



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

Short Casts September 2017

Next meeting Sept.13th, 2017 @ 6:30 tying and meeting @ 7:30 location: California Park Pavilion



President Line by Pat Sleeper

Hello Members: We had a wet, wet winter and spring. Now, we're having a hot, hot summer! I hope you're having some good fishing in all this crazy weather.

Please NOTE some changes in our general meeting dates AFTER THIS MONTH. This month we'll have Trout Unlimited speaking and Ray Narbaitz tying his wonderful flies Sep 13th.

We have unfortunately had to change our Oct & Nov meetings to the second Thursday; thus, Oct 12th and Nov 9th. Thank you. Hope to see you at these meetings.

Please note the fish outs, and upcoming speaker in the news letter. It's a larger than usual news letter filled with Oroville Dam update and Almanor Association news; and, fish outs.

Dave McKinney will be overseeing our Sep 13th General meeting and he's excited about seeing everyone and hearing "your" fish stories.

Elections are in October and we'll be back to see you at that meeting. I too look forward to your fishing stories.

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper,
CAF President

Fly Fishing Speaker

Our speaker for Wed, September 13th is Sam Sedillo at 7:30 located at the California Park Pavilion. Previously at 6:30, Ray Narbaitz will be tying his special ties... Thank you Ray.

"Sam Sedillo works for Trout Unlimited as the Sierra Cascades Field Coordinator out of the Truckee TU (TRTU) office. He works on restoration projects, volunteer operations, fish sampling, and outreach. Specifically, Sam will be presenting on how TU is leading projects to conserve, protect, and restore trout and salmon fisheries throughout California. TU is excited to be working on projects that both directly benefit the special fish that exist in the state and also provide increased opportunities for anglers to catch these fish. Moreover, Sam will be talking about how to fish two of the rivers that Trout Unlimited is invested in, the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers. Sam moved to Truckee from Colorado two year ago, where he completed his degree in Natural Resources Management and Fishery Biology from Colorado State University. He's an avid fly fisherman and spent the majority of his angling career there fishing for trout with tiny flies in tailwaters. This, to nobody's surprise, prepared him for spending most of his days on the water in California fishing for trout in tailwaters with tiny flies." Thanks. Sam Sedillo



CAF Meeting BOD 08/28/17

Meeting @ Pat and Don Sleeper's House

6:10 Meeting called to Order by Pat Sleeper President.

Secretary report; David McKinney. Reading of the minutes of previous meeting; M/S/P Larry/Steve

Treasurer's report; Don Sleeper.

Upcoming purchases include; rods for dinner, recent expenses also include updated business license and in addition new hats for CAF. M/S/P Steve/Elden.

VP Report. Larry Willis. Reviewed the upcoming speakers for this year's Meeting on Wed, September 13. NEXT TWO MEETINGS "THURSDAYS". Oct 12th, and Nov 9th.

Outreach; Steve Bohnameyer. Nothing new to report

Committee Reports: Fish outs. Upcoming finish out this weekend at Digger Creek.

There'll also be a fish out already scheduled this spring at Pyramid Lake. Additional suggestions for future Fish outs were discussed.

Old Business: Elections Oct Meeting.

BOD: Dana Miller and Tom Rosenow will be running, 2017/2019. Nomination Officer; Pat Sleeper Pres, Larry Willis VP, David

McKinney Sec. Don Sleeper Treasure; Slate of officers for 2017/2019. Nomination M/S/P Steve/Elden

New Business;

New Fish Tank for the schools; M/S/P Elden/Steve

Next Meeting Sept 13th ; California Park Pavilion @6:30 for Ray Narbaitz fly tying and speaker Trout Unlimited. Secretary CAF David McKinney



Lake Oroville Community Update

September 1, 2017

Oroville Spillways Construction Progress

DWR held its bi-weekly media construction update call on Wednesday, August 23. Construction efforts at the Lake Oroville spillways remain focused on repairing and reconstructing the gated flood control spillway, also known as the main spillway, by November 1. DWR and its partners are on schedule. DWR has passed the midway point of its construction timeline on the main spillway.

DWR released updated aerial footage of the spillways construction. Eight time-lapse videos of the Lake Oroville spillways construction from May to August were also published. The videos are condensed to about a minute each.

Assessment Concludes Vegetation No Threat to Dam Integrity

On Wednesday, August 30, DWR released the Assessment of the Oroville Dam Vegetation Area, which explains the occasionally visible vegetation on the face of the Oroville Dam. The assessment concludes that the vegetation area poses no threat to the integrity of the dam based on monitoring of the vegetation area for nearly five decades by DWR, outside consultants and regulators. The vegetation area is considered to be the result of a seasonal wet area caused by temporarily trapped rainwater.

The Board of Consultants agreed with DWR's findings that the vegetation is caused by rain and there is no dam safety concern.

Riverbend Park Cleanup Wins Innovative Project of the Year

The June 23 Riverbend Park cleanup effort won the Innovative Program/Project of the Year award from the California Special Districts Association. Businesses and government agencies came together for a one-day cleanup to make sure the park opened in time for July 4 celebrations.

Dear Community Members,

This is part of DWR's ongoing effort to provide the public with timely information and updates regarding the Lake Oroville Spillways Recovery. We want to provide a transparent process and ensure the public is well informed. We also want to hear from you, so please contact us with comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Department of Water Resources

Connect With Us!
Oroville Spillways Recovery
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th St. Sacramento, CA 95814

Call our general information line at 1-800-248-7026 or email us at oroville@water.ca.gov

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2017-18

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 and Elden Hinkle will be our new 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 Tom Rosenow trosenow.chico@gmail.com or Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduct.com

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
Jan 11th - 16th, 2018	Lake Picachos, Mexico - Pat Sleeper - psleeper@sbcglobal.net	
March 3rd, 2018	Annual Crab Feed Dinner	
March 10th & 11th 2018	Pyramid Lake Clinic w/Rob Anderson & Chris RSVP Elden Hinkle ehinkle@aaproduct.com Breakfast/lunch/ladders \$190. pp + \$30. box of 12 flies. April 26th-	
May ?	Hooked on Fishing @ Hooker Oak helpers contact Eric See	
June 24th	Lake Almanor - Hex hatch- @ Scott Joyce's "thank you!"	
July 13th	Crowley Lake TBD ehinkle@alo.com	
Sep. 5 - 12, 2017 (FULL)	Dorado fishing La Ventana, Mexico. 6 days boat fishing/7 lodging w/food. Cost for everything under \$2000. Questions: psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Pat Sleeper - host
Sep. 12-20th, 2017 (FULL)	Dorado fishing La Ventana, Mexico. 7 days boat fishing/8 lodging w/food. Cost for everything under \$2000. Questions: psleeper@sbcglobal.net 345-1197	Pat Sleeper - host
Oct 1, 2017	Pyramid opener trosenow.chico@gmail.com	Tom Rosenow

Fish Out Report - Pingatore Pond

August 5, 2017

The fishout at the Pingatore pond was a great success. Everyone caught bass and sunfish. We had 25 members and guests for the event. It was GREAT seeing members we hadn't seen in a few years! Everyone caught fish. Steve Bohnemeyer won the big bass contest with a 19 inch bass! Yeah, Steve!

Don Sleeper barbecued hot dogs and special hot dogs for the event. And ice cold watermelon that everyone enjoyed.

The day turned out to be not as hot as predicted making it quite pleasant out on the pond. As always it was wonderful seeing everyone.



Pontoons, float tubes and boats out on the pond.



Steve with a Great Bass.

Alaska CAF Fishout

By, Lionel Valley

In the latter part of July, five of us traveled to Soldotna, Alaska, to enjoy a week of true Alaska Fishing with Ninilchik Charters owned by Mike Flores – former resident of Chico many years ago.

After dealing with a rather trying flight schedule which had us arriving in Soldotna around 3:00 we received a stark reminder on our first day of sockeye salmon fishing on the Kasilof River that we were fishing, not necessarily catching-only 1 sockeye landed all day-In Alaska!?

After that day we had great action every day.

The next day, we went on another guided sockeye salmon fishing trip on the Kenai River and all of us limited out with our 3 fishing knee deep on a gravel bar. Great fun, but hardly true flyfishing since we were using weighted leaders with yarned hooks.

On the third day, Mike was kind enough to loan us all the equipment to go to the same gravel bar by foot after giving us directions which didn't quite allow us to go directly. That is, we went to the wrong location initially and went on a hike through tall grass, bogs, downed trees, etc. with no trail and some mosquitoes. After backtracking, and driving around, we finally found the right location. Even with being late to the party, we all limited out with 3 sockeye each. That was the good news: the bad news was that we now had to haul all of them back to the van so we could go over to the private dock and use their filleting tables. While Bill Robinson was preparing to attempt to fillet a sockeye with his pocket knife, a gentlemen was kind enough to step over with his fillet knife and relieve Bill of his duties – thank goodness!

And then it was King Salmon fishing time on the Kenai. Three of us, Elden Hinkel, Gary Chang, and myself, joined Mike in his boat and the other two, Larry Willis and Bill Robinson, went with one of his guides. Fortunately, we each hooked and landed nice King Salmon ranging from 20+ lbs. to 30+ lbs. in our boat - thanks to Elden who delayed us for a few hours to come up with the biggest King of the day for our group. Bill Robinson landed another nice King.

Finally, it was Halibut fishing time out of Ninilchik. We traveled down to Ninilchik and all went out on a six pack boat captained by one of Mike's guys. Fortunately, the weather was ok, the seas were not bad, and we all caught our 2 halibut before returning. Unfortunately, a halibut of some 60+ lbs. had to be released as it was technically caught by the sixth person who had already boated his two halibut – what a bummer since I was still my second halibut which I eventually did catch, but it was only some 15 lbs.

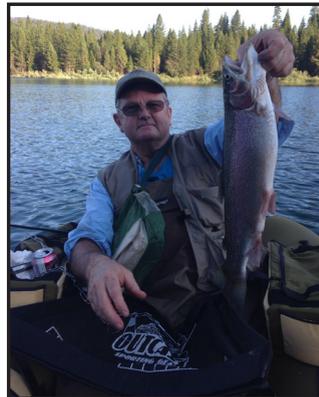
Mike was kind enough to process all of our catch, vacuum pack, freeze, and put each person's catch in an insulated box ready to take on as an extra luggage item, which we did. We are all enjoying more than 40 lbs. of delicious salmon and halibut for many months to come.

Hex Hatch Fish Out

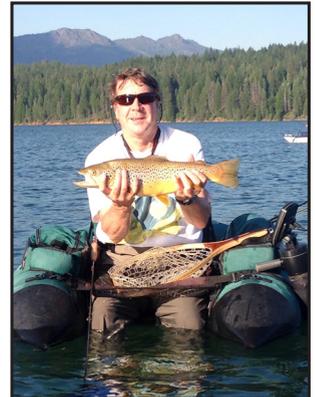
June was our hex hatch fish out including a dinner/luncheon at Frank and Terri Spiteri's in Prattville. As you can imagine they put on a very nice spread for the 30 of us: BBQ chicken and some wonderful salads...

THANK YOU FRANK AND TERRI SPITERI!!!

After eating we "all" dismissed ourselves and headed out to our own special fishing locations. We caught bass and trout. Most of the people caught more bass than trout. But, the bugs were out and how exciting it is to see these hexes come popping out of the water; like popcorn. A few fish were zeroing in on them and you could see them porpsing more and more as the light of the day disappeared. Until all you could do was hear the splash of the trout lunging on the hexes. It's a special time if you haven't experienced this. Then to cast at this trout and catch is doubly fun!! Please enjoy some fish pictures from Pete Wiik.



My dentist, Steve Abbott.



Pete Wiik. Hex nymph. 30 ft deep.



Robert Plantz. Had to be at least 7lbs.



Kiefer Williams. About 6lbs.



Friend's wife, first fish on a fly rod

Fly of the Month for September 2017

Assom Dragon

Fly of the Month, September, 2017

By: Ray Narbaitz

It is not too unusual in the Fly Fishing world for a fly to be developed for one thing and to eventually evolve into being used for something else. That is basically what happened to Charles Brook's Assom Dragon. He originally developed it to be a Trout Fly, but since that time it has become more and more a favorite for Bass Fishing. Looking ahead to retirement, Brooks bought land in Montana in 1961. In 1964 he retired as a Major in the U.S. Air Force and from that time on immersed himself in the world of Fly Fishing, particularly in the West Yellowstone and Madison Valley areas of Montana. In addition to fishing, he became first a student of the sport and then a teacher. He wrote six books based mostly on fishing in the West. He also invented a number of flies, including the Assom Dragon before his death in 1986. He came up with it to fish for Trout in lakes and slow moving water in streams and rivers. Eventually, Bass fishermen caught on to the fact that Bass also like Dragon Fly Nymphs, as they are numerous in the kind of water that Bass like. I had this proven to me a few years ago while fishing the ponds at California Park with a friend who lived there. I tried a Popper for quite a while with little to no luck. I finally put on an Assom Dragon as a dropper about two feet below the Popper. The Bass never did turn on to the Popper, but a satisfying number of them took the Dragon.

In its original design, Brooks used Seal Fur to tie the body. However, Seal is very hard to come by now, so almost everyone uses Rabbit. Other than that exception, the pattern here is very close to the same as he described it.

Hook: 2X long Nymph hook like the TMC5262, 6 - 12

Thread: Black or Brown 6/0

Weight: Black Bead, or small black Lead Eyes, or Lead Wire, or none.

Your choice

Body: Crosscut Rabbit fur, Black, Brown or Olive

Hackle: Soft Brown, Black or Olive. I used Speckled Hen.

1. Debarb hook and place it in the vise.
2. Start thread and lay down a base on the hook.
3. Start your weighting wire on the front third of the hook so the fly will sink head first. Wrap the lead with your thread to tie it down, and to build a little ramp on both sides of it.
4. Take a strip of the Cross Cut Rabbit and strip the fur off of enough of the hide to go about half way up the hook shank. Tie the strip in at the bend of the hook with the fur pointing down. Wrap the piece of hide to secure it tightly to the hook.
5. Wrap the strip forward in fairly tight wraps. Make sure you are



not trapping any of the fur as you wrap it up to just short of the eye of the hook.

6. Tie the strip down and cut off the excess.
7. Tie in the Hackle and make two or three wraps right up to the eye of the hook. Tie it down and cut off the excess.
8. Preen the Hackle back with your fingers and take a few wraps around it to make it lay back on the fly.
9. Wrap a tidy head, whip finish and cut off the Thread. Apply a little Head Cement to the finished wraps.

Notes: Dragon Fly Nymphs move through the water by a jet like motion of taking in water and shooting it out. This causes them to fatten up and then get thinner as they expel the water. The Rabbit Fur expands when the fly is still and then flattens out when you strip the fly in. Most of the time you can fish it with fairly short, quick strips with a little pause now and then...Brooks tied his in mostly brown, but black has become more prominent today. Tie them in both and see which one serves you best.



Almanor Fishing Association



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR AFA PRESIDENT

Much has happened with the Almanor Fishing Association since my last email blast. The winter of 2016/2017 was exceptionally wet with record rainfall. Prattville rainfall for the year (July to June) was 63.33" which brought the basin to 199% of the long-term average. Snowfall for the same period was not as dramatic but still well above the long-term average at 176" or 138% of long-term average.

The super ditch west of Chester ran well into July but it was discovered there was a log jam diverting the water down the ditch and not allowing it to flow down the North Feather River through Chester. Once the log jam was removed the water was able to flow into the lake as planned and the ditch stopped flowing.

The lake reached 4,493.07 feet on February 21st before PG&E started to release water down the Feather River in preparation for the snow melt. The high water mark for the lake was 4,494.00 feet so you can see how close it came to the maximum. The lake is still at a high water level for this time of year and has been averaging near 4,491.50 feet for most of the summer. The lake level is currently at 4,489.50 feet. PG&E increased the flow on the North Fork this past weekend for whitewater recreation in the Rock Creek Beach at 1,100 cfs. This release will also be scheduled for the last weekend in September.

The AFA Board of Directors made the decision that the cage program must continue to support the trophy fishing in the lake which also supports the local community by the fisherman coming to the lake and spending money on local services. As such, the board put out a request last year for grant money to help support our programs. I have been overwhelmed by the support AFA is receiving. Grant money has been received from the Monroe Schuler Foundation and the PG&E Corporation Foundation. In addition AFA has received numerous individual donations including the Chico Area Fly Fishers, Mike Daly, and other AFA members. We are thankful for the support.

25TH ANNUAL FAMILY BBQ AND FUNDRAISER

AFA had a very successful BBQ and fundraiser this summer. I'm pleased to share that we sold out. 520 dinner tickets were sold which was a record for the association and the largest single event, including dinner, in the Lake Almanor Basin. Everyone seemed to have a great time, lots of door prizes and raffle and silent auction items were given away. I would like to personally thank everyone that attended and all of our donors who helped make our event successful. Thanks also goes to the many AFA volunteers who unselfishly gave of their time to ensure our once-a-year fundraiser was successful. Our volunteers planned and cooked the meals, asked donors for donations, put together an attractive raffle and silent auction, and cleaned up the LACC recreation area after the event.



Next year's BBQ and fundraiser will be held Saturday, July 28 (last Saturday of the month). Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help plan, cook, serve, or get donations, call or email me at (530) 259-2899 or almanorfishing@sbcglobal.net. AFA can always use your help and we would be very grateful!

CAGE PROGRAM

As I reported in the 2017 The Almanor Fisherman Newsletter, our cages in Hamilton Branch really took a beating from the winter storms, more so than most of our members can ever remember happening. Our transfer dock was damaged so badly it was beyond repair and totally unusable. We are in the process of getting a new dock designed and built as well as adding a log boom to protect the cages and dock. The stairway leading down to the dock also needs to be shored up and stabilized as it is under cut from the bank and unsafe to use.

AFA is in need of new fish feeders to help this winter. If you live in the Lake Almanor Basin and are willing to donate one hour a week from October to May to feed fish, your time would be much appreciated. When you volunteer your time, you receive more than you give. You can find yourself leading or involved with projects that you wouldn't normally ever get the opportunity to do. Feeding fish is one of those opportunities! On completion, you get an immense feeling of satisfaction that a lot of people get benefit from. You get a real sense of giving something back to the lake!



A GO-FUND-ME account has been set up for donations to help with our repair costs. AFA's goal is to raise \$50,000 for the major repairs of our stairs, dock, and cages. We need to get them back in good shape by the time fish are delivered in October! Please consider making a donation. Visit www.gofundme.com. Once on the Go-Fund-Me website, type "Almanor Fishing Association" in the search bar. Here you can learn more about our issues and make a donation. Go-Fund-Me has built-in connections to Facebook, Twitter, and email that makes sharing a breeze. Please share with your family and friends as AFA really needs your support. And remember, the Almanor Fishing Association is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

AFA is now able to have members and others make donations or pay annual membership fees using Pay-Pal or a major credit card. Visit our website to learn how. You can also read past newsletters and articles of interest on the website.

AFA is also now on Facebook which is a great way to keep in touch all year long and share Lake Almanor information, photos, and stories with fellow fishermen. Catch a big fish and want to share your trophy picture? Have a special technique for catching bass you would like to share? No problem, AFA would enjoy sharing your photos and stories. You can also read up-to-date fishing reports! We have a nice Facebook page and would welcome more posts so others can benefit from your experience or envy your catch. If you don't want to post but want to share information and/or photos, just reach out to John Crotty and Deb Reynolds of Quail Lodge, they will post for you. You can email information and photos to John and Deb at quaillodgelakealmanor@frontier.com.

FISH PLANTS

I visited the Darrah Spring Fish Hatchery recently and confirmed that we will be getting 35,000 fish in October for our cage program. They are Shasta strain rainbows but all diploids. There is a possibility we can get an additional 15,000 fish which would make our full 50,000 fish allotment. We are unable to use our damaged cages but believe we have enough useable cages to hold the fish if we add more to the eight useable cages. The damaged outer two cages that can't hold fish will be used as buffers from the wave action this season.

The Brown Trout situation is not getting any better. A local guide told me he has only picked up four Brown's trolling this year and he goes out almost every day. There have been reports of Brown's being caught jigging but few trolling. I have asked the local DFW person who establishes the lakes needs to add as many Brown Trout to their request for Lake Almanor. The hatchery that has provided the Brown plants into our lake will no longer be raising Brown's, instead, they will be raising Heritage Trout. Their reasoning is the Brown Trout are non-native fish and should not be planted in California waters per California Senate Bill 1148. The Association keeps pushing DFW to increase the Brown numbers. I believe they have upped the number to 10,000 fish, unfortunately they would all be sterile fish unable to spawn. So please **RELEASE ALL THE BROWN TROUT** you catch. Take a picture and release the fish as fast as you can or we won't have any Brown's to catch in the very near future. The association strongly suggests you reduce your take home limit of fish from 5 to 3 on rainbows as well, release all the rest.

The DFW did release approximately 22,000 fingerling salmon in December 2016 and they are being caught all over the lake as 10" to 14" fish. You might consider releasing these little guys as well so they can grow a little more and become 18" to 20" or bigger fish for next year. I was told by our DFW person in charge of fish allotments for the lake that she requested, in her words, "Significantly More" Chinook Salmon for the 2018 lake plants.

Thank you for your support,
Rich Dengler, President, Almanor Fishing Association

LOCAL GUIDES

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

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

ANDY'S EMBROIDERY
820 Wall Street Chico, CA 95928
Phone (530) 893-3316 FAX (530) 893-1073

Jean Kirkendall
Owner

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www.andysembroidery.com andyse@sbcglobal.net

Andy's Embroidery will add the CAF logo and trout to shirts, jackets, pockets...enlarge it if needed for only \$12.

BOARD MEMBERS

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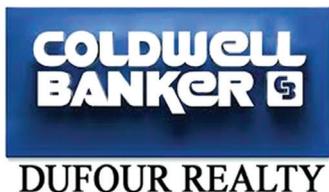
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Past president of Chico Area Flyfishers