



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF February 2023 NewsLetter

Next General Meeting, Wed. February 8th 6:30pm Fly Tying The Lakeside Pavilion 7:30 Speaker



President's Line Feb, 2023

Yeah!!! I LOVE ALL THIS WATER COMING DOWN!!! Our lakes are more than over half full; twice the snowpack on the mountains; more rain on its way and the Steelhead are running!!!!

I'm also excited about our pasta dinner scheduled for Saturday, March 4th, 2023!! Our dinner will have our usual trips like "The Staten Island Hunt; Digger Creek lodge and fishing; guided fishing with expert guides from Montana, Oregon and California." We have the BIG SALAMI again, if you remember the 7 pounder.. Oh... Sportsman's Warehouse, thank you!

The bar is inhouse this year with beer from Sierra Nevada, wines, whiskeys, vodka, and some mixes; and a price we can afford. Hope you're signed up! It's going to be a very fun entertaining night!!! More entertainment and laughter with our great auctioneer...Bless him!! Thank you, Michael Smith, for your yearly, wonder-

fully entertaining job!!

The night starts off with such a delicious dinner of lasagna or homemade meatballs and pasta, green salad and bread from Italian Cottage catered by Sons and Daughters of Italy! Dessert too. Dessert too! We are so blessed to have you with us again this year, delicious!! Courteous and gracious!! Thank you!! Oh, did I say, "dessert too"!!?

Our Annual Fundraiser Dinner helps fund many of the programs we support: Salmon in a Classroom (teachers are saying "this program has created the desire in them to "want-to-attend school," just, to observe the growth in these salmon/trout eggs that they have encountered overnight). Nature "is" beautifully amazing to watch unfold, isn't it?

Another program: our PHWFF, Disabled American Veterans. This program we, our CAF members, work individually teaching them to build flyrods, tying flies, casting into the water in the wind, rain and... We have "all" found this mutually rewarding and something you all should experience, in person!

Another program: Almanor Fishing Association. These GENTLEMEN daily feed the fish, in the pens in the rain sleet and snow, as well as helping our Veterans on free fishing day, in Almanor!! And, more than this...

What I'm saying here is, I know, I talk too much; but, by going to our dinner: Saturday, March 4, 2023, you are supporting all of this and more! Without your support, we can't do all of this... The gifts in our raffle, silent auction, and live auction have always been sold at a discount in the past, as if "ON SALE"! Thus, you're supporting our club and these programs through your participation. Thank you for even just thinking about attending!!!! You're the BEST, Thank you!!!

Sincerely,
Pat Sleeper
President, CAF

CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2022/2023

We truly look forward to seeing you at our next meeting; and, hearing "your" fly fishing stories! **Your excitement is ours!**

CAF meets 8 months out of the year; and, presents a variety of exciting fly fishing-related programs throughout each year. Each meeting includes: monthly fly-tying demonstrations; variety of raffle prizes; refreshments; and, the very best stories about Northern California Fly fishing from our members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month; location: "The Lakeside Pavilion" on California Park Dr, Chico, CA. Live Fly-tying presentations: 6:30 p.m. @ General Meeting 7:30 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
Feb 8, 2023	John Crotty,	Almanor Fishing Association
March 4, 2023	CAF Fundraiser Dinner	4pm doors open
April 12, 2023	Denny Rickards:	Casting and Line Selection for Stillwater Fishing
May 10, 2023	PJ Bock,	Euro Nymphing in Local Streams

CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS



51st Annual Fund Raiser Dinner

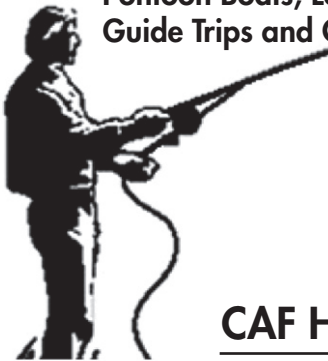
Saturday- March 4th, 2023 @ 4:00

Masonic Center - W. East Ave

Authentic, Handmade Italian Meatballs and Pasta or Lasagna.

Sons of Italy are partnering with Italian Cottage for our Dinner!

Pontoon Boats, Lots of Rods, Reels, Flyfishing, Supplies, Ladies Prizes,
Guide Trips and Other Prizes and Always ... Surprises!!



One Dinner & a Family Membership...\$75.00

*early bird discount by Jan 31.....\$70.00

Each additional Dinner...\$40.00

*early bird discount by Jan 31.....\$35.00

CAF Helps Sponsor:

Hooked on Fishing
Salmon in the classroom

PHWFF (Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing)
Almanor – Fisheries

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

PHONE: _____

ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDITIONAL NAMES: _____

NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
Family Membership & One Dinner	\$75.00	\$ _____
Each Additional Dinner	\$40.00	\$ _____
Meatballs and Pasta _____ or Lasagna _____		
Raffle ticket packets _____ \$500. _____ \$200.		\$ _____
Raffle ticket packets _____ \$100. _____ \$50.		\$ _____
Table Reservation for 8	\$450.	\$ _____
TOTAL.....		\$ _____

Visa # _____

M/C# _____

Signature: _____

Exp. Date & back # _____

PURCHASE YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE Jan 31ST
TO BE ENTERED INTO THE EARLY BIRD RAFFLE.....

Questions: 530-966-0076

*Early bird dinner discount before Jan 31st

*Early bird raffle drawing: \$250 ticket packet: value \$540.00

MAIL RESERVATION FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:

CAF – 2796 Beachcomber Cove

Chico, 95973

CAF is a 501c organization

Featured Guest Speaker for February 8th General Meeting: John Crotty, Almanor Fishing Association

By John Cowan

John Crotty, President of the Almanor Fishing Association (AFA) was the speaker at our General Meeting on November 10, 2021, and will, again, be our featured speaker for this month's General Meeting (Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30pm). I was impressed with what John had to share. It was a tough, emotional presentation. The Dixie Fire had just blown through the area devastating the forest, homes, and lives. It remained to be seen what the long-term effects would be on Lake Almanor and



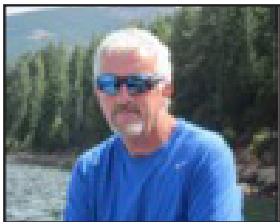
the surrounding aquatic environs. John and his wife, Deb, moved to Lake Almanor in 2014 when they purchased the Quail Lodge. Their beloved lodge was razed in the Dixie Fire.

John was born and raised in the small community of Fortuna, CA, "A Friendly Town". He grew up fishing the Eel and Van Duzen Rivers. As he grew, John branched out to fish the Smith, Mad, Chetco, and Rogue Rivers. Being close to the ocean, he dove for abalone and clams. He regularly surf-fished for red-tailed perch. He enjoyed all the bounty that the Pacific Ocean had to offer.

Being raised, then raising his own family in Fortuna, John became the Parks and Recreation Director and held that position for twelve years. As his boys grew up, he was their soccer and baseball coach. Coach Crotty guided the Fortuna High School boys' basketball team for eight seasons.



Upon relocating to Lake Almanor and purchasing the Quail Lodge, he quickly joined and became involved with the Almanor Fishing Association. In 2016, he served on the AFA Board of Directors. He has been the organization's president since 2017.



The Almanor Fishing Association started in 1980, AFA is involved in a tremendous amount of fishery and community service projects. This organization runs the trout pens in collaboration with the Feather River Community College Environmental Studies program; AFA provides a rod and reel to every fourth grade student in the community of Chester. The last Saturday in June marks an annual BBQ honoring the veterans that served this country. This day includes local guides providing a free guided fishing day for the vets. This just scratches the surface of the contributions AFA makes.

We are honored to have John Crotty back as our featured speaker this coming Wednesday, February 8, 2023 General Meeting.

Located at the Lakeside Pavilion (2565 California Park Drive, Chico), the fly tying demonstration is at 6:30pm, and John taking the stage at 7:30pm. A raffle will take place immediately following. If you have any fly fishing stuff you wish to donate for the raffle, CAF can give you an IRS form to deduct the value on your taxes.



New Fish Passage Project in Chico

A fish passage improvement project led by CalTrout and partners on Ótakim Séwi (Big Chico Creek), east of the City of Chico, has been recommended for funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). CalTrout and partners, including the city of Chico, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, The Mechoopda Tribe, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others will be working to remove a fish passage barrier in Iron Canyon, restoring access to more than 8 miles of critically needed spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and spring-run Chinook salmon. The Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project is the flagship project for CalTrout's new Mt. Lassen region.



During the winter and very early spring, the Blue Wing Olive is about the only Mayfly around. This old Bob Quigley pattern from May of 2009 is still one of the best dries around.

Blue Wing Olive Emerger/Cripple

Fly of the Month, May 2009

By: Ray Narbaitz

This is another of Bob Quigley's Emerger/Cripple patterns. Whether it's an emerger or cripple depends on when you fish it. Just before a BWO hatch and during its early stages, it's an emerger. It is meant to show a bug that is not quite out of its shuck. After the hatch is in full swing, and for a short time after, it becomes a cripple. Then it's a bug that never quite made it out of the shuck and is stuck. Fish like them because they know that the bug isn't able to fly and will not get away.

Hook...TMC100 or Daiichi 1100, 16 to 20, although the picture shown is a #10 because it is easier to see

Thread...8/0 or 70 denier

Tail...Pheasant Tail

Abdomen...Pheasant Tail

Ribbing...Fine Copper Wire

Thorax...Super Fine Dubbing in Olive, BWO Olive or Brown

Wing...Deer or Elk, tilted slightly forward

Hackle...Olive dyed Grizzly, Grizzly, or light Brown

1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vice.
2. Tie on the tail and make it shorter than normal.
3. Using the same PT Barbs, tie in the Abdomen.
4. Reverse wrap the ribbing. Quigley's original pattern does not call for the ribbing, but I put it in because you want the Abdomen to break through the surface of the water.



5. Dub in the Thorax. Make it into a ball that is thicker than the Abdomen. Make sure you leave enough room to tie in the wing without crowding the eye of the hook.
6. Stack the hair to even the tips and tie in the wing, keeping it on top of the hook. Quigley calls for a Deer Hair wing, but I find Elk to be much easier to work with. Tie the wing up tight to the ball of dubbing. Wrap thread in front of the wing, but do not make it post straight up. You want it at an angle over the eye of the hook. Cut the excess hair leaving a stub over the Thorax. It should look like the stub over the front of an Elk Hair Caddis.
7. Tie in the hackle between the wing and the stub. Use no more than two or three wraps of hackle.
8. Advance the thread to the front of the wing, wrap a neat head, and whip finish. Again, do not post the wing straight up.

Notes: When fishing the fly, use floatant only on the wing and hackle. The abdomen should break the surface of the water and hang down. However, I'm not sure a size 18 fly is heavy enough to do that. Quigley calls for olive dyed Grizzly for the hackle. I would doubt that many of us have any. I use either Light Brown or Grizzly. My experience has been that the fish don't really care. As usual, the hard and fast rule in fly tying is that there are seldom any hard and fast rules.

This is a note of thanks.

Sixteen years ago, the director of our fledgling Alaska program told me, "No mine has ever been denied a permit since Alaska entered the union."

Stopping Pebble Mine back then seemed so impossible, so unlikely. Thanks to your support, this morning, the EPA protected Bristol Bay from the Pebble Mine.

This news comes on the heels of the U.S. Forest Service reinstating roadless rule protections on 9.3 million acres of the Tongass National Forest—a forest that produces more salmon and steelhead than all the other national forests, combined.

There are too many people to thank for these amazing wins, but it starts with all of you. Over the years, more than four million people weighed in in support of Bristol Bay. You donated, you made calls, you spread the word, you stood up. Thanks to all of you, this special place is now protected from the Pebble Mine.

Protecting Bristol Bay is a testament to TU's approach to conservation. When we decide to get involved in an issue, we go all in, and we are in it until the end. You make that possible.

Impossible to stop a mine in Alaska? Thanks to you, today, we accomplished the impossible.

Chin Wood



Bass fishing Lake Picachos Jan 12-17, 2023:

By Pat & Don Sleeper

Our group of 14, had an exciting time in Mexico; and, we're all talking about the next trip Jan 2024 to Lake Picachos owned by Angler's Inn, Mexico and booked by Pat Sleeper.

The weather was clear and beautiful most of the time; the daytime temperatures ranged in the 80's, yes very cold in the morning especially when heading across the lake in the low line of fog. Fishing this lake is quite fun as the water has a tea like color in most areas due to the abundance of foliage around the lake sides. Though there are sandy beaches, as well, where you can drag your fly off the shore into the water from the water's edge and, quite frequently catch a nice bass with a clouser, popper, leach and minnow imitations; hitting some of the surrounding dead trees, this time, seemed to be a favorite of mine; and then...most days... it would fall into the water with a bit of "mild" finesse; and then, ohhhh...snag a nice bass!

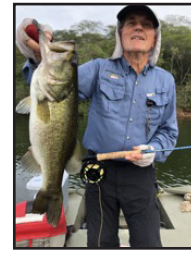
I believe the dead trees that are sprawled about, coming out of the water; and, taking into consideration the lake was low, gave us more fishing locations, while fishing the maze of islands we daily maneuvered and coves we experienced.

Our group of Fly fishermen and women who caught and released over 3000 Black Bass in 4 days of fishing had our fingers, arms and backs a bit sore; and all this with only two broken fly rods. The fish caught ranged between 1 lb. and 5 1/2 lbs. Though we lost some at the boat about 7 lbs; those darn motors.

We used poppers, small minnow patterns, leaches and clousers. Don & Pat did a lot of popper dropper fishing and caught a great deal of doubles: one day over a dozen doubles to the boat using a small minnow pattern beneath the popper.

We had a contest every two days with strings (30 inches), a contestant would measure the length of the fish you choose and then cutting your string thinking it was a winner. Each string you buy, costing \$5; then after two days each person would show their string, the longest string took the pot every two days. Lionel Valley and Pete Wiik were the big winners, with bass (strings) measuring 22 inches.

The majority of our fish were caught on the surface using poppers. Angler's Inn International owned by Billy Chapman "always" provides the most outstanding service of any lodge we have ever fished out of!!! Next year we'll be back again with outfitter: www.patsflyfishing.com



Lionel Valley
5.2 lbs



Redge Hawkley
5.3 lbs



Pete Wiik

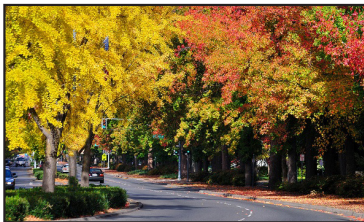


Don Sleeper



Cook, Giovanni

Fall Came



Fall Left



Fall Stayed



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Chico Area Flyfisher's Fish-out Schedule 2022-23

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 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 desired 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 Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduct.com, Don Sleeper dnsleeper@gmail.com, Pat Sleeper psleeper@sbcglobal.net, Eric See eric.see@water.ca.gov and Tom Rosenow trosehow.chico@gmail.com who are our fish-out leaders.

This schedule may change depending on the fish bite or weather conditions and COVID 19 VIRUS status!!!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
March 18, 2023	Luk Lake, Tom Rosenow	trosehow.chico@gmail.com (fee: \$50.) # limited
June 17, 2023	CAF Hex Hatch BBQ 4: @ 307 Maidu, Almanor; @ Pat & Pam Hallin's	RSVP: Pat Sleeper 530-228-9197 or Pat Hallin 530-518-5031
July 16th, 2023	Sunday, Pingatore's - Bass/BBQ:	Please RSVP: psleeper@sbcglobal.net
Sep 2 - 9, 2023	Dorado fishing, Mexico	- Pat Sleeper 345-1197 - FULL
Sep 9 - 16, 2023	Dorado fishing, Mexico	- Pat Sleeper 345-1197 FULL
Sep 16 - 23, 2023	Dorado fishing, Mexico	- Pat Sleeper 345-1197 - one opening
Sep 23 - 30, 2023	Dorado fishing, Mexico	- www.patsflyfishing.com; - FULL
Jan 12 - 17, 2024	Trophy bass fishing Lake Picachos, Mexico	- Pat Sleeper 530-345-1197

LOCAL GUIDES

Mark Antaramian	Mark Antaramian Guide Services	916.705.1207
PJ Bock	Bock Fly Fishing	530.598.4087
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	Discover Montana Outfitting	406.890.8735
Tim Fox	Mr. Fox Outfitters	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	Lance Gray & Company	530.517.2204
	Lance Gray Online Store	
Lincoln Gray	Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures	530.520.6895
	Sierra Stream Outdoors	
Joe Garza	J.A.G. Flyfishing	530.570.0978
Bryan Rocucci	Big Daddy's Guide Service	530.370.1001
Wayne Syn	Orland Outfitters	530.624.4156
Toby Uppinghouse	Edgewater Outfitters	916.505.4773

LOCAL FLY FISHING SHOPS

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

Sierra Stream Outdoors
 847 W.5th Street
 Chico, CA 95926
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Fish Masters: Elden Hinkle, Don Sleeper,
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