



# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

## Short Casts May 2010

**CAF General Meeting Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 for fly tying and 7:30 for Meeting @ CARD center**



### The Presidents Line By Lincoln Gray

Here we are, a couple of weeks after the trout opener in California. There is a huge amount of fishing to be done, so get those trips planned and get out there and fish. Fishing the past couple of weeks has been very good. The spring run steelhead fishing is good on the Feather, Yuba and American, while trout fishing on the lower Sac has been superb. Many mountain streams are high due to snow runoff, but things should start shaping up.

CAF had three fishouts last month Chico Creek, Hat Creek and Pyramid Lake. Check the fishout listings for upcoming fishouts. These fishout are a great place to learn new mechanics, new water and just have fun with fellow CAF members.

Some dates to remember has we get into the fishing season are; Hook On Fly Fishing: May 22nd and Fly Girls: May 22nd. CAF will need volunteers to help with both events.

Lincoln Gray



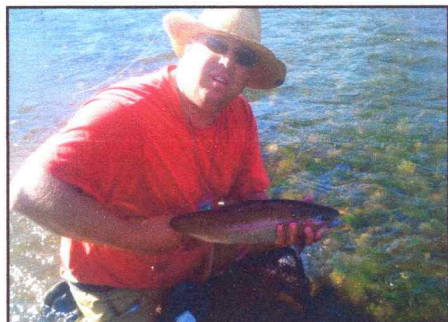
### Secretary's Secrets By Pat Sleeper

April minutes:

General meeting at the CARD center had Lincoln Gray as guest speaker. Lincoln spoke on still water fishing in Northern California. Lincoln included about 6 lakes in his talk as he spoke about the usual months these lakes are the hottest; the type of fly lines to use; the different types of fly one could use for the different months/seasons and his favorite: Crater Lake and Lake Almanor. We had almost a full house; but, we'd still like to see more come attend these wonderful meetings. Lance Gray will be the speaker at our May General meeting...

Please come and share your stories during our "where have you been fishing" story time...Sincerely, Pat Sleeper

### Lance Gray will be the speaker and fly tying for General meeting, Thursday, May 13



Lance started fly fishing and tying flies when he was seven with his father, and the rest is history. At thirteen he started tying flies commercially and at seventeen was working at Powell's Fly Shop in Chico. Lance guided, tied flies, built rods and fished everywhere. In 1993, Lance started Saltwater Innovations. A company which produced saltwater products including flies like Lance's Crystal Poppers, Raghead Crabs and the KO Charlie series. Lance's saltwater flies are available at Solitude Fly Company. Lance conducts presentations at the ISE shows, clubs, and guides and educates fly fishers about the sport.

Lance considers the Feather River to be his favorite river to fish. He has been fishing for more the twenty years and guiding it for more fifteen years. [www.lancegrayandcompan.com](http://www.lancegrayandcompan.com)

# CHICO'S Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Event - MAY 22, 2010

On May 22, 2010, the city of Chico will be welcoming kids to an outstanding free "Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs" event. The program originated in America's big cities and is designed to expose kids to fishing and the outdoors, as an alternative to unwholesome activities, such as drugs. The Chico event is one of the largest single-day children's fishing events in the entire United States.

Kids 14 and under are invited to come to Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 22, for a chance at the thousands of channel catfish that will be planted for the event. Admission is FREE, along with all tackle, bait and instruction [limit 1 fish per child]. Kids can even have their catfish cleaned for free.

Since this is a "kids only" lake, no fishing license is required for anglers under 16. Expert local anglers will be on hand as coaches. There will be a separate area for the littlest anglers, age 1 to 5.

There will be plenty of rods and reels and tackle available to use free, but all are encouraged to bring their own. Bring your favorite "secret" catfish bait, but please, no lead sinkers at Horseshoe Lake.

Last year we had over 3,000 children show up to catch their first fish, many with a non-fishing parent or no parent at all. This is no problem with the help of the many fishing coaches available to assist the new anglers. This entire event is put on by local volunteers, and primarily funded by donations from local area businesses and service organizations.

## Volunteers Needed!

CAF needs your help to assist with setting up the Hooked on Fishing Fish Aquaria Display on Friday, May 21st from 11:30 – 2. This is something CAF does each year, where CAF members use a seine net and collect fish from the lake, which are then placed in a group of fish tanks for the kids to enjoy the next day. This seining operation takes about 6 CAF members (with waders) to accomplish on Friday. Additional CAF volunteers are needed on Saturday to tend to the tanks during the day, and then break things down and release the fish back to the lake at 1 pm.

To volunteer For the CAF Fish Aquaria Display, please contact Eric See at [ese@comcast.net](mailto:ese@comcast.net) (899-1918), and specify which shift you are interested in attending: Friday 11:30 – 2, Saturday 0630 – 1000, Saturday 1000 – 2, or Saturday all day.

Volunteer fishing coaches are also needed for the event on Saturday. We need folks who can show the kids how to put a nightcrawler on a hook, how to cast, and how to reel them in! Just bring a pair of pliers and a smile for the kids.

The event runs from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Volunteer orientation is at 6:30 AM, but late arrivals are welcome, and the kids will love it even if you can only help for a few hours.

Contact information for Fishing Coaches: Steve Carson (530-893-5735 [scarson@sunset.net](mailto:scarson@sunset.net)) or Tammy Becka (530-891-5757 [tammy@epickhomes.com](mailto:tammy@epickhomes.com))

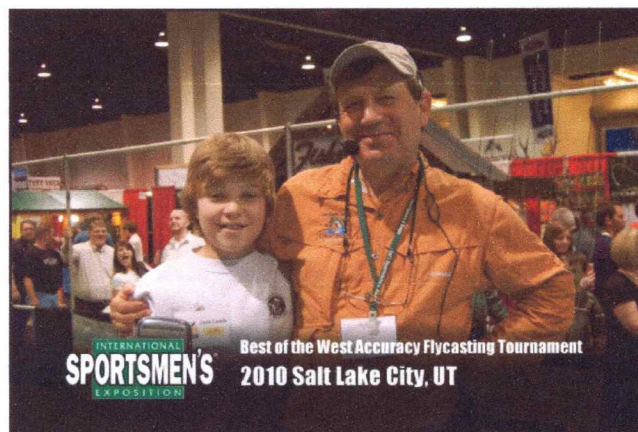
## Dick Murrill had 24lbs of Fun!

Dick Murrill was fishing on the Feather River with John Bryan a few weeks back. They had fished all day with no fish at all. Then Dick caught this 24 lbs stripper on 20 pound tippet. And they never caught another one the rest of the day. Dick said the weather was not very good, but it was not raining when he caught the fish. He was using his 10 wt rod, and a clouser minnow he tied himself. He released the fish.  
Story by Donna Murril



## Congratulations

Congratulations to 12 year old Jack Lewis of Chico, CA. Jack has won the "Best of the West" fly rod casting championship in Salt Lake City. Jack also won the regional tournament in Sacramento, CA this last January 2010. He was invited to Salt Lake City in March for the championship. Jack is shown here with Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole Wyoming the competition coordinator. cid:B54C1BD7-BCE3-45F1-814C-C1C4F80B5207



## Casting for Recovery event:

**We're looking for volunteers for Sunday, June 6th** for the fly girls, Casting for Recovery event. Volunteers will teach/guide ladies on a private pond from 8:00 A.M. - 12:30 @ 1 1/2hr shifts and then fish the lake afterward...we need about 14 helpers - drift boats welcome...thanks. Please contact Pat sleeper @ 345-1197 or e-mail [psleeper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.net)  
Thanks...Pat

## Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2010

This is where you can locate future outings that Chico Area Flyfisher's provide to its Membership. These Club Fishouts 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.

We are also looking for additional **fishout leaders**. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead your fellow CAF members for a day of fishing fun, and fellowship please contact Lincoln Gray or Don Sleeper.

*This schedule may change depending on the fish bite and weather conditions.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
June 7, 8 (Snow may change date)	Crater Lake	Don Sleeper
June 26,	Lake Almanor Hex Hatch	Lincoln Gray
July	Open	
August	Open	
Sept	Davis Lake	Open
Oct 30, 31	Eagle Lake	Don Sleeper
Nov	Open	

Other ideas: Floating Indicator Clinic, Float Tube Clinic, Fly Casting Clinic, Yuba River, Fort Bragg area Surf Fly fishing---

## Trout Season Opener Fishout - Hat Creek & Pit River

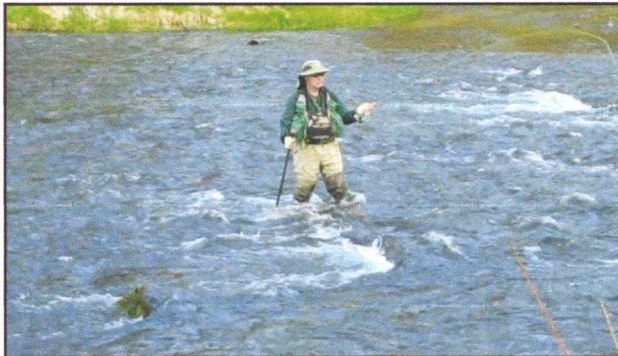
By : Eric See

Trout Season 2010 opened with the some spectacular weather - sunny skies and temps in the 70's, a wonderful weekend to be outdoors. And how was the fishing? Well, I fished the Pit 4 reach (below Lake Britton) on Friday, as it's open in the off-season, and did very well on nymphs and even took a few fish on a dry (# 12 Stimulator) in the evening. These fish aver-



aged in the 13-14 inch range, but I did lose a fish right in front of me (UGH!) that was a solid 18 inches - All rainbows. Roger Bevers and Ron Leger fished Baum Lake on Friday, but the lake was packed and the fishing was slow; could there be a correlation? Anyway the CAF group fished the wild trout section of Hat Creek on Saturday morning, starting with the lower mile or so of this stream. It was pretty crowded down there (I'll explain why later) but most of us managed to find some fish, Ray Narbaitz did well on a Micro Mayfly and Jim Gaumer picked up this brown on a small Bead Head Pheasant Tail nymph. (Look at the spot pattern on the belly - I've rarely seen this anywhere other than Hat Creek & Fall River).

I lost a fish on a dry fly but wasn't getting much interest otherwise so I switched to a #20 Zebra midge and 6x tippet, and starting getting more grabs. I landed



a couple of decent rainbows (11", 13") before I headed over to the neighboring Pit River, in search of less crowded waters. I switched to a 3X tippet and a #6 Rubberlegs and took a couple of 13-14 inchers before heading back to camp to start the BBQ. I got the food ready and sat for a few minutes in the shade. I sipped a beer, watched the river tumble along, and was further soothed by the light breeze rustling through the trees. I experienced one of those quiet, fleeting moments in life where everything seemed right with the world. During the Saturday afternoon BBQ, we feasted on homemade Texas Chili, grilled chicken satay, and a green salad, and talked a lot about fishin', huntin', and the outdoor life. Amongst the beers and Zinfandel, I was shown a photo of a 27" brown trout and told that it was caught earlier that morning on Hat Creek. As the presenter of this photo is a notorious "fish story" teller I decided to take a closer look at the background scenery in the photo, but the individual quickly sensed my skepticism and clicked to the next picture...a nice move. Anyway, those that fished Hat Creek in the evening experienced a nice mayfly hatch, those that fished the Pit (i.e. me) didn't do very well!

On Sunday morning, I fished the Pit River just below camp. On my 3rd cast, I caught a red hot 14" inch rainbow, and continued to fish my way downstream. I lost several flies on the way, and eventually got hung-up



on the bottom, again. I jerked my rod in an attempt to dislodge my fly, and there was a slight give to the snag, but then it felt solid again so I figured I was snagged on an underwater branch that moved when I really pulled on it. As I climbed over sunken boulders to get closer in an attempt to one again dislodge my fly for the thousandth time (remember, this is the Pit), my line started slowly moving toward the middle of the river. As I struggled to regain my footing and figure out what was going on, my line took off downstream. BIG FISH. I quickly scrambled and splashed back over the sunken boulders to access the shallows where I could chase the fish downstream. Now, on some rivers this is a simple task but not on the

Pit. Moving 20 feet downstream can often be a challenge, especially in waist deep water with a fish on! The fish swam down below me, and as I stumbled over yet another greased, television set-sized boulder, the fish came to the surface and thrashed its way off the end of my line. The adrenaline rush was replaced with that horrible sinking feeling that accompanies the knowledge that you just lost an opportunity that doesn't come around very often. UGH! Double UGH! Why didn't I let up more on that fish? Why did I allow it to swing downstream of me? Why didn't I bring a wading staff, this is the Pit River for Pete's sake! Oh well, as the saying goes, "...it's better to have hooked and lost, than to have never hooked at all." A little while later, as I was still trying to convince myself of that, I managed to hook-up and land a nice fish, and although smaller, it was hard fighting and quite beautiful. Look how fat it was!

**Hat Creek** - I had the Powerhouse Riffle to myself in the early afternoon on Sunday and caught a couple of rainbows before I took a walk downstream to the meadow-flanked, flat water stretch of Hat Creek. I realized that the reason the lower section of Hat Creek was so crowded on Saturday is because this middle stretch of Hat Creek has been destroyed with sediment. Therefore, everyone



is either fishing the very upper section at the Powerhouse Riffle, or the lower section where we were on Saturday. I walked about a \_ mile of this meadow section and was very disheartened. I remember 15-20 years ago, having to pull my waders up high and tippy-toe my way across the stream, weaving between the weed beds. Now, this same area is barely waist deep, with a hard packed bed of sand on the bottom and almost no weeds at all. There is no longer any cover for the fish, so they were gone. I sincerely hope that DFG will study this problem, develop a solution, and then immediately implement the measures necessary to restore this once fabulous trout habitat.

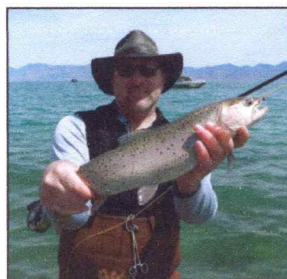
All in all, it was a great weekend of trout fishing and I can't wait to return!

## Pyramid Lake Fishout – April 16, 2010

By Don & Pat Sleeper

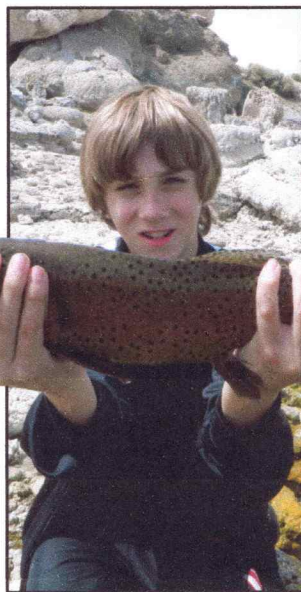
We fished Pyramid Lake April 15th through April 18th in beautiful weather; Pyramid was almost calm at times, dead calm.

We even got off our ladders and fished from pontoon boats at Pelican point. We all caught fish, Terry Mich, Karen Horne, Kevin Murry, Jeff Kuhn, Bill Robertson, Roger Bevers, Bob Adams, Don and Pat Sleeper. The fish ranged between 2 and 6lbs, no trophies this time, but any fish is a great fish on the fly. We used Teeny Lines (shooting heads) with black and white streamers. But most of the fish were caught using nymphs and chironomids under an indicator.



Jeff Kuhn with fish

Michah had never casted an indicator and caught his own fish. He has casted a dry fly and caught a fish but



Michah with fish

not an indicator. You know how casting one of those things is. The larger fish that I caught was about 5lbs and caught on a green and black woolly worm (unweighted). Micah's fish was about 3 1/2 lbs. and caught on a #12 Zebra Midge. Kevin's fish was (we won't mention the size, Ha Ha) and caught on a red chironomid with a white head, size #12. The other fish I caught (where I was wearing the hat) was about 3 1/2 lbs. and also caught on a #12 Zebra midge.

We did have one mishap; Don Sleeper got

a hook in his cornea on Friday. After two surgeries in Reno he's OK so far. Always were glasses, even in the early morning darkness.



Roger Bevers here with a nice Lahontan cutthroat caught on a black woolly bugger.

# May Fly of the Month

By: Ray Narbaitz  
Barr's PMD Emerger

For the general Trout Season Opener on April 24th, several of the club members converged on Hat Creek. Actually, so did a lot of other people. With the late spring rains, a lot of streams were just too high to be fishable. Hat Creek was in good shape, and several publications suggested people should go there. Despite the fact that the crowds were a little bigger than normal, the fishing was quite good. I had very good success with a Red Fox Squirrel Nymph in the morning (September of 09's Fly of the Month), fishing it in the riffles. Mid-afternoon, Eric See provided the club with a nice meal (the chili was great), and after the usual bull session it was time to go back to the water for the evening fish.

As the sun started to sink, a PMD hatch started to come off. While the fish weren't jumping around in a feeding frenzy, it was a good enough hatch that the fish were keying on them. As the evening progressed, the hatch got better and better. The PMD's were much larger than normal, and you probably could have gotten away with fishing a size 14. However, I was fishing a size 16, PMD Hackle Stacker, with a size 18 Barr's PMD Emerger behind it, and they both worked fine. When fishing the Emerger, you have to have a fly with a wing that you can see to spot where the Emerger is. It is impossible to see it on the water. It floats right in the surface of the water, and if it sinks a bit, that's OK too. The front fly will show you that something has bubbled the water behind it, or act as an indicator if the fly has sunk a bit. Only tie the Emerger about 8 or 9 inches behind the winged fly. Any more than that and your eye will have trouble seeing the Emerger take, because your focus on the front fly will not allow you to see much beyond the 8 or 9 inches.

John Barr, the inventor of the Copper John, developed his Emerger clear back in the mid 1970's. He's done very little to change it since then. In researching the fly, I ran across statements from several guides who said the thing that amazed them about the fly is that the fish don't ever seem to get wary of it. In his book, Barr says he NEVER goes fishing without having this and his BWO Emerger with him. I'll comment on the BWO after we look at the fly. I'll list the fly exactly as Barr does in his book. After, I'll talk about some things I think you can do if you don't have all of the materials available.

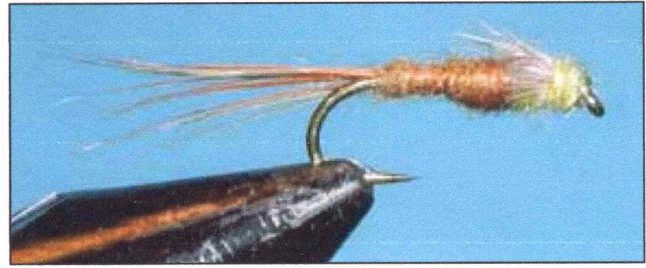
Hook...TMC101 16 to 22

Thread...8/0 Light Cahill Uni Thread (on flies smaller than 18, I am using a yellow, 14/0 thread)

Tail...Brown Spade Hackle Barbs

Abdomen...Blended Olive Brown Dubbing (I use Superfine, Brown Olive)

Wing Case...Pale Olive or Cream Hackle Barbs



Legs...Wing Case Hackle Barbs  
Thorax...Superfine PMD

1. Debarb the hook and place it in the vise.
2. Start your thread at the back of the hook, and wrap it evenly up to about the 75% point of the shank.
3. Tie in the barbs for the tail, and wrap evenly back to the hook bend. Make loose wraps on your last two or three wraps, so the hackle will not flare. Make the tail about half the length of the hook shank.
4. Dub on your body. Try to use as little dubbing as you possibly can. It should not be any more than enough to just barely cover the thread. Ultra Thread makes a Brown/Olive thread in 8/0 that I would recommend for flies smaller than an 18. Make as thin a body as possible, with a slight taper as you move up the hook.
5. Tie in your Hackle Barbs by the butt, with the points back over the fly. Tie it back to the dubbing.
6. Dub in the Thorax, again using as little dubbing as possible. Wrap your Thorax so that it forms a ball. Try to leave a little bare hook at the eye.
7. Pull the Hackle Barbs over the Thorax to form your wing case. Tie it off at the eye.
8. Take one half of the Barbs, and tie them back on the far side of the hook, just like P.T. legs. Tie the other half on the near side the same way. Cut the legs off just a little longer than the Thorax.
9. Whip finish, apply head cement, and go fishing.

Notes...Try to make the body as thin as possible. The fly in the picture, in my opinion, is a little too fat. It's not my picture as my camera can't clearly capture small flies... Don't worry if you don't have Spade Hackle. Brown Dry Fly Hackle Barbs will work just fine. You can either measure out the tail when you tie it in, or tie it long, and cut it off. That's much easier on the smaller flies. Again, I think the tail in the picture is too long, according to Barr's specifications... Instead of Hackle Barbs for the Wing Case and Legs I have been using Cream Zlon. I find it a little easier to work with, and the fish don't seem to mind.

For the BWO Emerger, tie it the same way in sizes 18 to 22, and use Gray Thread. If you use the Brown/Olive Thread for the Abdomen, tie it off and use Gray Thread for the Thorax. Tie the Tail and Abdomen the same. Use Dun Hackle or Zlon for the Wing Case and Legs, and Gray Superfine for the Thorax.

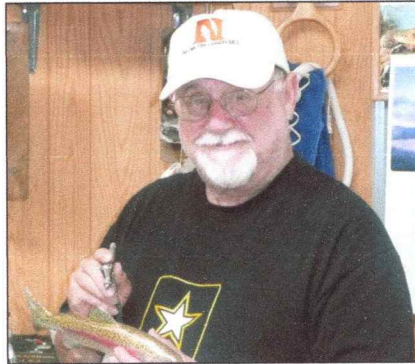
## LOCAL GUIDES

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

Fish First  
Chico, CA  
(530) 343-8300

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

  
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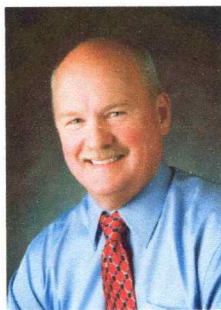


**Ron Leger**  
Custom Fish Carvings  
**530-343-5191**  
rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com



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