

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

January 2022

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Happy New Year!!! I hope your holiday season was everything you wished for.

Now is the time to gather ourselves and think about how we want to make this year better and brighter than the previous year. For some of us, this will be a simple task, while others may struggle; either way, each of us has the opportunity to let go of the past and start anew. Make the most of it.

You can start by purchasing your ticket to the GBF Annual Dinner, which can be done on our website, <https://gbflycasters.org/store/>. You will have an amazing time. After that, mark your calendar for a few fly tying classes, and a couple of fishouts. This will get you off to a good start.

Do not forget about asking Mother Nature for some assistance. She has been kind enough to be providing us with wonderful winter temperatures. Take a chance and get out to see the winter side of nature. Discover something new in a previously explored area. Look for ways to gain a new perspective and insight on the previous year. Have a chat with Mother Nature, ask her to help release your tension and stress, she has helped me numerous times. Just because it is winter does not mean you need to suffer from "Nature Deficit Disorder,"—it is a nasty thing.

Here is to a wonderful fish-filled year.

Speaker Report - Conservation Report A Look Ahead to 2022

by Ed Lloyd

We closed the year with an awesome End-of-the-Year Party, and a guest, **Tim Au-Young**, who taught many how to tie flies and place them in clear Christmas Ornaments. For 2022, we start out with two great Speakers, for January and February. For January, we will have **Dana Hooper** from the Davis Fly Fishers, who will speak on Fly Fishing in Italy. In February, we will have **Ryan Williams**, from Oroville who will speak on Bass and Steelhead Fishing. For March, we are working on having either **Sam Sedillo** or **Mitch Lockhart**.

For Conservation this coming year, we will start out in January with **Sam Sedillo** of Trout Unlimited, who will give us an up-to-date report on Trout Unlimited's Conservation Projects, and how

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JANUARY 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board of Directors Meeting	12.	13. Monthly Meeting	14.	15.
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam	19.	20.	21. ISE Show January 20 - 23	22.
23. ISE Show	30. 24.	31. 25.	26.	27.	28.	29.

Speaker Report - Continued from Page 1

we as a Club can help. In May, we will have our annual Fund Allocation Meeting, where we decide on just what organizations have earned our funding.

And finally, there will, of course, be a huge amount of Fishouts as well for 2022. There will be 10 Fishouts Scheduled for The Truckee Area, 5 on The Big Truckee, and 5 on The Little Truckee, with the possibility of even more.

So there you have it, a summary for the end of the year, and a look ahead for 2022.

ISE Show GBF Booth, January 20-23

by Mike Bean, Booth Coordinator

Hello club members. We need volunteers to staff our club booth in January at the International Sportsmen’s Exposition (ISE) show. Many fly fishers at GBF learned about the club at the ISE show, and you have the opportunity to invite other prospective members to join and make our organization even stronger. We will share with prospective members, that through our club, they can improve their casting skills, learn the art of fly tying, participate in conservation efforts, attend fish-outs, build a fly rod or net, and much more.

The shifts this year are 3 hours in length. There will be two people for each shift. You will receive a ticket to get into the show for free, so you can spend time before or after your shift looking at the other great booths and presentations. The tickets will be left at will-call. You will need to purchase a parking pass, however.

The sign-up sheet is posted [here](#) on the website so members can see which spots are available. I will update the schedule until full in an effort to keep it current. Please email me, Mike Bean, at mikebeanfishing@gmail.com.

Education Corner

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the GBF Angling Family. Our outstanding group of Clinic/Class leaders are already putting together a great slate of events for our new calendar.

John Pelegrin has announced two new Tenkara Sessions. The first will be March 12, 2022 to be held at Gibson Ranch from 9 AM to noon. The second session will be held on the Upper West Carson River, July 8, 2022. You will need to sign up by July 1st. If you are not familiar with the Tenkara Style of flyfishing, and/or have not attended one of John’s clinics, you will find these sessions to be fun, informative, very well organized, and you may run in to some nice fishing on the Carson!

Flyfishing 101, and **An Introduction to Flytying** are two courses that will be on our calendar soon. **Jim Holmes** always puts together wonderful sessions. The planning is pretty well wrapped up, and dates are being set, so keep an eye out in *The Leader*, the website Message Board, e-mail and meeting announcements.

Larry Lee is conducting Rod Building Sessions in his home workshop. You will work with Larry in an individual or small group session, and build a state-of-the-art flyrod, made from the highest quality blanks, and finished off with top-of-the-line fittings from fighting butts to tip tops. You can set up an appointment with Larry by calling or texting at (916)601-7853, through his e-mail at L3ross@gmail.com, and /or his website at www.L3rods.com.

John Hogg and **Rick Radoff** keep a busy schedule with both Fly Casting Challenge Sessions and regular casting clinics. Keep an eye out for announcements via email blasts and notices on the Message Board and in *The Leader*.

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WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...



OUR FLY TYING STAFF

BRETT DRURY
Fly Tying Instructor
Renowned Fly Tyer, Sacramento Area

RICK ANDERSON
Contract Fly Tyer
Montana Fly Company

RON SPERONI
Contract Fly Tyer
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“They have the largest selection of fly tying materials in California!” - Andy Burk

Education Corner - Continued from Page 3

Jim Degnan does not have any knot tying sessions in the immediate future, but check out his amazing knot tying manual available online through our club website.

Net building classes will be underway in the new year under the guidance of **Art Hawkins** and **Michael Kaul**. The continuing sessions have already been scheduled, and the focus is on first-time net builders. However, keep an eye out for announcements regarding future clinics.

Want to learn to row a drift boat? **Mike Bean** will be offering rowing sessions, usually one or two per month, and as with other clinic opportunities, watch for announcements at General Meetings, on the website and in *The Leader*.

We have more great sessions that will appear on our future calendars. As I've mentioned often, check out all our available sources for continuing information.

**2021 Swap Meet and Chili Contest
First Club Event in 23 Months - A Grand Success**

by Drake Johnson, Event Organizer

On Saturday, December 4th, after a year's hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, we resumed the annual GBF Swap Meet and Chili Contest. According to the feedback, it was a success, despite the year delay and continued COVID concerns. **Jim Degnan** arranged for there to be a continental breakfast that included donuts, muffins, hard boiled eggs, water and coffee. All of this for a nominal fee of \$3—hard to beat. The doors opened at 8:30 AM. There were lots of eager bargain hunters.



It was estimated that around 40 people showed up. We had at least 17 people selling their extra goods. **John Peterson**, along with **Rick Radoff** and **Henry Sandigo**, had many items for sale. There was a pontoon boat featured outside.



We had Chili Offerings from **John Gordon** (John was the 2019 winner), **Lloyd Gillespie**, and **Marilyn Floyd**. The chili ranged from the traditional to the nonconventional. All were worthy of serious consideration for best in eats. By 10:00 AM most of the chili was gone, and the voting was completed by 10:30 AM. Lloyd Gillespie, with his "Buzz's Montana Chuck Wagon

Chili," was crowned king of chili this year, and took home a dozen **Mike Bean** flies. Lloyd uses Moose meat from Alaska, Elk from Montana and Bison from Colorado in his chili. Second place honors went to John Gordon, with Marilyn Floyd being third.

There was a raffle prize winner of dozen flies this year, we just don't know who it was.

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2021 Swap Meet and Chili Contest - Continued from Page 4



It's exciting that there were a few more sellers and buyers at this Swap Meet than there were at the last one in December of 2019. It feels like the club is waking up, members feeling safer and wanting to participate and this portends a wonderful and activity filled 2022!

My thanks to all who jumped in and gave me a hand to make this year's event

happen. Most specifically, **Chris Kight** for set up and swap meet management, **Jim Degnan** for procurement, setting up and managing the continental breakfast, **TinaLyn Sell** for overseeing the chili competition, and **Mike Bean** for the donation of two dozen flies for the awards. I am looking forward to seeing you all at next year's event.



The Pheasant Tail Fly

*(Installment No. 2 on the "Essential Flies,"
as first appeared in the June 2016 Leader)*

by Eric Palmer

One of the fascinating things for me about fly fishing is that each of us can make the sport as complex or as simple as we may choose. If you feel that you need a fly box full of "*Jeroen Smit Rooster Sphincters*" ([Dec. 2015 Leader](#), Upper Sac write-up) from size 8 to 24 to hook fish on your favorite water, and have access to the scrotum hair of a Tibetan Yak, go for it. If, on the other hand, you have minimalist leanings, you will find there's a modest collection of standard, generic and easily identifiable flies that do an excellent job of matching virtually every form of fish food we care about. One such fly that's a must-have in every fly box is the *Pheasant Tail*, often referred to in fishing reports as a "PT." General rule of thumb: If it's all brown, it's probably a PT.

This simple fly was conceived in 1958 for the Hampshire Avon in the U.K. by noted River Keeper **Frank Sawyer** (1906-1980), who, by that time had over fifty years of experience on his cherished stream. Meandering its way some sixty miles out to the coast at Christ Church, the Avon has one of the richest diversity of life forms in Britain, especially in mayflies. With over 600 species of mayfly in the U.S., almost all small and brown as nymphs, it's easy to see why this fly has become a favorite of American fly fishers.

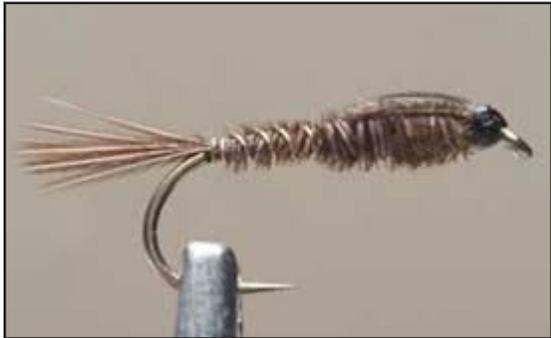
Frank Sawyer designed his fly with its small head and tapering body contour to imitate a drifting and emerging baetis mayfly, "olive" to the Brits, or blue wing olive, or simply "BWO" to us. Sawyer conceived this fly after an "Ah-ha!" moment when he observed that the much older *Pheasant Tail Red Spinner* dry fly would still take fish once it was submerged.

The beauty of the *Pheasant Tail* is both its simplicity and its versatility as a trout magnet on virtually all western streams and lakes. Besides imitating the **baetis mayfly**, aka **blue wing olive** (BWO), it's also a proxy for a wide range of bugs that trout crave, including the **pale morning dun** (PMD), **march browns**,

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The Pheasant Tail Fly - Continued from Page 5

the **Callibaetis** nymph in lakes, **stoneflies**, and even the good 'ol **stick caddis** on the Upper Sac, Truckee and elsewhere. So, don't despair after losing your last and much coveted *Bill's Stick Caddis*; after muttering the requisite swear word, just tie on a suitably sized and weighted PT, and press on without skipping a beat.



Frank Sawyer's original Pheasant Tail

Now, for the fly's construction: An interesting thing about how Sawyer tied the original may resonate with the die-hard minimalists among us for its paucity of ingredients; there were only two! Very thin copper wire and cock pheasant tail fibers. That's it; he didn't even use thread. The wire binds it together and serves to fatten up the thorax while adding some weight along with a little brightness to an otherwise drab fly. Sawyer twisted the wire and pheasant tail fibers around one another for reinforcement, then wrapped the bundle forward, forming the thorax and abdomen.

Frank Sawyer's book *Nymphs and the Trout*, first published in 1958, describes his method of tying and fishing the fly. Here's [a rather dated video](#) showing Frank Sawyer himself tying his fly. And, another [modern video](#) in living color with sound also showing how to tie the original.

As with most everything, over time the fly has evolved considerably, as American tiers added their own creative spin, and today's *American Pheasant Tail* emerged. Thread replaced the copper wire for all but the ribbing, and Montana's Al Troth (of Elk Hair Caddis fame) is credited with adding lead wraps for weight, a peacock herl thorax, and pheasant tail fibers for legs. Then came the bead head, a flash back (FB) for the wing case using either epoxy (PB for "poxy back") or Mylar or crystal braid, and there are many more augmentations involving crystal flash, hare's ear dubbing, fluorescent hotspots, and died pheasant tail feathers in olive and yellow. The near infinite variations of this fly in color and size have allowed it to become a stand-in for everything from a midge pupa to the largest stonefly nymph.



The Modern American Pheasant Tail

But when you strip away the flash and glitter that adds what fly shops call "bin appeal"—and who knows how much the fish really care—down deep it's still Sawyer's elegantly simple, and devastatingly effective nymph that has become a staple of most every fly box worldwide.

When studying the list of suggested flies for a given stream on a fly shop's website, you might see mention of a "BH PT" for bead head Pheasant Tail, or perhaps "FB PT" for flash back PT, invoking short-hand notation for just some of the many optional eye-catching augmentations.

So how do you fish a Pheasant Tail? In a stream or river the fly can be fished just sub surface if desired, but it's best fished on the bottom in a dead drift, and then gently raised with the rod tip to imitate an emerging nymph using the method referred to as the [Leisnring Lift](#) (after James Leisnring). This method can trigger an "induced take" or grab, much like dangling a string in front of a semi-conscious napping cat will get his immediate attention. You can also "short-line" nymph the PT, and at the end of the drift you will also have, in effect, an automatic Leisnring Lift as the line goes taut and your fly(s) rise to the surface. A little gentle twitching at this time may also be in order.

In a lake the Pheasant Tail becomes an excellent proxy for the *Callibaetis* nymph as it rises to the surface from the weed bed. With a floating rig, Ralph Cutter in his book *Fish Food* instructs us to tie the fly to the end of a 6x tippet one and a half times the water depth. Fish the fly just off the bottom with slow long retrieves that mimic the bug tentatively leaving the weed bed and then retreating for cover as fish approach. For

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The Pheasant Tail Fly - Continued from Page 6

more detail on this method and fishing the Pheasant Tail in stream and lake, see chapter 19 of Ralph Cutter’s must-read *Fish Food* (also check the GBF library for a copy).

Another highly recommended book for the fly fisher—particularly the beginner—is *The History of Fly-Fishing in Fifty Flies* by Ian Whitelaw, Abrams Publications, pub. 2015. This book was the inspiration for this on-going series of articles, and, along with Ralph Cutter’s *Fish Food*, the source of much of the material you have just read.

Now, let’s try on another quote from prolific fly fishing author John Gierach:

“Sure, it was your idea and your fly, but he caught the big fish. Remember, fairness is a human idea and largely unknown in nature.”

Thanks for your time, and see you on the water...



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Auburn Ravine Salmon - A “home waters” Update

by Kim Lloyd, GBF Treasurer

Jim Haufler from the “Friends of Auburn Ravine” (FAR)—and now a GBF club member—gave a presentation to the club a couple years ago about this local stream. It was mind-bending to learn that large Chinook salmon called this small creek home. Unfortunately, the drought put the hammer down, and fish counts dropped. But, last October a big rain flipped the switch, and a number of salmon made it into the creek as shown in the picture below.



Salmon spawning in Auburn Ravine Creek

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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.

Auburn Ravine Salmon - Continued from Page 7

FAR monitors the salmon's upstream progress using 24/7 cameras at a Nevada Irrigation District (NID) gauging station. Subsequent fish activity is documented by FAR volunteers who walk the stream each week. GPS units are used during these walks to identify where salmon congregate and where redds are located. Volunteers also collect tissue sample for analysis. FAR compiles the data and provides it to various environmental organizations and governmental entities, such as NID.

FAR's efforts are starting to return dividends, as demonstrated by NID's planned multi-million dollar improvements to Hemphill Dam, which is currently a barrier to salmon moving upstream. These improvements include an improved fish passage section that will allow salmon to reach additional spawning habitat. A big shout-out to FAR, NID and all of the other agencies that helped make the improved fish passage section a "win-win" situation.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in January 2013)

Fly Patterns - Jimmy Legs Stonefly Nymph



Jimmy Legs Stonefly Nymph

Materials:

- Hook:** Dai Riki 700B bent-shank hook; or any heavy streamer hook bent to shape, #6-10
- Thread:** Brown or dark olive 6/0 or 140 denier flat nylon
- Weight:** .015 weight wire, wound around the shank beginning at the hook point and continuing up the shank to about 2 eye-widths behind the hook eye
- Tail:** Olive/rust Flex-Floss or similar product (not knotted)
- Legs:** Same as tail, but pre-knotted
- Body:** Brown, medium size chenille, or other color of choice
- Antennae:** Same as tail

Description

The big, ugly Jimmy Legs fly is the very definition of "motion" as it cruises through the water column. The legs are, I'm sure, the strike trigger for hungry trout during spring stonefly hatches. Hot on the tail of my own Stick Caddis pattern (but still behind), this bug has, in the last few years, brought big numbers of large canyon trout to the net. It can be tied in black for the "salmon fly" (*Pteronarcys*) hatch; in an amber shade for the Golden Stonefly hatch; and in various other colors for other species. I'm constantly reminded that clean, pocket-water streams with plenty of dissolved oxygen are home to stoneflies all year long, and fish will eat them even during other insect hatches.

For this reason, my canyon boxes always contain Jimmy Legs Stonefly Nymphs in various colors and sizes. The fly is bonehead easy to tie and utilizes simple, inexpensive, and readily available materials. One quirky point, from a fly tyer's viewpoint, is that you will either need to buy a specialty hook—one that has a downward bend in the shank at about the front 1/3 point—or bend a regular streamer hook yourself. Another factor in tying this fly is weight—it's a grenade, sporting a shank covered with .015 weight wire (I prefer the non-lead variety).

In canyon water, I use this fly on a short-line rig in two situations: swiftly flowing, stream-swelling spring melt flows that deepen summertime's shallow spots; and the occasional deep slot or pool found between

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

shallower pocket water stretches. In both of these situations, I don't hesitate to off the small tidbits and bend on a big morsel such as a Jimmy Legs. I've seen many an angler exhibit reluctance to do so just because it is "trouble" and consumes time. That can be a big mistake because in canyon streams, those places are where the largest specimens abide.

A final point regarding choice of chenille and leg material color: In my experience, the medium brown chenille color combined with olive/rust Flex-Floss material, works best overall. Variegated chenille in brown/yellow and dark olive/black colors also work well. Why use Flex-Floss instead of solid rubber leg material? I recently read that the transparency of the former material, together with the motion it creates, are the strike triggers. That sounds credible enough to me. The tail and antennae are not knotted, while the four legs that protrude from the body are indeed knotted. An excellent U-Tube video tying demonstration for the Jimmy Legs can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgC4cp64N70>.

To be productive, the fly must drift close to the bottom, since that's generally where stoneflies are located, whether scurrying about on the rocks, or caught up in the drift.

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. Let's prepare a bit for this pattern; it will save time and save you some stress. First, cut enough Flex-Floss strands for a half dozen flies; for this, you will need 12 leg pieces (we will cut these in half), and 6 pieces for antennae and tails (we will also cut these in half). Second, unless you have purchased a specialty hook, debarb six standard 2x or 3x long streamer hooks and bend each of them downward a bit at about the 1/3 point behind the hook eye. Third, cut six pieces of chenille, each 4" long. Finally, cut the Flex-Floss leg pieces in half, and tie an overhand knot in each piece at about the 1/3 point, and cut the tail/antennae pieces in half. Set these aside for now.



Step 1



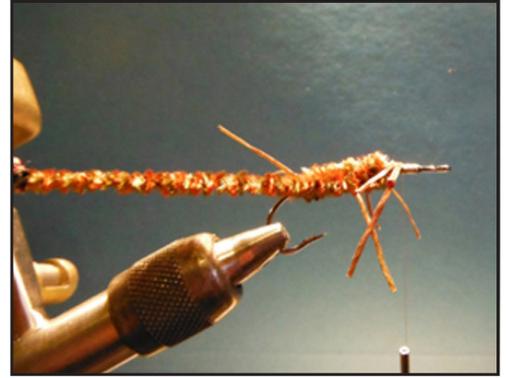
Steps 2, 3, 4 & 5

2. Place the debarbed and bent hook in your vise and cover the shank with .015 weight wire, beginning at the hook point and ending about 2 eye widths behind the hook eye.
3. Tie the thread onto the shank and cover the weight wire with a flat layer of thread, leaving the thread at the rear of the hook.
4. Wrap one of the tail/antennae Flex-Floss pieces around the thread, even up the ends, and tie this piece in at the back end of the shank. It should be placed so that it forms a "v" facing to the rear, and the two tails should be even in length.
5. Strip one end of a piece of chenille and tie it on in front of the tail. Wrap it once behind the tail, and then come forward with close, tight wraps to the point where the hook bends. Tie it off there but don't cut it off, just move it rearward and out of the way for the next step.

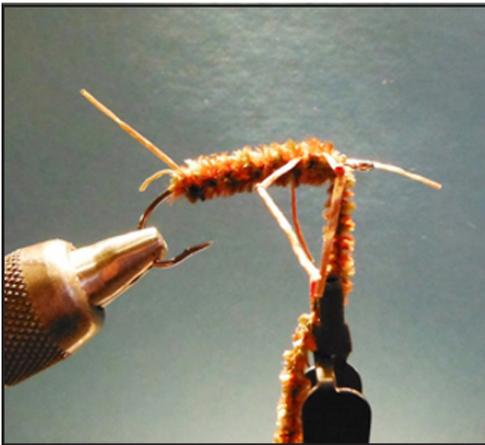
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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9

6. Tie in two of the knotted legs by placing them together on top of and perpendicular to the shank directly in front of the chenille, using a figure-eight technique. Straighten and even them after a few wraps and then add tightening wraps. Move the thread to the hook eye.



Step 6



Step 7

7. Wrap the chenille once behind the legs, and once between them to separate the pairs; then cross to the front of the legs and wrap once in front of them. Tie off the chenille again with a thread wrap or two, but don't trim it yet. You should now have a bit of space between the front of the chenille and the hook eye for the next step.

8. Wrap one of the tail/antennae Flex-Floss pieces around the thread, even up the ends, and tie this piece in directly behind the hook eye. It should be placed so that it forms a "v" facing to the front, and the two Antennae should be even in length. It's important to make sure that the Flex-Floss stays on top of the hook and doesn't move down the side of the shank.



Step 8



Step 9

9. Take a couple of wraps of chenille in front of the legs and behind the hook eye, and tie the chenille off. Whip finish, and add a tiny drop of superglue to the thread wraps. Don't get glue on the Flex-Floss, as it will cause the floss to kink and distort.

Don't drop one of these on your big toe—they are heavy....

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

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

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