at the foot of the fissure, and I’ll bet that’s where he hangs out during the day. Boy, I’d sure like to be at the Hole some evening when he ventures out into the tail of the pool to feed.”

“The trick, then, is to hit that slot with the fly and keep it there, right?” asked ATC.

“I’d put my money on it,” said Royal excitedly. “That’s why I wanted you to place the fly closer to the wall, and I guess my hunch was right—except that it was the wrong species, at least today, anyway,” he said glancing sideways at ATC to see how he took this final needling about the slimy sucker.

Refusing to rise to the fly, ATC ignored this last comment. “Is that why you put me in the Hole first today?” he asked, curious now as to why Royal hadn’t given him the tidbit about discovering the spring earlier.

Continued on Page 6
Flyfishing Backcountry Sierra Streams - Continued from page 5

“I suppose,” replied Royal. “I did want to test my theory, and I wanted to see the take from above, if possible. I did see the flash, all right, just as you lifted your rod, and as deep as it was, it did look troutish—at least until I saw the goldish color (snicker, snicker).”

“Where did the fish that pulled you in for your little dip take the fly?” asked ATC. “Right where I thought he would—directly in front of the big crack,” answered Royal.

“I guess we know now where Old Hookjaw hangs out,” said ATC confidently.

“Maybe,” countered Royal. “Remember, we haven’t landed anything in that hole yet except a huge sucker. I certainly didn’t get a look at my fish.”

“So I noticed,” said ATC with a grin. “You know, that big spring also accounts for what has always seemed to me to be a heavier current downstream of Ice Box Hole.”

“Yes,” Royal countered. “And, the fish population seems to increase down there too.”

“Right,” said ATC. “Bigger in size also. By the way, what will you pay me for these priceless shots I’ve got here in the ol’ 35 mm? I wonder if any of the more popular magazines would be interested.”

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.

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Sunday, March 24th, 2019 • No-host bar opens @ 4:00pm

Granite Bay Flycasters is one of the most active fly-fishing clubs in the West. This event supports our ongoing conservation and education programs - and is a great way to meet new fly-fishermen and women in the Sacramento area. Please join us for an evening of great food, friendship, fishing gear, and FUN!

Catered dinner begins: 5:30pm
For tickets (just $40/ea.) and all the event details, please visit our official website: www.gbflycasters.org.

DINNER LOCATION:
Rocklin Event Center
2650 Sunset Boulevard
Rocklin, California
Ph# 916-625-5200

10% of net proceeds benefit Casting for Recovery of Northern California
GBF Education Corner: Meet our Instructors

by Ron Davidson

Casting Clinics with John Hogg

WHETHER YOU ARE a seasoned veteran looking to tune up a stroke that took on a little rust over the winter, or a beginner anxious to learn the art of casting for the first time, we at GBF are very lucky to count, as our fellow members, a team of excellent casting teachers headed up by John Hogg.

John, a Certified Casting instructor through FlyFishing International, has an easy manner and clear demonstration techniques that create a relaxed environment where anyone can feel comfortable. And guaranteed...you will see immediate dividends!

Look for clinic announcements in The Leader as well as invitations and sign-ups at our General Meetings. As mentioned earlier, the Clinic series offers something for everyone, including Fundamentals of Flycasting, Intermediate and Advanced Techniques, Spey (double handed) Casting, a Multi-session Ladies Clinic, as well as more informal "tune-up" sessions. Catch up with John and/or some of our other instructors at a meeting, and find out a little more about this great aspect of our club. Also, you can learn all about Tenkara casting techniques, and short line nymphing, which are presented through some of our fishouts. More info later!...

Conservation Corner

by Dave Fujiyama, VP Conservation

Magic in the Ravine

Isn’t it amazing—maybe even a bit magical—that salmon and steelhead make their way up our neighborhood streams for spawning? Isn’t this supposed to happen in the wilderness? Finding out that steelhead and salmon still spawn in the Auburn Ravine watershed boggles my mind, since these tiny streams run along highways and through greenbelts in our cities. It just doesn’t jive with our notion of salmon spawning, right?

A presentation from Gregg Bates from the Dry Creek Conservancy on Monday, January 14th, at the Conservation Committee meeting taught us quite a bit about our very local runs of fish. Seventeen GBF members enjoyed pizza and salad while learning that Dry Creek sees far fewer steelhead than do colder creeks like Auburn Ravine. We learned that unlike anadromous waterways found in colder areas, the Auburn Ravine watershed warms up so quickly that the fry that hatched in December
have to successfully migrate to the ocean by April, or they will not survive the summer heat. Our little guys don’t get a year or two in mountain streams before their big ocean-bound journey. Imagine finding yourself as a two-inch long salmonid in San Francisco Bay! And Nemo thought he had it tough!

Gregg made it clear that while he and his crew do collect and process data from fish counts, he does not consider his work to be scientific in its focus. Instead, he said that he wants to provide evidence that those anadromous fish are really out there, responding to the messages encoded on their DNA, as they have for millennia.

Magic, right?

The Dry Creek Conservancy needs volunteers next year to help with these fish counts, but Gregg told us that the window for the spawning runs have become shorter and shorter. This means that he cannot give us much lead-time to announce a date for a fish count. So, how do we help? Stay connected to Granite Bay Flycasters by checking out the calendar for last-minute announcements about fish count work parties. Sign up for Conservation meetings by checking out the clipboards at the front desks during meetings. Email Dave Fujiyama davefujiyama@gmail.com and let him know you want to be on the notification list. When Gregg tells Dave that he’s expecting a run of spawning fish to count, he will give you a heads-up email so you can clear your calendar!

Let’s get out there and witness the magic together!

Short-Line Nymphing Technique

by Bill Carnazzo

(From Bill’s blog, ca. 2011)
Submitted by Eric Palmer

The cast and the drift

Experience has taught me that the first cast to a fishy looking spot can be the most productive cast, dictating a cautious, thoughtful approach; a cast that is executed properly and accurately; a tight drift; and focus on the in-line indicator for any telltale aberrant movement. Too often I have observed fly fishers cast quickly into a nice pocket before properly adjusting weight and line length—in other words, using the first cast as a “test” or “adjustment” cast. This is, to be blunt, a serious error, irrespective of whether the angler is nymphing or drifting a dry fly. Make that first cast count!

Casting the tight line rig is not a pretty sight—it’s actually more of a lob than a cast. Let’s begin with the “how” of the cast. The cast begins with approximately 2 feet of the fly line outside of the top guide, with the rig positioned downstream. The rod is raised to nearly vertical and held there momentarily to allow for rod loading and aiming the cast; in other words, the cast is not one fluid motion. The rod is then snapped forward with the tip pointing at the desired drop spot for the flies. There should naturally be no slack in the line at this point, as the line and leader are stretched out by virtue of the cast; from here it is up to the angler to establish and maintain line control in order to keep the drift slack-free.

Continued on Page 10
Short-Line Nymphing Technique - Continued from page 9

Next, let’s look at the “where” of the cast, meaning the direction which the rig is cast, because correct fly placement is critical to an effective drift. With the tight line method, the flies should land at a 45-degree angle upstream of the angler. There are, to be sure, situations where a likely looking pocket across the stream can only be reached with a perpendicular cast because stream depth or strong current prevent safe wading to an ideal casting position. But these occasions are the exception rather than the rule, and most casts should be made upstream.

Now, let’s consider the drift. As soon as the flies hit the water, the reel is immediately lifted and the rod tip is kept down; the rod itself remains horizontal for the drift. If the tip is lifted, only one thing can happen since the line is tight: the flies will be pulled up from the bottom and away from the fish. For the tight line method to be effective, the flies must drift at or near the bottom. Remember: the drift begins with the splash of the flies; don’t pause downstream rod movement on the assumption that the flies need to sink, because they will sink immediately. Don’t be concerned that the noise generated by the splash of the flies will put the fish down; there is plenty of ambient noise in pocket water already.

With the rod horizontal, the rod tip leads the flies downstream, keeping line, leader and indicator taut without pulling the flies unnaturally. The flies should never be allowed to drift under the rod, as this results in loss of line control (i.e., slack) and therefore loss of communication with the flies. The leader should enter the water at and remain at a 45-degree angle upstream from the rod tip to the water surface during the drift.

Careful attention to drift speed is essential during the drift. If the leader or indicator is moving at the same speed as the top water, judging by bubbles or floating debris, the subsurface flies will “drag” or move too fast, since in general the current at the bottom is slower than on top due to the effects of friction. The remedy for this is additional weight which, besides getting the flies down, also functions to slow the entire rig down to proper drift speed. With experience, this situation will become easy to spot and remedy with the right amount of additional weight.

Once the line, leader and flies have drifted to a point directly downstream of the angler, the next cast can be commenced. Once the entire pocket has been thoroughly covered by successive casts, adjacent areas can be covered in the same manner without changing position, by adding another foot of line outside the top guide.

Continued on Page 11

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With experience the angler should be able to cover even more water from the same point by casting with 4 or 5 feet outside the top guide, while still maintaining the constant line control that is critical to success with the tight line system. In general, as the cast is lengthened, additional weight must be incrementally added to the system in order to maintain good line control.

**Take recognition and hook-setting technique**

Success with the short line technique requires skill in both take recognition and proper hook-set technique, as the trout are lightning quick and seldom take the flies with gusto; indeed, most takes are subtle and not particularly easy to spot irrespective of what type of rig and indicator are used. My experience has been that where the take is sharp and the leader jumps, the fish is generally small; where the take is subtle and the leader/indicator barely pauses or just slows down when it shouldn’t, there is a good chance that it is a large fish. But that’s just a rule of thumb, and sometimes there just are no rules.

Avoiding the “vertical” hook-set technique when nymph-fishing for trout will greatly reduce fly fisher stress and, with enough practice, will increase hook ups. When the rig leaves the water because of a vertical rod lift, a lot of unpleasant things can happen: acquiring or giving one’s guide an unwanted ear ring (in which case the guide is liable to become grumpy); getting practice removing massive tangles and knots; learning how to extract the rig from the canopy or berry bushes; or experiencing all of the above at one time.

To eliminate this bothersome fuss, the angler needs to learn to set the hook with a quick horizontal downstream flick of the wrist. The rig remains in the water, allowing completion of the drift if the hook-set motion is not answered by the tug of a fish. Gravity does not bedevil rod movement, and the flies move unhesitatingly and directly. No ear rings, leader snarls or line-snatching trees or berry vines to kink one’s day. Life is good.

But when to set the hook? Simply put: Any time that the indicator twitches, hesitates or moves in an inexplicable direction, just do it. The culprit can be a fish, a rock, a stick, a leaf or...whatever; since the “take and spit” happens so quickly and the price of not setting can be loss of a nice fish, there is simply no time or room for speculation. In other words, as I drill into my clients, don’t second guess, just react. When I hear “It was a rock,” I ask, “Are you certain?” We all know the answer to that question.

Because in-line indicator activity (or just plain leader activity, if an in-line indicator is not used) is often quite subtle, single-pointed focus and concentration are a must. The correlation between distraction and lack of productivity is clear and direct. For most fly fishers, subtle take detection is a skill acquired after long days of “paying dues” on the stream. As a guide, I often find myself patiently describing the client’s many undetected takes when the client expresses the typical frustration experienced by beginning to intermediate nymph fishers. Still, I have found that such gentle prodding is instructive, assists the client in maintaining focus, and produces results.

I’ve been very fortunate to have had the opportunity, over many years, to teach the Ted-Fay\(^1\) style short line nymphaing technique to many anglers. Most stay with it, incorporate it into their arsenal, and become intuitive short-liners; some find it too difficult or frustrating. For me, short of the grab of a winter steelie on a swung fly, there is nothing sweeter than spotting a subtle take on a short-line rig, setting the hook, and feeling the head-shake of a surprised and angry trout.

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\(^1\)Ted Fay learned the method from Dunsmuir Wintu Ted Towendolly in the mid-1940s. This fact was not established at the time of Bill’s article in 2011.
Fly Patterns - Micro-Caddis Fuzzball

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 1140 or similar scud-style straight-eye hook, #20-24
Thread: 8/0 (70 denier) tan
Abdomen: Extra fine tan dubbing such as rabbit
Wing: First tan CDC, then natural deer hair (try to select hair that has color right down to the tips rather than black tips, because the wing is so tiny that the wrong hair will show up as an undesirable black shade)

Description

If you’ve spent a lot of time prowling around trout streams, you’ll have noticed frustratingly tiny caddis adults bouncing about, particularly in the evenings—and I do mean T-I-N-Y, as in size 20 or smaller (down to 24).

Here’s what noted entomologist Rick Haefle has to say about these miniscule beasts: “Adult emergence can begin as early as June for a number of species, but peak activity generally occurs in July and August with many species continuing hatch activity into September. Because of their small size emergence activity goes unnoticed by most anglers. The best place to spot adults is on shoreline vegetation or boulders, where they run and flit with a nervous energy. When adults are observed along the stream and fish seem to be rising to some mysterious, unseen surface food, start thinking micro-caddis patterns.

“The time of day emergence and egg laying activity takes place is not well documented for most species. In general mid-afternoon to evening is the best time to look for them on the water and available to fish. I have found it difficult to tell if fish are taking pupae rising to the surface or adults returning to lay eggs. In such cases I first try a pupa pattern. If that doesn’t work I then put on an adult pattern. The type of water one fishes for pupae or adults is the same; moderate riffles and runs or the slow gentle currents of weedy flats.”

Maybe because I’m contrarian by nature, I tend to fish tiny nymphs and pupae patterns during the hatch. If I don’t catch fish on these, then I’ll switch to an adult pattern. My go-to selection is what I call the “Micro-Caddis Fuzzball.” The name refers to its appearance on the water, at least to those of us who are a bit challenged in the distance vision category. The fly’s design is all about being able to see it—something—out there on the water. I’ll tie them as small as 22, but that’s where I draw the line (mainly because my tired eyes have a hard time focusing on anything smaller), using short shank scud-type light wire hooks because they have an increased gape for hooking purposes. Obviously one doesn’t get much material on a hook of that size—but that’s a good thing, because when tying small the tyer must think “sparse, sparse, sparse.” In the “tips” section below I’ll provide some suggestions for improving your small-fly tying prowess. For now, let’s tackle a fuzzball, using a size 20 hook.

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. Debarb the hook, and cover the shank down to mid-bend with a single layer of thread. This is important in order to achieve a nice smooth tapered abdomen. Ugly underbody, ugly body—that’s the watchword.

2. Dub a sparse, tapered abdomen, leaving the front third of the hook open.

3. Lay two CDC feathers on the tying bench and place one over the top of the other, taking care that their curvature matches. Cut the hearts out of the two feathers and bunch up the tips.

4. At the front of the abdomen, tie in the bunched up CDC tips as an under-wing. The under-wing’s length should not extend beyond the bend of the hook.

5. Cut and thoroughly clean a small bunch of deer hair, and place the hair into a hair stacker to even up the tips. Measure the hair to the length of the under-wing and clip the butts, leaving a 1/16” butt remaining.

6. Tie in the deer hair wing just ahead of the CDC under-wing; don’t crowd the head as it will make finishing the fly very difficult. Be sure that the hair stays directly on top of the hook.

7. Once the deer hair wing is secure, push the butts upward and to the rear; this will create a nice head profile. Whip finish directly in front of the butts, and carefully place a tiny drop of super glue on the bottom of the head.

**Tying & Fishing Tips**

1. It is much easier to de-barb the hook at the vise than on the stream. If you drop the tiny hook at the bench you have a fighting chance to find it; not so if you drop your fly while on the stream either when you are trying to extract it from the fly box or while tying it on.

2. When dubbing the Fuzzball, use the tiniest pinch of dubbing that you can pull out. A good rule of thumb is to tease out a tiny amount and then cut it in half.

3. After using super glue to finish the fly, use a piece of fine copper wire to ream out the eye. It will be hard enough to tie a Fuzzball to your leader, but you’ll become totally frustrated if you discover the tiny eye clogged as you try to poke the leader into the eye.

Accept my challenge to tie a tiny critter; be patient and tie at least a half dozen and you’ll begin to get the hang of tying small.

*Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!
Granite Bay Flycasters
8757 Auburn Folsom Road, #2842
Granite Bay, CA 95746-9998

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 GBF Leader in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month.

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916-989-1442 president@gbflycasters.org
VP Membership - Eric Palmer
916-987-1359 membership@gbflycasters.org
VP Conservation - Dave Fujiyama
949-212-1337 conservation@gbflycasters.org
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916-983-2953 treasurer@gbflycasters.org

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