



# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

## Short Casts November 2020

### Next General Meeting To Be Determined



Dear Friends,

I want to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving It's coming up soon! We all have a lot to be Thankful for; and, we do need to focus on that. Don and I have still been doing a bit of fishing. We have found our Fishing offers a lot of relaxation with the Social Distancing; And, we have as well been out searching for new lakes to fish. A couple lakes in- particular were McCoy, Long Lake & Echo out of Chester...some now dry. Another that we didn't get to check out; but, I heard the fishing has been improving is Eagle Lake...I know, it's quite a distance to go , but it has been coming back, I hear from some guides that guide the lake...They boast some nice quality sizes and quantities. We're also fortunate to have the Sacramento River, Feather River and Yuba River and then Oroville & Black Butte Lake that have fish feeding up and getting ready for the winter.

Almanor though low, is starting to pick-up! Don't forget the coastal range possesses a few nice rivers that

I hear have been giving some fun fishing. How Blessed we are, to live where we do...Right? Go out and have some fun. Relax...And, please send me your stories and pictures...I care, and I think you'd like to share your stories with our members. Be safe and wear your mask when in close proximity to others; like when you're shopping in the stores. Oh, we have a couple spots left in our trophy bass fishing trip in Mexico, Jan 10-15, 2021. It's fun and boasting larger fish and quantities than usual due to "no nets or fishing for 7 1/2 months... questions, [www.patsflyfishing.com](http://www.patsflyfishing.com).

Also, at this time, it doesn't look like we will be having our annual Crab/Shrimp dinner the first Saturday in March 2021. You know the reason...COVID.. Sincerely, Pat Sleeper, President, CAF

## On the Road Again,

By Don & Pat Sleeper

We started fishing on Western US lakes in June with a finish in November with some outstanding fishing! And we found the best fly fishing that Pat and I have ever had in the world. This lake is off the beaten path and very cold this time of the year. The day we left this lake it was 16 degrees.

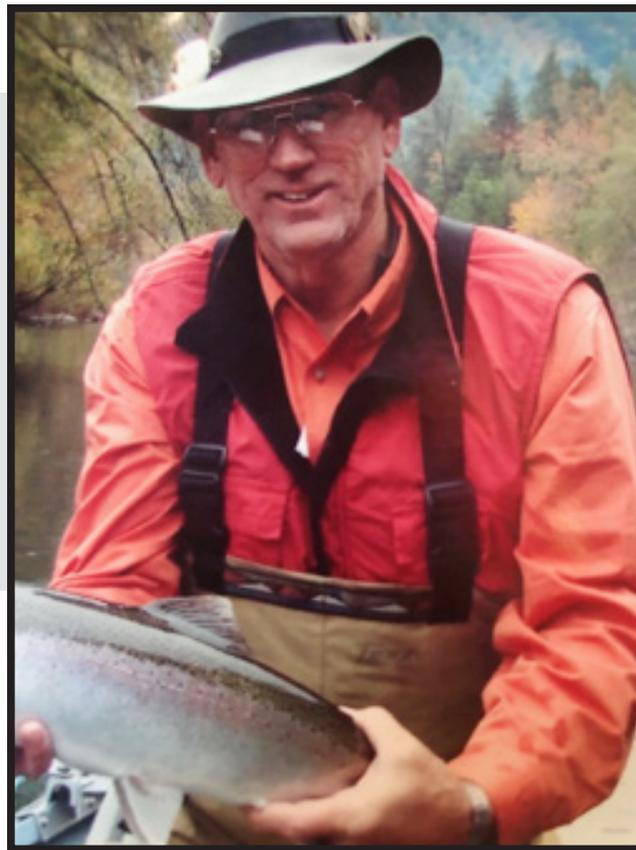
We used pond smelt imitations and wooly buggers on intermediate lines. Fish ranged between 18 inches and 23 inches and up to 5lbs on practically every cast.

Hope to hear your stories.



# In Memory TERRY MICH

## Oct 15, 2020



**P**lease help with a Memory Request for Terry's Family...Memorabilia box...

As Terry has fished with many of us in the club; Terry would generously give flies out to fishermen, if you weren't catching a fish...Therefore, if you could be so kind, as to send me "your story" And, the fly or name of the fly he gave you. Perhaps, you have your own story not having to do with giving a fly; but, would like to share your story with the family...I know they would appreciate any story about fishing with Terry Mich. **BIGGEST THANK YOU!!! BIGGEST HUGS....**Pat Sleeper, [psleeper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.net) Your story with or with out a fly....

# Wyoming, Idaho & Montana Aug 6-24, 2020

By Elden Hinkle



Left Chico on the morning of August 6 to meet up with Steve Mclean who had left the day before from Ventura and stayed the night in Carson City. We were meeting up in Jackpot, Nevada and planned on driving till we didn't want to drive any longer. Good thing about the states we were driving thru is that you can pull your RV as fast as you are comfortable pulling them. (up to 80).

We stopped outside of Pocatello, Id near an Indian casino and fixed dinner. In the morning Steve headed out a little early for our destination: Alpine, Wyoming where he had left his trailer from one of our previous trips. The town of Alpine has a great Brewery and Fly shop; So.... after we did some business; we headed for the Gray's River.

The Gray's is a 30-mile drive on a dusty dirt road (terribly slow and rough) to where we camp on the Gray's river. You can camp pretty much anywhere you like. There are three or four camp grounds with water and bathrooms for \$5 per night. The Gray's

River is over 50 miles long with a wide rough gravel road running alongside the whole length. We fished as far as mile marker 45. It's a beautiful freestone river full of Cutthroats up to 17" most around 14". The river is fairly easy to wade at this time of year. We used 3-4 Wt. rods and fished all Dry flies. We never had to fish the same stretch of the river twice. This is our Third year and the fishing is excellent; and, the country and rivers are so beautiful.

August 14 we decided to walk into Barstow Lake; that's a short drive from where we are camped; and, a couple mile walk/climb but well worth the trek. Its chucked full of small 8-12 cutthroats fishing dries and catching as many as you want. Beautiful high lake a little hard casting because of trees but like I said worth the effort.

On August 16 we headed out of the Gray's River to fish the Hoback outside of Jackson Hole.

There are campgrounds along the river and Hwy191 @ \$7.00 per night; no hook ups but, bathrooms and water. Fishing the Hoback River is very similar to the Grays, lots of Cutthroats 12-16" using hoppers this time of the year another beautiful river.

August 18, we decided to hire a guide out of Pinedale, WY and fish the Green River, its about a 1 1/2 hour drive from where we were camped.



Pinedale is a typical boom and bust oil town that Steve and I are so familiar with it due to our careers. The town is currently suffering; but you can see the reminisce of the good times. It has a large fly shop that has everything you could need and where you can book a guide. Pulled into the Fly Shop and hooked up with Brian Summerall our guide, X oil field engineer. So, if you can drill an oil or gas well guess you can row a boat and guide fishermen, right? Well lucky for us this guy could and did. The Green River flows out of Green Lake and I believe it is undammed. At this time of year, the river is fairly shallow and wide with some deep cuts and holes. The fishing was excellent fishing Hoppers all day: caught mostly Browns with a few Cutthroats and small Rainbows. We boated 17 fish between the two of us and the largest being a 21". It

was very good fishing with the normal Thunderstorm to liven things up and cool things down! Back at the Hoback for a day.

August 20, headed to Henry's Lake Idaho just outside of Yellowstone for a couple of days. The fishing here was hot and slow. Steve caught fish one day that I didn't; and, I caught fish one day Steve didn't. August is a tough time here weather is hot and the algae is bad. "Maybe the best was yet to come"

August 23, we headed to Ennis Montana to fish the Madison River! Steve and I had booked 3 days and bought the one-day fishing that Mike Elliott donated to the Chico Flyfishers (AKA Dirty Mike). We were also joined by two other Chico Fly Fishermen, Kevin Murray & Kevin Krammer. If you have never had the pleasure of fishing with these two consider yourself lucky! No, these guys are 'one heck of a good time guys" to be with and the other thing is they are very easy to out fish!

If your going fish the Madison River I strongly recommend Mike Elliot, we booked four more days for 2021. He does works hard and did a great job for us and very enjoyable to fish with. The Madison River is such a great river to fish and the Madison valley is beautiful. Steve and I caught some really good fish 18-20+ inches, don't think the Kevin's did as well! (Love to trash talk these two because when your around them they are relentless).

This was such a great ending to the trip Steve, Murray & Krammer are great fishing partners, for me it was some of the best trash talking, good eating, good drinks and some of the best fishing I have had it was the perfect ending to a great fishing trip. Great memories!



## **Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2020-21**

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.

Elden Hinkle and Tom Rosenow are our fish-out leaders. If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead our fellow CAF members for a day of fishing, and fellowship contact Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com or Tom Rosenow troseNOW.chico@gmail.com

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

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Fishout Leader</u></b>
May 16-17	Wild horse Reservoir	CANCELLED/COVID 19
May 27-?	Crane Prairie Lake, Oregon: Rock Creek campground psleeper@sbcglobal.net	CANCELLED/COVID 19
June 20,2020	Lake Almanor "Hex hatch" @ Frank Spitari's in Almanor	CANCELLED
Aug 29 - Sep 5	Dorado fishing: La Ventana, Mexico (8 people)	
Nov TBD	Big Chico Creek, Ecological Reserve;	
Jan 10-15, 2021	Lake Picachos, Mexico; www.patsflyfishing.com – 530-345-1197 Trophy Bass fishing.	
	Just a few spots left for this Mexico trip...Extremely Fun trip expected due to the "no fishing or netting the lake in 7 ½ months".	
May TBD	Wild horse Reservoir; Elden Hinkle	ehinkle@aaproducton.com
May TBD	Crane Prairie Lake, Oregon; Elden Hinkle	ehinkle@aaproducton.com
June TBD	Lake Almanor BBQ Butt Lake – Pat Sleeper	345-1197
Sep 1 - ?	Dorado fishing, Mexico	www.patsflyfishing.com – 530-345-1197
Oct TBD	Little Grass valley Reservoir	Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproducton.com

## **CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2020**

We truly look forward to seeing you at our next meeting; and, hearing "your" fly fishing stories! Your excitement is ours!

CAF meets 9 months out of the year; and, presents a variety of exciting fly fishing-related programs throughout each year. Each meeting includes: monthly fly-tying demonstrations; variety of raffle prizes; refreshments; and, the very best stories about Northern California Fly fishing from our members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month; location: "The California Park Pavilion" on California Park Dr, Chico, CA. Live Fly-tying presentations: 6:30 p.m. @ General Meeting 7:30 p.m.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>
July-Sep	No Meetings – have fun fishing!!!	
Oct 14	John Crotty	Cancelled due to COVID
Nov 11	Lance Gray	Cancelled due to COVID
Dec 9	Pizza feed - Cancelled due to COVID	
Jan 13, 2021	Share fly fishing trips with pictures & stories	

# Fly of the Month, November, 2020

## Squatchy B

By: Ray Narbaitz

It is often interesting to watch the evolution of a given fly. Somebody comes up with a good pattern and it catches on. Eventually either the originator or somebody else tweaks it a bit to make a variation. There is no guarantee the new and improved version will fish any better or worse than the original. However, any dedicated tyer worth his or her salt is an inveterate tinkerer. So, changes will be made, and some will stick like the original and some will rapidly disappear. The Squatchy B's ancestors have been successful patterns. Time will tell if the B maintains the tradition.

As mentioned before in FOTM, Pat's Rubber Legs is a fly originated by Pat Bennet, a guide in Idaho. It is arguably one of the most successful Stone Fly Nymphs ever. It's not a particularly attractive fly, but don't let its looks fool you. It is a real fish catcher. In May of 2018, the FOTM was Pat's Plus. It is a variation of the original introduced by Bennet himself. He added a couple of visual differences and made it a bit easier to tie. Then, in December of 2019 the FOTM was the Black and Purple Stone. It was a variation on the Pat's Plus brought forth by Lance Egan. It is tied much like the Plus, but in totally different colors. Those variations have led to the Squatchy B. The B (my abbreviation, not the tyers) is basically a Stonefly Soft Hackle. A gentleman named Clark Pierce at a shop in Utah called Fly Fish Food is the originator. His nickname is Cheech, but he is also sometimes called Sasquatch by his fellow workers. I'm assuming that's where the name Squatchy B comes from. It's a fairly big, heavily weighted fly, so it can be fished as a regular nymph, a soft hackle, or both in the same drift if you want.

Hook: Calls for TMC 708 which is a 40 degree jig hook, but I tied mine on a TMC 5262 you can use either a two or three X long hook, 6 to 10

Bead: Black, slotted if on jig hook, standard on straight hook, Tungsten or Brass, 3.5 to 4mm

Thread: Black 6/0

Weight: .020 or .015 lead or lead free wire

Tail and Legs: Brown (or brownish) Sili Legs

Abdomen: Small Brown and Coffee Chenille

Hackle: Brown, speckled Hen Saddle

Thorax: Brown or Olive Brown Ice Dub

1. Debarb the hook, place on the bead and insert the hook into the vise
2. Wrap on 8 to 10 wraps of the weighting wire, break off the excess and jam the wire up against the bead
3. Start your thread right behind the wire. Build up a small dam of thread so the wire can't move and then wrap over the wire several times to lock it in place.
4. Lay down a thread base to the bend of the hook and wrap your thread back to about the halfway point of the shank.



5. Tie in the Sili Legs at that point with enough pointing forward to wrap back to make the tail. Wrap the Sili Leg material on the far side of the hook away from you. Wrap it all the way to slightly down the hook bend. Wrap your thread back to the tie in point.
6. Now take the part hanging forward and pull it over to wrap down your side of the hook until it's tied evenly with the other half. You should now have a V tail coming off the back of the hook. Cut the tail to be about the same length as the hook shank.
7. Pull off some of the fuzzies to expose a short piece of the Chenille core. Tie the core on the hook at the bend and wrap the Chenille forward in tight wraps up to about the 2/3 point of the shank. You want to leave enough room for a healthy Thorax. Tie down the Chenille and cut off the excess.
8. Wrap your thread up so it is right behind the bead.
9. Take the feather and pull off the webby part at the bottom. Cut the exposed stem so it is about the same length of stub as the Thorax.
10. Tie in the hackle at the bead, shiny side down, with the feather hanging over the bead. Wrap up the stem to the Abdomen and back.
11. Dub in the Thorax, making it a little bigger than the Abdomen. End with your dubbing at the Abdomen.
12. Take the hackle and make one, full wrap around the bead. Then, using one spiral wrap, wrap it back to the thread and

# LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First  
Chico, CA  
(530) 343-8300

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

**QUAIL LODGE  
LAKE ALMANOR**  
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**CAF WEBPAGE**  
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**FISHING REPORTS**  
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