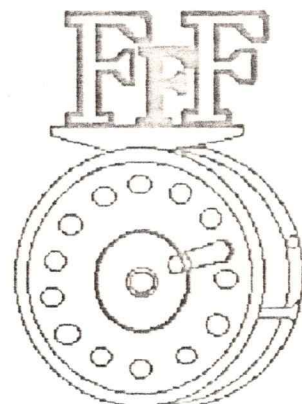


# CHICO FLYER



February 1987

## Chico Fly Fishing Club

## Vol.15 No. 2

### OFFICERS

- ✓ President: Mark Adams  
345-5042
- N.S. Vice President: Marv Turner  
891-4818
- ✓ Secretary: Pat Murphy  
~~345-0124~~
- ✓ Treasurer: Ray Narbitz  
894-5220

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- ✓ Ron Leger 343-5191
- ✓ Dick Murrill 343-8900
- ✓ Norm Nielsen 895-1117
- ✓ Jim Gaumer 891-8636

### CONSERVATION:

Rex Thompson 345-0232

### EDITORS:

Ron Leger & Bert Robinson

Chico Flyer published & distributed by handicapped students of Sierra del Oro School

Chico Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3583  
Chico, CA 95927-3583

### Calendar:

February 10 Meeting  
Loma Vista School 7:30pm

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All club or organizations require members who get involved. The level of involvement can be quite varied from attendance at club functions or fishouts to volunteering for a committee or officer's position. The point is that involvement is the key to a club's success. Its always nice to see the membership roster expand with new additions but I would rather see more existing members make an effort to become "active" members. Let's see more club members at this years dinner. Let's see more club members at monthly meetings. Let's see more volunteers for committees and for officership. And let's see more members on fishouts, enjoying and sharing our favorite pastime. MSA

### "CONSERVATION NOTES"

#### Golden Opportunity

If there was ever a time for our club to have an impact on the real key to fish populations in Northern California, the next three years will provide a great opportunity. That key is water, and exactly who gets how much will be determined by the State Water Resources Control Board over the next three years.

Recently, Judge Racanelli, in a landmark court decision, gave the State Water Resources Control Board the power to reduce the amount of water a

### Conservation Cont.

Now is the time for us to speak up and get involved. We must urge the Department of Fish and Game to present valid data that proves the obvious link between water flows and fish populations. In order to win concessions from the Water Board, the D.F.G. Must Show some backbone and bring forward documented biological evidence with the kind of power sportsmen expect from them. What an opportunity for the D.F.G. to get back in the good graces of sportsmen.

I have requested a work plan for the hearing process and hope to have more information for you soon. In the mean time,

Good Fishing!

### VISIT THE MCCLLOUD

Tom Hesseldenz of the Nature Conservancy's McCloud River Preserve is looking for volunteers to stay in the cabin during the winter months. If you are interested Tom's message phone number is (916) 926-4366. This is a chance of a lifetime for some lucky person who can afford the time. Good luck Tom, I only wish I could volunteer!

### Monster Steelhead and the Mattole River

by Dale Swire

Every fisherman has his preferred fish and his favorite stream. Undoubtedly it is one that is so full of memories that when





# Chico Fly Fishing Club

# Vol.15 No. 2

### OFFICERS

✓ President: Mark Adams  
345-5042

N.S. Vice President: Marv Turner  
891-4818

✓ Secretary: Pat Murphy  
~~345-0124~~

✓ Treasurer: Ray Narbitz  
894-5220

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- ✓ Ron Leger 343-5191
- ✓ Dick Murrill 343-8900
- ✓ Norm Nielsen 895-1117
- ✓ Jim Gaumer 891-8636

### CONSERVATION:

Rex Thompson 345-0232

### EDITORS:

Ron Leger & Bert Robinson

Chico Flyer published & distributed by handicapped students of Sierra del Oro School

Chico Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 3583  
Chico, CA 95927-3583

### Calendar:

February 10 Meeting  
Loma Vista School 7:30pm

February 17 Fly Tying  
Loma Vista School 7:30pm

February 21,22 Fishout  
Klamouth River-Steelhead

March 20 Annual Dinner  
Chico CARD Center 6pm

March 28 Fishout  
Manzanita Lake-Trout

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All club or organizations require members who get involved. The level of involvement can be quite varied from attendance at club functions or fishouts to volunteering for a committee or officer's position. The point is that involvement is the key to a club's success. Its always nice to see the membership roster expand with new additions but I would rather see more existing members make an effort to become "active" members. Let's see more club members at this years dinner. Let's see more club members at monthly meetings. Let's see more volunteers for committees and for officership. And let's see more members on fishouts, enjoying and sharing our favorite pastime. MSA

### "CONSERVATION NOTES"

#### Golden Opportunity

If there was ever a time for our club to have an impact on the real key to fish populations in Northern California, the next three years will provide a great opportunity. That key is water, and exactly who gets how much will be determined by the State Water Resources Control Board over the next three years.

Recently, Judge Racanelli, in a landmark court decision, gave the State Water Resources Control Board the power to reduce the amount of water a contractor is taking in order to benefit fish and wildlife. Each of the 5,000 water diversions in California will be reviewed through a hearing process conducted by the Water Board as well as the needs of the fish and wildlife that use that water. And speaking of needs, Southern California has renewed its fever for the "peripheral canal". Their surveys contend that the existing drinking water via the San Joaquin Valley is becoming undrinkable due to pesticides and that projected water usage by the year 2000 will surpass any previous projections.

### Conservation Cont.

Now is the time for us to speak up and get involved. We must urge the Department of Fish and Game to present valid data that proves the obvious link between water flows and fish populations. In order to win concessions from the Water Board, the D.F.G. Must Show some backbone and bring forward documented biological evidence with the kind of power sportsmen expect from them. What an opportunity for the D.F.G. to get back in the good graces of sportsmen.

I have requested a work plan for the hearing process and hope to have more information for you soon. In the mean time,  
Good Fishing!

### VISIT THE MC CLOUD

Tom Hesseldenz of the Nature Conservancy's McCloud River Preserve is looking for volunteers to stay in the cabin during the winter months. If you are interested Tom's message phone number is (916) 926-4366. This is a chance of a lifetime for some lucky person who can afford the time. Good luck Tom, I only wish I could volunteer!

### Monster Steelhead and the Mattole River

by Dale Swire

Every fisherman has his preferred fish and his favorite stream. Undoubtedly it is one that is so full of memories that when he returns to those familiar stretches of water his adrenaline begins to run, sending a rush of excitement through his body. For me, that's my love experience with the Mattole River near Cape Mendocino and the powerful and acrobatic coastal steelhead (Eel River strain). Despite its relatively short length and size; the Mattole has produced an excellent fish-per-rod ratio and features some monster-sized fish. The first fish I ever caught there weighed in at 14 pounds; I was so afraid that I would lose it that I straddled and sat on it when I had it finally beached to keep it from flipping



## Mattole Cont.

back into the water.

I had grown up in Santa Cruz in the late 1940's and early 1950's. That ever-productive little San Lorenzo River rushed down the Santa Cruz mountains, through its redwood gorge and out through Santa Cruz to the ocean. It was there during my high school days that I became aware of the power and acrobatic feats of the sea-going rainbow "Salmo Gairnerii". To mitigate for the vulnerability of the anadromous fish passing through a developed community in a narrow short stream, the Department of Fish and Game applied a law that allowed fishing only on Wednesdays and weekends, plus holidays. When the fish were running, many of our seats in high school were empty on Wednesdays!!

Later after the Korean War I married into the Mancanti family who were great outdoors people. Uncle Al Mancanti was a tough little logger who had felled, tree-topped and later peeled redwoods up and down our coast; he was also an intense steelhead fisherman, spending all of his downtime from the lumber industry on the coastal streams.

Thus he became one of the early pros and my mentor on steelhead habits and habitat. Al had discovered the Mattole back after the Second World War. By the time I joined the family he had fished every steelhead stream along the coast from Carmel to Crescent City. The Mattole was his favorite and he learned it like no one else. He often had twenty fish days up until his logging accident, which cost him an eye and kept him off the streams for a year and a half. Because of its remote and isolated nature in Southwestern Humboldt County the Mattole River Valley has retained a rustic and undeveloped quality over these years. It is a little "out of the way" for most fishermen and you have to drive by either the Main Eel or the South Fork to get to it, and that's hard to do when that water looks so good! An ironic advantage provided the Mattole fishery is the fact that poor logging practices of decades ago has caused an exposure of topsoil that creates a muddy water condition with any kind of serious weather.

## Mattole Cont.

steelhead escape the fisherman each year to perpetuate the fishery. Unfortunately, the two drought years of the 1970's have greatly curtailed the king and silver salmon runs which used to highlight the early fishing of the Fall/Winter season. The winter run steelhead enter the river when the mouth is flushed open with the heavy fall rains. By Christmas they are generally in fair numbers. January and February are the big months. As the big fresh fish tapper off, March provides fishing for downstreamers or "run-backs" which are usually still silvery and in good shape, and an infusion of another strain of steelhead, the "blueback", a two to four pound dynamo who will leap and run with even more ferocity than the winter monster. The bluebacks run into April. It is at this time that more fly fishermen are found because the heavy swift waters of winter pose a particularly challenging problem to the average flyfisher. Spin and bait casting rigs generally perform more effectively. Favored lures include glow bugs, okie drifters and other egg sac imitations. In clear low water conditions, streamers, spinners and flatfish are productive.

When a fresh run of fish is in the river and the water conditions are right, it is not uncommon for some fortunate fisherman to "sit down on a jag of them and have a half dozen hookups in a relatively short period of time. I'll never forget that day that Al and I caught and released 19 large fish one afternoon right at the Petrolia Bridge. A normal fishing day still should provide a skilled angler with a half dozen hits and a couple of "fish-ons". Landing averages can be rough on the Mattole because of the fighting power of this strain of steelhead and his proximity to the ocean, he is very fresh and sassy. I've become accustomed to a 50% success ratio. Al never wanted to lose any, although he seldom kept one.

We lost Al a few years ago; fortunately he died the way he would have wanted to- on the Mattole. With his one eye he felt less stable and apparently had lost his balance, fallen onto some rocks and rolled into

## Mattole Cont.

because I just got the call from my fishing camp contact, Bob. His son caught an 18 pounder and a 15 pounder just yesterday, so I'm off in the morning at dawn, I'll be there for afternoon fishing.

P.S. If you are at all interested in learning more about the Mattole and a rustic fishing camp that I am getting a group together to buy there, give me a call at 894-1345 when I get back, I'll also be at the next general club meeting in February if I'm not still fishing!

## MACIES P.C. TRUSTIES

by Lionel R. MacDonald

In any given quantity of popped popcorn there are some kernels which have parts broken off. On some pieces, part of the kernel shell is still attached. I have observed these small pieces of popped corn as they were blown onto the water of a well-known stocked trout stream. I noticed the pop-corn floated and was being readily taken by fish. Why couldn't I duplicate a kernel of corn? I found the pop-corn fly easy to develop. I tied on a body of burnt yellow floss. On top of the body I tied on white deer body hair. I secured the hair at the front and back with 3-5 turns of white thread. Trim the hair as close to the tie as possible without making it unravel. The size of the pattern will depend on the individual, since there are some of us who prefer size 18's and those of us who prefer larger sizes.

The companion to this fly is the burnt pop-corn fly. This one is tied in similar sizes, and has a body of black wool and a topping of black deer body hair. The thread, naturally, is black. I've fished both of them dead drift, and they're killers.

From here the variation in color of body and deer body hair are limited only by one's imagination. One obvious variation to this is the fish pellet fly. This would be about size

12, with a tan-brown body and a natural deer body hair topping. If you've ever seen fish pellets being offered to fish, you know the fish really boil for them. They sink as they hit the water, so some lead



community in a narrow short stream, the Department of Fish and Game applied a law that allowed fishing only on Wednesdays and weekends, plus holidays. When the fish were running, many of our seats in high school were empty on Wednesdays!!

Later after the Korean War I married into the Mancanti family who were great outdoors people. Uncle Al Mancanti was a tough little logger who had felled, tree-topped and later peeled redwoods up and down our coast; he was also an intense steelhead fisherman, spending all of his downtime from the lumber industry on the coastal streams.

Thus he became one of the early pros and my mentor on steelhead habits and habitat. Al had discovered the Mattole back after the Second World War. By the time I joined the family he had fished every steelhead stream along the coast from Carmel to Crescent City. The Mattole was his favorite and he learned it like no one else. He often had twenty fish days up until his logging accident, which cost him an eye and kept him off the streams for a year and a half. Because of its remote and isolated nature in Southwestern Humboldt County the Mattole River Valley has retained a rustic and undeveloped quality over these years. It is a little "out of the way" for most fishermen and you have to drive by either the Main Eel or the South Fork to get to it, and that's hard to do when that water looks so good! An ironic advantage provided the Mattole fishery is the fact that poor logging practices of decades ago has caused an exposure of topsoil that creates a muddy water condition with any kind of serious weather. And the watershed, although rather limited to the Kings Range west of Weott and Garberville, does receive a generous amount of rainfall, located just south of Cape Mendocino. The fifteen mile fishable area stretches from the confluence of Honeydew Creek and the Upper Mattole at Honeydew down ten miles to Petrolia and then to the sea. There is no serious problem for migration for our finny friends to their spawning gravels, consequently with the river often high and roly, large numbers of

provides fishing for downstreamers or "run-backs" which are usually still silvery and in good shape, and an infusion of another strain of steelhead, the "blueback", a two to four pound dynamo who will leap and run with even more ferocity than the winter monster. The bluebacks run into April. It is at this time that more fly fishermen are found because the heavy swift waters of winter pose a particularly challenging problem to the average flyfisher. Spin and bait casting rigs generally perform more effectively. Favored lures include glow bugs, okie drifters and other egg sac imitations. In clear low water conditions, streamers, spinners and flatfish are productive.

When a fresh run of fish is in the river and the water conditions are right, it is not uncommon for some fortunate fisherman to "sit down on a jag of them and have a half dozen hookups in a relatively short period of time. I'll never forget that day that Al and I caught and released 19 large fish one afternoon right at the Petrolia Bridge. A normal fishing day still should provide a skilled angler with a half dozen hits and a couple of "fish-ons". Landing averages can be rough on the Mattole because of the fighting power of this strain of steelhead and his proximity to the ocean, he is very fresh and sassy. I've become accustomed to a 50% success ratio. Al never wanted to lose any, although he seldom kept one.

We lost Al a few years ago; fortunately he died the way he would have wanted to- on the Mattole. With his one eye he felt less stable and apparently had lost his balance, fallen onto some rocks and rolled into the river. It's funny though, Bob Brenlen, another of Al's proteges, and I have both seen Al on the river on occasion but he always seems to keep out of reach, just around the next bend. We have discussed this and we think that Al has special permission to reclaim his fishing rights on the Mattole, providing he doesn't stop and talk to his old friends and give away any information as to where the fresh run is!

Anyway I must finish this little story and go get my gear ready

## MACIES P.C. TRUSTIES

by Lionel R. MacDonald

In any given quantity of popped popcorn there are some kernels which have parts broken off. On some pieces, part of the kernel shell is still attached. I have observed these small pieces of popped corn as they were blown onto the water of a well-known stocked trout stream. I noticed the pop-corn floated and was being readily taken by fish. Why couldn't I duplicate a kernel of corn? I found the pop-corn fly easy to develop. I tied on a body of burnt yellow floss. On top of the body I tied on white deer body hair. I secured the hair at the front and back with 3-5 turns of white thread. Trim the hair as close to the tie as possible without making it unravel. The size of the pattern will depend on the individual, since there are some of us who prefer size 18's and those of us who prefer larger sizes.

The companion to this fly is the burnt pop-corn fly. This one is tied in similar sizes, and has a body of black wool and a topping of black deer body hair. The thread, naturally, is black. I've fished both of them dead drift, and they're killers.

From here the variation in color of body and deer body hair are limited only by one's imagination. One obvious variation to this is the fish pellet fly. This would be about size 12, with a tan-brown body and a natural deer body hair topping. If you've ever seen fish pellets being offered to fish, you know the fish really boil for them. They sink as they hit the water, so some lead wire on the hook shank will accomplish this nicely.

I've tied them all and fished them all in both still and moving water. They work very well. Tie some up and try them, I think you'll probably have an overwhelming urge to rid yourself of your 14,000 dry flies and replace them with Macies Popcorn Trusties. (Did you ever in your wildest dreams think you'd ever be without those classic Adams', Cahill's, Hendrickson's, or Henerville's?)



## Popcorn Cont.

(Editor's note, The patterns are from the East coast. The West Coast versions of these flies are known as "Blue Light Pop Corn Specials")

**Pop-Corn Fly:** Use std. dry fly hook, white thread, burnt yellow floss body, white deer hair topping

**Burnt Pop-Corn Fly:** Use std. dry fly hook, black thread, black wool body, black deer hair topping

**Fish Pellet Fly:** Use std. wet fly hook, brown thread, tan-brown fur body, natural deer hair topping

## 1987 Fishout Schedule

February 21-22 Klamouth Steelhead

March 28 Manzanita Lake Trout

April 25-26 Hat Creek Trout

May 17 Baldwin Ponds- Bass

June 6 Sacramento River Shad

June 13-14 Modoc County Trout

July 11 Deer Creek Squawfish

July 18-19 Eagle Lake/McCoy Flay -Trout

August 15-16 Butte Lake Estuary -Trout

September 26-27 Klamouth -Steelhead

October 10-11 Pit River Trout

November 7-8 Davis Lake Trout

December 10 Pizons anchovy grab

## Annual Dinner March 20

It is that time of year again. Our annual dinner is just around the corner. Get your dinner tickets early they are going fast. Gary Borger is an outstanding speaker.

## Dues

Dues are due. Pay your dues before March so you will continue to receive the Chico Flyer.

## Lost & Found

A special thanks to Fred for the \$832.60 donation for the rental of the lost trout tape!

Lost- Powell Fly Shop is looking for their shad tape. If you have it in your YCR please return it before shad season. Fred would like to use it.

## Annual Dinner

If you know of someone who would like to donate fishing oriented items for the raffel, we can always use more. Help support conservation by selling raffel tickets. If you need more tickets call Mark Adams, his number is on the front page.

## 1987 Fishout Schedule

February 21-22 Klamouth  
Steelhead

March 28 Manzanita Lake  
Trout

April 25-26 Hat Creek  
Trout

May 17 Baldwin Ponds-  
Bass

June 6 Sacramento River  
Shad

June 13-14 Modoc County  
Trout

July 11 Deer Creek  
Squawfish

July 18-19 Eagle  
Lake/McCoy Flay -Trout

August 15-16 Butte Lake  
Estuary -Trout

September 26-27  
Klamouth -Steelhead

October 10-11 Pit River  
Trout

November 7-8 Davis Lake  
Trout

December 10 Pizons  
anchovy grab

rental of the lost  
trout tape!

Lost- Powell Fly  
Shop is looking for  
their shad tape. If  
you have it in your  
YCR please return it  
before shad season.  
Fred would like to  
use it.

Annual Dinner  
If you know of  
someone who would  
like to donate  
fishing oriented  
items for the raffel,  
we can always use  
more. Help support  
conservation by  
selling raffel  
tickets. If you need  
more tickets call  
Mark Adams, his  
number is on the  
front page.

## Annual Dinner March 20

It is that time of year again. Our annual dinner is just around the corner. Get your dinner tickets early they are going fast. Gary Borger is an outstanding speaker, his presentation promises to be we will be talking about for years to come. The raffle promises to excellent again this year. Some of the prizes included in the raffle are; 1. Powell graphite rod, 2. 4 guided fishing trips, 3. Reels, 4. Lines, 5. Vest, 6. Flies, and much much more. Help the club support worthy causes by selling raffle tickets to all of your friends and acquaintances. Contact a board member for ticket information.