



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts

November 2009

MEETING LOCATION: Boys & Girls Club 601 Wall Street, Chico Art room/ Multipurpose Rm Thursday Nov 12th, Fly tying instruction @ 6:30 General Meeting @ 7:30...Refreshments available.



The Presidents Line By Lincoln Gray

I'd first like to say, congratulations to all the new board members that were elected last month. Darrin Deel, Scott Hood, Don Sleeper and Dana Miller. It looks like we're shaping up to have a great board and great chair people for the upcoming year. But, we need your help and support. General meeting attendance has been down and we need, for you, the club members to attend. Club general meetings are the second Thursday of every month at the Boys & Girls Club.

October, we had a very interesting speaker John R. Gantner, that not only tied realistic flies, but spoke to us on how to identify all major bug groups, when they come out, what waters they live in and what time of the day they hatch. It was a "must see" for fly fishermen.

Speaking of October, November is now here and the steelhead "are in" all the rivers. Eagle Lake is starting to fish, but do not forget about some of your favorite haunts before the trout season ends on November 15th.

Upcoming events that everyone should be aware of is the movie "Rivers Of The Lost Coast" will be playing at the Big Room at Sierra Nevada on November 8th, CAF Anchovy Feed is on December 10th.

Lincoln Gray



Secretary's Secrets By Pat Sleeper

Meeting called to order @ Don and Pat's. Those present Lincoln Gray, Larry Willis, Eric See, Scott Hood, Joe Garza, Don and Pat Sleeper.

Discussions: New board meeting date – The first "Tuesday" of each month and staying with the same General meeting date of the second "Thursday" of each month.

More sign-age for Horseshoe Lake regarding fishing regulations.

Badges for the board – Don Sleeper to handle.

Treasurer nomination - Don Sleeper.

Guest speaker: Allen Harthorn from "Friends of Butte Creek" spoke about "Rivers of a Lost Coast" film event at Sierra Nevada Brewery's Big Room Nov 8th. Tickets are available at Sierra Stream and Mountain on 5th Av., Chico or on Friends of Butte Creek web site...please see attached flyer. Club was asked to help sponsor this event and they voted to do so. The club will have a table there manned by CAF members: Lincoln, Joe & Christopher.

Motion: Val to head ladies fishouts for CAF. S/P Joe/Pat

Motion: Eric writing a letter to the Department of Fish and Game regarding the Steelhead bag limit. The DFG wants to increase bag limits from 1 at this time, to 2 or 3 and the fishery won't sustain it. E-mails to be sent out to each member regarding how each member can help and further information. Motion S/P Larry/Joe.

CAF Dinner scheduled for March 5th, 2010, Friday... PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Elections results:

President – Lincoln Gray

V. President- Joe Garza

Secretary- Pat Sleeper

Treasurer-Don Sleeper

Board:

Dana Miller

Scott Hood

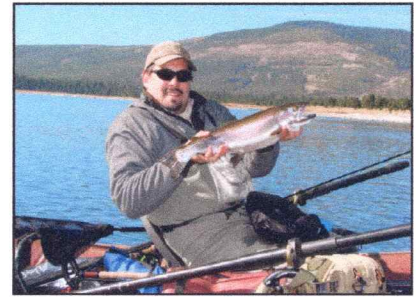
Darrin Deel

Committee Chairman: Conservation – Dave McKinney

By Pat Sleeper

Vice-President By Joe Garza

Where in the world has the year gone? I slipped into a store on Halloween to buy some candy. I was amazed that they had moved most of the Halloween candy out and started putting up Christmas candy & decorations. My first thought was disbelief, it's only October! Then the next thought turned to winter fishing in Northern California. Sacramento River, Eagle Lake, Trinity River, Feather River, Chico Creek, Butte Creek, Baum Lake and the list goes on. With so many possibilities how does one choose? There are so many choices right here in our own back yard, sometimes it makes the choice difficult to make. Personally Chico Creek is one of my favorite.



We've got a full agenda this month. The club meeting is on Nov 12th. Rivers of a Lost Coast will be showing at Sierra Nevada Big room on November 8th. The Lightning Bugs will have an "introduction to fly fishing" on November 21st.

I would like to encourage everyone to come to the meeting this month, we will have Christopher there talking about his trip to Montana, and possibly another speaker depending on time. Lets come out and show some support to one of our Lightning Bug members. It would also be good to have a lot of members at the showing of "Rivers of a Lost Coast". Hope to see everyone at both events.

Lightening Bugs By Joe Garza

It seems like forever that I have seen any of the youth. It has been brought to my attention that some members are not receiving their newsletters, we have updates about the Lightning Bugs activities. If you know of someone, that hasn't been getting their newsletter, please let me know. I will get them back on the list. On November 21st, the Lightning Bugs will have an introduction to fly fishing. We will talk about why we fly fish, gear we use, bugs and fly tying. Space is limited: I have 5 youth already signed up at this time. We will focus on fly-tying and knots, during these winter months. If you are interested please let me know A.S.A.P. 530-570-0978. I would also like to encourage the parents to bring their youth to the showing of "Rivers of a Lost Coast" on November 8th at 5:00 p.m. Hope to hear from some of you soon.



Joe Garza

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2009

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
Nov 7, 8	Lake Davis	Don Sleeper

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

Lake Davis Fishout November 5, 6, 7, & 8th.

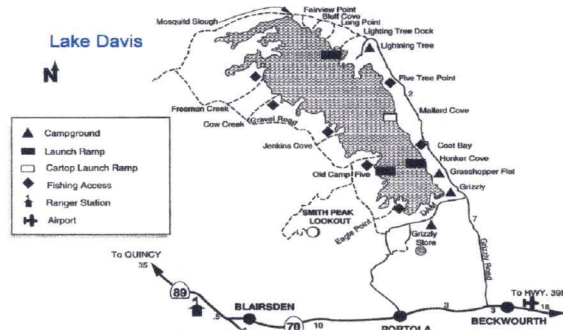
We have changed the November Fishout location to: Lake Davis. Eagle Lake is not fishing up to our expectations. If you want a greater chance of catching fish, come up to Davis Lake.

The huge fish population from all the plantings has made Davis a very good fishery again. The majority of fish are from 10 inches to 14 inches. But Terry Mich fished it last week (Oct 29th) and caught fish up to 20 inches on the olive wiggles. The shallow coves and long points located on the west side of the lake are best for fly fishing. These areas hold the majority of the aquatic insects and vast weed beds that are more conducive to fish taking artificial imitations. This is the time when the coves and points (Jenkins point) on the east side are very productive.

In mid November until the snow prevents access, Davis can provide the best fishing of the year in terms of numbers. This onset of colder weather can get many

large fish on the bite. Wading the points and fishing from float tubes in the shallows can produce lots of action for the persistent fisherman.

We'll be camping at the Lightning campground on the east side of the lake from Nov 5th through Nov 7th. Hope to see you up at Davis this coming week.



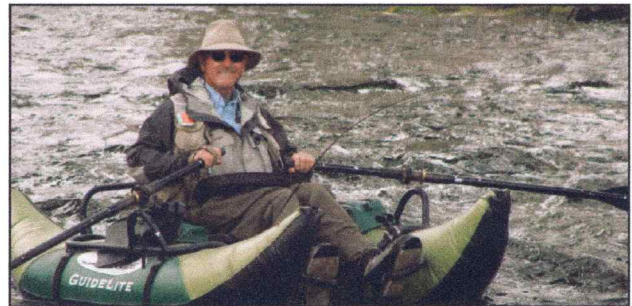
Pontoon/Float Tube Safety

By Don Sleeper

Yes, I have a pontoon boat and they're a lot of fun; and, great exercise. You won't believe how fast you can get hauling on a pontoon; but, it DOES require some practice and skill. You should dip your oars exactly the same on both sides, or you could start turning in circles. Also, you will need fins. Once you put the oars away, the fins will help keep you from turning and will maneuver you, as you fish. Even in fast water with a pontoon boat you can wear your fins for maneuverability. But be careful in shallow fast water: such as rapids...keep your fins out of the water so they don't get caught on fast approaching boulders or the fast moving current. We like to stick with the oars at that time, keeping the boat pointed down stream and away from objects.

Pontoons draft very little and fishing maneuverability can surpass a boat or a float tube since your lower half is in the water...each has its advantages and disadvantages.

If you are using your pontoon for still water only, you can use just about any model you like- but if using it on moving water, not all models are suitable! If using it on rivers, the pontoons should be made out of commercial raft style material and oars appropriate for the boat and water. The pontoons need an up curved rise to them so if you go over a water fall the tips don't dive under the water. I've seen one of these flip when a guy took one into a whirl pool: the tips dove and the back churn pushed the tips under him, and he went over. Remember there is no seatbelt and you MUST wear a life vest, I recommend the low profile kayaker type- better freedom of movement for casting and rowing.



Things You'll Need With a Pontoon:

- Float tube Fins
- Waders (for cold water)
- Air pump and valve
- Loud whistle (for lakes with speed boats)
- Night light if on the water after dark
- Water and snacks
- Anchors and rope are important even in rivers
- Patch Kit
- Spare oar lock is handy

Helpful Steps

Step 1

Float tubes or pontoon boats should be stored partially inflated. The day before your outing, it's a good idea to pump up your tube until the outer covering is fairly tight and let it sit for a few hours so you can make sure it holds air. If it doesn't, you will need to pull the bladder and check for leaks and fix with a patch. You will need to make sure you have your air pump and a patch kit on board while you are in the water. You may also want to take a net bag for holding cans of soda or water. You will want to make sure that you have all of your fishing items organized in your tube pouches. And remember to keep

your pontoon or float tube only partially inflated if you drive to higher locations to fish because the high elevation will cause your tube to expand.

Step 2

When you get to the water, carry all your gear that you plan to take with you to the waters' edge and lay it all out on the ground and check to make sure you haven't forgotten anything. If the water is cold you will want to have waders for comfort. I prefer neoprene waders for float tubing and use in my pontoon because they are comfortable for sitting for extended periods, and they fit snug so you can move easily through the water. In warm water you will not need waders (hip boots work fine with pontoons), but in either case you will need fins. You can put the fins on right before you enter the water. I look for a shallow area with easy access and then place the tube or pontoon in the water and load my fishing rod, food and drinks on the boat and push it out into deeper water before seating myself in the craft. I prefer thigh deep water for getting into a float tube because it's easier to move around in the water, once you're on board.

Step 3

When you get out away from the bank you will need to make note of landmarks around your entry area so you can find it later on your way back. You will also want to make note of any other boats, etc. on the water. At this point you will need to keep your eyes peeled for signs of fish. You also need to check for currents. You can do this

by sitting still in the water and see if you are moving in relation to a bush or tree on the bank. Many lakes have currents in them that are barely detectable and these currents can be the reason that you will find yourself far away from your entry area in a relatively short time. Use your anchor when there is wind or a slight current if you want to fish in the same area. On a river use a heavier anchor. I use about a 10 pound anchor now on rivers, but be careful with anchors on rivers, never anchor in swift water with a pontoon. You may want to stay fairly close to your entry area until you are sure your boat is holding air and to make sure that you haven't forgotten anything. Again when on rivers always use your fins whether in a float tube or pontoon boat. Another thing to remember if you encounter heavy waves or wind, head for the shore. Once in shore you can always move around the edge of the lake back to the place where you started.

Step 4

When you see rising fish or movement in the water, you will want to get fairly close and cast to those areas. It always amazes me how close I can get to rising fish without spooking them and it does give you an extra advantage. This is the real beauty of using a float tube or pontoon. If you're like me, you will be concentrating on fishing and not on the clock. Give your self plenty of time to get back to your entry area before it gets dark. But most of all enjoy the experience. You will find that float tubing or using a pontoon is a very relaxing and a peaceful way to catch lots of fish.

Fly of the Month, November, 2009

By: Ray Narbaitz

The Griffith's Gnat

As we get into the fall of the year, the fishing will just keep getting better. After fall, comes the winter, and a lot of people stop fishing. In our part of the country, this is a real mistake. Some of the rules of winter fishing include making sure you are dressed warmly enough, layering your clothes because the weather can change rapidly, slow down your pace of fishing, try not to go out alone because if you get in trouble you'll need the help quickly, make sure your vehicle can get you in and out of where you want to go, and...oh yeah, get ready to use a lot of very small flies.

While they are around pretty much year round, winter is when a lot of fish feed almost exclusively on Midges, because they are, by far, the most prevalent bug around. You would be surprised to know how many big fish feed on this smallest of insects. The bad news for the fish is that they must have to feed all day to get a full meal. The



good news is that in both moving and still waters, there are gazillions of the little bugs.

This type of fishing is best done on lakes or slow moving sections of streams. Most Midge fishing is done using sub surface flies under an indicator or dry fly. The dry fly is seldom more than just a disguised indicator. However, there are those times when fish will take them off of the surface. When that is happening, it can be very fun, albeit very frustrating fishing. The trick is to figure out whether the fish are taking emergers or adults. If you decide they are taking flies off of the surface, an old pattern works very well. It's the Griffith's Gnat.

This fly was developed by George Griffith, who is one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited. People with too

much time on their hands like to argue about what the fly is supposed to imitate. I won't go into the various theories here, but I think which one is right is not too important as long as the fly catches fish, which this one does.

Hook...Tiemco 101 or Daiichi 1110 sizes 18 to 24
Thread...10/0 or 12/0, Black
Body...Peacock Herl
Hackle...Grizzly, Palmered

Debarb and place hook in the vise.

Try to keep your thread wraps to a minimum and tie on the Grizzly Hackle, tip first, at the back.
Tie in one Peacock Herl. Try to use the herl from the eye of the Peacock. You want it to be thin.
Wrap the herl up to the eye, and tie it off.

Palmer the hackle up to the eye. This is very small, very fragile hackle, and it may take a little practice to do it without breaking the hackle. If it doesn't reach the full body, unwrap it, and rewrap spacing the wraps a little further apart. Having a full rotary vise really helps in this kind of tying.

Whip finish the head and use a little head cement.

My favorite size to fish this fly is in a 22. It is not exactly the easiest fly in the world to see on the water. Two little tricks you can use are to tie it off behind another small but visible fly like a Parachute Adams, or try to sort of follow where you think the fly is and set on anything that moves. Interestingly enough, In an 18 or 20, this fly can also be fished in a BWO hatch, or pretty much any other small fly hatch.

Please help us protect Feather River steelhead fishing!

The California Dept. Of Fish and Game (DFG) has proposed to increase the bag limit for hatchery steelhead on several California rivers, and has included the Feather River in this proposal. It would increase the Feather River bag limit from 1 hatchery steelhead to either 2 or 3 hatchery steelhead. DFG predicts this will result in a 500% increase in the number steelhead harvested from the Feather River each year.

While this proposal may make sense for other California rivers in the proposal, the Feather River is unlike these rivers and should not be included. The Chico Area Flyfishers (CAF) sent a letter opposing the Feather River being included in the proposal, and would like individuals to send their own opposition comments as well. Your comments can be emailed to the California State Fish and Game Commission, the government entity which actually adopts the regulations, at this address: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Your comments don't need to be lengthy, but a robust response from multiple anglers would maximize our effectiveness.

Below is some background material. The full DFG proposal can be found here: http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/new/2009/5_88isor.pdf

This proposal, and some other related information, is on the Fish and Game Commission website at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/new/2009/proposedregs09.asp> - scroll down to "**Statewide Steelhead Regulation Alignment and Smith River Regulations**"

CAF's opposition is based on the following: The Proposal Provides Incorrect Information about the Feather River Hatchery

This proposal incorrectly states that the Feather River Hatchery meets its production goals each year, and that "surplus" hatchery steelhead are available. In actuality, the Feather River Hatchery did not meet its fish stocking

goal in 2008, 2009, won't be meeting it in 2010, and likely won't collect enough eggs for 2011 stocking either, considering the low returns of salmonids to the Feather River we are seeing this season. Increasing the harvest will further reduce the number of steelhead returning to the hatchery, diminishing the number of steelhead eggs collected. But it gets worse - the new program to stock steelhead in the Thermalito Afterbay is dependent upon "surplus" eggs being taken at the hatchery, so this would also be impacted by increasing the river harvest. It is clear that DFG did not consult the Feather River Hatchery prior to including the Feather River in this proposal, and therefore it should be removed.

This Proposal Fails to Properly Analyze the Feather River Steelhead Fishery

DFG predicted that this proposal will increase the harvest of Feather River steelhead by 5 times; this is alarming and will result in an overall reduction in the steelhead catch rate. This is harmful to the angler because a higher catch rate is more desirable than extra fish in the freezer. These fish are too valuable to only be caught once.

In addition, the Feather River near the hatchery is closed to fishing during the fall, and then it opens to fishing on January 1st. Unlike many other steelhead rivers in California, this creates an "Opening Day" phenomenon where large numbers of anglers descend on this area to catch the large number of steelhead which have loaded up in this area. January 1st is right at the peak of their spawning period so these steelhead are either about to enter the hatchery as spawners, or they are about to spawn naturally in this area which has the most heavily used steelhead spawning/rearing habitat on the Feather River. Increasing the bag limit will mean even more impacts on these fish at an important, vulnerable time.

A New Ladies List

by Val Bowlby

It's time to make a new ladies list. I would like your help, please. Over the past year or two several ladies have asked me "When are you going to do a lady's day again?" Well, I am planning to put together two of them this coming spring.

One day will be spent stream side. The day will include discussions on gear and equipment choices, lines, flies, knots, safety, wading, reading the water, where fish like to hang out, as well as casting, line control and retrieving. (Wow! That's a lot for one day, but we'll do our best!) With a little bit of luck, we can learn about "best practices" release procedures, too. There will be no charge for the day. Ladies should have their own fishing license, bring whatever fly fishing gear they have (or have questions about) as well as their own lunch, snacks, and folding chair. I will set a date and location to be announced in the March and April newsletters. The ladies will no doubt have questions for me before the day arrives, and I will welcome their calls, and look forward to getting to know them a bit before THE DAY finally arrives. I want them to be excited and also as prepared as they can be.

The second day will be spent at a lake or pond, and will deal with still water fishing. Again, we will go over equipment, lines, flies, knots, casting, safety etc. During this day, I especially want the ladies to learn something about twitching their line, and making poppers really pop! Learning where and how to fish a lake is crucial to still water success. We will practice casting

to reeds, estimating casting distance and maneuvering the float tubes along the sides of the water. This too will be free, and the ladies should bring whatever gear they have as well as lunches and folding chairs.

I am going to take the attitude that this coming year, 2010 any gal in the Chico area who ever wanted to learn to fly fish gets to be shown how by one of us. She doesn't need to wait any longer, now is the time!

I already have 5 ladies on my list: Some of them came Several years ago but didn't get to fish much after that, and want a Refresher course. A couple of you fellows have told me that you would love it if we would

Do a beginning seminar for ladies again because you would like your wives and daughters to learn. So! Get those names, addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers to me! You will find a clip board for these names at the clubs General meetings, And of course, you can

Always call me with the information. Valerie Bowlby, 891-0706.

As a side note: Some have asked what ever happened to the women's fly fishing club that was started up in Chico a few years ago. The answer is, nothing! There never was one. This is a CAF sponsored event to promote the sport of fly fishing. We do not need a women's fly fishing club. It has been my experience that we all have a great time fishing together!

Valerie Bowlby, 891-0706.

Friends of Butte Creek Events

We are doing more great films. Our next show is: **"Rivers of a Lost Coast"**

November 8th Doors open @ 5:00 PM

Buffet @ 5:30 Movie begins at 7:00 PM

Silent Auction to benefit Friends of Butte Creek and Sacramento River Preservation Trust

Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room

Tickets at Brown Paper Tickets

Tickets can also be purchased at Sierra Streams and Mountain Fly shop on 5th ST, Chico, CA.

Info Line: 345-1865

Website: <http://www.buttecreek.org>

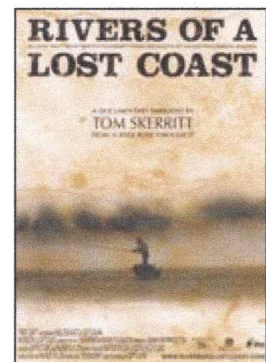
Notes: Advance tickets \$12. At the door \$15.

Buffet Dinner at 5:30 - \$14 per person.

At the turn of the 20th Century, a handful of pioneers carried their fly rods into California's remote north coast and gave birth to a culture that would revolutionize their sport. For a select few, steelhead fly fishing became an obsessive pursuit without compromise.

Leading the pack was the mythical, Bill Schaadt, an off-kilter angler famous for his ruthless pursuit to be in the fish. The new endeavor was ruled by a demanding, unspoken code, which made 'breaking in' almost as difficult as 'breaking out'.

By the early 1980s, the Golden State's coastal fisheries found themselves caught in a spiraling decline. As California searched for its disappearing salmon and steelhead, these men foraged for their souls.



LOCAL GUIDES

Chico Fly Shop
Chico, CA
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Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

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

Sierra Stream & Mountain
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Committee Chairpersons:
Fish Master..... Don Sleeper 345-1197

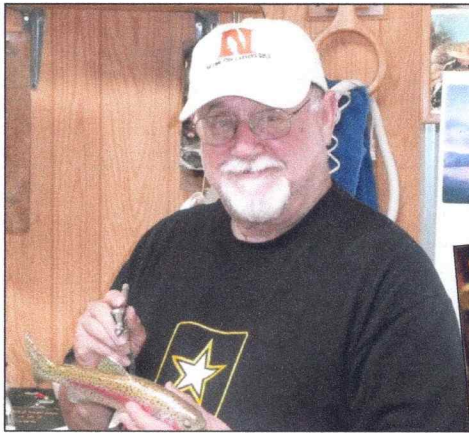
Youth Group..... Joe Garza 570-0978

Conservation David McKinney

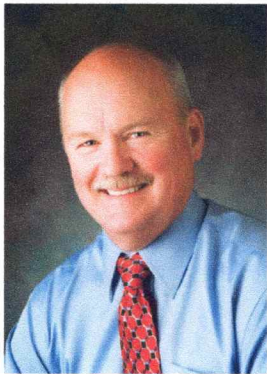
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Librarian..... 343-7147

Fly Tying..... Open



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