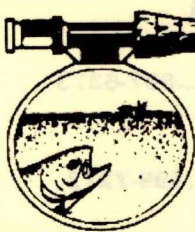


May 2002



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

short casts

Pryamid Lake

by Kelly Child

Note, this is an edited version to fit the space - Editor

As the afternoon rolled on, Redge and Johnny took a couple more breaks (this allowed me to catch up...I had to work twice as hard to keep up with the old -timers). I was finally up to fish number 17 and Redge was at about 22 and Johnny around 17 or 18.

At around 4:00 PM...I used my tactic that had been working that afternoon as I did the rest of the times. It was windy and cold...my wool gloves were soaked and slimy and my hands and fingers hurt. My arm hurt and my back hurt. Johnny was taking a nap and Redge was fishing on his ladder to my right about 20 yards. I was stripping in line and I felt a fish hit. I slowly then surely and hard set the hook. It was solid...then a fish rolled on the surface.

WHOOAAAA!!!!!! It is huge!!!!!! I told Redge it was a monster and I guess he saw it too. I decided rule #1: let the fish go where he wants to go until I figure out another plan. It was funny because the fish kept swimming in the direction that he must have been travelling before I hooked him. He didn't know he was hooked. I gave him a few tugs to try and cautiously bring him toward me...it must have prompted him to make a run...and run he did...he headed for the middle of the lake....I just let my drag weigh on him as he swam for a few minutes. I looked at my reel to find that my 200' of amnesia was getting near the backing. As I looked way out I saw a gargantuan fish jump half-way out of the water and roll...about 30 yards beyond where I thought my fish was...that was him! After that jump he began to swim towards shore...I took in line...staying cautious to let him be able to make head jerks or whatever...it was his game too. I kept my rod and a good 60 degree angle for most of the fight to let my rod absorb his movements while maintaining a tight line. Fortunately Redge coached me...I really have no experience landing big fish. He explained how to wear the fish down by dropping my rod to the side and pulling to a side hard, then changing to the other side. I decided to attempt to bring him to the shoreline to land him.

As I gradually got him closer and closer to shore I caught glimpses of his red side in the sun. I couldn't believe it...this is the fish I've wanted to catch for years...this is like those lucky fishermen in the magazines. (At this point my vanity drew me to look up and listen...oh yeah...some of the guys on their ladders were watching to see what I would land.) Dang was my arm tired...should have put a fighting butt on my rod...incidentally this was my 6-7 weight rod that I had built.

As I came in to shore and the fish seemed to be moved more easily I wondered if it was finally time to wrestle it to

General Meeting - May 8 - 7:30 PM Butte County Library

Roger Lederer from Chico State will be presenting a program on the Chico Creek Ecological Preserve. This is the land at the upper end of Bidwell Park that was once private but now public. Roger will update us on the status of the operations plan for the property, how to gain access, and will be answering all of our questions. This is an awesome piece of property that's right in our backyard and we need to take advantage of it.

Thanks to Jim Clarkson of Raptor Rod Works for the very good program last month. He provided some very interesting information on rod design and rod building. Also, thanks to Great Harvest Bread Company for hosting the meeting.

Hooked on Fishing

Volunteers Needed

Attention Anglers, your skill is needed!
Chico's own kid's fishing day

May 18, 2002

Experienced anglers are really needed by Chico youngsters at the annual "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" event. Last year the event attracted over 3,000 kids.

Put your lifelong love of the sport to good use, and act as a "Coach".

All tackle, bait fish cleaning, and instruction will be provided to the kids for FREE. 9,000 pounds of catfish will be planted to make sure they will be biting. People are needed who are not afraid to put a nightcrawler on a hook, can show kids how to cast, and know how to get the hook out of a catfish's mouth.

This means YOU! The kids need someone, YOU, to show them the joys of fishing. At least 100 experienced anglers are needed to help the children.

Be sure to mention you are a member of CAF when you volunteer.

When: Saturday, May 18, 2002, from 7AM to 1PM

Where: Horseshoe Lake in Chico's Upper Bidwell Park, across from the golf course.

WHOOAAAA!!!!!! It is huge!!!! I told Redge it was a monster and I guess he saw it too. I decided rule #1: let the fish go where he wants to go until I figure out another plan. It was funny because the fish kept swimming in the direction that he must have been travelling before I hooked him. He didn't know he was hooked. I gave him a few tugs to try and cautiously bring him toward me...it must have prompted him to make a run...and run he did...he headed for the middle of the lake....I just let my drag weigh on him as he swam for a few minutes. I looked at my reel to find that my 200' of amnesia was getting near the backing. As I looked way out I saw a gargantuan fish jump halfway out of the water and roll...about 30 yards beyond where I thought my fish was...that was him! After that jump he began to swim towards shore...I took in line...staying cautious to let him be able to make head jerks or whatever...it was his game too. I kept my rod and a good 60 degree angle for most of the fight to let my rod absorb his movements while maintaining a tight line. Fortunately Redge coached me...I really have no experience landing big fish. He explained how to wear the fish down by dropping my rod to the side and pulling to a side hard, then changing to the other side. I decided to attempt to bring him to the shoreline to land him.

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As I came in to shore and the fish seemed to be moved more easily I wondered if it was finally time to wrestle it to shore...was it time for hand to hand combat...one on one just me and the fish? Fortunately, Redge had hollered to Johnny who woke up from his nap in time to watch my battle. He came to the shore and helped lift the fish out of the water. We got three photos then measured the fish. I couldn't believe how big this thing was...33 inches! I removed the fly (the chartreuse wooly bugger) and set the fish down in the water. With out much reviving we watched the beast swim off to the depths of Pyramid Lake.

Exhausted, I then sat down on the beach and just watched the lake and thought about that fish. I also didn't care that Redge had caught 22 fish...they all seemed like dinks at that point.

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When: Saturday, May 18, 2002, from 7AM to 1PM

Where: Horseshoe Lake in Chico's Upper Bidwell Park, across from the golf course.

Contact: Daralene 891-4757 or just show up!



SUPPORTERS

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

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Merganser Outfitters
Chico, CA
(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. Meeting -
May 8th - 7:30

Fish-Out -
May 15 in Chico

Fly Tying - May 16,
7 pm Chico Fly Shop

Fish-Out - June 29th
at
Lake Almanor
(tentative)

NEWSLETTER

pmh@stormnet.com

CAF WEBPAGE

www.stormnet.com/caf

MAY FISH-OUT FOR SHAD

Mark down the evening of Wednesday May 15th if you are a club member that wants to learn more about fishing for Shad on the Sacramento River. Experienced club members will be on the river to provide instruction and guidance to get you started or to freshen your skills. This is a great game fish that is available within minutes of your home. It doesn't take loads of gear to get going for these strong fighting fish. All you need is a medium weight rod, probably the old standard 9-foot 6-weight and a shooting head line with some easy running backing. Add in a spool of leader material and a few easy-to-tie shad flies and you're ready to go. The 15th is a little early in the season for catching fish but is just right for learning the techniques so you can enjoy the rest of the season. We'll be meeting at the Washout access starting at 5:00 pm and going until dark. Show up when you can, bring something to eat and drink (no bottles), and some bug spray. It may be a little cool to wade wet so bring some waders. We'll have plenty of extra gear for those that aren't already rigged up for shad. Check with one of the local fly shops for more information on shad fishing gear and the SHAD FISH-OUT or give me a call, Mark Adams 345-5042.

JUNE FISH-OUT:

The June fish-out is tentatively scheduled for June 29th at Lake Almanor to catch the HEX hatch. More info will be provided in next months newsletter.

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 than a board member of the club. So, if you want to be included, e-mail me at: pmh@stormnet.com

BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Dawit Zeleke.....897-6373

Vice President:

Wade Overson.....899-7273

Secretary:

John Decker342-2972

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 Adams345-5042

Fly Tying - May 16, 7 pm Chico Fly Shop

Night at the Vise-

John and Larry at the Chico Fly Shop have asked Joe Slusark, aquatic entomologist and fly tier, to assist our monthly fly tying sessions. This is a rare and limited addition to our fly tying sessions so don't regret the chance to learn something new. This month Joe will present an introduction to the aquatic insect groups important to the flyfisherman. For our first class Joe will begin with a brief overview of the biology of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and midges. He will then discuss useful patterns and more importantly how to properly fish these flies in a manner that imitates the insects' natural behavior. In the months that follow we will take a much closer look at specific species of insects hatching in our area. As your hosts Larry and John would like to encourage the club members to give their thoughts and support to the new fly tying format.

FISHOUT SCHEDULE

See Calendar of events -

Contact Mark Adams to volunteer



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P.O. BOX 3583
CHICO, CA 95927

