



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF January 2024 Newsletter www.chicoareaflyfishers.org

Next General Meeting: Jan. 10th 6:30pm CARD Community Center 545 Vallombrosa Ave Chico



President's Line January 2024

Happy New Year Everyone!!!!

I trust this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying this rain!! I'm loving it!!!

We, the board and I, are working hard to make our annual fundraiser the most successful ever!

We always appreciate your support and donations for this event. As you may have seen, we're having crab again!!! Yeah!!! We have seen your appreciation by the tables that are being sold already; amazing!! Thank you!!! We are also getting dinner reservations at a surprising rate!! Thank you as well!! As you must know, it's a wonderful dinner with crab and shrimp and pasta dish; oh, desserts included, yum!! There will be in-house liquor sold: wines, whiskey, vodka, etc. In this newsletter is the registration form, get it turned in

by the end of the month for the early bird discounts. You can register on-line, too: www.chicoareaflyfishers.org.

As you know, this is a member's club: please send in your fishing pictures and stories for sharing in our newsletter, as if it's Facebook; tell us about your fishing trip with pictures; if you want a hiking fishing trip, tell us and we'll set it up; we'd love to have your help with a fishing trip "you" can set one up. We love hearing "your" ideas of what "you" would like to see and participate in. Come to a meeting and tell us, "I want to put on a fishing trip, but I don't know how" and we'll help you. I'm looking forward to going out and have "more" fun together and see new areas!! Just call me or email me...psleeper@sbcglobal.net.

Would you be interested in a bulletin board on our CAF web page? We're looking into this for a fast easy way to find a partner for a fisherman, at a week's or moment's notice. What do you think?

The Classroom Salmon Raffle" raised almost \$1,300.00 which purchases the equipment for two classrooms!! Thank you, everyone!! The winners were: Mike Barth (Guided trip with Joe Garza and JAG Fly Fishing); Jeffers Richardson (Yuba River Private Access for two); and Larry Willis (Friends of Butte Creek T-Shirt donated by Allan Harthorn). Congratulations and thank you on behalf of the students who will enjoy the aquarium setups.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next general meeting at A NEW LOCATION, THIS MONTH ONLY: CARD Community Center @ 545 Vallombrosa. Ryan Williams, guide, and bass fly rodder extraordinaire, will be presenting on "Float & Fly Technique for Bass". He will do a fly-tying demonstration at 6:30pm with the presentation at 7:30pm. Of course, our raffle just after the presentation!

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper
President, CAF

Upcoming! Casting Clinics

By John Cowan and Tom Rosenow

Something Chico Area Flyfishers has not done in a while is offer clinics for people to learn or improve their fly-fishing skills. We are hoping to change that.

Recently, Tom Rosenow and David McKinney have been going through the process of getting certified by Fly Fishing International (FFI) as fly casting instructors. John Cowan may soon follow. While none of the forementioned are certified casting instructors, they are practicing several days a week and are open to having others join them who might be interested.

If you are interested in learning how to cast a fly line or wish to improve your skills, or maybe have skills you can share with others, we would like to know! Tom, David, and John have been regularly going to Hancock Park to practice. If you're interested call or email Tom Rosenow ((530) 520-3053; trosenow.chico@gmail.com) and John Cowan ((530) 966-0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com).



John Cowan



Tom Rosenow

CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS



52nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner
 Saturday - March 9th, 2024 @ 4:00
 Masonic Center - W. East Ave

"CRAB FEED & SHRIMP DINNER"

Frameless Pontoon Boat, Lots of Rods, Reels, Flyfishing Supplies, Ladies Prizes,
 Guide Trips and Other Prizes and Always Surprizes!!!



One Dinner & a Family Membership...\$100.00

*early bird discount by Jan 31.....\$95.00

Each additional Dinner...\$65.00

*early bird discount by Jan 31.....\$60.00

CAF Helps Sponsors:

Conservation Projects
 Salmon in the Classroom

PHWFF (Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing)
 Almanor – Fisheries

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDITIONAL NAMES: _____

	NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
Family Membership & One Dinner		\$100.00	\$ _____
Each Additional Dinner		\$65.00	\$ _____
Raffle ticket packets _____\$500._____ \$200.		\$ _____	
Raffle ticket packets _____\$100._____ \$50.		\$ _____	
Table reservations for 8 people	\$650		\$ _____
TOTAL.....			\$ _____

Visa # _____

M/C# _____

Signature: _____

Exp. Date & back # _____

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

Questions: 530-345-1197 • Pat Sleeper
 530-966-0076 • John Cowan

MAIL RESERVATION FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:
 CAF- 2796 Beachcomber Cove Chico, 95973
 Or register online www.chicoareaflyfishers.org

*Early bird dinner discount before Jan 31st

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

Board of Directors Meeting

December 4, 2023

6:17 PM Called to order, Pat Sleeper, President

All in attendance: Pat Sleeper, John Cowan, David McKinney, Kyle Crowson, Eric See, Mike Pickering, Elden Hinkle, Lionel Valley, Don Sleeper, Holly Swan, Pete Wiik, Tom Rosenow.

Absent: Dana Miller, Stan Thomas.

Welcome to Holly Swan, Conservation Chair and Kyle Crowson, newly elected to Board of Directors. All members present introduced themselves and shared a little bit about themselves.

Secretary: Minutes approved as posted in the Newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report: John Cowan. So far, no new progress on the possibility of changing banks, and switching to SQUARE for credit card transactions. Venmo is now available. We have enough money raised from the Classroom Salmon Raffle for the purchase of two more aquaria setups going into the Pizza Feed (see below). Bank balances are stable.

Investment Report: Lionel Valley. November was a good month in the stock market, the value of club holdings went up.

VP Report: John Cowan.

1. Pizza Feed (and drawing of a float trip raffle for donations for Salmon in the Classroom) December 13, 2023, at 5:30pm with drawing to be held at 7pm. Location: Round Table Pizza 2201 Pillsbury Rd (Almond Orchard Plaza), Chico.

Committees

1. Fishouts. Nothing new, Proposed trip to Lewiston Lake was cancelled due to inclement weather.
2. Conservation: Holly Swan. Suggested activities in which the membership can be involved. Ideas: Stream cleanups with Butte Environmental Council (Larry Willis used to help); Bring back Hooked on Fishing (Eric See would like to see this brought back with other community groups for Spring of 2025).
3. Project Healing Waters. December 6 fishout to Eagle Canyon postponed to December 19, 2023.
4. Trophies and awards. Organized committee; Larry Willis Chair, David McKinney member, looking for additional members.

New Business.

Elections were completed with the results as follows: Officers; Pat Sleeper, President, John Cowan, VP, Treasurer, David McKinney, Secretary. Elected Board of Directors: Eric See, Dana Miller, Kyle Crowson, Mike Pickering.

Dinner: Discussion on the dinner dominated the rest of the evening.

Issues:

Grand Prize: We have decided to move away from pontoon boats as most people have one. There have been requests for trips. We spent time discussing possible venues for trips. Pat Hallin suggested Crane Prairie Lakes in Oregon. The club did have an outing there in the past which included a guide, so we are considering this as well as other options.

Main course: We have been serving pasta recently, due to the unpredictable availability of crab. We have had excellent meals and great service from our vendors, but many consider pasta a rather pedestrian dish and have stated a firm request for crab. The problem with crab is availability, as seasons have been late and supply inconsistent to plan a dinner. Early thoughts for this year are more optimistic. So, our plan is as follows; we are having a crab feed and will be trying for whole crab to crack and joyfully mutilate as we have done in the past. If we are unable to obtain whole crab, our fall back is for canned crab. This is very high-quality crab and is often used at dinners such as ours, it is however pricey. But either way we are having crab. We are also supplementing it with shrimp as we have done in the past. We will keep you all posted.

Dinner Price: For the above reason and in the general consideration of increasing food prices, a hike in our dinner price has become unavoidable. There was much discussion and many proposals.

Dinner: Early bird is \$60. Yearly membership is \$35, So total for dinner and membership is \$95.

After early bird, the price for dinner is \$65.

We will of course be selling coupons for our bar just as we did last year. This will all be going out on our flyer very soon as we usually do.

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.

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

Project Healing Waters Visits Galvan Reels

By Stan Thomas

On December 15th, four members from Project Healing Waters set off for a fun, interesting, and informative field trip. Early Friday morning we all loaded up and headed to the Galvan Fly Reel manufacturing plant in Sonora, Ca. Upon arriving we were greeted by Marcos Galvan (owner) and we were informed that it is a family business and almost totally run and operated by family members. He explained it was started by his machinist father who became interested in fly fishing. At this time (as it is now) good reels were on the expensive side, he not only thought he could build one for himself, but he did! It is never easy or expected but once again a need and a little inventiveness became a business success story

Marcos led us through the process of producing a reel from the machining of the aluminum billet to assembly of the parts. He took time to explain the little details like making the reel seats, the removal of the metal burrs, the anodization process, fitting the bushings and the different models and styles.

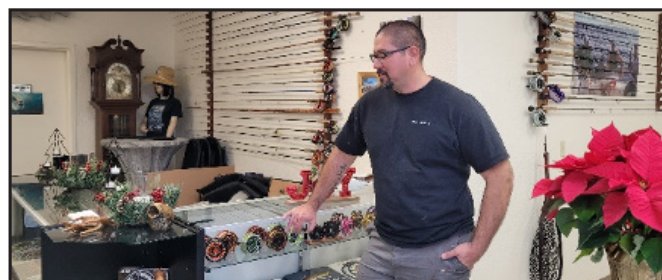
Sid Crane, Fred Sherman, Nick Wolverton and I, Stan Thomas, are very appreciative for the opportunity and hospitality shown to us by Marco and Galvan Fly Reel Co.



Display case at the Galvan Reel Manufacturing Facility in Sonora, CA.



Marcos Galvan (L), Sid Crane, Nick Wolverton, and Fred Sherman (R)



Marcos Galvan, owner of Galvan Fly Reels

Critical Restoration Tool: The Beaver

By Holly Swan

Beavers were hunted to near extinction during the fur rush. In many areas they have not yet reestablished populations, leaving behind negative legacy effects on aquatic ecosystems. For the first time in nearly 75 years, California Department of Fish and Wildlife in partnership with Maidu Summit Consortium and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reintroduced a family of beavers to a mountain meadow in Plumas County. The purpose? To revitalize Yellow Creek and the associated meadow in Humbug Valley which was historically overgrazed, incised, and ravaged by the Dixie Fire.

Using beavers as a restoration tool is not a new science. In the 1950's, California Department of Fish and Wildlife took beavers from the valley that were causing farmers grief and dropped them in mountain areas via parachute where they could go to work. The idea behind these parachuting beavers (and the beavers that were recently released in Humbug Valley) is that beavers can engineer ecosystems, and they do it all for free. Beavers create dams and foraging canals which slow, sink and store water. These activities restore incised streams and meadows, create wetlands, and increase riparian



California transplants beaver into El Dorado National Forest via parachute in 1950 (Source: CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife)¹⁴

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cover, providing numerous ecosystem services such as ground-water recharge, late-season flows, natural fire breaks, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

There is a historical ideology that beaver activities are not good for fish, however as more research comes out about how beavers and fish interact, the paradigm is shifting – beavers may actually be good for fish, especially native salmon and trout. So much so that fisheries restoration practitioners are making beaver dam analogues (man-made beaver dams) in creeks where beavers have yet to repopulate. Juvenile fish use beaver dams and other woody debris for cover, beaver dams enhance downstream water quality, native fish are able to pass beaver dams while invasives may not, and most impor-

tantly, beaver dams hold water on the landscape for longer. If there is no water, there is no fish. So next time you see a beaver dam on a creek, take a moment to ponder what that beaver is doing not only for you, but also for the fish.

Want to know more about Yellow Creek? Spring-fed Yellow Creek is designated as a Wild Trout Water with rainbow and brook trout. It is also fairly accessible – there are long stretches with no slippery rocks or fast flowing waters. Note: There are special fishing regulations for a portion of Yellow Creek from Big Springs downstream to a marker at the lower end of Humbug Valley. More information and maps can be found on CDFW’s fishing regulation website and Wild Trout Water’s website.

January Guest Speaker: Ryan Williams

By John Cowan

Our guest speaker and fly-tier for our January 10th General Meeting will be Ryan Williams. This meeting will be at the CARD Community Center (545 Vallombrosa Ave, Chico, across from the Post Office) due to new flooring being installed at our usual Lakeside Pavilion location.

The topic of Ryan’s presentation will be the “Float n’ Fly on Lake Oroville for Bass.” All tactics and information covered can be applied smoothly to any bass waters in the state. Especially reservoirs such as Folsom, Berryessa, etc. Ryan will cover everything you need to know from flies, rigs, presentation, gear, structures to look for, timing, and everything in between. The goal of this presentation will be to enable club members to get out and catch some bass on the fly independently, and likely close to home.

Ryan is a full-time guide/fly-tier & owner of North Valley Fly Fishing. Ryan is best known for his re-discovering of the Float n’ Fly with the fly rod, and its application for stillwater bass during the Winter.

Mr. Williams is the first fly angler in the US to win a major bass tournament using a fly rod. Ryan won the Wild West Bass Trail: Team tournament in January of 2021. 178 boats in total, with most of the best bass pros in the state having attended. Ryan is also the current 2023 Costa Bass n’ Fly Champion, along with Brian Pultz.

Ryan resides right next to Lake Oroville, allowing him to fish as much as he can possibly stand. He is about as passionate about fly fishing as they come, truly enjoys sharing his information and growing the bass on the fly movement.

Ryan is also active in Cast Hope, a non-profit organization which mentors youth. Cast Hope will be presenting at the CAF February 15th General Meeting at the Lakeside Pavilion next month.

Ryan can be reached at (707) 365-9891; rwguideservice@yahoo.com; Instagram: [@_ryancwilliams](https://www.instagram.com/_ryancwilliams). Check out his website: www.flyfishcnv.com and subscribe to his YouTube Channel: R.W. Fly Videos.



Board Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

By Holly Swan

The Chico Area Flyfishers board meeting was called to order at 6:24pm by President, Pat Sleeper. In attendance: Mike Pickering, Pat Hallin, Dana Miller, Tom Rosenow, Eric See, Stan Thomas, Lionel Valley, Don Sleeper, Holly Swan, Kyle Crowson, Pat Sleeper, and John Cowan. Absent were Larry Willis, Pete Wiik, Elden Hinkle and David McKinney.

December 2023 Board meeting minutes were approved (motion by Mike Pickering; second by Pat Hallin; unanimously passed).

Notices: January 10, 2024 General Meeting will be held at the CARD Community Center at 545 Vallombrosa because of new flooring at the Lakeside Pavilion. February General Meeting moved to Thursday, February 15 because of Valentine's Day (back at Lakeside Pavilion).

Treasurer's Report (John Cowan): Increased spending for preparation for the 2024 Annual Fundraising Dinner. We are currently taking advantage of bargain sales and paying for donated guided trips. We need to purchase three more aquarium setups for the Salmon in the Classroom program. The Classroom Salmon Raffle brought in enough money for two classroom setups. IRS compliance check is complete. Report was accepted (motion by Don Sleeper; second my Mike Pickering).

Vice President's Report (John Cowan); Pat Sleeper and John Cowan will get together this week to go over budget for Annual Dinner. CAF needs more fishouts and skill building opportunities. Focus on more trips involving rivers, creeks, and streams. Kyle Crowson, Tom Rosenow, and John Cowan will put together at least one backpacking fishing trip. Likely Trinity Alps and/or Golden Trout Wilderness/Kern River/Little Kern River backpacking trips. Kyle

Crowson brought up the need to have some way for members to access phone numbers for other members in order to plan more fish-outs. CAF is VERY protective of membership privacy. Mike Pickering has a friend who does web design to look into a way for members to have proprietary access to club information including skills classes, fishouts, and member phone numbers. Concern about membership privacy is a huge priority!

Pizza Feed update (Tom Rosenow and Holly Swan). Fairly well attended. All tables full and all ordered pizza consumed! Mike Barth won the JAG Fly Fishing Guided trip from the Classroom Salmon Raffle. Jeffers Richardson won the one-day access pass to the Yuba Anglers property on the Timbuctoo Bend of the Yuba River. Allen Harthorn of Friends of Butte Creek donated a t-shirt which was won by Larry Willis.

Events: Tom Rosenow will plan a fishout to Luk Lake in April 2024. The June 22nd Hex Hatch BBQ will be held at Pat and Pam Hallin's cabin (more details as the date approaches).

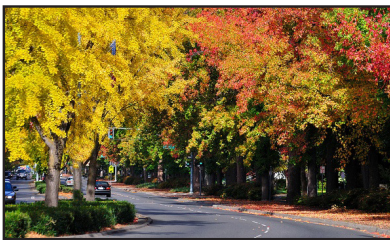
Conservation (Holly Swan): Plans to have guest authors contribute articles to the monthly newsletter. Looking into ways that members of CAF can "adopt" portions of Big Chico Creek for cleanup, similar to the highway cleanup program.

Project Healing Waters (Stan Thomas): Stan, along with three PHW veterans traveled to Sonora to get a tour of the Galvan Reel business (see article this issue).

Awards for upcoming dinner: Get nominations to Larry Willis, particularly for the "Golden Zipper" award!

2024 Annual Fundraising Dinner: Table price was set at \$650. This includes eight dinners at the "early bird" price of \$60, up to eight club memberships per table (for those who would like them), and the convenience of having the table reserved to sit with your friends. Price voted and passed (Motion by Stan Thomas, second by Holly Swan).

Fall Came



Fall Left



Fall Stayed



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(530) 520-3931

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:

January 10, 2024	Ryan Williams, North Valley FF	Bass Fishing Float & Fly. NOTE this will be at the CARD Creekside facility (545 Vallombrosa, Chico)
February 13, 2023	Fly Fishing Film Tour	El Rey Theater Tix: https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Chico-Ca-El-Rey-Theatre-83084?redir=1
February 15, 2024	Cast Hope	Who we are and how you can help. Note: This is on Thursday, February 15, 2023
February 23-25, 2024	Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show	Alameda County Fairgrounds. Vendors, speakers, classes. Info & Tix: https://flyfishingshow.com/pleasanton-ca/
March 9, 2024	52nd Annual Fundraising Dinner	Raffle, Live and Silent Auctions
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

LOCAL GUIDES

Mark Antaramian	Mark Antaramian Guide Services	916.705.1207
PJ Bock	Bock Fly Fishing	530.598.4087
Hogan Brown	hgbflyfishing.com	530.514.2453
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	Discover Montana Outfitting	406.890.8735
Tim Fox	Mr. Fox Outfitters	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	Lance Gray & Company Lance Gray Online Store	530.517.2204
Lincoln Gray	Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures Sierra Stream Outdoors	530.520.6895
Joe Garza	J.A.G. Flyfishing	530.570.0978
Bryan Roccucci	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
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!

September 9 – 15, 2023: La Ventana, Sea of Cortez, Mexico (Pat Sleeper)
Fly fishing in the Sea of Cortez can be one of the most beautiful experiences one can experience. I would say, that is what Cristal Chalmers was feeling Sep 9th when she landed, on the fly, this gorgeous dorado. This wasn't any dorado; it topped the scale at 53 lbs!!! This dorado caught in group one, week one, was the largest dorado anyone had caught and weighed, in the nine years of fishing with us.

What did she use, hooommm. You'll have to ask her; maybe it's a secret! But what I can tell you is: I was out there watching this fight; and that was not calm water she was fighting this monster in; the water was busy swirling up and down; but that did not faze her, she was focused on landing that monster; and that she did!! CONGRATULATIONS!!! Thank you, Cristal, and Ed, for fishing with us all these years.



Cristal Chalmers with her 53 lb dorado!

December 9 – 15, 2023: Lake Picachos, Mexico (Pat Sleeper)

Trophy bass fishing this year had its ups and downs; fun fishing days and those not so productive! Though I wish fishing was "always" easy and generously productive; it just truly is not!!! I think that is what makes us humble. Fishing is called fishing; like my mom and dad use to say, "if you don't spend those days going down a few rocky roads, you don't have that true appreciation and respect for those special days..." Our fishing wasn't as good as usual though 15 in a day isn't nothing! And, I was blessed to catch my largest largemouth bass in 12 years of fly fishing Lake Picachos. That alone makes me feel amazing!!! And it was caught on a Neil Pultz black popper, with legs, just sitting there, right beside the boat!!!

We went down to Mexico with a group of twelve Chico residents that all had fun; but it wasn't the usual fly fishing at Lake Picachos; though... there were days we had wonderful top water action for an hour or so; some of the group told me as they came back laughing about their excitement. They said, "as fast as we could bring them in and they were taken off; we had our lines back out in the water to immediately hit the surface with another catch!" "God that was fun," they said!!!

So why would the lake fishing be a little slower? It seems the lake was at its lowest in October, since the lake was formed. Then, the end of October and the rains came filling the lake to 80% full; which, since bass are territorial, confused them and sent them down deeper; Adding to this, the cold weather that came in, as you can see in this picture, caused a slower bite.

No matter if fishing is the best, average or a struggle, you will always enjoy the wonderful cooking of Jeoboni and crew; the wonderful host: Jose; our cocktail host Omar; and even having a massage by their wonderful massage therapist was outstanding! It's always more fun than you realized!



Pat Sleeper went fishing for hogs!!



Don Sleeper with his catch.

Lake Picachos, Mexico (John Cowan):

CAF members Pete Wiik, Frank Spiteri, Pat Hallin, Jim Sands, Bill Harp, Elden Hinkle, Don Sleeper, Pat Sleeper, and John Cowan flew into Mazatlán, Mexico, then took a 90-minute van ride to the Angler's Inn at Lake Picachos. This place has a strong reputation for harboring trophy largemouth bass. Several members of the group have fished this lake for the past several years. On arriving, many noted the high lake level compared to past years. The food was top notch! Traditional Mexican cuisine, steaks, lobster and bacon-wrapped prawns. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were amazing. Even the open bar had non-alcoholic beer for those of us (me) who don't drink.

We would rise at 5am, then on the boats by 6am. Lake Picachos was created to raise tilapia for market. Bass were added about ten years ago. We would fish hard

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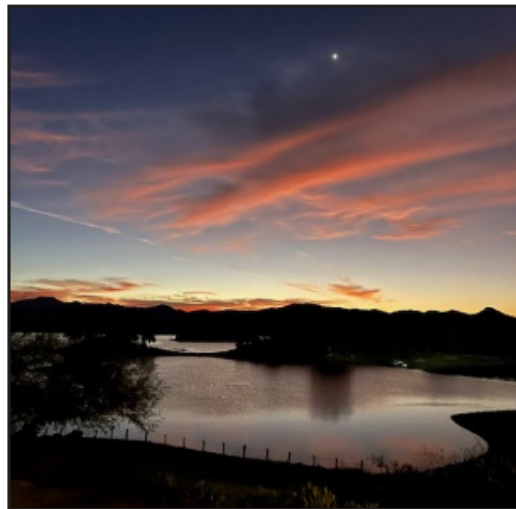
Pete Wiik with one of his many catches.



Elden Hinkle and John Cowan on the way to the happy fishing hole.

until about 11 am, then break for lunch and a siesta, then back on the water by 2pm to fish until dusk. Those who have previously fished commented that the bite was "off" compared to past years. There were lots of theories to why this was the case. About five weeks prior to our arrival, a large hurricane swept through the area. The lake filled from 40% capacity to over 80% capacity. Maybe the bass had not resettled in the new digs. I noticed a tremendous amount of biomass in the lake, millions of small fish, then larger fish, and so on. Could it be that the bass were full?

I fished with Elden Hinkle, Pete Wiik, and Frank Spiteri. Each of them gave me the front of the boat. I was surprised at their generosity! While I'm a novice, I do know that the front of the boat is the sweet spot when it comes to fishing. Only later did I find out that each of my partners were a bit concerned with my casting ability and decided to put me in the front to protect all involved!! Well, hell! Thank you, gentlemen! All of us caught some large fish. Pat Sleeper caught the biggest of the trip. Even though the fishing was not as good as in former years, I would still go back. Another group is going back to his lake in a few days. The February newsletter will have a report on how they did on that trip!



Lake Picachos Sunrise

December 12-14, 2023: Trinity River (David McKinney)

Steve Pereira and David McKinney Spey fished the Trinity for winter steelhead. The weather was perfect, but the elusive fish were few and hard, but we managed swing up several nice fish. Excellent float trip from Brian Clemens of NorCal Guide Service. We also had a lot of time to practice our Spey technique as well; cannot wait to do it again!



David McKinney with a nice steelhead.



Steve Perreira with a fish on!

New Year's Day 2024: Umpqua River, Oregon (Jeff and Cheryl Armstrong)



Cheryl Armstrong with her catch.



Jeff Armstrong and his steelhead beast!

California Heritage Trout Challenge

Ed Bruno: Got photos of 4 of the required 6 native trout for Heritage Trout Challenge. Great fun to chase around for these.
 Coastal Rainbow - Various Locations
 Eagle Lake Rainbow - 1 fish in 4 hours
 Warner Lakes Redband - Dismal Creek (Modoc)
 Goose Lake Redband - East Creek (Modoc)

Will try to get a Coastal Cutthroat this winter and anyone with info on the most predictable way to find them is appreciated. **(Note: I will be putting a trip together to Big Lagoon and Stone Lagoon north of Patrick's Point to go for the Coastal Cutthroat. They are notoriously hard to catch! – John Cowan)** Will fish for McCloud River Redband next spring and maybe Lahontan Cutthroat in upper Truckee. I also know a drive-to spot to get CA Golden Trout in the native drainage and can do that next year. That's a long drive but an easy catch.



I know others are 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! Let me know! John Cowan

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 (trozenow.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.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
January 21, 2023	Yuba River – Timbuctoo Bend – Heritage Trout Challenge (Waiting List Only)	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
January 12-17, 2024	Trophy Bass Lake Picachos, Mexico (Full)	
Week of Jan. 15, 2024	Lake Oroville, Lime Saddle Marina	Tom Rosenow (530) 520-3053
Want to try out what you just learned about Float n' Fly from local guide Ryan Williams at the Jan 10th CAF general meeting?		
CAF will host a Float n' Fly for Bass on Lake Oroville one day during the week of January 15. We will fish in the Lime Saddle Marina area. A Kayak or motorized boat is desired/recommended, but a pontoon boat is possible to use. Fishing from 11 am to 3 pm and it is Wind-Weather dependent. If winds in Oroville are below 6 mph, then we will go. Higher winds will make learning frustrating trying to control smaller boats. If you have a boat this may also be a good time to meet someone for a new fishing partner if you have space available.		
If you are flexible on days of the week, then we will go on a weekday when the forecasted weather is the best. If anyone interested is only available on weekends, then we will plan for Jan 20. So please let me know your availability/flexibility.		
February 2024 (TBD)	Butte Creek Heritage Trout Challenge	
February 2024 (TBD)	Big Chico Creek Heritage Trout Challenge	
Late March 2024 (TBD)	Lewiston Lake	Don Sleeper (530) 228-6197
Late March 2024 (TBD)	Pyramid Lake	Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680
April 27, 2024	Opening Day for Trout Season	
April 20, 2024	Luk Lake \$50/person Dawn until noon. Lunch included.	Tom Rosenow (530) 520-3053
April 27-28, 2024	Hat Creek Campout Heritage Trout Challenge	Eric See (530) 514-6617
May 2024 (TBD)	Deer Creek Heritage Trout Challenge	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
May 2024 (TBD)	Pingatore Lake	Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197
June 2024 (TBD)	Coastal Cutthroat Dry and Stone Lagoon, Humboldt County Heritage Trout Challenge	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
June 22, 2024	Hex Hatch BBQ, Fishout Lake Almanor	Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031
June 30, 2024	Pyramid Lake Fishing Season Closes	
Early July 2024 (TBD)	Trinity Alps Backpacking Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
August 2024 (TBD)	Golden Trout Wilderness/Kern River/Little Kern River Backpacking Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
September 2024	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!)	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
December 2024 (TBD)	Lake Picacho/El Salto Lake, Mexico	John Cowan (530) 966-0076

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 January 2024

Bill's Skwala Stonefly From "Fly Fishing the Sierra" By Steve Schalla

Steve Schalla, owner of the website "Fly Fishing the Sierra" (<https://flyfishingthesierra.com/>) and President of the Sespe Fly Fishers in Ventura, California generously gave us permission to use the fly-tying instructions from his website. Bill's Skwala was chosen for the January 2024 Fly of the Month because of the Skwala hatch on the Yuba River happening these next few weeks. Thanks, again, to Steve Schalla.

-John Cowan

Materials: (to Order Material, go to the link)

- Hook: Daiich 1260, #10
- Thread: Veevus Olive 10/0
- Body: Golden Olive Laser Hair Dubbing
- Egg Sack: 2mm Black Foam
- Underwing: Mottled Medium Dun Web Wing
- Legs: Black Barred Grizzly Flutter Legs
- Wing: Olive Dyed Deer Hair
- Hackle: Black Rooster Cape Hackle

Notes: Bill's Skwala Stonefly is a pattern designed by the late Bill Carnazzo, a guide of West Slope Sierran Streams. He was one of those passionate fly fishers who volunteered his time to teach fly fishing. Bill taught a class on fly fishing at Sierra College and was a fixture at Kienes Fly Shop for many years. Bill was also one of the founders of Granite Bay Flycasters. His Skwala stonefly is based on a pattern that another Sierran Fly Fisher, Ralph Wood, designed and Bill added his own modifications. Bill recognized two qualities that the Skwala Stone must have: 1) Sparsely tied fly and 2) a Yellowish Olive color on the underside with a dark olive color on the back.

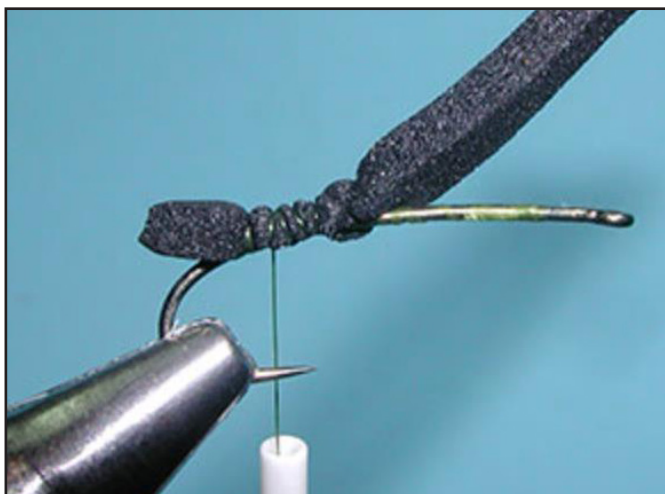
The Skwala Stonefly, also called Large Springfly or Short-Winged Springfly, emerge early in the year, mid January, latest end of February, if the winter is colder. Interesting fact about them is that they emerge privately, hidden in crevices of stones, instead of out in the open, like other stoneflies. Most fisherman notice them only when they start their mating flights. Their egg-depositing is also specific as they prefer warmest parts of the day, mostly afternoons and when the water is calm. Skwalas tend to float long distances without being noticed on the surface of the water, partly due to their calm behavior (they do not flutter their wings as their cousins), and partly due to their dark coloring. Their preference for warmer, calmer waters, combined with their early winter activity, causes their numbers to decrease after harsh and long winters and increase following warmer ones. Skwala patterns range in size from #8 to #12.



Tying instructions



Actual Skwala Stonefly



1. Attach the hook to the vise and lay a thread foundation from behind the eye to the bend of the hook. Cut a strip of 2mm black foam and trim the end round. Secure the foam to the top of the shank just behind the barb location perpendicularly. About 1 /8' of foam should extend to the rear of the tie down. Wrap forward with tight wraps to the 1 /3 position and trim off the tag end of the foam. This is the egg sac.



2. Attach a black rooster saddle or cape hackle by the tip just in front of the foam egg sac. The hackle should be sized for the hook.



3. Apply some Golden Olive dubbing. I am using Senyo Laser Hair, Frank Carnazzo preferred Lite Brite.



4. Wrap a sparse body forward to the 3/4 position.



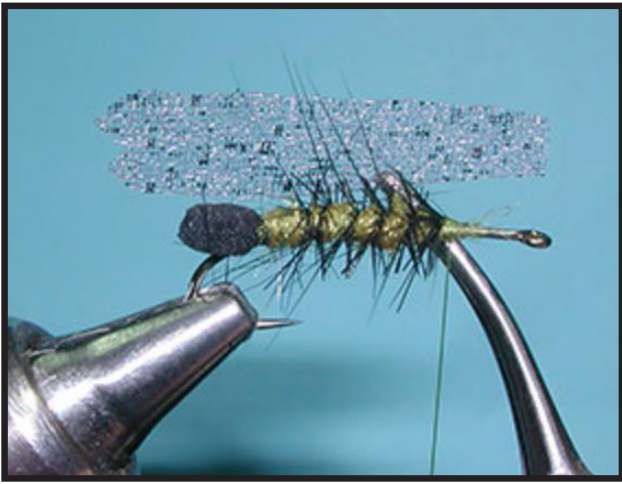
5. Next, palmer the hackle forward with about 5 wraps, securing the hackle with thread wraps at the end of the abdomen.



6. Trim the top hackles as we will be laying an underwing that will be close to the body.



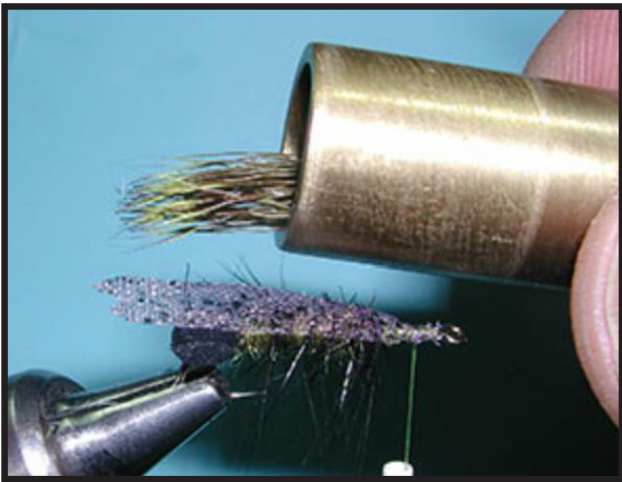
7. You can also trim the bottom hackles so that the pattern lays deeper within the surface film. Note that the side hackles are left untrimmed for maximum floatation.



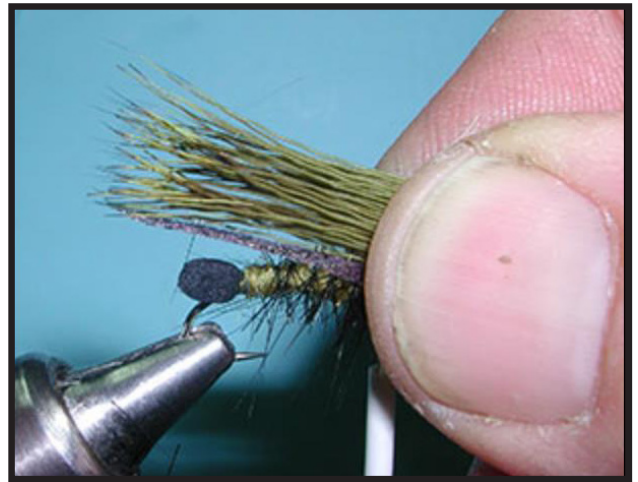
8. Cut a strip of 1 / 4 inch web wing and trim the strip with rounded wings and a tapered shape. The length of the underwing should be just beyond the egg sac and the bend of the hook.



9. Secure the underwing just in front of the abdomen to the top of the hook shank.



10. Clip a bundle of Olive Dyed Deer Hair and even the tips within a hair stacker. The amount of hairs should equal the hook gap.



11. Measure the hairs so that they are the same length as the underwing and secure with tight thread wraps to the top of the hook shank just in front of the abdomen.



12. Trim off the tag ends at an angle and place a few wraps that are looser behind the tight wraps to lay down the hairs or decreasing the flare.



13. Apply thread wraps to hold down all of the trimmed tag ends of the hair and tie in a pair of legs with x wraps to the top of the hook shank in front of the hair wing.



14. Next, attach another hackle just in front of the wing with the dull side facing the front. Select a hackle that is one size smaller than the hook since the hackle will be wrapped around a dubbed thorax.



15. Apply the dubbing to create a tapered thorax to just behind the eye.



16. Palmer the hackle about five times to the front of the thorax, securing the hackle with thread wraps behind the eye.



17. Wrap a small head and whip finish. Trim the legs to suit and apply a drop of head cement just behind the eye.

For all your real estate needs contact:

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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:

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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 using PayPal: chicoareaflyfishers.org

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

