



# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

**Next General Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th 6:30pm, Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park, Chico**



## CAF President's Line, April 2024

By Pat Sleeper

Hello Fellow Members, You asked for it and we provided!!! A crab dinner tasty enough to waddle away saying "wasn't that the best crab and shrimp dinner you ever had?!" One would think the crab and shrimp were both cooked that day, they were so fresh tasting! Well, they were!!! The tortellini wasn't bad either, Yum, thank you Italian Cottage!

Sons and Daughters of Italy, Tony, you were AMAZING!!! Great service! Mike Smith, auctioneer, a master at the helm!! Bless you for your ability to live auction over 30 items that evening. They said you couldn't do it!

You showed us you wanted this crab with a packed house! Thank you! Crab next year if it's in our powers!!

And, the crab and shrimp has been ordered!!!! Yeah!!

Rods and reels enough each table could have one; trips from Florida to Oregon and the Delta and beyond. Guide trips that guided most of Northern California with an amazing ability to put you on fish!

We are already making plans for a new casting platform described in this newsletter. I'm very excited about trying out my skills. Hope you'll come join us in this new adventure on April 21st from 12 - 3 pm at Sycamore Field (Senior Softball Field) at One-Mile Pool, Chico.

A reminder of our speaker Rob Anderson coming in Wednesday for our General Meeting at The Lakeside Pavilion (2565 California Park Drive, Chico) for 6:30pm fly-tying and 7:30pm speaking on Fly Fishing Pyramid Lake, The Eastern Sierras, and The Amazon Basin. Our raffle immediately following. I look forward to seeing you!!!

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper President, CAF



## April Guest Speaker: Rob Anderson with Bucket List Fly Fishing

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024. 6:30pm Fly-tying demo by Pete Wiik; 7:30pm Rob Anderson presentation; 8:30pm Raffle.**

For many, the name "Rob Anderson" is synonymous with fishing Nevada's Pyramid Lake for the gargantuan Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. That is but one part of Rob's fishing and guiding career.

Rob started flyfishing for bass and bluegill in his native Virginia at the age of nine. As Rob got older, other sporting pursuits pulled him away from fishing. After a period of time, Rob and his then girlfriend, Jodi, moved to South Lake Tahoe. While Rob was in the golf management business, the fertile waters surrounding Lake Tahoe drew him back to fly fishing. He spends all his free time fishing the area.

In early 2000, a freak accident fishing on the Yuba River left Rob with a shattered ankle and a shattered life. Rob lost his job in golf management due to the lengthy rehab and numerous surgeries. Thankfully, during the rehab process, his friends at the original Reno Fly Shop had him managing the business. Rob used the Reno Fly Shop to develop a regional guide service. This business expanded in 2001 when Rob became the first non-tribal guide on Pyramid Lake. He developed the website: [www.pyramidlakeflyfishing.com](http://www.pyramidlakeflyfishing.com).

In 2002, a Peacock Bass outfitter in the Brazilian Amazon contacted Rob, seeking help to develop a business bringing people to the region to fish for Peacock Bass. Rob had known about the Peacock Bass from watching TV shows, and traveling to Brazil to fly fish for these amazing creatures was on his bucket list (way before the term was popularized in the 2008 movie starring Walter Mathau and Jack Lemmon). After visiting the outfitter and region, Rob designed the Number 1 Peacock Bass fly called "Space Invader". Over the next few years, Rob worked hard developing a business to take fly rodders into the Brazilian Amazon and into other areas. Rob also put up [www.bucketlistflyfishing.com](http://www.bucketlistflyfishing.com) as the travel agency to handle the transportation to and from South America.

In 2010, the Reno Fly Shop closed its doors. Rob formed the website: [www.renoflyfishingoutfitters.com](http://www.renoflyfishingoutfitters.com) to provide guide service to all waters in the Tahoe and Eastern Sierra regions, including Pyramid Lake.

In 2012, Rob set up the website [www.peacockbassflyfishing.net](http://www.peacockbassflyfishing.net) for other outfitters. Rob eventually met and became close friends with Head Regional Guide Neto Silva. In 2016, he and Neto spent three years designing and putting together operations that included helping indigenous tribes, fighting against illegal logging operations, and illegal fishing. He brought this ethic back to host the annual Pyramid Lake Celebration which provides support for kids with disabilities, Tribal communities, and Brazilian indigenous people.

Along with his wife, Jodi, Rob has a son, Tanner, who is a fishing machine!



## Chico Area Flyfishers 2024 Annual Award Winners

By Pat Sleeper

Chico Area Flyfishers presents awards to members, who have distinguished themselves during the year, at the annual dinner. This year's, 2024, distinguished winners and awards are:

### Walt Kobler Memorial Award Aka The Golden Zipper Award:

This is the oldest award! Traditionally it was given to the person who "screwed up" the most on the opening day fish-out. As the story goes...Walt Kobler fell in Hat Creek on opening day. That night while sitting around the campfire having some liquid refreshments, he laid his wet Levi's near the fire to dry out. The next morning all that was left of the Levi's was the "zipper". Hence, the name!

### This year's 2024 Golden Zipper Award goes to: Pete Wiik!

What did Pete do? He's such a good fisherman! Yes, he is a good fisherman; but he also did a good job breaking fishing rods all year!! He managed to break 5 rods in one year! And, I was there, when he broke that 5th while fishing in the "Sea of Cortez" on one of those beautiful, challenging dorado! It was a fun show to watch as they handlined that jumping, twisting, thrashing dorado onto the boat. Slow down Pete! Those other dorado swimming around the boat will wait for you. LOVE YOU PETE WIIK!!

One of these days, we'll compile a book describing all the awards. My personal favorite of "all" the Golden Zipper Awards was back in 2017.

This angler was "excited", so excited and so anxious to go fishing!!!!

It was "such" a beautiful day! "Perfect" for fishing! After rushing home and hooking on his boat and trailer, he proceeded to the lake turning Left on West Almanor Drive; passing Carol's restaurant and approaching Plumas Pines RV Park, when... all of the sudden he heard "grinding on the pavement..." While turning around in his seat; and putting his brakes on; he quickly saw his boat and trailer zoom past him...The next thing he saw was his boat trailer fly straight through a 5th wheel trailer's "slide-out", parked in the campground; AND, simultaneously, his 12ft boat flew "through" the "top window"... When he finally stopped and calmed down a little, he stepped out of his truck and realized "everyone" in Plumas Pines Campground had come out with a drink in one hand and a camera in the other. Our Frank Spiteri gets "the First-Place honors" for "my" favorite "Golden Zipper Award" story, ever! LOVE YOU, FRANK!!

**The Sabertooth Award:** This award is presented to the member who has worked over the years to promote our sport through participation in club activities.

### JOHN COWAN was this year's recipient of the distinguished Sabertooth Award!

John has continually worked diligently in every aspect of this club: from helping restore the aquariums in the classrooms; by picking them up from each classroom; to cleaning and storing them; to delivering the eggs and ensuring each unit is set up and works properly; And then, helping take the hatchlings to the river with a sendoff not only the fish enjoy but the children love as well!!!



John has also enjoyed working with the PHWFF program from rod building to fly casting.

And being the V. President in charge of new speakers, speaking at the general meeting; to the treasurer in charge of our bills. THANK YOU, JOHN, WE ALL LOVE YOU!!

### Ed Migale was presented the "Hall of Fame"

**Award:** This award is presented to the member who has distinguished him or herself through significant accomplishments in promoting the sport of fly fishing.

Ed, with his amazing knowledge of rod building and his outstanding teaching skills has taught these rod building classes to our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, PHWFF, Disabled American Veterans for the past 3 years!

Yearly, Ed prepares diagrams, calculates the rod-eye placements, and has a hands-on approach that allows everyone to feel at ease placing each rod-eye on their rod and wrapping them with their own unique colors that each person has chosen for their own, individual, fly rod. This has made each rod uniquely beautiful; and then, personalized them with their own name written near the grip. Each person in this program, both men and women, choose their own rod blank's weight that they built. BEAUTIFUL! What talented individuals! I have always heard knowledge flows down from the top! THANK YOU, ED MIGALE!! I felt honored, I was able to present this distinguished "Hall of Fame" award to Ed Migale at the rod building class following the CAF dinner He was very surprised and extremely pleased by the look in his eyes and smile and words on his lips. Bless You, Ed Migale! WE ALL LOVE YOU!!



## 2024 Hat Creek Fishout/Campout

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 (Campout Friday thru**

**Monday, April 26 – 29, 2024)**

CAF will celebrate what used to be the Trout Season Opener with a Fishout to the Hat Creek Area, near Burney, CA. Hat Creek is primarily fed by springs so the flows on are not as affected by the melting snow so high flows shouldn't be a problem. Also, the lakes in this area, such as Baum and Britton, should be in great shape. The Fall River is close-by as well. Here are the details:

### What:

- Fishout to the lower, "wild trout" section of Hat Creek on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Several of us will go up for the weekend – see details below.
- CAF will host a gourmet deli lunch at Hat Creek on Saturday at 12:30 pm – please RSVP so we can get a head count (Eric See: [esee@comcast.net](mailto:esee@comcast.net), please include the words "Hat Creek Fishout" in the subject line).

**When:** April 27, 2024 @ 0800 for fishing, 12:30 pm for deli lunch (also refer to camping info below).

**Where:** Saturday morning on the lower section of Hat Creek, in proximity of the fish barrier dam located just above where Hat Creek empties into Lake Britton.

- There is a road to this area located ¼ mile west of the Hwy 299 Bridge over Hat Creek. This road is on the north side of Hwy 299, it starts as asphalt and shortly turns to dirt.
- The easiest way to find this road is to drive into the little park at the 299 Bridge over Hat Creek, then turn around and drive back toward Burney and take the first dirt road on the right. Follow this dirt road for about a mile and park at the area at the end of the road near Hat Creek. This is where lunch will be served at 1230.
- The Fish Barrier Dam is located about ½ mile downstream of this parking area.
- After assembling at the parking area at 0800, we will walk down along the stream and split off to different locations to fish.
- Note that the evening fishing, right up to dark, can be very good.

### Other Details

Several of us like to make a weekend of this Fishout. We go up Friday and camp at Burney Falls Campground. Please mention in your RSVP if you are interested in joining the camp-out group for more details. We will grab some sites next to each other and I will send a separate email for that group. [Note: last time I checked, the online reservation system was not working] The Campground also has "camping cabins" which are 1-room structures with bunks and a propane heater, but you provide the rest of the camping equipment. There are also motels close-by.

Some also like to fish nearby Baum Lake, which is best fished with a small boat, pontoon boat, or float tube. The Pit River, my favorite, is likely to be too high to fish until May this year, but we might check on this for Sunday.

### Flies for Hat Creek: Trout Season Opener Fishout

There are tons of potential bugs that could be coming off at Hat Creek at any given time. With that said, this is what I usually expect to see/use in April – May:

Dry Flies:

Pale Morning Dun (PMD) #16, 18, 20

Blue winged olive (baetis) #18, 20, 22

Quigley Cripple #16, 18. (Be sure to have some of these)

Hackle Stacker #18, 20

Parachute Adams #16, 18. (Have these with you wherever you go, you can often get away with this fly to cover mayfly hatches.)

Missing Link #16, 18

Caddis patterns in tan, olive, dark #14, 16, 18. (Be sure to have some dark caddis.)

E/C Caddis, X Caddis are good patterns. But there are lots of other good ones as well. The key is to have more representative caddis patterns than just the Elk Hair Caddis

Little Yellow Stone #14

Stimulators size #6 - 12

Ants and beetles (always good to bring anywhere)

Nymphs:

Mercer's Micro mayfly #16, 18

Shop Vac #16

Pheasant Tail nymphs tied very sparsely with a slender profile #16, 18

Hogan's S&M #16, 18, 20

Copper John (copper, red) #16, 18, 20

Zebra midges in black, tan, red #20, 22

Fox's poopah #14, 16, olive and tan. Beaded and non-beaded.

Birds nest #14, 16 olive, tan, and dark. Beaded and non beaded La Fontaine's sparkle caddis pupae; and/or your favorite caddis larvae, pupae.

Pat's Stone (i.e. brown rubber legs) # 6, 8

Soft hackle patterns in 14 and 16, [swinging soft hackles can save the day on Hat Cr.]

Streamers – sculpin patterns, wooly buggers, and whatever you fish w/confidence.

- Be sure to have small split shot, long leaders, 5X & 6X tippet, & 7X (for dry flies). Some use 8X.
- The Fly Shop in Redding is always a good source for the latest info on Hat Creek, including flies. Depending on the route you take, you can stop by on the way up there.
- If fishing dries in smooth water, position yourself upstream of the fish and make downstream presentations – avoid making upstream casts as these fish can be tough.
- Alternative route: instead of Redding, go up through Manton-Shingletown-Old Station, it takes the same amount of time and is a fun alternative. Not for pulling trailers though.

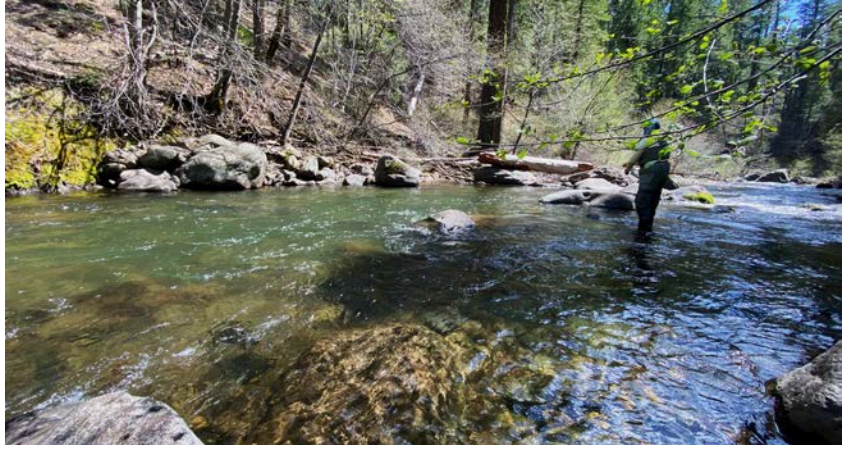


Eric See landing a fish on Hat Creek; Pete Wiik in the background, tying on the perfect fly. (2017)



Carol Burns with a fish on! (Hat Creek Fishout 2016)





# SMALL STREAM FLY FISHING CLINIC

Deer Creek near Chico, CA  
May 11th and 18th

Dive into the art of fly fishing with Fish First! Fly Shop Guides at our Small Stream Clinic on May 11th or 18th! Immerse yourself in a day of learning and adventure on a scenic small stream Just Outside Chico, CA. Our expert instructors will cover everything from Casting to rigging your rod, reading water for trout, and even delve into the fascinating world of small stream entomology. Discover the nuances of dry fly fishing, including dry dropper setups and subsurface nymphing tactics. With class sizes limited to six, you'll receive personalized attention, and lunch is included. \$250 Per Person. Secure your spot now for an unforgettable experience!. Call or visit Fish First! Chico for more information and availability. 530-343-8300



# Upcoming General Meeting Speakers 2024

Our General Meetings take place on the second Wednesday during the months of October through May. The other months are for fishing and adventure! We would love to hear from you about your fishing experiences! Send your experience with pictures to John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0076) to help build our newsletter. Also, if you have suggestions for who could share or a topic for sharing at the General Meeting, let John know!

Our General Meetings include a fly-tying demonstration (6:30pm) followed by the featured speaker (7:30pm). We also have informal time for chatting with one another and a raffle at the end of the meeting. Lots of fun! If you haven't joined us before, I hope you will consider coming to a meeting soon! All of our meetings are at the Lakeside Pavilion at 2565 California Park Drive, Chico. Here are what we have planned for you so far:

April 10, 2024	Rob Anderson, Bucket List Fly Fishing	Fly Fishing the Amazon; Pyramid Lake
May 8, 2024	Lance Gray	Getting Ready for the Hex Hatch and Get Going on the California Heritage Trout Challenge!
October 9, 2024	Clay Hash, President Northern Cal Fly Fishing International	Benefits of CAF being a new FFI member. Nymphing the Yuba River.

Steve Acosta	Acosta Fly Fishing	408.205.3026
Mark Antaramian	Mark Antaramian Guide Service	916.705.1207
Ryan Avezzie	Clear Water Fly Guides	530.351.3572
PJ Bock	Bock Fly Fishing	530.598.4087
Hogan Brown	Hogan Brown Fly Fishing	530.514.2453
Brian Clemens	Nor Cal Fly Guides	530.354.3740
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	Discover Montana Outfitters	406.890.8735
Brian Flint	Trout Vision, LLC.	530.6906636
Tim Fox	Mr. Fox Outfitters	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	Lance Gray and Company	530.517.2204
Lincoln Gray	Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures	530.520.6895
Joe Garza	J.A.G. Fly Fishing	530.570.0978
Monty Hankenson	M&M Outfitters	406.925.1945
Scott Milener	Yuba Anglers	415.726.3036
Pat Sleeper	Pat Sleeper Fly Fishing	530.228.9197
Wayne Syn	Orland Outfitters	530.624.4156
Mike Tsolis	MT Fly Fishing	408.440.6810
Toby Uppinghouse	Edgewater Outfitters	916.505.4773
Ryan Williams	Ryan Williams Fly Fishing	707.365.9891

## LOCAL FLY FISHING SHOPS

Fish First!  
766 Mangrove Ave  
Chico, CA 95926  
(343-8300)

Sierra Stream Outdoors  
847 W.5th Street  
Chico, CA 95926  
530-345-4261





# Fishing Report

## By Various Authors

If any of you have any good fishing experiences, text or email John Cowan (530.966.0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com) or Pat Sleeper (530.228.9197; psleeper@sbcglobal.net). We had great feedback from last month's Fishing Reports and would love to keep that going with your help!

### January 2-9, 2024: Limay River, Patagonia, Argentina by Craig Lares

My wife Cindy and I, along with brother-in-law and sister-in-law Don and Judy Fowler, fished in Patagonia for 7 days just after the first of the year. Our favorite river of the three we fished was the Limay, which is huge, but splits into many smaller channels- all with fish. The first photo is a typical Limay rainbow. The second photo is a typical lunch stop on the river, complete with fabulous Argentine Malbec. The noteworthy thing about fishing this river is that you rarely see another boat, so the fishing pressure is non-existent. Almost all the fish were caught on top with grasshopper or beetle imitations.



Craig Lares with a Limay Rainbow Trout



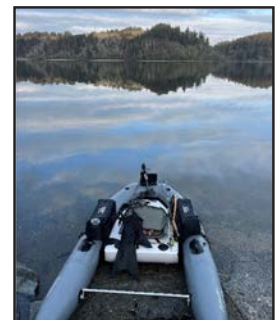
Typical river lunch with Argentine Malbec!

**March 17, 2024:** Local private bass lake by Pat and Don Sleeper  
We were previewing a local private lake with bass for a potential CAF fishout in May. No date, yet, but we are working on it. Both of us caught bass.



### March 17 – 26, 2024: Stone Lagoon and Humboldt Coast by John Cowan

This CAF event was attended by just me. These locations are hard for this angler. The locale has notoriety for being stingy with fish taking flies. Particularly hard for me because I'm a relatively new fly rodder (I'll probably be saying this for the next 20 years!). This place gave me a serene, solitary place to enjoy. Along with great views, I did see a fish rise and had a hit on a black balanced leech. While it would be nice to land something here, namely a coastal cutthroat trout, I'll be coming back for the challenge, the solitude, the beauty, the elk grazing and foraging in the drier marsh areas adjacent to the lagoon.



Beauty, solitude, serenity.  
No fish.

### March 20 – 22, 2024: Pyramid Lake, Nevada by Walt Mazon

Pyramid Lake Fishing Report (In case you're interested): Crap. I used floating line. Intermediate. Sinking. Used chironomids, leeches, wooly buggers, boobie flies, a strike indicator, no strike indicator, stripped line. Wading and from a ladder. Eight hours today. Ugh! Zero! Six hours yesterday. I did see quite a few rises at Windless Bay. Other places, nope. I tried a few spots. Talked to a few people and no one caught sh\*t. Even the boats were dead. Weather was good 40 to 66 degrees. Sunny with minimal wind, so I had a dud of a trip.



Walt Mazon Crap Fishing

### March 22 – 26, 2024: Pyramid Lake, Nevada by Stan Thomas

Fished Pelican at Pyramid Lake Mar. 22 - 26. Even with bad weather and high winds the fishing is still pretty slow. Few fish caught early and late, some in the 13 to 15lb. class on mainly buggers and beetles. Little to no indicator bite, and the general report from around the lake is that it is still very slow and the fish seem to have not moved into the beaches yet.

**March 24, 2024:** Nelson Bar, Lake Oroville by Don Sleeper

I fished Wednesday morning at about 10a, at Nelson's Bar area off Lime Saddle Road on Lake Oroville.

I fished off the bank, big mistake, next time I will bring my pontoon. It is a perfect place for float tubes or pontoons. Very steep for walking down to the water, be very careful if you walk down to the water. I used my float and fly set-up, fished 1 1/2 hour and caught 3 bass, and missed a couple of others. I have included a picture of my float and fly setup with jig headed flies.

The length of tippet/leader from my indicator/swivel to my fly was 12 feet because of the steep drop off, just 5 feet from the bank. It seemed as soon as the float and fly turned sideways, I got the strikes. The fish were right next to the bottom and right next to the bank. It is the perfect method to fish lake Oroville.



2To the Fly Line  
Indicator Line to Fly

### California Heritage Trout Challenge





Let us know where you are with the Challenge! Lance Gray may give part of his presentation at our May General Meeting on the California Heritage Trout Challenge. Send me your details and pictures! John Cowan ((530) 966-0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com)

*I know there are those in pursuit of the various forms of the California Heritage Trout Challenge! I think it would be cool to see who is making progress on this! Or those who would like to do fishouts and trips to target some of the qualifying trout. Let me know! John Cowan*

### March Garage Sale

If anyone has any fly fishing gear they want to sell, let John Cowan (530.966.0076) jcowan58@yahoo.com) know. Provide as much info as you can about the gear to be sold, a picture(s), contact info, and a fair asking price. If an item is sold, please let John know so that the item is taken off the list for the next newsletter issue.

We plan to try something new at the General Meetings. We will have a table set up for a Garage Sale or Swap Meet for folks to get rid of equipment they don't use anymore to someone who could put it to good use!

Item	Price	Contact
Echo OHS 6wt Rod w/ Echo ION 6-7 wt Reel w/ Rio 305gr Trout Spey line (2 combos). Ready for the Yuba River or other small river. 	\$500 ea	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo SR 7wt Rod w/ Redington Behemoth 7-8 Reel w/ Rio #7 Switch Chucker. Great for chucking indicators into the wind at Pyramid Lake!! 	\$400	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo Spey 7wt 13ft Rod w/ Hardy ASR9000 Reel w/ Skagit Line and Tips. Perfect intro rod for Salmon or Alaska trip.	\$450	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo E3 9ft 5wt. The most universal rod one can buy! 	\$150	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Smith Sunglasses. Used only a few times. Kept in case when not in use. 	\$210	Eric Christensen (530) 520-9876

## Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2024

Here are future outings that 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 the willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and times, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful. But, it's up to you to ask for help, if you desire to learn.

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 any of the following fish masters: Elden Hinkle (ehinkle1221@yahoo.com; (530) 519-4680); Don Sleeper (dnsleeper@gmail.com; (530) 228-6197); Pat Sleeper (psleeper@sbcglobal.net; (530) 228-9197); Eric See (eric.see@water.ca.gov; (530) 899-1918); and Tom Rosenow (troseNOW.chico@gmail.com; (530) 520-3053).

**\*NOTE: The fishout schedule may be subject to change depending on the fish bite, weather conditions, and or COVID issues.**

Date	Location	Ability
April 20, 2024 Tom Rosenow (530) 520-3053	Luk Lake \$50/person Dawn until noon. Lunch included.	Intermediate Float Tube
April 27-28, 2024 Eric See (530) 514-6617	Hat Creek Campout Heritage Trout Challenge	Intermediate
May 5, 2024 John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Timbuctoo Bend, Yuba River	3 openings as of 4/4/2024 Intermediate +
May 17-19, 2024 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Eastern Nevada Stillwater Outing Duck Valley Rainbows, Cutthroats, Browns Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$395	Beginner + Float Tube
May 21 - 23, 2024 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Eastern Nevada Stillwater Outing Duck Valley Rainbows, Cutthroats, Browns Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$395	Beginner + Float Tube
June 22, 2024 Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031	Hex Hatch BBQ, Fishout Lake Almanor	Beginner +
August 31 to Sept.7, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!) Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$2,500	Beginner +
Sept. 7 to Sept.14, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Full) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
Sept.14 to Sept.21, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Full) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
Sept.21 to Sept.28, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
December 9-15, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Lake Picachos & El Salto Lake, Mexico Trophy Largemouth Bass Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$3,000	Beginner +
January 19-24, 2025 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Lake Picachos, Mexico Trophy Largemouth Bass Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$2,500	Beginner +
January 24 - February 6, 2024 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Amazon Basin, Brazil. Peacock Bass Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$6,200	Intermediate +
February 2 -12, 2025 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Amazon Basin. Peacock Bass Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$5,625	Intermediate +

**Upcoming:** We are open to suggestions!!

**\* Check the Chico Area Flyfishers website for the most up to date fishout information.**



# Fly of the Month for April 2024

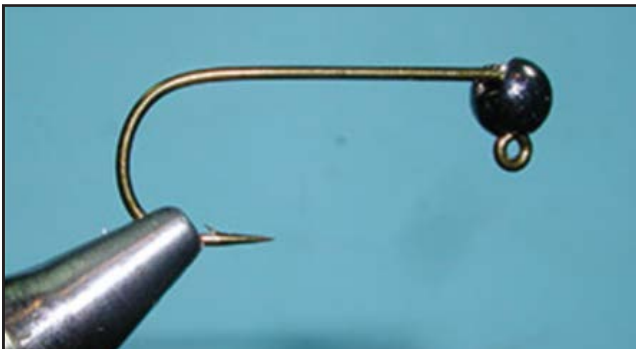
Suggested by Stan Thomas from Fly Fishing the Sierra website. Used with permission from Steve Schalla

Float N Fly rigs go back to the early 1980's. They were used with conventional gear within the southern smallmouth waters such as Cumberland Lake and Dale Hollow. Bass fisherman, Charlie Nickols, is considered to be the one who brought the technique to the forefront and helped to perfect the technique. Sometime after 2010, the technique made it's way to our bass lakes in the Sierra. Guides Hogan Brown, Ryan Williams, and Chuck Ragan refined the patterns and the rigs to our Sierran lakes and the technique has become quite popular during the Winter and early Spring months. Basically, it's a dead minnow drift that is presented to the bass at the proper depth controlled by a floating indicator. This is similar to midging but on a bigger scale. The "minnow" is usually a Japanese Pond Smelt which was introduced to these lakes in the 1970's as a food source. The Japanese name for the smelt is "Wakasugi". Ryan Williams markets a Williams Wakasugi Minnow on his website, North Valley Fly Fishing. Most of the patterns utilize craft fur and bucktail for the body. The craft fur has a nice undulating effect within the water column that will trigger a response from the bass. Some patterns will utilize Mallard Flank for the body, similar to a Hornberg pattern.

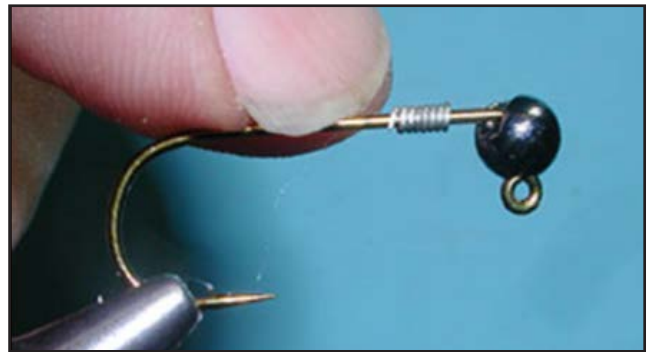
## Materials:

- Hook: [Daiichi 4660 #4-8](#)
- Thread: [Red Veevus 10/0](#)
- Bead: [3/16" Black Slotted Tungsten Bead](#)
- Weight: [.015 Leadfree wire](#)
- Tail: [Pearl Krystalflash](#)
- Collar: [Red Veevus 10/0](#) with [Clear Fly Finish, Thin](#)
- Underbody: [Large Veevus Holo Black tinsel](#)
- Body: [White Craft Fur](#), [Olive Craft Fur](#), [Chartreuse Bucktail](#)

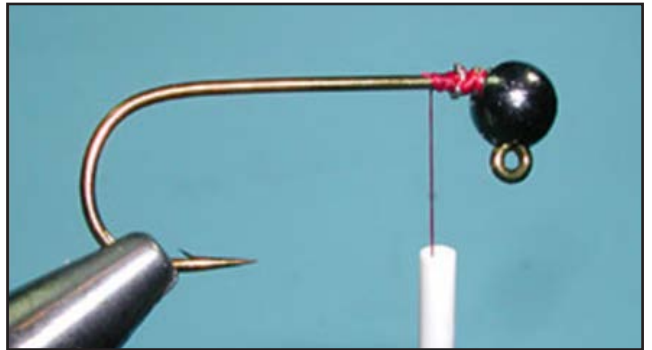
1. Place a slotted Tungsten Bead to the jig hook and attach the hook to the vise. I find that 3/16" beads will fit sizes 4-8. You can drop down to a 5/32" bead if you want it to be lighter.



2. Wrap some .015" leadfree wire behind the bead and slide the wire into the cavity of the bead. This will firm the bead placement.



3. Attach the thread to the hook shank behind the bead and securely wrap the leadfree wire to the shank.



4. Clip 3-4 strands of Krystalflash and secure the middle of the strands to the top of the hook shank behind the bead. Pull the strands, there will be 6-8 of them, over the top of the hook shank and bind the strands to the bend of the hook.



5. Attach a piece of Holo Flashabou or tinsel to the bend of the hook.



6. Wrap the tinsel forward to just behind the bead. Secure and trim off the tag end.



7. Clip a segment of craft hair and remove some of the shorter underfur. Trim up the tips somewhat for an even length. The length of the hair should be about 1.5-2.0".



8. Trim off the tag end of the craft fur and secure with tight thread wraps behind the bead.



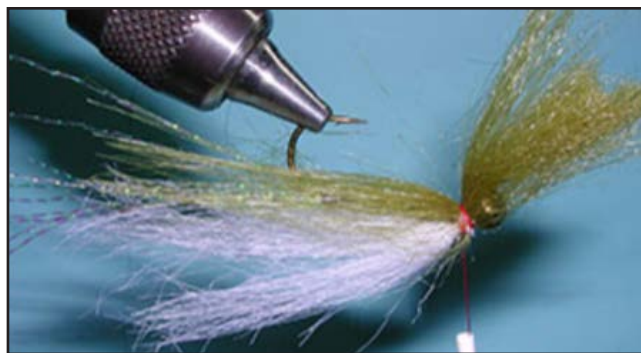
9. Next, attach a second segment of craft fur doing the same cleaning procedures and secure this segment on top of the first. Notice that the length is adjusted to be slightly less than the first to give a tapered appearance.



10. Trim off the tag end and secure with thread wraps.



11. Turn the hook over and secure a smaller segment of Olive Craft fur. This being the same length as the first white segment, about 1.5-2.0 inches long. Trim off the tag and secure.



12. Next, clip off some bucktail hair keeping the tips even. Attach this segment just above the Olive craft fur with the same length of material.





13. Clip off the tag ends of the bucktail and secure with thread wraps. Turn the hook back over and wrap a tight collar behind the bead hiding any of the ends of the craft fur and bucktail.



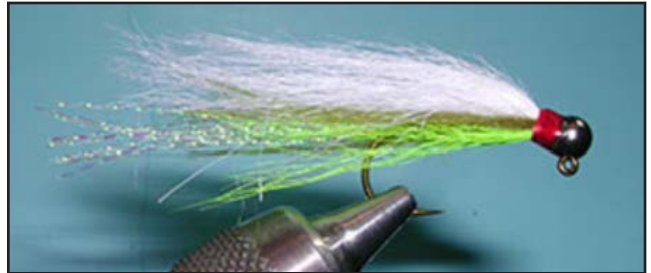
16. Harden the finish with a UV lamp.



14. Apply a Whip Finish.



17. A durable Float N Fly Hair jig. You can paint on eyes if you feel this will be more effective. But, the silhouette and coloration will be there to represent the dead baitfish.



15. Place some UV Clear Fly Finish, Thin to the threaded collar.



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<i>Fall Came</i>	<i>Fall Left</i>	<i>Fall Staged</i>
		
<p><b>Our Gutterguards</b> will protect your gutters, keep them clean, flowing, and make them last longer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting up on ladders to clean your gutters will be a thing of the past and never do again</li> <li>• Protect your home</li> <li>• Stops bugs and pest in messy gutters</li> <li>• Handles high flow water conditions</li> <li>• Prolong your gutter lifespan</li> <li>• Reduces wildfire hazards</li> </ul>		<p>"My gutters stay clean and rainwater flows efficiently thanks to Gutterguards from Gary at Eco Living Resources."</p> <p><i>Lionel Valley</i></p> <p><b>Call today for a FREE ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p><b>eco living</b> RESOURCES</p> <p>water   energy   food   healthy living   sustainability</p> <p>Smart Systems &amp; Solutions for Sustainable Living</p> <p><b>(530) 520-3931</b></p>



## Fly Casting Skills Development Clinic, April 21st, 12 pm - 3 pm

Join us for the inaugural Chico Area Flyfishers Monthly Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Clinic!

### WHEN and WHERE:

The Chico Area Flyfishers will host our first monthly fly casting clinic on the grass on April 21st from 12 pm to 3 pm at Sycamore Field (Senior Softball Field) at One-Mile Pool, South Park Drive, Chico, CA 95926.

### HELP NEEDED:

The clinic will follow the Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) curriculum and standards established with Fly Fishers International (FFI) and used by several Northern California Fly Fishing Clubs.

If any CAF members are already certified at any level with FFI, could you help us organize these monthly clinics, which are planned for every third Sunday of the month? If so, don't hesitate to contact the co-chairs, Tom Rosenow (530) 520-3053 or David McKinney (530) 570-1342.

### WHY, WHAT, and HOW:

FCSD starts with a foundation level for true beginners who might pick up a fly rod for the first time. It progresses through 4 levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Utilizing the FFI Fly Casting Development Standards allows Chico members to visit other venues (e.g., YubaFest or Pleasanton Fly Show) and clubs to continue with certification if desired. With your help and support, it will also generate new memberships as we teach first-time fly casters.

On April 21st, we will focus on the Foundation and Bronze levels.

It is an individual assessment and an accomplishment you can benefit from and should be proud of. Through FFI, you can even submit your recognition of casting accomplishments with an award document and pin for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels if you choose.

We will set up 2-3 courses with 2+ instructors during the April clinic. The purpose is to give fly anglers a guide for learning and improving casting skills, resulting in feeling confident in casting to hard to get to locations and distances. Improved casting skills will further enhance your ability to catch more and larger fish during those weekend outings.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING:

For protection, bring sunglasses and sunscreen. Fly Rods should be 9ft in the 5, 6, or 7 weights. Weight Forward (floating) fly lines. A tapered leader is suggested, with dimensions of 7.5 - 8.0 ft., 0X-2X (10-15#), and the leader should be straightened before attempting the casts. You can typically find these leaders at our **local fly shops: Fish First Fly Shop!, Sierra Mountain & Outdoor, and Sportsman's Warehouse.**

We will supply the Yarn for Flies. We will have a minimal number of leaders on hand.

### LEARN ON YOUR OWN:

We will be casting on the grass to cone targets, which will be set up in formats to allow for the completion of Foundation and Bronze Level skills. As the months progress with will increase the levels available.

If you want to learn more before the clinic, go to the FFI site and read the "Anglers Guide." <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources/Fly-Casting/Skills-Drills/Fly-Casting-Skills-Development>



**Scott Joyce: New Member Membership Committee  
Chairperson**

**By David McKinney**

Scott Joyce has joined CAF leadership as the Chairman of the New Member Membership Committee. Many of us know Scott as a very busy Chiropractor who is always involved in local Chico activities. Scott brings his energies to this crucial office of New Member Membership. It is true that there are still many fly rodders in Chico who do not know about CAF. Scott is also an excellent fly fisher in his own right. He is pictured here with a fine trout from a club outing.



Scott Joyce, Chairperson for New Member Membership with a nice trout.

# Chico Spring Clean Day

Opportunity for CAF members!



**CHICO SPRING  
CLEAN DAY**

Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 9am to 12pm  
Hooker Oak Park

**Chico Spring Clean Volunteer Sign Up is LIVE!**

It's time to sign up to volunteer at the Chico Spring Clean Day on Sat. April 20<sup>th</sup> at Hooker Oak Park from 9am to noon. Volunteers can choose an area or park they want to clean up and pick up supplies at Hooker Oak Park starting 8:30am the morning of Apr.20<sup>th</sup>. Schools, churches, community groups can sign up together to clean up on Earth Day Weekend! A volunteer appreciation BBQ will begin at 11:30am at Hooker Oak Park to show appreciation for keeping our community clean. The BBQ is sponsored by the Chico Police Officers' Association.

**SIGN UP TODAY >>> <https://www.tracwww.chicoca.gov/CleanSignUp>**





# Central Valley Steelhead FLY FISHING CLINIC



## Feather River Near Oroville ,CA

April 21,2024 - 8 AM

Whether you are new to fly fishing or just want to build your skills join us for a class on fly fishing for Central Valley Steelhead.

Expert instructors will show you tactics and methods for catching these elusive salty trout including nymphing and swinging. We will also touch on reading water, bug selection, gear recommendations and more. \$250 per person, maximum class size of 6, Lunch and water will be provided. Call or visit Fish First! Chico for more information and availability. 530-343-8300



# Minutes: Chico Area Flyfishers Board of Directors Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024

6:30pm Called to order, Pat Sleeper, President.

Attendance: Present: Don Sleeper, John Cowan, Lionel Valley, Eric See, Tom Rosenow, David McKinney, Dana Miller, Kyle Crowson, Holly Swan, Larry Willis. Absent: Pat Hallin, Scott Joyce, Stan Thomas, Pete Wiik.

Announcements: Parliamentary Rules. This is due to the needed update in the CAF Bi-Laws.

Secretary: Minutes approved as posted in the CAF March 2024 Newsletter.

## Committee Reports

- Fish Master.** Tom Rosenow: Next event at Rolling Hills Casino at Luk Lake. Currently there is one opening left.
- Conservation.** Holly Swan. Nothing specific to Chico, CAF. Other activities locally include The Endangered Fair on Saturday, April 20, 2024, and the Chico Spring Day Clean Up (see in this newsletter) also Saturday, April 20, 2024.
- Investments:** Lionel Valley. Deferred report to cover more pressing issues at this board meeting.

## Continuing Business/Reports/Announcements.

VP Report: John Cowan. We have now officially joined Fly Fishers International (FFI). Next General Meeting speakers: April 10 is Rod Anderson of Bucket List Fly Fishing; May 8 is Lance Gray of Lance Gray and Company Fly Fishing, and October 9th is Clay Hash, President of the Northern California Council of FFI.

Announcement of Awards from our dinner for the record. John Cowan: Sabertooth Award, Ed Migale: Hall of Fame Award, Ed coordinates and instructs the Vet in our local Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing chapter with rod building; Pete Wiik was this year's Golden Zipper recipient after breaking at least five rod this year. Rumor is that he has fished 380 days on the water this year. And with numbers like that, rods will be broken! Treasures Report: John Cowan, Treasurer. Reviewed, moved, seconded, and passed.

## Dinner Expenses:

Gratuity for members of Sons and Daughters of Italy. Decided after some discussion. M/S/P

Scott Joyce has been appointed Chair of the New Member Membership Committee. CAF continues to grow, so we are very happy that Scott will be overseeing that part of our organization.

**Budget.** Presented by John. Reviewed and deferred until next time as at this time, due to large amount of info, we all needed more time to review. Also, Eric See brought up that "Hooked on Fishing not Drugs" was retuning this year, so we would need to now include it into the budget.

Two line items were addressed:

- Lake Almanor (AFA)** We decided to reduce the amount donated to AFA in order to put money into programs closer to home that a greater amount of the membership would benefit from. This was originally for trout rearing pens, which originally needed replacement. There was a strong opinion about reducing the donation. This motion M/S/P, but with reservations to revisit this amount next year.
- STARS:** A donation was decided on for the volunteers from the Butte County Sheriff's organization that provided a security presence at the Dinner.

## New Business.

### Dinner: Debrief

There were a wide variety of issues, criticisms, adulations, and future concerns expressed in a very active prolonged discussion. Overall, the Dinner was a banging success, with a return slightly off from last year, yet very well attended. Once again, we put on a high octane, well received dinner with lots of happy people! A great deal of thanks and credit was expressed to the dinner committee for all the hard work and time spent.

## Concerns:

- The Bar. We at CAF, last year took on our own bar services. This year we had significantly long waits. Our wine selection was slightly different, which did cause some minor problems. But the major reason for the long lines was that there was only one person both mixing drinks and supplying everything else (beer, wine, soft drinks). There was a suggestion to split the workload and to have the bartender mix/dispense the spirit drinks and another helper for everything else. There was also a concern that it was hard to get water, various suggestions were fielded.
- The number of runners was determined to be adequate, but there was some difficulty for them in finding the buyers. Suggested that next year we ask all the winners to hold up their hand until the runner can acknowledge and get you.
- Outreach, should we advertise in the future?
- Credit card machines. We probably need more.
- The running slides at the dinner were as great as ever under the artistic direction of Eric See. The consensus was that adding pictures/promotions of the guides for their benefit was not really noticed, so probably it is not an advantage for the guides. It is, however, a mitzvah, and the guides provide a lot so for now we will continue. More to come.

## Problems Noticed

- Several members noted that the sound system was excessively loud in the back. It was turned down, but still irritating.
- Problem up front at podium with where to put tickets. MC should probably help in that matter,
- Raffle items. We probably had too many rods, maybe less rods, and better ones. It was suggested we should really try for rod donation rather than purchasing. This led to discussion on all items, especially the ones of high value. We had a Buck's Bag Pontoon Boat for the Grand Raffle that probably did not break even. We are of course using such an item as a carrot, but it was decided that maybe it was too big a carrot. It is desirable to have more donations, but that can be problematic. This will be discussed further.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Casting Group.** The proposal is to develop better casting skills using the FFI (Fly Fishing International) Fly Casting Skills Development program; This was The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) in a past life. The program will help to improve our general casting skills. There are casting courses set up for programs from beginning (Gee what's a flyrod?) all the way up to lifelong fly rodders who would just like a little directed tune up. Casting Skill Certification is offered, but not required and the main purpose is to improve your skills....so you can catch more (and bigger) fish. Proposal made, including an annual and maintenance budget. M/S/ Passed.
- Web Engine/Social Media.** This is a new proposal that will be discussed next time in detail. This is an idea that is very important for the future of CAF. Our Web group of Tom Rosenow, John Cowan, and Kyle Crowson have been exploring options for an improved Web page that allows greater member access and will coordinate with our newsletter and other specific outreach communications. We are looking at a program entitled ClubExpress. Our crew and I (David McKinney) have looked at this and find it worthy of consideration. Any opinions/thoughts/feedback can be sent to John Cowan VP/Treasurer or David McKinney, Secretary. Motion to include this topic for discussion at the next board meeting was M/S/Passed.

Adjournment at 9:35 pm

Submitted: David McKinney CAF Sthe nextnextary.

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

Officers:

- President: Pat Sleeper.....530.228.9197
- Vice President: John Cowan.....503.966.0076
- Secretary: David McKinney....530.570.1342
- Treasurer: John Cowan.....530.966.0076
- Past President: Larry Willis....530.520.8556

**Elected Board Members:**

- Kyle Crowson.....530.717.7339
- Dana Miller....530.570.1184
- Mike Pickering...530.521.0710
- Eric See....530.899.1918

**Appointed Board Members:**

- Conservation: Holly Swan....530.554.1648
- Donations: Pat Hallin....530.518.5031
- Donations: Lionel Valley....530.321.2481
- Fish Master: Tom Rosenow...530.520.3053
- Fish Master: Eric See....530.899.1918
- Fish Master: Don Sleeper....530.228.6197
- Investment Manager:  
 Lionel Valley....530.321.2481
- Membership: John Cowan...530.966.0076
- Membership: Pat Sleeper...530.228.9197
- Recruitment: Scott Joyce...530.879.0903
- Newsletter Submissions:  
 John Cowan.... 530.966.0076  
 (chicoareaflyfishers@gmail.com)
- Web Master: John Cowan.....530.966.0076

- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing
- Stan Thomas....530.518.3715
- Pete Wiik.....530.520.9495

- Newsletter Layout: Scott Sleeper.....530.519.1165
- Newsletter Proofreader: Larry Willis....530.520.8556

Change of Address, phone, or Email?  
 John Cowan....530.966.0076

**CAF Webpage:** [www.chicoareaflyfishers.org](http://www.chicoareaflyfishers.org)

# Chico Area Flyfishers Membership/Renewal Form

Dear Fly Fisher,

Welcome new members and renewing members alike! Your membership dues enable Chico Area Flyfishers to continue to provide quality programs, outings, seminars, and to participate in conservation efforts.

Dues for the Family Membership are \$35 per year. Membership extends through the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). Please complete this application and return it along with your membership dues today to the following address:

**CAF**  
**2796 Beachcomber Cove**  
**Chico, CA 95973**

Your support is appreciated!

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include the names of family members that may participate in club functions:

Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please contact John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0065).

Make checks out to "CAF". Memberships can also be completed online: [chicoareaflyfishers.org](http://chicoareaflyfishers.org)

## A Shout Out To Some Of Our Supporters Who Have Helped Us Over The Years!

