



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF May 2024 Newsletter www.chicoareaflyfishers.org

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, May 8th 6:30pm, Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park, Chico



CAF President's Line, May 2024

By Pat Sleeper

Hello CAF members:

Bass fishing is "hot"! So, if you like bass fishing try Black Butte Lake, Lake Oroville, or any other favorite lake you may have. We have been experiencing some amazing catching and I'd love to hear you are enjoying this special time of the year as well!! If you could, please send me or John your pictures and stories so "you" can be famous by seeing your picture and story in this newsletter!!

Speaking of famous, we have **Lance Gray speaking Wed, May 8th, 2024**, at our next general meeting located at the Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Driver, Chico. With Lance tying some Hex patterns at 6:30pm, then Lance giving his presentation on the upcoming Hex Hatch at Lake Almanor at 7:30pm.

Hope you are one of the winners from the Crab Fundraiser dinner! We had more rods, reels, and prize value than ever before!!! We appreciate TFO for their rods and reels as well as Sportsman's Warehouse for their wonderful donations! We want you to go to our website www.chicoareaflyfishers.org to read about our donors for the dinner AND our upcoming fish outs, please!!

CASTING in the Park was a huge success; I want to thank everyone who came!! Dave McKinney, Larry Willis, and Tom Rosenow did a wonderful job putting this together and helping all that chose to attend the clinic!! Dave & Larry will be the hosts at our next Casting in the Park tune-up at the same location. Please stay tuned for the next date to be announced. Thank you.

Reminder of the BBQ located at Pat & Pam Hallin's in Almanor Saturday, June 22, 2024. Please RSVP to Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197, Pat and Pam Hallin (530) 518-5031 or John Cowan (530) 966-0076 for reservations...This is free. After, we go out fishing at "your" favorite location.

Elections will be coming up at our next meetings. Please let us know if you might be interested in being on the board! Positions open are President, Treasurer, or just being on the advisor board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper
President, CAF

Fly Casting in the Park

By David McKinney

CAF has now officially started Fly Casting in the Park. CAF will be holding regular casting sessions for fly casting skill development and instruction. Our pilot session was April 21 with an already excellent turnout. We welcome fly casters of all levels. Our first group included Eric Hoska, Benny Sommer, Sonny Uun, Don Sleeper, Pat Sleeper, Brant Hansen, Tony George, Jeffers Richardson, Chuck Deiner.

Casting Instruction Team David McKinney, Larry Willis, Tom Rosenow.

We all hope to see you sometime in the future. If you are interested in attending these casting clinics, please email us: chicoareaflyfishing@gmail.com



Tom Rosenow demonstrates a cast.



Tom Rosenow instructing the group.



Larry Willis assisting casting participants.

Minutes: Chico Area Flyfishers Board of Directors Meeting, April 29, 2024

6:28 PM Called to order, Pat Sleeper Pres.

Attendance; Quorum: 9/10

1. Board: Pat Hallin, Eric See, Dana Miller, Kyle Crowson, 4/5
2. Officers: Pat Sleeper, Pres., John Cowan, VP., David McKinney, Sec., John Cowan, Tres., Larry, Past Pres. 4/4
3. Committee Chairs and Appointees: Lionel Valley, Tom Rosenow, Stan Thomas

Secretary Report: Minutes as posted in the April Newsletter; M/S/Passed

Treasures Report: John. M/S/Passed

VP Report;

Next Speaker is Lance Gray speaking on the Lake Almanor Hex Hatch. Discussed Speakers for Oct. Nov. Will reserve for Pizza Feed Dec 11, 2024, 2nd Wed at the Round Table Pizza on Pillsbury in Chico.

Clarification on Donation to Sons and Daughters of Italy. This year we gave a donation of \$3000 for their work. They are responsible for the preparation and serving of the dinner as well as supplying runners for the action. This is a very fair price. Budget was adjusted to reflect this amount.

Budget. This year's budget was revised and presented by the Treasurer. M/S/Passed 9-0 to accept the Budget.

Committees

1. Fishouts. Nothing new.
2. Project Healing Waters. Excellent Report by Stan. In our region (Southwest) Healing Waters Group has two members that will be attending summer fishing event in Montana. There is also the possibility of additional participants. More to come.
3. Casting in the Park. CAF Kickoff for FFI Casting Skills program was a great success on Sunday April 21. Attendees for April 21 Event #1 Eric Hoska, Benny Sommer, Sonny Uun, Don Sleeper, Pat Sleeper, Brant Hansen, Tony George, Jeffers Richardson, Chuck Deiner. Casting Instruction Team David McKinney, Larry Willis, Tom Rosenow. Very positive experience for all. Lots of positive feedback. We will be working on additional dates for the future.
4. Conservation: No report
5. Pat Hallin: Hex Hatch BBQ at his house in Almanor June 22, 2024 at 4pm.
6. **Investments.** CAF has concerns about security; 1. Ability to have more than one person (with proper ID) to have access to our accounts. The concern is that the Treasurer being out of town, may prevent other officers from accessing accounts in need. This applies to our checking account and investments. 2. Need to have the officers Bonded, for our assurances. 3. Institute a plan for renewal of passwords on a 3-month basis. Lots of discussion. Investment Account: Determined that for our investments we would have President, and Secretary as signers as well as Lionel, as our advisor. This was M/S/P. These three were to be bonded. Lionel brought up the possibility that we could set up only to withdraw money which would be automatically sent to our checking account; both simpler and more secure. We have opted to do this. Currently Lionel is checking

on setting this up, we will then determine bonding. Checking Account: More detailed discussion initially felt that we would have three signers, President, Secretary, Treasurer. Considered Bonding all three and requiring two signatures on each check over \$500. With further thought, we considered that if we have two members, in this case Treasurer and Secretary, that could login in and check the accounts should be sufficient. We voted down a proposal to have three signers/2 signatures on \$500+ check 0-9. We will check the price for bonding as well, this we deferred. In addition, Lionel was appointed as Assistant Treasurer for managing our investment accounts. M/S/Passed 9-0. Passwords: John has instituted a 3 month renewal of passwords so as to keep them different and secure.

New Business.

New Director. We now have 5 directors on the board. They are Pat Hallin, Eric See, Dana Miller, Kyle Crowson, and Mike Pickering. At the meeting Dana Miller was added as the 5th director.

Bylaws Committee. We will be producing a new set of Bylaws. The committee is composed of Pat Sleeper, David McKinney, Larry Willis, John Cowan. Dave and Larry will predominately do the reading and rewrite the document. We will then meet, edit, and update the document.

Club Express Software. This project was discussed, and no recommendation could be reached. Kyle gave an excellent impromptu explanation of what the page should be able to do. This is the type of program for which we are looking. It would both replace and augment our webpage and newsletter. It would also widen the club's internet reach. If this all sounds good, well in my opinion it is. There is just one major problem. We need someone to step forward and take charge of the project. We have already agreed that it should be run by a committee, and that committee would be responsible for developing the content. But we still need a lead person to be the Chair with knowledge of this type of web account. At this point the project is tabled, but still active.

Miscellaneous

We discussed briefly how many guided trips we should have as donations at the Annual Fundraising Dinner.

Discussed adding board meetings for the Summer. We decided to add a BOD meeting for August 26th, then will start monthly in October and go through May. We are keeping the Regular meetings as Oct-May. It is prohibitively expensive to add additional events. To further help with the cost, considering different types of speakers; Fish and Game, Conservation Societies, CAF Group fishing activities to name a few.

Meeting Adjourned 8:36 PM

Submitted: David McKinney CAF Secretary.

May Guest Speaker: Lance Gray of Lance Gray & Company Fly Fishing

Wednesday, May 8, 2024. 6:30pm Fly-tying demo; 7:30pm Lance Gray's Hex Hatch presentation; 8:30pm Raffle. Lakeside Pavilion 2565 California Park Drive, Chico

Lance started fly fishing with his father and brother Lincoln at age 7. In his teens, he began tying flies commercially for shops all around Northern California. At 17, he went to work at Powell's Fly Shop in Chico, working in the fly shop and building rods. He guided for Powell's, conducted fly-tying and fly-fishing schools, and traveled.

In 1993, Lance and Kirsten started Saltwater Innovations, a company that manufactured and distributed products for saltwater fly fishing. Lance's Crystal Popper, Gray's Billfish Fly, the KO Charlie line, and the Raghead Crabs are all Saltwater Innovations products. Kirsten worked behind the scenes, handling the day-to-day operation and running the company's manufacturing floor.

In 2003 they launched Lance Gray & Company, a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing tours, workshops, and a travel agency.

Lance conducts presentations at fly clubs and fly-fishing shows. While volunteering with veterans, Kirsten and Lance support local groups like Cub Scouts and 4H.

He's a signature tier for Aqua Flies, a pro staff member for Sage, RIO, Simms, Fishpond, and Umpqua Feather Merchants; and is a featured writer, with articles published in Angling Trade Magazine, California Fly Fisher, Fly Fishermen, and American Fly Fishing.

Lance is a columnist. His column "The Foraging Angler" is published bi-monthly in the California Fly Fisher Magazine.



Kirsten is a fantastic photographer; her images have been published in many fly-fishing/outdoor periodicals such as Fly Fishermen, California Fly Fisher, and websites throughout the fly-fishing industry.

"Hex Hatch at Lake Almanor"

Updated in 2023 with the latest tactics & flies.

This presentation is based on over twenty-five years of fishing and guiding the "Hex Hatch" at Lake Almanor, CA. This great fishery offers anglers a chance to catch big trophy trout on the biggest mayfly, the Hexagenia— a great way to spend an evening fishing on the lake.

The presentation will illustrate how to break down the lake to fish, select flies, rigging, and personal safety while fishing this large impoundment. The "Hex Hatch at Lake Almanor" presentation is a great way to get solid, updated information on the lake and the "Hex." This presentation is based on an article I wrote for the California Fly Fisher magazine.

Thanks to April Guest Speaker: Rob Anderson with Bucket List Fly Fishing

By John Cowan

Rob Anderson gave an excellent, informative presentation on a variety of topics. He used his time wisely.

Rob is known as being the first guide on Pyramid Lake. The ecological conditions are changing, and Rob has been there to witness and analyze it every step of the way. Pyramid Lake doesn't fish the way it used to. Rob gave an thorough explanation for why he thinks this is the case and how to adjust one's fishing approach to be more successful. When you look at the internet posts from those fishing Pyramid, there is a lot of frustration. If you weren't at the meeting, get in touch with Rob and he will give you the update! (775) 742-1754.

Duck Valley in southern Idaho was his next topic. In fact, check out the Fishouts in this newsletter for the opportunity to attend one of these fishouts. The lakes in Duck



Valley are productive and the fish are active. Rob said that these are not fishing trips, rather "catching trips" with 50 to 100 fish netted in a day...

Lastly, Rob gave a presentation on his Peacock Bass trip in the Amazon River Basin. Several CAF members have participated in this. Spectacular trip which will be offered in January. See the fishout list in this newsletter.

May Fishing Report

By Various Authors

If any of you have any good fishing experiences, text or email John Cowan (530.966.0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com) or Pat Sleeper (530.228.9197; psleeper@sbcglobal.net). We had great feedback from last month's Fishing Reports and would love to keep that going with your help!

Lake Oroville: March 23, 2024: Lime Saddle, Lake Oroville by Sam Hess (Apologies to Justin and Sam, this should have been run in last month's newsletter, but was accidentally omitted – John Cowan)

My 9-year-old son, Justin and I ran into Tom Rosenow at Lake Oroville at Lime Saddle. We had a great day!



This looks like a good spot! Black leech worked great! Justin Hess has it dialed in!

Lake Oroville: April 9, 2024: Report by Elden Hinkle.

Frank Spiteri & I fished Lake Oroville today (4/9). The weather was great, the fishing somewhat slow. We boated 12 nice bass nothing large. Half of the landed fish were under an indicator with a minnow pattern, the others were stripping or trolling. The water temperature started out at 49 deg in the morning and 53 deg when we finished, we fished from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.



Lionel Valley with one of his many trout. Most of what he caught were considerably larger than this specimen.

Luk Lake, Corning, CA: Report by John Cowan.

Fishmaster, Tom Rosenow, put this outing together. Located behind Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, CA, Luk Lake is a pay to play location. This lake contains good sized rainbows and large mouth bass. Many of the fly rodders targeted a deeper channel in the main portion of the lake successfully netting trout.

Others stuck to the edges of the lake and fished the weeds, lily pads, and reeds for largemouth bass. Pat Sleeper arrived at the lake just a bit later than the rest, but still managed to land sixteen bass!

Hat Creek Campout: April 26-28, 2024: Report by John Cowan.

Organized by fishmaster, Eric See, this campout was attended by Eric Hoska, Matt Schimmel, Big Matt Rowell, and John Cowan. On Friday, John checked into the McArthur-Burney Falls State Park, soon joined by Eric See and Matt Schimmel. After spending a few minutes to get tents set, we were off to Hat Creek Powerhouse #2 Rd. to fish the riffles at the base of the powerhouse. Several other fly rodders were present, with an occasional fish netted. John, again, being the novice of the group, received some good instruction from Eric. Eric was in his element! Stream fishing is Eric's favorite type of fishing, and one can see this in his approach at Powerhouse #2. After fishing for a while, and not catching anything, John started to leave to go back to the campsite to cook a dinner of baby back ribs. Matt caught him and said "Where are you going? You're going to miss the witching hour..." When John told Matt of his intent, Matt suggested that John go back to camp and grab the Webber and bring it back to Powerhouse #2, which is exactly what John did. John got the ribs going, then all would fish for a half an hour, then go back and check the ribs. Low and slow... Soon the fragrance of ribs drifted across Hat Creek, catching the attention of every angler out there. One gentleman, Jim, from Forest Ranch joined us. Eric recognized him from over 20 consecutive years of fishing here at opening season. Two others from Napa Valley, dropped in with a couple of bottles of Grgich Hills cabernet (one of them worked at this winery). We polished off two of the three racks of ribs flavored up a spicy whiskey sauce. Fished the witching hour with no fish landed but having a great time. All left at dusk back to camp to catch up with Eric Hoska and "Big Matt" Rowell waiting. The third rack of ribs, still warm from the grill, was opened, feasted on, and aluminum foil licked clean.



Checkin' on the ribs!

Eric Hoska's nice 'bow.

Saturday morning was chilly! John drug his trailer up to the campground and the inside thermometer read 39 degrees when he woke up. After coffee, a quick breakfast, all took off to go to lower Hat Creek. We arrived at the turn off and Eric See was amazed that the gate was open, "First time in at least a decade have I seen this gate open." We managed to drive all the way down to the creek on an old PG&E road that hadn't been used in a long time. This time, along with John, Eric Hoska was the novice. Eric See gave instructions on nymphing with an indicator and Euro-nymphing. All worked the creek, with no success. John was below the fish barrier dam when he heard a gentleman offer some advice to "mend the line so your flies lead downstream." Larry Willis had joined the group. Assuming the gates were locked, he parked at a different location, taking 20 minutes to arrive at this fishing spot. He fished a bit, then decided to hike 25 minutes back up to his truck, then join us on the other side of the creek. Another truck drove in, and the two gentlemen proceeded to fish. Plenty of room for fishing. Only later, when we were breaking for lunch, did we recognize that these two new guys that came into our area were none other than Nick Von Aspern and Manny Quintel from our Chico Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing group. All caught fish, except for John, it is well known that John will fish, but not catch fish. At one point, Eric See brought eight to the net from the riffles just above Brighton Lake. As afternoon progressed, Matt Schimmel shouted over to John "Do you still have the Webber in the back of your truck? I have ribeyes in my ice chest!" The coals got going, drinks flowing, cigars smoking, everyone had a little to pitch in for a fabulous dinner before the witching hour. With full bellies, everyone went out to make a few more casts as darkness approached. In the dark, all managed to collect all items and headed back to camp.



Left to right: John Cowan, Matt Schimmel, Larry Willis, Big Matt Rowell, and Eric Hoska. Photo credit: Eric See.

Sunday arrived. The nighttime temperatures were probably ten degrees warmer than the previous night. A big breakfast scramble was put together with leftovers from the previous dinner. We decided to go back to Powerhouse #2. A beautiful day! All caught fish, well, except for John. We noticed several dead trout of good size in the creek. Everyone had some kind of speculation as to why there were eight to ten dead trout. Did fly rodders from the previous day use tackle too light and exhaust the fish? Was there some fish disease killing them? Did the electromagnetic radiation from the overhead powerlines have anything to do with this? Alien abduction? Eric See examined a couple of the trout closely and noticed they were badly beaten up. His theory, and certainly the most plausible one, was that they came from Baum Lake and went through the turbines. Hard to survive that little adventure... Big Matt was the first to leave with a four-hour drive home, then a plane to catch the next morning. Then Eric Hoska headed back to Chico looking forward to another outing. Eric See and Matt left for home looking forward to another week of work. John lingered. He headed back to camp for one more night. Enjoyed the campfire, a cigar, and some contemplative solitude. Monday morning, he was composing this narrative from Site 5 of the McAurthur- Burney Falls Campground.



Eric See's nice brown.

Big Chico Creek: April 30, 2024: By Tom Rosenow

Tom Rosenow and Lionel Valley had a couple of handfuls of fish on the last day of the season for Big Chico Creek. They did some trail cleanup first. Stonefly imitations worked the best. There were bug skeletons in the alders and nymphs under the rocks.

I know many of you have been out fishing! Throw a brother a bone and share your story and pictures. It would certainly motivate me not to take long-term substitute jobs and give me ideas as to where to toss a fly!! -John



One of Tom Rosenow's specimens from Big Chico Creek.

California Heritage Trout Challenge

Let us know where you are with the Challenge! Lance Gray may give part of his presentation at our May General Meeting on the California Heritage Trout Challenge. Send me your details and pictures! John Cowan ((530) 966-0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com)

I know there are those in pursuit of the various forms of the California Heritage Trout Challenge! I think it would be cool to see who is making progress on this! Or those who would like to do fishouts and trips to target some of the qualifying trout. Let me know! John Cowan

Upcoming General Meeting Speakers 2024

Our General Meetings take place on the second Wednesday during the months of October through May. The other months are for fishing and adventure! We would love to hear from you about your fishing experiences! Send your experience with pictures to John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0076) to help build our newsletter. Also, if you have suggestions for who could share or a topic for sharing at the General Meeting, let John know!

Our General Meetings include a fly-tying demonstration (6:30pm) followed by the featured speaker (7:30pm). We also have informal time for chatting with one another and a raffle at the end of the meeting. Lots of fun! If you haven't joined us before, I hope you will consider coming to a meeting soon! All of our meetings are at the Lakeside Pavilion at 2565 California Park Drive, Chico. Here are what we have planned for you so far:

Date	Speaker	Topic
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Lance Gray	Getting Ready for the Hex Hatch and Get Going on the California Heritage Trout Challenge!
Wednesday, October 9, 2024	Clay Hash, President Northern Cal Fly Fishing International	Benefits of CAF being a new FFI member. Nymphing the Yuba River.
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	Allen Harthorn from Friends of Butte Creek, and Gayland Taylor, Retired Game Warden	Restoration of Fish Habitat on Butte Creek.
Wednesday, December 11, 2024	CAF Pizza Feed!	Kick off for the 2025 Annual Fundraising Dinner with the Annual Pizza and Anchovies Feed! 5:30pm to 8pm. Round Table Pizza 2201 Pillsbury Rd, Chico.

Steve Acosta	Acosta Fly Fishing	408.205.3026
Mark Antaramian	Mark Antaramian Guide Service	916.705.1207
Ryan Avezzie	Clear Water Fly Guides	530.351.3572
PJ Bock	Bock Fly Fishing	530.598.4087
Hogan Brown	Hogan Brown Fly Fishing	530.514.2453
Brian Clemens	Nor Cal Fly Guides	530.354.3740
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	Discover Montana Outfitters	406.890.8735
Brian Flint	Trout Vision, LLC.	530.690.6636
Tim Fox	Mr. Fox Outfitters	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	Lance Gray and Company	530.517.2204
Lincoln Gray	Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures	530.520.6895
Joe Garza	J.A.G. Fly Fishing	530.570.0978
Monty Hankenson	M&M Outfitters	406.925.1945
Scott Milener	Yuba Anglers	415.726.3036
Pat Sleeper	Pat Sleeper Fly Fishing	530.228.9197
Wayne Syn	Orland Outfitters	530.624.4156
Mike Tsois	MT Fly Fishing	408.440.6810
Toby Uppinghouse	Edgewater Outfitters	916.505.4773
Ryan Williams	Ryan Williams Fly Fishing	707.365.9891

LOCAL FLY FISHING SHOPS

Fish First!  **FishFirst!**
766 Mangrove Ave
Chico, CA 95926
343-8300

Sierra Stream Outdoors
847 WE. 5th Street
Chico, CA 95926
530-345-4261



Chico Area Flyfisher's Fishout Schedule 2024

Here are future outings that Chico Area Flyfishers 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 the willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and times, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful. But, it's up to you to ask for help, if you desire to learn.

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 any of the following fish masters: Elden Hinkle (ehinkle1221@yahoo.com; (530) 519-4680); Don Sleeper (dnsleeper@gmail.com; (530) 228-6197); Pat Sleeper (psleeper@sbcglobal.net; (530) 228-9197); and Eric See (eric.see@water.ca.gov; (530) 899-1918)

***NOTE: The fishout schedule may be subject to change depending on the fish bite, weather conditions, and or COVID issues.**

Date	Location	Ability
May 17-19, 2024 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Eastern Nevada Stillwater Outing Duck Valley Rainbows, Cutthroats, Browns Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$395	Beginner + Float Tube
May 21 - 23, 2024 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Eastern Nevada Stillwater Outing Duck Valley Rainbows, Cutthroats, Browns Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$395	Beginner + Float Tube
June 22, 2024 Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031	Hex Hatch BBQ, Fishout Lake Almanor	Beginner +
August 31 to Sept.7, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!) Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$2,500	Beginner +
Sept. 7 to Sept.14, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Full) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
Sept.14 to Sept.21, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Full) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
Sept.21 to Sept.28, 2024 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Dorado La Ventana Mexico (Filling fast!) Weeks 1 and 4 available. Cost \$2,500.	Beginner +
January 19-24, 2025 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Lake Picachos, Mexico Trophy Largemouth Bass Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$2,500	Beginner +
January 24 - February 6, 2025 Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680 Ehinkle1222@yahoo.com	Amazon Basin, Brazil. Peacock Bass Rob Anderson, Guide Cost \$6,200	Intermediate +
February 2 -12, 2025 Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 psleeper@sbcglobal.net	Amazon Basin. Peacock Bass Pat's Fly Fishing Cost \$5,625	Intermediate +


Upcoming: We are open to suggestions!!

*** Check the Chico Area Flyfishers website for the most up to date fishout information.**

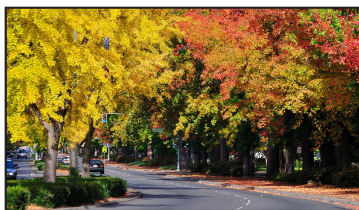
May Garage Sale

If anyone has any fly fishing gear they want to sell, let John Cowan (530.966.0076) jcowan58@yahoo.com know. Provide as much info as you can about the gear to be sold, a picture(s), contact info, and a fair asking price. If an item is sold, please let John know so that the item is taken off the list for the next newsletter issue.

We plan to try something new at the General Meetings. We will have a table set up for a Garage Sale or Swap Meet for folks to get rid of equipment they don't use anymore to someone who could put it to good use!

Item	Price	Contact
Echo OHS 6wt Rod w/ Echo ION 6-7 wt Reel w/ Rio 305gr Trout Spey line (2 combos). Ready for the Yuba River or other small river. 	\$500 ea	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo SR 7wt Rod w/ Redington Behemoth 7-8 Reel w/ Rio #7 Switch Chucker. Great for chucking indicators into the wind at Pyramid Lake!! 	\$400	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo Spey 7wt 13ft Rod w/ Hardy ASR9000 Reel w/ Skagit Line and Tips. Perfect intro rod for Salmon or Alaska trip.	\$450	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo E3 9ft 5wt. The most universal rod one can buy! 	\$150	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Smith Sunglasses. Used only a few times. Kept in case when not in use. 	\$210 \$180	Eric Christensen (530) 520-9876

Fall Came



Fall Left



Fall Stayed



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(530) 520-3931

Fly of the Month, May, 2020

The 20 Incher

By: Ray Narbaitz

I've been tying flies for somewhere around 45 years now. In that time, one of the biggest changes I have seen is that synthetic materials have, for the most part, taken over for natural materials. I think the primary reason for this is the synthetics have just gotten so much better. As they have been developed, they have allowed the fly tying world to expand into sizes, shapes and mostly colors that the naturals couldn't match. Also in their favor is they usually tend to be much more durable and long lasting. A Parachute Adams tied with a Razor Foam abdomen is going to float higher and longer than one tied with Muskrat Fur.

Having said that, it doesn't mean one should quit using natural materials. This month's FOTM was developed a long time ago by someone (nobody seems to know who) in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley when synthetics were not as available as now. It is still a highly productive fly that catches a lot of fish. It is a Stonefly Nymph that has a good profile for the bug. It is one of those flies that is a little more impressionistic than actual, but the profile and look invites the fish to eat it. Before we tie it I thought I'd put in a note about the hook. The original pattern calls for a Tiemco 200R. I won't bore you with my feelings about that hook. Suffice it to say I don't like it. While the pattern calls for a slightly curved hook, I doubt the fish will turn it down if tied on a straight shank hook like a TMC 5262 or 5263.

Hook: 2 or 3X long hook, size 2 to 12

Thread: 6 or 8/0 Black

Bead: Brass or Tungsten Gold, sized to hook. While this is the original pattern, I prefer a black bead.

Weight: .20 or .15 lead or lead free wire

Tail: Brown Goose Biots

Ribbing: Tan Floss or Copper Wire size Brassie

Underbody: Any dark dubbing

Abdomen: Peacock

Wing Case: Turkey Tail or Thin Skin

Legs: Partridge

Thorax: Natural Hare's Ear

1. Debarb the hook and slip on the bead.
2. Take 10 to 15 wraps of the weighting wire and shove them tight against the bead.
3. Start your thread behind the lead and wrap a small dam so the lead can't slip down. Wrap down the hook to the bend and wrap a taper from there up to the lead, and over the lead to hold it down.
4. Go back to the bend and tie in a short tail with the Biots.
5. Tie your ribbing material at the wire and wrap it back to the tail.
6. Use any kind of dark dubbing and build a tapered underbody from the tail to about the 75% mark up the shank.



7. Tie in a healthy chunk of Peacock at the bend and wrap it up to the end of the underbody.
8. Counter spiral the rib up to the end of the Peacock.
9. Cut a strip of the Wing Case a little smaller than the hook gap. If using Turkey Tail, cut the points off straight and tie them in behind the bead. Wrap over it all the way back to almost the half way point of the shank, over the Peacock. You want a lot of room for the Thorax. Make sure it is right on top of the hook.
10. Take a Partridge feather with barbs about half the length of the hook shank. Grab the tip and preen the barbs back leaving only the small tip to use as a tie in. Strip the barbs from the bottom of the stem so you only have enough left to be about the length of the Thorax.
11. Tie the feather in by the tip with the stem back over the Wing Case. Tie it in so the stem is curving up. Wrap the tip down and trim any excess.
12. Dub a robust Thorax with the Hare's Ear. You want it to go from the bead to almost the half way point of the shank. Make sure it is a little fatter than the Abdomen. If it is rough and shaggy, so much the better. End with your thread at the back of the bead.
13. Pull the Partridge over the top of the Thorax and tie it down.
14. Pull the Wing Case over the Partridge and tie it down.
15. Trim the excess of both as close to the bead as possible, Make sure both are securely tied down.
16. Place a very small bit of the dubbing and wrap it right behind the bead.
17. Whip finish the fly and cut off the thread.
18. If you have used Turkey Tail for the Wing Case, you might want to put some head cement over it to help with durability.

Notes: If maneuvering the Partridge for the legs gives you a problem, an alternative would be to Palmer it through the Thorax and then trim it top and bottom...Its entirely optional, but you can rough up the hair in the Thorax a bit to give the fly even more motion and more illusion of legs.

Help Needed! Consider Running for Board or Officer

By John Cowan

Chico Area Flyfishers is a special organization for me. From the time Mark Hardesty put a fly pole in my hand (yes, I was corrected by Mark "It's a rod, not a pole..."), I was drawn to this way of fishing. I could catch fish plenty using conventional gear, but a fly rod, reel, line, and fly was a captivating method to me. We were at Digger Creek Ranch many years ago. There wasn't instruction given to me, just the rod. I didn't catch fish, but I persevered.

I became a member the same way that many of you did. It was the Crab Feed. Being a colleague of Carol Burns, back in the day she brought tons of people to the dinner. However, I knew that I wasn't really a fly rodder. But I wished I were. There are books and movies all spinning an inspiring mystique of the technique. I imagined my body in the place of the character, Paul McLean in "A River Runs Through It" making perfect casts on that special river. More, I identified more with Augustine "Gus" Orviston in "The River Why" with his contemplative link between fly fishing and working through his search for self-knowledge. While I suck at fly fishing, and it is well documented that I'm usually the one who fishes all day without catching a fish, this discipline is good for my soul.

CAF, and many members of it have helped me with my skills, such as they are. Jim Gaumer (I swear I'm going to make bumper stickers that say "Student of the Jim Gaumer School of Fly Casting"), Pat and Don Sleeper, Larry Willis, Pete Wiik, and many others have taken me under their wing to show me a thing or two. Who have quietly shaken their heads when viewing my performance when I wasn't looking. My skills are getting better. But there is more.

It is no big secret that I suffer from addiction. Alcohol is my big thing. Thankfully, I haven't had a drink in over five years. And the club and those in it have had a big impact on my sobriety. I didn't get better at fly fishing until I admitted that I had a problem with drinking (retirement had a big impact, too). When I became honest with myself and opened up to others, that became the pivotal point in my recovery. I worked hard to make that honesty the backbone of how I live my life. For the first time, I made known my ignorance of fly fishing to other members (such as those mentioned above). People warmly helped me with all levels of fly fishing.

In recovery, it is important to be of service to others. I became involved with Chico Area Flyfishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, and the Salmon in the Classroom programs. While my parents taught me about "giving back" to the community, my recovery has helped me discover "the gift of giving". I have come to realize that a better anything comes when people do a little more than what is asked or

expected of them. Including a better soul. I'm grateful for the opportunities I have with CAF and the various programs, my sobriety certainly is...

So, what does all this have to do with the title of this article? Times change. Situations change. Needs change. Change in our club is inevitable. This November marks our election month. After many, many years of dedicated service, Pat Sleeper will step away from the Presidency. After working for many months as both the Vice President and Treasurer, I must let one of these positions go, and that is the Treasurer position. I'm discovering that too much of a good thing can have negative consequences, therefore, the Treasurer position will be open.

The club is revising its Bylaws as this article is being written. Typically, those running for an officer position come from the ranks of those on the board. But, like any non-profit or volunteer organization, finding the warm bodies to step up and become involved is extremely difficult, and important.

Our club faces some new challenges going forward. How does this club, formed in 1972, adapt and evolve to exist in the mid 2020's? Our membership is getting older, and most don't have the skills of a digital age. Our younger membership wishes our club had resources readily available to them, but we lack the expertise to bring these needs to reality. Frankly, we have a hard time with just the pathways that help us intersect with a younger generation of fly-fishers.

I know our club would like to help those interested in honing their fly-fishing skills with clinics and classes. I know many in our community wish that our club more vocally address environmental and conservation issues which preserve an activity we enjoy. Most of us want to fish locally and have someone to call with whom we can fish. For all this, we need your help. Please consider stepping up to volunteer to help our club. We need people willing to be on the board of directors when elections come in November. We need officer positions filled. Our programs, such as Salmon in the Classroom, Project Healing Waters, the Casting Clinic, and Fly-Tying all need help. Please consider stepping up to help.

Oh yeah... I you or anyone you know might benefit from a conversation about alcoholism, I am more than willing to spend some time over a cup of coffee (530) 966-0076.



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Your support is appreciated!

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If you have any questions, please contact John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0065).

Make checks out to "CAF". **Memberships can also be completed online: chicoareaflyfishers.org**

A Shout Out To Some Of Our Supporters Who Have Helped Us Over The Years!

