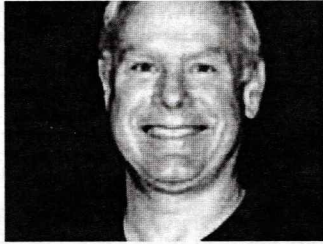


CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

short casts

August 2006



The Presidents Line By Roger Bevers

August is here already and we are beginning to think about next February's dinner.

Yes, this is the month we start the planning and things are already under way for the major items. Dana has gotten us off to a good early start, so we hope for a great dinner.

The July meeting was a good social gathering with members talking about fishing trips and conditions. The Sleepers updated everyone on their trip to New Zealand, but if you missed the July meeting, I'm sure they will present it with pictures for our November club share general meeting. Various other members talked about trips and gave updates on successes. I talked about the Pitt River. If you haven't fished the Pitt, consider a trip. I promise you will enjoy the action. I fished the Highway 299 Bridge. After crossing the bridge there is a parking lot to the right. Many people fish right there, or up stream, but I ventured down stream toward lake Britton. The action for rainbows was good, with 7 fish between 18 and 23 inches netted in less than two hours. The water is fast there, but getting on the bottom with good lead shooting heads is the key. The choice of fly wasn't important, but good beadhead worm patterns worked well for me. Red was the color of choice when I was there, but I'm sure other colors would work well also.

Randy McKean has resigned as the clubs Historian, so we are now looking for a new historian. If you like computer work here is one area you could contribute to for the club. Do volunteer, because our history is important in the future as well as now.

Our August meeting will be on Wednesday August 9th starting at 6:30 p.m. for fly tying and 7:30 p.m. for the general meeting. If your in town do attend the fly tying in itself may be worth your while.

I just arrived home from Alaska fishing on the Kenai Peninsula with Ron Leger, Lionel Valley and Tom Simmons. The fishing was a variety of experiences, from a fly-out for grayling and rainbows in high mountain lakes to fishing for halibut in Cook Inlet out of Ninilchik. The trip started out with a bang as we fished for Silver Salmon out of Seward and all limited out. Now don't get the idea that this was all
(Continued on Page 2)

General Meeting: The August General Meeting will be at the Library Wednesday, August 9th. Fly tying starting at 6:30 p.m. and the general meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

CAF NEEDS YOU!

We still need more volunteers. to fill the positions listed below. The success of the club depends on member involvement. Please volunteer your time. In the absence of volunteers the board will have to drop these positions. Dropping them means that the club loses out and so do the members. You can volunteer by calling Roger 343-6442.

Conservation Chairperson
Fundraising chairperson
Librarian
Projects chairperson.

Conservation Chairperson:

CAF needs someone to step up and chair the conservation committee. The board and officers are developing the conservation program presently and I hope to have it finished before summer ends. The responsibilities for this office are being developed and duties will include being a member of the BOD.

Fundraiser Chairperson:

The CAF board and officers are presently looking at way to increase our money-making capacity. We have several ideas for this and will consider any members ideas you wish to submit. When we have fundraiser activities adopted, besides the annual dinner, we will need someone to put the plans to work. Again, some simple organizational skills and participation are all that is needed.

Projects Chairperson:

The Projects Chairperson will handle the organization of club selected projects. This will entail working with the Outreach chairperson, Fundraiser chairperson, Outreach Chairperson, Youth Leader, and Conservation chairperson to coordinate club projects, as well as carrying out projects the board approves.

Librarian:

The club library is still at my house and there are many books, tapes and pamphlets to choose from. You can check them out free of charge. **The club needs a librarian**, so if you would like to help out, call Roger Bevers.

Big Chico Creek Fishing Regulations

Press Powell once told me that the biggest stonefly hatch that he ever saw was on Big Chico Creek during the spring, on the section that is now owned by the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. There hasn't been a springtime season on this stream in a long time, and CAF would like to change that. Below in the proposal that CAF made to the California Fish and Game Commission to change the fishing regulations on Big Chico Creek to a reasonable fishing season, while still keeping the barbless hooks and catch and release requirements. We revised our original proposal at the request of Paul Ward, the local DFG fisheries biologist. He said that he will now support our proposal, and we are grateful for that.

Please send a letter to the Commission expressing your support for this proposal, and encourage your friends to do the same. It's best to be brief and to the point, less than 1 page is ideal. The address is in the CAF proposal. Please write your letter as soon as possible.

You can also email the Commission at:
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

To keep you updated on the progress of this issue. We are presenting the following correspondence with the California Fish and Game Commission and Chico Area Flyfishers.

Chico Area Flyfishers
P.O. Box 3583
Chico, CA 95927
June 7, 2006
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: REVISED Proposal to Change Big Chico Creek Fishing Regulations

Dear California Fish and Game Commission:

We, the Chico Area Flyfishers, are revising our Proposal to change the trout fishing season on Big Chico Creek, regarding the section from Bear Hole to the upper Boundary of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. Our original Proposal is enclosed as *EXHIBIT A*. This revision is based upon a discussion with Mr. Paul Ward, DFG biologist for Big Chico Creek.

(Continued in Right Column)

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The current fishing season on this section of stream is: November 15 – February 15.

Our original proposal was to change the fishing season to: October 15 – May 31

Our revised Proposal is to change the season to: November 1 – April 30.

The other provisions of our proposal remain the same, such as continuing the existing barbless hooks/catch and release requirements.

Mr. Ward suggested this shortened season in the interest of protecting spring-run Chinook salmon during the end of their spawning period in October, and their holding period during May, when flows are dropping and water temperatures are rising, rendering the spring run more vulnerable.

Although this would result in a 48-day reduction from what we originally proposed, we believe it to be an acceptable compromise, and will still provide for a reasonable fishing season on this wonderful trout stream.

Sincerely,

Roger Bevers, President
Chico Area Flyfishers

Cc:

Sandy Morey, DFG

Neil Manji, DFG

Paul Ward, DFG

Steve Carson, Chico Enterprise-Record
Butte County Fish and Game Commission

Rick Keene, California State Assembly, District 3

(Presidents Line continued from page 1)

fly-fishing, because it was a charter boat in Seward for silvers and halibut out of Ninilchik. Both places we brought back limits, although the halibut were just averaged size. Another highlight of our trip for me was the grayling fishing. The Alaskan experience of fly-out trips is something that everyone should do at least once. We also had good success on our second fly-out to Big Lake fishing for reds at the mouth of Wolverine creek. The bear viewing was an added plus in the day. The four of us will get together to make a presentation for our November meeting.

YOSEMITE RE-VISITED

by
Dana Miller

After a two-year layoff, I finally resumed our annual 8-day backpacking trip to the wilds of Yosemite National Park. Two CAF members, my son, and myself were ready for the fishing adventure of the summer. Saturday morning we started a six-hour hike to our first lake, this will be the only lake we go to that has a trail going to it, all other hiking is "Off trail"! Our first hike was pretty much un-eventful, although we lost the trail a couple of times. Remember we don't go where everyone else goes to in the park, so we rarely see anyone, let alone someone fishing!

All the lakes we fish are full of McCloud River Steelhead that were planted in the late 1800's. Our first lake fishing was only fair, probably due to warmer water, and the massive amount of food available. Damsels, Mayflies, and Black Caddis were abundant, as well as numerous other "Bugs" along the shoreline! I only caught 3 fish, but one was 16 to 17 inches and had shoulders to match!

That night my son came down with the Flu, so we had to spend an extra day there. We did fish a stream in the area, that was a little high, but full of 8 to 10 inchers. I did manage two 15 inchers and a slew of smaller ones. I wonder how the fishing would be when the water is low?

Finally we left the trail, with my son fully recovered and after a 8-plus hour hike we arrived at our second lake. The lake level was very high and cold because of the snowmelt. The fish in this lake did truly perform like Steelhead. As soon as one was hooked it would leap and leap, maybe 5 or 6 times. How many times has a 12-inch trout made your fly reel sing...Strong fish! I used dry flies and wet flies and caught many on both. The Black Caddis worked best in the mornings and the evening when the fish were close to shore. Prince nymphs worked well in the middle of the day. We caught all the fish we wanted and even kept a few for dinner, and they were great!

The weather was perfect, not too warm and just a little chilly at night. We never saw another person once we left the trail, after all who would want to hike off trail for 8+ hours just to catch hundreds of trout, 10 to 17 inches? You'd think we were in New Zealand or a remote
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General Meeting: Wednesday, August 9th
Chico Library
6:30 Fly tying demonstrations
7:30 Meeting and Program on

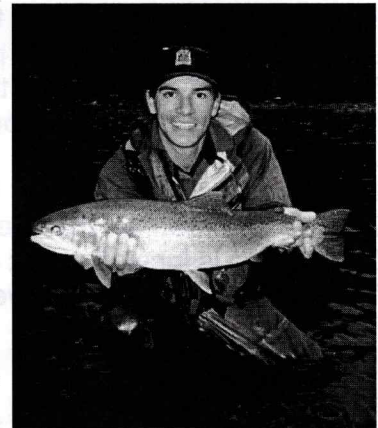
Valley Steelhead

You won't want to miss this new power point presentation by Chico Fly Shop on our own Valley Steelhead. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the season, (year round? or Sept – June?), the methods (there are 4), the means, and the access points. The discussion will include the Sacramento R., the Feather R., and the Yuba R. The Chico Fly Shop staff will also be doing the fly tying demonstrations between 6:30 and 7:30, tying up some of their favorite and most successful flies used for steelhead fishing.

Chico Fly Shop is co-owned by John Bryan and Larry Bluck (it's going on 5 years now). Both were Press Powell employees, John for 5 – 6 years, Larry for over 10 years. Larry managed the rod building company and fly shop for Press since 1999. They are still manufacturing their own rods....as CFS (Chico Fly Shop) rods.

Our actual speaker will be John. John was born and raised in Nevada City and began fishing at the tender age of 6. He started fishing with his grandfather who worked for Bob Mariott's fly shop in Los Angeles. John's earliest years were spent on the Yuba R., but he began exploring new waters when he went to Alaska for the first time at age 11. His fly fishing journeys have since taken him to British Columbia, Accension Bay and Loretto in Mexico, Costa Rica, and countless waters in Oregon, Washington, Nevada and California.

This program will be good, practical and achievable information that we can all utilize during the approaching steelhead season. Come and learn, then be ready to go out and hit the water.



Fishout Update – Crater Lake

by
Don Sleeper



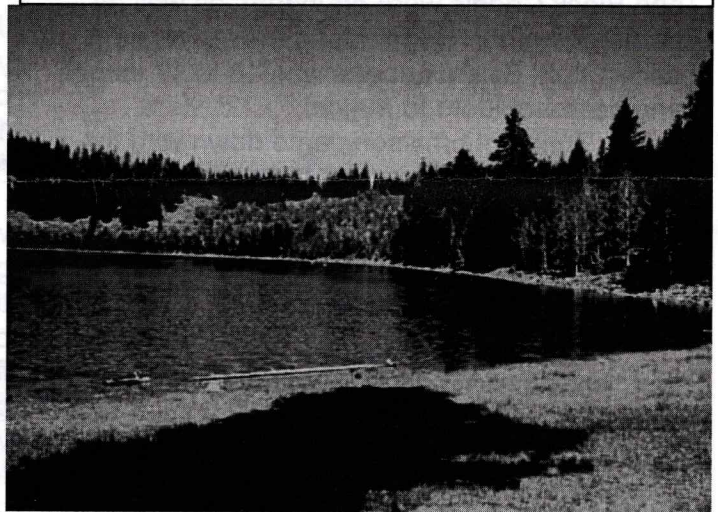
Pontoons on the shore of Crater Lake



Karen Horne and Larry Willis preparing to try the waters at Crater Lake

We had a wonderful fishout at Crater Lake (California). Crater Lake is a small jewel off Highway 44 in Plumas County. The location of this fishout was changed from, walking into the Caribou Wilderness area for fishing the Hidden Lakes to Crater Lake; since, Roger Bevers and I scouted the Hidden Lakes one week prior to the purposed fishout to find fishing wasn't that great; therefore, we changed the location to Crater Lake.

Ten of us met at the Copper Kettle in Chester for breakfast then headed out, Crater Lake is located about 45 minutes from Chester. Once there, we found two



Another view of Crater lake



Terry Mich fighting a fish in his float

beautiful camp sites right on the lake though the campground was full. We all had float tubes or pontoon boats and the fishing was terrific. We fished the lake with dry flies all day, someone said we caught close to 60 to 70 fish; nothing over 14 inches. Jack Hagewood was the big winner; he caught 19 fish on a floating blood midge and callibaetis emerger. Those fishing were Karen Horne, Terry Mich, Durl Van Alstyne, Mary Beth Binkert (Bink), Barb, Jack Hagewood, Joan Hagewood, Larry Willis, Pat Sleeper, and Don Sleeper. We all had a fantastic time! Hope to see you on our next fishout.

LOCAL GUIDES

Chico Fly Shop
Chico, CA
(530) 345-9983

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Merganser Outfitters
Chico, CA
(530) 345-4071

Oasis Springs
Paynes Creek, CA
(530) 642-4150

Orland Outfitters Lodge
Orland, CA
(530) 865-8545

Big Bluff Ranch
Red Bluff, CA
(530) 529-2291

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Mountain
Chico, CA
(530-345-4261



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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wed. August 9th 6:30 fly tying 7:30 general meeting.

August 19, Gold Lakes Area fishout

Wed. September 13th 6:30 fly tying 7:30 general meeting.

Sept 16 Davis Lake fishout

Wed. October 11th- 6:30 fly tying 7:30 general meeting

(Continued from page 3)

part of Alaska, rather than California, and in Yosemite National Park!

As usual we had a great trip. No major problems (after the flu). A few scratches and cuts, a blister or two and that was it! The amazing thing is, anyone can do this. Just get a map and start looking for remote creeks and lakes. Lakes that have a large stream going into it are a good place to start.

I'm off to fish "My" secret little creek, full of Rainbows and Browns—just an hour from Chico!—

BOARD MEMBERS

2006

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Roger Bevers.....343-6442

Vice President

Val Bowlby.....891-0706

Secretary:

Lionel Valley.....343-7364

Treasurer:

Dennis Boyd.....891-5760

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Eric See.....899-1918

Don Sleeper.....345-1197

Lincoln Gray.....345-4261

Larry Willis.....895-0156

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Dana Miller.....345-3266

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Fishmaster-----Don Sleeper

Youth-----Brooks Taylor

Outreach-----Jim Salber

Newsletter Editor

Percy Ledbetter.....877-4848

<silvermagi@hotmail.com>

CAF WEBPAGE

[Http://chicoareaflyfishers.org](http://chicoareaflyfishers.org)

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www.fishfirst.com

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Call Percy Ledbetter.....877-4848

Email: <silvermagi@hotmail.com>

<ledbetterpe@butte.edu>

or

Dennis Boyd.....891-5760

Email: <Nomopilz@aol.com>

August General Meeting

The August General Meeting will be at the Library
Wednesday August 9th. Fly tying starts at 6:30 p.m.
and the general meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served, and guests are always
welcome!

CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'
P.O. BOX 3583
CHICO, CA 95927

