





# http://gbflycasters.org

# Leader's Line

### by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

It's been a great year. The Covid curse is pretty much gone, but we now find ourselves living with cold weather and short days. These conditions will tend to limit fishing opportunities at the higher elevations, but there are many lower elevation streams that are still available. Here's a short list of some of these waters:

Lower Sac. Bob Madgic's, "A Guide to Fly Fishing the Sacramento River" (in the club's Library) lists 15 spots that are accessible by foot between Redding and Anderson in one chapter, and 9 access points between Anderson and Red Bluff in a second chapter. Yes, it is a bit of a drive, but there is a campground in Red Bluff (i.e., Lake Red Bluff) that accommodates tents and RVs.



<u>Feather River (below Oroville)</u>. There are roads on both sides of the river, but time must be spent to find access points. A short-cut would be to hire a guide and float down the river; noting where access points can be seen. Another approach would be to purchase a <u>"Streamtime"</u> map for \$12. Kiene's and Fly Fishing Specialties both carry these maps—but call first to make sure one is in stock, as they are very popular.

<u>Putah Creek.</u> This little nugget runs backwards; its highest flows are in the summer when it is used as a canal to irrigate farmland. Its lowest flows are in the winter when irrigation use is at a minimum. There are some big fish in this creek, and now is the time to explore it.

Lower American. If you want to catch a steelhead in the next couple months—notice the use of the singular—then the Lower American is for you! The season begins January 1<sup>st</sup>, so you've still got some time to get your rig together. The Lower American is also a perfect place to practice with a spey rod. Check one out from the club and see what happens.



(916) 601-7853 C

Yuba River. Here's a river that is fairly close, but notoriously stingy about giving up fish. Fortunately, the Skwala fly hatch begins in late December/ early January, and this is one of the better times to fish the Yuba. BTW, Jon Baiocchi's website is still on-line and contains several Skwala articles. Check it out for some timeless tips.

Need some other ideas regarding where to fish? Check out Matt Vang's website @ <u>https://keepcalmandflyfish.com</u>. Do you prefer videos? Then check out the "<u>Purple</u> <u>Drake Fishing</u>" videos on YouTube. If you can't go fishing, at least you can watch somebody else doing it!

Tight lines.

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DECEMBER <sup>2022</sup>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6. Board of Directors Meeting	7.	8. Holiday Potluck	9.	10. Swap Meet Chili Contest
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
18.	19.	20. Fly Tying Jam	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.

# The 2022 Holiday Potluck Dinner



The annual club potluck dinner will occur on **December 8<sup>th</sup>.** The clubhouse doors will open around 5:30, and dinner will start between 6:00 and 6:30. Get there early, latecomers will be assigned KP duty. Here's what you bring based on the first letter of your last name:

A-E: Salads

F-K: Desserts

L-Q: Entrees

**R-Z:** Appetizers

Here are some helpful hints:

• Bring an extension cord – with your name marked on it – if your dish needs to be kept warm (slow cooker; crock pot; warming plate, etc.).

- Same thing with serving plates and utensils: mark them, too this is a rough crowd.
- The club will provide napkins, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- The club will also provide hot coffee, sugar/sweetener, bottled water and some sodas.
- A limited amount of spices think salt and pepper will be available.

The 2022 Holiday Potluck Dinner - Continued from Page 2

Check your email for any late breaking news or email/call me if there are any questions.

Kim Lloyd <u>gbf-president@gbflycasters.org</u> – (916) 425-7680



Images from the 2019 Pot Luck



It's Not Too Late! Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-off — Saturday, December 10, 2022 Starts at 8:30 AM at the Clubhouse



Lots of good bargains and treasures.

It's not too late to make the Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-Off. Mark your calendar so you don't miss it. Sort out your extra gear that is taking up valuable space at your home and get it sorted out for the swap meet. Lastly, don't forget to plan on making chili for the chili cook-off.

Remember sellers to contact Drake Johnson (916-532-3073, or 1drakej@comcast.net) and let him know you want table space, also let Drake know if you're planning to enter the Chili Contest.

There will be a signup sheet, at the December meeting. Sellers

#### Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-off - Continued from Page 3

should plan on being set up and ready to go by 8:30 AM. Additionally, it helps you sell items if you put price tags on the items you are selling. Large items such as pontoon boats, prams, etc., should be displayed outdoors on the deck or the parking lot.

**Chili Cook-off Contest** – Chili chefs, it's your chance to win braggin' rights as the best chili maker in GBF. Winner will be selected by who gets the most votes.

#### To participate:

- 1. Bring your chili in a crock-pot with a serving spoon, and pre-warmed.
- 2. Name your chili (This is important, because the name is what is used for voting).
- 3. Bring a short extension cord for your chili. Label it.
- 4. Winner will receive a fly box with four dozen flies.

#### **Continental Breakfast!**

We'll have a continental style breakfast available for \$3.00 and complimentary coffee and water.

### The Annual Dinner is Coming (Back) in March!

With all the Holiday hoopla going on, don't forget to reserve the evening of <u>March 25, 2023</u> for our Annual Dinner, Raffle and Silent Auction! This is our most important club event of the year, and everyone's invited to enjoy the food, fun, raffle prizes, auction items, and incomparable club camaraderie! Here's the gist:

- 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 an evening with all our club-members, friends, and families.
- When: Saturday, March 25, 2023. 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: This event will once again be taking place at the Rocklin Event Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd, Rocklin. It's easy to find and has plenty of free on-site parking!
- Why: Because you want to show your support for your club—and have a real chance to 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 (<u>www.gbflycasters.org</u>) to buy tickets securely online. Tickets are just \$50 each!

Lastly...If you can't attend the dinner, please consider making a donation for the raffle or auction.

Thank you in advance for your support of the club in this way...we appreciate it!

### Help Wanted

It's never too early to start thinking about how to make our next Annual Dinner event even better! Discussions are already underway on topics ranging from food, drinks, and entertainment, to raffle prizes, auction items, and a host of special drawings!

#### Help Wanted - Continued from Page 4

Club member input is critical to making the annual dinner work—and annual dinner proceeds are critical to making the club work. This important cycle represents the perfect opportunity for those who want the club to succeed to pitch in and help the club to succeed!

#### DON'T WAIT ... STEP UP TO THE PLATE!

Your ideas, opinions, or expertise are really needed! If you can help in any possible way, please contact **Ron Davidson** at <u>ronaldd1947@gmail.com</u>. Join the 2023 Granite Bay Flycasters Annual Dinner committee... and you can make a 'reel' difference!

# Zen and the Art of Nymphing: "When do I Set the Hook?"

### by Eric Palmer

This title might be familiar to anyone who's read <u>John Gierach's</u> 1986 *Trout Bum*, his first work, and he's now got 31 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: *How do we know when to set the hook when nymphing*?

There also may be some deja vu for any who have been reading *The Leader* since 2012 when a shorter version of this article first appeared. Because many of us find this the most vexing element of nymphing, and since we have many new members, I thought the topic deserved a fresh look. I've also discovered an interesting anecdote from another iconic fly fishing author, <u>Dave Hughes</u>, which perfectly buttresses Gierach's observations.

John Gierach, in his short story, tackles head-on the issue that frustrates many of us who fish nymphs, whether on a dead drift, the swing, or what's variously called Short-Line Nymphing, Tight-Line Nymphing, High Sticking, Czech Nymphing, and now the new trendy ESN for Euro Style Nymphing, Sigh... never mind that the method was



The short-line nymphing lob.

invented and first popularized on the Upper Sac beginning in the 1920s (see GBF articles page). Anyway....

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."

#### Zen and the Art of Nymphing - Continued from Page 5

For further clarity, he tosses out a couple more Zen braintwisters ("Koans") 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, with an excellent summary of our challenge regardless of which of the above nymphing methods we use:

> "The actual mechanics of short-line nymph-fishing aren't very



The short-line drift.

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, <u>Ralph Cutter</u>, 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 revealing.

Using SCUBA gear, they each independently 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.

The results were a real eye-opener. 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

#### Zen and the Art of Nymphing - Continued from Page 6

the missed fish, the takes are so soft and fast. The fish gently mouths the fly, does not like the feel, then ptooey. 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 "degree of difficulty," head home or back to camp or cabin feeling pretty good. But, here's the thing; unless we proactively set the hook, the fish we hooked were likely what our late GBF nymphing guru and mentor, <u>Bill Carnazzo</u>, would call "suicidal fish." The easy prey who skipped school the day the fish professor covered how to be a picky eater. They indiscriminately attacked our flies with wild abandon with no hook set required; they set the hook for us. 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 other fair-to-middling 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 I 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.

In his *Trout Bum*, John Gierach describes 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 ball 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



Fish on.

Zen and the Art of Nymphing - Continued from Page 7

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 intelligence 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.

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 <u>that at first were not noticeable to you</u>." (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.

# 29th Annual Fall Upper Sacramento River Fishout: October 27-30, 2022

### by Tony Jelinek

The annual fall Upper Sacramento River Fish-out had seventeen anglers making the trip. The river flow was back down to what it had been in 2018, 2019, and 2020—around 200 cfs. The weather, although chilly, was dry. We didn't have to deal with the rain and flows of 1400 cfs dropping to 682 cfs by the end of the trip like last year.



29th Annual Fall Upper Sacramento River Fishout - Continued from Page 8



Classic fall colors and Castle Crags

Friday brought the evening gathering at the Soda Creek Ranch, where Steve Pitts and **Patty Fukuhara** prepared a delicious tri-tip dinner for the troops. Everyone had a chance to share tales of the day, missed grabs, fish caught, and fish lost.

Saturday, was the trek to Mt Shasta City (not really a trek, only a 15-minute drive) for dinner at Casa Ramos. They did their usual great job, but inflation has hit them as well, and portions were a bit smaller and a bit more expensive. The fish-out had a great mix of firsttimers and multiple-timers to the river. On the trip were Michael Biggs, Terry Block, Al & Theresa Dalupan, Ron Davidson, Don Hansen, John Hessl, Eric Kellenberger, Brian Kerfoot, Stevy Lee, Mike Mizinski, Greg Nyland, Eric Palmer, John Pellegrin, Steve Pitts, Frank Stolten, and Reid & Patty Towery.

A few fished on the trip up; then all met at the Dunsmuir Brewery for the kick-off dinner. The group had to bear the elements outside, but with warm jackets, good food, good camaraderie, and guest beers (the brewery's boiler broke-down) a good time was had by all.



Hmmm...Rainbow or Brookie?



Big decision...which fly to use

But, this was a fishing trip; so, I guess you really want to know how the fishing was. It was typical for the Upper Sacramento. One had to work hard for the fish. Some did well, while others struggled. It takes a while to get to know this river. Tight-line, Tenkara, and Dry-fly angling were successful methods. Anglers had success at Tauhindauli Park and in the City Park. The Cantara Loop was tough, but south of town gave up some fish. The usual mayfly and caddis nymph patterns. There was a late-afternoon-to-early-evening Caddis hatch, where anglers had success with Elk Hare Caddis, Humpy, and Stimulator patterns. Unfortunately, a new homeowner on the Castella Loop is blocking access to that stretch of the river. We'll see how that plays out in the future. The most interesting fish were caught by Frank Stolten and Eric Kellenberger (picture included with the article). Some think it is a Brookie/ Rainbow mix or just a Brookie. I passed the picture along to a guide who works the area and a Department

of Fish & Wildlife worker, and they think it is a rainbow because a cutthroat has a maxillary that extends beyond the eye, and there is no jaw slash. The heavy spotting and coloring could be due to eating lots of October Caddis, which have chitin in their exoskeleton (orange bugs), and there is the red stripe down the side, like a rainbow. In any event, it's a cool fish and worth discussing over a few beers.

The Upper Sacramento offered another great experience—beautiful fall colors, beautiful vistas of Mt. Shasta and Castle Crags, great gatherings, and mixed-in, several fish.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in December 2007)

# Fly Patterns - Super Minnow — Originator: Paul Egan





Super Minnow

Materials:	
Hook:	Eagle Claw #410 (bronze) or #413 Plated
Thread:	Danville Fly Master Plus, white
Eyes:	Real Eyes dumbbell
Flash Tail:	10 strands of silver flashabou and 10 strands
	of pearl flashabou
Tail:	White buck tail
Tail Minder:	30# Mono
Body:	Pearl crystal chenille
Belly:	White buck tail
Under Wing:	White buck tail
Wing Flash:	Crystal flash to match over wing
Wing:	Two stacks of chartreuse buck tail
Topping:	Doug's Bugs Electra-Flash

### Description

Hello again! When Bill Carnazzo asked me to write the December article for The Leader, I was delighted and honored to do so. Then. he suggested I do a striper fly - even better! Stripers have been my main focus for the past several months, and the top producing fly on my boat has been the Super Minnow that I am featuring now.

The few of you who have taken my class, pay attention to the instructions, because a fly like this is always in the developmental stages, and I have made some changes to its construction. The Super Minnow is still an easy-to-tie, durable fly that catches lots of fish. It can be tied in any number of color combinations, and in sizes from #2 to 5/0. The fly this month will be chartreuse over white in a size 2/0. This has been the best fly for the early Fall. If you have fished with me lately, we have been using the synthetic version in a 3/0 or 4/0. The larger flies will work better now until the water gets cold. Actually, it is probably already cold now that this article is in print, so I will be going back to the smaller flies like the one here.

### **Tying Instructions**

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

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#### **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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 10

- 1. Mount hook in vise, sharpen, and then smash the barb.
- 2. Remount the hook in the vise with the eye-bend down.
- 3. Tie on eyes approximately 1/8 inch behind the eye-bend of the hook.
- 4. Wrap the thread to the rear of the hook. Apply Zap-A-Gap.
- 5. Wrap the thread five turns forward.
- 6. Clip clean and stack a clump of white buck tail. Separate the clump in half.
- 7. Tie in the first half, tips pointing to the rear about 1/2 inch past the bend of the hook. Let the buck tail cover the sides of the hook shank.
- 8. Tie in all 20 pieces of flash pointing forward, pull them to the rear of the hook and tie them down again. The tips should extend about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches past the buck tail.
- 9. Tie in one end of the tail minder on the side of the shank, form a loop, and tie in the other end on the opposite side of the shank.



Steps 1 - 9



Steps 10 - 18

- 10. Now tie in the second half of the buck tail on top of the tail minder.
- 11. Use your bodkin to pull the tail through the loop. Leave some buck tail on the under side of the loop.
- 12. Tie in a piece of crystal chenille and wrap the thread to the eyes, and then the chenille. Tie it off and clip the tag.
- 13. Clean and stack another bunch of buck tail and tie it in over the eyes with a couple of figure eight wraps. (The points should be just as long as the shank of the hook.) Pull the butt ends over the eyes and tie them down and clip the tags on a taper and form a base layer for the nose and Glue.
- 14. Remove the hook from the vise and turn it over, eye-bend up.
- 15. Clip, clean, and stack a small bunch of buck tail. Use curly or semi-hollow hair. It should extend to the hook bend and be enough volume to fill the gap of the hook.
- 16. Tie it down in front of the eyes and taper-cut the tag ends. Tie them down and glue.
- 17. Select 5-7 strands of crystal flash. Tie them in with the loop method. When securing them, pull one end to each side of the fly and position it at 10 or 2 o'clock.
- 18. Slide-cut the crystal flash on each side so it ends just beyond the bend of the hook.

#### Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 11



Steps 19 - 22

- 19. Select your first bunch of chartreuse buck tail. Clean, stack lightly. And tie it in so the points stick just past the bend of the hook. Taper-cut the tag ends, tie them down, and glue.
- 20. Select your second bunch of chartreuse buck tail. (Always use two stacks; it will hold together better and taper the fly much smoother.) Clean and stack lightly. Tie it in on top of the first bunch. The tips should be slightly longer than the first. Taper cut the tag ends, tie them down, and glue.
- 21. Topping: Tie in the Electra-Flash with the loop method, slide-cut, tie down, and glue.
- 22. Form the "nose" of the fly. Glue and then for a more lasting finish apply two coats of Loon Hard-Head clear fly finish.

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

# Bring a Bird's Nest - I'm a convert!

#### by Mike Bean

There are many fly patterns I don't use while guiding. Either I don't have faith in the fly or see an application that the fly would work. One of these patterns was the Bird's Nest. Cal Bird created the fly out of Nevada in 1959. I had considered the fly pattern to be generic and underwhelming. If I heard an angler talking about fish they had caught on the Bird's Nest, I would turn and walk the other way. Things have changed!

This is now my 4<sup>th</sup> season guiding in Northern California. Almost every fishing report I have read has the Bird's Nest as a recommended fly. The Bird's Nest is also mentioned in many of the fly fishing articles or books on fishing in California dating back 20 or more years! The fly has worked for me on the Feather River, Lower Yuba, and Lower Sac—almost immediately! I was amazed the fly worked, and would shake my head as clients reel in fish.

The Bird's Nest represents a caddis pupa or larva found in almost all Northern California rivers. The Lower

Sac is known for its caddis hatches, and fish key in on the emerging insect. There are many variations of the Bird's Nest, from copper bead tan body, no bead tan body, gold bead, black bead, etc. There are also other spinoffs of the fly, such as Anderson's Bird of Prey, Depth Charge Bird's Nest, Flying Squirrel Nymph, and others.

The pattern I have had the most luck with is size #14 copper bead tan body. The fly has been most effective for me in the Fall and Spring months. The Bird's Nest has now made it into my arsenal after a recent guide trip on the Lower Sac. The fly hooked a 27inch steelhead caught by Shaun Boyce. I now believe in the fly, which will be my "go-to" for the Lower Sac and other rivers. So, on your next fishing trip in NorCal, I recommend bringing a Bird's Nest.



he Leader

Granite Bay Flycasters 8757 Auburn Folsom Road, #2842 Granite Bay, CA 95746-9998

#### **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: \$35; Family memberships: \$40; and youth (under 18): \$17.50. There is also a \$15 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated. 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

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