

September 2003



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

short casts

Sept



THE LINE

Eric See, CAF President

Hello everyone, hope you had a great summer of fishing, outdoor fun, and keeping cool! Among other things, I spent a week in Montana catching fish and a week in Hawaii looking at them. Both are a lot of fun, but catching them would definitely be my choice if I had to decide between the two. Anyway, September is here, and it's an odd-numbered year so that means the California Fish and Game Commission is considering the proposals to change the fishing regulations. Whatever they decide during this fall will take effect March 1 of next year. Go to the Commission's Website: and scroll to the fishing regulation changes, they should be posted sometime very soon. Two years ago they closed down 65% of the fishing on Big Chico Creek for no good reason and we haven't forgotten. CAF recently sent a proposal to change the Regs on this stream, here are some excerpts from the proposal (the entire version should be on the CAF Website sometime soon):

"...Our proposal refers to the section of Big Chico Creek described in the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(20)(B) of Section 7.50 Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations. This Section of Big Chico Creek is described as follows: From Bear Hole to the upper Boundary of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. We propose that the Open Season be changed to allow fishing from October 15 through May 31. We strongly recommend continuing the current requirement for artificial lures with barbless hooks. We are not proposing any changes to the other sections of Big Chico Creek."

"...Our proposal to change the open season on this section of the creek while keeping the catch and release/barbless hook requirements, would establish a new season that maximizes angler enjoyment of the fishery during the most desirable periods to be on the stream. These include the early fall and during the spring when the fish are becoming more active, and the flows and water temperatures are highly suitable for fishing. We propose to close the fishery after May 31 due to the elevated water temperatures that typically occur during this time period, particularly in the lower reaches of this section. By mid-June, temperatures can reach the low 70's, which, when combined with hooking stress, could result in significantly increased mortality."

"...The 2001 decision to close down most of the trout fishing on Big Chico Creek was unjustified and onerous. It significantly impacted trout fishing while not providing any real protection for the salmon. Please correct this problem and re-open the trout fishing season on Big Chico Creek. The

(Continued on page 2)

FLY TYING – Sept 18 – 7:00 PM This month the folks at the Chico Fly shop will be tying the "The Unknown Fly", (Larry and John are off fishing BC so I had no report on Fly Tying)

March General Meeting – Butte County Library, 7:30 pm Sept 10th

Davis Lake Fishing Guide – Don Rotsma

Here's what Don had to say about himself – "Started flyfishing in the late 60's and spent most of my

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Here's what Don had to say about himself – "Started flyfishing in the late 60's and spent most of my early days learning to fish and tie flies from Andre Puyans And Dave Inks of the old Creative Sports days. I have fished at least 100 days a year since. I have fished every year for the last 30 years in Montana, Idaho, and the northwest each summer as well as all of California, Nevada, and Oregon waters. In addition, I have done a lot of Saltwater fishing for Tarpon, Bonefish and other species. My favorite fishing is for tough spring creek trout on small flies. I fish Silver Creek in Idaho every year during the Trico hatches and other spring creeks whenever possible. In addition, I really enjoy still water fishing and the challenges it poses. I have fished Lake Davis and local Sierra waters for the last 25 years and started to guide seriously a few years ago. I enjoy teaching and helping anglers to learn strategies and methods that help them become successful anywhere they fish. I am a high school Physics and Chemistry teacher and like the time and technology applications it adds to my passion."

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Calendar of Events

Gem Mtg. - Sept 10, 7:30 PM

Fish-Out - Aug 30, Sept 13 & Sept 27

Fly Tying - Sept 18, 7:00 PM
Chico Fly Shop - Unknown -
Call Shop 345-9983

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salmon will not be harmed by this action and the public will greatly benefit by the restoration of this thriving trout fishery."

A Summer Fishing Report

A few weeks ago my son and I had the opportunity to go shad fishing, and since I didn't go at all last year, I jumped at the chance! Tim Hanna and his son Nick were the guides on the Sacramento River. Well, I should say Nick was the guide, as he works for the Chico Fly Shop, and has all the inside "Secret Information". Tim's boat, a 23' Designs Concept is a far cry from my 12' Valco with a 10 horse Merc! Places that would take me 30 minutes to get there (if I could), we were there in 5 minutes...what a ride!

Fishing was very good and I think I got 15 or so. The fun part was watching Nick. Here's a young man (just turned 21) who could barely cast across little Chico Creek in late August, 2 years ago! Now my best cast would be lucky to within 20' of his worst cast, and catch fish....almost every other cast! My son who had never caught a Shad before ended up catching 5 with Nick's expert instructions. We went about a week later with the Chico Rotary Sunrise club and had about the same results, but it was a bit slower, seems the fish have moved up to Los Molinos and above.

Went up to the "High Lakes" last weekend just to check out the snow, but we did take our fly rods, just in case. There is plenty of snow but it's melting fast with this warm weather. Two 3-wheelers and Polaris quad with a small amount of pushing did the trick. I wasn't really expecting to fish and didn't bring the right fly box. The High Lakes, generally require small flies and light leaders, I had neither. But I did land two 10 inchers and my son out fished me again landing two nice fat Brookies in the 13" range.

Keep A Tight Line...
Dana W. Miller

FISHOUT SCHEDULE

Aug 30 th	Philbrook & High Lakes
Sept 13 th	Klamath River - Orleans -Steelhead
Sept 27 th	Lake Britton - Bass





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