

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2025

<https://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Mike McKinley, GBF President

The club's Annual Dinner is March 29th. As of March 3rd, it is approximately 80% sold out. Get your tickets now for this great event, as it always sells out. The Grand Prize will be a Larry Lee rod, Sage reel, line and carry case. Other prizes are also excellent, including a fishing kayak. See **Dave Stolecki's** eblasts.

Raffle donations are needed. Non-fishing items work well. Non-fishing items might be a dinner certificate, an oil change, or anything similar. Don't be shy; ask your family members, boss or neighbor to donate their services. Member guided trips are great values for our newer members. Contact Dave Stolecki [here](#) if you can help.

The days are getting longer and warmer. Bass and bluegill turn on at lower elevation and nearby locations. That's why our recent speakers have focused on them 30-60 days before they start to be red hot. This is the time to consider restocking your fly box. Bluegills will eat almost any trout fly, and smaller poppers or spiders as well—dry flies, wet flies or soft hackles, and small wooly buggers. For bass, you can use some Gurglers, poppers or frogs, streamers, Wooly Bugger, leach or dragon flies.

This is also a good time to renew your membership, as you will be dropped from the active roles if not renewed on time. Dues were due on Jan 1st.

As a Board of Directors, we feel that the real attraction of our club meetings is in the social time and presentations. So, I am endeavoring to speed up and shorten the business meeting portions. Let me know how it is working.



Monthly Program



Our guest speaker in March is **Jason Thatcher**, a full-time river guide and owner of [River Pursuit Guide Service](#) on the Sacramento River near Red Bluff, where he has held a guide license since 2002, with experience guiding in CA and AK with both jet and drift boats.

Regarding his presentation, in Jason's words:

What I would like to share is that when it comes to the lower Sacramento River, there is life beyond Redding, and there is life beyond bobbers; and life is good!

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<i>M A R C H 2025</i>						
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
						1.
2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board of Directors Meeting	12.	13. Monthly Meeting	14.	15. Casting in the Park
16.	17. Conservation Meeting	18. Fly Tying Jam	19. Knot Clinic - Fundamentals	20.	21.	22. Casting in the Park
23.	30.	24.	31.	25.	26.	27. Knot Clinic - Follow up to Basic Knots
					28.	29. GBF Annual Dinner

Monthly Program - Continued from Page 1

I will be presenting information regarding the fly-fishing opportunities below Anderson and reaching all the way down to Corning. This stretch of water generally receives much less pressure, has a very dynamic variety of water types, and maybe best of all, the opportunity to deploy tactics other than indicators.

Besides the typical indicator rig, we often use dry-droppers, tight-line (euro) nymphing, dries, and a hybrid technique that combines a euro setup with an indicator that I haven't found a name for yet.

I have invested a lot of time and effort in developing a tight-line rig that functions well in the big water, and I will share some of that practical knowledge.

2025 GBF Annual Dinner Dessert Auction Procedures

A wonderful way to end a great dinner is with a special dessert. There will be a dessert table showing all the fabulous desserts provided by our own GBF member bakers, which will be ready for silent bidding by table. It is **cash only**, and the table with the highest bid will get first choice of a dessert, the second highest bid will get second choice, etc.

The process is as follows:

- * Each table (as a group) will decide the amount to bid on a dessert.
- * The bid amount will be written on the envelope provided and the **cash** placed inside.
- * The envelopes will be collected at the close of bidding and tabulated.

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2025 GBF Annual Dinner Dessert Auction Procedures - Continued from Page 2

- * The table winners will be announced from highest bid to lowest.
- * In case of a tie, those table numbers will be announced and asked to select their dessert.
- * If there happens to be any remaining desserts, they can be individually purchased—price will be announced at the dinner.

Bring cash for the dessert auction; the net-of-cash and the deck of cards games.

And if you have not yet purchased your Annual Dinner tickets, better do it soon to take advantage of all the fun, excitement, and fellowship that this event provides.

Try Float Tubing Clinic

Hello GBFers. **Michael Kaul** is thinking of doing the Try Float Tubing Clinic again this year, and we are trying to get a feeling about interest. The clinic is designed to give folks an opportunity to try tubing without having to buy the equipment. It is a very enjoyable, relaxing and productive way to fly fish. We borrow equipment from fellow members, do a survey of participants’ needs, and meet up with the group at Fuller Lake.

After getting everyone outfitted, we will do a short class on basics of safety, like getting in and out of the water, and how to fish and land the inevitable fish. We will try to get as many different float tubes and fins as we can so you can see them, try them out and talk to people about the pros and cons of each. After that, we hit the water along with the experienced tubers who have volunteered to mentor folks out on the water.

After a few hours of fishing, we get together for a lakeside lunch, then back out if you desire. We anticipate that the date will be a Saturday morning sometime in late June/early July between the two fishouts that Michael is leading. If you might be interested, please call or text Michael Kaul at 916 337-5468.

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

**Granite Bay Flycasters
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER!**



WHEN: 4PM on Saturday March 29th
WHERE: The Rocklin Event Center
2650 Sunset Boulevard Rocklin, CA

I can sit here and tell you all the great things that are going to happen at the Annual Dinner: Raffle prizes galore; a silent auction with fishing and non-fishing items; games like 100 squares, Deck of Cards and Net of Cash; tasty desserts you can bid on; barbeque with friends; wild fishing tales and more.

Or I could tell you this is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our club, bringing in money we give to worthy causes in conservation and help to support our monthly events.

No, I am not going to do that. I am simply asking you to buy some dinner tickets, a few (or a lot) of raffle tickets and enjoy the festivities!

You can purchase tickets on-line by going [HERE](#) the Granite Bay Flycasters website, 'Events' at the top of the page, then 'Annual Dinner'. You can also access the Annual Dinner link on the website at 'Member Options' then 'Event Calendar'.

This event is too important to wait until the last minute to purchase tickets as we will sell out! Get there before the crowd. Order before December 31st and you will be entered into a drawing for 100 raffle tickets!

Looking forward to seeing you on the 29th!

Dave Stolecki

(425) 269-2038

2025 Dinner Chair and
The GBF Annual Dinner Committee

Pyramid Lake Fishout April 9 - 12, 2025

by Paul Estridge



Our tenth annual GBF Pyramid Lake fishout fast approaches. First off, I'd like to acknowledge **Eric Palmer** for all that he has done to make our annual Pyramid Lake fishouts so successful. Through his leadership and expertise, Eric has brought GBF members together, year after year for 9 years, in a truly unique world-class fishery. Eric has developed a great model with fantastic materials, and starting this year **Tony Jelinek** and I will do our best to follow Eric's lead. When you see Eric, make sure to thank him for his effort. And you can blame him for getting stuck with us!

Please mark your calendars for April 9-12 (Wed-Fri, 3 nights), and be sure to sign up on the club calendar, where you will find a wealth of information on licenses, times, the potluck dinner, tackle and rigging

suggestions, and fishing methods. On the calendar fishout description, you'll also find useful links to licenses and camping permits, as well as links to possible accommodations in the Reno/Sparks area.

Those of you who have fished Pyramid Lake already have the fever that has only one cure, and you know it's not just more cowbell—it's a shot of LCT, i.e. the tug of a big Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. You might check out *California Fly Fisher* magazine, which devotes much of its Winter 2025 edition to the unique strain of this species and its place in the history of Pyramid lake. And when you feel your line come tight on a Pilot Hill LCT, you know that surge of energy coming up your line goes all the way back through the ice ages, fish-to-fish, gene-to-gene, to some big predator cruising the last ancient vestiges of a vast inland sea. It boggles the mind.



Those of you new to the lake should be prepared for changeable weather, probably highs in 50s, lows in the 30s. Sunny days can be quite warm. But, then again it could rain. The wind could waft gently—or it could blow you off your ladder. Sometimes the lake fishes best under the worst conditions. But then again, it fishes best on blue bird days. The only certainty is that the lake always fishes best when your fly is in the water, so perseverance delivers.

And on a related note, good casting at Pyramid Lake, especially on windy days—ok, that means every

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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.

Pyramid Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 5



day—just might put a smile on the face and a fish in the net. If you need a little more of that casting mojo, consider taking the club’s upcoming casting clinic. **John Hogg** will be demonstrating the double-haul from an 8-foot ladder (well, he might). Anyway, I’ve seen many of you out there who will agree that the clinics are well-organized, productive, and a lot of fun.

If you’re new to Pyramid, you can find lodging on the lake in rental cabins or trailers by contacting the Paiute tribe’s Pyramid Lake Lodge, formerly Crosby’s Lodge. A good number of members park their RV’s and trailers at the Pelican Point campground, where we will have our pot-luck dinner. On some of the more accessible beaches, I see RV campers overnighing. Mind the soft sand, and remember that the tribe requires camping permits. And as far as purchased sustenance goes,

you might enjoy the cafe/bar at the lodge, which displays some impressive LCT mounts, as well as offering Pyramid flies and gear that you might use at the lake.

To learn or review the fishing techniques of Pyramid, be sure to read the materials that Eric Palmer has provided on the GBF calendar fishout description. Some anglers prefer indicators, maybe with a nymph and a balanced leech; some might prefer stripping a sinking line with a popcorn beetle and a woolly bugger. I usually take two 7- or 8-weight rods down to the beach, rigged with each setup. Then, I’ll climb up on my ladder, fish the wrong setup until I see Eric or Tony catch a fish, and then switch over to whatever they’re using. And so it goes.

Whenever I meet another angler from another part of the country, or another part of the world, and we get to talking about places we fish, I’m amazed at how many know about this lake practically in our backyard. The



place where crazy people fish from ladders. I can’t wait to get up on mine next month!

At this point, the potluck dinner will be on Friday the 11th, barring any extreme weather. We’ll plan to send along more information regarding the potluck, flies, lines, rods, logistics, etc., to those who sign up for the fishout, so please remember to read the GBF calendar description and follow the fishout registration process to REGISTER NOW! Buy your Pyramid Lake tribal fishing license for the appropriate number of days by using the calendar fishout link.

Thanks!

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in March 2010)

Fly Patterns - Yong Special



Yong Special

Materials:

Hook:	Targus or Tiemco 200R, Daiichi 1260, or similar hook, sizes 20-24; for those who prefer a straight shank hook, a standard dry fly hook such as a Targus or Tiemco 100 will work well.
Thread for Head:	8/0 (70 denier) black
Abdomen:	Olive, #1648

Description

Andy Kim, whose real name in Korean is Andy Yong, is known as the legend of the San Juan River. I've never met him; rather, I learned of him through my friend Keith Kaneko who has fished with him several times. Keith uses the Yong Special wherever midges are present, including the lower Yuba River where he guides regularly. According to Keith, the Yong Special will catch fish when no other fly will work—and it out-fishes all of the other midge patterns that we know and love.

Here's a testimonial: "Simple but deadly. That's the best way to describe Andy Kim's series of midge imitations. His flies are so efficient, he has earned the jealousy of some rival guides, and it was long rumored on the San Juan River that he must be scenting his flies, or somehow fishing unethically. 'How else can he catch that many fish?' anglers would whisper over a beer at the Sportsman's Inn. 'It's just not natural.'"

Indeed, this fly is the ultimate in simplicity—it's all thread. It is the manner of applying the thread that makes the difference. It is critical that the finished body be smooth, with no lumps. To accomplish this, a smooth, tapered under body must be laid down. This is done by unwinding the thread so that it lies flat on the hook shank. When the tapered under body is completed, the thread is "over-tightened" by spinning the bobbin clockwise; the taut thread is then wound forward to create a segmented body.

Thread type and color are also critical. Andy Kim uses Coates and Clark sewing thread for the body, and standard thread for the head. Once the techniques are learned, it is possible to tie several dozen specimens in an hour.

Tying Instructions

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



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1. De-barb the hook.
2. Attach the thread at the mid-point of the hook and unwind it by twisting the bobbin counter-clockwise. Hold the thread taut with your left hand while taking two or three wraps toward the eye of the hook. Leave space for about two thread wraps behind the hook eye to build a head later. **(Note: although the following pictures don't show the thread untwisted, I highly recommend that you do so; it will create a smoother under body)**



Steps 1 & 2



Step 3

3. Wrap the thread back over the previous layer to the mid-point of the hook and trim the excess thread. This will help create the tapered body of the fly.

4. Continue to wrap thread to the rear of the hook and stop just above the hook barb.



Step 4

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Step 5

5. Twist the thread clockwise until it is tightly wound. Wrap forward with touching turns to the eye of the hook and make a small two turn whip-finish. Trim the thread.

6. Attach the black 8/0 fly tying thread behind the eye of the hook, and build a pronounced head, or thorax, that is a little less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the hook shank. Whip-finish and apply a tiny drop of super glue just behind the hook eye.



Step 6



Finished fly.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. As mentioned in last month's column, it is much easier to debarb the hook at the vise than on the stream. If you drop the tiny hook at the bench you have a fighting chance to find it; not so if you drop your fly while on the stream either when you are trying to extract it from the fly box or while tying it on.
2. As also mentioned in last month's column, after using super glue to finish the fly, use a piece of fine copper wire to ream out the eye. It will be hard enough to tie this miniscule critter to your leader, but you'll become totally frustrated if you discover the tiny eye clogged as you try to poke the leader into the eye.
3. Fish the Yong Special under an indicator if you wish, or use swinging techniques with an intermediate line and a 9 or 10 foot leader tapered to 5x or 6x diameter.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9

4. I found the C & C Summer Brown #54A thread at JoAnne's craft store. Unfortunately all they had was the large spool, so I had to have a friend with a sewing machine "decant" it down to a sewing machine bobbin that fits my Renzetti midge bobbin (which is not a bad thing when tying tiny flies).

Stay warm out there.

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

Six Years AftEr Finding Granite Bay Flycasters...

by Chris Kight

This'll be a bit of a commentary on some of the happiness/skills/knowledge and experiences that have been Granite Bay Flycasters gift to me...with appreciation, I'll always do my best to pay it back with volunteerism and participation.

Early 2019...While drifting the Klamath for half-pounder Steelhead with my sister and a local guide—throwing spinners with a rod and reel and catching a few fish—I noticed a different kind of boat—a platform drift boat and, in the time it took the boat to pass us and go on downstream, that fisherman caught and released 6 of these pretty juvenile Steelhead. (He was having **more** fun than I was!)

I said out loud, "I want to do THAT!" Marvin, my boat Captain said, "He's Fly Fishing." I'd heard of it, but had no experience whatsoever with Fly Fishing.

So, upon returning home to Roseville, I googled "Fly Fishing" and Granite Bay Flycasters popped up.

I joined the club online and attended my first meeting in February of 2019, built a rod with **Larry Lee** in April, learned some basics of casting in May with my newly built 5-weight, made some friends, built a net, learned basics of tying flies, connected with the Conservation team, attended all possible clinics and went on my first fishout on 13 July 2019—North Yuba River led by **Kim Lloyd** and his dog, with **Joey Nizuk, Curtis Frank, Mike Churchill, Dale Spear** and a few others.

Dale helped me get my rod set up, gave me a few pointers, showed me where the river access was, and sent me off to toss some nymphs in actual trout water for the first time.

After catching a few branches and shrubs on my backcast, I managed to catch two rainbows in the 9-10 inch range—my first on fly gear.

While I was snagging the brush, one of my snags was a dead branch above and behind my head and, when I tugged on it, the whole 25-inch branch came down. Much to my amusement, there were 4 flies already stuck in that branch—in various stages of rust and decay. (I didn't feel quite so clumsy after this evidence that I wasn't the first!) I took that branch back to our staging area at lunchtime and asked the attendees if any of the flies were theirs from years-gone-by. (Nobody claimed them)

At this fishout I was also given a hand-drawn, much-copied map of the N. Yuba wild trout section below Sierra City with 6 or 7 access points, and notes about fishing there—I have used this primitive map a few times since then when revisiting that river—I always catch trout there.

Mid 2019 I also got interested in using Tenkara for small streams. **John Pellegrin** (bless his heart) invited me on a "tour." We met at his house and drove up into the Sierras in his "go everywhere Subaru."

For 7 hours we drove around, visiting a multitude of streams, and he showed me how to find them, what their names were and where to access them. Not only did I find a lot of places to fish in the future, I also saw the utility of having a Subaru instead of the Mercedes Sedan that I owned, and quickly stepped-up to own my first "Go Anywhere Subaru Outback."

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Six Years After Finding Granite Bay Flycasters... - Continued from Page 10

Since then, I have float-tubed many lakes and ponds, fished with guides, explored and fished at least 25 streams—mostly in the Sierras—many of them multiple times, attended 7 or 8 club “fishouts” each year, and I keep a log....

I have fly-fished a total of 219 times in these past 6 years, and caught fish on 210 of those trips, all thanks to the tutelage of GBF members.

To say that fly-fishing is a joy and my favorite relaxing outing is an understatement—I reckon I “caught the bug.” I have attended a good number of casting clinics for traditional fly rods, Tenkara, Spey and Switch Casting.

When I get interested in something, I tend to “jump in with both feet,” and fly tying is another aspect of Fly Fishing that I enjoy a great deal. Thanks to our Tying Clinics and many YouTube videos, I had been fly fishing only about 9 months when I established my own fly tying bench. Using a small desk from Ikea, I sit and tie for a while at least 2 or 3 days a week. It’s a Zen-like calming experience and an artistic pursuit. I tie traditional flies as taught by the Club’s tying instructors; **Jim Holmes**, and **John Peterson**, and I taught myself to tie Tenkara flies as well. I keep giving flies away, but my inventory is still about 250 flies—about 220 more than I actually need. ☺ (By the way, all of them catch fish.)

Strategizing where to go and what method to use is part of the game. Asking other fly fishers, getting invited to go fishing with our members, using iPhone apps like “Trout Routes,” “onX,” etc.—I’m always up for exploring a new stretch of water.

Last September, after Tenkara fishing the “usual” section of a great small stream that I had John Pellegrin show me (and, having taken other Tenkara newcomers there for their first Tenkara experience quite a few times), I hatched the idea that, if that section always produced a few trout, there MUST also be fish to be caught upstream where, although it would be **much** more difficult to get to the water, it should be worth a try. So I drove up there once a week for the next eight weeks, fishing about ¼ mile of stream each time (which took about 2 ½ hours of fishing per trip). To my delight, the stretches that were difficult to access paid-off bigtime and, each time I found this new section to be a 7-to-10-fish-per-hour stream. The fish averaged 9 to 11 inches, which is great fun on a light Tenkara rod.

At one point—week 6—I turned a bend in the river and found a small dam which impounded the stream and sent about 40% of the water down the mountain in a “ditch.” Once I maneuvered above that dam, with 40% **additional** water in the stream, I was very happy to encounter a good number of 12-to-15-inch trout. Note that these were all wild Rainbows—very beautiful and hard-fighting fish—not planted trout, making it even more fun.

My second year in the Club I volunteered to be a Board Member—this gave me insight to the workings of our club and what it takes to create all the various things that GBF makes happen: Fishouts, Skills Clinics, Fly Tying, Rod Building, Net Building, fundraising for Conservation, camaraderie and fun. I served on the Board for two years, and then volunteered to be the Club Treasurer, serving in that capacity for another two years. Being on the “inside” gave me even more opportunities as a Club member and Fly Fisher. Just a pointer for any new member—volunteering to help manage the club activities actually DOES result in many more fly fishing opportunities!

The knowledge, approachability and friendliness of my fellow GBF members (as well as the willingness to share these ‘secrets’ of location and technique) has been responsible for a lot of fun, joy and adventure, and I appreciate and value all the friends I have made while attending our various events and, of course, fishing—alone and with various members. Even more than that, I look forward to a great many more outings as the months roll on.

When I have free time, these days, I’m either fishing, planning a trip or tying some flies. Do I still have plenty of time for home chores and “honey do’s?”

Well...sure...sort of...(but she seems to understand).

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 <https://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 <https://gbflycasters.org>. Single membership: \$45; Family memberships: \$50; 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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