



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts December 2010

MEETING LOCATION: Dec 9th @ Round table Pizza in The Almond Orchard Mall @ 5:30



The Presidents Line By Lincoln Gray

As I sit here looking out the window at all the fall colors, I can only think of one thing and one thing only, steelhead Fishing!!!

Fishing is good to excellent on many of the Valley Rivers right now. Reports from fisherman and guides have been very positive.

I have been guiding the Lower Sacramento River and I can say that it is very good right now. So grab your gear and get out there.

December 9th is our annual "Anchovy Feed" at Round Table Pizza in the Almond Orchard shopping center. The club will provide all the pizza you can eat. There will be no general meeting in December.



Secretary's Secrets By Pat Sleeper

CAF, Secretary's Minutes – Nov 4th, 2010

Meeting called to order at 5:45 by Lincoln Gray, Pres @ Don & Pat's

Those present: Lincoln, Terry, Ron,

Dana, Pat, Dave, Don, and Scott Joyce.

Minutes: Pat Sleeper – M/S/P Dana/Dave

Treasurer Report: Don Sleeper – M/S/P Dana/Terry

V.P. report: Dave McKinney – Show & tell by fly shops: Sierra Stream, Chico Fly shop, Mack's Fish First and Jim Clarkson went very well! Next month anchovy feed at Round Table, Almond Orchard, at 5:30 Thursday Dec 9th.

Eric See – need help with signs along the river...need more info...

We're planning the March dinner and asking for any volunteers...please call Lincoln or Pat & Don...thanks... 345-1197 (Sleepers) or e-mail us...Your help is always appreciated..thank you again.

I look forward to see many of you. Until then, I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

As always, I hope your line is tight and your rods are bent.

Lincoln Gray

Raising the Gray Ghost:

This is not that troutbum video of the same name, but it is of the same fish. I had the most unbelievable week on the upper Skeena system in British Columbia. One of the reasons it was so good was because it was also so bad. The beginning of the week when I arrived, B.C. had been without rain for 10 days and all the rivers were very low and super gin clear. The fish were well holed up and difficult to move. Kispiox and main-stem Skeena were tough. I departed for Skeena headwaters by float plane and the beginning of the week was slow because of the low water. We worked hard on the river all day for 1 or 2 fish, beautiful fish though. Then the rains came, raising and darkening waters brought the river alive. One day I went 8 for 9 with the average fish being 15 pounds and the largest a 40" buck. All on swinging flies, several on dries. I took one 18 pound hen on a dry. The flight out was a bit hair raising between the clouds and the mountains, thank God for GPS. Can't wait to do it again.

David McKinney



Kid's Corner

by Kim Lewis

The annual Pizza Feed and Junior Fly Fishing Club Bake Sale will be held this next Thursday, December 9th @ Round Table Pizza on Pillsbury Rd (Almond Orchard) starting at 5:30 p.m. The kids and I will set up a table with baked goodies. If you can help out by baking and or donating, all treats will be welcome. If you can simply purchase some of our treats from the kids at the event – we would greatly appreciate it!! Please e-mail me @ kimlew@sbcglobal.net or call me @ 530-570-8526 if you can help out with baked goods.

Please invite any new kids or families to this fund raising event, we will have a sign-up sheet and email contact list for new members.

Our next meeting – January 13th @ 3:30 -6:00 p.m., we will focus on Introduction to Fly-tying, vices and material will be provided for those interested. If you or someone you know is interested in learning come by the shop - 847 W. 5th St. Just call or e-mail me prior to the meeting so that we set-up accordingly.



On the Road again...Nov 17, 2010

By Don & Pat Sleeper

This month fishing took us to El Salto, Mexico fishing for the allusive trophy Black Bass. There were about twelve of us mostly from Chico; but, three from out of town. First the good news...we "all" came back safely... Oh, did anyone catch any large bass??? Well, Yes! Jim Gaumer caught the largest at over 10lbs (unable to weigh it) AND the most fish of the trip! Val Bowlby caught the second largest at 7.2 lbs on a popper...



This wasn't the usual "easy" fishing trip...each fisherman work hard at catching "a" fish...do research to find out what they were biting on and how to present this fly; and, on what line. Gaumer was the man to see...he did his research and found out presenting a gummy minnow on a floating line to a bass that had just hit the surface was the ticket. He waited for the bass to come back for the dead and wounded minnow imitation and bam!...fish on!

Now me...I tried all that and caught bass on gummy minnows and poppers; but, when the Texans told me they were fishing the "Dark side" with orange lizards and catching 14lb bass...I had to try it...Well if you want a laugh picture this: using a 7wt rod with an intermediate line, I tied a conventional hook on my 20lb tippet. Now, I hooked this 6 or 7 inch orange lizard on; and proceeded to cast it...It WAS LIKE CASTING WITH A FISH ALREADY ON THE LINE..."oh my gosh!!!" But, I managed to get it into the lake, without falling in the lake, I might say...kirsplash, it went into the lake ...I couldn't have caught a fish though, if I had too, I was laughing sooo hard! It didn't take me long to realize I didn't even want to catch a fish on this rig so I cut it off...No, I "never" had even a strike in the perhaps 5 or 6 casts. (But, I tried the dark side and it didn't work!)

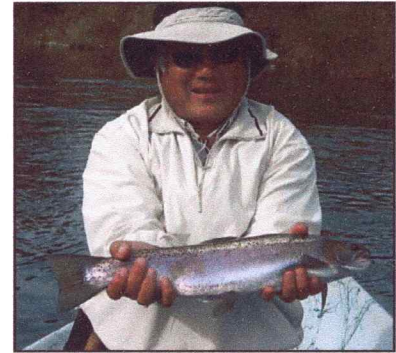
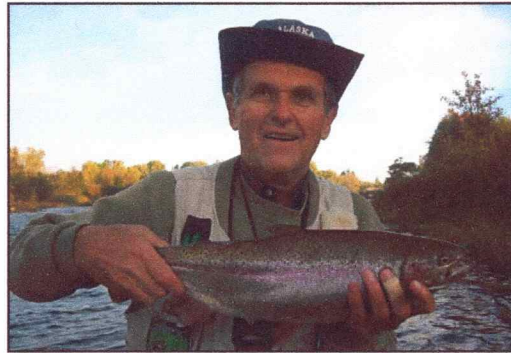
The fun came in the staff running coffee to you at 4:30 each morning to wake us up; coming to breakfast with the chef cooking whatever you wanted for breakfast and then riding down to the water, about 100 yards, in a people mover...what service at Anglers Inn, El Salto, Mexico! And, always, with a smile!

With the Lake full of water and traveling through some of the canyons and ravens, it was like being in the Amazon especially seeing the diversified bird life and animals lurking around each bend on the shore-line. We saw puma's, iguanas, and a bird house (in a tree) as large as a gazebo made of mud by the little green parrots; and, birds I've never seen before...Like living a National Geographic Movie!...Beautiful!



Big Feather River Fish

This is Lionel Valley and Benny Sommer fishing the Feather River with Darren Deel the first part of Nov...Great Steelhead!



Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2011

This is where you can locate future outings that Chico Area Flyfisher's 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 willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and time, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful.

We are also looking for additional **fishout leaders**. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead your fellow CAF members for a day of fishing fun, and fellowship please contact Lincoln Gray or Don Sleeper.

This schedule may change depending on the fish bite or weather conditions.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
Jan 8, 9	Baum Lake	Don Sleeper
Feb	Open	Open
March	Open	Open
April 13 thru 17	Pyramid Lake	Don Sleeper
April 30	Trout Opener	Open
May 28	Crater Lake	Don Sleeper
June 11, 12	Eagle Lake	Open
June 25	Lake Almanor Hex Hatch	Lincoln Gray
July	Philbrook Reservoir	Open
August	Open	
Sept 24, 25	Lewiston or Davis	Don Sleeper
Oct 1st	Pyramid Lake	Open
Oct	Almanor	Open
Nov 5, 6	Eagle Lake	Don Sleeper
Nov	Big Chico Creek	Eric See

Other ideas: Floating Indicator Clinic, Float Tube Clinic, Fly Casting Clinic, Yuba River, Fort Bragg area Surf Fly fishing---

Conservation Corner

David McKinney Conservation Chair and Fish-hugger.

Big Dam Problem

Many of us at CAFF had heard the stories and rumors of the raising of Shasta Dam, the flooding of Bollibokka and a substantial section of the lower McCloud River, and the extracting all of our water by Westland Water District and the end in general of life as we know it. As is with most things, there is much more to the story. In the last year or so, I have learned many things about this project, most of which are quite surprising.

The raising of the Shasta Dam and the ultimate flooding of the McCloud is anything but a done deal. Currently the Bureau of Reclamation is looking into raising the dam from 6-18 feet, but Shasta Dam actually has a base that could support a raise of 200 feet, a fact that is often learned on tours of the dam. They point to the State's continuing growth and increasing agricultural demands and necessitate the search for more water storage. Lake Shasta tops the list because of the immense amount of water storage that raising the dam would allow. A 6-foot raise would increase storage by 290,000 acre-feet, enough water to supply about 1.1 million people for a year. An 18-foot raise would boost the reservoir by 636,000 acre-feet enough for 2.5 million people per year and a raise up to the capacity of 200 feet would impound a staggering additional 14 million acre-feet. This would quadruple the current capacity of Lake Shasta and would provide enough water for an additional 56 million people per year. To put these massive numbers in perspective, California as crowded as we think it is, has a current population of about 37 million by the 2009 census estimate. It is unclear to me how this water would be transported southward (the obvious direction for it to go), but clearly if the Sacramento River were used, as it is now, stream flows would be immense and certainly affect all river related recreation.

The reason that Westland purchased the property was simply because it was the last remaining privately held property that would be inundated with the raising of Shasta Dam and would have blocked such a development. Westland purchased some 3000 acres along a seven-mile stretch of the McCloud River (including Bollibokka) for some 35 million dollars. As far as Westland is concerned, they continue to be very aggressive in water procurement for their region. Westland Water District is the nation's largest water district supplying more than 700 San Joaquin Valley farmers covering more than 600,000 acres and is based in Fresno California. Westland Water District has long been the target of environmentalists and in general has a varied reputation. Farm drainage from some of Westland's acreage in the San Joaquin Valley carries large amounts of selenium, which can be toxic to wildlife. Recently however, Westland has been instrumental in proposing a solar electric generating facility on agriculturally fallow land in Kings County, which has earned support from the state government, Sierra Club, and agricultural interests. Bottom line is, this is an obvious attempt to extract large amounts of north state water.

As one might imagine, there are a number of groups that express distaste for this project. The area along the McCloud is a sacred to the Winnemem Wintu tribe. Their name means "middle river", and is a long established culture, but at this time the federal government does not yet recognize them. Bollibokka is Wintu for "black manzanita" a bush that grows wild in abundance along the McCloud River. Their tribe currently consists of about 130 individuals. The tribe's leaders opposed the Westland's purchase. Within the approximately 3000 acres purchased are some 20 plus sites sacred to Winnemem Wintu. In 2000 when the Bureau of Reclamation first proposed raising the dam 6-18 feet, the remaining tribal members declared war on the United States. There are also environmental and conservation groups opposed as well. In fact, it was the Nature Conservancy that was set to purchase the McCloud river section including Bollibokka when it was bought out from under them by Westland.

Now I am sure that there are groups and organizations that can make some sort of case as this being a "good thing" for northern California, with our sagging economy and all. That this will supply new opportunities and more jobs, and that this is just free enterprise doing its' thing ect, ect, ect. But we have to ask ourselves; do we want to become the catch basis for all of California? and at what expense? I don't view this as a black and white issue. Future water solutions are going to involve some tough decisions, but it will always remain important to me to preserve as many as much of our wild watershed as possible. It is also obvious that this sort of action will probably become all too common. As residents we will need to stay informed about this and other water issues. This part of the state has a small, and relatively poor, population, but we have all the water, and that is something that everybody wants.

For now, this project is stuck as to whether or not to raise the Dam 6 feet, something that we could probably tolerate and may prove as a temporary help of our water problem.

December Fly of the Month

By: Ray Narbaitz

The Wulff Irresistible

Like so many other things in our country's history, Fly Fishing started in the east and moved west. Actually, it was an even bigger parallel than that, as, like much of our early history, it was based in England. The same was true of Fly Fishing. Before too much longer, as the sport grew, America got its own identity, and with it, its own patterns. There was a reason why patterns like the Cahills and Hendricksons became the norm. First, most flies at that time were meant to imitate May Flies. Secondly, anybody who would fish a fly under the surface of the water would be shunned by his fly fishing brethren. In addition, most of the eastern streams are fairly small, and many are spring creeks.

As the sport moved west, those sparse, lightly hackled patterns began to run into a problem. In the rough and tumble freestone streams of the west, they wouldn't stay afloat. Because of that, western tiers started coming up with more robust, heavily hackled flies. Patterns like the Horner Deer Hair (later renamed the Goofus Bug, and then the Humpy), and the whole Wulff series came into being.

In the 1920's, the Adams came along. They didn't have our nice, synthetic dubbings or genetic hackle back then, so the original Adams was a fat, bulky, very heavily hackled fly. As tiers began to tinker, the Irresistible series of flies with spun deer hair bodies came out. The first was the Adams Irresistible, which was tied just like the Adams, only with a hair body instead of dubbing. My Sister-in-Law used to have me tie a couple of dozen of them every year to give to her Husband for Christmas. There was also the Rat Faced McDougal, which was the same fly, only with a yellow tail and all of the hackle in front of the wing. I have no idea where the name came from. I have never liked tying hackle tip wings, which the pattern calls for, and felt I never did a very good job with them. That's why I was so glad that the Wulff Irresistible came along. It's basically the same fly, but with a much more durable white hair or synthetic wing which also makes it easier to see.

Hook...TMC 100 or Daiichi 1100, size 10 to 16

Thread...Black 6 or 8/0

Tail...Moose Hair

Body...Spun and clipped Deer or Caribou hair

Wing...Calf Tail, or Calf Body Hair, or Straight Zlon, divided

Hackle...Brown Dry Fly Hackle

1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise.
2. Lay down a thread base, and tie in a fairly heavy tail.



3. Tie in and spin a small, clump of hair. In both Deer and Caribou, the tips are solid, and the base of the hair is hollow, thus, it floats better. Trim the tips off the clump before you spin it. The smaller flies should only take a couple of clumps, as you don't want the body to go too far past the half way point of the shaft.
4. After you have packed, stacked and spun, tie off your thread with a few wraps of a whip finisher, and cut off the thread.
5. Take the fly out of the vise, and start to trim the hair with your scissors. Curved scissors help if you have them. The pattern calls for the body to taper from the rear up to the front. I don't think the fish care if it is a sort of football shape. If you want, fine trim with a razor blade after the scissor trimming.
6. Replace the hook in the vise, and restart your thread. Tie in your wing material (calf body and zlon are the easiest to use), and put a little thread dam in front of it to help hold them upright. Split and post the two halves of the material to make the V wing.
7. Tie in your hackle between the body and the wing. Saddle hackle works better, because you want this to be a pretty heavily hackled fly. Make several wraps behind the wing, and then several more up to the head of the fly.
8. Tie off the hackle, and trim the excess.
9. Whip finish and head cement the fly.

Notes: This fly takes awhile to tie, so tie them when you are in no hurry. If you are going to tie several of them, do the bodies on all of them, then trim them all, and then finish the flies. These flies are meant for fairly rough water, but they will still need to be treated before they are fished. I like to use some Water Shed on them, and then a desiccant like Dry Shake before I make the first cast, and then often as they start to take on a little water. **Important Notice!!!** If your flies don't look like the pictures I provide, don't worry about it. Mine don't either. Most of these pictures are of flies that were tied by professional, commercial tiers. They have to appeal to the fisherman before they will be presented to the fish. We only have to present them to the fish, who, fortunately, are not nearly as finicky as we.

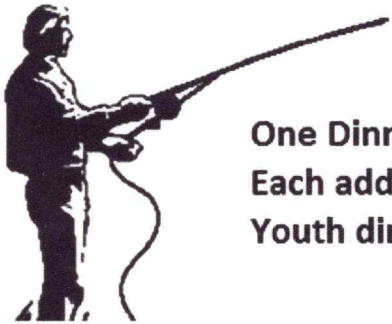
CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS



40TH ANNUAL DINNER/FUND RAISER
 FRIDAY - MARCH 4TH, 2011 @ 5:30
 MASONIC CENTER - W. EAST AVE.

"CRAB FEED DINNER & SHRIMP"

Raffle prizes - rods, reels, guided trips, fly tying supplies, Ladies prizes, pontoon boat and other prizes and surprizes...



One Dinner & a Family Membership\$ 70.00
 Each additional crab/shrimp Dinner.....\$ 35.00
 Youth dinner.....\$ 35.00

-----DINNER RESERVATION FORM-----

NAME: _____	NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
ADDRESS: _____	Family Membership & One Dinner		\$70.00
CITY: _____ ZIP: _____	Each Additional Dinner	_____ \$35.00	\$ _____
PHONE: _____	Youth - Dinner	_____ \$35.00	\$ _____
E-MAIL: _____	Raffle ticket packets	_____ \$500. _____ \$200.	\$ _____
	Raffle ticket packets	_____ \$100. _____ \$50.	\$ _____
	Reserved a table for 8 people	\$450.	\$ _____
	(Five memberships 8 dinners)	TOTAL	\$ _____

ADDITIONAL NAMES: _____ Visa # _____

_____ M/C# _____

_____ Signature: _____

_____ Exp. Date _____ back # _____

PURCHASE TICKETS BY JAN 15TH FOR EARLY BIRD DRAWING
 MAIL RESERVATION FORMS AND PAYMENT TO: CAF - 1010 Lori Dr, Chico, CA 95973
 Questions: Don or Pat 530-345-1197

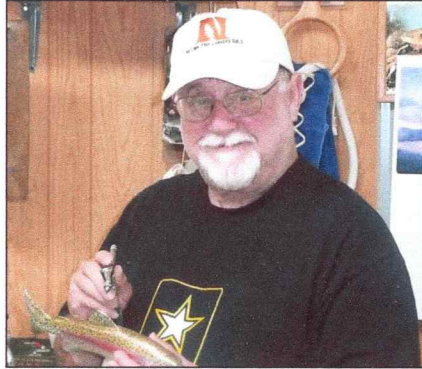
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Sierra Stream & Mountain
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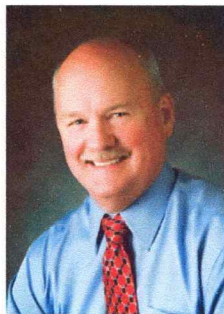


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