



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF March 2024 Newsletter www.chicoareaflyfishers.org

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



President's Line, March 2024

By Pat Sleeper

Hi Folks!

I LOVE ALL THIS WATER COMING DOWN!!! Our lakes are approaching 100% capacity, and they are letting water out; the snowpack on the mountains, currently it's about 135%; more rain & snow is on its way and the Steelhead are running!!!!

I am so excited about our 2024 Annual Fundraising Dinner Saturday, March 9th, 2024. Doors open at 4:00pm. Yeah, the CRAB IS BACK!!! OH, SHRIMP TOO, and tortellini with and without meat, salad, and desserts also!! I expect it to be the freshest I have ever tasted without catching it myself! Thanks to The Sons and

Daughters of Italy, the Italian Cottage, and Save Mart for helping pull this together in fine style!

Our amazing auctioneer, Michael Smith, will be back with a host of incredible auction and raffle items for the evening. We have lots of guided trips available, several "stay and fish" packages including 2 nights at Digger Creek Ranch, lodging at the Mossbrae House in Dunsmuir couple with a Ryan Avezzi guide trip; 2 night lodging in Sunriver, Oregon with guided trips on Crane Prairie Reservoir; and 3 nights on a Billy Chapman yacht in Crystal Bay, Florida. The duck hunting on Stanton Island will, again, be an auction item...I am also excited about having over 38 rods and reels from Winston, TFO, The Fly shop, Redding, and other manufacturers with weights varying from 3 wt. - 13 wt. **A Winston 8wt rod and a Sage reel are our last raffle item of the evening.** Don't miss out on this opportunity!

We have the BIG SALAMI again, if you remember the 7 pounder... The bar is in-house once again this year, with beer from Sierra Nevada, whiskeys and vodka from Golden Beaver Distillery, donated wine all at a price we can afford!

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 by observing the "growth" and development, in these salmon/trout eggs, that occurred overnight. Nature "is" beautifully amazing to watch unfold, isn't it?); **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing** which works with local disabled American veterans. With this program, we, our CAF members, work individually teaching them how to build flyrods, tie flies, fly cast into the water in wind, rain and... We have "all" found this mutually rewarding and something you all should experience, in person! Another program: **The Almanor Fishing Association (AFA)**

who, in conjunction with Feather River College, tend daily to the fish in the pens in all types of weather. AFA sponsors a bbq and free fishing day for Veterans at Lake Almanor. Along with conservation efforts through AFA, we also support California Trout and Trout Unlimited.

And, more than this... I hope to see you at the dinner: Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Chico Masonic Family Center. Without your support, we could not do what I have mentioned... The gifts in our raffle, silent auction, and live auction go at a discount to the purchasers all the while allowing us to continue our community outreach! Truly a win/win! Thank you for bringing your friends and neighbors!!!! Remember: Great food; great gifts and great people!! You are the BEST!!

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper



Thank You, Chelsea and Cast Hope

By John Cowan

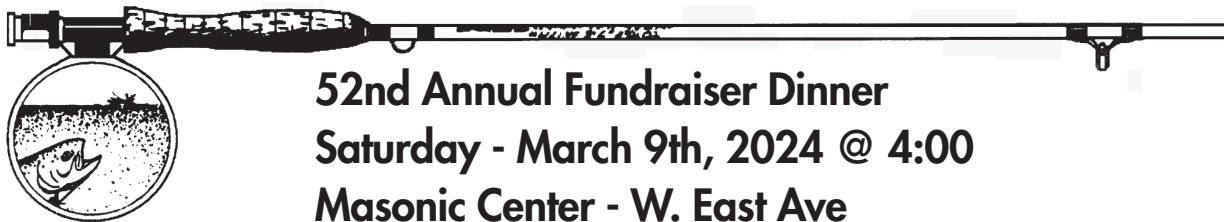
Thank you to Chelsea Parker for her presentation on Cast Hope, Inc. at our last General Meeting at the Lakeside Pavilion on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Cast Hope is a non-profit organization with a mission to get kids off their electronic devices and into the outdoors through the medium of fly fishing. Often, the kids that are recruited into this program come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Chelsea showed two well produced videos demonstrating the merits of Cast Hope. One video interviewed guide, Hogan Brown, who was visibly moved when he shared a story of being a chaperone at an overnight camping trip with kids. He came up to one kid, late at night, who was standing at the edge of the campsite and staring off into the night sky. This young person wanted to know why there were so many stars! This youngster had never been away from light pollution to be able to see what most of us take for granted.

You can check out the Cast Hope website to learn more about this program: <https://casthope.org/>



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS



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

"CRAB FEED & SHRIMP DINNER"

Guide Trips, Lots of Rods, Reels, Flyfishing Supplies, Ladies Prizes, 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

CRAB FEED! More prizes than ever!!

By John Cowan

There are still seats left for the 2024 Annual Fundraising Crab Dinner! This is the 52nd year!

Okay, here are some of the carrots we offer, besides the freshest crab you might be tasting:

Live Auction: Several destination trips: Lodging and guide trips to Crane Prairie Reservoir in Sunriver, Oregon. Lodging at the Mossbrae Hotel in Dunsmuir paired with a full day guide trip for 2 with Ryan Avezzie. Three nights on Billy Chapman's yacht in Crystal River, Florida! Some of you who have been complaining that we don't have anything exotic, well.. bring your wallet! Two nights (up to 8 people) at Digger Creek Ranch fishing for trophy trout on private ponds... Lots of great guide trips...

Silent Auction: There are all kinds of wants that you may find are "needs" for you! Lots of rods and reels. Fishing equipment. Rounds of golf. Dinner certificates! We might even have float tubes and pontoon boats for those in need!

Raffle: We try to make each raffle prize worth up to \$100! And we have a lot of prizes to give away. We might as well give some to you! Buy your tickets now!! Oh, should I mention the last raffle prize of the night is a **Winston 8wt Air Salt Rod with a Sage Reel**. Must be present to win...

If you can't make it to the Crab Feed, please renew your membership for 2024 if you have not done so already.

This is our major event to raise money for the various community service programs we support. We could use both your financial support and your donation of time to participate in a number of these programs.

California Aquarium Education Program. Yes, the name sucks salmon eggs! We all know it by a better name: "Salmonids In The Classroom". This year, CAF has purchased nine new classroom systems totaling more than \$4,500. We have over 10 systems currently placed in Butte and Glenn County classrooms. For those of you who want to see some happy kids, consider coming to the Steelhead release field trips at Riverbend Park in Oroville on the morning of April 17th!

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. This is a vibrant program lead by Stan Thomas and Pete Wiik that works with local disabled veterans. I am pleased to be a part of this program even though I never served in the Armed Services nor do I know much about fly fishing. I do know I have met people who will be life-long friends of mine and I am a much better person as a result of my involvement.

Almanor Fishing Association. CAF makes a substantial donation each year to this program. It not only raises trout for Lake Almanor, but it works in conjunction with Feather River College, and supports veterans throughout the north state.

Conservation through California Trout and Trout Unlimited. Holly Swan of Cal Trout is on our board and does a great job keeping us informed of issues regarding the ecosystems that support the sport we love. Both organizations give us opportunities to volunteer our time and/or donate funds to protect the environment containing our fish friends.

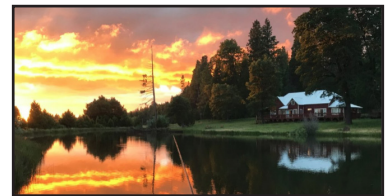
Skill Development: Casting classes and fly-tying classes are in the works! Even if you find it difficult to join us for some of our fishouts, you will find other ways that CAF can support you with your fly-fishing skills. Looking for something to do as a family? Need something to do with your grandkids? Want to get certified in casting and fly-tying? Want to know more about bugs and flies? All this is coming up shortly! Stay tuned...



Crane Prairie Reservoir outside of Sunriver, Oregon.



Billy Chapman's yacht at Crystal River, Florida.



Digger Creek Ranch up past Manton with trophy trout!

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.

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

Klamath Dams Update: Reservoir Drawdown Has Begun

By Holly Swan

Copco 2 Dam was removed last year leaving three remaining dams in the stretch of Klamath River that is being returned to an unaltered riverine system. Just a few weeks ago, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation began to drawdown three reservoirs. Drawdown refers to the slow draining of the water in the reservoirs and, in this case, was done by blasting a tunnel stop log in the 16-foot bypass tunnel at the base of Iron Gate dam.

JC Boyle, Iron Gate, and Copco reservoirs are expected to be completely drained by the end of February. This of course may take longer if there is significant snow melt runoff. Deconstruction of the remaining three dams (Iron Gate, JC Boyle, and Copco 1) will begin in late spring/early summer and be finished by the end of this year. Once these dams are removed, approximately 400 miles of fish habitat will be made available.

Within the first few days since drawdown began, the Yurok Tribe's revegetation crew planted over 10,000 white oak acorns and scattered hundreds of pounds of seeds from native grasses, herbs, and flowering plants. This is just the beginning of the revegetation of the banks of the now draining reservoirs.

Newsflash we will update you on the salmon smolt die off.



Photo credit: Juliet Grable for NPR.

Southern California Steelhead in Danger!

By Holly Swan

Now is the time to raise your voice to protect an iconic native species from extinction! Sign your name by April 4 to help save Southern steelhead from extinction!

The evidence is undeniable: Southern California steelhead teeter on the brink of extinction. Southern steelhead serve as crucial indicators of watershed health and river ecosystem integrity. These fish play a role within the ecosystem that you, your family, neighbors, and friends are also a part of. If one piece of the ecosystem changes or disappears this ripples

throughout the rest of the ecosystem affecting every other species - plant, animal, and human. Historically, Southern steelhead thrived, with tens of thousands of them swimming through Southern California rivers and streams. Today, it's rare to see them in double digits. Their dwindling numbers stem from habitat loss, fragmentation, and the encroachment of urbanization. We must act urgently to prevent the irreversible loss of this species.

In 2021, conservation nonprofit CalTrout submitted a petition to the California Fish and Game Commission to fully protect Southern steelhead as endangered under California's Endangered Species Act. Listing these fish as endangered would promote actions to protect them including removing obsolete dams, improving habitat, securing instream flow, and restoring watersheds. All of these actions would also benefit human communities. For example, improving aging infrastructure would reduce the risk of flooding and increase public safety and holistic watershed restoration would enforce and build strong relationships throughout the community.

In January 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted a peer-reviewed species status report to the Fish and Game Commission. Their extensive review came to the same conclusion as CalTrout's initial petition - the Commission found the petitioned action to list Southern steelhead as an endangered species under California's ESA to be warranted.

We need your help! The Fish and Game Commission needs to hear that allowing this species to disappear is not acceptable. Use the link to sign our letter below to tell the Commission that you fully support listing Southern steelhead as endangered under California's ESA - by April 4, 2024.

<https://caltrout.org/our-work/legislation-advocacy/save-southern-steelhead>



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:

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 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!

Other than the article Elden Hinkle submitted recounting his trip with seven other CAF members, not a lot was reported. Against my better judgment, I took a long-term teaching job at Fair View High School. Consequently, I haven't had a line in the water since the Lake Picachos trip last December!! Below is what I do know about... John Cowan



February 2024 (between atmospheric rivers):
Geritol Cove, Lake Almanor by Mike Mullen

Michael Mullen brought in this brown at Geritol Cove between storms in February.

I know more of you have been out fishing! Throw a brother a bone and share your story and pictures. It would certainly motivate me not to take long-term substitute jobs and give me ideas as to where to toss a fly!! -John

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)

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)

John Cowan: Coastal Rainbow - Lower Sacramento River

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.

Note: Coastal Cutthroat: I plan to be at the Elk Country RV Park starting March 18th for a few days. I fully plan on fishing Stone Lagoon and Dry Lagoon. I haven't caught anything there, yet, but that's not going to stop me from trying!! John Cowan

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

Welcome to The Jungle: Fishing the Amazon

By Elden Hinkle

A group of eight anglers headed to Manaus, Brazil for a week of Peacock Bass Fishing. Dann Moser, Rob Ginno, Frank Spiteri, Don & Pat Sleeper, Pete Wiik, Jeff Armstrong and myself, Elden Hinkle. I had set this trip up in February of 2023. We left Chico on January 28th and returned February 4th, 2024

THE FLIGHT: Sacramento to Atlanta, Sao Palo Brazil, Manaus. It was long to say the least, but all connections were made, and bags arrived at the same time and in the same place. We arrived a couple days early and did a few day tours in and around the city of Manaus before flying out to fishing camp.

FISHING CAMP: We boarded a Caravan Float plane on Sunday morning and headed out to camp. After an approximately 1 1/2 hour flight, we landed on the Xeriuni River. Our guides loaded our gear in the boats and a 45 minute boat ride down stream brought us to camp. In camp there were four floating cabins with two anglers per cabin. Each cabin had two beds with a shower, flushing toilet, A/C, two desks and plenty of storage room for gear. There was also a dining cabin where we ate breakfast, made our lunches for the day and had dinner in the evening. Fishing boats were flat bottom with 15 hp Mud Buddy type motors. Not real fast but very loud, with two casting platforms so both fishermen could cast at the same time.

FISHING: The Monday before leaving Chico, our outfitter Rob Anderson, from Bucket List Fly Fishing called to inform me that the water is very low. He wanted to know if I could get five fishermen of our group of eight to travel 3 hours up stream and camp on a beach overnight so as to relieve the fishing pressure near the base camp that had become land locked because of low water. Started making the calls. Frank, Dann, Rob and I were in, the other four not so much. Called Rob back to say four are in! His reply "need five to make it work, work on someone." While in Manaus, Pete relented and joined us and as it turned out it was a good decision.

SPIKE CAMP: Tuesday morning, we ate breakfast and made lunches, then loaded gear in boats and headed out. I must say not an easy trip, each boat had two fisherman, a guide and additional 100 pounds or so of gear. Pulling these boats over sand bars with very little water, in the heat and humidity was a chore. At camp we hung hammocks in a frame that the guides built and threw a tarp over the top in case of rain. Rob Anderson cooked breakfast and dinner in camp that was excellent. Things were good and you were tired enough that sleeping in the hammock was doable. Although Rob Ginno, I think, found the snoring a little more than he could take and tried sleeping down in one of the boats.

SPIKE CAMP FISHING: The fishing was incredible! The group caught ten Peacock Bass over 10 pounds and in the 2 1/2 days of fishing each boat landed 100 bass, lots in the 4-7 pound range.

FISHING BASE CAMP: The fishing we did around base camp was very good also. Jeff Armstrong and Dann Moser each landed a Peacock Bass of 22 pounds. I believe the total count was around 1,700 bass of which 38 over 10 pounds. Everyone in the group landed a Peacock bass over 10 pounds. This was a great trip! Although the number of caught were high, it was not an easy trip. Everyone did a fair amount of dragging boats, and a lot of casting with intermediate lines with 7-10 wt rods. You made a ton of casts. You didn't need to cast 60' with pinpoint accuracy (although it helps), just keep casting as they say.

THANKS: To Rob Anderson Bucket List Fly Fishing and his crew of guides that were extremely helpful and hardworking. They put us on a ton of fish. To his support team that picked us up at the airport (on time) arranged tours and took Pete and I out to a Brazilian steakhouse the last afternoon of our time in Manaus that was a great dining experience. Almost want to go back just for the food!

On these trips, because so many things can change from the time you book (usually a year in advance) mostly weather related that you can never tell what you're in for, so you pay your money and take your chances and this time it paid off.



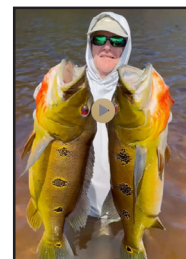
Dann Moser with his Peacock Bass!



Rob Ginno with a beauty!



Jeff Armstrong with his beautiful bass.



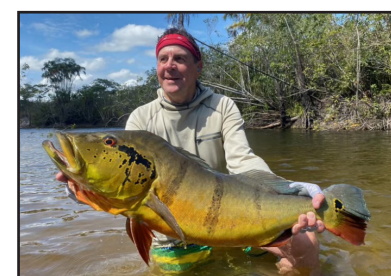
Elden Hinkle and the twins!



Frank Spiteri with one of several he landed.



Pat Sleeper with this gorgeous bass.



Pete Wiik and his beast!



Don Sleeper with a colorful specimen.

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: 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
Week of March 18 - 25, 2024 John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Coastal Cutthroat Dry and Stone Lagoon, Humboldt County Heritage Trout Challenge	Intermediate Float Tube
April 27, 2024	Opening Day for Trout Season	
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 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Deer Creek Heritage Trout Challenge	Beginner/Intermediate
May 2024 (TBD) Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Pingatore Lake	Intermediate Float Tube
June 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Coastal Cutthroat Dry and Stone Lagoon, Humboldt County Heritage Trout Challenge	Intermediate Float Tube
June 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Warner Mountains-Modoc County Back-packing Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	Advanced Physically Strenuous
June 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Trinity Alps Backpacking Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	Advanced Physically Strenuous
June 22, 2024 Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031	Hex Hatch BBQ, Fishout Lake Almanor	Beginner/Intermediate
June 30, 2024	Pyramid Lake Fishing Season Closes	
July 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Kirman Lake 3 Mile Hike	Beginner 3 Mile Hike in
July 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Virginia Lakes, Virginia Creek Backpacking Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	Advanced Physically Strenuous
August 2024 (TBD) John Cowan (530) 966-0076	Golden Trout Wilderness/Kern River/ Little Kern River Backpacking Trip Heritage Trout Challenge	Advanced Physically Strenuous
September 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Call ASAP.	Beginner
December 10-15, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Lake Picachos & El Salto Lake, Mexico Trophy Largemouth Bass	Beginner
January 19-25, 2025 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197	Lake Picachos, Mexico Trophy Largemouth Bass	Beginner

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 March 2024

The Duracell Fly

By: Ray Narbaitz

I used to think Bass Fishermen were big time gear junkies. I have since realized that the same is true for almost anyone who is serious about fishing no matter what method they use. It seems we are always after the latest and greatest even when we know the tried and tested still work just fine. Sometimes the latest, like most fads, is in vogue for a while, and then fades away. Other times, it changes the way we do things.

A few decades ago, we had never heard of bead head flies. Then people like Theo Bakelaar, and a few others like him, brought them over from Europe. There was resistance to them at first, but slowly they took hold. Today, most of our sub surface flies have a bead of some sort on them. They became the norm because they work. In most cases a bead head PT will fish better than one without the bead.

Today, a major movement seems to be Jig Head Flies. It does not appear this change is going to go away. More and more new patterns are tied that way, and a lot of the older patterns seem to be switching over. Driven initially by the growing interest in Euro Nymphing, the Jig Head pattern is becoming more prevalent on a daily basis.

I know...it means you are going to have to buy more hooks...the horror. Not only that, but your standard beads won't work on them, so you are going to have to buy some slotted beads. Since what we spend on a good rod, reel and line not to mention waders, boots, etc. would meet the budget of some small countries, I'm not sure spending a few bucks on hooks and beads should be a deal breaker. And, as I've said before, nothing says you can't tie these flies on standard hooks.

The Duracell Fly is from the vice of Craig McDonald. He is a Brit who is a Ghillie on a beat of the River Dee in England. Ghillie is what the Brits call a guide. It's a little more than that, as he is the guide and caretaker on his beat, and he controls it. While McDonald is the innovator of the fly, I saw it tied by Davis James. James is with Anglers All, a big time shop in Littleton, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. James says the fly has caught fish for him no matter where he has used it. He says you can high stick it, use it under an indicator, try a dry and dropper, or swing it.

Hook: Jig hook, 12 to 16. There are a number of good brands out there. The fly pictured I tied on an Umpqua C400BL in a size 14.

Bead: 3.2 Tungsten slotted bead in Silver

Thread: 8/0 Uni Thread in Camel

Tail: Dark Coq De Leon fibers

Rib: Red wire, sized Brassie or Small

Body: UV Brown Ice Dub

Legs: Brown or Dun CDC

Collar: UV Brown Ice Dub



1. Thread the bead, small hole first, onto the hook, and place the hook in the vise.
2. Start your thread right behind the bead. Make sure the bead is settled right on top of the eye of the hook and wrap a small thread dam behind it to help keep it in place.
3. Lay a thread base down the shank of the hook to the bend. Tie in your CDC fibers for the tail which should be about hook shank in length.
4. Keeping them on top, wrap the fibers back to just short of the bead. Cut off the excess.
5. Insert the end of the ribbing wire just inside the slot of the bead and wrap it back down to the bend, keeping it on your side of the hook.
6. Dub a tapered body up to just short of the bead. Ice Dub is not the easiest stuff in the world to dub, so use very tiny amounts as you put it on the thread. Sometimes a little dubbing wax on the thread helps as well.
7. Counter wrap the wire up to the bead, tie it down, and helicopter off the excess.
8. Tie in and wrap your CDC feather. It should not take more than about three or four turns. Tie it off and trim the excess (more on this in the notes section.)
9. Dub a tiny amount of the Ice Dub and wrap it right behind the bead. This will help keep the CDC feathers pointed back.
10. If the CDC fibers are too long, pinch them between your thumb nail and index finger and break them off. They should come back to about the mid-point of the tail. They don't all have to be the same length.
11. Whip finish behind the bead and the fly is done.

Notes: There are a variety of ways to wrap CDC on a fly. I'll let you look them up on the internet if you are interested. The easiest way is to tie the feather in tip first and wrap it on the hook preening the fibers back with each wrap...I love the UV Brown color in Ice Dub. The slightly purplish color seems to be a real fish attractor. I have started using it as the Thorax on some of my PT's instead of Peacock...While the pattern calls for a jig hook, I have tied one on a jig and one on a standard nymph hook. My guess is the fish will not discriminate.

“Trash Fish”? You’ve probably heard the term. What’s that about?

Guest Article by Stewart Reid, PhD., shared by Holly Swan

According to Merriam-Webster’s, we use “trash” for refuse, things of poor quality, or even people of low social standing. In fishing, the term is often applied to any non-game species. This includes all native suckers, lampreys, sculpin, pikeminnow, hardheads, tui chubs and other large minnows that make up our complex western fish community.

Aquatic ecosystems include diverse species assemblages that occupy different niches and fulfill different roles. Just like a well-tuned engine, each part has its place and is critical to the overall function of the whole. Remove one wire and the whole car will cease to run. Different species do different things. Lamprey larvae burrow in sediment and filter water. Suckers, which live 30+ years, graze on algae, moving solar energy further up the food chain. The various minnows consume vegetable matter and invertebrates - some pick along the bottom, others work the water-column. The pikeminnow, reaching 3 feet in the Sacramento or even 6 feet and 100 lbs in the Colorado, feed on invertebrates until about 8 inches, then shift to smaller fish and crayfish. Trout feed on invertebrates, then, as they grow, also turn to small fishes as prey. While each species has its feeding niche, all form part of the prey base when small. That’s why everyone produces so many eggs – boosting survival for some of their offspring. In the absence of a broad, diversified prey

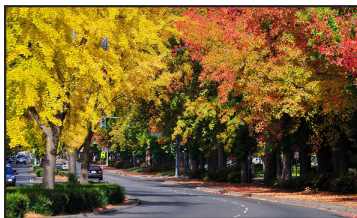
base, predators focus on whichever species remains (think trout), if that is all there is.

Many of the so-called “Trash Fish” tolerate warmer temperatures. However, most also utilize cooler mid-elevation reaches, where they encounter the lower limit of trout populations and intermingle, bringing increased diversity and productivity. The reason that Goose Lake and Klamath Lake trouts are famously so big is that they have access to warmer waters and plenty of minnows to eat.

Some people might say “trash fish” don’t taste good, have too many bones, or don’t fight as much when hooked. This is clearly a matter of taste (real or social) and changes in those over time. Indigenous peoples depended on fishes like lamprey (“eel”), suckers, and minnows, constructing specialized weirs, baskets, and fishing spots to take advantage of large springtime migrations. European settlers also prized these species as a food resource, even referring to large pikeminnow as “Salmon Trout” in San Francisco fish markets of the 1850’s. Newspapers would announce arrival of large migrations where locals could fill their wagons with suckers. The term “Trash Fish” didn’t come into being until the early 1900’s, when social preferences turned to favor ocean-caught salmon and other marine species as food fish.

So, next time we hear “Trash Fish”, let’s think about what we’re saying. Do they have less intrinsic value? Is their role less important than a trout’s in the stream? Do they actually taste bad? And does that even matter? Or, are we just disappointed that they don’t take our hook?

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