



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts January 2021

Next General Meeting To Be Determined



Greetings my fellow fly fishermen and women.

I hope you are enjoying these wonderfully beautiful days, though we'd rather have some rain, yes! There are a few things I'd like to cover in this President's line today; therefore, I do hope you will take the time to read this entire message. These are unusual times; thus, we all need to be thinking outside the box. I would love to have your support in helping our supporters...who are they? Well, they are the businesses that have supported our dinner every year. Without their support we wouldn't have the funds to support the different programs and clubs we so proudly like to help: salmon in a classroom; Hooked on Fishing; Project Healing Waters (disabled American Vets); Almanor Fishing Association; and the list goes on and on! Now, is the time "they", our supporters, NEED OUR HELP! Please, read on to the list of all the names of people and businesses. Please see if you can support just one or more of the restaurants or businesses that could be hurting due to the COVID 19 rules. Please, as well...tell them our club, Chico Area Fly fishers, wants to give back to them for their yearly support of our club. We have over 400 members in our club; and, "we" can make a difference for them. I thank you so much for "your" help. I realize it's been hard for so many of us to structure-in-place; but, I do see the sunshine at the end of the tunnel! I trust you do as well. It always makes me feel so good to help others in their depressed time...Thank you for even thinking about it!!!

We, Don and I just got back from Mexico with a group of members with "no problems". We plan on the September fly fishing trips/groups as well. Mexico has been very safe for us and abiding by every cleansing rule we have here: masks, hand sanitizers, monitoring employees every day they come to work and cleaning constantly! And, no one got sick.

Elden is anxious to get some fish outs on the board when we are allowed to do so. Therefore, when you look at our fish out schedule you will see TBD. We can't set one up until we're allowed to have get-to-gathers. I look forward to this changing soon though.

I do miss you and look forward to the General meetings, fish outs and our dinner in 2022. I'm hopeful in 2022 we will have our supporting businesses still in business and putting us in their 2022 budget.

Please enjoy John Crotty's report about Almanor Fishing Association.

In the mean time...please stay safe... and we'll get through this together. It'll be something we talk about as "the past"...remember that COVID scare...we'll say.

Sincerely,
Pat Sleeper

Almanor Fishing Association

As you may know AFA was forced to cancel a number of events this year including our annual fundraiser. Through your generous donation we will continue to serve the Lake Almanor fishery and work with Chester High School and Feather River college to promote and enhance our brown trout fishery. We raised 13,500 ARI brown trout in our pens and released another 7,000 ARI browns directly into Almanor at the private boat ramp at Almanor West.

Your donation is crucial to the continued success of our fish rearing cage program, which is the longest-running most successful fish rearing program in the state. In April, of 2019 we released 50,000 fertile Shasta Lake Rainbows into Almanor. We have added two additional fish pens and docking at Hamilton Branch in 2020 increasing our capacity to 60,000 fish.

AFA is a non-profit organization (501.c.3) we work hard to earn the trust of our members, donors and the Lake Almanor Community. Thank you for your support.
John Crotty, President

SAVE THE DATES:

Veteran's Fishing Day 6-26-2021

(Contact Deb to sign up for a Captain and how many Veterans you could accommodate/ Thx

Annual Picnic 7-31-2021

Almanor Fishing Association

Tax ID number 60296702

Check Out Our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/96137Lake/>

Thank you to Donors!!!

Donation list:

5th Street Steakhouse
Anglers Inn
International - Billy
Chapman Jr
Basque Norte
Bell Carter Olive
Packing Company
Big Daddy guide
Service, Almanor
Camp, Jerome and
Peggy
CARD
Carl Selkirk
Chico Miller Home Team
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Sierra Stream and
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Spiteri's Deli
Sportsman's Warehouse
Steve Bohnemeyer
Trader Joe's
Terri Spiteri
Terry Mich
The Nature Conservancy
Toby Uppinghouse
Tres Hombres
Wayne Syn

Bass Fishing Lake Picachos Jan 10-15, 2021: By Pat & Don

Our group of 6, (Jeff, Lionel, Pete, Mat, Don and Pat) had a wonderful time; and, we're all talking about the next trip Jan 2022 to Lake Picachos owned by Angler's Inn, Mexico. Mexico was safe, the folks at Angler's Inn followed all COVID-19 guidelines, it felt safer than California.

The weather was beautiful: every day the temperature ranged in the low 70's. Fishing this lake is quite fun as the water has a tea like color in most areas due to the abundance of foliage around the lake sides; though there are sandy beaches, as well, where you can slowly drag your fly into the water and watch-out for the crash from the usual bass. Frequently, you'll watch these, nice bass, blow-up on a clouser, popper or minnow imitation by hitting some of the surrounding banks, walls, dead trees and foliage; then the times "foliage" seemed to be a favorite of mine...most days, it would softly hit the water with a bit of "mild" finesse; and, ohhhh....s....nag! I believe this was taking into consideration the lake was down, with many new islands appearing.

Our group of six Fly fishermen caught and released over 2000 Black Bass in 4 days of fishing had our arms and backs a bit sore; and all this with no broken fly rods and only one reel bit the dust. The fish ranged between 1 lb. and 6.25 lbs. We used poppers, small minnow patterns and clousers. Don & Pat did a lot of popper dropper fishing and caught a great deal of doubles: one day 10 doubles to the boat. Our best day total was 191 and two of our friends caught 286 bass in one day.

The majority of our fish were caught using poppers and minnow patterns; with the 4ft dropper under the popper. Angler's Inn International owned by Billy Chapman "always" provides the most outstanding service of any lodge we have ever fished out of!!! Next year we'll be back again with outfitter: <https://patsflyfishing.com>



Pat with a nice bass



Don catching two fish at one time



Jeff Richelieu



Pete Wiik



Dinner with the group



Lionel Valley

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Update:

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have been unable to conduct any type of face-to-face activities since March. Our 4 core activities are: casting, tying, rod building and fishing. In the near future we hope to be able to conduct one-on-one activities including fishing day trips. We are always looking for water that may hold any type of fish that can be caught on a fly rod. If you know of any farm pond, ski lake, dredger pond, section of creek/river that can be fished from shore or even float tubed, please let me know. Thanks so much.

Pete Wiik
Program Lead, PHWFF
530-520-9495

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@aaproducton.com or Tom Rosenow troseow.chico@gmail.com

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
May TBD	Wild horse Reservoir;	Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com
May TBD	Crane Prairie Lake, Oregon;	Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com
June TBD	Lake Almanor BBQ Butt Lake –	Pat Sleeper 345-1197
Sep 4 - 18	Dorado fishing, Mexico	www.patsflyfishing.com – 530-345-1197 Two or three, one week trips.....depends on demand.
Oct TBD	Little Grass valley Reservoir	Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com

CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2021

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
Jan 13, 2021	Members Share fishing trips	Cancelled
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, January, 2021

Mayer's Mini Leech Perdigon

By: Ray Narbaitz

I've never cared much about competitive fly fishing. Like many of you, time on the water for me is a time to relax, enjoy the surroundings and let the outside world go away. I don't need the adrenaline rush of competing while I'm doing it. That may be one of the reasons why I never count how many fish I catch. Again, I have nothing against it; it's just not for me. And I know that a lot of the advancements we have in our sport today came out of the world of competitive fly fishing. Among those advancements is learning new techniques from other countries, and finding they work well in this country as well. Also among them are the flies that go with the techniques.

As I said in last month's FOTM, I have done 120 of these columns over twelve years. Almost all of them have been pretty standard type flies using pretty standard type techniques and materials. Since this is the start of a new year, I thought I would branch out a bit, and introduce a fairly new type of fly that comes from the world of competitive fly fishing. Perdigon is not a specific fly it's a style of fly that came out of Spain. Perdigon in Spanish means pellet or shot and its designed to sink like one. With tungsten beads, and UV Resin covered bodies, there is practically nothing to cause any friction as the flies sink through the water column. Paul Shepard, a fly designer in Salt Lake City wrote an article about Perdigon flies in the spring issue of Fly Tyer Magazine. He said in his experiments tracking the sink rate between a Perdigon fly and something like a bead head PT, the Perdigon sank almost twice as fast.

Perdigon flies come with some pretty specific directions on materials, hooks, etc. I am certain, if someone wanted to vary from those suggestions the flies would probably work just fine. I'll leave that up to you. If you want to tie some true Perdigon type flies, then you will probably have to invest in some new hooks and materials. In this month's FOTM I'll talk about some of those items, and the reasons behind them. Next month we'll actually get down to tying one.

I know...I know, we all have our old favorites. I have mine, and I fish them most of the time. At last year's CAF Banquet one of the patterns I had donated for the silent auction was an Olive Bird's Nest. Do you still fish those, someone asked me. You bet I do, and I will continue to do so until I can no longer get to the water. But, if you are interested in trying something new that requires some new (and old) materials and techniques, come aboard and expand your horizons a bit.

Hooks: Perdigon flies are almost exclusively tied on 60-degree jig hooks. More specifically, on competition style hooks. These are almost always black, with long, very sharp, barbless points. The competition guys like the jig hooks for two reasons. First, because of the position of the bead, the hooks tend to ride point up. This reduces the number of snags on a fly designed to fish right at the bottom. Secondly, because they ride hook up, they tend to hook the fish in the upper portion of its jaw. This is the hardest part of a Trout's jaw, and once a hook is in there, it tends not to come out until you remove it. There are a number of good, competition hooks out there including



Hanak, Umpqua Competition Hooks, Fulling Mill and Fire Stick.

Beads: The hooks call for slotted beads. If you have ever tried to get a standard, counter sunk bead onto a jig hook, you know it doesn't work. It just won't go over the bend of the jig and seat properly. All Perdigon recipes also call for tungsten beads. Remember, the object is to sink quickly.

Tail: If the pattern does call for a tail, it almost certainly will be Coq de Leon. It is a good choice because it has speckling somewhat like Wood Duck with a nice sheen, but it is significantly more durable.

UV Resin: There are a lot of brands out there, and as near as I can tell, there really isn't a lot to choose among them. Most of them work pretty well. I've written before that a product called Bondic from Amazon works and has the UV light built in. Two other big names are Loon and Solarz. I use Loon Thin, not for any scientific reason, but because that's what was available locally. It has worked just fine for me. I have heard that some are still tacky after you cure them, but I'm not sure what they are. I would suggest you use something that is not too thick. It is far better to use thin layers than to goop it on. If you want a heavy layer, use two thin ones. You can get UV flashlights for up to sixty dollars. I got one on Amazon that was a third of that.

Materials: Here is where a lot of the variety comes in. It can be many things, including just the thread. A note here is if you are tying with thread remember it will probably darken when you apply the UV Resin. This is also true of many of the materials you will use for ribbing. Two materials that I have come to really like for Perdigon flies are Veevus Body Quill and Sulky Tinsel. You want stuff that is flat, and not bulky. As you might expect, there are many variations here, so help yourself. Do remember that you want a pretty slim profile on these flies.

Notes: Most of the competition guys tie these with different sized beads, depending on the water they are fishing. Their rules do not allow any weight to be put on the leader, so they compensate by the bead size, sometimes using a much bigger bead than you expect for the size fly. However, we aren't in competition, so I pretty much size the bead to the fly, and if I'm not getting the fly down, I just put shot on the leader as usual. You might also consider this.

In competition, your standing depends on the number of fish you catch. If these flies were not so effective, you can believe the participants would not be relying on them so heavily. See you next month.

LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

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

BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Pat Sleeper.....345-1197

Vice President
Larry Willis.....520-8556

Secretary:
Dave McKinney.....570-1342

Treasurer:
Don Sleeper345-1197

Board Members:
Eric See899-1918
Scott Joyce899-8500
Dana Miller570-1184
Dave Mckinney570-1342
Jerry Stevenson.....345-7389

Past President:
David McKinney570-1342

Committee Chairpersons:
Membership Director Jerry Stevenson
Fish Master Tom Rosenow520-3053
Fish Master Elden Hinkle518-4680
Conservation Pat Hallin518-5031
Web Master:.....Don Sleeper

David W. McKinney, California
Occupational Medical Professionals
M.D., M.P.H.530-534-5135

Project Healing Waters
Pete Wiik.....530-520-9495



Ron Leger
Custom Fish Carvings
530-343-5191
rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com



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

Pre-Employment Physicals
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Spirometry/Respiratory Testing

Newsletter Editor
Scott Sleeper.....899-9856

Proofreader
Ray Narbaitz894-5220
tytline@sbcglobal.net

CAF WEBPAGE
<http://chicoareaflyfishers.org>

FISHING REPORTS
www.fishfirst.com

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Don Sleeper345-1197



Miller & Dean
Real Estate Team
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Dufour Realty

Dana Miller
530-570-1184

Frankie Dean
530-717-3884



Past president of Chico Area Flyfishers