

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

October 2022

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

That miserable, late summer heat wave has finally ended, and mornings are now crisp with the promise of autumn. Autumn tends to bring an optimism for epic caddis hatches, plus an annual procession of salmon and steelhead.

These seasonal events can be experienced on many of our local waters, including the Yuba, and this year the club is fortunate the YubaFest is returning after a two-year, Covid-induced hiatus. The YubaFest will be held on October 15th & 16th at Sycamore Ranch, which is a county park located along the Yuba, outside of Marysville. This year's festival is being dedicated to the late **Jon Baiocchi**, a hugely respected flyfishing guide who did much to identify and highlight the Yuba's many qualities.



The YubaFest is a fund-raiser for the Northern CA Council of Fly Fishers International. The \$10 entry fee will help NCCFFI pursue its main objectives of supporting flyfishing clubs and funding conservation efforts. The purchase of an entry ticket will be money well spent...even if one does not make the trip.

Formal programs include fly casting, fly tying and etymology. There are also several "pay-to-play" options. Click this link for more details: <https://www.yubafest.com/>.

A BBQ dinner, storytelling and music are offered on Saturday, October 15th. Rumor has it the GBF president may drag his trailer to the Sycamore Ranch campground for the entire weekend. A separate email blast will be sent if a campsite can be secured.

Monthly Program



Spey fishing riffles on the Lower Sac

Our speaker this month is **Andrew Harris** who will have a presentation on Spey Casting for Trout and Steelhead.

Spey casting is a traditional and very fun way to catch steelhead. Lighter "trout spey" rods are also a great way to catch trout in larger California

rivers. Andrew will discuss the basic principles of spey casting and the different types of rods, lines, sink tips, and spey flies for both steelhead and trout. He will also cover the best destinations in California for catching trout and steelhead on a spey rod.

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O C T O B E R 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.	22.
23. Upper Sac Fishout Oct. 27 - 30	24.	25.	26.	27.	28. Upper Sac Fishout Oct. 27 - 30	29.

Monthly Program - Continued from Page 1

Andrew Harris has been guiding in northern California since 1997. He lives in Red Bluff, California with his wife, Katie, and daughters, Mackenzie and Madison. In 2007, Andrew created [Confluence Outfitters](#) with help from partners, **Gino Bernero** and **Jon Hazlett**. Andrew puts the "Outfitter" in Confluence Outfitters, as he is the one who answers the phones and emails. Andrew can help you select the right guide, destination, and time of year for your next fly fishing trip.

Andrew is a USCG-licensed Captain, is a regular on the [fly-club speaker](#) circuit, has written countless articles for [California Fly Fisher](#) and other magazines, and is the author of the *Plumas National Forest Fishing Guide*, a fly fishing guidebook to the Feather River Country. Andrew is currently President of the [Shasta-Trinity-Cascades chapter of Trout Unlimited](#).

Upper Sac Time is Here!

by Tony Jelinek, Fishout Leader

The 29th annual fall Upper Sac Fishout will be taking place from **October 27-30** (Thur-Sun). The Upper Sac boasts 30 miles of river access, with the center being the town of Dunsmuir.

Due to abundant pocket water, short-line nymphing is the method of choice on this stream. If new to the river, or new to fly fishing, you will be partnered with someone who knows the ropes, and everyone who signs-up will receive information on lodging, an agenda, and directions for river access points. If you are new to short-line nymphing, you will be shown how to tie the leader and obtain instruction on the technique. In

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Upper Sac Time is Here - Continued from Page 2

the evening, we all gather for dinner at a local restaurant to appease our hunger and tell tales of the day. We are also planning on having a barbecue tri-tip dinner for about \$10 per person on Friday evening. Plan on joining us for 4 days, or as many days as you can make it, for fun, fishing, great camaraderie, and a chance to get to know this beautiful fishing water.

More details on this event are posted [here](#) on the GBF website. If you are interested in participating in the fish-out, or have any questions, please contact me at jelinea@me.com, or phone: 916-751-9249.

Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-off Saturday, December 10

It's that time of the year again. It's time to get ready for the Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-Off. First, put it on your calendar so you won't miss it. Second, if you're planning on selling some of that extra gear that is taking up valuable garage or closet space, get it sorted out and ready for the swap meet. Third, is dust off that old special chili recipe and tune it up to enter it in the cook-off.

Seasoned club members know this is the event where you'll find the best deals around on fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, waders, boots, hackle, thread, split shot, fly tying vices, wading vests, thermals, and anything else you can possibly think of that relates to fly fishing. There will be flies hand tied by members selling for less than \$1.00 each. There will be too many items available to mention here; just know you won't go home empty handed. Additionally, you might win the raffle fly box with four dozen flies for just showing up.

To get the best deals—be there no later than 8:30 AM (by 10:00 AM everything is pretty much bought, sold or eaten). Sellers should reserve table space by contacting **Drake Johnson at (916-532-3073, or at 1drakej@comcast.net)**. **There will be a signup sheet, at the October and November meeting.** You 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 – Here'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.

Remember:

1. Get here at 8:30 AM for the best selection. Sales will start as soon as sellers are ready.
2. Stay late for the best price.
3. Bring cash.
4. Feel free to bring your boats, float tubes, prams, pontoons, etc., but set them up outside (with price and seller name). Those things usually sell better if they are inflated (with air).
5. Bring a friend. Bring your checkbook.



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Saturday October 15th 10am – 8pm

- How to Fly Cast
- How to Tie Flies
- Conservation Groups
- Fly Clubs
- Bugs – What They Do
- Raffle & Auctions
- Door Prizes

Sunday October 16th 10am – 4pm

- Learn to Fly Fish Class
- Salmon Tour Raft Trip
- Fly Casting Clinics
- Guided Fly Fishing Opportunities

Saturday Evening Social 5pm – 8pm

BBQ Dinner
Live Music
Storytelling



**Sycamore Ranch County Park
Lower Yuba River**



Tickets and Info available at
bit.ly/yubafest2022

**Single \$10
Family \$20**

Join Trout Unlimited and Friends of Squaw Creek for

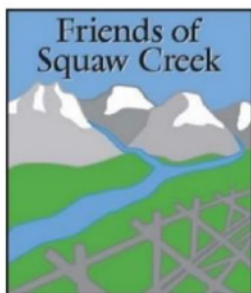
Truckee River Day 2022



FOSC and TU will be continuing the Washeshu (formerly Squaw) Creek Restoration Project by installing and maintaining willow dams that stabilize the eroding streambanks.

Presented by the Truckee River Watershed Council

foriver
TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



**Sunday, October 16th
11:00am-2:30pm
Olympic Valley, CA**

**BBQ to follow at
Granite Flat Campground**



For more information and to register visit:
<https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/get-involved/truckee-river-day/>
Or email Dan.Johnson@tu.org

Origin of the Copper John Fly (Installment No. 4 of the essential flies)

by Eric Palmer

*"Calling Fly-Fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job."
~ Paul Schullery*

It was a day in 1993 that long-time fly angler and master fly tyer John Barr of Boulder Colorado concluded that he needed a new fly. His favorite rig for moving water was a three fly version of the configuration that we today call "hopper-dropper" or "dry-dropper," and, which unbeknownst to Barr at the time, would soon spawn the catchy phrase popularized by guides, "hopper-copper-dropper."



A Copper John in natural copper with a well tapered body.

Barr visualized a small attractor with the fastest sink rate physics would permit to hang 2-4 feet below a bushy floating stimulator like an Elk Hair Caddis, or foam hopper "indicator." This new fly would in turn have a more realistic hatch-matching nymph dropper tied below it as the morsel the fish would presumably prefer among the other options of the three-fly configuration; caution advised. But, good news, as we've learned this concept can also work well with just two flies for the more risk averse among us.

In fact, each fly in its own right presents an opportunity to hook a fish. And, as it would later develop, Barr's new creation fished all by itself would often prove to be very effective.

Barr likely had no idea at the time that what would evolve from his early efforts almost 30 years ago would become a fly so ubiquitous and popular that it's likely found in nearly every fly box in North America, if not many world-wide.

He wanted a small, yet very heavy fly, to sink fast in order to keep the fly below it hugging the streambed. It should be flashy enough to catch the eye of an otherwise disinterested trout as inducement to cruise over for a closer look at the full rig, and to hopefully pick off the bottom more realistic fly.

The fly's disparate features should allow it to serve as a proxy for a myriad of aquatic life, including a stonefly, mayfly, caddis, and even a midge (chironomid). A jack-of-all trades, yet master of none. In other words, it's not a particularly precise match for any known aquatic insect in North American waters. But then, who among us has ever witnessed a two or three-year-old human toddler refuse a smooshed, misshapen factory second cookie or cupcake? "Close enough" can and often does win the day.

It would not be until three years later in 1996 before John Barr was fully satisfied that his new fly was finished after various tweaks, twists and turns. After trying various hooks, he settled on a Tiemco 5262 2XL, 2X heavy hook with a tungsten bead. For yet additional weight, and to secure the bead, he added several wraps of lead wire tucked tightly behind the bead. Modern YouTube tyers may add a couple drops of super glue to the wire for good measure.

The original abdomen was natural-color copper wire, as today's colored non-tarnishing copper wire would not appear until later, and the original body had no taper. Barr then, to help facilitate faster sinking, added a

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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.

Origin of the Copper John Fly - Continued from Page 6

gracefully tapered thread underbody for the sleek smooth profile seen in the photo above. A fly I will claim, without proof, to have been tied by John Barr himself because of where I found the photo.



John Barr

Copper Johns in your fishing partner's fly box, they will most likely be the red Ultra Wire version, which speaks loudly to the effectiveness of that particular color as a good place to start with your collection.

But, the other colors are not to be ignored. Chartreuse will evoke a caddis larva (green rock worm), stoneflies in black or brown with larger hooks. Black in size 18 or 22 can be a Baetis or Trico imitation. In still-water, as a chironomid imitation under an indicator, you can fish size 14-18 in red, green or zebra (black/silver wire). For the fly's creator, plain copper, Red, black and chartreuse are his favorite colors.

You can even use Copper John's for Crappie, Bluegills and Large Mouth Bass. The Copper John is a hard fly to beat as a versatile "work horse," albeit a small one, including as a "Hail Mary" when you are having a really bad day on any water. Simply tie on a size 16 or 14 red CJ about 15-18 inches below whatever fly you've been fishing, and see what happens. One Fall I hooked a nice half-pounder in a riffle on the American with that trick. The next morning at the same spot, I coached my brother-in-law to "stand here-cast there" with the same configuration, and produced the same result. He looked at me like I was a genius. This just might allow you to return home one evening with head held high as you are about to be interrogated with a skeptical "Well....how'd it go mister flyman?"

Barr's preferred leader rigging with a Copper John is a 7.5 foot 3X tapered mono leader with a heavy butt section to the hopper (top) fly. Next is 2-4 feet of 4X fluorocarbon to the Copper John, with 12 inches of 5X fluorocarbon to the final nymph dropper. Under a strike indicator, he may use the Copper John as the first fly and have two nymphs dropped below it.

So...if you are a new fly tyer you might be wondering, ok, great, how do I tie this fly? There are many YouTube videos available, but [this one](#) from Tim Flagler of *Tightline Productions* is easily my favorite. Take a look.

And, as for the fly's name? Well...what else could it be?

He then dropped the original and fragile Hungarian Partridge tail and legs in favor of today's brown goose biot tail and brown hen hackle legs. That forked tail, by the way, provides the impressionistic stonefly que that can trigger a strike. The original single peacock herl thorax remains, but the turkey quill wing case was replaced by Wapsi Thin Skin as it became available, and it also proved to accept the epoxy better than the turkey. The final touch appeared after his artist friend Dave Hall suggested a narrow strip of Pearl Flashabou across the top of the Thin Skin and under the epoxy, and now the fly was complete, at least in its original natural copper.

On the addition of epoxy, Barr had this to say:

"I first saw epoxy used to coat wing cases years ago on a Hal Jansen's Callibaetis nymph pattern. The epoxy may give off a little glow that many emerging nymphs and pupae exhibit. I do not know if the epoxy makes the fly more effective, but it sure gives the fly curb appeal."

In the spring of 2001 Wapsi came out with their Ultra Wire in the wide array of colors and sizes we see in fly shops today. Barr was quick to embrace this new non-tarnishing copper wire, which opened up near endless opportunities for the fly. In fact, today, if you see



Wapsi Ultra Wire

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Origin of the Copper John Fly - Continued from Page 7

About John Barr

John Barr began his fly-tying journey in his next door neighbor's San Jose garage when he was only five or six years old, and much of his early fly-fishing years were spent fishing for crappies and bluegills in the local San Jose gravel pits. As years passed, he branched out developing his skills stalking trout in the Merced River, Yosemite National Park and streams and lakes throughout the Sierras.

Today, most of the flies he ties and fishes are patterns representing aquatic insects (nymphs), since they provide most of a trout's diet. Beyond his Copper John, Barr's additional designs include well-known patterns such as the Barr Emerger, Vis-A-Dun, Graphic Caddis and the Meat Whistle. John is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants and on the advisory staff for Sage, Simms, Rio and Outcast, and is a member of the Ross pro staff.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Mike Bean, VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

Daren Blonski

Michael Berg

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

Fly Patterns - Ken Hanley's Pygmy Hopper



Ken Hanley's Pygmy Hopper

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260, 1270, or similar bent long shank hook, sizes 6-8
Thread:	Camel colored 6/0 or 8/0
Tag:	Red super floss or silk
Abdomen:	Furled spooled antron yarn: three strands—tan, green, and gold
Under-wing:	Natural deer hair
Over-wing:	Butts of furled antron yarn
Thorax:	Dubbed tan Buggy Nymph
Long Kicker	
Legs:	Silli-legs, pumpkin/blue black or similar color
Front Legs:	Same as kicker legs
Head:	3mm foam, white, colored to desired tone

Description

I had planned on featuring the October Caddis emerger pattern for October. Instead I decided to write about my friend Ken Hanley's Pygmy Hopper. I first saw Ken tie this beauty a couple of years ago at one of the fly fishing shows. He gave me one and I've kept it ever since. Ken, Andy Guibord and I recently did some Smallmouth Bass fishing on the North Fork of the American River just above Clementine Lake, and at Yankee Jim's bridge. Ken was using his hopper, and gave me one to try. The action of the fly is excellent: it floats in

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Fly Tyer's Cornert - Continued from Page 8

or just under the surface film (as a real hopper would), and the "kicker" legs move enticingly. Andy caught the nicest fish of the day on a Pygmy Hopper, and I landed a few small fish most of which took the hopper. The fishing was slow, but we had a great time trying different approaches and flies.

The Pygmy Hopper is relatively simple to tie, and has no exotic materials. So crank out a few of these and enter your best in the monthly contest at the November meeting. I'll be tying the hopper at the October meeting, so if you have any questions you can resolve them there. Also, to see color pictures of each step of the tying instructions, visit Granite Bay Flycasters' web site and click on "Fly Tyer's Corner" on the home page.

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. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless hook. Cover the front 2/3 of the hook with the red superfloss or silk to form a "tag." Cover the wraps with a coat of Flexament.
2. Cut three pieces of antron yarn (one strand each color) from the spools. The strands should be about 6" long. Even them up and "furl" them, following the instructions set out in the **March, 2005** Fly Tyer's Corner Leader article. You can find it on the following page from on the Granite Bay Flycasters web site: https://gbflycasters.org/fly_tying/patterns/Ken_Hanleys_Furled_Damsel_files/Ken_Hanleys_Furled_Damsel.htm
3. Tie in the furled abdomen at the midpoint of the shank and wrap forward to about the 1/3 point on the shank. Place some Flexament on the tie-in area. Don't trim the butts of the antron yet, as they will become the over-wing.



Steps 1, 2, & 3



Step 4

4. Using a long (6") piece of the leg material, double it over and tie it in on top of the furled antron so that it forms the kicker legs, which stick out to the rear of the fly. The tie-in point should be at the same midway point on the shank as you used to tie in the antron. They should be pulled down to the sides of the hook and aligned in that manner. Don't trim them yet.

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5. Cut, clean and stack a small bunch of deer hair. Trim the butts so that the bunch is around 1/2" long. Tie it in on top of the tied-in antron; don't allow it to slide around to the bottom of the hook; it should just splay out over the top of the hook. Place a drop of Flexament on the wraps.
6. To form the over-wing, pull the antron butts back over so they face the rear, and tie them down on top of the deer hair; trim the antron to the length of the deer hair or a tad shorter. It helps to comb out the butts before undertaking this step. Tie down the over-wing and apply a drop of Flexament.

*Steps 5 & 6**Step 7*

7. Tie in a set of front legs at the 1/3 point on the shank, so that there are two "legs" on each side of the hook. They will be in an "X" configuration; take the front-facing legs and pull them back, securing them in that position so that all 4 of the front legs are facing rearward along the sides of the shank.

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

Fly Tyer's Cornert - Continued from Page 10



Step 8

9. Dub a nice full thorax over the top of the tied-in foam. Pull the foam over the top of the thorax, tie it down at the rear of the thorax, and trim it so that you leave a stub about 1/8" long. Trim the front legs to about a 1" length, and the kicker legs to about a 1 1/2" length.



Step 10

Tying Tips

1. When working with foam it is helpful to use a nylon thread to avoid cutting the foam when tying it down. Just before tying it down, twirl the bobbin clockwise; this results in a flat thread surface.
2. It also helps to grab the foam just behind the tie-in point and squeeze it together; you will get a better tie-in and avoid cutting the foam.

Fish the Pygmy Hopper for trout, smallies, black bass, and panfish. Remember that trout look for hoppers at the edges of the stream, and not out in the middle.

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

8. Tie in a piece of foam cut to about 3/8" in width. Before doing so, trim the end to be tied in to a "V" shape. With the point of the V facing rearward and the rest of the strip sticking out over the eye of the hook, tie the foam in securely keeping it on top of the hook and wrapping over it right to the eye of the hook. Apply a drop of Flexament.



Step 9

10. Whip finish at the point where you tied down the pulled-over foam, and apply a drop of superglue to the thread wraps on the underside of the fly. You can use permanent markers to vary the color of the foam; a nice "camo" look seems to work well.



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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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