

# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

## Short Casts December 2020

### Next General Meeting To Be Determined



Hello CAF Members:

As we all know, we're still on hold; and, in another close-down with this COVID; but, if we can hold on for a few more weeks/months...

What to do...I'm going through my old photo's...Amazing how I've gotten older!!! But, I've been blessed with some incredibly fun trips; getting to know some of you, our CAF members...And, I look forward to having more fun, fishing on the lakes or future trips to Mexico !!! I'm thinking our September trip to Mexico will be exceptionally fun and a go. Therefore, if you're wanting to go Dorado fishing in Sep 2021...Get your name on the list early. <http://www.patsflyfishing.com>

I've gotten to know, maybe the whole Ginno family now... in 2019-20....What an incredibly fun, sharing, and talented family!!! We shared excellent fishing together; incredible fly tying patterns and techniques; great laughter at our cocktail hour while sharing fascinating fishing and hunting stories!!! THANK YOU!!!

We've been blessed "getting to know" John Crotty and Deb at Quail Lodge...After a 3 months stay of getting to know each other, as Presidents of two different clubs; yet, on the same path with our hearts! We both are about our VETS and disabled American VETS; the fish pens and the rearing of new fish for Lake Almanor; the habitat on and around the lake, etc. We were like "two hearts as one" ...I told John "we're always a call away." Meaning not just Don and I; but, our membership.

I plan on keeping in touch with these news letters; and, truly appreciate your pictures and stories. As soon as we can have fish outs, they will be posted in this news letter as well as our last minute emails blasts, as soon as allowed. In the mean time...invite your favorite friend out to fish or go out by yourself...but, enjoy fishing when you can...it helps, a lot, with the stress of the COVID19 away, if he needs our help!" I know our entire membership believes in his goals and his large heart: as ours are the same!! If you have never been to Quail Lodge, you're missing out!!!! Great people!!! CLEAN ROOMS in their lodge: John and Deb are the sole of the Earth...John's (Guide) and their lodge, Located in Canyon Dam, Almanor, CA...A must to go stay and play!!!

Great news Members: Our CAF board has voted to "suspend the \$35. membership fee for 2021." Thank you CAF board!!! We are still prepared to continue supporting our usual organizations, as well.

Please stay safe, wear a mask when in public. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!!! I have missed our Meetings and Get togethers!!!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!!

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper

## Luk Lake fishing

by Don Sleeper

Three of us, fished Luk Lake two weeks ago. The weather was wonderful, the trout fishing was a little slow. We landed 5 trout up to 18 inches. This 65+ acre lake conveniently located just minutes from Interstate 5 in Corning, California, behind the Rolling Hills Casino. It's a pay and play lake managed by The Fly Shop in Redding. Please give them a call if you are interested in fishing a lake close by Chico.

There is a boat launch for anglers who choose to use their own float tubes. You are also welcome to launch your own small boats (14 feet long or less) if you prefer. Gas motors are not allowed, but electric trolling motors are acceptable.

We used small midges and stripped streamers, they all worked.





## Almanor Fishing Association Update

Nine months of uncertainty, fear and concern forced the Almanor Fishing Association, (AFA), to cancel our youth fishing events, Veterans fishing events, collaboration with the Chester High School fish rearing program and our annual picnic. 2020 has certainly impacted us all in a variety of ways.

I am proud to share the AFA fish pen program is alive and thriving in spite of COVID. In September we purchased more than \$11,000 of high protein fish pellets and towards the end of October we received 50,000 fertile West Virginia rainbows from CF&W and 10,000 fertile Shasta Lake Browns (Feather River College). AFA volunteers have been feeding between 80 & 100 pounds of food daily, the new strain of rainbows are doing great. When we received them they were 10 to the pound and between 4-6 inches in length. As of December 11th they have added between two and three inches in length and are averaging 6-7 per pound. Die off has been minimal as we lost four rainbows in November. We will continue to hand feed them daily until their release in April. If any Chico Fly Fishers are interested in checking out our pens/fish please let me know.

Almanor has received numerous fish plants throughout the year from CF&W including: 150,000 Feather River Salmon, 18,000 Eagle Lake Rainbows, 68,000 Shasta Lake Browns, 50,000 Shasta Lake Rainbows (2019/20 pen fish) and 15,600 Shasta Lake Rainbows. Twenty thousand of those Browns were recently planted at the Canyon Dam boat ramp.

Feather River College, (FRC) Hatchery Director, Adam Fuller will once again be racing Shasta Lake Browns for release into Almanor. Adam will receive the eggs in December, raise them through October at which time AFA will transfer the fertile Browns into our pens.

Lake Almanor experienced a large Algal bloom this year, we have not witnessed such a bloom in years and while it did not seem to impact fishing the algae was a mess on the water and to our boats.

Current Lake level is 4477.92 which is approximately 8 feet lower than last year and 15 feet from full. Water temp is in the mid forties and visibility is 5-8', we are beginning to see mature fish in the coves around Canyon Dam.

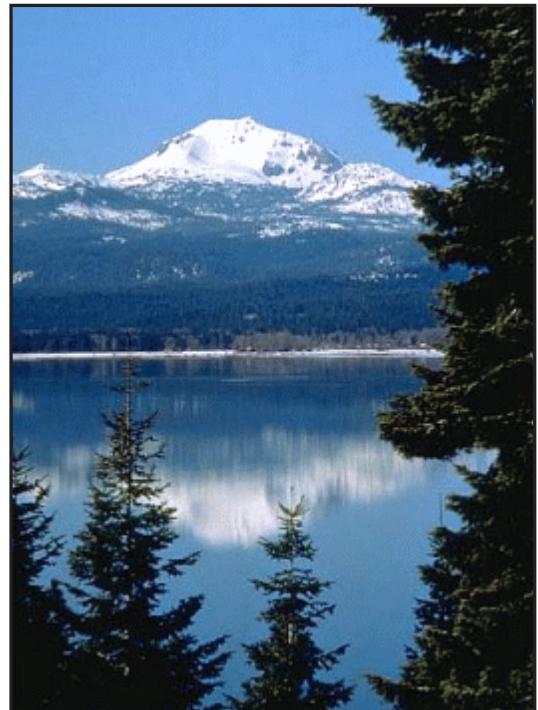
I would like to thank Pat and Don Sleeper and Chico Area Fly Fishers for your continued support of AFA and Lake Almanor and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Almanor Fishing Association Membership Drive

I strongly recommend you check this out:

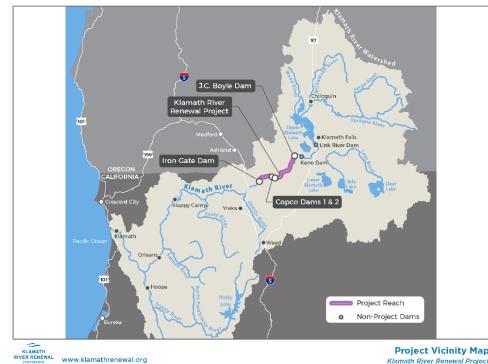
If you enjoy fishing Lake Almanor or you're a business/resident of Plumas County please consider joining the Almanor Fishing Association. They are set to begin 2021 membership drive and could use your support. AFA has the longest running most successful fish pen program in the state. We currently have 60,000 fish (50,000 rainbows, 10,000 Browns) in our pens and our dedicated volunteers are feeding 80 lb's of food a day regardless of the weather. You can join online @ [Almanorfishingassociation.org](http://Almanorfishingassociation.org) or by check to: Almanor Fishing Association PO BOX 1938, Chester Ca. 96020. Again, this is a non profit Association.

Thank you for your support. Pat Sleeper



# States of California and Oregon, Dam Owner Pacificorp, Karuk and Yurok Tribes and KRRC Update Terms for Klamath Dam Removal Agreement Terms

The November 2020 MOA among Pacificorp, the States of Oregon and California, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, and KRRC describes how the parties will implement the Amended KHSA and address FERC's concern for additional protection against potential cost overruns, while respecting Pacificorp's commitment to transferring ownership before dam removal begins. The MOA calls for Oregon and California to serve as co-licensees with KRRC, allowing Pacificorp to transfer ownership and responsibility for dam removal to the "dam removal entity" as called for in the KHSA.



## The MOA:

- Confirms that KRRC will remain the dam removal entity for the project.
- Seeks to remove Pacificorp from the license and add the States of California and Oregon as co-licensees prior to the beginning of demolition.
- Resumes all planning and permitting processes immediately for dam removal.
- Nearly doubles contingency fund held by KRRC and contractors to further address FERC's concern for additional protection against potential cost overruns.
- Calls for the immediate filing of the "Amended License Surrender Application" with FERC. (The Surrender Application is KRRC's detailed plan to remove the dams and implement related restoration activities.)
- Fully commits all parties to support removing the Klamath dams, thus returning the Klamath River to a free-flowing condition and allowing salmon and steelhead to regain access to more than 400 miles of historical habitat.



With the MOA now in place, the parties will submit an Amended License Surrender Application to FERC. The KRRC project will be the largest dam removal and river restoration project in US History.

## FAQs

### Does FERC need to approve the MOA for it to go into effect?

No. The MOA is an agreement between the States, tribes, dam owner, and KRRC as the dam removal entity. FERC's approval is not required for the MOA to take effect.

### What approvals are still required by FERC?

FERC must still approve the terms under which the license for the Lower Klamath Project is transferred from Pacificorp to the States and KRRC as well as the specifics of the plan to remove the dams and complete associated restoration activities. Therefore, the parties will submit two updated applications to FERC in the wake of this agreement: 1) an Amended License Surrender Application and 2) a new License Transfer Application.

### What happens if the project costs exceed funds available, even with the larger contingency fund in place?

First, the July 16 FERC Order found that the funds for the project (\$450M) were likely sufficient to complete the project. In the unlikely event project costs exceed those funds, several protections exist. KRRC has negotiated a "guaranteed maximum price" with Kiewit, the design/build contractor, and RES, the restoration contractor. KRRC also developed a robust insurance package that reduces the risk of such overruns significantly. And, under this new MOA, Pacificorp and the States of California and Oregon believe the addition of \$45 million on top of existing contingency funds will address FERC's concern for additional protection against potential cost overruns. But the parties have also agreed to cover any costs beyond the expanded contingency fund in the very unlikely event that further funds are required.

### When will dam removal take place?

With the MOA now in place, it is likely that personnel and equipment will be deployed in 2022 and pre-removal construction activities will commence. We expect dam removal and the return of the river to a free-flowing condition in 2023. Restoration activities will immediately follow dam removal and continue for several years.

### What about the notice of a potential KHSA termination event that Pacificorp filed on July 23, 2020?

Pacificorp has already rescinded its July 23, 2020 notice of a potential termination event under the KHSA. Pacificorp and KRRC have also filed an Amended License Surrender Application with FERC.

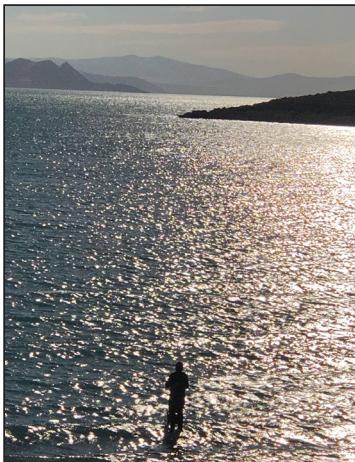
### What work has been done to plan for and understand the impacts of Klamath dam removal?

There has been extensive work done to understand and plan for the impacts of this project. Learn more about The Project and specific information about project planning and potential project impacts on our Project Benefits page.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was announced on November 17, 2020 by Berkshire Hathaway-owned Pacificorp, the States of California and Oregon, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, and the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) that describes how the parties will proceed with implementation of the Amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) and, ultimately, dam removal.

## November 2020 Pyramid Lake Fishing:

The week before Thanks Giving, Chris Hinkle (Chico), Jim Cantwell (Almanor) and I spent a total of 3 days at Pyramid Lake. We rented one of Pyramid Lodge's (formerly Crosby's) cabins, which was a large 5th wheel trailer with one queen and 2 twin beds for about a \$100 per night. Fishing was tough and the wind was even tougher. Despite sustained winds of 25mph and gusts up to 55mph we all caught a few fish with nothing over 5 or 6 lbs. With blowing sand, dust tornadoes and water spouts occurring for 2 straight days, we found ourselves sheltering in place in our trailer for most of our stay. When the wind did calm down a bit, we cast from the bank and did some jigging from our tubes. That's fishing!



Before the storm



Chris Hinkle at Eagle Lake



Pete Wiik



Bill Roberson

## Eagle Lake

I know several club members have made the trip and done well at Eagle this fall and winter. I've gone up a couple times with Elden.. Each time we hooked between 4 and 6 beautiful 16 to 21" rainbows from our float tubes. Another time Pat Hallin, Jim Sands, Elden and I went with Big Daddy to Shrimp Island. We cast olive, brown, black, orange buggers and leech patterns. We each caught between 4 and 8 fish with Pat H. leading the way.



Jim Sands



Elden Hinkle

## Fall Oregon Fishing in the Fall Dave McKinney

A very fat rainbow from the upper Klamath and a Coastal Cutthroat from the Rogue. Lots of good fish, but no steelhead.



## **Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2020-21**

Future outings that Chico Area Flyfisher's provide to its Membership: These Club Fish-outs are designed to give fly fishers the best opportunity to catch fish and enjoy the outdoors. Our Club has many accomplished anglers who are willing to share their skills with others and you are only limited by willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and time, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful.

Elden Hinkle and Tom Rosenow are our fish-out leaders. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead our fellow CAF members for a day of fishing, and fellowship contact Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduction.com or Tom Rosenow trosenow.chico@gmail.com

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Fishout Leader</b>
Jan 10-15, 2021	Lake Picachos, Mexico; <a href="http://www.patsflyfishing.com">www.patsflyfishing.com</a> – 530-345-1197 Trophy Bass fishing.  Just a few spots left for this Mexico trip...Extremely Fun trip	
May TBD	Wild horse Reservoir; Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduction.com	
May TBD	Crane Prairie Lake, Oregon; Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduction.com	
June TBD	Lake Almanor BBQ Butt Lake – Pat Sleeper 345-1197	
Sep 1 - ?	Dorado fishing, Mexico <a href="http://www.patsflyfishing.com">www.patsflyfishing.com</a> – 530-345-1197	
Oct TBD	Little Grass valley Reservoir Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduction.com	

## **CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2020**

We truly look forward to seeing you at our next meeting; and, hearing "your" fly fishing stories! Your excitement is ours!  
CAF meets 9 months out of the year; and, presents a variety of exciting fly fishing-related programs throughout each year. Each meeting includes: monthly fly-tying demonstrations; variety of raffle prizes; refreshments; and, the very best stories about Northern California Fly fishing from our members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month; location: "[The California Park Pavilion](#)" on California Park Dr, Chico, CA. Live Fly-tying presentations: 6:30 p.m. @ General Meeting 7:30 p.m.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>
Jan 13, 2021		Share fly fishing trips with pictures & stories
Feb		Cancelled due to COVID
March dinner		Cancelled due to COVID
April 14	TBD	
May 12	TBD	
June 9	TBD	
July-Sep		No Meetings – have fun fishing!!!
Oct 13	TBD	
Nov 10	TBD	
Dec 8	Pizza feed	

# Fly of the Month, December, 2020

## Mayer's Mini Leech

By: Ray Narbaitz

Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, or, if you are into political correctness, Happy Holidays. This marks the 120th edition of Fly of the Month. It all started in May of 2008 with Lincoln Gray's T.S. Bugger the featured fly. I'm actually writing this on March 2nd, Super Tuesday in the 2020 elections. Like many of you, I'm watching the results with considerable interest. I'm happy to report the fish still don't care.

Since it's now the dead of winter, a lot of our trout streams are closed for the season. While there are still some moving waters available in the north state, they are subject to the whims of winter storms. The more stable waters in our country this time of year are the many lakes, large and small. While there are many flies that will sometimes work in our lakes, the main staples are Midges and Leeches, more specifically, small or Micro Leeches. In October of last year, the FOTM was the Boogie Man Micro Leech. It was designed to fish in lakes, either under an indicator, or stripped. I used it a lot last year and found it to be pretty productive.

Mayer's Mini Leech is from the vise of Landon Mayer. Mayer is a guide, author, blogger and signature tier for Umpqua who has spent the last 21 years guiding on the North Platte River in Colorado. Unlike the Boogie Man, he says his Mini Leech can be fished in any kind of water. In moving water it can be fished like a Nymph, swung like a soft hackle, stripped, or dangled off of an indicator. In still water, it can be stripped or fished under an indicator. That method works even better if there is a chop on the water to give the fly more motion. He ties his Mini Leech in Black, Brown and Olive.

Hook: TMC 2488 or 2488H in 14 & 16, that's a pretty small hook, which will give you an idea of what he means by Mini

Thread: 6/0, color to match fly

Flash: He uses Krystal Flash, but Holographic tinsel could also be used. Red, Chartreuse, Orange, Olive or color of your choice

Wing: Pine Squirrel Zonker strip, natural or dyed in color of choice

Head: (Thorax) Ostrich Herl, usually black

1. Debarb the hook, and place it in the vise.
2. Start your thread a little behind the eye, and wrap it to about the hook point.



3. Tie in your flash material there, and wrap it all the way into the hook bend. Return your thread back to the tie in point.
4. Wrap your flash up to the tie in point. Tie it down, and cut off the excess.
5. Take a piece of the Squirrel Zonker Strip and pull the hair off the end to expose just a small amount of the leather. Make sure the hair is pointing to the back of the fly.
6. Tie in the leather strip at the original tie in point; making sure it is bound down tightly.
7. Wet your fingers and separate the hair where you want to cut it at the back of the fly. Make sure you cut the leather only, and not any of the hair. You want the leather portion of the strip to be about an inch, maximum. The hair will tail back a little further.
8. Tie in a single Ostrich Herl at the fur, and wrap it up to just short of the eye. Tie it off there, and cut off the excess.
9. Make a nice, small head, whip finish, cut off your thread, put on a drop of head cement and the fly is done.

Notes: Needless to say, there are a lot of variations you can throw at this fly. If you want it to sink faster, you could add a bead. You can play with the colors of the flash, the Squirrel and the Ostrich. The fish will probably let you know if they like your changes.

# LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First  
Chico, CA  
(530) 343-8300

Sierra Stream & Mountain  
Chico, CA  
530-345-4261

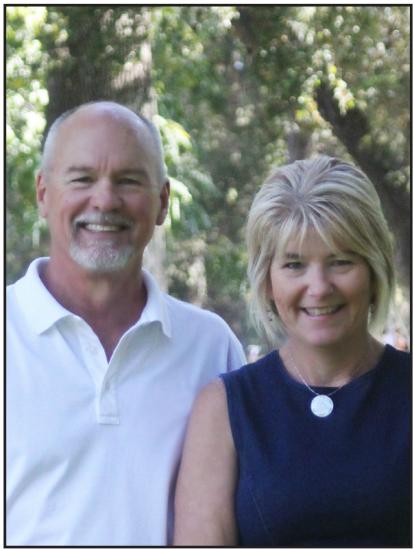


**Ron Leger**  
Custom Fish Carvings  
**530-343-5191**  
[rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com](mailto:rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com)



**David W. McKinney,**  
**M.D., M.P.H.**

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**Real Estate Team**  
Coldwell Banker  
Dufour Realty  
Dana Miller  
530-570-1184  
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530-717-3884



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**Project Healing Waters**  
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