

June 2024

http://gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

Our life experience is comprised of innumerable dualities: good and evil, sweet and sour, observation and action...you get the picture. Dualities help our minds create order from the chaos presented by nature.

Dualities are often, but not always, contradictory. Good and evil are opposites, whereas observation is complementary to action. This is good to know because the quality of one's observations will often improve the rewards of one's actions.



The club's last speaker, James Garrettson, addressed this topic of observation and action. The term he used was "fishing with intent." James explained that fly fishers need to: 1) Observe the water; 2) Understand where the fish may be holding; and 3) Put together a game plan. For example, will you work the water upstream with nymphs or downstream with wet flies? Start from shore or walk into the water, if so, how far? James' point was that you don't start to fish until you have identified the intent of your actions.

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Monthly Program

Our guest speaker this month is **Jim Haufler**, a member of Granite Bay Flycasters and President of Friends of Auburn Ravine (FAR). Auburn Ravine is a small stream that starts outside the City of Auburn, flows through the City of Lincoln and, eventually, empties into the Sacramento River near Verona. FAR is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation whose conservation efforts are focused on protecting and enhancing natural habitats in the western Placer and Sutter County watersheds. His presentation will focus on "Opportunities along Auburn Ravine to improve habitat for fish and wildlife."

In Jim's words: Growing up in a family of avid hunters and anglers, I learned to respect and protect the natural environment while roaming the mountains and valleys of northern California. After retiring, my wife and I had time to explore the local area, and quickly learned to appreciate the open spaces and hiking



Amanda Casby rescues an Auburn Ravine Creek salmon

trails along Auburn Ravine. It was Marlene who spotted our first salmon in 2010. Later that year, she also caught a glimpse of a rare Pacific Lamprey.

I initially worked as a volunteer for other organizations concerned with the preservation of wildlife, and coordinated a Citizen Science Program along Auburn Ravine. I am now a Board Member and President of Friends of Auburn Ravine, which was formed in 2016.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
						Eagle Lake Fishout June 1 - 3		
2.	3. Tenkara Fishout	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.		
Eagle Lake June 1	#1 Fishout		Echo Lakes Fishout					
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.		
		Board of Directors Meeting		Monthly Meeting		Little Truckee Fishout		
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam	19.	20.	21.	22.		
	Conservation Committee Meeting	Truckee River Fishout	Manzanita I	Upper Sa Lake Fishout — J	nc Fishout — June une 17 - 23	20 - 23 TU Sierra Trout Camp June 22 - 23		
23. Upper Sac Fishout 30. Manzanita Lake Fishout TU Sierra Trout Camp	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29. Try Tubing Outing		

Leader's Line - Continued from Page 1

There is nothing groundbreaking about the concept of "fishing with intent." It is a principle we learn to appreciate. The Greeks famously said, "The Fates will lead he who will, he that won't will be dragged." The same concept holds true for successful fishing.

Another principle is "to do the basics brilliantly." These other basics include fly casting, knot tying and fly tying, not to mention learning about lines, leaders and tippets. It is the knowledge—and constant improvement—of these basics that improves one's fishing success. Knowledge starts with observations. Observe carefully and act accordingly.

Let's meet on the water.

Upper Sacramento River Spring Fishout, June 20 - 23

by Tony Jelinek, Fishout Leader

The 13th Annual Upper Sacramento Spring Fishout will be taking place, Thursday, June 20th to Sunday, June 23rd.

The gathering place for the fishout will be Dunsmuir Lodge. Many camping and motel options exist in the Dunsmuir area. Many in the group stay at the Dunsmuir Lodge. The Cave Springs Motel is under new ownership, and the motel rooms have been renovated.

Several lunch, breakfast, and dinner spots are available in the area for your meals. Due to the long days, we

Upper Sacramento River Spring Fishout - Continued from Page 2

usually don't have group dinners, but depending on what others would like to do, I can plan some. The flows are currently fairly high, so I am hoping they drop down by the time we have the fishout. I can keep everyone updated.

The Upper Sacramento River usually abounds with great pocket water. This time of year has long days, great for nymphing during the day, with a good chance of some good dry fly fishing with caddis and stonefly patterns in the evening. This is a great fish-out for anglers of all capabilities. If you are new to the river and/or new to fly fishing, you will be paired with a fellow angler familiar with the Upper Sacramento River. The fly fishing method of choice is short-line nymphing (aka high-sticking, Czech nymphing, and Euro nymphing), an easy method to learn. If you are unfamiliar with the method, you will be shown how to short-line nymph, as well as be provided with the necessary leader, and also be shown how to set-up the rig. Come up for all four days, or just overnight, to enjoy the great fishing for rainbow trout on the 35 miles of fishable water from just north of Lake Shasta to Lake Siskiyou!

For more information, please go to the posting here on the Granite Bay (916) 601-7853 C

Flycasters' website, and/or get in touch with me at jelinea@me.com. As we get closer to the event, registrants will receive additional information on flies, fishing spots, and the agenda.



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Manzanita Lake Fishout, June 17 -23

by Michael Kaul, Fishout Leader

Hey there GBF'ers. Once again, the Manzanita Lake fishout is upon us. Currently, we have 31 members signed up (including seven ladies), and have 12 sites reserved. Most are in loop A, but if you can get a site in B or C, they are all very close. Reservations are through <u>recreation.gov</u>.



The fishing has generally been very good for the wild rainbows and browns, (hasn't been stocked for 40+ years), usually 16-20" and beautiful. The scenery is also amazing, with views of Lassen from your tube. There are lots of trails ranging from a stroll on up, and plenty of those preferring a hike to fishing (my wife being one).

We will provide a dinner of hearty chili and cornbread,

probably on Thursday, for all attending. In the past, the weather has been chilly with some snow and rain, so be prepared. Hope you all can come!

To register for the fishout or get more detailed info, check the fishout template **HERE.** Hope to see you 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.

Annual Elections

The club's annual elections will be held at our June 13th General Meeting. Ballots will be available at the door. Each member will get one ballot, no double-dipping. Here's the current list of candidates that are running:

President: Mike McKinley

VP Membership: Scott Myers

VP of Conservation: Jim Monical

Secretary: Chris Anthon

Treasurer: Marvin Pescador

3-year Director: Marie Spaulding-Gray

3-year Director: David Harvey 1-year Director: Dave Stolecki

Thanks to all that have stepped up to help run the club.

It is noted that each office currently has only one candidate. The ballot will allow for write-in candidates to be added. The ballots will be counted at the meeting and the winners immediately announced.

New Fishing Opportunity

by Chris Kight

A great new fly fishing opportunity: Nestled in the rolling and oak-wooded hills east and north of Red Bluff—up towards Lassen—is a pristine stream that has some of the juiciest, most wadeable pocket water I've ever seen. It's a section of Battle Creek that flows in and out around these hills, and this 3-mile section has been protected. It looks like it would be awesome for a 3- or 4-weight rod or Tenkara—or both (if you're me).

My favorite guide, Jason Thatcher, recently made a private agreement with the owners of this huge parcel of ranch land to bring clients in to fish it. Specifically, note that this stream has not been accessible for a great many years. **If** it was fished at all, it was by one or two lucky souls that knew the owner. There is only one access road and it's gated.

I was lucky enough to visit this property with Jason and another guide friend of his very recently, and we had great fun fighting the robust fat monster trout that live in the ponds. We also drove down to Battle Creek for a look. Water flow was still too high to get in and wade—but I got excited just looking at this water and hiking/exploring.

Here's some of what Jason has to say about it:

"Set in the lava rock canyons and rolling foothills in the shadow of Mt. Lassen sits a special property outside of the town of Manton. This working ranch has nearly 3 miles of Battle Creek and two livestock ponds available for fishing. This country is wild and rugged. A day on this sprawling ranch is an experience in itself.

The ponds host trout that run from 2-6 pounds, with a few even larger than that! Although the trout populations were originally stocked, they are trout-gone-wild...

These are not large bodies of water; many of you could nearly cast across them if you wanted to; however, it is a really fun target-rich environment that both experienced or new anglers would find enjoyable.

New Fishing Opportunity - Continued from Page 4

Battle creek is open from the last Saturday in April until Nov. 15th. The creek canyon is rugged, steep, and brushy. However, for the intrepid angler willing to make an effort, there is a great opportunity to fish for trout that have most likely never seen a fake bug.

The creek sees hatches of stoneflies, salmonflies, yellow sallies, and caddis. There are not many places an angler can go these days to throw **big dry flies** to reckless **wild** trout, especially behind locked gates, and this is one of them.

To fish the creek, anglers will need to be prepared for uneven, steep hiking and rocky, slippery surfaces within the stream. The water type is greatly varied with steep pocket water, riffles, and slow flats.



The ranch owners do not allow DIY type trespass-fee trips on this property, so a guide will accompany



each group. Groups of up to 4 will be able to rotate through the individual pieces of water (Battle Creek is available after the opener and once the water drops). We can provide loaner rods and reels, and will provide lunch and bottled water for your group."

Who wants to be one of the first to fish it? I'm already signed up for an upcoming trip, then I'll write another article. Click the link to visit Jason's site, see more images and book a trip with him at www.riverpursuit.com. You can email him too at JThatcherfishing@gmail.com. He'll reply to your email when he gets off the river

In short, this is the kind of fly-fishing adventure that I have read about but never had available close to home, and I'm excited to get up there and chase these fish.

Trout Unlimited Trout Camp June 22nd - 23rd

What: Trout Unlimited's Sierra Youth Fishing Camp for children ages 10-12. This weekend day camp will be held at the Trout Ponds at Everline Resort and Sawmill Lake. Located close to Truckee, Sierra Trout Camp is designed to give kids an awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of our nation's aquatic resources with an emphasis on conservation, protection and restoration of coldwater ecosystems. Participants will also learn about stream ecology, native trout and salmon, stream physics and chemistry, fishing etiquette, angler conservation, and aquatic entomology. We are partnering with Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters, Matt Heron Fly Fishing, and Orvis Roseville to put on this event.

When: Saturday, June 22nd from 8:30_{AM}-5:00_{PM}, and Sunday, June 23rd, from 8:30_{AM}-5:00_{PM}.

Where: The Everline Resort and Sawmill Lake.

What we Need: Able-bodied volunteers who are able to serve as "guides" for participants in the program. Topics covered will be basic fly tying, basic knots, casting and ethical catch-and-release fly fishing. Basic knowledge of angling entomology is helpful (identification of major aquatic insect types). Patience, a good attitude, and willingness to help are the most important!

Trout Unlimited Trout Camp - Continued from Page 5

What to Expect: Saturday is a great day to help at various stations and ensure students start camp in a positive way and have a few hours of fishing. Sunday is our last day at camp, and students will take the skills they learned over the past two-days to fish Sawmill Lake for the majority of the day with their own personal guide (you!). We are shooting for a 1:1-2 student to guide ratio, which should make things pretty simple for volunteers.

What to Bring: Warm clothes, polarized sunglasses, hat, and rain layer as needed. Materials, hooks and thread are supplied by TU. Rods, reels, vices and leaders are supplied by TU. Lunch is also supplied by TU. If you have fishing gear such as nets, clippers, etc., please bring that along as well. Anything that would help you guide kids in catching fish!

If interested and to sign up, contact Sierra Trout Camp Director, Dan Johnson (of Trout Unlimited) at Dan.Johnson@tu.org or (530) 333-5125; or Jim Monical at jbmexplorer@gmail.com.

Conservation Donations

by Jim Monical, VP Conservation

Preserving, protecting and enhancing local waters are several of the club's primary objectives. The pursuit of these objectives is the responsibility of the Conservation Committee. This committee is comprised of club members that attend quarterly Conservation Committee meetings. If you attend a Conservation Committee meeting, then you automatically become a member of this committee. Last year (2023), the Conservation Committee selected 5 groups that shared \$10,000, which is visible on the 'Current and Past Support' Conservation web pages. This year, the Conservation Committee will have \$12,000 at their disposal. The Conservation Committee will meet June 17th at Round Table Pizza in Granite Bay. More details can be found in the Conservation Meeting event. Please sign up for the June 17th Conservation meeting so that we can have a head count to make sure that we have a large enough meeting room to hold all participants.

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Conservation Donations - Continued from Page 6

Another smaller group (Ad Hoc committee) was formed to vet potential candidates to be presented to the Conservation Committee for the June 17th Conservation meeting.

The Ad Hoc committee met in April to review a list of potential conservation donation candidates. This list was based on the groups that had received donations in the past. We reviewed the attributes of each candidate. These attributes included:

- the candidate's revenues
- their expenditures
- the types of projects they undertake and where these projects were or will be performed

We were able to gather the necessary financial information for the vetting candidates using this IRS website: https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/

Here is the list of candidates that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Conservation Committee will start with at the June meeting:

- California Trout https://caltrout.org/
- Trout Unlimited Truckee River chapter https://www.tu.org/chapters/california/truckee-river/
- Save the American River Association (SARA) https://www.sarariverwatch.org/
- Friends of Auburn Ravine https://www.auburnravine.org/
- South Yuba River Citizens League https://yubariver.org/
- Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFI) https://www.nccffi.org/
- Independence Lake https://www.truckeedonnerlandtrust.org/independence-lake-preserve
- Dry Creek Conservancy https://drycreekconservancy.org/

Many thanks to **Corley Phillips** for his work in getting the financial information together to help the Ad Hoc Committee vet the potential donation candidates.

To all Granite Bay members - please feel free to suggest other groups we should consider for donations by emailing the recommendation to the VP of Conservation (Jim Monical). The email should contain the name of the proposed candidate and its website. Email address is jbmexplorer@gmail.com. If a club member suggests a candidate, then that member should be ready to explain why that group should receive a donation (i.e., be an advocate for that candidate). It is important the website be identified so the group can be researched. Cutoff date for new candidate suggestions is June 1, 2024.

Fly Fishing England's Celebrated Chalk Streams; Then and Now

Dry Flies vs. Nymphs ~ Part One of Three Parts

by Eric Palmer

American fly fishers should know that the sport of fly fishing as we know it today originated in England in the early to mid-19th century at the hands of a number of innovative fly fishing pioneers. While there were way too many contributors to address here, among the more prominent names were James Ogdan, George Selwyn Marryat, **Fredrick Halford** (1844-1914) and **George Edward McKenzie "G.E.M." Skues** (1858-1949). With little effort, an inquisitive angler will find volumes written about the contributions of these pioneers to the sport. But, for our purposes here, the focus will be on the latter two, Fredrick Halford and G.E.M Skues, who were, respectively, and quite famously, at opposite ends of the dry fly vs. nymphing continuum. That is, which is the correct way to fish for trout?

Fly Fishing England's Celebrated Chalk Streams - Continued from Page 7

Dry Flies vs. Nymphs - the Developing Schism

Before we can fully appreciate modern day British fly fishing regulations and practices, we should understand how they got to where they are today. The art form of fishing with both dries and nymphs came to full bloom in England in the 1880s, but with a major divide gradually developing between practitioners of the floating vs. subsurface presentation. The latter being considered abhorrent by **Fredrick Halford** and his growing cadre of devout followers, while **G.E.M Skues** amply and eloquently demonstrated that nymphing subsurface was not only much more productive, but required considerable, if not more, skill and knowledge than executing an exquisite dry fly presentation. By the turn of the century, both camps were firmly entrenched and immovable from their positions.

In 1886, Halford published his hugely popular "Floating Flies and How to Dress Them," which dealt with all facets of fly tying from dying feathers to the various techniques of attaching feathers and hackles to the hook. In his last chapter, however, what would become Halford's "line in the sand" appeared. In the interest of brevity, the quote is substantially reduced, but still conveys his sentiments:

"To define dry fly-fishing, I should describe it as presenting [...] the best possible imitation of the insect [...] in its natural position. [...] It is necessary, firstly, to find a fish feeding on the insect, secondly, to present a good imitation in size and color, thirdly, it is necessary to present him in the natural position, or floating on the surface with wings up, or "cocked"; fourthly, to put the fly lightly on the water, so that it floats accurately over him without drag; and fifthly, to take care that all these conditions have been fulfilled before the fish has seen the angler or the reflection of his rod."

In 1889 Halford's second book, "Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice," would receive even greater acclaim than his earlier work, and contained this statement to further remove any lingering ambiguity on his position:

"The purists among dry-fly fishermen will not under any circumstances cast except over rising fish, and prefer to remain idle the entire day rather than attempt to persuade the wary inhabitants of the stream to rise at an artificial fly, unless they have previously seen a natural one taken in the same position."

- F.M. Halford - "Dry-Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice", 1889

Over his remaining years until his death in 1914, Halford would publish another five well-received books while vigorously maintaining his firm position on the superiority of dry fly fishing, all the while acquiring an ever-larger following, in spite of the much lower catch rate compared to wet flies. This was very likely the result of his masterful writing and his compelling arguments which convinced many British fly anglers, if not many Americans too, to follow him to the seemingly moral high ground.

Enter G.E.M Skues:

But, there was dissention in the ranks. Foremost among the dissenters was the equally talented fly fisher, gifted communicator, passionate nymphing advocate and successful attorney, G.E.M Skues.

British fly fishing historian, Dr. Andrew Herd, said the following of Skues:

"G.E.M Skues was, without any doubt, one of the greatest trout fishermen that ever lived. His achievement was the invention of fly fishing with the nymph, a discovery that put a full stop to half a century of stagnation in wet fly fishing for trout, and formed the bedrock for modern sunk fly fishing. Skues' achievement was not without controversy, and provoked what was perhaps the most-bitter dispute in fly fishing history."

While being an accomplished dry fly angler in his early years, but based on keen observation and experience, Skues became increasingly convinced that there was much greater opportunity for hooking fish sub surface. In the late 1880s, he netted a fish on a dry fly and was surprised to find its mouth full of green insects he

Fly Fishing England's Celebrated Chalk Streams - Continued from Page 8

would later realize were pre-emergent Drake mayflies. In 1891 he had a chance meeting on the river bank with Halford himself, but was a bit put-off when Halford proceeded to tell him which (dry) flies he should use. Skues continued with his subsurface technique that day and handily out-fished the grand master. This experience gave Skues the self-confidence to further buck the dominant dry fly trend, redoubling his efforts to study bug life under the film, and to develop flies that imitated emergers. He soon concluded that when there were bulging rises but no visible insects, the fish were feasting on emergent nymphs.

In 1910, Skues published his first book, "Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream," and it was "game-on" in his philosophical battle with the dry fly master, Halford. His book title was intended tongue-in-cheek, since his nymphing tactics were in fact not "minor" in his view. They represented a major game changer in fly fishing, whether on the mild southern chalk streams or faster waters to the north, and he had set out to prove that his nymphs were in fact more effective on Halford's home waters, a concept that Halford and his devotees would find most objectionable.

In 1921, Skues published his second book, "The Way of a Trout with the Fly," which is considered one of the greatest works on nymph fishing by any author. Here, Skues introduced his new idea of what he called "kick" from the proper implementation of a soft hackle to give the fly life. If you look online at a soft hackle tied in the Skues manner, you will notice that the hackles stand out almost at 90 degrees, rather than tightly swept back, giving them additional room to move as the fly "swims," imparting a more life-like action.

Although Skues' certainly had attracted many loyal adherents, the dry fly "Halfordian School" of fly fishing would retain a tight grip on fly fishing in Britain over the first third of the 20th century and beyond, in spite of Skues' best and highly articulate efforts to turn the tide.

Next month we'll learn the structure of a chalk stream and why they're so special. We'll also learn, with help from an actual British angling expert who calls County Hampshire home (very close to prime water), how nearly all British chalk streams became private and exclusive for anglers seeking what British anglers consider true game fish.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in June 2009)

Fly Patterns - Hickey's Automatic Emerger



<u> Materials:</u>

Hook: Tiemco 2457 (scud hook) #14-22 **Bead:** Gold bead, sized to match hook

Thread: Olive 8/0

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers
Abdomen: Olive crystal flash
Thorax: Olive antron dubbing
Wing pad: Olive crystal flash
Emerging wing: Dark dun CDC puffs

Hickey's Automatic Emerger

Description

This fly was featured in a recent issue of the "Orvis News," an excellent publication put out by the Orvis Company. I normally don't feature, in this column, flies found in magazines or other news publications. I will make an exception where a fly makes sense, has unique features, and is practical—i.e., it looks fishy and is

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 9

easy to tie. I don't know the fly's creator, Jim Hickey—but I have fished his fly and found it to be a worthwhile addition to fly boxes. According to Hickey, it imitates a BWO as well as a PMD, with the only variant being the dubbing colors. Let's go with the BWO configuration.

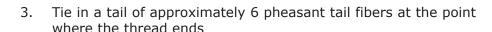
Tying Instructions

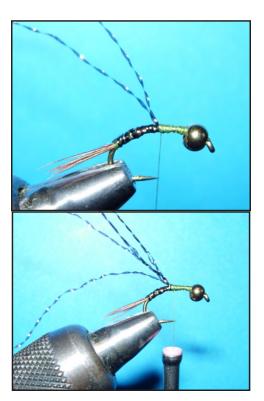
For best viewing: (1) Maximize your Computer Screen Window. (2) Type "Ctrl + or -" to enlarge or contract the photograph display. (3) Use the Horizontal and Vertical Scroll Bars to scroll right and up/down to display larger photos on your screen.



Steps 1 & 2

- 1. Crimp the hook barb and place the bead on the hook.
- 2. Cover the hook shank with a layer of thread, working from the back of the bead to the hook bend. The thread should just short of halfway down the bend.





Step 3

- 4. At the same tie-in point, tie in two strands of olive crystal flash and move the thread forward to the back of the bead.
- 5. Twist the olive crystal flash strands together, and wrap them up the shank to the 1/3 spot on the shank behind the bead. Tie the crystal flash off at that point but don't cut it off. Instead, double it over and then tie it back over the abdomen, leaving the thread at the 1/3 point.

Steps 4 & 5

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 10

6. Dub the thorax; it should be fuzzy but not overly large.



Step 6



7. Take a small dark dun CDC puff and tie it in by its stem, with the tip of the feather pointing rearward, just behind the eye.



8. Bring the crystal flash forward and tie it off at the same point. The "wings" should now be sticking out to the sides of the fly. Whip finish.



Step 8

Tying & Fishing Tips

If the CDC sticks out too far from the hook once it's tied off, use your scissors to trim it to shape. When making the crystal flash body, apply the winds evenly and smoothly. Now go tie one and then go fish it, and...

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



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. Single membership: \$35; Family memberships: \$40; There is also a \$15 name badge charge for each new member. For membership information, contact VP Membership at gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org, or visit the website at https://gbflycasters.org/join-us/.

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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Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs						
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		John Hogg	916-709-7340			
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