



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

short casts

April 2008

General Meeting April 9th, at the Seven Day Adventist Church 1877 Hooker Oaks. Fly tying will start at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting at 7:30 pm



SECRETARIES SECRETS

By

Pat Sleeper

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 P.M.

The Presidents Line By

Lincoln Gray

I can not believe that it is almost April. Speaking of April, it is that time to get those rods, reels and lines checked out for the up coming season. April 26th is the trout opener and fishing should be good.

There are a lot of things happening for the club in the next couple of months. Make sure to put the upcoming fishouts on your schedule. The North Fork of the Feather River in April and Crater Lake in May.

Also, the Lightning Bugs have some big fishouts coming up. Fishouts to two private lakes are set for the upcoming months. Check with Joe Garza on the youth schedule.

Other actives you might want to attend are some annual fly fishing expos at fly shops. Upcoming expos are: Kiene's Fly Shop (Sacramento) April 19th, The Fly Shop (Redding) April 25th and Western Sports Shop (Santa Rosa) May 3rd.

I would also like to take the time to welcome Peter aboard as the Conservation Chair. If you have any ideas for conservation that the club would be interested in, please see Peter. Thanks, Peter I know you will have fun.

*Those present: Lionel Valley, Joe Garza, Don Sleeper, Dennis Boyd, Pat Sleeper, Lincoln Gray, Tom Simmons, Larry Willis, Percy Ledbetter, Michael (Gonzo) Gonzalez and Eric See.

*Minutes were approved M/S/P Dennis/Don

Dinner reports:

*Joe, Youth Group chairman reported the Youth Group "Lightning Bugs" now has 35 members in the program. We've never had so many youth attend the dinner in its history...GREAT JOB. Thank you for coming!

*Dennis announced we had a good turnout and return with an attendance of 236...Two short of a sell out. Thank you for coming.

*Discussion to start the dinner @ 5:30...30 min. Earlier.

*Discussion on the wonderful dinner by Spiteri's Deli, (Frank Spiteri) the Great gifts donated by just some of our wonderful sponsors: Sierra Stream and Mountain, Chico Fly Shop, Fish First, Raptor Rods, Clear Creek Hunting and Fishing Club, Sherrie Russell Meline who painted the 2006 - 2007 Federal Duck Stamp, Ron Ledger, Len Goldman, The Nature Conservatory, Clear water House - Tom Peppas. Thank you and any not mentioned for all your support !!!

*Hats have been ordered in two colors for the club to sell on the website or at the meetings.

*Gonzo, Outreach chairman, reported he's put together a Casting for Recovery project: Starting now, Win a rod, reel, line, case, and guided trip.

The package is worth over \$700. All the proceeds will go to the local Casting for Recovery Project. Tickets sell for \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00. This will end the weekend before Mothers' Day in May.

*Julie Cunningham will report next month (May) on Davis Lake.

* James H. Peterson Northern California Council FFF will be our guest speaker for April 9th, 2008.

*Hooked on Fishing will be May 31, 2008.

Lake Davis Reopens!

The 4 and 1/2 month closure at Lake Davis due to the Northern Pike Eradication Project was lifted on Friday, January 18th, 2008. DFG has already begun its trout restocking efforts at Lake Davis, as 31,200 Eagle Lake strain rainbow trout were planted in December 2007. Massive numbers of additional trout will be restocked later this spring as the Department of Fish and Game re-establishes the trout fishery.



An Island Adventure By Don Sleeper

We left the US for Christmas Island on February 18th. This was an adventure to one of the most isolated spots in the world. Christmas Island is the largest coral atoll in the world with an area of 248 square miles of which 125 square miles is land and the remainder lagoon which we fished. It is 2015 miles from Tarawa, 1335 miles from Honolulu, 4000 miles from Sydney, Australia and 3,250 miles from San Francisco. The weather is nearly perfect throughout the year. Daily temperatures are constant at 80-85 degrees and 70-

75 at night. There is minimal rain and low humidity due to the gentle trade winds. Christmas Island offers what is perhaps the best bonefishing in the world, with vast numbers of fish - on easily waded, clean, hard, white sand flats. We traveled to our fishing locations by a large outrigger and two days by truck. We saw schools of a thousand fish or more. On her best day Pat caught and landed 23 bones and my best day was fourteen. She seems to always catch more. While most of these will average about 2-4 pounds, several were in the 6- to 8-pound range. We also had daily excitement with three different kinds of trevally - giant (to 50 pounds+), blue (to 15 pounds), and striped (to 20 pounds). Pat and I both missed giant trevally in the 50 pound class within 20 feet of us. I was a little out gunned with a nine weight rod for the bigger trevally. Between the two of us we always had three rods in case a large trevally came by, being carried by our guides'.

I used an eight weight for the bones, Pat used a seven weight and we had no trouble handling the bones with 200 yards of 50 lb gel spun backing. We used all floating lines with 9 to 12 foot leaders. It was quite thrilling to watch the bonefish coming in. Our guide would hold his hand up, as to say halt, then he would deliver a running commentary:

"Bone at one o'clock about 20 feet out. Don't cast, O.K. now cast, now strip, strip, long strips, stop, fish-on! Oh, my gosh can it run! Hold on to your rod tightly or he'll take it and just try to hold your rod up-right away from the coral. Wow, he finally stopped running! Now he's running toward me...shoot...stripping is the only way now. Oh, no he's off again going the other way watch out the wind and water doesn't put a knot in all the loose line... Whew, no knots and he's tearing line again! He doesn't have as much stamina this time and I've been able to keep him on the reel and reel him in...Wow. What a reward! He's a nice 6-pounder and such a silvery-pearl color...just a beautiful fish!"



Our accommodations were rustic, but clean. No TV or radio what a wonderful place. The islanders from Christmas Island were the friendliest people in the world. The food was a real treat, with wahoo and tuna every night with chicken, pork, or lobster - Nothing from a can. A word on the sun! Of all the destinations we fish around the world, Christmas Island wins the prize for the most intense sun. Pat doesn't need Botox; three weeks later, her lips are still burned and puffy from the sun, even with Chap-stick. But, she'll tell you it was a fun trip well worth the time. Our trip was arranged through Rachel Andrus with Fly Water Travel at www.flywatertravel.com.

James H. Peterson, (speaker for April 9th, 2008 meeting)

I was born and raised in California and spent my youth in Chester, CA, where my days were spent fishing and hunting at will. My Father was a member of the State Wildlife Commission so as a youth I experienced deer trapping and tagging, planting fish and many other outdoor activities associated with the Department of Fish & Game. If I were to call a body of water my "HOME WATER", it would be the North Fork of the Feather River, which was a short four block walk from my home. And Lake Almanor about a mile or so depending on how fast I could peddle my bicycle. Needless to say the outdoors has always played a large role in life for me as I continue to engage in outdoor activities and now work to promote the continuation of my exposure so that the coming generations will have and enjoy the same experience as was a gift to me.

Education: Graduate of Chico State, B.S. Business Administration

Affiliation: Life Member Federation of Fly Fishers
Life Member Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sustaining member California Waterfowl Association
Vice President Membership, Northern California Council FFF
Past President Tracy Fly Fishers, Tracy, CA
Sustaining member of Tracy Fly Fishers, Tracy, CA

Family: Wife Nancy, daughters Toni and Tina, sons Aaron and James and six grandchildren.

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2008

This is where you can locate future outings that Chico Area Flyfisher's provide to its Membership. These Club Fishouts are designed to give fly fishers the best opportunity to catch fish and enjoy the outdoors. Our Club has many accomplished anglers who are willing to share their skills with others and you are only limited by willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and time, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful.

We are also looking for additional **fishout leaders**. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead your fellow CAF members for a day of fishing fun, and fellowship please contact Lincoln Gray or Don Sleeper.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
April 26,	Feather River	Eric See
May 17, 18	Crater Lake	Don Sleeper
June 28,	Lake Almanor Hex Hatch	Lincoln Gray
July 12,	Philbrook Reservoir Above Paradise	Open
August 18,	Open	
Sept 27	Klamath Lake, Rocky Point	Don Sleeper
Oct 25, 26	Eagle Lake	Don Sleeper
Nov	Big Chico Creek	Eric See

Other ideas: Floating Indicator Clinic, Float Tube Clinic, Fly Casting Clinic, Yuba River, Fort Bragg area Surf Fly fishing---

What is Casting for Recovery?



We have all been touched by breast cancer through a family member or friend...or just someone we know. Those of fishing can provide peace and solitude, the chance to be in the moment and an opportunity to experience the beauty of nature. Imagine putting the two together. Casting for Recovery has.

Casting for Recovery, a national non-profit support and educational program for women of all ages and in all stages of breast cancer, provides retreats at no cost to participants, which allow women whose lives have been profoundly affected by breast cancer to gather in a beautiful, natural setting and learn to fly fish. The retreats incorporate counseling, educational services and the sport of fly fishing to promote mental and physical healing.

Each Casting for Recovery retreat accommodates 14 women, who apply and are selected through a random lottery, and immerses them in the world of fly fishing for two-and-a-half days. They learn to cast, tie the basic knots and all about the bugs . . . "What Fish Eat". On the last day of the retreat, the women are in the water practicing catch and release fishing assisted by CFR staff and men and women volunteers from local fly fishing clubs. Many of the participants have never picked up a rod in their life but go on to become active in the sport or become volunteers for the Casting for Recovery program.

Retreats are staffed by trained women volunteers. There are fly fishing instructors, as well as professional medical and psychosocial volunteers who provide education and support at the retreat. The retreats are held at lodges in the area, and participants only need to get to the location. Once there, they are outfitted with fly fishing gear from head to toe which they use while at the retreat.

Headquartered in Manchester Vermont, Casting for Recovery was founded in 1996. Since the program is offered at no cost to the participants, CFR relies on the generosity of individual donors, foundation grants, companies and organizations.

In 2008 Casting for Recovery will conduct 37 retreats in 26 states, supported by over 700 dedicated volunteers, and will serve almost 500 women. But demand continues to grow, especially as the medical community increasingly sees the benefit of the program. In 2007 almost 1,300 women applied for the 500 spots. One indication of the demand is that the Northern California program alone, which began in 2001, had 78 women apply for the 28 positions in 2007.

Casting for Recovery needs additional funding not only to sustain its current program but to fund expansion to meet the need. California is one of eight programs that is hoping to expand to a third retreat in 2009. While CFR receives support from companies like The Orvis Company (who offers a matching gift program), Jim Teeny, Inc., and TFO Rods, the majority of funding comes from individuals whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, who know the value of the program, and agree with Casting for Recovery that "To Fish Is To Hope".

You can find out more about Casting for Recovery by visiting

www.castingforrecovery.org.



Lightning Bugs

By
Joe Garza

Well, if you missed the casting class; you really missed out. Lincoln Gray taught several casts to use when fishing in windy conditions. The youth gained a lot of knowledge about casting in a short amount of time. We would like to thank Lincoln for coming out.

Thanks to all the kids that were there as well. Our next meeting will be on April 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Adventist Church on Hooker Oak Ave. Lincoln will be demonstrating how to use the tie fast tools that were donated by Ron and Kim Lewis. I hope to see everyone there.

Jim Patterson will be speaking at the adult meeting about the Federation of Flyfishers. Any of the youth that would like to join the F.F.F. can do so for free at this meeting. Also I will be handing out the Lighting Bugs calendar for the rest of this year. It will include meetings, fishouts, fund raisers, and up coming events such as H.O.F.N.D., The Salmon Festival, pizza party, fly tying and club fishouts (adults).

Our first fishout will be April 12th or 19th as soon as I finalize the date I will let everyone know. Our fishout in May will be at Coffee Cup Lake. Well, until the meeting tight lines.

Casting For Recovery Fundraiser By

Michael "Gonzo" Gonzalez

At our last General Meeting I announced a new Outreach event.

CAF is holding a Quality Opportunity Drawing. This Drawing will hopefully raise enough money to sponsor three women of the 28 positions available.

The Drawing includes an inscribed Casting for Recovery 4 piece TFO 5wt 9' rod, a Ross Reel, Casting For Recovery Rod Case, Jim Teeny Official Casting For Recovery Hat, and a Guided Trip for two with Shasta Trout. The Drawing will take place at our May General Meeting.

What is great is, all money raised here in Chico will stay in Northern California.

Any Donations Made to "Casting For Recovery" (Continued on Right)

(Continued from bottom left)

at the shops below; will be sent directly to the Nor-Cal Director and ear marked for Nor Cal CFR.

For a donation of \$1000.00, YOU can become a Friend for Casting for Recovery. Your name will put on a special banner displayed at all retreats and sponsored events.

Tickets are for the drawing are \$20.00 each or 6 for \$100.00 . They are available at The Chico Fly Shop, Fish First, and Sierra Stream and Mountain Fly Shop. Or by contacting Michael "Gonzo" Gonzalez at gonzoisflyfishing@gmail.com or by phone at 530-354-4181.

Just remember "To Fish is To Hope."

For more information on "Casting For Recovery" See the article on page 4.

Spring Time Fly Fishing for Bass By Don Sleeper

Bass Fly fishing has exploded in popularity. The largemouth bass is considered by many as the greatest of all game fish. Once limited to just the Eastern US, the largemouth bass has been introduced all over the continent. We have some wonderful locations in our own backyard for bass on a fly rod. I've fished the following locations near us; Oroville Afterbay, Black Butte Reservoir, Stony George Reservoir, East Park Reservoir and the dredger ponds below Oroville. When most people think of bass fishing they think of stiff fiberglass rods, heavy lines and large lures. But more and more fishermen are finding the advantage of fly fishing for this game fish.

The advantage I see allows the angler a wider variety of food imitations. While large lures only imitate a small number of food sources, flies can imitate virtually all the sources of bass food, including small organisms like nymphs and even dry flies. Fly fisherman can also cast out mice, frogs, and a variety of other food sources for these opportunistic feeders. Many times I have found bass in shallow water, hiding under or near logs or snags or in weed beds. Flycasters have the advantage of more accurate placement, and being able to place their offering quietly with out spooking skittish fish; and don't forget, we don't have to reel in after each cast.

Large mouths usually emerge in early spring and are bit sluggish, but nevertheless with a speeding up metabolism, they are seeking food. Most largemouths will seek food in the shallows. Being territorial, the best hiding places will go to the biggest fish. Recognizing a good bass hiding spot is the first step in successful bass fishing. Fallen logs or weedy areas will provide cover for the wary luncker. Often times bass can be spotted by the careful observer. In clear water, bass will appear green to pale olive across the back and white to pale yellow in the belly.

The different techniques I use are; early in the morning, I usually fish the banks with steamers, casting out woolly buggers, muddler minnows and even a leech pattern or two. In the spring time by afternoon I have switched to floating bass bugs, the very thing that makes bass fly fishing fun. I cast one toward a nice looking bass hiding spot, and I allow it to sit there for a few seconds. f you allow the fly to 'pop' upon landing and have a nice bass picked out, often times this is all that is needed for the bucketmouth to inhale your offering. Make sure your rod tip is at the proper angle to absorb the hit, or the game will be over before it begins. If after a few seconds the 'hit' doesn't occur, begin retrieving your fly at intermittent intervals like it would occur in nature. This 'popping' action is what attracts the bass to your offering. Watch for the wake as these bass are not shy, and remember especially trout fly fisherman, the bass's mouth is huge and these critters were built for eating. Hope to see you all out this spring for bass.

Upcoming Activities

- April 9TH** James Peterson will be speaking about everything you needed to know about FFF and more at the general meeting.
- April 26** Feather River Fishout
- May 14th** Julie Cunningham will present an up date of the Pike Eradication Project on Davis Lake
- May 17-18** Crater Lake Fishout
- June 28** Lake Almanor Hex Hatch

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Announcements

Meetings: Seven Day Adventist Church
1877 Hooker Oaks

April 9th
May 14th
June 11th
July 9th

Fishouts:

April 26	Feather River Fishout
May 17, 18	Crater Lake Fishout
June 28,	Lake Almanor Hex Hatch
July 12,	Philbrook Reservoir Above Paradise
August 18,	Klamath Lake, Rocky Point
Sept	Open
Oct 25, 26	Eagle Lake
Nov	Big Chico Creek

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www.fishfirst.com

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CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'
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General Meeting:

**April 9th at the Seven Day Adventist Church,
1877 Hooker Oaks. Fly tying will start at 6:30
p.m. and the general meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

***James Peterson will be speaking about everything you
need to know about FFF and more.***

Guests are always welcome, come on out and enjoy the camaraderie,
fish stories and information from the local fisheries. Refreshments will
be served.