



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts May 2016

Our next meeting is @ Calif. Park Pavilion, Wed, at 6:30 on May 11th.



President Line by Pat Sleeper

Fishing season has started!!! We hope you have been able to test the waters either in our beautiful mountains surrounding us or in one of our almost full gorgeous lakes. We have a loaded month of May; so, be sure to look at the fish out locations; try to support HOFNOD May 21th; and, come to our

General Meeting May 11th where Mac, from Fish First will be speaking about Chile; and, telling about a spay casting clinic "free" May 14th @ 3:00 P.M.

A special Thank You to Rob Anderson and Chris for hosting us at Pyramid Lake! The 10 of us had a Great time, learned a lot and we look forward to it again next year...only earlier.

If you haven't been to one of our fish outs, try one out; it's a blast!

A lot of fun is had by all. Thank You, Pat Sleeper

Sportsman's Warehouse!.....your donations were incredible!!!

Thank you!!

J.B.'s thank you.....Fish First... Mac....Creative Composition: programs.....Sierra Stream..Lincoln.....Jim Clarkston: rods.

Ray Narbaitz when he comes up on the podium, he's like The God Father of auctioneering at our Annual dinner, don't you think!

Thank you Ray!

I trust you had as much fun and I did! Thank you all! Sincerely,
Pat Sleeper, President and dinner chairman.

CAF BOD Minutes @ Sleepers May 3rd, Tuesday, 2016

Those present: Dana, Eric, Terry Tom, John, Larry, Don and Pat.

Secretary's report: Minutes approved as published:

M/S/P Don/Dana.

Treasurer report by Don Sleeper: Budget approved M/S/P Terry/Eric.

Discussion about Almanor Fishing Association: otters' destruction of 3 of the 6 pens; other needs they have up there and how CAF can help.

V.P. Report by Larry Willis: Mac from Fish First talking at the General Meeting, Wed, May 11th at 7:30.

Fly Tying Chairman, Terry Mich: Jim Gaumer tying, Wed, May 11th, 2016.

Clear "Decal" with club logo for fish tanks...Larry Willis.

Fly tying chairman, Terry Mich working on a tier for May 11th, for 6:30.

Fish out chairman, Tom Rosenow: Mac putting on a switch rod clinic for May 14th; Meeting @ Irvine Finch @ 3:00, please always rsvp if coming. Also, June 25th, Hex Hatch fishout by Scott Joyce, rsvp.

Pat gave a report on the Pyramid Lake clinic with Rob Anderson assisted by Chris with 10 Chico residents and members participating. A lot of fun and knowledge gained by all! We had 14 at Pelican camping and 8 rigs. Thank you Rob!

Working on a date in July for the Pingatori fish out where "3" rods will be raffled off free to Youth who attend. M/S/P Terry/Larry.

Discussion on acquiring access on private land for fishing privileges: maintenance; cost; where; etc.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Sleeper, president, for Dave McKinney, Secretary

May Speaker Mac Nobel



Our May Speaker is: Mac Noble who will be speaking Wed, May 11th, 2016 at 7:30 at the California Park Pavilion: Mac will be speaking about fishing Chile and about a fly fishing clinic coming up May 14th, 2016.

Michael Noble "Mac" Manager Fish First! Chico store, author WH&WN™ fishing

report, introductory class and on-stream clinic instructor, guide staff.

Location: Fish First! Chico Fly fishing store.

Areas of expertise: Mac began fly fishing in 1987 while going to college at San Luis Obispo. After moving to Chico he discovered all the fishing the Chico area has to offer and loves to fish lakes with his float tube on

A BIG Congratulations to our award winners:

Hall of Fame: Lionel Valley

Saber Tooth : Tom Rosenow

Press Powell : Eric See

Golden Zipper: Terry Mich

Lake Almanor and Davis Lake, and pursue steelhead on the Feather and Trinity Rivers. Mac has fished throughout the United States for both fresh and salt species. An avid fly tier, he spends much of his free time tying the new "hot" fly.

Apart from working at the store, guiding, and fishing in his spare time, Mac enjoys his playing fetch with his dog Pepper, golfing, and a good game of Texas hold-um.

2016 Trout Season Opener Fishout

Trout Season opened with blue skies, a slight breeze, and the tips of the branches on the fir trees were displaying the season's first growth of tender pine needles. A feeling of Spring freshness was all around us and the sparkling waters of Hat Creek were gorgeous. Hat Creek was good for some and fair for others. The fish seemed to be concentrated in specific locations, so finding one of these spots was the best approach. There was some dry fly action for those who put the effort in, but the most productive technique was nymphing. Larry Willis hooked a lot of fish but had some trouble getting them to the net (he didn't know that Tom had clipped off his hook point). There were a total of 8 of us, and lunch with such an interesting, fun bunch of people was as enjoyable as the fishing.

The Pit River was more difficult than usual for this time of year, until Sunday, when it really seemed to turn-on. There were some golden stones in the air, but it was the beadhead nymphs that produced the most fish. The "Pit 3" Section was running at 420 cfs which made wading even more difficult than the normal 300 cfs. Most of us went down at least once, but the warm weather made it easy to dry out clothes at the end of the day, as did the roaring campfire later on. We were camped at a great spot on the Pit 4 Section, and it was running even higher. However, Tom Rosenow managed to hook a nice fish right in front of camp. We'd love to come back in June when the flows have dropped...



Carol Burns with a fish-on, Hat Creek



Eric See landing a fish on Hat Cr. Pete Wiik in the background



Tom Rosenow casting to a nice drift on the Pit River.

SMART WADING Begins with Common Sense.

Don't wade unnecessarily. Wading is not appropriate in all waters. The fish are much less likely to be alerted to your presence if you stay out of the water. The pressure wave you create as you wade spooks fish, especially in slower pools.

Wade with respect for the fish and other anglers. Every step you take disturbs the aquatic ecosystem. Avoid weedbeds; they are the condos for the bugs. Avoid wading through spawning redds. Be mindful of how your wading affects nearby anglers. Your wading can stir up the bottom and impact the fishing downstream.

Take appropriate safety precautions. A wader belt is as important as a seatbelt. Buckle up every time you go out and cinch it high on your chest in deeper water to trap as much air as possible and prevent water from coming in. Wear footwear that increases traction.

In big water, wade with a buddy. Have the strongest wader take the upstream side. **Tuck your rod into your waders** or vest. Lock arms, or, better yet, **grab the collars of one another's vests** with your inside hands and plant your staves with your outside hands. Talk to one another as you progress across the river.

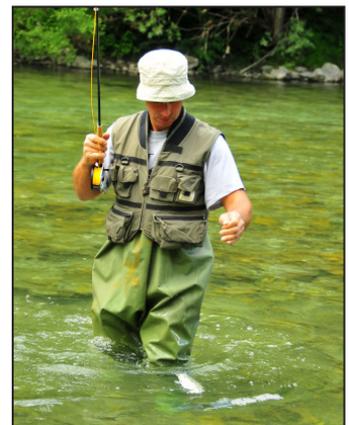
Use a wading staff. In rocky freestone water, with varying depths and current velocity, the angler with a staff will outfish the wader without a staff every time and will swim less.

Lean into the current. Always plant your staff upstream of your body, leaning into the current. Should you begin to lose your balance, the current will push you upright rather than downstream.

Keep your body sideways to the current. Facing directly upstream or down exposes you to the full force of the water and makes it difficult to maintain your balance.

Shuffle. Move your feet along the bottom as though you are blind. Use your staff to check ahead for changes of depth or obstacles. Keep a wide stance. Feel along with each foot and find a secure spot before you commit your weight to it.

Know your limits. When the water reaches your knees, wading becomes more difficult. If you have limited wading skills, don't go in above your



knees in fast water. The deeper the water, the more buoyant you become and the less traction you have. There is a point of no return, when you are at the mercy of the current, even if your feet are still touching the bottom. Learn to anticipate that point and to stop before you reach it.

Conserve energy. Cross on a slight downstream angle wherever possible. When fishing upstream, walk the bank or in the slow currents along the side and use the eddies created by rocks in the current to ease your passage. Move from eddy to eddy in a bouldery river. Those little pockets of still water below rocks give you a moment's rest. Go around boulders, rather than up and over them. The less climbing the better.

Plan your route. Look downstream for obstacles and hazards you will have to deal with if you lose your footing. If there is particularly hazardous water below, consider crossing or wading elsewhere. Think about what you'll do if you're swept away. Look for the places where you might get into an eddy. Look for obstacles that might trap or injure you.

Don't die for your tackle. If you are swept off your feet, you might be able to tuck your rod butt down into the front of your waders or throw it to shore, but don't risk your life for a rod. Your recovery will be considerably easier with both hands free.

Practice swimming with your waders on — in a river or swimming pool. This helps to mentally prepare you in case you fall in. Have a friend nearby for safety.

Learn to self-rescue. If you fall in fast water, turn on your back and imagine that you're a drift boat: Your feet become the bow, your head the stern, and your arms the oars. Scan the water downstream, pointing your feet at the obstacles you want to avoid and backstroke into the current with your arms. Position your body at 45 degrees into the current and stroke toward the shore. Backstroking will move you away from any obstacle downstream and toward the shore in a relatively straight line. Wait until you are in slow water before you try to stand. Get out of the cold water as fast as possible.

Remember the acronym **WADER**. **W**ear your wader belt. **A**ssess the difficulty and anticipate the problems. **D**evelop a plan. **E**xecute that plan. **R**etreat if necessary.

CHICO'S Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Kids Fishing Event: MAY 21, 2016

This 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. Chico is a fishing town and this Event has become huge here at home - in fact, Chico's event is one of the largest in the United States.

Here's how it works: Kids 14 and under are invited to come to Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park from 7:00 AM to noon on Saturday, May 21st, 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. Please spread the word! 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 Event is put on by local volunteers, including the The Chico Area Flyfishers (CAF). The event is primarily funded by donations from local area businesses and service organization (including the Chico Area Flyfishers) and 100% of all donations go into the event.

Volunteers Needed!

Hooked on Fishing needs your help, and it is easy to participate via the Chico Area Flyfishers. You can assist in one of two ways:

- 1) CAF needs your help to assist with setting up the Hooked on Fishing Fish Aquaria Display on Friday, May 20 from 11:00 – 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 at the entrance to the Event so the kids can view the many fish species living in the lake. It's a lot of fun!
- 2) Additional CAF volunteers are needed on Saturday (5/21) to tend to the tanks and chat with the public about fish and fishing Tying some flies is highly encouraged. At noon, we break things down and release the fish back to the lake.
- 3) **To volunteer For the CAF Fish Aquaria Display, please contact Eric See at ese@comcast.net (899-1918), and specify which shift you are interested in attending: Friday 11:00 – 2, Saturday 0630 – 1000, Saturday 1000 – 1, or Saturday all day.**



Looking to buy: Bauer M4 left hand retrieve reel.

Contact: psleeper@sbcglobal.net



Pyramid Lake Fishout - April 21, 2016, by Don and Pat Sleeper

We fished Pyramid for 5 days. Weather was brutal: heavy winds and gusts and a little snow. We fished a clinic with Rob Anderson, he and Chris was terrific. We had a very good clinic with him learning new techniques; and, we all caught fish in rough weather and water. We used ladders in different parts of the lake, a real learning experience. We camped on Pelican beach with up to 14 of us from the Chico Area Fly Fishers. We used sinking lines and floating lines with midnight cowboys, white beetles, or chironomids; mainly, the albino wino nymph. A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!



CAF General Meeting Speaker List 2016

CAF meets 10 months out of the year and presents a variety of exciting fly fishing-related programs throughout the year. The meetings also include monthly fly tying demonstrations, raffle prizes, refreshments, and the very best info and lies about Northern California Fly fishing. Meetings are being held on the second Wednesday of the month at The California Park Pavilion. We look forward to see you at our next meeting and hearing "your" fishing stories! Fly tying begins at 6:30 p.m.; general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. **Location: California Park Pavilion: 2565 California Park Drive Chico.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
May 11th	Mac	"Fish First"
June 8th Alaska:flyfishingblake@gmail.com	Blake Merwin	Puget Sound, WA

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2016

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.

Tom Rosenow will be our new fish-out leader with Elden Hinkle. 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 Tom Rosenow at trosenow.chico@gmail.com.

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
May 14:	CAF Spey Casting Clinic	Mac Noble
Switch rod clinic by Mac from Fish First... We will need a head count both for the clinic and for food so please RSVP trosenow.chico@gmail.com . Tom will send an email to the the RSVPs with final details the Thursday before.		
May 22-25:	Bailey Creek	Pat Sleeper
Bailey Creek lodge 3 days fishing, lodging, food, drinks @ \$885. per fisherman double occupancy. non fisherman \$450. Pat Sleeper psleeper@sbcglobal.net ...not many openings. Taking 8 people.		
June 25:	Hex hatch	Scott Joyce
Hex hatch with Scott Joyce: please RSVP trosenow.chico@gmail.com .		
Sept 6-13th:	Sea of Cortez Fishing	Pat Sleeper
Sea of Cortez fishing...you won't believe the low price. psleeper@sbcglobal.net		
Sep 30 Oct 1:	Pyramid Lake opener.	Tom Rosenow
Clinic w/Doug Ouelette at Pyramid Lake: opener.		
Jan 30th-Feb 4th, 2017	Picachos, Mexico	Pat Sleeper
Full		

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

April Fishing by CAF members on Hat Creek and Pit River by Tom Rosenow

Well April was a full month of fishing for some. Eric See hosted a very nice CAF Fish-out at Hat Creek and the Pit River last week. There was quite a turn out for Pyramid Lake by CAF members as well.

Lake Christine

April 30th CAF member Janet Weidel attended a very pleasant fishing trip with the Shasta Mayflies to Lake Christine. About eight Mayflies attended including the property owner. They had a wonderful time despite some howling winds. Many fish were caught using Woolly Buggers, nymphs, leeches....and well you name it. Fish seemed to be about 12 feet down.

Big Chico Creek

Snake vs Trout

On the last day to fish Big Chico Creek in Upper Bidwell Park not only were the fish biting, but so were the snakes. Member Matt Johnson and friend Jim Nelson watched this snake wrestle an 8 inch trout out of the creek, on to the shore and eat it.

Little Grass Valley Creek Reservoir

Additionally, Elden Hinkle and Tom Rosenow gathered some other hardy souls and made their monthly trip into Little Grass Valley Creek Reservoir. Those others that did the hike were Matt Johnson, Keith Kelley, Kenny Price, and Don Sleeper.

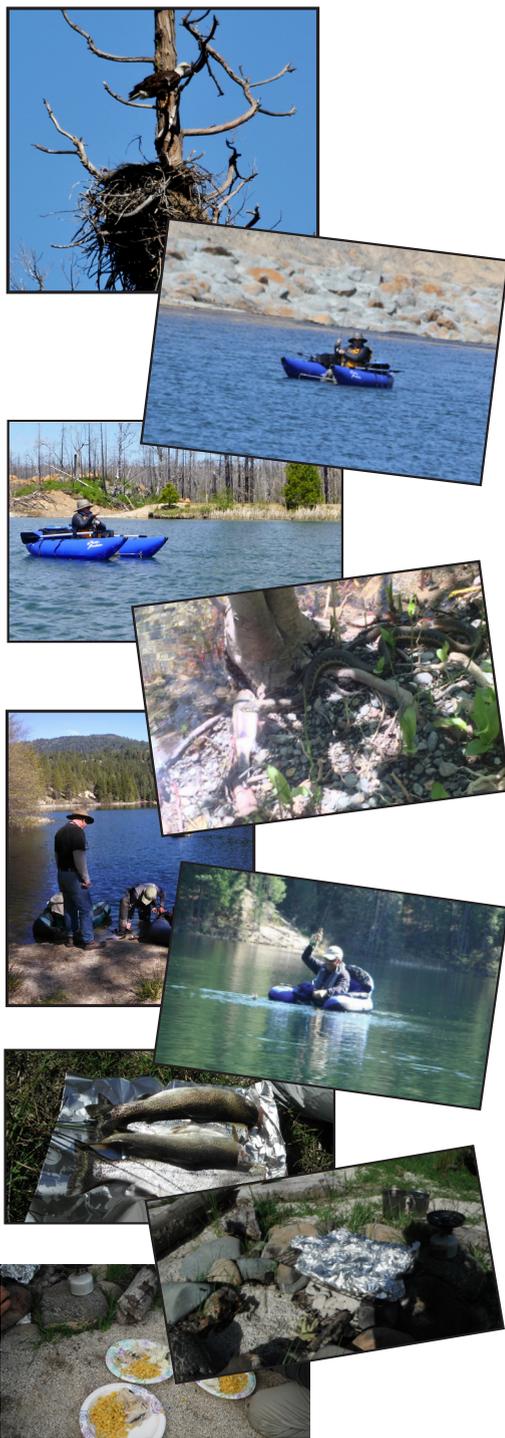
Fishing was good using anything that was more terrestrial was best such as a Black Woolly Buzzer. For the first time ever, we decided to have each person bring in one fish as we had decided to eat them as well. They tasted just as good as they fished. :) Definitely a good time.

May Fish-out - Spey Clinic on Sacramento River

Our next scheduled CAF Fish-out is May 14th from 3pm till dark. Mac Noble of Fish First has offered to conduct a Spey Casting clinic with demo, shop rods, or if you have your own gear bring it as well. We will be fishing for Shad which should be in the Sacramento River. We will be meeting at Irvine Finch boat ramp and then travel up river a bit with some boat rides provided by Mac and maybe another CAF member. Elden and I will also toss some tri-tip on a grill with some mashed potatoes and vegetables.

We will need a head count both for the clinic and for food so please RSVP trosenow.chico@gmail.com. Tom will send an email to the the RSVPs with final details the Thursday before.

Thank you
CAF Fish-out Committee.
Tom Rosenow



Pontoon Boat FOR SALE:

I have an 8ft pontoon boat (Bucks Bag Southfork Model) for sale and in very good shape (no leaks and fast on the water) asking \$550 to CAF members (current retail \$900 thru Bucksbags.com) . Includes pontoon, weatherproof storage pocket, 6 ft aluminum breakdown oars with molded rubber anchor stops, large rear cargo deck, 1 rod holder, stripping apron, anchor assembly and anchor, weight capacity 325 lbs. The Southfork has a proven track record and is considered the industries fines 8' pontoon boat. I will throw in the ceiling mount pulley system to hang in your garage. Does not include pump. If interested I can be contacted at joekelly1001@gmail.com or 530.514.5060 thanks.



Fly of the Month for May 2016

Barr's Emerger

By: Ray Narbaitz

Many members of CAF like to kid me about my habit of tying and fishing small flies. There are a number of reasons that I often find myself doing so. Foremost among them is because they work, and I catch lots of fish with them. I also think there are some good reasons why they work.

Moving water like Fall River, Hat Creek, the upper Feather, etc. will at certain times have hatches of BWO's and PMD's. Some lakes, like Baum can also have BWO's. It is almost impossible to find clean water in our part of the country, whether moving or still, that doesn't have Midges. There are more examples, but this gives you the idea. None of the above mentioned bugs are big. The chances of catching anything on a #12 BWO are not good. Contrary to popular belief, I have no trouble fishing bigger flies if I think the situation warrants doing so. It's just that I don't mind going small when I think that is what is called for. That was brought home to me early in the year when a sparse BWO hatch came off at Baum Lake, and I had a hot hour of fishing using a 22, black WD40.

Depending on your point of view, the above is either the reason, or an excuse, for featuring another small fly for the May, Fly of the Month. I have just finished reading a new book, "Tying Nymphs," by Charley Craven. He is one of my favorite tyers, and his how to instructions are some of the best I have ever seen. In the book, he talks about one of his favorite tyers, John Barr. Barr is the creator of a number of great flies, among them, the Copper John. Craven points out that Barr's Emerger has been around for quite some time, and remains one of Craven's favorite patterns because fish never seem to come off of it even when he fishes it a lot. I have used both the BWO version, which is what I'll describe here, and the PMD version, and both have worked well for me.

Hook: TMC 2487 or 2488 size 16 to 20

Thread: Gray or Iron Gray 8/0

Tail: Brown Spade Hackle Fibers. Spade hackle comes from the feathers on the outer edges of the fattest part of a neck. They have fibers that are longer than you would think for the length of the feather.

Abdomen: Olive Brown Superfine

Wing Case and Legs: Dark Dun or Brown Spade Hackle

Thorax: Adams Gray Superfine

- 1 Debarb your hook and place it in the vise.
- 2 Lay down a good, thread base on the hook.
- 3 Pull off a small clump of fibers from the feather, and tie it in at the back of the hook. Wrap it down the bend of the hook a little, but not too far. You want the tail to be pointing down, but not at an acute angle. When you tie in the tail, leave the butt ends of the feathers to



- about the 2/3 point of the hook shank. Don't worry about the length of the tail as you will be trimming it later in the process.
- 4 Wrap your thread up the hook shank, tying down and covering the butt ends of the tail and then make a smooth body by wrapping back down to the base of the tail.
 - 5 Dub a very fine strand of the Olive Brown Superfine on your thread, and wrap it forward to about the 2/3 point of the shank. Wrap it so it has a slight taper as you go up the shank. You want this body to be pretty slim.
 - 6 Wrap your thread back over the abdomen a couple of wraps. Pull off a dozen or more fibers from the spade hackle. The smaller the fly, the fewer fibers you will need.
 - 7 Tie in the fibers on the top of the hook, with the tips pointing back toward the tail. End with your thread just short of the eye of the hook.
 - 8 Dub a fine strand of the Adams Gray Superfine. Wrap back up to the tie in point of the hackle fibers, and back down toward the eye of the hook. Make the Thorax slightly larger than the Abdomen, and have it form sort of a ball. End with your thread right behind the eye of the hook.
 - 9 Pull the hackle fibers over the top of the Thorax, trying to spread them out a bit to make the wing case. Tie them in right at the hook eye.
 - 10 With your thumb nail, shove the fibers up at the hook eye. This will make them splay apart, and make it easier to grab about half of them. Tie that half back on the near side of the hook with a couple of wraps of thread. Do the same with the other half to tie them back on the far side of the hook.
 - 11 Whip finish a small head, and cut off the thread.
 - 12 Trim the tail so it is a little shorter than the body of the fly. Trim the legs at the head of the fly so they are just past the wing case in length.
 - 13 Add a tiny drop of head cement to the fly and you are done.

Notes: When I have fished this fly, I put it on a piece of tippet eight to ten inches long off of a fly like a Parachute Adams that I can see. When I first start to fish it, it will float, but it eventually will sink just below the surface. It seems to be effective either way...If you don't have any Spade Hackle, I would think any good, stiff fibers from a dry fly feather will work. Craven says John Barr specifies Spade Hackle, and I will always defer to him. However, I really don't think the fish will know the difference...In his book, "Barr Flies," John Barr ties his Emergers that he wants to sink a bit on the above named hooks. However, if he wants it to be a dry version, he ties it on a TMC101.



The Fly Shop @ 4140 Churn Creek Rd, Redding, CA

TROUT SEASON OPENING DAY CELEBRATION! There is such a thing as a free lunch!

The fly shop's annual Opening Day Celebration will be on Friday, April 29th, 10:30 am - 4:30 PM.

Celebrating 38 yrs. in business! Guests will be treated by The Fly Shop to a wonderful lunch with all the trimmings. Meet the staff and see their local author Steven T. Callan "The Game Warden's Son".

LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

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



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<http://chicoareaflyfishers.org>

FISHING REPORTS

www.fishfirst.com

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Contact

Don Sleeper345-1197



Ron Leger
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530-343-5191

rlegerfishcarvings@gmail.com



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