

CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

short casts

May 2005



THE LINE

Dana Miller, CAF President

Well it's finally that time of year! Time to get the fly rod out of the closet, tie a few new flies, buy some new leaders and accessories and GO FISHING!

As I've always said this is God's Country when it comes to fly-fishing. Salmon, Steelhead, Trout, Stripers, and Bass are all within a short drive. Do you want to catch a steelhead? Try the Feather River, a new run is in now. How about a Brook Trout? The High lakes in Plumas County have Brookies that can reach 18 inches. I saw one that big caught there! Bass? The Sacramento River has backwaters that are full of Largemouths, also Lake Oroville is becoming a hot spot for Bass fishermen. We have all the best fishing right here in our own back yard. So take time off and GO!

So I did, I took time off work and went to Davis Lake in late April. I find that weekends are just too busy with fishermen everywhere. The weekdays are far less crowded!

Davis Lake, home of the Northern Pike, but not for too much longer! The California Dept. of Fish and Game is planning to poison the lake in 2007. My advice to them is to lower the lake as much as possible, double the amount of Rotenone, and poison all tributaries all the way to where they bubble out of the mountain. I understand there are already people protesting the poisoning; they must be members of Pike Unlimited or The California Pike Association! Didn't the State of California pay these people millions of dollars the last time? Here we go again!

(Continued on page 2)

May 11th General Meeting:

Butte County Library, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Lincoln Brown, Manager - Sierra Stream Mountain Fly Shop - Nymph Fishing Lake Almanor.

Secretaries Secrets

By Lionel Valley

Your Clubs Board met on April 11, 3005 and covered a number of items including the following:

-The final results for our Annual Dinner are still pending. Dennis will have some more detail for us at our next Board Meeting.

-M/S/P - To donate \$300 to Hooked On Fishing in memory of our recently deceased good member/past president, Mike McEnespey.

-A laptop computer has been generously donated to the Club. Details will follow. We all want to thank the donor for that generous donation.

-Our opening weekend fishout was discussed. It was agreed to change it to the North Fork of the Feather River since attendance at the Hat Creek location has been minimal in recent years.

-M/S/P-Red Bluff Ranch weekend for May 13/14/15th,2005 was approved. Cost approved as \$30 per person for the weekend with each member limited to one day unless the Fishmaster confirms that sufficient rod space is available for anyone who wants to stay longer.

Our speaker at our April General Meeting was Jim Roberts, The Fly Den in Anderson, who spoke about Fishing Like a Hunter.

He covered a number of interesting items, including the following:

-Recognize the basic needs of the fish and fish accordingly.

-They need Oxygen - so fish where it is highly oxygenated - cooler water which is deeper and/or faster.

-They need Food - so fish the currents/riffles/seams where the food is likely to be best for the fish.

-They want Shelter - so fish the riffles, embankments, etc where they can have some security from predators, etc.

-Presentation and Technique are extremely important.

-Longer tippets provide have less resistance and will get down faster.

-Beadhead nymphs can usually be more effective because it forces the head of the nymph down to the bottom a la natural.

He also distributed his business card which entitles each holder to 5 free flies for coming by his new shop.

May General meeting:

The Speaker for the May 11th club meeting at the Library will be Lincoln Brown. Lincoln is the manager of the fly shop in Sierra Stream and Mountain on West 5th St. here in Chico. He will be talking to us about nymph fishing Lake Almanor. The Hex Hatch will be coming up in July and being prepared for that event invaluable. The hex hatch is often fished with dries and when it becomes difficult or sporadic, having different strategies for nymphing can be a trip saver as well as a nerve saver. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. as usual in the Library. See you there and bring a guest. We can improve our club by hosting new guests at the general meetings and trying to develop our resources at the same time.

Fish Tales by Roger Bevers

Wow! Travel is wonderful. Traveling to Florida is a kick, especially in the cattle cars of economy class airlines. Well, it's a necessary evil if you're going to get to Florida. The first part of March is rather humid there on some days, but if you travel to Florida I would suggest the winter months. The fishing is available all year round in different locations, but if you're after the big three, Bonefish, redfish and tarpon, then the winter flats fishing can't be beat. At least that's what I learned on this trip. Actually I learned so much about Florida I don't know where to start. After having been there only once, I feel I could plan a trip at any time of year and be able to find the fish. Of course that depends on what fish you're after. I wouldn't count on finding the blue marlin by myself. If you go, hire a competent guide and one who is rigged for fly-fishing. I grabbed the most information I could in one trip. Everywhere we went I looked for and found resources

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As you probably remember from the March newsletter, my wife and I went on a cruise. The first port was Key West, Florida. My wife went sightseeing and I went reef fishing. It was a three and a half hour adventure with a 30-45 minute trip each way, approximately 5 miles south east of Key West. The boat was a small 19-footer. The waves were moderately 3-4 feet. There were three fisherpersons on board plus the guide. The fish were yellow snapper and grouper mostly. The largest boated was my 25 inch sand grouper, but the biggest I hooked and fought for 15 minutes. He was lost just after touching him at the boat. Approximately 37-39 inches. The tally for me was 17 fish in nearly three hours. The yellowtail snapper were the best fighters and they were small. 10-16 inches. The best part of the trip was the time I spent drilling the guide for information about fishing around Key West. He was more than happy to show his expertise. Now that I have had an experience in Key West the next time I return I'll rent my own boat and try some of the places the guide suggested. The bonefish flats sounded the best to me. But that may just be my impression.

Before Gloria and I got on the ship in Fort Lauderdale, I visited a book store to get some reading material for the cruise. It's amazing how much you can learn about fishing in one state from the right books. By the time we were ready to return home 18 days later the seed was planted in my brain on how to plan the next trip. This one of course will be without spouse and entirely for fishing.

There isn't room to tell about the entire trip, but if anyone is interested I am willing to share stories. I want to say the only other place I fished was in Panama. I fished lake Gatun for peacock bass. That story is for another time. Your tip for this month is: Always be on alert for ways and means to gather information on fishing no matter where you go. You never know when you might be able to use it. Tip number two: Try to make a list of resource people you meet wherever you travel. They will come in handy at some time.

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LOCAL GUIDES

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

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Merganser Outfitters
Chico, CA
(530) 345-4071

Orland Outfitters
Orland, CA
(530) 865-8545

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

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



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Calendar of Events

Gen. Mtg. - May 11th
Butte County Library

Trout Opener - April 30th

Big Bluff Ranch - May 14th Bass

Davis Lake - June ??

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Fishtales (Cont. from page 1)

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BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Dana Miller.....345-3266

Vice President & Historian:
Roger Bevers343-6442

Secretary:
Lionel Valley.....343-7364

Treasurer:
Dennis Boyd.....891-5760

Fish Master:
Don sleeper.....345-1197

Board Members:
Ron Leger.....343-5191
Don Sleeper.....345-1197
Val Bowlby.....891-0706
Larry Willis.....895-0156

Presidents line (Continued from page 1)

I used a Blood Midge Imitation.....well sort of. It was patterned after the Blood Midge but instead of red it was more a brownish orange, and I used it most of the day. We ended up catching 16 or so fish, 2 1/2 to almost 5 pounds. The females looked as if they'd eaten a grapefruit, their bellies were so full! We talked to another fly fisherman and he was using a "Glo-Bug" under an indicator, and we watched him catch many fish. I asked him when the "Glo-Bugs" normally hatch, and he said anytime he's fishing. We walked up a tiny snowmelt creek, to find a dozen Rainbows trying to spawn. They were stuck; they couldn't go up or down. Most if not all of these fish are doomed, as they won't be able to make it back to the lake. We saw many signs of bear activity, half a fish here, head there, and fins all over. There must have been a lot of fish here when the water was higher. The bears must love this time of year! Once the wind stopped, we couldn't buy a strike and after an hour with no bites we headed home, happy that we caught some nice Rainbows in April, and looking forward to June when the Damsel Flies hatch. Keep your line tight and your rod high!

Conservation by Roger Bevers

I recently came across a web site that started to make me think more about conservation. Many of the club members and I have gotten into conversations about how the fish seem to be getting fewer and smaller as the years go by. If you are a steelhead or salmon fisherpersion then this web site should give you some food for thought. The web site is: <www.shiftingbaseline.org>. It tells about the effects of our environment on the oceans and talks about the need to establish no fish zones or ocean preserves. I recommend that everyone check this one out so we can discuss this as a club, because it will definitely affect our lives, as well as future generations. It should be our goal as a club to reestablish the conservation activities from our history and to support good practices of other groups. This may even work out to be a annual donation from the club.

FISHOUT SCHEDULE

Location	Date	Fish Master	Event
Feather River	April 30th	Eric See	Trout Opener
Big Bluff Ranch	May 14th	Mark Adams	Bass

Club Invitation:

The E.C. Powell fly club of Yuba City have invited the Chico Area Flyfishers to join them on Tuesday May 10th. For a presentation by Jay Fair (This is the night before our general meeting). The meeting/presentation will take place in Yuba City at the Lincrest School at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please contact Roger Bevers at 343-6442, or by email roger-bevers@hotmail.com. I will need to let them know about how many people are coming. I will be leaving Chico at 6:00 p.m., if you wish to carpool.





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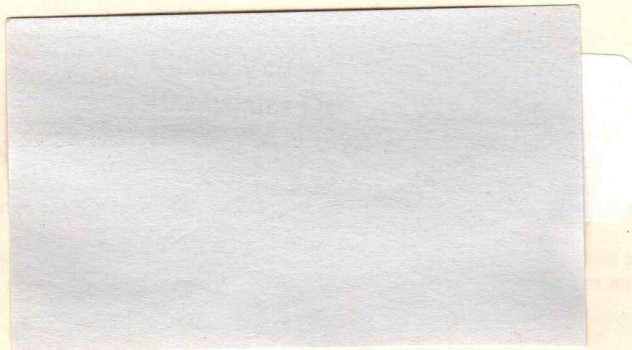
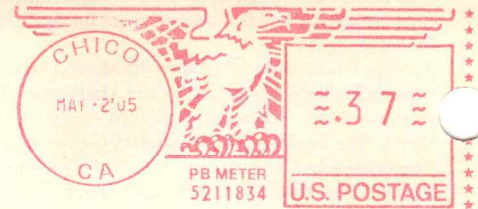
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