



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts April 2020

No General Meeting in April



Dear Friends:

I trust you are dealing with the “sheltering in place” guidelines safely. Hang in there, we’re “all” in this boat together. And, we’ll survive together, with everyone’s help! We’ll all come out of this with a new appreciation for what we have; and the wonderful friends we have around us!

We are cancelling our April 2020 General Meetings and fish outs for everyone’s health and safety. Thank you “ALL” for the part “you” are playing in this unusual time. It will be the result of working together; and, together we will control this epidemic. Like a forest fire, it needs fuel; cut off the fuel and it goes out or settles down alleviating the major hot spots. As we have all been asked to “shelter in place” by our government; which means stay at home unless needing medical supplies or medical help; food or it can be

delivered by most of our grocery stores; help someone else or work in a helping related work place. It also says: we can exercise at home; go for walks; do sports that don’t include personal contact or groups and allows for “Social Distancing” 6ft or farther apart. **THIS IS A SERIOUS VIRUS!**

Getting exercise such as going for walks down your street or in parks, though they are closing MANY parking lots in order to keep congestion down. ALL RECORDS HAVE BEEN BROKEN WITH NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS FACILITATING THE PARKS: Reports say the parking lots were “full” of men, women and families going for walks. It was impossible for the park officials to manage! Thus, All State parks are closed to vehicular traffic. Exercise is still important to our minds and body!

If “you” choose to go fishing, please, be sure to honor the “Social Distancing” rule. This will not only protect “you” from the virus but insure you can continue to fish be it from shore or from boats without more strenuous regulations. I understand some boat launches are still open so it could be the parking lot they are closing. Check out your location first...if you must go out, please, honor the “Social Distancing rule”. We are all feeling the need for some type of release from our closures, confinement and fear of the corona virus; our lack of supplies at our stores or difficulty finding them is “not” what we’re accustomed to in our community!

But, this too will pass and our favorite lakes and rivers will still be there for us to passionately catch our most exciting fish ever! Meanwhile we have time to tie flies for “our” favorite fly-fishing trip when we didn’t have time to tie before. If you don’t know how to tie there are lots for sale. You can call your local dealer for a possible appointment or tying instructions can be found on the web.

We now have time to research some new places for that exciting fly-fishing trip boasting some of those beautiful colorful “fish on the fly” trips. You can experience that catch, that exciting trip you have always wanted to try out. Many are offered in our own newsletter. Or, Perhaps it’s our own backyard like the Sacramento River, Feather River, Yuba River, American River or our wonderful Lakes: Oroville, Folsom, Almanor, Shasta and on and on... We are so blessed here in NorCal.

Recently, our guest from Montana said: “why do you all come to Montana when you have such beautiful mountain streams like the Feather River and, leave this gorgeous area? Northern California is more beautiful than what we have and much more comfortable.” Amazing what “we” don’t see in our own backyard!

Current Closures due to the COVID – 19 Virus:

- **Pyramid Lake - closed**
- **All campgrounds across the state - closed**
- * **ALL 280 State Parks Temporarily Closed to Vehicular Traffic**
- * **High public-use indoor facilities**--including museums, visitor centers and cafés
- * **Cancellation of events:** All events being held in the State Park System have been cancelled until further notice.

What Is Open in Our Parks?

With the exception of closed parks, non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails and beaches, remain open. Day-use restrooms also remain open, and visitors are advised to bring soap for handwashing and to use alcohol-based sanitizers when water is not available.

This COVID – 19 INFORMATION IS: as of 3/30/20 and updated information can be obtained through https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350.

A GREAT video for answers on the Virus by long: <https://vimeo.com/399733860> It will be together we concur this infection. And, by working together, we shall!

Thank you! Pat Sleeper, CAF President

Pyramid Lake

We were at Pyramid for 8 days and trying to get home for the last four days, snowbound. Hwy 80, 70 and 36 were closed or chain regs. Weather was brutal, heavy winds and snow. With that said, fishing was slow. Pete and Doc caught the biggest of the group, 14 lbs. plus. We fished with Chris Evison one day, he was terrific. We used ladders at different parts of the lake, a real learning experience. We camped on Pelican beach with up to 11 of us from the Chico Area Fly Fishers. We used sinking lines with midnight cowboys, white beetles, and chironomids; mainly, the albino wino nymph. Unfortunately, Pyramid is now closed.....



Walt Mazen



Pete Wiik



Mike Leavell

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2020-21

Future outings that Chico Area Flyfisher's provide to its Membership: These Club Fish-outs 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.

Elden Hinkle and Tom Rosenow are our fish-out leaders. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead our fellow CAF members for a day of fishing, and fellowship contact Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com or Tom Rosenow troseow.chico@gmail.com

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
April 29th	Trout opener: Tom Roseow: troseow.chico@gmail.com	CANCELLED COVID 19
May 16-17	Wild horse Reservoir Elden: ehinkle@aaproducton.com	
May 27-?	Crane Prairie Lake, Oregon: Rock Creek campground psleeper@sbcglobal.net	
June 20,2020	Lake Almanor "Hex hatch" @ Frank Spitari's in Almanor RSVP: BBQ lunch included. Elden: ehinkle@aaproducton.com	
Aug 29 - Sep 5	Dorado fishing: La Ventana, Mexico (3 seperate weeks available)	
Sep 5 - 12	Exciting 7 nights/6 dys fishing, meals, shuttle svc.	
Sep 12 - 19	Double occupancy; w/group. Information:	
Sep 19 - 26??	Don & Pat; 345-1197; www.patsflyfishing.com	
Nov TBD	Big Chico Creek, Ecological Reserve;	
Jan 10-15, 2021	Lake Picachos, Mexico; www.patsflyfishing.com - 530-345-1197 Trophy Bass fishing.	

CAF General Meeting Speaker List 2020

CAF meets 9 months out of the year; and, presents a variety of exciting fly fishing-related programs throughout the year. The meet-ings also include monthly fly tying demonstrations, raffle prizes, refreshments, and the very best stories about Northern California Fly fishing. Meetings are being held on the second Wednesday of the month at "The California Park Pavilion". We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and hearing "your" fishing stories! Fly tying is at

6:30 p.m.; general meeting @ 7:30 p.m. Location: California Park Pavilion: 2565 California Park Drive Chico.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
May 6	TBD	COULD be Cancelled COVID 19
June 10	John Crotty	

Fly of the Month, April, 2020

Madam X

By: Ray Narbaitz

Contrary to popular belief, I do not exclusively tie and fish small flies. I am more than willing to use big flies if that is what the fish want. I am also more than happy to admit that there are those times when fish, indeed, want a big mouthful. The Madam X is a Caddis imitation that has been around for a while. It looks more like something you would throw at Bass as opposed to Trout, and it is way too big to look like most Caddis. However, as the Chernobyl Ant proves, flies don't always have to look just like their namesake. Thus, the Madam X has also been called a Hopper imitation, a Stonefly imitation, and several other bugs, like a Skwala. It can probably be all of those, depending on the color and size in which you tie it. Like a lot of flies, we spend way too much time trying to figure out why fish eat them when the Trout are probably thinking, "Hmm...I don't know what that is, but it looks like it might be good to eat."

While there is no real proof, it is widely believed that the Madam X was developed by Doug Swisher some time ago. He has never definitively stated he developed the fly, but he did introduce it. He has said he fished it for a number of years, but was afraid to offer it to the public. He said it caught so many fish he finally introduced it. Like a lot of patterns, the Madam X can be tied many different ways. You can use different materials, different colors, dubbed, wrapped, Royal Body, Parachute style, etc. The way I will describe it here is pretty close to the way Swisher originally introduced it. The fly is actually easier to tie than it is to try to explain.

Hook: Light wire hook 2X or 3X long like the TMC5212, 6 or 8

Thread: Yellow 6/0

Body and Tail: Deer hair or Elk

Thorax: Tying thread

Wing and Head: Deer or Elk

Legs: White rubber legs

1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise.
2. Start your thread at the eye, and wrap it up down to the bend of the hook, and then back up to about the 2/3 point of the shank.
3. Take a clump of the hair (I used Elk), clean out the underfur and use a hair stacker to even up the tips.
4. Place the hair on the shank at the 2/3 point so the tips extend about a gap length beyond the bend of the hook. Tie the hair in tightly, trying to get it to wrap around the hook shank. Don't worry about the butts of the hair sticking over the eye of the hook.
5. When the hair is tied in tightly, closely cut off the butt ends.
6. Spiral wrap your thread back to the bend of the hook, trying to get the hair to surround the hook shank. Don't tie it down super tight as that will detract from its floatability. When you get there, take a couple of tight wraps and then spiral wrap back to the tie in point. The thread should make an X pattern on the hair body.



7. Take another clump of hair, clean out the underfur and stack the tips. With the tips pointing forward towards the eye of the hook, measure the hair from the end of the tail to the eye.
8. Advance to hair forward from where you grabbed it at the end of the tail, and tie it down just behind the eye. Try to keep the hair on top of the hook shank. Tie the hair down tightly with a couple of more wraps, and cut off the butt ends.
9. Wrap your thread back and forth so all the butt ends are covered and you have a yellow thread Thorax. End with your thread back at the front of the body. Pull the hair back over the top of the fly and tie it down right in front of the body. This should give you a sort of half bullet head. Again, keep the hair on top of the fly.
10. Take a length of the White Rubber Legs and tie it in on the opposite side of the hook. Leave it long enough for the end to go to the back of the fly. Tie it in with a couple of wraps.
11. Loop the long end around the eye of the hook, making sure the loop is long enough for the front legs. Tie it in on your side of the hook with a couple of wraps.
12. Adjust the legs so they are where you want them.
13. Take a couple of more wraps around the legs, whip finish there at the tie in point, and cut off your thread.
14. Cut the loop of rubber in half. Pull the rear legs back (don't stretch them) and cut them off at about the end of the tail. Cut the front legs off just a tad shorter.
15. Put some head cement on the whip finish. If you want, you could also put a little on the hair that makes up the head for durability.

LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

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

ANDY'S EMBROIDERY
820 Wall Street Chico, CA 95928
Phone (530) 893-3316 FAX (530) 893-1073

Jean Kirkendall
Owner

www.andysembroidery.com andyse@sbcglobal.net

Embroidery
In-House Digitizing
Digital Printing
Sportswear
Personalized Gifts
Custom Crystal Gifts

Andy's Embroidery will add the CAF logo and trout to shirts, jackets, pockets...enlarge it if needed for only \$12.



Ron Leger
Custom Fish Carvings
530-343-5191
rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com



David W. McKinney, M.D., M.P.H.

Pre-Employment Physicals
Expanded Drug Screening
Workman's Compensation
FAA/DOT Physicals
Spirometry/Respiratory Testing



Past president of Chico Area Flyfishers

Miller & Dean
Real Estate Team
Coldwell Banker
Dufour Realty

Dana Miller
530-570-1184

Frankie Dean
530-717-3884



BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Pat Sleeper.....345-1197

Vice President
Larry Willis.....520-8556

Secretary:
Dave McKinney.....570-1342

Treasurer:
Don Sleeper345-1197

Board Members:
Eric See899-1918
Scott Joyce.....899-8500
Dana Miller570-1184
Dave Mckinney570-1342

Past President:
David McKinney570-1342

Committee Chairpersons:
Membership Director Jerry Stevenson
Fish Master Tom Rosenow520-3053
Fish Master Elden Hinkle518-4680

Conservation Steve Bohnemeyer.....
..... 530-966-5818

Conservation Pat Hallin518-5031

Web Master:
Don Sleeper and Richard Wilkerson

Fly Tying Terry Mich864-9451

David W. McKinney, California
Occupational Medical Professionals
M.D., M.P.H.530-534-5135

Project Healing Waters
Pete Wiik.....530-520-9495

Newsletter Editor
Scott Sleeper..... 899-9856

Proofreader
Ray Narbaitz 894-5220
tytline@sbcglobal.net

CAF WEBPAGE
<http://chicoareaflyfishers.org>

FISHING REPORTS
www.fishfirst.com

Change of address?
Not receiving newsletter?
Contact
Don Sleeper 345-1197