



Reading the Water

February 2003

MEETING

Monday

February 17

Welcome: 6:30P

Program: 7:15P

Skyline School
Auditorium

606 Lomas Santa Fe
Drive

Solana Beach
(Map—Back Page)

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February program—Marlon Rampy on southern Oregon

This month we travel north, to the southern part of Oregon. Although often overlooked by Californians, Southern Oregon is home to some legendary trout and salmon waters, such as the Rogue, Klamath, and Williamson rivers.

Whether targeting big trout, salmon or steelhead, the old growth forests and wildlife characteristic of southern Oregon make for an outstanding fishing experience.

Few people are better qualified to describe Southern Oregon's fisheries than Marlon Rampy. Marlon has been fishing and guiding these waters for 12 years. He is a fly fishing guide in one of Oregon's premiere Trophy Trout waters: The Klamath Basin.



The Klamath Basin is a system of lakes and spring-fed rivers that produce some of the largest native Rainbow Trout in the Lower 48.

From May thru October, Marlon lodges on the banks of the Williamson River, his river of choice for its challenging fishing and its reward of truly sizeable fish. He has worked the last three seasons out of the Lonesome Duck Lodge.

His presentation is a multi-media composition, with plenty of photos, sound, scenery and yes, even a few large fish. Marlon includes images of flies, lines and maps to help you hone your next fishing trip to Southern Oregon.

Coming April 7—Mel Kreiger

Mark this special meeting date on your calendars now—**Monday, April 7**. We are bringing **Mel Kreiger** to GSF for our April meeting. If there were such people as “rock stars” in our sport, Mel would be one of them! Mel has not only

devoted a lifetime to fly fishing as a profession—including production of videos, author of books and articles, teaching, etc—but he is one of *the* most entertaining men in the sport. ***This is a must see program!***

President's message

First and foremost, I want to again *welcome* our new members—and, at this point, that really includes everyone in the club! I or another Board member will do our best to extend a sincere, warm “hello” to each of you over the next few months. We make no secret of our appreciation for the support of you, the charter members of Golden State Flycasters!

Moving on...Thanks to the generosity of a number of our members, our 1st **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** is shaping up to be a terrific evening! The Raffle is our *big* fund raiser of the year. It is important not only to the conservation issues the club supports, *but operation of the club in its initial years.*

GSF is fortunate to have a number of members who have selflessly stepped forward with generous donations just to make sure the club is a success. From **Gary Law**, manager of *Rancho Leonero* and a resident of Leucadia...*“We would be pleased to contribute a stay at **Rancho Leonero** to help you establish a club here in north county.”* **Mo Tidemanis**, another member of GSF, obtained a 4-for-2 raffle prize for us at the **Futaleufu Lodge**, Chile. And GSF member **Paul Weaver** has generously donated a 2-for-1, four day stay at his lodge, **Farewell Harbor**, in British Columbia.

In addition to the above, at least four rods—including a Winston—reels, fly lines, 1/2-day trips, videos, bags, stripping baskets, gift certificates, and much,

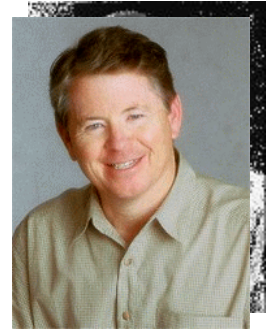
much more will be in the Raffle and Silent Auction.

And then there's the **Mega Trip Raffle!** This is a special *limited ticket* raffle for three premier destinations—from Alaska to Chile—*worth nearly \$14,000!*

However, we still need your help. If there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please get them to donate to our raffle and auction. Another great idea is to simply purchase a gift certificate from the San Diego Fly Shop. The Raffle is a great cause and always great fun. **Look for details on page 3.**

Moving on...again. More special thanks are in order. As you probably know, cash and cash-flow is the name of game for non-profits such as ours. To reduce cost, we rely on members to host our speakers...that means picking our speaker up at the airport, taking them into your home, feeding them, and getting them to the airport or train depot the next day. Speaking, from personal experience, that is not a tall order, considering our line-up of terrific gentlemen.

Our January speaker, Kevin Peterson, was hosted by **Phil Holtkamp**, and **Heinz Hoenecke** is hosting this month's speaker, Marlon Rampy, and Mel Kreiger in April. The generosity of folks like Phil and Heinz saves the club \$100's of dollars. Please consider being a GSF host—you'll be glad you did, and the club will remember your generosity!



Patrick Case, President

“We would be pleased to contribute a stay at Rancho Leonero to help you establish a club here in north county.”
Gary Law

Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction March 17

Mega trips at mega discounts, *plus* over 50 prizes will be raffled and auctioned off March 17. The Raffle is *the* fund raiser of the year, *and it is a lot of fun!*

The Raffle will be a combination of raffle drawings and a silent auction for a



variety of items, such as reels, rods, flies, fly tying equipment and materials, lines, vests, dinners, books, binoculars, artwork, videos, etc. We expect to have 50+ raffle items. The silent auction will be for items of a specialized nature—items not everyone may want or can take advantage of.

Plus, this year we are introducing the **Mega Trip Raffle**. This is a special limited ticket raffle for *three* premier fishing destinations, **worth a total of nearly \$14,000!**

What is a limited ticket raffle?...We're selling only 150 **Mega Trip Raffle** tickets, on a first come basis...when they're sold, that's it. Tickets for the **Mega Trip Raffle** are \$25 each, or 5 for \$100. When you purchase tickets, you will indicate on the ticket the order of your trip preference if your lucky ticket is drawn. Details are also posted at www.goldenstateflycasters.org.

Mega Trip Raffle prizes include...

! Two-for-one, 7-day stay at **Alaska Expedition Co.'s Driftwood Lodge** (see inset photo) on the **Tsiu River, Alaska**, September 6-13, 2003. Two people go for the price of one. Valued at \$3,495!

! Two-for-one, 5-day float trip with **Alaska Rainbow Adventures** on the **Alagnak River, Alaska**, June 23 to 27, 2003. This is a deluxe float trip of a lifetime. Two people go for the price of one. Valued at \$2,395.

! Four-for-two, 7-day stay at the **Futaleufu Lodge, Chile**, in the January thru mid-April, 2003-2004 season. Four people go for the price of two. Valued at \$7,600.

The Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction is open to *everyone*—GSF members, members of SDFP and other organizations, family, friends, and business colleagues, as well as the general public! *There is no limit on the number of prizes you may win in either of the raffles or silent auction.*

You can bring raffle prizes to the meetings, or contact Helen Condict at 858-571-3966, or eguest@enartec.com, for other arrangements.

“The Raffle is the fund raiser of the year, and it is a lot of fun!”

In appreciation...

The following is one of occasional articles profiling those that have contributed significantly to GSF.

A native Oregonian, Golden State Flycasters' webmaster, **Patrick Miller**, has been fly fishing and fly tying since his youth. His father, Patrick Sr., still residing in Pat's home town near Salem, OR, first taught him the skills necessary to cast and catch elusive Oregon trout or salmon. Patrick first learned to tie flies using a pair of vise grips as his tying vise!



Pat took a long break from fly fishing several years back, until his long-time friend, Pat Case, convinced him it was time to get back into the sport. As Pat Case recalls, "We soon took a trip to the Bob Marriott Fly Shop so Miller could pick up a 'few things.' We walked out of Marriotts several hours later with a lot of equipment and clothes, and about \$1500 less in Pat's check book. Not much time passed before Pat and I, and two other long time friends headed for the San Juan River for three days of fishing...he was hooked after that trip!"

Pat and his wife, Nancy, and their dog, Dominique, live in Laguna Beach. When Pat is not fishing ad-

venturous waters with his buddies or golfing, he is playing in his wood working shop or their flower garden. Pat and Nancy are currently in the process of remodeling their house, part of which included Pat making the cabinetry for the renovated kitchen. They love their new Emeril-like dream kitchen, to which Nancy contributed her architectural skills. Both Nancy and Pat are gourmet cooks; duck is Pat's specialty.



Two of their favorite places to visit are Hawaii and Paris,

and they love to check out the latest beaches, art galleries, architecture and wineries.

Patrick, as well as Nancy, is a teacher. He has taught art, computers, and website page design; and was the yearbook editor for a number of years at Mt. Carmel High School. He also continues to freelance with other graphics projects, such as our terrific website.

GSF heartily thanks Pat for donating his time and skill in designing our website, and keeping it the latest and greatest. And we thank Nancy, too, and hope Pat gets Nancy into the sport of fly fishing as well!

Helen Condict

Avoiding bad casting advice...

There is probably as much misinformation taught about casting by well meaning “instructors,” and even books, as there is good advice. Such misinformation is almost always preceded by the words “always” and “never.” The following is extracted from an article by Ed Jaworoski, author of The Cast and Troubleshooting the Cast, which aims at debunking casting myths.

Fly casting calls for applying a few principles in endless variety, as dictated by changing conditions. The principles can’t change, but the applications must. Unchangeable casting principals include *the longer the stroke, the easier it is to make a cast* (like hitting a golf ball or throwing a baseball), and *the line will continue traveling in the direction the rod tip was traveling when it straightened*. That’s akin to saying that the bullet goes where the gun is aimed.

Variable aspects include how far, how fast, and in which direction you move your hand and the rod. You cannot determine those aspects until you’ve decided what you want the cast to do. Yet these variable parts of fly casting are the very things that many casters believe are fixed and that some instructors love to dictate—start here, stop there, hold the rod at this angle, and so forth, regardless of the purpose of a cast. We run into casting problems when we make general rules from specific applications.



I’ve collected some commonly heard instructions. Some of them are always bad advice. Blindly following them will cause casting problems.

Keep your elbow by your side. Nothing wrong with this 500-year old piece of advice, as long as you are only making short casts with limited arm movement. Adhering to this instruction makes no sense when you need to add distance. Longer casts require that the elbow move. A cast can require that your hand move in any of a variety of directions. Your elbow must follow.

Don’t worry about your elbow. Keep your arm relaxed as possible throughout the stroke so that your elbow can readily wherever your rod hand leads it.

Sometimes you elbow will stay by your side. In saltwater fishing, it will more often move away from your side. Let it.

Never bring your arm or rod further back than 1 o’clock. (See photo above) This commonly heard dictum equates with never extending your arm rearward to throw a ball or never bringing a golf club higher than your waist on the back swing. Many casts will be more difficult to make, and some impossible, if you follow this command. To support this advice, instructors tell us that bringing the rod further back will cause the line to hit the water behind us. More erroneous instruction. The line will hit the water only if the rod tip is moving

“...some instructors love to dictate—start here, stop there, hold the rod at this angle, and so forth, regardless of the purpose of a cast.”

Avoiding bad casting advice... (cont.)

downward when it is straightened.

Cast with your arm more to the side when you need a longer extension to the rear. You'll find longer casts easier to make, and you'll have less trouble with line hitting the water. At the end of the backcast stroke, the rod might stop somewhere between 2 and 3 o'clock. So what? As long as the tip wasn't traveling downward when it stopped, the line won't hit the water. Use straight overhead strokes only for short casts, or when you have no other option.

Always cast with the rod in the vertical plane. As often as not, this is simply impossible on small streams because of overhanging branches or other obstructions. Where you have no obstructions at all to worry about, casting with the rod upright makes longer cast difficult or impossible. A cast might call for moving the rod overhead, sidearm, or at any angle in between. Do what's necessary. The straight overhead cast should not be considered the "correct" or normal movement. It's merely one of a wide range of options.

Make the roll cast by stroking downward toward the water. Like a lot of other advice, this is fine for short casts, but it guarantees that the line will collapse in a pile if you try to extend the cast. The common advice for fixing that mess is to give the cast "more power."



But that alleged solution doesn't address the cause of the problem.

If you want to roll cast the line straight ahead, directing the rod tip downward is fundamentally unsound. Instead of casting harder to straighten the line, start with the rod farther back and stroke forward, not downward. [*Ed. note: Put another way, finish with a normal forward cast*] You will use less effort, and you'll make a longer cast.

Always stop the forward cast at 10 o'clock (or 11, or wherever). This is another flawed piece of advice that dictates variable piece of the cast before the *direction* of the cast has been deter-

mined. A given cast may call for stopping the rod at almost any position between 12 and 9 o'clock. Where the rod stops relative to the face of the clock has meaning only when the direction of the stroke is taken into account. If the rod tip was moving downward when it stopped at 10 o'clock, the line will go in one direction. If the tip was moving upward when it stopped at the same position, the line will go in a different direction. First determine where you want the line to go, and then determine the starting and stopping points.

Never look at your backcast. (See photo above) This is like shooting without checking the target to see if you hit it. Granted, you can't always watch

"The straight overhead cast should not be considered the "correct" or normal movement. It's merely one of a wide range of options."

Avoiding bad casting advice... (cont.)

your backcast while fishing, but at least 90 percent of the experienced casters whom I coach need to improve their backcasts before anything else. They rarely know what their backcasts look like, and therefore can't correct them. Once you have an idea of what's going on behind you, you can correct it, since the forward cast depends of the alignment of the rod and the line to the rear. When you practice, make sure that you regularly observe your backcast. Incidentally, I queried some of the best fishermen I know, and nearly all said that they check their backcasts as much as possible, even while fishing.

Keept the rod in the same plane for both parts of the cast.

Ideally, it is a good idea. But you won't always have the option. Again, first determine what the cast demands, then decide such things. Sometimes a cost calls for separating the planes or making an elliptical motion.

When throwing heavy flies or casting in a cross wind, it's often helpful to make a sidearm backcast and then come over the top on the forward cast. Various hook, curve, and other specialty casts can require that you make the backcast in one plane and the forward cast in another.

I'm not recommending a different way to cast, but rather a different way to think about casting. Think in terms of the physical laws and mechanical constants that determine every cast, and question the advice or instruction that violates them.

[Ed. note: Too many people only practice the standard 10 to 1 o'clock, vertical overhead cast hours-on-end. Use your practice time to work on casts required for the real situations you will encounter fishing—casting with a side wind, wind in your face, under a low hanging tree, etc—you will enjoy that trip of a lifetime a lot more.]

“I queried some of the best fishermen I know, and nearly all said that they check their backcasts as much as possible, even while fishing.”

Green River Trip—May 18 thru 23

The Green River, Flaming Gorge, Utah, is one of the most beautiful, productive tailwaters in the West (see story in the January issue).

The club is “sponsoring” a trip to the Green May 18 thru 23. What does that mean? Basically, we are arranging for group airfare rates to Salt Lake City, reserving vans to travel to the river, reserving a block of rooms at Flaming Gorge or Red Canyon Lodge, and taking care of reserving guides for you. You decide what days you want guides.

However, everything is a straight pass-thru to you. You pay for everything directly, except for the airfare (Southwest insists on one check). Not including guides, the **total estimated cost is about \$650**. We are going to limit the party to 12 people.

To sign up or ask questions, call Pat Case @ 619-787-2280, or e-mail him at pcase@enartec.com. You can also sign up at the meetings.



There are big fish on the Lower Sac'

Helen and I went to Redding over the Christmas holidays to visit her daughter and family. From my perspective, the only thing worse than visiting relatives is visiting someone else's relatives...seemed like a great time to fish the Mecca of Northern California fly fishing. As you may know, the lower Sacramento River runs right through the town of Redding.

Anticipating the situation a few months ahead of time, I called "The Fly Shop" in Redding, and made an appointment for a guide. The Fly Shop has the pho-



tos and a short resume of their guides on their website. I decided Jim Pettis was my kind of guide...he had that "I was born to fly fish, I think like a fish, and I love what I'm doing" message in his face and resume...as it turns out, Jim was all that and more (in the above photo he ties flies on the boat, vise between his legs).

Ernie, Helen's son-in-law, and I met Jim at the local super market. As it began to drizzle, we followed him to the take-out point, where we parked Ernie's car, piled into Jim's pickup, and headed to

the launch point, a couple of hundred yards downstream of Keswick Dam. After a short drive, we turned off the road onto a dirt road, through a "friend's" property (aka, junk yard to you and I), and down a rutted road. If the first hundred yards or so of the road didn't discourage a wayward driver, there was a padlocked cable across the road.

After unlocking the cable and traveling another few hundred yards of worsening road (Jim offered that he "fixed" the road the day before to make sure it would be passable for today!), we stopped on a high point overlooking the river..."Here is where we prep the boat," Jim said. I got out of the pickup and thought to myself that we seemed to still be a helluva long way from the riverbank.

As Jim took the hold-down straps off the drift boat, I noted a number of lengths of large diameter plastic pipe stacked like cord wood in the rear of the boat." What are these for?," I asked. "You'll see," was the reply. Being a civil engineer, I quickly realized there were two options: Jim is going to lay some sewer line in the course of our fishing trip, or he was going to use the pipe to roll the boat to or from the water's edge.

Ernie and I walked the rest of the way down the road to the riverbank. After Jim made his way down the road, and got the boat turned around and backed down to the river as far as he dared, out came the sections of pipe. After carefully placing the pipe at six to eight foot

"...seemed like a great time to fish the Mecca of Northern California fly fishing."

There are big fish on the Lower Sac' (cont.)

intervals, we proceeded to shove the boat off the trailer, and rolled it, pipe-to-pipe, to the river's edge...Jim doing most of the work. I was impressed.

We hadn't even gotten the rods strung, and I knew I was going to spend the day with one of one of the hardest working guides I have ever fished with. If you haven't fished with a guide like this, there is only one explanation for their behavior...they think "I was born to fly fish, I think like a fish, and I love what I'm doing." This was going to be a good day. It was the day after Christmas...it was cold and raining off and on...nobody in their right mind goes fishing on a day like this. But when you are fishing with a terrific guide, who cares.

The lower Sac is a big, deep river. "What rods do you have?" asked Jim. "Well, I brought a couple of 5 wts., and threw in an 8 wt. just in case we decided to fish for steelhead on the Trinity at the last minute." "Good,



you will be primarily using the 8 wt. here." Give me a break, I thought to myself (word of wisdom, you don't actually challenge a guide on the river). But my common sense got the best of me..."Jim, I thought we were going after trout!" "We are," he replied, "but they

are big, and the water is big, plus there are a number of kings still in the river... you'll see"...and we did!

As we headed down the river, we could occasionally see large king salmon roll-



ing on the surface. King salmon?... Sacramento River?...it didn't compute in my paradigm...I was impressed. We rigged the 8 wt. with a 12' leader and egg pattern for deep drifting, and a 5 wt. with the same egg pattern on a shorter leader and indicator for shallower water.

It wasn't long before Jim got us onto trout. Jim was right...the Sac has lots of big trout. The seven and eight pounders we caught seemed to be the norm...and they fight! One I hooked up with headed straight downstream with most of my backing before straightening the hook and getting off...of course, it could also have been a king, as we didn't get a glimpse of it.

By the time we stopped for lunch, my finger tips were numb. In the nick of time, Jim produced a propane heater and set up a propane burner on shore to make a pot of soup...at this point, Jim was approaching candidacy for saint-

*"Jim, I thought we were going after trout!"
"We are, but they are big, and the water is big, plus there are a number of kings still in the river... you'll see"...and we did!"*

There are big fish on the Lower Sac' (cont.)

hood. To make the things worse, the river started to come up. Within half an



hour, the burner and soup pot Jim sat up at the river's edge went buoyant and was

extinguished in the water...time to move on.

The day continued to produce fish after fish. And, in spite of the weather (which gave you pause to wonder what you were doing out in a day like this, when one could be home next to a nice fire), Ernie and I had a terrific day of great fishing, and, yes, the humbling feeling that sometimes comes with dealing with the elements for a short time, even if it is just in suburbia.

Patrick Case

Tom Loe's guide tip of the month—eyewear

"See him, see him, look at the size of that fish! See him?" "No, I don't see the fish, where is he? I'm looking right where you are pointing!"

This is a common conversation with myself and those clients who do not have POLARIZED sunglasses for eye protection.

I value a good quality set of polarized sunglasses in several lens shades as much as I value a properly balanced fly rod when trout fishing. It is imperative to see what lies under the water when angling for trout. This is not possible with standard lenses.

I suggest you have amber colored lenses for low light or cloudy days and copper or rose colored lenses for normal or bright sunlit days. Photo chromatic lenses are available for more money, but

they work great and it saves having to carry more than one set of glasses.

Get glasses that "wrap around" your face contour and reduce back glare. Side panels are built into some models and these work well to keep the glare off the lens. Although somewhat ugly and not very stylish...the fish will not care, they think we are horrid looking whatever our attire!

For those folks who have prescription lenses, there are companies and optometrists who manufacture polarized lenses for your correction. Snap on, flip up covers can also be purchased for your corrected lenses; these are far better than nothing.

See more; catch more, fish with a good set of polarized sunglasses.



For Tom's latest fish report go to <http://www.sieradriesters.com/fish.html>

Submissions to newsletter

Hey, you frustrated Hemingways and Steinbecks out there...we are looking for articles for Reading the Water. The best are personal stories that are entertaining, or provide information not found elsewhere. Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for a favorite river?...Have a hot newsflash about a fishery?...Send it in for publishing!



Most importantly, we want the newsletter to address the topics *you* are interested in. So please contact us to let us know your feelings. What do you want to see in the newsletter?

Please limit your article to a couple of pages, submit it in Microsoft Word, and *include photos or relevant images.* E-mail your submissions to pcase@enartec.com, or hrconduct@msn.com.

Advertise in Reading The Water

Deliver your message by advertising in *Reading the Water*. As the voice of this new, vibrant flyfishing club, *Reading the Water* can provide you a direct hit to the affluent North San Diego County market.

Copy must be “camera ready,” and readily inserted into Microsoft Publisher. The **annual rates** are as follows...

- Full page.....\$300
- Half page.....\$200
- Quarter page vertical.....\$150

Please call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224 to discuss your needs. GSF reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.



Call for speaker hosts

We still have openings for hosts for our speakers in 2003. For those of you with a guest bedroom, this is a rare opportunity to spend personal time with the best in our sport...teachers, guides and outfitters, writers, photographers, and other professionals. Think about it...fireside chats with Mel Kreiger, hearing about the exploits of Charles Jardine, getting personal tips from Ed Engle.

Besides a bedroom, all you need to do is get the speaker from the airport to the meeting, put ‘em up for the night, be a gracious host, and get ‘em back to the airport or train station the next day.

Here’s what to do...go to the website—www.goldenstateflycasters.org—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224.



Welcome to the Golden State Flycasters

The GSF was formed in 2002 to serve the interests of fly fishers in North San Diego County, South Orange County, and Camp Pendleton.

Mission Statement

Promote national and international amateur fly casting competition; conservation and restoration of fisheries; and knowledge, support, ethics and social relations in the sport and art of fly fishing.

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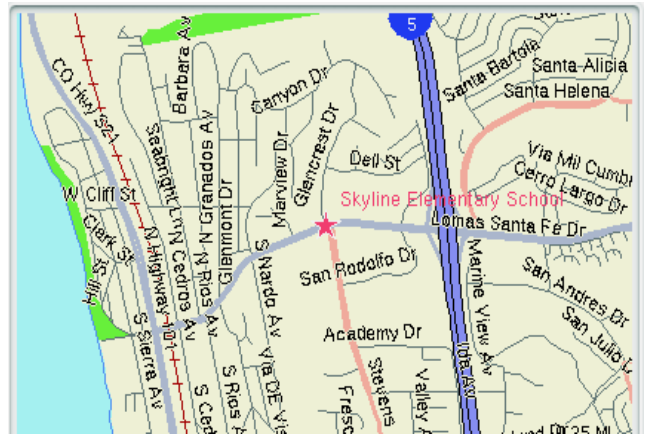
Email: pcase@enartec.com

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www.goldenstateflycasters.org

Map to meeting location

Skyline School Auditorium
606 Lomas Santa Fe Drive



Next month...

The March meeting will be devoted entirely to the **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction**. This evening is guaranteed to be a lot of fun! So bring your wallets, check books, and competitive spirit!

And then in April, we will be bringing **Mel Kreiger** to GSF. If there were such people as rock stars in our sport, Mel would be one of them! Mel has not only devoted a lifetime to fly fish-

ing as a profession—including production of videos, author of books and articles, teaching, etc—but he is one of the funniest men in the sport. *This is a program not to be missed.* So mark and take note of the date...**April 7.**

We also have a terrific line-up of programs for the rest of the year. Always be sure to consult the newsletter for the correct date and time of the program.

