

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2026

<https://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Robert Farley, GBF President

March is here already, and spring will be coming soon, even though some of our weather has felt like spring already. Hopefully, we will be getting more rain to fill our streams and lakes. This will help with the nourishment of our fisheries.

So, get out your equipment and fine tune everything, because I think there are going to be great fishouts on the schedule this year and every year. Please go to the website for all the upcoming fishouts and register.

Looking at the education schedule, it seems like we have a lot of things going on. Take advantage of the clinics—Casting in the park (Monthly), Fly Tying Jam (Monthly), Essential Knots/Knot Skill Building and Tenkara Fundamentals/Follow-up of three workshops. So, go to the education section of our website and you will see the whole list, and then register for what you like.

The club's annual dinner is on March 28, 2026, at the Blue Goose in Loomis. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, please do. **Tickets WILL NOT BE SOLD at the door on the night of dinner.** This is our one and only fund raiser for the club. The silent auction will have both fishing and non-fishing items to bid on. Fly rods and reels, waders, various flies, guided fishing trips, TV sets, Hosted Ladies Luncheon and much more. We will have a raffle going on with various wine, candy, snack, dog gift baskets, Yetti Cooler, Blackstone grill and much more. We play various games so that you can win a float tube, waders, cash and more. **Raffle tickets CAN be bought on the night of the dinner.** So, come join us for some fellowship and have some fun out with your club members.

Our elections for the Board of Officers and Directors of the club are held at the June general meeting. Various positions on the Board will be open. They are: Four directors, Secretary, VP of conservation. The board has a zoom meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the Board, contact Robert Farley at graywolf95742@yahoo.com.

Everyone, have a fantastic March.



Monthly Program

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Monthly GBF Tying Jam

At the clubhouse, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM.

Subscribe to the Tying Jam [message board forum](#) to receive a monthly notice on the featured flies and materials list for the upcoming session.

As always, the Fly Tying Jam is a **FREE** monthly event. All you need to

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<i>M A R C H 2026</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. Board of Directors Meeting	11.	12.	13.	14.
15.	16.	17. Fly Tying Jam	18. Knots Workshop Part 1	19. General Meeting	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25. Knots Workshop Part 2	26.	27.	28. 40 th Anniversary Annual Dinner
29.	30.	31.				

Monthly GBF Tying Jam - Continued from Page 1



do is bring a vise, tools and your own materials, plus lots of enthusiasm! Don't have all the stated materials? No worries; Jim will provide what you need. Heck, you can even come to just watch and ask questions if you want.

Free use of the Club's fly tying vises and tools are also available. If you think you want to learn to tie flies, but don't want to spend a lot of money to find out, click [here](#) for more information on loaner tying gear and rods/reels too.

Questions about the Fly Tying Jam? Contact Jim Holmes (jwholmesjr@aol.com) at (916) 967-6709.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

by Rozaida O'Neill, 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.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Carl Block | Jeff Costa | Kim Covington |
| Richard Drawbert | Isaac English | John Gibson |
| Penny Ivanovich | Georgia Anne Kern | Steven Kurta |
| Edward Pelker | Marco Squazzin | |



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The Granite Bay Flycasters 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4pm – 9pm

Save the Day!

For additional information, contact Ed Lloyd edwinlloyd@att.net

Ticket prices are \$55/person. Raffle ticket prices are \$2/ticket.

Ticket are **only available here**...No tickets will be available at the door.

[GO TO REGISTRATION](#)

For Non-Members To Register, call Don @ 916-804-5384

Huge Selection of Raffle and Auction Prizes



Granite Bay Flycasters 40th Anniversary - Continued from Page 3



DINNER LOCATION:
Blue Goose Event Center
3550 Taylor Road
Loomis, California
Includes your choice of BBQ dinner
or Portobello burger.
This year there will also be beans,
slaw and potato salad.
No host bar is available.
Doors open at 4:00 PM

Fishing Lake Picachos in Mexico

by Mike McKinley

I recently returned from a 5-day fly-fishing trip to Lake Picachos near Mazatlán, Mexico, which proved to be outstanding bass fishing. Our group stayed at [Angler's Inn](#), a well-run operation with excellent service and logistics. Fishing was consistently strong, with most anglers averaging 75 or more bass per day at roughly two pounds per fish. One member of our group, who has a strong striped bass background, averaged well over 150 fish per day fishing Clousers on a Type 6 line.

Bass were plentiful along the shoreline, particularly smaller fish, while better fish were typically found 10–20 feet off the bank in 3–5 feet of water. Pat Sleeper, the outfitter, landed a 14-pound bass at Picachos in 2024. Once I improved my line control—especially managing the shoot with my offhand—I had a stretch of seven fish in twelve casts, all in the 2–3 pound range.

We had seven anglers in camp, each using slightly different approaches. One angler focused exclusively on poppers, favoring medium-sized, double-barrel patterns in chartreuse or white. Pat primarily fished a popper-dropper setup, most often pairing the popper with a size 8 woolly bugger. Another angler relied on streamers, fishing a Type 6 line with Clousers in blue, gray, or chartreuse/white, casting tight to the bank with an aggressive strip followed by a pause. This approach required quick line control and good structure reading in the highly stained water.

My most consistent success came fishing 2–3-inch chartreuse size 2 Clousers on intermediate Type 6 lines in 3–5 feet of water. Once I had both line control and structure figured out, I was averaging 75–100 fish per day, mostly in the 2–3 pound range.

I traveled with a group of six from Chico. Pat Sleeper, a former president of Chico Fly Fishers, organized the trip and has been to Picachos approximately 15 times. The package was all-inclusive, covering lodging, meals, airport transportation, and beverages including booze.

Overall, it was a great trip I'd recommend to anyone wanting a unique experience.



Get Ready for Spring Fishing!

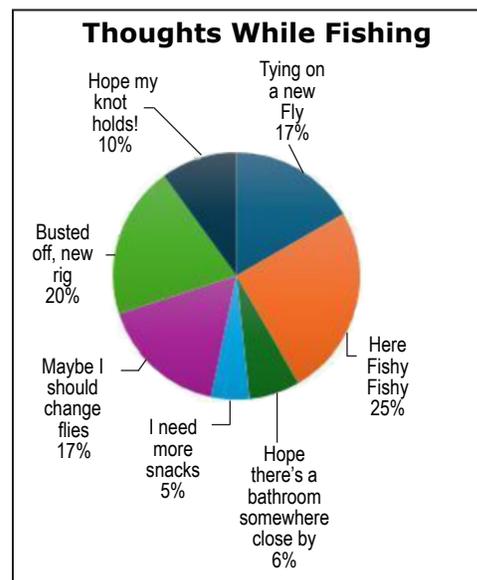
From the GBF Knot Team: **Jim Degnan, Ed Kenny, Rozaida O'Neill, Charlie O'Neill, Ron Syzmanski, Dawn Marquez**

The pie chart was well received, and so we brought it back. Kind of says it all. Practice for a few minutes before hitting the water.

Good News! "Buster" is coming back!

Barre Normann will bring "Buster" to the second workshop "Skills Builder." We will have a chance to see how well we really tie knots! If there is a lot of interest in busting knots, we will set up a special session to challenge your knots.

For those new to the sport of flyfishing: Come to our "Essential Fly Fishing Knots" session. Tying good knots in a line/leader/tippet/fly setup is a critical part of the sport of flyfishing. Good knot tying skills means you are confident and quick to change a fly or a total setup on short notice to take advantage of a change in conditions, a hatch, wind, depth of fish or the latest hot fly.



The nice thing about knot skills is that once you find two or three knots that you can tie with confidence and speed, that's about it. You can concentrate on other skills like casting and the all-important skill, presentation.

For those who are experienced: How long does it really take you to tie on a fly when you are on the water? How long does it really take to re-rig when you bust off? If it takes 10 minutes to tie a new fly on, or 20 to re-rig, you can join the **Knot Tune-Up: Skills Builder Session**. We will work on problem knots (Non-Slip Mono Knot loop too big? We can fix that.) And you can be up for the next new knot or technique. That's part of any sport. All dogs, young or old can learn new tricks.

Here is what Granite Bay Flycasters offer to help you tie knots with confidence:

Essential Fly Fishing Knots: A Hands-On Workshop Wednesday, March 18th, 6:30 – 8:30PM

New to fly fishing or want to build confidence with the basics? Join us for a relaxed, hands-on workshop focused on the essential knots every angler should know. Whether you're rigging up for the first time, or just want to stop relying on YouTube in the field, this session is designed to give you practical, repeatable skills. All levels welcome, but especially great for newer members. Bring your questions and your fingers—we'll supply the materials and instruction. Bring a crisp \$5.00 bill for the Knot Kit.

What will we work on in this session?

We assume nothing. Start with a simple overhand knot, move on to the two or three turn surgeon's knot. Then we go to the clinch knot and then enhance it with a simple turn to make it a strong knot, the Improved Clinch Knot. It's a standard in the sport. After that, we go to loops and will be introducing the very simple Kryston Knot.

Knot Tune-Up: Skills Builder Session Wednesday, March 25th, 6:30 – 8:30PM

Already know your clinch from your loop but want to sharpen your technique? This follow-up session is for anglers looking to troubleshoot problem knots, refine their tie-in times, and learn a few advanced applications. We'll revisit the essentials and introduce variations and tips to help you tie with confidence under pressure (and with cold fingers!). Perfect for returning attendees or experienced anglers looking for a refresher.

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Get Ready for Spring Fishing! - Continued from Page 6

What will we work on in this session?

Quick review of the knots from "Essential Knots" session. Take some time to work on "Problem Knots," those knots you usually tie, but they take too long to tie and aren't robust. Introduce the "Orvis/Becker Knot," one of the most powerful knots for general use.

We will have a lottery where Barre Normann and Buster will test your knots for you. It will be fun for all.

Golden Trout Award

If you want to be certified for the Golden Trout Award, come to the "Skills Builder Session" and we will certify you. We have a revised set of requirements for the Golden Trout Awards. See the GBF Message Board for more details, or contact **Jim Degnan** at jd293@comcast.net.

We will meet at our usual location: Raley's Granite Bay Supermarket Community Room, 6845 Douglas Blvd., Granite Bay, CA. It's at the corner of Douglas Blvd. and Auburn Folsom Road.

Check the GBF Message Board for more detail. To sign up, go to the GBF calendar, click on the date you wish, and it will direct you to the reservation site. Easy from there on in.

Workshops are limited to 15 participants. We will open another workshop if we get more than 15.

We now have five leaders and a coach. If you want to join us as a team and lead or coach knot clinics with us, please let Jim Degnan know. Jd293@comcast.net. It's a lot of fun, and very rewarding to see someone "catch on" to a specific knot.

Above all: We know it's hard to do and take the time, but practice your knots at home before you go fishing, rather than practice them on the water and not fishing, or worse, not catching. Fishing (catching) time is valuable.



Pyramid Lake Fishout May 6 - 9, 2026

by Paul Estridge

Your next club opportunity to net a magnificent Lahontan Cutthroat Trout comes around this May 6-9. **Tony Jelinek** and I will host the annual fishout arriving Wednesday and departing Saturday, with the club potluck dinner set for the final night, Friday the 8th. Signups for the fishout are already strong, with some new faces and plenty of club stalwarts, so smiles and good fellowship should provide the backdrop for what we always hope will be great fishing.



Please mark your calendars for May 6-9, and be sure to sign up on the club calendar. We do keep track of club attendees, when they arrive and depart, and who might need any help or suggestions, so do get on the roster through the signup process. Also, through the website signup link you'll find a wealth of information on licenses, times, the potluck dinner, tackle and rigging suggestions, and fishing methods—much of which was compiled in great detail by club luminary Eric Palmer, who first started this club tradition eleven years ago. On the calendar fishout description, you'll also find useful links to licenses and camping permits, as well as to possible accommodations in the Reno/Sparks area. You may want to buy your Pyramid Lake tribal fishing license for the appropriate number of days in advance of the trip by using the calendar fishout link.

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!

Those of you who have fished the lake before know that trying to predict conditions at Pyramid, a high desert lake, is a crapshoot. I've fished bluebird days and blizzards, and I don't know that fishing success necessarily coincides with either. Early May, we could have some nice sunny days in the 60s, with lows in the 40s, so fish could be inshore mornings and evenings for your casting pleasure. The wind could waft gently—or it could blow you off your ladder. At any rate, we'll have a great time, with club members accessing the lake at various preferred beaches.



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 overnighting. Mind the soft sand, and remember that the tribe requires

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Pyramid Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 7



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 wooly buggler. I usually take two 7- or 8-weight rods down to the beach, rigged with each setup. I like to alternate fishing from the ladder and standing in the water, with both gear setups ready for the moment.

The Pyramid Lake fishery has been featured over the years in multiple publications, and anglers around the country know about that crazy place where people fish from ladders. We hope you can join the crew and make some great memories.

camping permits. And as far as purchased sustenance goes, you might enjoy the cafe at the lodge (where alcohol apparently is no longer served—though allowed). The lodge displays some impressive LCT mounts, as well as offering Pyramid flies and gear that you might use at the lake.



What Happens at a GBF Fishout?

by Gary Gale

The February meeting, as happens pretty much every year, had a good number of new members in attendance. After reading off the dates of three upcoming April stillwater fishouts, President Farley fielded a question from a new member...(as best I remember it)...“what happens at a fishout?” For the benefit of those new to the club, or those that weren’t at the meeting who might have the same question, I wanted to go through a longer discussion. Fishouts are an important benefit in belonging to GBF.

When I converted from other forms of fishing to fly fishing about nine years ago, I didn’t know about fishouts and what to expect either. I went on to catch my first stream resident trout on a fly rod in the Little Truckee—my first fishout, that was lead by **Ed Lloyd**. We still talk about that day and laugh heartily when doing so. Then a couple of weeks later, I caught my first fly induced stillwater trout on a fishout at Fuller Lake put on by **Mike Kaul**. Being a fishout leader now is one of the ways that I give back to the club the great mentoring I have received over the years.

If you look it up on the GBF website, fishout leaders are asked to have experience fishing the place at hand. For example, if you stream fish, but have never fished the Little Truckee, they set forth a general guideline in the fishout registration itself. Then he or she will follow local reports, check current flow levels, or maybe

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What Happens at a GBF Fishout - Continued from Page 8

even hit that place a week ahead of time. An email to those registered a few days before the fishout date with any late information can go out. Then at the meeting place where everybody is gearing up, the targeted chatter begins. Flies get recommended, or even handed over. The member who forgot his tippet holder gets somebody to rummage in their gear bag for an extra spool of 4X. The new person who didn't think he/she needed a wading staff gets handed one.

At that point, getting back somewhat to the original short answer, everybody stomps off (or kicks away from the launch spot), some with a rookie in tow, and begins fishing. If you brought your radio, or have a strong voice, you always have somebody you can call if you take a dunk, or twist an ankle on a rock. At lunch, or while walking the trail, or out on the water, folks tell you if they connected using a certain fly, or that up around the bend it's "skinny water," or that all available space is taken up by a guide and two guests.

Hopefully, you end up having a better day fishing that place that you would have on your own. I've had it happen on a day that I struggled merely to avoid a skunk, and I'm putting my gear back in the truck, that somebody mentions a tidbit that is absolutely invaluable to my next outing, and I have a much better day the next time I fish that place, or a comparable stream or lake. Even when the fishout doesn't "work" for you that day, it can still be worthwhile in the long run. You may find that there is another member who wants to fish this location again next week, or next month. The single fishout becomes a multi-outing opportunity.

All of this can, and typically does, happen at a fishout. We have both "local" one day fishouts and destination multi-day fishouts a little further out on the road. While they are led by a given member, oftentimes the other veteran members are instrumental in giving you some good advice, because if you have fished it two or three times, they might have fished it a lot of times. It's really a group effort where everybody, no matter their "skill level," wants to get better. A fishout can remind any of us that at some point in the past we all felt a tad—"unprepared"—to have as much fun fly fishing as we do now.

As the legendary Bill Carnazzo used to sign off, "see ya on the water!"

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Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

Fly Fishing Gear for sale

Contact:

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1. Korkers Dark Horse Wading Boots (size 12). New \$250 Used **\$50/OBO**

Features: OmniTrax® Interchangeable Sole System adapts your traction to any fishing condition. Fast Drying: Hydrophobic upper material with ultra abrasion resistance and tonal camo pattern. Internal Drainage: Water flowsthru internal channels then out midsole ports, removing excess water and weight.

2. Adams Built Waders (XLL Size 12 bootie) New \$230 Used **\$50/OBO**

Walker River Wader - Suitable for Float Tube

Pore Tech mil spec breathable membrane, micro fiber material, quick release belt, attached gravel guards, 4mm neoprene booties.

Rods with gear included

3. Gold Cup Fly Rod and reel 3pc 9' 8wt with floating line and Gunison G4 with shooting head **\$100/OBO** (set up for pyramid lake)

Sage VXP 9' 4pc 8wt. with reel **\$200/OBO** line and shooting head (great for pyramid lake)

Sage RPL 5wt 10ft 2 pc. with Abel Super 5 Reel with f/line **\$100/OBO**

Sage 10' 2pc Graphite 3 5100 RPL **\$100** (with tube)

St Croix 9' 4 pc 7 wt with Abel Reel and Legend Ultra floating line. With tube **\$100/OBO** (with tube)

Abel 8wt Reel #2 with Scientific Angler Floating Line **\$150**

Abel Super 5 wt with Scientific Angler Floating Line **\$200**

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 2011)

Fly Patterns - Cutter's Perfect Ant



Cutter's Perfect Ant

Materials:

Hook:	Standard dry fly hook, sizes 10-16 (I like Tiemco's 900BL; Ralph Cutter suggests the Tiemco 9300, which is a slightly heavier hook because he likes the fly to submerge slightly)
Thread:	Black 8/0 or smaller
Abdomen:	Black Antron
Thorax:	Same as body
Overbody:	Black deer hair (over the abdomen only)
Wing post:	Butts of the black deer hair
Hackle:	Brown dry fly hackle (good saddle works well)

Description

Ralph and Lisa Cutter, who live in Nevada City, are the owners of California School of Fly Fishing. They have traveled extensively, and have accumulated a vast amount of information about fishing in the Sierra and the foothills. They recently produced, after years of underwater research, a startlingly informative DVD called "Bugs of the Underworld." I purchased a copy as soon as it hit the market. It's a video that every fly fisher should make a point of viewing. Ralph has also authored the Sierra Trout Guide (first and second editions), and a fine little book bearing the title "Fish Food." I highly recommend Fish Food as a primer on the important bugs that inhabit the waters we frequent. I have read it numerous times myself, and have found it well written, informative, humorous and interesting.

Ralph concludes that ants—principally Carpenter Ants—are a major staple in a trout's diet. He tried various ant patterns and found them unsatisfactory, finally settling on a specific pattern of his own design. Apparently it worked well—hence the name "Perfect Ant."

Personally, I enjoy fishing ants in small streams, especially where there are downed streamside trees—great ant habitat. The Perfect Ant is a dry fly, but if it sinks it will still be effective since trout can't resist a properly presented ant. If your ant does sink, let the cast fish out, keep the drift drag-free, and watch your leader closely for any indication of a strike.

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; if you are using the "BL" type hooks, this is already done. Cover the hook with thread back to the bend (just above the back of the barb).
2. At that same point, tie in a small bunch of black deer hair by the tips (you will end up clipping the post anyway)

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 11*Steps 3 & 4*

3. At the same point, begin dubbing the abdomen into the shape of a ball, covering the rear half of the hook.
4. Bring the deer hair over the top of the abdomen and tie it down at mid-shank, directly in front of the abdomen.

5. Pull the deer hair upward and take about 6 or 7 wraps of thread around its base, so that it stands up vertically. This forms the post for the hackle.
6. Tie in a dry-fly quality neck or saddle hackle of the appropriate size. It should be tied down securely both in front of and behind the post.

*Steps 5 & 6**Steps 7, 8, 9 & 10*

7. Grab the hackle with your hackle pliers and take three wraps of hackle around the post; tie the feather off in front of the post.
8. Dub the thorax of the bug in front of the wing post. You will need to pull the post and hackle rearward to do this. The thorax should be smaller than the abdomen (that's the way an ant's body is shaped).
9. Whip finish and apply a small drop of super glue to the head, and on the underside of the hook where the post was tied in.
10. Trim the post down so that it sticks up past the hackle slightly. This will keep the fly from being top-heavy and out of balance. Add a tiny drop of super glue to the top of the post.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. In step 6, mention is made of a hackle of "appropriate size." In dry fly parlance, this means a hackle with barbules that are about 1.5 times the size of the hook gap.
2. Why use only 3 wraps of hackle? This fly is not meant to float high and dry; rather, it needs to be down in the film, even partially submerged. That's the way that ants appear to the trout.

Remember to tie sparsely, and...See ya on the creek (which is where I was today).

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 <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

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - Robert Farley 916-316-6832 gbf-president@gbflycasters.org	Classroom Egg Prog. Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
VP Membership - Rozaida O'Neill 916-494-9944 gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org	Education Eric Palmer 916-969-6683
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Through June, 2026 - Larry Lee 916-962-0616	Leader Editor Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
Through June, 2026 - Diana Lilienthal	Leader Layout Vivian Mevorah 916-531-5865
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Through June, 2027 - Marie Spaulding-Gray	Monthly Programs Kim Lloyd 916-425-7680
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Casting Instruction John Hogg 916-709-7340	
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