

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

May 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Life as we know it is starting to change. Not only has spring arrived, but so has the fishing season. Flowers are blooming and the fish are jumping. More and more fishouts are being placed on the calendar, be sure to get signed up and mark your calendars.

Life as we have known it for the past year seems to be making a change as well. Some have faced struggles we never dreamed of, but it is important to stay strong and push on. Keep yourself and family safe while the world starts opening back up.

Keep an eye out for email blasts regarding upcoming club information on elections, meetings, and functions.

Get outside and enjoy the wonders Mother Nature has been producing over the last few months...

Upper Sacramento River Spring Fishout May 13 - 16, 2021

by Tony Jelinek, Fishout Leader

The 9th Annual Upper Sacramento Spring Fishout will be taking place Thursday, May 13th to Sunday, May 16th.

The gathering place for the fishout will be Soda Creek Farm. Unfortunately, houses available to rent with adequate room to accommodate our group for sleeping have dwindled in the area. But, Soda Creek Farm offers a great place for all to congregate to recharge during the day, tell tales of the day, tie-up leaders, to eat a meal, or just hang out. It also offers a great place to start off the day, as it is very close to the Soda Creek portion of the river. Many camping and motel options exist in the Dunsmuir area. Many in the group stay at the Dunsmuir Lodge.

Thursday evening, we will have the traditional kick-off barbecue at Soda Creek Farm for a minimal charge per person (\$5 - \$8). Several lunch, breakfast, and dinner spots are in the area for your other meals.

The Upper Sacramento River abounds with great pocket water. This time of year has long days, great for nymphing during the day, with a good chance of some good dry fly fishing with caddis and stonefly patterns in the evening. This is a great fish-out for anglers of all capabilities. If you are new to the river and/or new to fly fishing,

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M A Y 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM	12.	13. Monthly Meeting via ZOOM	14. Fuller Lake Fishout Upper Sac Fishout May 13 - 16	15. Little Truckee Fishout
16. Upper Sac Fishout May 13 - 16	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam via ZOOM	19.	20. Sly Park Fishout	21.	22.
23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.
30.	31.					

Upper Sacramento Spring Fishout - Continued from page 1

you will be paired with a fellow angler familiar with the Upper Sacramento River. The fly fishing method of choice is short-line nymphing (aka high-sticking, Czech nymphing, and Euro nymphing), an easy method to learn. If you are unfamiliar with the method, you will be shown how to short-line nymph, as well as be provided with the necessary leader, and also be shown how to set-up the rig. Come up for all four days or just overnight to enjoy the great fishing for rainbow trout on the 35 miles of fishable water from just north of Lake Shasta to Lake Siskiyou!

For more information, please go to the posting [here](#) on the Granite Bay Flycasters' website, and/or get in touch with me. As we get closer to the event, registrants will receive additional information on flies, the kick-off dinner, fishing spots, and the agenda.

Fuller Lake Fishout, May 14th

by Jim Degnan, Fishout Leader

Fuller Lake Description and Fishing Methods

Fuller Lake is a favorite of many members of the Granite Bay Flycasters. It is a beautiful small lake, very accessible—great chance for beginning flyfishers or those who want a break from cruising larger lakes like Davis and Frenchman. We will try to pair the people new to the lake, or to flyfishing, with more experienced flyfishers. While there are times when the lake is easy to fish, especially after a plant, there are also times when even experienced flyfishers have to use the best of their technical skills—bring out all the guns—and still come away empty-netted. Typical stillwater.

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Fuller Lake Fishout - Continued from page 2

Fuller lake is small, about 75 acres, nestled above Spaulding Lake at about 5,300 ft. It is the forebay for the Rim Power House on Spaulding. The lake is fed by a canal coming from the bottom of Bowman Lake, and is very cold (48-55 degrees F.) for most of the summer. In some ways, it fishes like a spring creek, especially at the upper end. The lake level doesn't fluctuate much unless they are working on the dam, or they shut the water off from Bowman for one reason or another. Because the lake sits what is probably a remnant of a cirque, it is quite sheltered from wind. So, sheltered and at 5,300 ft., this makes Fuller an ideal lake to go to in the heat of the summer, or when other lakes are blown out.

The road to Fuller is paved all the way, just watch out for the potholes on A18, the last leg of the trip. The lake has boat ramps; the north is best because there is also a day-use site and there is more room. It is very easy for float tubers to enter the lake here, not crowded with bait fishermen, and a concrete ramp easing out into deeper water. No mud or moss.

The lake contains rainbow trout and brown trout. There are many wild browns up to 18" – 20", but they are hard to come by. The rainbows are either planters or holdovers from previous plants. The following comments are a summary of a poll of frequent and expert flycasters without revealing all their secrets—gives the rest of us something to work on.

Those most familiar with Fuller, start your passes with an intermediate line (~2"/sec) and count down deeper and deeper, varying the strip at each pass until they hit the bottom. This slow descent with varied striping allows them to probe the various zones until they find the one with willing fish. One lazy individual has fixed a simple kitchen count down timer to his boat, because he gets to looking around at all the trees and birds and mountains and forgets to count down. Flip the line and trip the timer.

If the lake has been planted, the beginner can experience a grand time with planters. The tug is the drug! Planters vary by the year, some as small as 8", and some in the 14"-to-16" range. These can be taken fairly near the surface with a floating line or intermediate. A very fast strip with short pauses works as a start.

A search of the DFW planting web site doesn't show any particular pattern of planting. Also, a discussion with the manager of the Nimbus trout hatchery revealed that they plant both "sub-catchable" as well as "fingerling" trout, and don't put that up on the site. Locals say that they also don't always put the plant on their website, the truck just shows up. The plant schedule for our time frame will be put up on the Message Board as soon as it is available.

If you are tired of planters and want to go for browns, the consensus is with sinking lines. A full sink type III (~6"/sec) is preferred, but 10' sink tips also work, you just have to be more careful not to kick too fast or the floating portion of the line will pull the tip up. You need to go deep and slow. You can use your intermediate, but it takes a long time to get deep. You can also add a Versa-leader or a chunk of T, whatever-you-have, to your floating line and turn it into a sink tip. Talk to other flycasters about what they use.

Like any other lake, there are spots where the fish congregate. A fish-finder is almost a must for any lake, otherwise you have to watch where the flycasters are cruising and follow them. Cruise the north end of the lake, from the boat ramp out, somewhat north and follow the sandbar that's been created by the inflow from the canal. Follow that to the east side of the lake, and look for fish along the drop-off where the inflow comes in. Follow that to about half way down the lake. Some tubers then just start kicking back and forth across the lake or, in some cases, right up the middle. You can head for the dam if you wish, but need to keep clear of the gear and bait fishermen. It also gets deep there.

There are a variety of flies that work on Fuller. You just have to keep working the zones and changing flies after a few passes through a given zone, or where your fish-finder is showing fish. The flies are listed in the fishout template, and there are many more, depending on the time of the year and the flyfisher. Favorites are Fuller Lake Special (which looks a lot like a Ricards fly), various Ricard's patterns, Sheep Creek, snail patterns, baetis nymphs. In the spring, cruise the edges of the lake in the shallows for ants. You will see fish rising to them and frequently they are sizable browns. A real treat if you nail one.

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Fuller Lake Fishout - Continued from page 3

While fish are rising on the lake, the rises are most likely small fish. Chase them if you must, but don't expect much. Most evenings don't offer a time for dry fly fishing, though the action does increase late in the day. There doesn't seem to be a big hatch like there is on Davis, Frenchman or Almanor, so the chances of hooking up with a dry fly or emerger are small unless you are there after a big plant. Normally, the fish are spooky and at least 3' deep, to avoid the eagles and the ospreys. You should be on the lookout for these birds, as they may want the fish you just hooked and are bringing in. A couple of members have great stories to tell about eagles and ospreys. (**Scott V. Vaughn**)

Fuller is a great lake for everyone, from beginner to experienced. The more you fish it, the more you will enjoy it, and on those frustrating skunk days you will forgive it because it is so beautiful and accessible.

More details about the fishout are located [here](#) on the club's website, or contact me at jd293@comcast.net with questions or to sign up to attend.

Comments From the Experts:

Eric Palmer: Jim, I said I'd give you what I do on Fuller, for good or ill, here it is:

1. **Line:** floating or Rio intermediate, about 50:50 based on what the tea leaves or goat entrails show that day. I get my goats from Michael's ranch. I have a unique sinking rig I tried with good success on Fuller last season with a floating line, then 6ft 20lb Maxima, then 7ft of 4ips Cortland sinking tip. The 6ft of mono cuts down at a sharp angle (as I envision it), getting the tip down faster and more horizontal; then a slow kick, no retrieve but 3-4in pull/release motions. There's a honey hole on the far side, and I got a grab every time I passed over it with this. I started with 10ft on the mono butt section, but it's a bear to cast, so I shortened it in stages, and found 6ft manageable.

2. **Leader:** I tie my own, typically no more than 2-3 knots. 10-15lb butt, mono or fluoro tapered to 8lb, then 4x **fluoro for both**. Length is generally 9-11ft. I started out copying what Scott Vaughn does here: <https://gbflycasters.org/tech-talk/>. I don't think it really matters. I just don't use the \$5 tapered fly shop leaders, except for dries, then 4x with 2-3ft of 5x tippet added. But, the \$5 tapered leaders would work fine for sinking flies too, plus the lighter weight in your wallet might let kick your tube a bit faster. I typically use 100% bulk material down to the fly, except for dries. Dries get standard tippet.

3. **Flies:** nearly anything from **Denny Rickards**, but his **Stillwater Pupae** was hot last winter, especially in the hands of **Wendell**. Marabou wiggle tails in black/olive, peacock dubbing for thorax. Some do not weight, I do a bit, Jay Fair does a lot. (his wiggle tails). Go here for Rickards flies: <https://www.flyfishingstillwaters.com/flys.asp>

4. **Retrieve:** this can vary day-to-day, person-to-person. Typically, slow to very slow. to very, very slow, ZZzzzz (shloop...sliding out of tube). What worked for me well last winter/spring was no retrieve, just a slow kick with 4-5in pull/release cycles with little twitches to get the flies hackle or other parts moving.

On Jan 20, 2019, at 1:41 PM, **Robert Macy** <madness_flyfisher@yahoo.com> wrote:

I use airflo's slow intermediate (1/2"/sec) for 80% of my stillwater fishing, which keeps me in the top 5'. If I am aiming for 5-10', I use my airflo fast intermediate (1 1/2"/sec). If I see fish deeper on my fish finder, then I take the depth and round it back to the nearest number divisible by 5, and divide it by 5, which gives me the line I'm going to use. *Example:* fish seen at 22-24', divide 20 by 5 means I will use a type 4 line, and count down until I start touching fish.

I only use bought tapered leaders on floating, slow intermediate or sink tip lies. I use a leader ring on the slow intermediate and sink tip to preserve length.

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Fuller Lake Fishout - Continued from page 4

For lines deeper than the slow intermediate, I use straight fluorocarbon spinning line, Vanish, usually 6 or 8#. I use the same for tippet on the slow intermediate and sink tips. *Flies*: if it isn't a bugger or at a stable lake, an identifiable food source to imitate, then it seems to depend on my whim of the day, since there is so little identifiable food source in reservoirs that get drawn down.

Eric Palmer commenting on other experts:

"Intermediate is the Rio Camolux. Wendell swears by his Rickards Cortland hover/inter tip, an integrated floating/intermediate line. 'Different strokes' and they all work. Michael has had great success with full sinking type 3 and 4."

Sly Park/Jenkinson Lake Fishout, May 20th

by Doug Kytonen, Fishout Leader

Sly Park Fishout, this year, will be on **Thursday, May 20th**. I am not sure on the crowds at the lake for this time of the year, but I hope it is light. This trip is targeting smallmouth bass, but Rainbow, German Brown, mackinaw, largemouth and bluegill can all be caught in Jenkinson Lake. The Department of Fish and Wildlife maintain the fish planting program of trout in Jenkinson Lake. From the Narrows of the lake back to Hazel Creek, including the Chimneys, there is a 5-mph speed limit, so it is quite safe and no worries about skiers and fast boats. The area we will be fishing is about 3 miles from the entrance at the area called the "**Chimneys**." Here are a couple of pictures from the message board **Gene Goss** took last year. Big Thanks to Gene.



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Sly Park/Jenkinson Lake Fishout - Continued from page 5



If you're interested in going after some nice fighting fish, smallmouth bass is the ticket. A 5-8 wt. rod will be the way to go, with a floating or intermediate line working fine—flies would be an assortment of wiggle tails, wooly buggers or maybe a crawfish or small bait fish pattern will work.

There is a boat ramp at the cove prior to the chimneys called Stonebreaker launch and campground. Day use entrance fee is \$14.00/\$10.00, with senior discount; boat launch is \$10.00/\$9.00, senior and disable discount. I will have the sign-up sheet via email to me, or give me a call. I'll be glad to answer any questions. Check out the website for more detailed info. Travelmaster@surewest.net, or 916-772-6564.

Manzanita Lake Fishout, June 8 - 13th

by Michael Kaul, Fishmaster

Hey There Granite Bay Flycasters,

How about a fishout at Manzanita Lake in Lassen National Park? Sandy and I are leading this fishout June 8-13 (virus and weather permitting, we shall see). You are welcome to come any or all days. Several of us are staying at the Manzanita Lake campground and have reserved 10 sites (shareable with tenters) all in the "A" loop. We are in A-20. Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov, and there are generally plenty of first-come sites. There are also rustic cabins located between the campground and the lake that have walls and roof, a heater, a table and chairs (except Bunkhouse), bunks with mattress, and a lantern available at recreation.gov (or Lassenlodging.com). The campground has laundry, showers and a store. Others have booked stays at motels close by.

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Manzanita Lake Fishout - Continued from page 6

If the experience of last year is any measure, the fishing should be wonderful. Michael does brag about his late evening catch on a Matuka of a beautiful hard fighting bat years ago, but he failed to get a picture, so.... The lake has a beautiful view of Mt. Lassen, and there are several other options for fishing close by, including still and moving water. For non-fishers, there is also an abundance of hiking, site seeing and bike riding. At Manzanita the fishing is primarily float tube (we will bring extra equipment and instruction on use and guidance will be available), and ranges from dries to subsurface. with nice well-fed native rainbows and browns to take your offerings.

Callibaetis, mayflies, caddis, damsel, dragons, scuds, leeches and ants are a few of the foods in the lake. You can fish subsurface flies with a floating line, but an intermediate sink line is often a good choice. The fish can be fairly large and healthy, so a 4-5x tippet should be good, but at times tippet as light as 7x for dries might be needed (and a box full of flies).

The lake is at 5,890' elevation, so it could be cold. Mapquest tells me it is a 3 hr 40 min drive. Sandy and myself are planning to treat everyone to a chili/corn bread/salad dinner at the campground on either Friday or Saturday evening (menu subject to change). Hope to see you there! There are articles on fishing Manzanita in the *California Fly Fisher*; Dec '18 and June '14.

You can sign up by email at mikedkaul@gmail.com, or by calling me at (530-677-8022).



California Fishing Regulations and Review Process

by Chris Leonard

If you think the 2020 United States presidential election was controversial, you haven't seen anything yet. Let's talk about the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulation changes that were put into place effective March 1, 2021.

At the start of 2019, California DFW announced that they were going to completely overhaul the statewide fishing regulations by proposing an "inland trout regulation simplification process." Why? According to state employees, the regulations in place at the time were generally scattered everywhere, thus confusing too many anglers. Confusing to anglers who don't read the regs, I suppose. I always understood them. Immediately, anglers from various backgrounds raised an eyebrow and took an interest and stances on the fisheries in question.

DFW employees told attendees of the first public meeting held in Bishop, California in March 2019 that there was no fish count surveys or data being used to make the decisions. At that first meeting in Bishop, DFW fisheries biologist, Roger Bloom, stated that there are over 500 fisheries being questioned, with an almost equal number of regulations to match them. Their team felt that it was time to tidy up the annually issued fishing reg booklets. Today, those regs are mostly online.

DFW held a total of six public meetings in March and April 2019 soliciting public input. Hot Creek alone generated over 4,000 responses to the proposal to allow spin anglers access to Hot Creek with lures. Those responses left a mark with DFW. They left it alone. That, to me, is a victory. Sometimes the best approach is, if it's not broken, don't fix it. Not changing Hot Creek is a win.

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California Fishing Regulations - Continued from page 7

So how about the countless other fisheries in the Eastern Sierra? A lot of the fisheries came out with newly imposed reg changes. Some of the most profound include: not allowing fishing on the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1; closing tributaries of Crowley and Silver Lake during certain spawn seasons; eliminating a barbless-only season on Crowley; opening up some high country fisheries that were otherwise closed; and closing the East Walker River during the winter months when it is flowing at a minimal trickle of water.

What I believe, and you need not agree with me, is that the Department of Fish and Wildlife really got a lot of the changes correct. First and foremost, I commend them for better protecting some of the Eastern Sierra's spawning fish. I think that is a critical component of improving the general health of some of the region's major fisheries. They left some spawning periods open to angling. For example, the Upper Owens with its famous spawning "snowbows" is still intact as a year-round fishery, but the cutts that move up from the lake are now more protected in tributaries like McGee Creek. I don't know why they decided to protect the cutthroat but left the spawning rainbows exposed. But, the cutts got a good deal. The closure of the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1st is a very interesting proposal. Given that these lakes see snow usually around October, it's going to be a short season for those golden trout habitat lakes. Crowley was generally left alone. Fly and spin anglers alike are wondering why the barbless-only season was changed. It's legal to fish barbs on Crowley from August 1st to closing.

The change in the Eastern Sierra that is bringing the greatest amount of attention and conversation is the East Walker River. The East Walker River was closed to fishing during the winter before it was opened up to year-round fishing, along with the Upper Owens and Hot Creek, about 15 years ago. A few anglers enjoy bearing the sub-freezing conditions, and fishing for East Walker fish holed up in some of the few buckets and deeper pools found in the river, but most people wait till spring, summer, and fall to fish those fish. The split in opinion is about 50-50 regarding closing the East Walker in winter.

What's my opinion of the East Walker? I think those fish should be given a rest in the winter. Those fish have a hard enough time competing with each other for livable space. I also think it should be closed in August

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"They have the largest selection of fly tying materials in California!" - Andy Burk

California Fishing Regulations - Continued from page 8

when temps are skyrocketing and that water is oxygen starved, but that opinion of mine fell on deaf ears.

The changes, I think we can all agree, would have made a lot more sense if DFW used fish count science and census data to consider the fisheries.

Guess what? You still have to read the regs to know the regs. That didn't change.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishing Regulations effective March 1, 2021 can be found [here](#) on their website.

Note: Chris Leonard is a guide for Kittredge Sports, Mammoth Lakes.

Watch That First Step, It Could Be a Doozie.

by Tony Jelinek

Many of us will do anything to catch that next fish—reach out a little farther with our rod, wade into a little deeper water, bushwhack through the woods to get to the perfect riverbank, or no matter what just hold onto the rod.

Many of us have also incurred the dangers of seeking that next fish—slipping on that last step out into the river, falling overboard into the water, or tripping on that hidden branch in the bush and suffering the consequences of an unanticipated dunking—flooded waders, wet clothes, and a dampened ego. Most of us who have encountered these mishaps have been dealing with rocky terrain, forceful river flows, or a surging sea, but one of us with the flair for the dramatic, accomplished such a feat on a mild calm water day on Pyramid Lake.

If you have fished Pyramid Lake, you are familiar with the unique use of ladders to get one out of the water, and constant waves that come with the never-ending changing wind. The ladder is your refuge, a safe place to stand and calmly cast for the the hard-fighting, large, and once you catch one, get-in-your-blood Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Our illustrious member, **David Jones**, former Board Member, former Head of the Golden Trout Program, and former Head of our Annual Dinner, was enjoying himself fishing on the shores of Pyramid Lake—nymphing from his ladder. Unlike the usually crazy windy day, this day was calm, no waves, the water was like glass. I was fishing down the beach from David about 50 yards. Above David, by about 10 yards, was his fishing buddy and fellow club member, **Chuck Swearer**, and 10 yards to the south was a local, **Jess**.

As I was casually stripping in my streamer, I happened to look up the beach and noticed an empty ladder and what appeared to be the very rare Paiute Turtle on its back furiously pushing with its hind legs to try to push itself up the beach. After my eyes focused, I realized that this was no turtle but our own David Jones on his back in about two feet of water, holding with tip in the air, his bent over rod with obviously a large fish on the end of his fly line. He was pushing with his feet to try to keep the fish from pulling him out further into

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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.

Watch that final step. - Continued from page 9



the drink. As Chuck rushed over to help, thoughtfully asking if he should grab him or the rod, David replied that he wanted Chuck to grab him, there was no way he was giving up this fish. Chuck, chagrined, dutifully grabbed David, while Jess made his way over with net in hand. Jess helped David to his feet. David successfully fought the fish and brought it to Jess's awaiting net.

As David soggly made his way up the beach, I was quizzing him on what could have possibly happened for him to end up in the drink on his back. I was thinking that maybe in setting the hook, he pulled so hard that he lost his balance. No, of course, it was just a simple mistake—the first step to get down off the ladder.

Fortunately, David was fine, he caught the fish, and although his ego was a little dampened, he was a good sport about the whole ordeal. He was able to laugh about the event and got out to fish another day.

For his dedication to the sport, for his unique fishing skills, and for his hard-to-believe ability to get totally wet while fishing from a ladder, I nominate David Jones for the 2021 Wet Fly Award. For all of our other members, please remember to watch that first step. It could be a doozie.

Is My Old Mono Any Good?

by B. Normann

Dear Buster,

I usually replace my spools of tippet material every year or two.

Is the 1- or 2-year-old mono tippet material that I recycle still any good?

Is there a way I can test it myself?

Signed,
Frugal Fly Fisherman

Dear Frugal,

Many folks replace their nylon and fluorocarbon tippet material every year or two because it's relatively inexpensive, and "it's better to be safe than sorry." Since the tippet is the weakest link in many fly-fishing setups, if it goes bad, your weakest link just got weaker. But, if monofilament is supposed to take 600 to 4,000 years to decompose, how bad can it get in just 1 or 2 years? Apparently, that depends on how badly it was treated. I've heard that heat, dampness, UV light, salt, dirt, bacteria, and abrasion can shorten the useful lifespan of monofilament. While you're out fishing, do you keep your tippet spools covered, or are they exposed to sunlight? Do they ever get wet or dirty?

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Is my old mono any good? - Continued from page 10

I don't know the history of my spools of unused monofilament (except for their approximate age), so I decided to test them. In order to compare old mono to new mono, I tested different ages of the same size and brand of mono. I just happened to have four brands and sizes of nylon mono that fit the bill. One of them is actual tippet material: 6.4# Rio Powerflex (4x). The other three are larger than typical tippets: 8# Maxima (1x), 12# Maxima (0.013" dia), and 15# Maxima (0.015" dia); but they still might shed some light on how old mono compares to new mono.

I tested at least five samples of each brand, size, and age. The oldest were about 60 years old, and the "youngest" were brand new. All tests were done sometime between May, 2019 and May, 2020. Here are the results:



Tippet spools, new & old (mostly old)

Monofilament tested	Number Tested	Average Breaking Point (lbs)	StdDevp of Breaking Point (lbs)	Minimum Breaking Point (lbs)	Maximum Breaking Point (lbs)
06.4# nylon					
06.4# Powerflex 4X (12/2013)	5	6.92	0.09	6.80	7.05
06.4# Rio Powerflex 4X (12/2019)	10	6.28	0.40	5.25	6.70
08# nylon					
08# Maxima Leader (~1970)	5	11.61	0.48	11.15	12.45
08# Maxima (2010)	20	11.44	0.37	10.80	12.15
08# Maxima Leader (~1960-B)	5	11.29	0.61	10.45	12.00
08# Maxima Leader (~1960-D)	5	10.61	0.61	10.15	11.80
08# Maxima Leader (~1960-A)	5	10.58	0.40	10.00	11.15
12# nylon					
12# Maxima (2009) n.o.	20	18.01	0.56	16.70	18.95
12# Maxima Leader (~1960-C)	5	17.64	0.66	17.00	18.90
12# Maxima (from Eric; ~2013?)	5	17.57	0.57	16.70	18.30
15# nylon					
15# Maxima (2009) n.o.	20	19.91	0.58	18.85	21.10
15# Maxima (8/2019) n.o.	20	19.69	0.44	19.05	20.60
15# Maxima (2009)	20	19.60	0.77	17.50	21.15

6.4# Rio Powerflex:

The older 6.4# Powerflex is actually stronger than the newer version (see column 3). But what this table doesn't show is that the older Powerflex is slightly thicker (0.0072" dia) than the newer Powerflex (0.0070" dia), and so is inherently stronger. And, surprisingly, the older Powerflex is more consistent than the newer Powerflex (i.e., the Standard Deviation in column 4 is significantly lower for the older Powerflex).

Conclusion: The 2013 Powerflex is just as good, if not better than the 2019 Powerflex.

Recommendation: Use this 2013 Powerflex until it's gone.

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Is my old mono any good? - Continued from page 11

8# Maxima:

The 1970 Maxima is stronger, but a little less consistent than the newer 2010 Maxima. Even the 3 different spools of 1960 Maxima are stronger than the 8-pound test rating.

Recommendation: It's OK to use the 10-year-old stuff or the 50-year-old stuff. The 60-year-old stuff is marginal—time to retire it.

12# Maxima:

I'm not sure how old the 12# Maxima from Eric was—I think it was about a 2013 vintage. All three sets of 12# Maxima exceeded the 12# test rating by a healthy margin, although the 1960 mono was less consistent and could be getting tired.

Recommendation: Recycle the 1960 mono, but the other two appear to be very useable.

15# Maxima:

These were tested in 2019, so it is basically comparing 10-year-old mono to brand new mono. All three samples of mono are strong, but the 2009 mono is less consistent than the 2019 mono. Even though there are a few small differences in the test results, I think it would be difficult to tell them apart in a blind strength test.

Recommendation: Use the 2019 mono. Consider recycling the 2009 mono.

Overall conclusion: Some old mono is still very useable. It's difficult to tell how useable it is just by looking at it. Testing a few samples will give you a much better idea of just how good or bad it is. If you can't test it yourself, you might want to replace it every year or two—just to be safe rather than sorry.

So, that brings up another question: **Can you test it yourself?**

And the answer is: **Yes!**

And it's fairly simple if you have just a few pieces of equipment:

1. Safety glasses to protect your eyes from flying pieces of mono, etc.; maybe some gloves to protect your hands, too.
2. A hand-held digital scale with a peak-hold feature (costs about \$25).
3. A couple of line holders to wrap the mono around.
4. A sturdy place to hook it to.

Here's what the setup looks like, ready to test:



Buster Jr stretched out on a sturdy table.

If anybody is interested in testing their own mono, I can go into more detail about the DIY setup in a future article, along with a short description of the testing procedure.

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Is my old mono any good? - Continued from page 12

In the meantime, I am interested in what tippets you use and how long you use them before replacing them. So, here are the next 2 survey questions:

Survey Question #3:

What brands and sizes of tippets do you use for most of your freshwater fly-fishing setups?

Survey Question #4:

How long do you use your tippet material before buying new spools?

If you don't mind sharing your answers with your co-members, please e-mail your responses to me at knots@gbflycasters.org, with the subject line "Buster SQ3-4." If I get some responses, I will tally them up and post an anonymous summary on the GBF Knot-Tying webpage for all GBF members to view.

The Pyramid Fishout Report Sixth Annual, April 6 - 9, 2021

by Eric Palmer

"The charm of fly fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

~ John Buchan

One of my favorite quotes, and it may explain why an otherwise sane group of 26 GBF'ers would flog the shoreline of Pyramid Lake hour after hour, dawn to dusk, and perhaps with little to show for early efforts, in the hopes of the "elusive but attainable"—until suddenly, "the tug," and then another. Oh happy day!

Leaman got off to a great start at Pelican Wednesday morning with a large specimen, soon followed by more.

Not to be out done, **Tom DiLallo** landed this beauty at an estimated 12 lbs. Thursday at Windless. Around that time, Tom's partner, **Mike Howes**, was walking the bank and happened across a fellow unsuccessfully trying to wrangle a very large fish to the net. Mike took the fellow's net and netted what proved



*Leaman Huston is off to a great start
Wednesday morning.*



Tom's Big one from Windless

to be a 17 pounder. The wrangling a n g l e r ?

Much to Mike's surprise, none other than **Doug Ouellette** himself! [For new folks, Doug O., a well-known and now retired guide, used to run clinics for us up there in this fishout's early years]. Tom and Mike both got all their fish on the Midnight Cowboy and an intermediate line. More on successful flies and rigs later.

Ron Davidson, with 10 fish to his credit, puts him firmly in good standing as a top fish catcher.

Perhaps ahead of the pack, but with not all reporting, was **Tony Jelinek** and partner **Paul Estridge**, with 24 fish

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The Pyramid Fishout Report- Continued from page 13



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between them! Paul attributes their success to Tony's relentless pace and rigging tips. Anyone who's fished with Tony knows what Paul is talking about. They were on the water near non-stop from dawn to near dark most days. Tony also managed to "upgrade" a vintage, two-piece rod to a three-piece while landing a big one.

Persistence and tenacity pay off on Pyramid, even with many hours of nada between grabs.

That day was very lucky for me too. I dropped my new uninsured iPhone in the excitement while snapping their photo, but with the four-second rule in effect that day, the phone survived, suffering no adverse reaction whatsoever. Oh happy day!



Somehow, one Davidson or the other were consistently caught holding a massive specimen. Ron's turn this year.



Another cutt fooled by the white/chartreuse foam "Boobie" fly, the deadly duo's dropper of choice.

tips make a difference as long as your patience and retrieve speed allow the rig to get down to the zone.

Equally important as flies and rigging, and any fish catching on these outings, is the camaraderie and gab-fests that ensue at the trailers and on the beach. This year, COVID-19 concerns had festivities scaled back out of caution.

Thanks to **Wendell** for his campsite hospitality, and Mel for his hearty 15-bean soup, and to all the others who contributed food or beverage that made the event a big success. And, to cap things off, we had great weather that night too.

So, as the fishout schedule unfolds early next year, keep an eye out for Pyramid 2022 in the early April timeframe, and plan to be part of the fun!

Successful flies varied, including Midnight Cowboy, black articulated Leech, Doug's Pop Corn Beetle in white/chartreuse, the "Boobie" rendition of same, Mahalo Nymph in wine, midges or balanced leech under an indicator. And I'm sure there are others that worked well too. Some will argue not to obsess over the "perfect" fly on Pyramid. Just get something in front of the fish that's moving naturally.

The dominant fishing method was stripping (or "retrieving," as guides prefer) a sinking line as opposed to midges under an indicator, though that worked too. Lines were typically in 300+ gr range, though some had success with 200 gr and even intermediate. It's not clear if full sinking, or integrated tip, or short loop-to-loop sink



Good food, conversation and camaraderie, are part of the Pyramid Fishout.

Tight Lines, Good Times, and Bragging Rights

by Kim Lloyd

It's been said that one picture is worth a thousand words. Got a good one? Then let's see it! Each month a couple of photos will be shared at the Club's Zoom meeting, and then published in *The Leader*. The criteria for submitting a photo? It must be related to tight lines, good times or braggin' rights. Here's a couple of the photos that were shared at the February meeting:



Bus Gehring, Copper River, B.C.



Joe Tax, fishing with the Zebras, South Africa



Kim Lloyd, Steelhead, North Umpqua



John Hogg, Brown Trout, Chile

Photos can be emailed to Chris Kight (kightboy@aol.com). Be sure to include your name, the location and the date of the photo.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in May 2012)

Fly Patterns - Bill's Articulated Damsel Fly Nymph



Bill's Articulated Damsel Fly Nymph

Materials:

Hook:	Tiemco 2488; #18 rear hook, #14 front hook
Thread:	Danville or UTC 6/0 flat nylon, light olive
Beads:	Light olive translucent seed size glass beads
Tail:	Sparse damsel olive marabou
Sheath:	Fine damsel olive rabbit fur
Abdomen:	Same as sheath
Eyes:	Olive tinted clear mono eyes, size small
Ribbing:	Extra fine copper wire
Legs:	None
Wing case:	Same as tail
Thorax:	Same as abdomen
Weight:	None
Connector:	Monofilament (4x)

Description

Last month we featured an articulated stonefly pattern. This month let's look at doing a damsel fly nymph using the articulated style of fly. Why do that to a damsel nymph? Well, if you've ever watched a damsel nymph swim, you'll see how difficult it is to imitate that action with a fly. While using the articulated style does not guarantee motion similar to the live bug, I believe it may generate a bit sexier motion than a pattern tied in the traditional style. Time and experience will prove it out (or not), but I like trying new ideas and tinkering outside the (fly)box. The instructions for the articulated style are found in the April, 2012 Fly of the Month article, so I won't repeat those steps here except where necessary for clarity. In this month's fly, we will use a scud type hook (short shank, curved, with nice wide gape). There are many good scud style hooks on the market. For this fly I chose the Tiemco 2488. Use whatever you have available. In the photos accompanying the article, I have used hooks that are larger than the specified sizes because the smaller sizes are hard to photograph accurately.

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. See April, 2012 Fly of the Month article for general instructions on tying using the articulated style. To begin with the rear fly (#18), de-barb it and cover the shank with thread, stopping at a point between the hook point and the rear of the barb. Cut a small bunch of damsel olive marabou from the shaft, and tie it in at that point, leaving the thread there.
2. Tie in the copper wire at the same point, dub a very sparse, thin body, and rib the fly. This finishes the rear piece, so whip finish and cut the thread.



Steps 1 & 2

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 16



Steps 3 & 4

3. Place the front (#14) hook in your vise, debarb it, and cover the shank with thread, stopping at a point between the hook point and the rear of the barb.
4. Cut an 8" piece of 4x monofilament tippet and run it through the eye of the rear hook. Add the beads and mount the mono with the beads and attached rear hook to the front hook shank as described in the April article.

5. After the mono loop, the beads, and the rear fly are attached properly to the front hook, create a small dubbing loop at the rear of the front hook and fill about 1" of the loop with dubbing. Twist it into a loose rope, take a couple of wraps, tie the loop off, and trim the loop away. Use a piece of Velcro or your bodkin to pick out the dubbing and brush it to the rear. This serves to cover the attachment point of the connector loop and help make the front and rear "flies" appear to be continuous.

6. Move the thread forward and tie in a pair of eyes about one hook-eye width behind the eye, and tie in a piece of copper wire just ahead of the shroud.

7. Dub a sparse abdomen, ending just behind the eyes. Leaving the thread there, rib the fly and tie the copper wire off behind the eyes.

8. Cut a small clump of marabou from the stem and tie it in with the tips facing out over the eye of the hook. Move the thread to the area between the hook eye and the mono eyes, and again tie the marabou down there. The length of the clump should be such that the tips extend out over the hook eye about a shank's length.



Steps 5 & 6



Steps 7 & 8



Steps 9 & 10

9. Move the thread to the rear of the eyes and dub a thorax behind the eyes and between them. Don't overdo this step, as the thorax should be only slightly larger than the abdomen. Return the thread to the area behind the eyes.
10. Pull the marabou rearward by the tips, so that they extend backward over the body and tie them down with a few wraps. This creates a sparse wing case and "wing". Whip finish at that point.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 17

Tying Tips

1. Keep everything very sparse. Damsel nymphs are not "robust" creatures; rather, they are small and delicate. Overly dressed damsel nymphs will routinely be ignored by fish.
2. Keep thread wraps to an absolute minimum. Even with flat nylon thread you can add too much bulk by over-dressing the hook shank with thread.

When fishing this or any other damsel nymph, use a loop knot to tie the fly to your tippet, and strip slowly. Be sure to watch your leader closely during those seconds before stripping, as fish will often take the fly "on the drop." Many takes are missed during this interval.

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

Annual Club Elections Just Around the Corner

by Kim Lloyd

Granite Bay Flycasters (GBF) is a non-profit corporation. As such, it is controlled by a Board of Directors and corporate officers that meet monthly. Corporate officers include the President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Membership and VP of Conservation. Corporate officers are elected for a 1-year term.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eight Directors, and is divided into two groups. There are two "at large" Directors that serve one-year terms, and six Directors that serve three-year terms.

Elections are held each June. All corporate officer positions (5), and both "at large" directors (2) will be up for election, plus two of the six directors that serve three-year terms. This makes a total of 9 positions that need to be filled. Every member is encouraged to run for a position—many hands make for a light load.

I will be chairing the Nominations Committee. This committee will be contacting members about their availability to serve, as well as answering any questions that members may have about these positions. Call ((916) 425-7680), or send an email to me at kim@westernprojectmanagement.com if you would like additional information.

Overview of Officers and Directors

		Current Office Holder		Current Nominees	
Officers:	Duration	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
President	1-year	TynaLyn	Sell		
Past President	1-year	Wendell	Edwards	TynaLyn	Sell
Treasurer	1-year	John	Hogg		
Secretary	1-year	Dave	Fujiyama		
VP Membership	1-year	Mike	Bean		
VP Conservation	1-year	Ed	Lloyd		
Directors:					
Director @ Large #1	1-year	Chris	Kight		
Director @ Large #2	1-year	Brett	McKague		
Director thru June 2021	3-year	Drake	Johnson		
Director thru June 2021	3-year	Ron	Davidson		
Director thru June 2022	3-year	Kim	Lloyd	N/A	N/A
Director thru June 2022	3-year	Victor	Maiello	N/A	N/A
Director thru June 2023	3-year	Bruce	Emard	N/A	N/A
Director thru June 2023	3-year	Joey	Nizuk	N/A	N/A

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 Mike Bean at 208-244-1153, 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.

Please notify if address change

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - TinaLyn Sell
916-765-9265 gbf-president@gbflycasters.org
VP Membership - Mike Bean
208-244-1153 gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org
VP Conservation - Ed Lloyd
949-939-0540 gbf-conservation@gbflycasters.org
Secretary - Dave Fujiyama
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Treasurer - John Hogg
916-709-7340 gbf-treasurer@gbflycasters.org

Directors:

Through June, 2023 - Bruce Emard
916-601-9566
Through June, 2023 - Joey Nizuk
916-200-5351
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
Director at Large, 1 year term - Chris Kight
916-813-8008
Director at Large, 1 year term - Brett McKague
415-786-5224

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