

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2023

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

The Annual Dinner is only a couple weeks away. It will be held on Saturday, March 25th at the Rocklin Event Center. This venue is located at 2650 Sunset Blvd. in Rocklin—the same location used for many previous dinners. The Event Center is easy to find; it has loads of parking, plus its interior is large and spacious. A big interior is important because lots of room is needed for tables displaying the Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes.

Speaking of raffles, there will be four "Special Raffles" at this year's dinner: 1) new members; 2) women; 3) those that purchased a \$50 block of raffle tickets; and 4) those that purchased a \$100 block of raffle tickets. Separate tickets will automatically be issued for each Special Raffle. They will be included in the "Welcome" packet each member receives when they enter the building on the night of the dinner. Special Raffle ticket prizes will be in the form of gift certificates (from Kiene's and/or Fly Fishing Specialties), and will range in value from \$25 to \$100.

Oh, and did I mention the Grand Prize? It is a 5-weight, Sage X rod that has been custom built and tricked-out by Larry Lee (e.g., titanium guides, fighting butt, custom cork hand grip). But wait, there's more: a Sage Spectrum reel is also part of the Grand Prize package. This rod and reel package will allow a guy to target most any fish in California...except a Delta striper with a bad attitude. And, BTW, the Grand Prize drawing is limited to club members (or guests) that bought a dinner ticket—no separate purchase is necessary.

Now is the time to buy your dinner ticket and support the club and all its endeavors. A modestly priced ticket of \$50 will get you a dinner catered by Back 40 Texas BBQ, plus a chance to win the Grand Prize. Purchase a second dinner ticket for a spouse or friend, and double your chances to win. Click [here](#) to buy your ticket now.



Monthly Program

Bio: **Clay Hash** has been fly fishing for over 35 years and operates a licensed educational guide service, [Fly Fishing Traditions](#), based in Grass Valley. He also maintains an educational website focused on fishing Northern California rivers, streams and lakes. Clay is the current President of the Gold Country Fly Fishers, and Vice President of the Northern California Council of Fly Fishing International.



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M A R C H 2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7. Board of Directors Meeting	8.	9. Monthly Meeting	10.	11.
12.	13.	14.	15.	16. Knot Tying Clinic Part 1	17.	18.
19.	20.	21. Fly Tying Jam	22.	23. Knot Tying Clinic Part 2	24.	25. Annual Dinner
26.	27.	28. GBF/FSJ Joint Fishout March 28 - 29 	29.	30.	31.	

Monthly Program - Continued from Page 1

Program: Clay's home water is the Lower Yuba River, and his program, **"The Lower Yuba Through the Seasons"** will cover fly fishing tactics associated with the five seasons of the Yuba he defines as:

- (1) The Fall – September, October and November
- (2) The Winter – December and January
- (3) The Early Spring
- (4) The late Spring and Early Summer
- (5) The Summer

The program will cover the insect hatches for each of the seasons, as well as providing information on fishing techniques and fly patterns to match the hatch. This information is applicable for most Northern California rivers and streams. A handout will be provided listing the information covered in the presentation.

Our Important Annual Dinner Event is Almost Here!

The famous Granite Bay Flycasters Annual Dinner, Raffle, and Auction is just days away now...and after a 3-year COVID hiatus, this sole club fundraiser is more important than ever to the future of our great organization! We hope every club member will attend and help support the club in this fun and rewarding way!

As of this writing, tickets are still available through the club's website. Here are all the dinner details...

• **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.

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Annual Dinner Event - Continued from Page 2

• **What:** Fantastic BBQ dinner, big raffle, outstanding silent auction, plus...the chance to break bread and share an evening with ALL 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:** Simple...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 March club meeting, or visit our website (www.gbflycasters.org) to buy tickets securely online. Tickets are just \$50 each!

Lastly...If you absolutely can't attend the dinner, please consider making a donation for the raffle or auction. If you can help in that way, please contact Kim Lloyd at kim@westernprojectmanagement.com.

Thank you for your support of the Granite Bay Flycasters!!!

Knot Clinics Are Back On!

"Fundamental Knots Clinic:" March 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
"Tune-up/Follow-up Knot Clinic:" March 23, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Go [HERE](#) for the location and further details

by Jim Degnan, a Knotty Guy

Some things we learn by doing...

If you look closely at a really good flycaster, especially if they are rather mature, you will see that they have simplified their approach. One or two spools of good leader/tippet material, a couple of setups, and a small box of flies. No elaborate stuff hanging off the vest or piles of fly boxes, just the basics. The older they get the simpler their approach to the sport, yet their catch rate stays above the average. Maybe something in the adage: "Old age and meanness make up for youth and skill..." Meanness here is defined as *frugal, sparse, lean*. Some may have a different definition of the word when it comes to those of us of a certain age—your choice.

The same experience and maturity can be applied to knot clinics. In early clinics they threw the book at us—two and three sessions with every knot known to the sport, including saltwater knots, specialty knots and rare knots. The students were overloaded; most of us didn't remember much of anything, and we reverted to the old standard, the clinch knot. We've learned a lot since then as we led clinic after clinic. The learning curve has been slow, but up.

For the Beginning Flycaster, or Those Wanting to Improve Their Basic Skills:

In the latest introductory clinics, we have broken the traditional "throw everything at 'em" mold. The program is limited to those knots needed to assemble a basic fly-casting rig. The objective is increased dexterity while tying the knot, and confidence in the knot they are tying. They are good strong knots, but not necessarily the old standards. For example, the only reason we cover the clinch knot is to gain dexterity—great teaching tool, but a terribly weak knot, probably responsible for more lost fish and broken setups than any other part of the rigging setup. Not recommended, especially when wet.

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Knot Clinics Are Back On - Continued from Page 3

There has been a concern, for example, that we don't cover the classic Perfection Loop in the clinics. We don't because it is weak, and the tag sticks out on the side so it can catch moss and slime. Better to learn how to tie the Kreh version of the non-slip Mono loop. The non-slip Mono loop is one of the strongest knots in all materials and all diameters, and in the Kreh version the tag is hidden in the loop. If there was only one knot that we would teach, it would be the non-slip mono loop—even for small dry flies—cuts micro-drag.

Why Go to a Clinic, Even Though You Are Experienced?

If you are serious about any sport, you are always trying to increase your skills and repertoire. Golfers spend hours on the range and putting. They get the latest equipment. Flycasters are no different. We are always trying to improve our game. Spend a couple of hours in a Knot Clinic and you might be rewarded with new confidence in your game.

Mike Bean, our club member and very experienced guide, has noted that a lot of our flycasters do not use multi-fly rigs. The general comments by other members are that multi-fly rigs are easy to tangle and too hard to put together. "I spend more time untangling and retying than I do fishing, so I keep it simple. *I hate tying the knot to the bend of the top hook. I get it fouled up a lot of the time.*" True up to a point. But if you can quickly tie knots and improve your casting, you will catch more fish. So, you tangle, no big deal. Cut the fly off, clean up the tangle and retie. How long should that take? Should take a couple of minutes. But with two flies in the water, you have doubled your chance of catching fish. Who knows, might get a double hookup. Try that with a couple of large brown trout who got greedy for chironomids at Fuller Lake—a day to remember.

We now offer a **"Followup/Tuneup"** clinic to cover that exact problem of multi-fly rigging, as well as any knots you might want to add to your repertoire. It is a lively time with lots of questions and learning for all of us. The format is much more open. It provides a chance for the members of the "Fundamental Knots Clinic" to review and reinforce their skills.

This clinic also provides the base for the knots required for the "Golden Trout Program." We look forward to seeing you there to help improve your skills and expand your repertoire!

**The Granie Bay Flycasters/San Jose Flycasters
Joint Fishout Is On!**

by Jim Degnan, Fishout Leader

Some of you may know that I am a member of three flyfishing clubs; Flycasters San Jose, Granite Bay Flycasters and Gold Country Flycasters. I'm not much of a joiner, no book clubs or fellowship clubs or organizations. I have friends who are members of multiple book clubs *where they actually read the books and discuss them*, not just read the wine labels and drink the contents of the bottles. My multiple memberships are part of my history—lived in San Jose and joined FSJ, kept my membership when I came to Roseville and joined GBF. Daughter moved to Nevada City, so we joined GCF. It has been a rich experience over the years.

This should explain how we ended up with a Joint Fishout with Flycasters San Jose. A friend of mine and I were talking about meeting up at Rancho Seco for a day or so. He thought he might bring his rig and we could camp. Then he thought he might turn it into an overnight fishout for FSJ. As these things go (it was morning and we were both dead sober), we hatched the idea of a joint fishout. GBF has done these things before,



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but it's been years, and I don't know the history.

We picked March 28 and 29 because the Rancho Seco Trout Derby is on the next weekend. We know they plant heavily with Lassen Trout, a very strong strain, and some monsters for the competition. Joey Nizuk has a sample for you to consider.

For more information on the lake and fishout, go [HERE](#) to the GBF website. This drone view gives you an idea of the lake layout.

So, here we go!

For the day participants: we meet Tuesday, March 28, and convene for lunch about 12:30 – 1:00 PM. The park hours are "Winter Hours," so you will have to exit the park by 3:30 PM. We will give you a paper map when you check in at the north ramp. It will show you some of the "hot spots," and also where we will hold lunch.



Joey Nizuk with a memorable fish



Rancho Seco Overview

If you want to camp and fish both days, then come Tuesday, March 28 and extend to Wednesday, March 29. At this point, we will have a potluck in the evening, along with the usual campfire and lolling about. Campers can fish until dark this year. The rule has changed from last year when they closed the lake at 3:30 PM. At this writing, we have three GBF members and one FSJ member signed up for camping.

Flycasters San Jose members are signed up through their website. Granite Bay Flycasters can sign up at the March meeting, through the Message Board [HERE](#), or by phone/text with Jim Degnan, 408-887-7742, jd293@comcast.net.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

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.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in March 2008)

Fly Patterns - Skwala Stonefly Adult



Skwala Stonefly Adult

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260, size 8-12
Thread:	Olive 8/0 or similar thread
Tail:	Moose body hair (dark)
Body:	Pale yellow dubbing
Ribbing:	Black V-rib, midge size
Egg Sac:	Black dubbing
Underwing:	Black crystal flash
Wing:	Same as tail
Post:	Calf body hair or white synthetic material
Hackle:	Grizzly saddle dyed brown
Legs:	Black stretch floss (aka flex-floss)

Description

Skwala stoneflies begin to emerge soon after the first of the year—sometimes as early as January, depending on weather conditions. Locally, they can be found on the Lower Yuba River, above and below the Highway 20 bridge, where trout and steelhead feast on them. The nymphs have an olive brown to dark brown coloration with a lighter pale yellow underside. As is the case for all stoneflies, they require clean, swift moving water,

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

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 6

and won't generally be found in slow moving areas or in spring creeks. Water temperatures need to reach 45 to 47 degrees to commence emergence. The nymphs will travel along the bottom and ascend onto vegetation or rocks.

Because trout concentrate their attention on the shallow, faster-moving water, don't immediately step into the water before beginning to fish—in other words, fish the edges. Mating will proceed along the banks and the females will hover along the water surface to deposit eggs. The male adults are unable to fly, as they do not have fully formed wings.

Nymphs are generally tied in sizes #10-12, and the adults are tied in sizes #8-12. Yellow Stimulators will work if the wings are darkened with a black Sharpie pen, but I prefer this rather simple pattern that has been effective for me. It has its origin in a fly tied by one of our long-time members and angler extraordinaire, Jim Coleman. I have modified it somewhat, but the credit goes mostly to Jim on this one.

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.



Steps 1 & 2

1. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless hook. Apply a thin layer of Flexament on the hook shank and cover the shank with thread.
2. Just above the back of the barb tie on a small clump cleaned (don't stack it) moose body hair. The tail should be short, as in the case of a stimulator.

3. At the same point, dub a small but prominent ball of black dubbing to imitate the egg sac.
4. At the same point, tie in a piece of black midge-size V-rib and pull it back out of the way.
5. Dub a medium sized body of pale yellowish dubbing. I like to mix in a little olive dubbing with the yellow before starting to apply the dubbing. The body should extend to near the front of the hook, about 1/3 shank length behind the eye. When dubbing is complete, use an olive Sharpie to carefully color the top of the body, which on the natural insect is olive in color.



Steps 3, 4 & 5



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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 7*Steps 6 & 7*

6. Stretch the V-rib so that it is ultra-thin, and rib the body in evenly spaced turns; tie off the rib in front of the body.
7. Tie in about 8 strands of black crystal flash at the front of the body for an underwing. Cut and clean a small bunch of moose body hair (don't stack it) and tie it in at the same point. The wing should extend rearward to the end of the tail.

8. At the base of the wing, tie in a clump of cleaned calf body or a small bunch of synthetic white material. Cut the tied-in hair down to about 3/8" in height. This will be the post for the brown hackle. See tying tips below for hints on how to tie this in.
9. Cut a single strand of flex floss and double it over. Place it over the post and down onto the shank. Tie it down in front of the shank with 3 loose turns of thread, cut the loop, and pull one strand down on each side of the hook so that the legs form an "X" shape. Now wrap tightly and apply a tiny drop of superglue to the bottom of the post. This will hold everything together.
10. Tie in a dry fly quality saddle hackle at the base of the post and apply a bit of dubbing to cover up the tie-in area. Wind the hackle up and back down the post. Tie it off behind the eye of the hook, form a nice small thread head, and whip finish.

*Steps 8, 9 & 10*

Tying Tips

1. In order to properly create the post and parachute hackle there must be adequate room left at the front of the shank. This means that the body must be ended at least 1/3 shank length behind the eye because the underwing, the wing itself, and the post must be tied in ahead of the body.
2. To tie in the post, point the tips of the material out over the eye and tie in the butts close against the base of the wing. Once the butts are secured, lift the material up and take a few winds around its base to "gather" the material. On the fourth wind, pull up and to the rear, catching the thread in the butts. This will hold the post vertical. Place a few insurance winds in front of the post.

Fish this bad boy close in to the bank, either upstream or down. You don't need to get into the water—just cast close in and let it drift. I will sometimes raise and shake the tip of the rod to make the fly skitter a bit—a technique use to imitate the "motorboat caddis." Go rip a few lips, and....

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: \$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

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