



# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

## Short Casts November 2016

Our next meeting is @ Wed, Nov 9th @ 6:30 fly tying & 7:30 Meeting @ California Park Pavilion, California Park Dr. Chico



### President Line by Pat Sleeper

President's Line Nov. 2016:  
We have Almanor Fly Fishing Association coming up to talk to us Wed, Nov. 9th, 2016 at 7:30; and Ray Narbaitz will be tying at 6:30....  
Almanor Fly fishing Association, Rich Dengler, President, will be talking about:  
The History of Lake Almanor;

Status of the Thermal Curtain;  
Short history of the Almanor Fishing Association;  
Our cage program;  
Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access;  
Fish plants and the German Brown Trout issue;

We trust you will be able to come enjoy his talk and ask questions if you choose. We also hope you will be joining us next month, wed, Dec 14th @ 6:00 P.M. at Round Table on Pillsbury Rd, Chico.

We have a lot of new fish-outs in the works that Tom and Elden are working on; so please, be sure to answer their survey and help them help us.

We are getting ready for our annual Crab dinner; and, as always, we appreciate your support with your wonderful donations. The dinner date will be Sat, March 4th, 2017.

We have donated more aquariums this year, than in the past, thanks to your support...thank you! Sincerely, Pat Sleeper

Flyfishers club! I will miss his "wonderful" smile and always pleasant words and helpfulness! I "know" he has found that perfect place to catch some truly trophy trout or bass up there. Until we meet again Wayne. Respectfully, Pat Sleeper

### Bailey Creek Fish Out

By Don Sleeper

The club had a very enjoyable day at Bailey Creek Lodge, Peter and Cindy Mitchell (530-474-4600) our hosts! They deserve a big "thank you" for the wonderful time we all had: The fishing was great in their ponds; and, the creek for rainbows. We caught rainbows up to 4 pounds on tiny midge flies. Really incredible fly fishing when the hatch was on. We used pontoons, float tubes as well as fished the lakes from the shores. And, we all had success... Eleven of us had a great time. Our lunch was wonderful as well...www.baileycreeklodge.com

### CAF Minutes 11/01/2016

Meeting was called to order by Pat Sleeper, president.

Attendance; David M, Pat S, Don S, Larry W, Terry M, Dana M, Elden H, Tom R, Steve B.

Quorum obtained

Secretary report: David McKinney: Approval of minutes: Approved

Treasures report: Don Sleeper Initial budget proposed. Taxes are in order and updated contract with the Masonic Lodge for this year's dinner. We now have a new keeper of the keys person that we can reach for access to our monthly meeting facility at California Park. (this is in response to the fact that we have been locked out a few times).

Vice-president's report: Larry Willis.

Programs are pretty well organized for the next year. This next meeting will be with the Almanor Fishing association. We have arranged fly tying for the next several meetings. In December, will be the pizza feed at Round table pizza, Pillsbury Rd. In January, will be Liar's night; so if any of you have interesting fishing stories or pictures (preferably of big fish) and would like to talk about them please contact Larry Willis, VP. willislaw43@gmail.com

Fish-outs.

Tom Rosenow: Discussion of the Pyramid Lake fish-out March 11th and 12th, 2017.

Elden Hinkle gave a report on the recent very successful Bailey Creek October fish-out.

Newsletter: Pat Sleeper. News Letter information is being updated.

Elections

David McKinney, elected Secretary; Scott Joyce, Eric see, elected BOD.

Dinner Committee:

Unofficial meeting of the dinner committee; talked a little bit about big ticket item and the general suggestion at this point it is a pontoon boat. Also discussion of obtaining plenty of fly rods as that seems to be a very popular item.

Adjourned

## CAF General Meeting Speaker List 2016-17

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>
Nov 9th	Almanor fishing Association	Rich Dinger, President
Dec 14	Round Table, Pillsbury Rd: @ 6:00 P.M.	
Jan 11,	Share "Your" pictures and stories...	
Feb 8th	Chris - Pyramid Lake and Crawley Lake	
March 4th, Sat	Annual Crab Dinner Fundraiser...	

## Big Fish

That was a nice Brown:

The torch is being passed on as Allison ( our granddaughter) caught her first trout out of a float tube during the hex. As they say a picture is worth a thousand words. She was really excited as well as Jeff and I. She landed more than one that evening. Fred Richelieu



Steve and Elden on the Missouri River, Montana

## Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2016-17

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](mailto: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>
Jan 2017	Baum Lake - date depends on weather - TBD	
Jan 30th - 4th, 2017	Picachos, Mexico... - <b>Pat Sleeper</b> - full - thank you.	
March 4th	Annual Crab Feed Dinner	
March 11 & 12th	Pyramid Lake Clinic w/ <b>Rob Anderson &amp; Chris</b> RSVP Elden Hinkle <a href="mailto:ehinkle@alo.com">ehinkle@alo.com</a> <i>Breakfast/lunch/ladders \$190. pp + \$30. box of 12 flies.</i>	
April 6th-May 4th	Rooster Fishing "Sea of Cortez" La Ventana. Host: <b>Pat Sleeper</b> Questions: <a href="mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.net">psleeper@sbcglobal.net</a> (12 fishermen max) Cost: Under \$2000.pp A few spots left.	
May	Opener - <b>Eric See</b>	
June	Lake Almanor - Hex hatch- @ Scott Joyce's "thank you!" TBD	
July	Crawley Lake TBD <a href="mailto:ehinkle@alo.com">ehinkle@alo.com</a>	
Sep. 5 - 12, 2017	Dorado fishing La Ventana, Mexico. <b>Pat Sleeper</b> - host 6 days boat fishing/7 lodging w/food. Cost for everything under \$2000. Questions: <a href="mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.net">psleeper@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Sep. 12-20th, 2017	Dorado fishing La Ventana, Mexico. <b>Pat Sleeper</b> - host 6 days boat fishing/7 lodging w/food. Cost for everything under \$2000. Questions: <a href="mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.net">psleeper@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Oct 1, 2017	Pyramid opener	<a href="mailto:trosenow.chico@gmail.com">trosenow.chico@gmail.com</a> <b>Tom Rosenow</b>

# Almanor Fishing Association

## AN UPDATE FROM YOUR AFA PRESIDENT

### THE LAKE ALMANOR BASIN HAD A VERY WET OCTOBER

October 14, 15 and 16 brought in a substantial amount of rain and wind but no snow to the Basin. There were several very wet storms the last week of the month. In fact the basin is 273% of the normal rainfall for the year. Almanor West reported nearly 10" of rain for the month of October. We had our first snow of the season late Halloween night that brought out the snow plows. The weather prognosticators haven't come across any clear indicators of what we should expect for the winter months ahead. That makes your guess as good as that of the professionals on predicting if we will have a wet year or a dry year. The lake level elevation is 4,483.8 which is 8.3 feet higher than last year at the same time.

### ANNUAL BBQ AND FUNDRAISER

Our annual BBQ and fundraiser took place Saturday, July 30 and was a huge success. There were more than 450 people in attendance enjoying the afternoon/evening festivities. Following dinner there was a silent auction and large raffle drawing for prizes such as overnight stays at casinos, golf packages, coolers, fishing gear (rods, reels, lures, dodgers, etc.), gift certificates to restaurants, gift baskets, artwork, cash, a big screen smart TV, a kayak, and much more. A special youth drawing also take place to ensure that every youngster between the ages of 3 and 14 went home with a prize. Everyone was served their steak or hot dog dinner in under an hour and a half and we were done with the fundraiser by 8:00 p.m. AFA netted \$14,000 from the event.



BBQ Group



BBQ Kids Raffle



Volunteers John Crotty and Doug Neal fixing damaged cage covers



DFW divers inspecting AFA cages



Volunteers transporting fish to AFA cages



Mark your calendar for next year's BBQ and fundraiser - Saturday, July 29. The event will be held at the Lake Almanor Country Club, Recreation Area #1 and will start at 4:00 p.m. with dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

### CAGE REPAIRS

AFA purchased \$9,200 worth of material to replace 40 cage covers (4 per cage). The old covers had many holes that had been repaired with chicken wire over the past 28 years. The material used to repair the cages is much stronger and we hope will deter the river otters.

After talking the Monty Currier from the Region 1 DFW office, it was determined that AFA needed to have its cages inspected by DFW divers to verify that we had cages capable of holding fish. On October 5th three DFW divers inspected all ten of our cages and determined we had seven good cages and three that need repairs. Minor repairs were made to the cages; major repairs will require funding.

I want to personally thank all of the AFA volunteers who gave their time unselfishly to fix the cages, cage covers, and transfer dock.

## **FISH HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO OUR CAGES AT HAMILTON BRANCH**

On October 11th we received this year's allotment of fish. There was a great turnout of 20 volunteers to help move the fish from the Lake Haven Resort ramp to the AFA cages.

The Darrah Springs Hatchery was only able to provide AFA with 25,000 Shasta Lake Rainbow Trout this year because DFW had limited ability to produce fish. I was told by the hatchery manager that we will get our full allotment of 50,000 fish next year if we can get our three damaged cages repaired before October 2017. We currently have seven cages that can hold fish. There are three cages that need major repairs, two of which need to be removed from the water. This will be a very expensive project and will require the association to receive some major grant money. If you know of any organization that can provide the association with funds, please let us know. We would like to be able to get the full 50,000 fish for next year!

There have been reports that the DFW had budget restraints but other reports indicate this is not totally true. According to the Western Outdoor News, the State Fish Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund are very solvent and not in jeopardy; however, other reports indicate otherwise. The fund should have \$3.4 million surplus after normal operating cost for the budget year 2017/2018. We'll see how the fish plants go next year.

## **KOKANEE POWER ABANDONED THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION**

We have discontinued our partnership with Kokanee Power. They decided to not fund the cage program after they lost the Fish-For-A-Wish Tournament in August. We are working with PG&E to get the licensing for the cages listed under the Almanor Fishing Association. This will add \$12,000 to AFA's budget each year. The added cost is to cover fish food, insurance and the PG&E permit. This is twice as much as our normal budget. The AFA Board of Directors is determined to keep the cage program running for years to come. We just need to come up with an additional \$12,000 each year to cover the cost increase. We are currently looking into grant money to cover additional costs. We have the full support of the DFW; they indicated it is a good program and beneficial to them as well as the local community. We have not had DFW's support for the past eight years other than providing the fish for our program. It is good to have them on board and very supportive of our cage program!

## **GERMAN BROWN TROUT STATUS IS LOOKING BLEAK AT BEST**

The situation with the lake's Brown Trout is not looking very good. I have been talking to the Region 1 fishery manager and their plan is to stop raising Brown's in the near future. There are only five hatcheries in the state raising Browns and none in our Region 2. Region 1 has two of the five hatcheries with the other three in the southern part of the state.

I have asked the Region 1 hatchery supervisor for a clarification on their plans for the Brown's indicating that these are our trophy fish which keeps fishermen coming to Lake Almanor in hopes of catching a 10lb plus fish. This helps stimulate an already depressed local economy throughout the year. I'm waiting to hear what their plans are and will let you know the status as soon as I know. We do have an allotment of 6,000 Brown's this year which DFW plants. There have been some small 13" to 14" Browns caught in the last few weeks so they are still planting some. Just four years ago the Department was planting 45,000 Browns in Lake Almanor. You can see where this is going!

**PLEASE RELEASE ALL BROWN TROUT YOU CATCH.** Take a picture and return the fish as soon as possible to the water or there won't be any to catch in the very near future if the DFW does in fact stop raising and planting German Brown Trout in Lake Almanor.

I want to thank you for supporting AFA, and thank all of you dedicated hardworking volunteers for all your efforts.

Rich Dengler, President  
Almanor Fishing Association

# Fly of the Month for November 2016

## Holy Grail Caddis

Fly of the Month, November, 2016

By: Ray Narbaitz

As Fly Fishing was evolving in Europe, and then migrating to the East Coast of the U.S., the majority of flies were based on Mayflies. In many parts of the country, that is still true. Even here in the West, a lot, if not most of our flies are based on some stage of Mayfly life. However, in our particular neck of the woods, I believe the Caddis is at least equally, and in some cases, more important than Mayflies. As a result of that, a quick search on the internet will show you an almost unending variety of flies based on Caddis life. The Holy Grail, today's F.O.T.M. is one of them. Like a lot of effective flies, the Holy Grail is pretty generic. It has been around for quite some time, and is often referred to as a, "Guide Fly." I've never been quite sure what that really means. In part, I think it means it has to be fairly easy to tie, can be tied in different colors, and catches fish. It also helps if it has more than one aspect that could be appealing to the fish. Because of its components, the Holy Grail can be dead drifted as a Nymph, swung like a Soft Hackle, and stripped, usually behind an attractor fly like a Wooly Bugger. It is a fairly easy fly to tie, but there is one step that can be a little tricky. I'll get more into that in the tying instructions.

Hook: TMC 2487, 2457, or any other 2X short 3X wide scud or emerger hook, 12 to 16

Thread: 8/0, usually red, but black or chartreuse can also be used

Bead: Gold regular or Tungsten, although Copper or Black can also be used

Rib: Small Pearlescent Tinsel or Flashabou

Abdomen: Hare's Ear in Natural, Olive or Black

Wing Case: Pheasant Tail

Thorax: Same dubbing as Abdomen

Legs: Hungarian Partridge

- Debarb the hook and thread it on the Bead. Place the hook in the vise. If you are using a hook with a curve, like the 2457, you may want to roll the hook up a bit so it is a little more level at the eye.
- Here is the part that's a little different. It is critical that you leave at least an eye length's gap between the hook eye and the front of the bead. This is where you will attach the wing case, and wrap the legs. One way to do this is to move the bead back a bit, and then start your thread at the back of the bead. Make sure you never tie any of the body of the fly beyond that tie in point. This is sometimes hard to do as your dubbing has a way of sneaking on to the forbidden territory. Another way is to bring your thread to the back of the bead, take it over the top of the bead to the front, and then loop the thread under the hook shank, and back over the bead to the back again. Wrap your thread tight to the back of the bead to hold it in place so it can't slip down.
- Tie in your ribbing material. Wrap it down a bit onto the bend of the hook.



- Dub a tapered body for the Abdomen. You want the Abdomen to be a little chunky. Leave enough room between the Abdomen and the Bead for the Thorax.
- Counter wrap your ribbing spiraling it up the dubbing. Tie it down and trim off the excess.
- Take 6 to 10 Pheasant Tail fibers, cut off the tips, and tie the fibers tip first in the gap for the Thorax. Tie them so they lay back over the fly and are wrapped tight up against the Abdomen.
- Using the same material as the Abdomen, dub in your Thorax. You want this to be fatter than the Abdomen. End your dubbing right at the back of the Bead.
- Advance your thread over the top of the Bead to behind the eye, and take a couple of wraps.
- Pull the PT fibers over the top of the Thorax and the Bead for the Wing Case, and tie them down tight to the Bead. Cut off the excess.
- Take a Partridge Feather and measure it against the fly to make sure the Hackle Barbs are about the same length or a little longer than the fly. Strip the unwanted Barbs and fuzzies off the bottom of the stem. Grab the very tip of the Feather with either your finger tips or Hackle Pliers, and preen the barbs back. That should leave you with a little triangle of tip exposed. Cut this down to a nub, which will be used for your tie in.
- Lay the Feather on top of the fly, making sure the natural curve is pointing down over the fly. Tie it in with a couple of tight wraps.
- Grab the stem with your Hackle Pliers and preen the fibers back. It sometimes helps to wet your fingers a bit when you do this.
- Take a couple of wraps of the Hackle around the hook, preening back the barbs with each wrap. Two full wraps is usually enough.
- Tie off the Hackle and trim off the stem.
- Take a few wraps with your thread back onto the Hackle to make sure the barbs tilt back.
- Whip finish the head, cut off your thread, and apply some head cement.

Notes: Needless to say, the dubbing material is not nearly as important as the color. It calls for Hare's Mask, but regular Rabbit, Squirrel, or Muskrat would all work...It may be gilding the lily, and it's another step, but adding some epoxy or some type of clear cure to the wing case would be a nice touch...It's also possible to use something like Thin Skin for the Wing Case instead of Pheasant Tail.



# LOCAL GUIDES

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