

# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

**short casts**

**march**

**General Meeting – March 13 7:30 PM  
Butte County Library**

This months program is....well I'm really not sure because I don't know, but I bet it will be interesting and there is always a great raffle.



## THE LINE

**Dawit Zeleke, CAF Past President**

## CAF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner was a great success. A good time was had by all and we raised a lot of money for some very good causes. Again we thank all of you for your continuing support and the local businesses for coming through on all the gifts and services they provided for the auction.

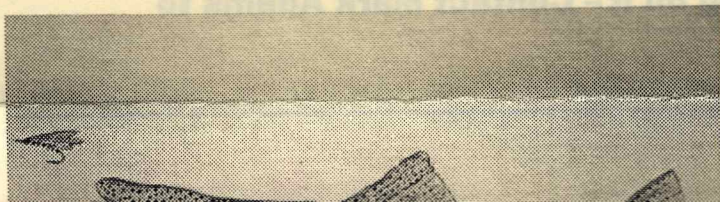
Over 200 members and guests attended the dinner. As we move forward, our challenge will be to encourage your participation in club activities and persist in the hard work of lobbying our elected leaders and government to support our use of the outdoors. If you have any suggestions for CAF-sponsored activities, please see any of the board members.

So go out and fish -- that is one way we can show others our numbers. Fish the local waters. Talk to each other on the river. Write an editorial for the local paper. Call your Representatives and become a member of groups like California Trout. Democracy works only when we play, and it takes a lot of time and energy. That is why we have to show our support of conservation groups. At the dinner you showed your commitment in a big way. But our work has just begun.

## The Story of the Big Chico Creek Fishing Regulations Change

By Eric See

On July 24, 2001, seven private landowners in the upper Big Chico Creek watershed (Ken Grossman, Steve Bickley, Jim Crane, Roger Mathews, Katie Gonser, Hans Schroeder, and Dulcy Schroeder) sent a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) requesting a closure to all fishing on Big Chico Creek from Bear Hole upstream to Higgins Hole Falls. Essentially, the entire trout fishing section. They based their request on concerns for spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead, but did not explain how the current fishing regulations, which already were highly restrictive (seasonal closures, catch and release, artificial lures with barbless hooks), were harming the fish populations in the creek. Nonetheless, the California Department of Fish and Game went along with this proposal, and decided to take it one step further and proposed to open the section below Bear Hole to bait fishing with barbed hooks for 4 months of the year. The Chico Area Flyfishers opposed these changes in several letters, petitions, and public testimony before the Commission; the basis for CAF's opposition was simple: special regulations were already in effect on the stream, closing it to fishing would not enhance the fish populations so the result would be an unjustified loss of a public fishery. CAF pointed out that the proposal was based on the assumption that the current regulations were harming the fish and needed to be

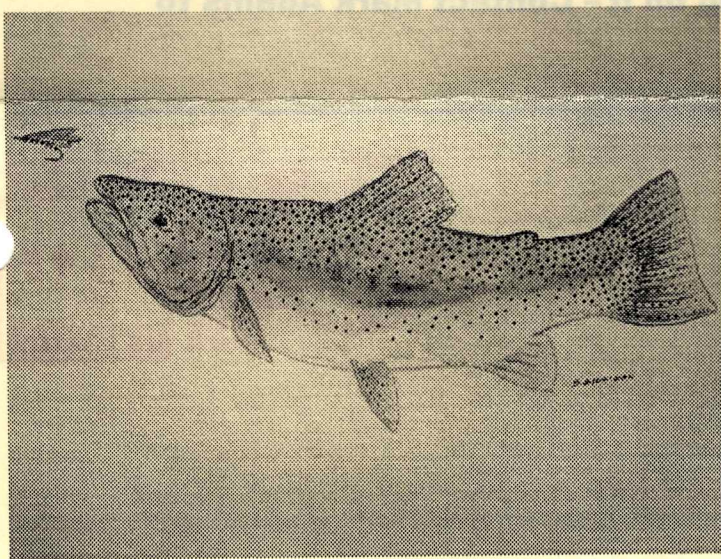




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A Scott Gilligan Original

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The end result is that all fishing on Big Chico Creek has been closed from Higgins Hole Falls it is only open from the upper boundown to the

(Continued on page 2)



## SUPPORTERS

**Chico Fly Shop**  
Chico, CA  
(530) 345-9983

**Fish First**  
Chico, CA  
(530) 343-8300

**Merganser Outfitters**  
Chico, CAa  
(530) 345-4071

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Chico, CAa  
(530) 345-4071

**Oasis Springs Lodge**  
Paynes Creek, CA  
(530) 642-4150

**Big Bluff Ranch**  
Red Bluff, CA  
(530) 529-2291



**RAPTOR ROD WORKS**  
Production \* Custom \* Repair  
(530) 894-2062

### Calendar of Events

**Gen. Mtg - Mar 13th - 7:30**

**No fish out this month**

**Fly Tying - Mar 22 7 pm**  
**Chico Fly Shop**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**pmh@stormnet.com**

### **CAF WEBPAGE**

**www.stormnet.com/caf**

*(Continued from page 1)*

upper boundary of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, and dary of the Reserve to Bear Hole from November 15 to February 15, a 3-month winter fishery. For the first time in Chico's history, spring and summertime trout fishing will not be allowed on Big Chico Creek in Upper Bidwell Park, and October fishing on the new Preserve lands has also been eliminated. The last two weeks of February have been cut off as well.

In the next few weeks, CAF will be constructing a page on our website that will provide information that documents the events that led up to this closure, it will also provide the letters that CAF sent on this subject, and links to other websites with related information. Hopefully, this page on our website will be a useful tool to allow the public more opportunity to make sure its interests are truly being represented in the future. Also, CAF intends to continue to pursue this issue. CAF will petition the Fish and Game Commission to re-open the stream to at least the former regulations, unless it is actually determined, using good science, that the closure will result in increases to the salmon and steelhead populations in Big Chico Creek.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### **President:**

**Dawit Zeleke.....897-6373**

### **Vice President:**

**Wade Overson.....899-7273**

### **Secretary:**

**John Decker .....342-2972**

### **Treasurer:**

**Cori Ong.....865-2578**

### **Board Members:**

**Roger Bevers.....343-6442**

**Lionel Valley.....343-7364**

**Dana Miller.....345-3266**

**Kelly Child.....876-8539**

### **Past President**

**Mark Adams .....345-5042**

**Fly Tying - March 22, 7 pm**  
**Chico Fly Shop**

**This month Randy will lead us into the "Wonderful World of Bass Poppers". Stop on by. We might even talk him into showing how to do a goop headed deer hair popper.**

### **Getting The Word Out**

Occasionally we receive information that would be of an interest to club members I would very much like to have an e-mail list so that our membership could be contacted when necessary . Just so you know, I will not give the list to anyone other then a board member of the club. So, if you want to be included, e-mail me at: **pmh@stormnet.com**

## FISHOUT SCHEDULE

**Folks are working on it - Contact Mark Adams to volunteer**



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Red Bluff, CA  
(530) 529-2291



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CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'  
P.O. BOX 3583  
CHICO, CA 95927



CAF Web Page hosted by Stormnet Communications as a public service For Premier Internet Service call 897-4060