



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts April 2013

Our General meeting @ CARD is April 10th, 2013 @ 6:30 Fly tying and 7:30 speaker - free. Free refreshments as well! CARD 545 Vallombrosa Avenue Chico, CA 95926.

Lance Gray our April Speaker

Lance and Kirsten have more than 50 years combined experience in fly fishing. Lance started fly fishing with his father and brother Lincoln at age 7. In his teens, he began tying flies commercially for shops all around Northern California. At 17, he went to work at Powell's in Chico, working in the fly shop and building rods. He guided for Powell's, conducted fly-tying and fly-fishing schools, and traveled. In 1993, Lance and Kirsten started Saltwater Innovations, a company that manufactured and distributed products for saltwater fly fishing. Lance's Crystal Popper, Gray's Billfish Fly, the KO Charlie line and the Raghead Crabs are all Saltwater Innovations products. Kirsten worked behind the scenes, handling the day-to-day operation, and running the manufacturing floor of the company. In 2003 they launched Lance Gray & Company, a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing schools, workshops and a travel agency. Lance conducts presentations at fly clubs and outdoor shows and both Kirsten and Lance supports local groups like the Cub Scouts and 4H. Lance is a signature tyer for Solitude Fly Company and recently began writing, and has had articles published in Angling Trade Magazine, California Fly Fisher, Fly Fishermen, Sierra Fisherman and Northwest Fly Fishing. Kirsten is a fantastic photographer who's had images published in periodicals and on websites.

Fly Fishing Tour

"Fly Fishing Tour" presentation is based on 6 different tours that Lance Gray & Company conducts for guest. The multiple day tours are designed to show access points, tackle needed, techniques, conservation issues, combined with angling safe practices. The presentation includes "The Mammoth Tour", "Lake Almanor Tour", "Valley Steelhead Tour", "The Burney Tour", "the legendary Three Tour", "Eagle Lake Tour", "Fly Fishing the Surf Tour", "American River Shad Tour", and the "Putah Creek Tour". The presentation is a look at fishers' that anglers can tour and gain confidence to fish them by themselves.



Secretary's Secrets By Pat Sleeper

CAF minutes for March 13th 2013
Those present - Larry Willis, Terry Mich, Dana Miller, Lionel Valley, Dave McKinney, Don and Pat Sleeper.

Minutes - M/S/P Terry and Larry.

Treasure - Don Sleeper read the report for the dinner.

Discussion on dinner: next year...will be our first "Saturday" Dinner fund raiser. Requests have come in from those living out of town wanting to attend our wonderful fundraiser...Now they can... Saturday, March 1st, 2014 will be next year's date!

Oh, a special thank you to: Makenna Joyce, Kobe Hood and Gannon Agnew for wonderfully displaying the raffle gifts, meticulously selecting the raffle tickets and most of all your wonderful smiles...thank you!

We had a wonderful array of donations, a warm supply of helpers decorating and helpers as runners, STARS for their wonderful job as always: and, as always a GREAT job from Frank Spiteri and crew! And "you" our members, thank you for your wonderful support!

Pat Sleeper





President's Line

Spring Again

Another winter, now another spring. A bit more dry this year than last, so opening day of fishing season should give many options. The club stays active and there are some great fish-outs upcoming. There is our season opener this year at Hat Creek as well as a fish-out at Crater Lake in May; this is Carter Lake Northern California, not the blown out mountain in Oregon. Hat Creek is the traditional spot that CAFF held the opening fish-out in our historic past. Recently, however with a combination of late snow and high water, Hat Creek has not been a prime spring destination. This year we should be able to get to both of these places and the water flows should be reasonable, which has not been the case the last several years. Now with Global Warming we may not be able to depend upon the seasons to be as predictable as we have in the past. For all I know, in 10 years the best Tarpon fishing may be in San Francisco. The point is that this spring looks remarkably good for fishing and we should take advantage of it and get out there and fish! Tight Lines, David

Chico Area Flyfisher's wish to express their sincere appreciation to the following PATRONS!

Sierra Stream & Mountain Fish First! The Chico Fly shop Spiteri's Deli Dana Miller Realtor Round Table Pizza Olde Gold Estate Jewelry Lundberg Family Farms The Fly Shop (Redding) Val Bowlby Tres Hombres Christian Michaels Sierra Nevada Brewery McCloud River Preserve Red Tavern

Heel & Sole Shoes Temple Fork Outfitters Lance Gray Toby Uppinghouse Montana Fly Company STARS Don & Pat Sleeper Darrin Deel Mac Noble Tinseltown Italian Cottage Monks Eagle Canyon Trophy Trout Donna Murrill Bidwell Golf Course

Bell Carter Olive Packing Big Chico Creek Ecol. Res. The Nature Conservancy Pour House Spice Creek Cafe John & Claire Hamiter Crush 101 Hogan Brown Raw Bar Keine's Fly Shop Raptor Rod Works Wayne Syn Bailey Creek Lodge Canyon Oaks Golf Course

Robbie Merwin Keith Kaneko Terry Mich Lincoln Gray Masonic Family Center Mary Bohnemeyer Ray Narbaitz Karen Horn Larry Wear Roger Bevers California Pasta Productions Cal Trout Scientific Anglers Lenn Goldmann California Fly Fisher

And a BIG Thank you to our members for your wonderful support!!

Awards

Golden Zipper Award

Joe Kelly – For his trip down the Lower Sac!

Press Powell Award

Lincoln Gray – For his lifelong dedication to the sport of Fly Fishing

Sabertooth

Larry Willis – For his dedication to the Chico Area Fly Fishers

Hall Of Fame

Redge Hawkley – For years of service to the club and the sport of Fly Fishing



Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Fishout – April 13, 2013

CAF will be having its annual fishout to the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) on Saturday, April 13th. We will meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 0800, set up our carpools and then head up to the Reserve. The BCCER requires that all boots and wading equipment be completely dried out prior to entry, to reduce the potential of introducing unwanted invasive pests (New Zealand mud snails, Quagga mussels, etc.).

The Sign-Up Sheet for the event will be distributed at the April 10th General Meeting. To avoid overcrowding the stream, this fishout is limited to the first 18 CAF members who sign-up.

Dry flies are successful up there, as are the standard beadhead trout nymphs and the ever popular wooly bugger. Stimulators and other stoneflies should be productive. Big Chico Cr. is open to fishing from Bear Hole upstream to the upper boundary of the BCCER from November 1 through April 30. This includes the upper portion of Bidwell Park as well as the BCCER. General public access to the BCCER is allowed, however it is walk-in only and they request that you register on the sign-in sheets located where the trails enter the Reserve. For more information about the Reserve, such as maps and public use rules and guidelines, please refer to its website (<http://www.csuchico.edu/bccer/>). The trout fishing is catch and release, no bait, and barbless hooks only. Refer to the DFG fishing regulations for more information.



Wild Big Chico Creek Rainbow Trout
(Maggie Hill photo)

Fishout – 2013 Trout Season Opener – Hat Creek

What: Fishout to the Hat Creek Wild Trout Section (and/or Baum Lake). Free lunch at Hat Creek if there is enough attendance. This fishout can be an overnight campout, motel in town (Burney), or a long day trip, but camping is way more fun!

When: Saturday, April 27, 2013, 0800

Where: Hat Creek lower section near the Fish Barrier on Saturday morning. This area is about a 2.5 hour drive from Chico.

RSVP: An RSVP email (ese@comcast.net) would be helpful, if enough RSVPs then CAF will provide lunch at the parking area at the end of the dirt road to Lower Hat Creek at 1230.

Camping: If you are interested in camping, please contact Eric See (ese@comcast.net) and we'll try to coordinate things. Great camping in this area

Directions to the Lower Section and Park at Hwy 299 - From Burney, go northeast on Hwy 299 for about 10 miles. About ¼ mile before Hwy 299 crosses Hat Creek, there will be a dirt road (36N09) on the left (northwest) side of Hwy 299. No problem if you miss the road, simply continue to the Hwy 299 bridge over Hat Creek, there is a Park at this location and you can turn around and come back to the dirt road. Take this dirt road until it ends; it is a few minutes' walk from there to the stream.

The Fishing

Hat Creek is one of the more consistent early season places to fish as the flows are always very constant here. The lower section has fewer people and is a good place for CAF to meet in the morning, and it's hard to find a more beautiful place to eat lunch. And the Upper Section, near the Powerhouse #2, can have remarkable hatches, especially in the last 2 hours of the evening. For this, I suggest eating an early dinner to be on the stream by 5:30ish. The Powerhouse Riffle is usually pretty crowded as it is packed with trout, but you can walk a short distance downstream for less crowded fishing.

For those not interested in stream fishing, Baum Lake is ideal for float tubes, pontoon boats, and small skiffs, and several CAF members are experts with this water, which holds some very large rainbow and brown trout (refer to previous Newsletters for articles on Baum Lake fishing). The Hat Creek Free Lunch location is less than 5 miles from Baum, so come on over!

For the stream anglers, if the fishing doesn't pan out on Hat Creek on Saturday, The Pit River and Burney Creek are close by and we will often venture to one of these other locations. If you haven't fished the Pit River below Britton, I'd suggest you go with somebody who has. Outstanding trout fishing, but most sections have difficult wading, and the new flows have made this even more difficult. Fishing with a dry-dropper setup last year on the Opening Sunday was very good. Burney Creek is a fun stream to fish but it is super snaggy for the nymph angler. I recommend dry flies!

It is usually cold at night, and we've had everything from snow flurries and rain on Opening Day to 70 degree weather, so dress appropriately. The best fishing that I can remember was the day it snowed, we had the Powerhouse Riffle to ourselves for the afternoon!

Flies for Hat Creek: small nymphs are standard fare, Pheasant Tails, H.B. Pheasant Tail Flash #18, Micro Mayfly #18 and #20, HBI, Brassie (#16s and 18s) Golden stone (#12s and 14s) Fox Poopah and Bird's Nest #16 and one or two other caddis larvae patterns in #16 and #18. Prince nymphs are good in #12-16, but these should be in your box at all times anyway (along with Bird's Nests and Pheasant Tails). The big rubberlegs stones are good to have for the fast water sections such as the Powerhouse Riffle and the Lower Section (look for the ledges and break to deeper water in the lower section). These are all good for Pit River too, along with black AP nymphs in #16 and #18. For dries, Parachute Adams in #16, 18, and 20, and some #18 Pale Morning Dun patterns, any of the standards in parachute style will work. And bring some Elk Hair Caddis in #14, 16 and 18. And bring Tippet from 2X to 7X, some people even go with 8X when fishing dries on Hat Creek, but it is hard to land fish with this. Yarn type indicators work well. I've heard streamers can be good on Hat Creek but I have yet to try them. Maybe this year???

Flies for Pit River: #10 Stimulator with a #12 BH Prince Nymph dropper, Birds Nests.



CAF Speaker List 2013

CAF General Meeting

CAF meets monthly and presents a variety of exciting flyfishing-related programs throughout the year. The meetings also include monthly fly tying demonstrations, raffle prizes, refreshments, and the very best info and lies about Northern California Flyfishing. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. Fly tying begins at 6:30pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30pm. Location: CARD Center - 545 Vallombrosa Avenue - Chico, California, 95926. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
April 10th-	Lance Gray	(PENDING)
May 8th-	Trent Pridemore	Bass Fishing
June 12th-	Tim Fox	Fly Tying Demonstration
July 10th-	NO MEETING	
August 14th-	NO MEETING	
September 11th-	Hogan Brown	Nor Cal Warm Water
October 9th-		
November 13th-	Lincoln Gray	Drifting The Lower Sac – V-II
December	PIZZA FEED	(Location TBD)

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2013

This is where you can locate future outings that the Chico Area Flyfishers 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 your 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. 345-1197

This schedule may change depending on the fish bite or weather conditions.

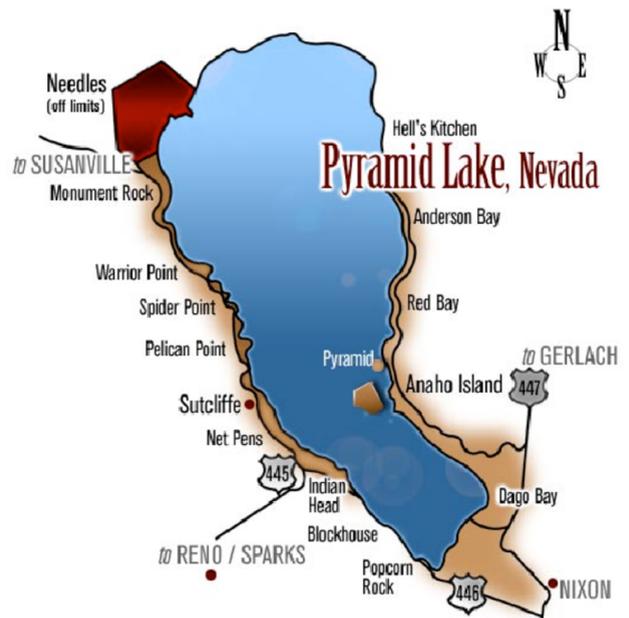
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
March 30	Private Pond Fishout	Don Sleeper (Bass fishing including lunch fee \$10.00)
April 13	Big Chico Creek Reserve	Eric See
April 18, 19, 20	Pyramid Lake	Don Sleeper at Pelican beach
April 27, 28	Hat Creek	Eric See
May 11	Little Grass Valley Reservoir Walk-in with float tubes 2.3 miles	Don Sleeper
May	Crater Lake Depending on when we can get into the lake.	Don Sleeper
June	Lake Almanor Hex Hatch	
July	Yuba River – Float with pontoons	
August	Deer Creek	Lincoln Gray
Sept	Davis Lake	Open
Oct 2,3,4,5	Pyramid Lake at Warrior Point	Don Sleeper
Nov	Feather River	Lance Gray

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

Fly Fishing

We plan be at Pelican Point camping on the beach. Tents or RVs will work on the beach. Accommodations can be arranged at Crosby's (775) 476-0400 (Reservation, license and Information)

Fish should be coming in close to spawn this time of the year in 1 to 10 feet of water. Pyramid Lake fishing is done by wading, float tubes, or using a common household ladder. The wind can be a little rough there for the ladder keeps you out of the water and allows you to cast further. We use black and green wooly buggers and foam beetles behind the wooly buggers. Sinking and intermediate lines are the preferred lines. But floating lines with a nymph and indicators work well.



McCumber Reservoir

I went fishing at McCumber Reservoir on Monday March 18 with another CAF member. Weather was great but the fishing wasn't. The lake was 100% full, but that can change overnight. Lots of weeds as usual but none are reaching the surface, if the water goes down two feet, the weeds will be something to deal with. There were a few fish jumping once in a while, no hatch that I could see. Three other boats fishing and we saw maybe a total of four other fish caught. The bait fishermen didn't catch a thing. I talked to them and they complained that the fishing wasn't any good anymore because the lake was open year round. I thought it was open all the time, but they said it used to be closed October 1st to March 1st. I know 20 years ago we used to catch 3-4 pound Browns with regularity! A big fish now would be 14". We ended up with 5 fish total but had a great fishing day to start the season



On the Road Again,

Siskiyou Lake 03-24-13

By Don Sleeper

It was a little early for Siskiyou Lake west of Mt. Shasta. The lake was beautiful. Some of us caught fish. I didn't land a fish. The hot fly was a size 16, bead headed, zebra midge under an indicator that caught six fish. I tired the traditional wiggle tails, and buggers normally used on this lake; but, no luck. Even tried those zebra midges that worked for the other guy; but, I just couldn't hook a fish. The weather was clear, warm and plenty of fish showed on my Humminbird Fishing buddy screen that I attached to my pontoon. But, as I said, it was a little early and they were not on the bite! We fished the north side of the lake where the Sacramento river flows into the lake, everything looked good! And we all know those times when somebody else catches the fish, and we don't. Better luck next time.



Fly of the Month for April 2013

Guide's Choice Hare's Ear

Fly of the Month, April, 2013

By:

Ray Narbaitz

In February's F.O.T.M, I stated that I fish Soft Hackles a lot, and I do. The reason this month's fly caught my attention is that it is tied as a weighted nymph, but it also looks like it would be a great Soft Hackle. In fact, when weighted, it could be fished both ways on the same cast. The fly is based on a very old fly, the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear. It was the top general Nymph for a long time before the Bird's Nest came along and replaced it. The Hare's Ear is still fished, and catches a lot of fish.

I wondered what would make the Guides Choice different from the original, and soon realized that it adds on quite a few of what are known in today's tying world as, "Strike Triggers." Gary LaFontaine was the first person I remember talking about them several decades ago. He and tiers like Ralph Cutter spent hours scuba diving to watch fish eat and see what caused them to take a certain bug. Another innovative tier that throws in as many strike triggers as he can is Mike Mercer. They can be anything from legs, to wavy materials, to flash, to hot spots and more, but whatever they are, fish find them to be something they either want to eat or attack. In the case of the Guide's Choice, it starts with the basic Hare's ear and adds a bead, Peacock, flash back, soft hackle and a hot spot. Here is how to tie the weighted version. I'll talk about making it a Soft Hackle after we tie the fly.

Hook...2X long nymph hook, here a TMC 5262, 12 to 16

Bead...Gold, sized to hook

Weight...6 to 8 wraps of .015 or .010 lead or lead free wire

Thread...Hot Orange or Red or Chartreuse 70 denier

Tail...Guard hairs from the face of a Hare's Mask

Abdomen...Hare's Mask

Ribbing...Gold Wire, Brassie size

Wing Case...Pearl Flashabou

Thorax...Peacock herl

Hackle...Partridge

Hot Spot...Tying thread

1. Debarb the hook, thread it through the bead and place it in the vise.
2. Wrap on the weighting wire and shove it up into the recess of the bead
3. Start your thread at the wire and wrap up over it a few times to anchor it down.
4. Cut a clump of hair from the mask in what would be the forehead area just below the ears. Pick the fluff out and tie in the guard hairs for the tail. Make the tail a little shorter than the length of the hook.
5. Tie in the ribbing wire.
6. Either cut some of the soft hair off of the mask, or use pre-packaged Hair's Ear and dub it to your thread. Wrap the dubbing up the hook to about the 2/3 point of the shank. Taper it up towards the eye of the hook.



7. Wrap the gold wire in open winds to the bead, tie it off and break off the excess.
8. Tie in the Flashabou for the wing case, making sure it is right on top of the hook.
9. Tie in several pieces of Peacock herl at the bead and wrap them back to the abdomen. Make sure you have wrapped back far enough so you don't have a little tiny wing case. Wrap the herl back to the bead, making a fairly full thorax.
10. Pull the Flashabou over the top of the Peacock to make the wing case. Make sure it is right on top of the fly. Tie it down behind the bead, and then fold it back and take a couple of more wraps to lock it in. Trim off the excess.
11. Take a Partridge feather and grabbing it by the tip, brush back the fibers. Cut the tip to make a small triangle, and tie that in at the bead. The feather should lay with the fibers pointing down. Take a wrap of the hackle, and don't be surprised if you only have enough for one turn. That's enough. Tie it down and cut off the excess.
12. Pull the hackle fibers back and take a couple of turns of the thread to tilt them back over the fly, soft hackle style.
13. Take some wraps of thread and then four or five wraps with a whip finisher to give you the hot spot right behind the bead. Trim your thread.
14. Give the whip finish a good coat of head cement.

Fish the fly like you would any other nymph. At the end of your drift, it would be a good idea to hang on to the line, and let the current pull the fly up a little in the water column. It might very well cause the fish to strike, and if it does, the take will not be subtle.

To tie it like a soft hackle, use a standard nymph hook and leave off the bead and weighting wire. Everything else is the same.

LOCAL GUIDES

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Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Sierra Stream & Mountain
Chico, CA
(530-345-4261)



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