



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts May 2014

Location: CARD Center - 545 Vallombrosa Avenue - Chico Meeting, cookies and beverage free to all.

CAF Speaker for May 14th, Wed, at the CARD center will be Craig Nielsen.



Craig will be demonstrating fly tying at 6:30 and speaking about dry flies and freestones at 7:30.

By Craig Nielsen

Craig Nielsen is the owner and operator of Shasta Trout. A Northern California native, he has been chasing trout with a fly rod for over 50 years and guiding professionally since 1992. Having fished all across the west, B.C. And Alaska he especially appreciates the angling diversity Mt. Shasta offers. From presenting tiny dries to selective Fall River Rainbows, swinging streamers with switch-rods for the Klamath's fabled steelhead, dry fly fishing on the McCloud, or nymphing the Upper and Lower Sac for trophy 'bows, Craig enjoys it all.

The Spring Caddis

The first big hatch of the season is usually what locals refer to as the "Spring Caddis" and some call the "Mother's Day Caddis," which typically gets going in earnest sometime in March and on most rivers in Northern California has concluded by the time Mother's Day arrives. While many local rivers feature this hatch, the astounding numbers of this bug, the *Brachycentrus* caddis, that hatch on the lower Sacramento River has created a devoted following over the past several seasons. Anglers also get to enjoy watching newly arrived swallows twist and turn in flight as they feed on the feast and return to their nests on the underside of bridges to feed their young. <http://www.shastatroutrout.com/guides>

Chico Area Flyfishers Secretaries Minutes April 2nd, 2014

Meeting started @ 6:00 at the Sleeper home. Those present: Larry, Dennis, Terry, Dave, Dana, Eric, Frank, Pat and Don. Secretary's report by Pat Sleeper for Lincoln Gray M/S/P Dana/Dave.

Treasurer report by Don Sleeper - gave a detailed report of the dinner income/expenses and the proposed budget for 2014. Tabled waiting for additional bills.

Speaker Craig Nielsen speaking May 14th; Masonic lodge rented for 2015; ordering CAF hats w/logo; new computer for speakers, etc. M/S/P Dave/Dennis. Storage unit for supplies.

Bass fish out and barbecue for the club members: May 10th with a \$10.00 PP cost for facilities, etc. Please call 345-1197 or e-mail psleeper@sbcglobal.net to have reservations, map, etc.

Speaker shifting has occurred for June, Oct and Nov.; other discussions, etc.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Sleeper



President's Line

What is that old saying, in springtime a young man turns to thoughts of love. In our case, since most of us are not that young

anymore, our thoughts turn to fishing. Good things are happening with the club and I am really happy to see them. Last month we had an excellent turn out for the meeting and program. We have a really good program lined up for this month also. The second thing that was great was the Pyramid Lake fishout. We were at Warrior Beach and on and off through the weekend there were about 15 of us. We did a potluck every night with different people and groups of people providing really good meals and a lot of fun. If only the fish had

been as hungry as we were. There are lots of things other than the meeting this month. Hooked on fishing is May 31.

The late rains probably mean that this event will happen. It was looking iffy earlier. Eric will need help setting up on Friday. He will have the fish tanks there and we will be seining the lake to provide a picture of what is in there for the people. Saturday morning, the event is supposed to start at 0700. There are always kids there early. They need help with casting to keep everyone safe. A lot of these kids come from single parent homes and this is a good chance to build the base for the future. Don Sleeper has a number of fishouts scheduled for this month so look at his column for more information. Come join us. The club is not for just a few of us, it is for everyone. Invite someone who has not been before. If you see someone with a fly shop sticker in the window of their car, ask them to come to the meeting. That should be the theme for the year-Join us.

Here's the announcement for the HOFNOD Event:

CHICO'S Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Kids Fishing Event: MAY 31st, 2014

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 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 31st, 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 31st 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 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! 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 esee@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.
- 2) Fishing Coaches – Volunteers are needed to assist with fishing at the lake, including baiting hooks, casting, and landing fish. Many of the kids and parents attending this event do not have any experience with fishing, so your fishing expertise is greatly needed. **To volunteer as a Fishing Coach, please contact Eric See at esee@comcast.net (899-1918).**

On the Road Again,

Bailey Creek and Striper Fishing in the Delta
By Don Sleeper

We had the most enjoyable couple of days at Bailey Creek Lodge, Peter and Cindy Mitchell (530-474-4600) were our hosts and they deserve a big thank you to the wonderful time we had. The fishing was great in their pond, rainbows up to 6 pounds on dry flies. Really incredible fly fishing when the hatch is on. We used pontoons and float tubes and small callibaetis nymphs (Mayflies) on long leaders.

One of the highlights of booking a trip with Bailey Creek is the meals, their chief is an Executive Chief that puts on a cooking lesson with each meal. By far the best Five Course meals we have ever had.



CAF General Meeting Speaker List 2014

CAF meets monthly and presents a variety of exciting flyfishing-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 Flyfishing. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. Fly tying begins at 6:30pm - general meeting begins at 7:30pm.

Location: CARD Center - 545 Vallombrosa Avenue - Chico, California, 95926. We look forward to see you at our next meeting!

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Program</u> |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| May 14 (Wed) | Craig Nielsen | TBA |
| June 11, (wed) | Michael Kossow | USFS Adopt-A-Stream Program – Fisheries Biologist |
| Sep 11, (Thur) | Jon Baiocchi | Davis Lake |
| Oct 8, (Wed) | TBA | TBA |
| Nov 12 (wed) | Dave McKinney | Special movie (TBA) |

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2014

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 Don Sleeper or Eric See.

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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Fishout Leader</u> |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| May 10 | Bass Pond | Don Sleeper |
| BQ Lunch will be provided, \$10 fee helps with food costs, clean up, and rest room rental. Please call Pat or Don at 530-228-9197 or 345-1197 for head count for meals. | | |
| May 24 | Crater Lake | Don Sleeper |
| June 1st Sun | Little Grass Valley Creek Reservoir (2.3 mile walk) Off Buck Horn Summit on Hwy 299 | |
| June | Almanor Hex hatch | Open |
| July | Philbrook Reservoir | Open |
| August | Open | Open |
| Sept 20 | Lewiston or Davis | Don Sleeper |
| Oct 1st | Pyramid Lake | Open |
| Oct | Almanor | Open |
| Nov 8 | Eagle Lake | Don Sleeper |
| Nov | Big Chico Creek | Eric See |

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

Feather River Salmon ID Spawning Gravel Project – 2014

Starting in June of 2014, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will implement a project to place 8,300 cubic yards of salmon and steelhead spawning gravel in the Feather River adjacent to the Feather River Fish Hatchery. This project will provide benefits to Feather River salmon and steelhead as well as other species associated with the Feather River ecosystem.

This project is a DWR requirement associated with DWR's hydropower license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and is a part of the Settlement Agreement for Licensing of the Oroville Facilities, FERC Project No. 2100, March 2006, (Page B-14, Section B105).

- DWR has obtained all necessary permits from State and Federal Agencies for this project, including the California Dept. Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service
- Project mobilization and material staging will occur in May, but trucks/equipment are restricted from the entering the River Channel until June 1st to protect Feather River salmonids. Construction activities will be completed by the end of August so the spawning gravel will be available for the spring-run Chinook which will start spawning in September
- The gravel, construction equipment, and other materials will be staged on the hatchery side (north) of the Feather River
- Vehicles, gravel trucks, heavy equipment, etc. will enter the river channel from an existing entrance road on the hatchery side of the Feather River
- DWR engineers and biologists will be on-site during the construction to manage and monitor the project
- This is the first Feather River habitat improvement project to occur from the 2006 FERC relicensing Settlement Agreement. There are several other Feather River habitat improvement projects that will occur in the future, but these are awaiting issuance of the new FERC License before they will start

Photos of a Similar Salmonid Gravel Project on the American River:



Fishout at Little Grass Valley Creek Reservoir Sunday, June 1st, 2014– Walk-in Fishout

Little Grass Valley Creek Reservoir is a great fly fishing spot. It's a walk-in lake that has very clear water. It's located about a 1/2 mile west of Buckhorn Summit on Highway 299. Travel a half-mile west of the summit, and you'll find a wide shoulder on the east-bound side. You can park there and walk to the lake. There are two gates and you'll walk down a two mile trail. The road into the lake is a very wide gravel road. It's a float tube lake with a land-locked steelhead population.

Grass Valley Creek Reservoir can offer a great winter/spring experience. It's a 2.3 mile hike in with float tubes, though, and over a ridge and back down again. Our lines will be sinking or intermediate, Wooley Bugger or leech-patterns.

If you don't know where Grass Valley Creek Reservoir is, have someone who's been there before take you. My friends and I have wandered around on logging roads to nowhere thinking we could locate it on our own. It used to be easy to find because there was a big wooden sign just less than one mile from Buckhorn Summit on Highway 299, west of Redding. The trick was to turn your car around at the wooden sign and park at the second turnout back toward Redding. The big wooden sign is no longer there, so you really have to know where this place is before you go. Mercifully, sometimes a car or two will be parked there.

Please give me a call if you plan to attend. We plan to leave Chico at 6:30 a.m. and leave the lake around 3:30 or so. I bring my float tube, fins, waders/boots tied to the tube. Make sure you adjust and try out your gear before the walk-in to the lake.

Cell 530-228-9197 or home 345-1197

Don Sleeper



Fly of the Month for May 2014

Mother's Day Caddis

By: Ray Narbaitz

May is the month for Mother's Day. It is also the first full month of Trout season, and the time when Mother Earth starts really waking up. Usually, it is the time just before there is the chance that snow run off will make our waters run high, but that might not be much of a problem this year. Spring conditions should look a lot more like mid-year. With this in mind, I thought the Mother's Day Caddis would be most appropriate for this month's fly.

The MDC is the brainchild of Greg Garcia, who works with Charlie Craven out of Arvada, CO. If you haven't been to Charlie's web site (charliesflyboxinc.com) you should really do so. It is one of the best pattern directories with clear, how to pictures on the web. I'm assuming that Garcia came up with the pattern in the month of May, thus the name. However, how he came up with the under wing on the pattern, I have no idea. The green glass bead at the rear of the fly is to imitate the egg sac when the females come back to the water to lay their eggs. While the looks of the pattern is unique, to say the least, Charlie says it works very well at all stages of the hatch, which is consistent with Caddis flies. In our western waters, it seems the fish are always looking for a Caddis of some kind to swim by.

Hook: TMC100, 14 to 18

Rear Bead: Small Glass Bead in green or emerald

Thread: 10/0 Olive to secure the bead and 8/0 Black for the rest of the fly

Abdomen: Black Super Fine

Under Wing: Pearl and Red Krystal Flash, and Pearl Mirage

Over Wing: Light or Bleached Elk Hair

Hackle: Grizzly dyed brown

1. Debarb the hook and slip the glass bead on before putting the hook in the vise.
2. After the hook is in the vise, slide the bead back so it rests on the vise and start the 10/0, Olive Thread in front of it. If you don't have 10/0 or finer thread, 8/0 will work. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook, and slide the bead up to it. Bring the thread over the top of the bead, and make several wraps of thread behind it. Bring the thread back over the bead, and make a few wraps of thread in front of it. This will hold the bead in place.
3. Wrap the thread back to the middle of the shank, give it a few turns with a whip finisher, and cut it off.
4. Start your Black Thread at the mid-point of the hook, and take it back to the bead.
5. Dub your black Super Fine (Tan, Olive and Green would probably also work), starting at the bead, and dub it up to close to the 2/3 point of the shank.
6. Lay down a thread base from the end of the dubbing to the hook eye and back.
7. Take three strands of Pearl Krystal Flash, one of Red, and one of Mirage Tinsel (I didn't have any of that, so I used a strand of small Holographic Tinsel), and put them together. They should be a couple of inches long.
8. Tie them in the center of their length, right up against the Abdomen, and running parallel to the hook shank.
9. Now, take the front half of the strands, and pull them up and back over the abdomen, and tie them down. This double tie down insures they will not pull out. Cut them off even with the bend of the hook.
10. Clean and stack your Elk Hair, and tie it in so the tips extend just past the under wing. Charlie recommends you hold on tightly to the Elk Hair on top of the shank, make a couple of loose turns around it, and then pull the thread tightly toward you. Hang on to the hair until you have placed several tight wraps around it. Before you clip off the butt ends, lift up a few at a time, and make a couple or thread wraps forward through the remainder. Do this several times until they are all tied in. Again, this will make sure they can't pull out.
11. Cut the butt ends off cleanly, and wrap over all of them to give you a smooth base on which to wrap the hackle.
12. You want this to be a heavily hackled fly, so it is recommended that you use two feathers. Place them side by side, and strip or cut a few barbs off the bottom of the stems and tie them in.
13. Because you will be wrapping them down the slope of your wing tie in, it is best to leave the thread hanging right in front of the hackle tie in. As you wrap, the thread tension will help keep the hackle from sliding down the shank. If you are wrapping two feathers, wrap them together.
14. Wrap them up close to the eye, and tie them down. Trim off the excess hackle, and trim off any wild barbs that you don't want sticking out here and there.
15. Make a small, thread head, whip finish, and cut off your thread.
16. Apply a small amount of head cement, and you are done.

Notes: If you don't have Brown dyed Grizzly, I doubt that the fish will mind if you just use a good, darker brown Hackle which is what I did...Instead of tying down the butt ends of the wing, I usually take a few tight wraps, and then cut off the butt ends at an angle. Using my Bodkin, I put head cement on the remaining ends, and push it into the hair with the bodkin point. I then wrap tightly over all of it.



LOCAL GUIDES

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

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Sierra Stream & Mountain
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