

# The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

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*The yearly transfer of 50,000 Eagle Lake Trout from the Department of Fish and Game Hatchery to the ten Almanor Fishing Association Cages took place October 2008.*

*Here you see the volunteers transferring the fish from the transfer cage to the permanent cages anchored in the Hamilton Branch.*

*The cages were retrofitted last year so that they would float a little higher. See article on Page 4*

## Lake Almanor Shortening the Learning Curve By Guide Doug Neal

"Good decisions, come from experience, and a lot of that experience came from bad decisions",  
i.e. - We learn from our mistakes.

Consistently catching Lake Almanor Trout and Salmon just comes natural to some, for others it is a longer journey. Especially when you're fishing a new lake for the first time, or just the first time this season. We want to make the most of that time? Most guys that tow their boat up here to fish Lake Almanor do their homework. Reading fishing reports, talking to locals at the Ayoobs store. Asking all the important usual question, Where's the hot bite? And, what are they biting on? How deep? And, How fast? Yep, we just want to get off on the right foot, and catch some fish! Asking a few questions can never hurt, it makes the difference between using a couple of days just trying to get dialed in, or starting out strong.

It's the guys that do the homework that catch fish consistently, understanding the food chain and knowing what is happening throughout the season is what separates a 3 fish day from a 10 fish day. The hot bite can be elusive, how many times have you heard: "Man! You should have been here yesterday?" I never want to hear that however, I have said it to others before. Lake Almanor is constantly changing, and what worked well yesterday, could be zilch the next day.

*Continued on Page 2*

Lake levels could be low again this season, and fish activity may not be accurately predicted like in high water years. Some springs may not flow as strong, or at all. Not only is Lake Almanor constantly changing every week, it also changes every season. Low lake levels for the second year in a row will hinder some shallow areas, making them not as fishable. The low numbers of smelt in 2002 and 2003, scared everybody. The muddy inflows from Walker Lake last year shut down the Hamilton Branch area and spread all the way to Big Springs, turning the water a muddy brown that lingered 6 weeks. Another example, very heavy smoke from all the California fires last year filtered out the sunshine for 7 weeks, changing surface temperature patterns, and unhealthy air quality...just another change. It helps to be on this water often and see changes as they are happening.



I am a fortunate fellow, I live here year-round, and fish Lake Almanor about as much as anyone possibly can. Being a resident guide has its advantages and keeps me in tune with the changes as they cycle. I primarily troll and bait fish for Trout and Salmon, in equal amounts, and on occasion we like to jig when the Browns are rolling. Over the last 10 years I have logged over 7000 hours on Lake Almanor alone. Yes, we catch lots of fish, but it wasn't always easy, believe me. Sure I had help. I wasn't born all wise and knowing.....that's just a rumor!!!

Like every angler, there were people that helped me along the way, and that helped shorten the learning curve. As a boy, it started with my Grampa teaching me how to catch sunfish and blue gill. Now I am passing along the virtues of fishing to my own grandson. As often as I fish Lake Almanor, I still feel like a student in an ongoing learning process. There's always something new to learn. Or just review.

Like most anglers, we learned a lot doing things on our own, and from experiences shared with other fishermen. Suggestions and advice are always welcomed, however, always consider the source. Some guys are very secretive about their tactics, and that's understandable. I used to be like that, and I still am, but to a lesser degree. Fishermen, in general, are a good group of guys willing to share their stories of how they caught the big one.

There's plenty of information available about fishing Lake Almanor, but you still have to get "on the spot", and then execute, to fish effectively day in and day out. I was lucky, I learned a lot about Lake Almanor from one of the best fishermen who ever worked this great body of water. The legend, Doug D'Angelo. Lake Almanor's premier guide of over 45 years. Doug's a quiet, soft-spoken guy with a quick wit and vast fishing knowledge of Lake Almanor. He shortened my learning curve. Over the years, D'Angelo shared with me some of his tricks, one here, one there.

He once said to me "I don't want to give you too much information too soon, you could overload!". When 50 years of fishing experience at Lake Almanor speaks, it's best to shut up and listen. Doug offered insights, talked about changes, and the why and when fish moved. Fishing the right areas correctly, at the right time is important to optimize your time spent on the water. No one on this planet knows more about fishing Lake Almanor than Doug, including any extraterrestrials from other universes that may be walking around on our planet. And believe me, I'm pretty dang sure I had a couple aliens on my boat last season!

About that learning curve? Let's shorten your learning curve, at least a little anyway. I cannot put 7000 hours of learning curve into a couple of paragraphs, but we can get you going in the right direction. Here are a couple of suggestions, a couple of areas that I want to target early in the season, say from April to May.



## Trolling, Almanor West, and the East Shore

First, The Almanor West area....with the arrival of spring and the days now getting longer, the water is finally starting to warm. The west side of Lake Almanor warms fast because it's the shallow side. The aquatic food chain kicks into action in this area early, and the fish are actively feeding on the increasing insect activity, freshwater leeches, and other freshwater invertebrates, trying to put back reserves that were spent during the leaner winter months. Trolling from the U.S. Forest Service ramp to the airport flats is a sure thing. Close to shore with a sideplanner, or well off shore, it's all good.

A threaded crawler rigged down 6 ft. with a good swivel is all you really need. A dodger and crawler works well too. As the morning progresses, we start to adjust down to 12 ft. and by late morning we are usually done with limits. However, we have taken lots of limits trolling Needlefish, Speedy Shiners, Humdingers and Cripplelures. It helps to have a downrigger for accurate depth control. Some guys still effectively use lead core, I never could get excited about lead core, even with some of the new line that's come out. I still feel the bulk of the system, and boat speed variations from waves and wind, affect the accuracy of depth consistency. Also, lead core is limited to how deep you can really go.

As the Almanor West area water slowly warms a little every day, say by the second week in June, that bite will begin to shut down. The water eventually gets too warm and the Trout will start to move out of the Almanor West flats and start moving into deeper, cooler waters around the Prattville area, the West side of the peninsula and up to Bailey Springs, where they will hold for awhile before moving out of the shallows almost entirely.

## Now, the East Shore, April through May

The East Shore also has it's shallow areas that warm quickly too. As the sun sets in the west, the east shore of Almanor receives the best and warmest rays of afternoon sunshine, stimulating insect activity. The fishing can be outstanding. When I say East Shore I mean from the Dorado Inn to Canyon Dam and back. I also find lots of action in the Lake Cove area up to about the end of June. All this warming sets off insect hatches that keep the fish very active. All I do is move over to the east side and troll all the same stuff that I was using on the Almanor West side last month, only deeper.

  
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So, that's how I will be starting my spring fishing. Good Luck to All this 2009 season and remember, for more Almanor fishing information spring, summer, fall and winter, check out my "Almanor Fishing Report" at: [www.almanorfishingadventures.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventures.com). This report is an accumulation of my observations on Lake Almanor through the year and input from a small network of local, reliable fishermen. The Almanor Fishing Report is updated biweekly to help shorten that learning curve, and make your time on the water one to remember.



Guide Doug Neal operates Almanor Fishing Adventures and can be reached at (530) 258-6732 or his website listed above.



# Kokanee Power and Almanor Fishing Association Partnership

By Nelsen R. Money

In the fall of 2007, California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) transferred ownership and maintenance of the Almanor Fishing Associations' 18 year old trout pen project to Kokanee Power. CDF&G had delayed maintenance on the pens due to budget issues and during the Annual Trout Pen Summit, Kokanee Power President, Gary Coe, made the commitment to provide the financial assistance to the Almanor Trout Pens.

While the financial support is necessary, President Gary Coe saw an incredible partnership with the 300 plus members of the Almanor Fishing Association. The dedication of the members to feed the fish daily through rain, snow and ice at the Hamilton Branch is very inspirational.

In August, Al Milan, Vice President of Kokanee Power and Board Member, Randy Bergquist visited the site with Almanor Fishing Association to determine what repairs could be done before the fish arrived in the Fall of 2008. Al, Randy and the Almanor Fishing Association agreed that the rivets had to be replaced, a fence for storage of equipment had to be built and spacers would be required to raise the pens which would make the pens float high enough during the 2009 winter.

Paul Garrido of Almanor Fishing Association helped coordinate the bids for a fenced storage facility and the replacement of the rivets to maintain the integrity of the pens through the winter. Kokanee Power agreed to cover the costs for fencing, replacing the rivets and other repairs for a total of \$14,000.

In October, Randy Bergquist and Nelsen Money of Kokanee Power joined ten other volunteers from Almanor Fishing Association at the Hamilton Branch pens to make some repairs. The flotation for the pens was old, water-soaked and not providing the floatation required to keep the fish from escaping due to snow loads on the pens. A short term engineering solution to add six inch pipe spacers between the pens and the floating dock was proposed by Randy Bergquist. Mike VonAlvensleben of Von's Diving Service came up with an innovative method to raise the pens in place with metal brace that could manually raise the pens. We estimated it would take two days and were surprised when we finished in less than a day. Randy and I would like to thank all the Almanor Fishing Association volunteers and to Paul & Wanda Garrido for the great dinner and hospitality.

In 2009, Kokanee Power will be working with Almanor Fishing Association to plan the replacement of the floats and repairs of the dock. Estimated of the costs to complete the repairs are \$40,000 over three years. You can get a sense of the dedication from the Kokanee Power Board of Directors when Vice President Al Milan responded to the projected cost with "we'll get it done".

Kokanee Power is a 501 c-3 non profit and has over 1,400 members that support the fisheries enhancement and educational efforts. Kokanee Power helps California Department of Fish and Game maintain the Kokanee hatcheries that produce over 1.5 million Kokanee annually. You can check them out at <http://kokaneePower.org>.

## New Members Welcome

Please help support the Almanor Fishing Association. Thank you!



### ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP COUPON

P.O. BOX 1938 • Chester, CA 96020 • PHONE (530) 258-3790

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You may count on me for help as needed: ☐ Work Projects ☐ Board Committees ☐ Funds for Special Projects

# SCHOLARSHIP !

For the tenth year, the Almanor Fishing Association is offering a scholarship to a Chester/Westwood High School student who shows an interest in the local fishery and has career goals in Marine Biology, Forestry or another related field.

Scholarship recipients in recent years were:

Arick Biggs - 2004 - Westwood  
Nicholas Anderson - 2005 - Chester  
Samantha Lee - 2006 - Chester  
Shae Cheli - 2007 - Chester  
Nicholas Delucci - 2008 - Chester

We hope our members will take pride in helping students attain their educational goals.

## WHAT IS THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION?

Our organization is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Lake Almanor Basin Sport Fishing. We encourage the practice of true sportsmanship, the enjoyment of the sport of fishing and the responsible use and management of our natural resources. Take the number of fish you need for yourself, but please don't take in excess of your need or legal limit.

*If it concerns fishing – we're concerned!*

## ASSOCIATION JACKETS AND ACCESSORIES

Almanor Fishing Association Jacket, tee-shirts, sweat-shirts and hats are available from Loretta Green's shop in Susanville called "Green Stitches".

- Jewel Neck sweatshirts - \$40.00
- Hooded Sweatshirts – \$50.00
- Tee-shirts – \$14.75
- Hats – \$13.50
- A variety of Jackets are also available
- Bring your own item and get our logo:  
Small front logo \$10 - Large Back Logo - \$28

All colors available for above items.

Contact Loretta at (530) 251-2580

## ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

### BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pleau, President/Secretary  
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### Notice to Fishermen

Cedar Lodge Motel is offering a 10% discount off room rates when guests use a fishing guide from the Lake Almanor area

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## SERVICES ON LAKE ALMANOR

### West Shore of Lake

#### **Plumas Pines Resort**

Marina, Gas, Boat & Jet Ski Rentals, Store with tackle, bait and other food and beverage items.

Lakeside at The Pines – serving Lunch, Dinner

Courtesy Dock Available.

#### **Camp Prattville**

Cabins, R.V. Sites, Marina. Store with Tackle, Bait and other food and beverage items. “Carol’s Cafe serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner also offers a full deli and Espresso & Ice Cream Bar

Courtesy Dock Available.

### North Cove - East Side of Lake

#### **Big Cove Resort**

R.V. Sites, Marina, Gas & Propane. Store with Bait, Tackle, Snacks, Cold Beer and Soda. Boat Rentals-Pontoon Boats, Fishing Boats, Waterbikes and other water toys. Boat Launch Facilities

#### **Knotty Pine Resort**

Cabins, Marina with snack bar, Cold Beer and Soda, Gas, Bait, Tackle, Boat Rentals-Pontoon Boats, Paddleboats, SeaDoo's and other water toys.

## The Lake Almanor Basin:

Perfect in Every Season

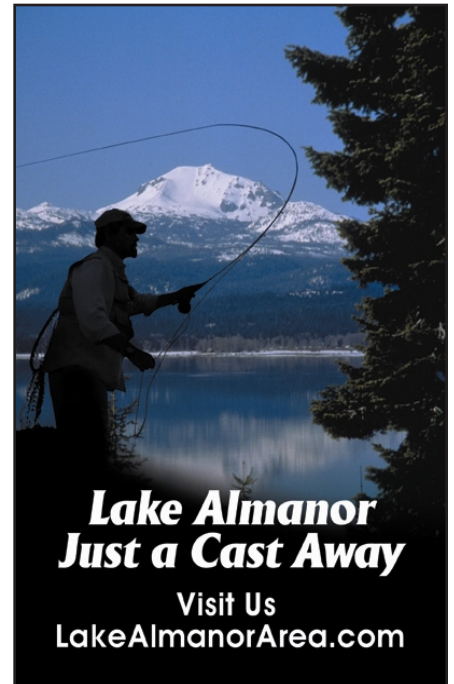
And Just A Cast Away!

The Lake Almanor Basin, gateway community to Lassen Volcanic National Park, is just a cast away from the Bay Area, Sacramento, Redding and Reno areas. Lake Almanor and the community of Chester are surrounded by the Lassen National Forest and on the by-way of one of the top scenic drives in the nation, the All American and Volcanic Legacy Scenic By-Ways.

Lake Almanor offers an abundance of water sports and boating activities under the watchful eye of Lassen Peak. World class fishing abounds in our lakes and streams. Miles of bike trails encircle the lake and run through the forest. During summer and fall, visitors to the Basin enjoy hiking, biking, nature walks, bird watching, kayaking, rounds of golf, horseback riding, sitting around a campfire and exploring the wonders of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Winter brings the serene beauty of cross-country skiing and snow shoeing and countless opportunities for snowmobiling on more than 350 miles of groomed trails.

Come Play with Us! Call or visit the Chester-Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce for lodging, dining and recreational information (530) 258-2426.



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Karen Kemp
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# Almanor Research Institute Trout Hatchery

By Dave Bradley, Instructor

After 7 years of operations at Chester High School, the Almanor Research Institute Trout Hatchery was closed this year because of renovations. The hatchery was moved from the modified classroom at Chester High School to the School's auto shop during the summer of 2008. It had just about outlived the usefulness of the previous location and it would have been necessary to rebuild the existing filtration system and restore the existing linoleum floor. Fortunately, the old Chester High School Auto Shop that was being used as a computer room was offered to Almanor Research Institute (ARI) for relocating the hatchery operations. The decision to shut down the existing hatchery and move was difficult, however, it had tremendous advantages and potential that the existing facility did not have. The advantages are the following:

1. The auto shop has concrete floors with multiple floor drains. It can get messy when fish are being weighed, sized, and moved from tank to tank. Clean up and general housekeeping involves a lot of water ending up on the floor. Housekeeping will be much easier, with a concrete floor and drains, in the future.



2. The auto shop is four times larger. If you have been to the previous location you know there was not much space to move around among the 6 each 100 gallon aquaria, 4 each 300 gallon tanks, 2 each 100 gallon troughs, and assorted pumps, filters, and sterilizers. Now, the equipment can be spread out with more room to work and more room to expand, doubling the tank capacity.

3. The auto shop has a fenced asphalt parking lot allowing the expansion of the hatchery to include 4 each 10 foot diameter circular tanks. The potential of being able to grow out fish to a catchable size may, in the future, mean a self sufficient product for the hatchery.

4. The auto shop is located on campus but is an individual building that will be dedicated only to the hatchery. When the hatchery was located next to the classrooms, there was sometimes a "fishy" smell that sensitive individuals were able to detect. Now, the hatchery is removed from the general student population so the issue of smell has been eliminated.

5. The auto shop is a more permanent arrangement that allows the hatchery to operate in the years to come. The previous hatchery in the modified classroom was temporary at best.

With the money raised by the members of the Almanor Fishing Association, an aquaculture consultant, Mike Hosford of Aquaculture Solutions based in Oregon, was hired to help with the design of the new hatchery. It was decided early the old filtration system would have to be replaced with a larger more aggressive system that could allow a fish density of .25 lbs. per gallon; the old system could handle .25 lbs. of fish per 5 gallons. The new system would be able to handle an expanded hatchery up to 7,000 gallons and would be easier to maintain than the old system. Mr. Hosford divided the project into three phases:

**Phase 1:** Install existing aquaria and tanks and revise basic life support systems, with the systems designed to support fish populations in Phase 2. This would include:

1. Rewiring the electricity to accommodate the chiller, recirculating pumps, and drum filter.
2. Plumb existing tanks to a centralized filtration system.
3. Install a sold waste micro screen Hydrotek drum filter 400 gpm capacity.
4. Install two ammonia bio-filters that can handle 200 gpm capacity, each.

**Phase 1 capacity 46,000- 3" trout**



*Continued on Page 8*

**Phase 2:** Replicate existing aquaria, effectively doubling fish tank capacity. Install additional water polishing equipment as needed. This would include:

1. Adding 4 each 300 gallon acrylic tanks, 6 each 100 gallon insulated fiberglass aquaria and 1 each 8 tray egg incubator.
2. Adding 2 steel stands for the tanks and 2 steel stands for the aquaria.
3. Plumbing tanks, aquaria, and incubator to existing system.
4. Installing a water "polishing" system that includes ozone sterilizer, micro-screen bag filters, and contact tanks.
5. Expanding the existing aeration system to accommodate the additional fish.

**Phase 1 and Phase 2 capacity 92,000 - 3" trout or 12,000 - 6" trout**

**Phase 3:** Out-door Brown trout grow out system. This would include:

1. Installing 4 each 10 foot diameter tanks, 10,000 gallons total
2. Install an outdoor filtration system, with one solid waste micro screen Hydrotek drum filter and two ammonia bio-filters
3. Install outdoor aeration system.
4. Plumbing tanks and filtration system

**Phase 3 capacity 2,500 - 1 pound each Brown Trout**

This is an enormous project that will require money and manpower to be completed. Again, with the support of Almanor Fishing Association members, ARI was able to hire a grant writer to obtain the necessary funding for the hatchery remodel. ARI is actively writing grants that include Sierra Nevada Conservancy and PG&E. Hopefully, we will have funding by Spring for Phase 1 so we can begin work during the summer and be ready for students by next Fall.



## Essential Terms and Concepts For Anglers

● **Bite** -- What the mosquitos and black flies do while the fishermen are preoccupied with not catching fish

● **Can of Worms** -- The situation that arises when you inform you wife that you'll be spending the weekend fishing instead of doing household chores.

● **Crappie** -- The way you feel when you're at work and you'd rather be fishing

● **Dock** -- The Professional you should probably consult about your unhealthy fishing obsession.

● **Fish Finder** -- A revolutionary technological device that allows you to scan below the water's surface and easily see the fish you'll never catch.

● **Largemouth Bass** -- The most popular game fish in North America. Drop the "B" and it also becomes an accurate description of most fishermen.

● **Muskie** -- The odor of any tent or cabin after a group of fishermen has shared it for more than a day.

● **Snag** -- Something you're bound to hit if you try lying too outrageously about your catch.

● **Walleye** -- Common malady among fishermen, caused by too little sleep and too much beer.

● **Wet Fly** -- The unhappy consequence of trying to urinate over the side of a moving boat.

A purple advertisement for Farmers Insurance Group. At the top left is the Farmers Insurance Group logo. To its right is the word "FARMERS" in large white letters. Further right is a small image of a house. Below the logo, it says "Bob Rouland Insurance Agent Lic. #0657918". Below that is a small image of a silver car. To the right of the car, it says "Rouland Insurance Agency" in bold, followed by the address "650 Main Street • Chester, CA 96020", phone numbers "Bus: (530) 258-2218 • (800) 254-2218", and fax number "Fax: (530) 258-4223 • linsuru@citilink.net". At the bottom, it says "For All Your Insurance Needs!".



# Wayne's Bear

By Wayne Clegg, AFA Board Member

It was October 30th, 2008 and I was working in my back yard on the Hamilton Branch, under a blanket of fall colors. The temperature was close to 70 and life was good.

Suddenly, out of the corner of my left eye, I saw a brown flash. It was a California Black Bear (brown in color) running wide open down hill. He climbed a tree just a few yards from where I was standing. The first thing that came to my mind was to get my camera. By the time I got back with my camera, the bear had climbed back down the tree and was leaning up against the trunk of the tree with its tongue out and winded. It was bear hunting season. It appears that the bear was run off Dyer Mountain by hunters.

The bear stayed in my back yard for an ½ hour and then returned up the hill. I figured that would be the last time I would see this bear. I was wrong! In the next few days, I was getting reports from my neighbors on the other side of the branch that a bear was getting into garbage cans and was spotted in a driveway.

In less than a week, Paul Garrido, Treasurer & Board Member for the Almanor Fishing Association called me and stated that "My Bear", which Paul later named "Wayne's Bear" had swam out to the fish cages located at the mouth of the Hamilton Branch and had done some damage to our cages. At first, we figured that the bear was after the 50,000 Eagle Lake Trout we had just placed in the cages a week earlier. After a closer look, it appears that the bear was after the high protein fish food.



The AFA contacted Bob Orange, Game Warden for Plumas County and filed a formal complaint. The Department of Fish & Game hired a federal trapper from Susanville to deal with the bear problem. A bear trap on wheels was placed at the stairway leading to the fish cages at the power house. A few days later, I got a call at 7:00 am from the federal trapper stating he had the bear in his trap. I grabbed my camera and headed for the power house.

It was "Wayne's Bear" alright! The bear wasn't happy but he wasn't injured. While I was taking photos of the bear, it didn't growl but hissed at me like a cat. I got within inches of the bears' face and saw that it had piercingly beautiful green eyes.

The bear was taken by the federal trapper to the high country and released. As I write this story in the dead of winter, the bear is asleep in his den covered by a large coating of snow.



# A Few Reminders from the Plumas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol

by Otto Brackett, PCSO Boat Patrol Supervisor

Well, here it is, time to get ready to get that big fish that got away last year. If the weather keeps up, we may have enough water to navigate in.

In my travels, one thing we see a lot of are fishing boats on trailers parked beside the road. They all have one thing in common, a wheel is off and the trailer is on a jack. One of two things usually causes this. First, a flat tire and the owner doesn't have a spare, or a wheel bearing has gone out. A flat tire can happen any time, just make sure that you have a spare and the necessary tools to fix it. Wheel bearings are another thing. They take maintenance. Every year you should pull the wheels and check the bearings. If they are rusted or pitted they should be replaced. Bearings should be greased yearly. Use grease that is resistant to water. I have seen where wheel bearings rusted or frozen have built up enough friction to actually cut the spindle off the axle. This can be very expensive and dangerous. Go to your local parts house and show him your bearing and get the proper grease. Your boat needs maintenance also. Remember to check the spark plugs and wires. Using last year's gas could cause problems. I would suggest getting new fuel. If your boat is from the valley and you had it tuned up there, I would suggest using 89 or 91 octane fuel. If you bring up your boat with regular fuel in it try putting some octane boost in it.

Also check your lights. Some boaters wait until they need them and find they don't work. We don't need any surprises on a dark night. I noticed during the 4th of July Fireworks that a number of boaters were having trouble with their lights. Another potential problem could be your battery. I check the batteries on my patrol boat and I put a charge in them at the start of each new season.

This year, depending on the water, you might want to be aware of possible hazards that might not be marked. We try to keep all hazards marked with a hazard buoy. When the lake level is low new hazards may show up. This is where you can help us. If you find a hazard above or below the surface of the water, try to mark it. Use a bottle or some people will use an old life jacket. Contact the boat patrol deputy on the lake. Show him where it is and he will take care of it.

If you can't find a deputy call the Sheriff's Office Dispatch in Quincy (530) 283-6300. Tell them your location and what the problem is. They will call the boating deputy. If possible, stay there until he arrives because trying to find a small marker on a big lake can be very time consuming.

**Courtesy:** Not enough can be written about this subject. How many times have you seen boaters exceeding the "No Wake" or "5 mph Marker Buoy" and his wake making boats bounce off their docks or being shoved up on the beach? How many times have you been fishing and have a wave runner, water skier or boarder come close to your boat? If this happens to you, get their vessel registration number and color of the vessel. Contact your boat patrol deputy and give him this information. You can't shoot or harpoon them, you have to obey the law!

Remember, keep those little people safe. Make sure they are in properly fitted Coast Guard approved life jackets. Remember also that children under the age of 12 must be wearing a life jacket while the boat is in motion. Last year we ran into a new problem of illegal life jackets. They look good, are comfortable, but are not approved by the Coast Guard. Some people spent as much as a hundred thirty dollars for them. Some people commented they did not know they were illegal. The store where they bought them failed to tell them. You can be cited for this violation. If you have any questions, contact your local boat patrolman.

Ladies: You might want to think of a "HoneyDo" list for the man in your life concerning boating!

Ohhhh! Take the registration off the refrigerator and put it on the boat.

And don't forget to put the plug in the boat before you launch! Have a good, safe year.

Otto Brackett (530) 284-7354  
Boating Supervisor  
Plumas County

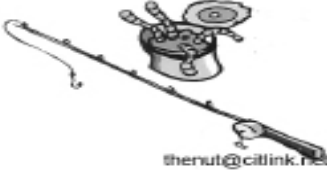



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# Fly Fishing in the Lake Almanor Basin

By Tom Maumoynier

I'm writing this article in March and the good news is we are finally getting the precipitation we need. Hopefully, we will keep getting the rain and snow this spring, a full Lake Almanor is a beautiful thing.

As for the lake, we will start out with the Chironomidae and Blood midge hatch in the spring for trout. As the lake warms the smallmouth bass will go on the bite, on a fly rod they are a thrill. Clousers and woolybugger on a sinking line is hard to resist for smallmouth. Please take care not to fish over beds when fish are actively spawning.

In June the famous Hex hatch starts, a rare opportunity to catch a very large fish on a dry fly, for fly fishermen it doesn't get much better than that. From then on, the hatch consists of Callibaetis, Damsels and Caddis flies. Bait fish imitations will work year around and should be taken advantage of.

The river and stream situation will be all together different this year. For good or bad the California Department of Fish and Game will not stock planted fish in Warner Creek, North Fork of the Feather River and Hamilton Branch above the lake. They lost a lawsuit to a Stanford group for not providing an environmental impact study on planted fish's impact on endangered frogs, so I've read. The Fish and Game Department has not come out with a plan to help with a self-sustaining fishery. Montana and other states have used slot limits and catch and release with great success. If nothing is done, the river and streams that serve as the lakes nursery will be greatly impacted.

The hatches in the local rivers and streams will start with the Golden Stonefly; it's the river equivalent of the Hex hatch and is just as spectacular. From that point on there are various hatches of Mayflies, Caddis and Stoneflies. When it heats up in the summer, hoppers with a dropper work well. The season winds down with a great October Caddis Hatch, toss in swinging Sculpin imitations and you have a fly fishermen's paradise.

Well, bye for now and if you need additional information, please stop by The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Co., 262 Main Street #4 in Chester; or check out the web site at [www.almanorflyfishing.com](http://www.almanorflyfishing.com).

Please don't kill your limit just limit your kill, your fourteen-incher could be a future record. Keep Almanor trash free and stop your tailing loops.

All the best,  
Tom Maumoynier



*Jan Ridd, a frequent flyfishing visitor from Norway, showing off his 9 lb. 2 oz rainbow to Tom Maumoynier*

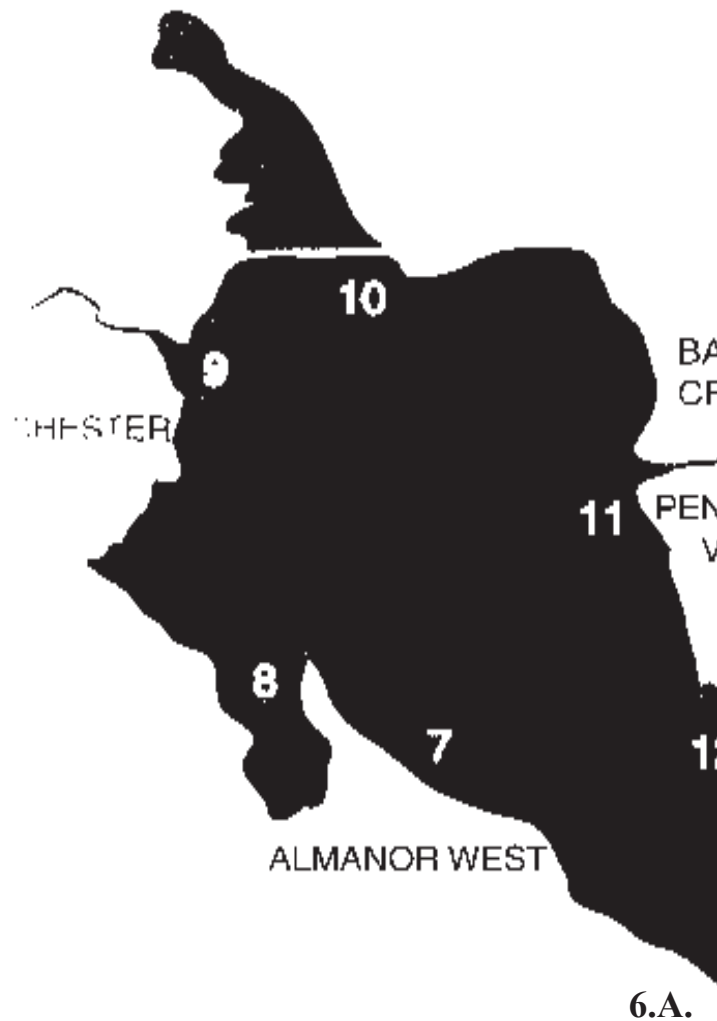


*Tom Maumoynier with a beauty of a german brown*



## WEST SHORE BOAT FISHING

4. **Rocky Point**  
Good for all species including bass. Troll & bait fish. Good area for jigging.
5. **Camp Prattville**  
Troll from #6 to #8. Good for rainbows early morning and late evenings. Use lures, bait, blades or dodgers.
- 8-10. **West Shore**  
Extreme caution, area shallow. Stump fields and grassy bottom. Rainbows, browns and large mouth bass. Good early morning and late evening. Use plugs, lures and bait.
9. **Mouth of the Feather River**  
Again – Extreme caution – See area 8 to 10
- 10-11 **Spring Fishing for smallmouth Bass**  
Pre and post spawn for bass. Use jigs, worms and plugs.
- 11-12. **Bailey Creek and Recreation Area Two**  
Good for rainbows, browns, salmon. When large schools are located use bait or jig off bottom. Large spring located above Rec 2 above the point.
13. **Recreation Area One**  
Excellent Bait and trolling. Troll close in early morning for rainbow, browns and salmon. Move to deeper water later in the day.
14. **Green A-Frame**  
Underwater spring. Bait fish and jigging best for rainbow, browns and salmon. Very productive area for still fishing or trolling.
- 14-15. **North Shore Area**  
Good for trolling, from #13 to #16

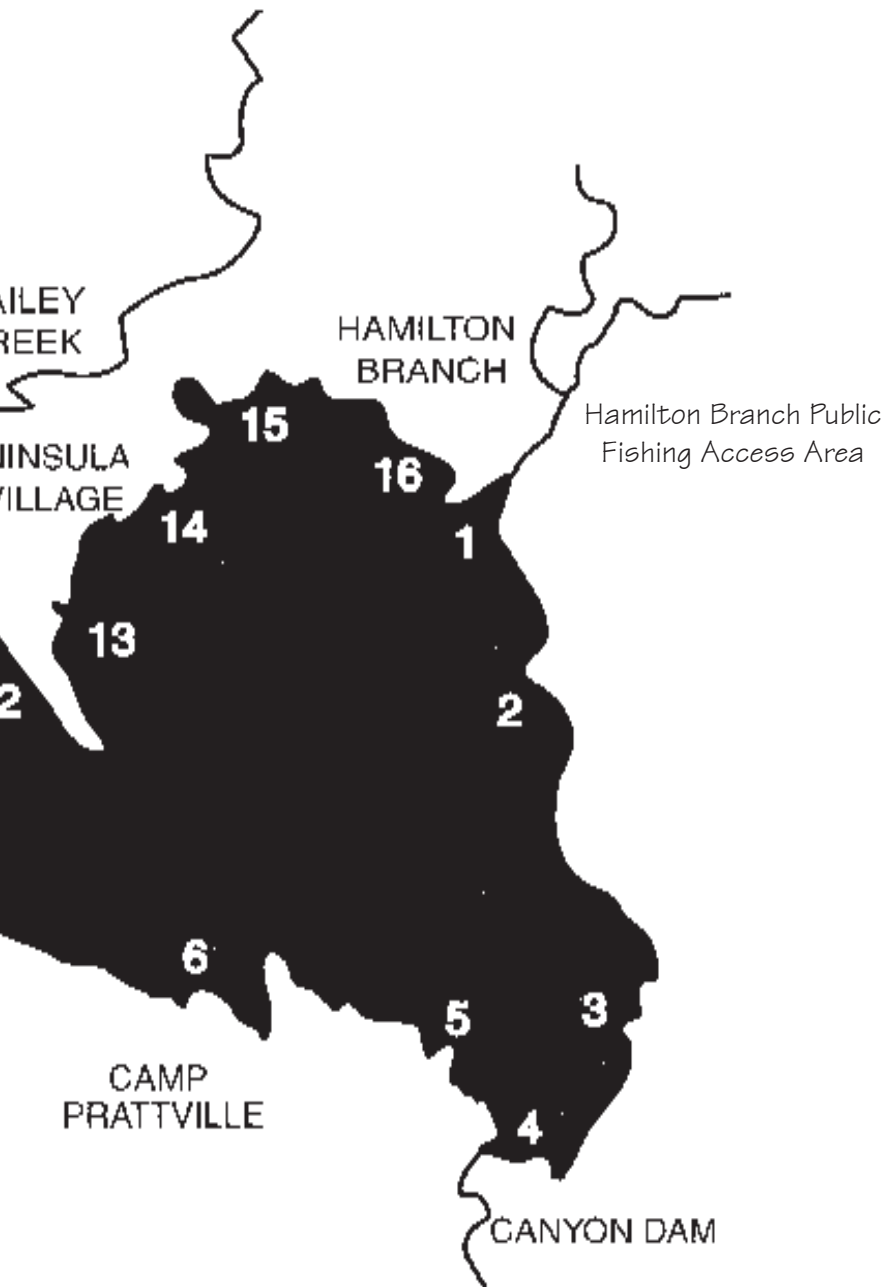


## WEST SHORE BANK FISHING

- 6-7. **Jetties (two rock jetties)**  
Great fishing for rainbow, salmon and german browns. Bait fish off bottom and use floats in the evening. Some parking available.
9. **Feather River (Chester) and mouth of the river.**  
Use lures, bait and floats in the river through Chester and the mouth of the river.
10. **Chester Causeway**  
Both sides good for rainbows, browns and catfish. Parking available on causeway.



# Lake Almanor



## EAST SHORE BOAT FISHING

### 1. Hamilton Branch Area

Baitfish or jig at the mouth of the Branch. Also troll at fish level out from the Branch area.

### 16. Big Springs

Bait fishing most productive. Anchovies for King Salmon and other baits for rainbows and browns. Trolling also good except for boat traffic. Fishing best early morning and late afternoon and evenings. Jigging also good all day.

### 2. Stump Beach Rock and Meadow Area

Troll for rainbows & browns from Stump Beach on down toward the dam to the large rock formation. Troll 20 to 25 feet on average or just above fish level. Use lures or bait.

### 2-3 East Shore – Deep Trench

Troll from location 2 to 3 along the East Shore. Good for rainbows, browns and salmon. Also good bait or jigging when fish are located. Small mouth bass also in this area.

### 3. Dam and “Geritol Cove”.

Troll, jig or bait fish along the face of the dam. Excellent for browns, rainbows and salmon.

### 14 to tip of Peninsula - Spring Fishing

Trolling for rainbow and brown trout. Troll shallow inside the bouys and use Rapalas, plugs and spoons. Will also pick up small mouth bass in 7-12' depths.

## EAST SHORE BANK FISHING

### 1. Hamilton Branch & Power House

Use jigs, bait or lures in the morning and evenings on either side of power house. Best shoreline fishing on the lake.

### 2. Stump Beach

Good trout and bass fishing. Use bobber for bass in the stump areas. Trout – use inflated night crawler or power bait. Parking available.

### 3. Canyon Dam P.G.&E. Day Use Area

Good fishing on the right side facing lake. Short hike over to East Shore. Salmon, rainbows and german browns. Again use float type bait.

### 4. Canyon Dam Boat Ramp – “Geritol Cove”

Excellent fishing for german browns & rainbows. Use inflated bait or power bait off the bottom. Great area for kids and ample parking plus restrooms. Picnic area on opposite side of cove. Handicapped accessible.

# Almanor

## 2008 in Review

### By Guide Dick Mason

I am writing this from Shasta Lake. We spend January, February and March here to get out of the snow and cold. It's kind of like a "bus-man's holiday". I get to fish for myself with friends and family and I thoroughly enjoy it. It really breaks up the winter. We fish for spotted bass with live bait. We use minnows and crawdads vertical and split shot night crawlers, casting to shore with a slow retrieve back to the boat. We also fish plastic baits with scent added. But I don't think they can make a scent that equals live bait. 30 and 40 fish days are common. A lot of the fish are small. A three pound fish is rare, but we get quite a few between 1 and 2 pounds. And on light tackle, they are a lot of fun. There are some big ones though, as I bested my personal record by 3 pounds on January 17, 2009 with a 7 lb. 1 oz. Spot. I don't think I'll ever top that. What a thrill!! We return home around the first of April to start fishing Almanor and Butt Valley Reservoir, two of my favorite lakes.

Now for my review of 2008, I had some good days on Almanor in April and May in the flats. When Almanor is on, it's hard to beat. Low water on Butt made launching tough and I didn't get to fish it as much as I would have liked. I love the solitude down there and the chance of getting a real big brown.

I started fishing Eagle Lake in June and had most of my trips there through October. The last two years, Eagle has slowed down after Labor Day for the month of September. This year, it went into overdrive with more tui chub bait balls than I've seen in years. It's pretty exciting when the larger fish push them to the top and create a feeding frenzy.

One of the highlights of my summer was when I got a call from ex-49'er, Jeff Stover. He wanted to set up 2 days for himself and some friends from his football days. I couldn't handle 5 in my boat, so we teamed up with guide Mark Jiminez (Big Meadows Guide Service 530-596-3072). We had Jeff Stover with 2 super bowl rings and who was a world class shot putter in college. McArthur Lane, first round draft pick for Kansas City. He lead the league with 11 rushing touch downs one year. He also lead the league another year with 67 receptions and had one pro bowl appearance. We also had Jack Tatum, considered one of the hardest hitters to ever play the game. He had 3 pro bowl appearances and one super bowl ring. These guys are the real deal at what they did. And by



the way, they were pretty good fishermen too. We limited both boats out each day with quality fish. Mark just killed the fish trolling threaded night crawlers the first day. He shared the information with me and really helped my bite for the second day. Lesson learned, don't forget the basics and go with the hot bite, because it changes.

While I was having good trips on Eagle, in July and August my friend, Rich Taddei (Rick's Guide Service 530-394-7170) was really doing a number on the trout on Almanor. He starts his trips about 4:00 in the afternoon and fishes until dark. He fishes live bait on light tackle. I've fished with several of his clients and have heard nothing but good reports.

I can hardly wait for 2009, as every day is different. I get to meet new people, old friends, and a lot of the new people become old friends.

I hope everyone has a good fishing season in 2009.

Guide Dick Mason operates Dick's Guide Service. He can be reached at: (530) 256-3317.

Dick Guides at Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake & also guides Shasta Lake Winter trips.



# Is The Thermal Curtain Issue Gone?

By Wendi Durkin

Save Lake Almanor Committee

I wish I could say Yes to this question, but unfortunately, the issue is still plaguing Lake Almanor and Butte Valley Reservoir.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the plight of the Thermal Curtain, here is a little history. Way back in the 1970's someone, while re-licensing the Rock Creek Cresta Powerhouse, added a little clause that any upstream re-licensing would have to make reasonable efforts to lower the downstream water temperature to increase fish habitat.

While re-licensing Lake Almanor several years back, this clause came up and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has been researching alternatives to accomplish lowering the water temperature in the Rock Creek Cresta Stretch of the Feather River by as much as 3 degrees centigrade. One of the proposed alternatives to lower the temperature was to install a 700 foot by 900 foot Thermal Curtain at the Prattville intake on Lake Almanor, dredge under the installed curtain (through Maidu Indian burial grounds) to allow them to remove only the COLDEST water. After leaving Lake Almanor the proposal included installing 2 additional Thermal Curtains on Butte Valley Reservoir.

The concern of many people is what would taking only cold water from Lake Almanor do to our lake and it's habitat? There have been several conflicting studies and several areas of concern that the State Water Resource Control Board are reviewing to determine the best plan of action. They have been analyzing the studies and trying to compile a list of what they deem as "reasonable alternatives".

The Save Lake Almanor Committee in conjunction with Plumas County Board of Supervisors continues to work with County Council on keeping apprised of the situation. There is reportedly science available from retired Department of Fish and Game Warden, Ron Decoto, that supports Save Lake Almanors' claim of possible damage with the removal of cold water from Lake Almanor and Butte Valley Reservoir, but The Department of Fish and Game is refusing to share the findings. Plumas County Council is working under the Freedom of Information Act to receive those documents.

Unfortunately, we are faced with a "wait and see" plan of action until SWRCB releases the alternatives for review. That does not in any way mean the issue is over. Save Lake Almanor is planning on moving forward to oppose any Thermal Curtain installation on Lake Almanor or Butte Valley Reservoir. Please continue to be ready when you are asked to help.

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## Roger's Guide Service 1972 – 2009

### Almanor Techniques

What I would like to elaborate on this year is the diversity of fishing techniques I have witnessed and been a part of since first starting to fish Lake Almanor in the mid-to-late 1960's.

My first fishing trip on Almanor was out of a wood rental boat from Plumas Pines Resort and I was thrilled when I caught two beautiful rainbows. The system I used was a set of Ford Fender Flashers with a trailing night crawler. At that time anyone trolling was either using this setup or Dave Davis, or other revolving flashers with either a trailing night crawler or lure. Most lures used at this time were Thomas lures, Super Dupers, Kokanee Kings, Dick Nites, and small flat fish. I first witnessed a worm being trolled without a flasher on Eagle Lake in the early 1970's and decided to try it on Almanor. It has become one of my favorite techniques and it works remarkably well if baited properly and presented at the right depth. Almanor fish can be very finicky as to worm size compared to Eagle Lake fish. I believe due to the size of the small blood midge emergers they are accustomed to seeing in the spring and early summer. I sometimes scale down 2 hook sizes and use a small piece of garden worm rather than a bulkier night crawler, and yes, fish can see this in the deeper depths we troll once the lake has stratified in the summer.

Approximately 1975 I was on a vacation to the coast and used a large herring dodger and an anchovy fishing for salmon on a charter boat out of Crescent City. As we traveled up the coast later I happened to find some smaller herring dodgers in a tackle shop and had high hopes of trying them on Almanor as I had never seen one used in this area. When I got home it was very hot in mid-August and a call to Crawford's Resort, that I worked out of at the time, confirmed the fishing to be really slow. To make a long story short, the "dodger-worm setup" caught fish when most setups were doing nothing. The action is simply different and more erratic than revolving flashers. Today we have more varieties and sizes which is a definite plus for the fisherman. Almanor is such a unique and unpredictable lake that sometimes the worm by itself can be more effective than using the dodger and the angler needs to be open minded and willing to try both methods.

Another technique that started in the mid-70's was vertical jigging. I can still remember the day on a trip in early winter that I thought I would try jigging, or "spooning" for small mouth bass as I had been catching large mouth bass through the ice at Round Valley Lake the previous winter. What happened was a total surprise as I caught 2 species of trout and a co-ho or silver salmon, which were being planted at this time in rapid succession. The person I was fishing with had to get home as his wife wasn't feeling well so I had great anticipation of trying this again the next day. Early the next day I went to a location farther down the east shore that was noted for brown trout and caught a limit of large browns and had another fish nearly spool me but came off. The metal jig I was using at this time was ordered from Cabela's and was called a "Swedish Pimple" and is still available today in more sizes and colors than what was available then. One color that was not available at that time was "pearl" which is a great smelt imitation color. I once was talking to Doug D'Angelo, a long time guide on Almanor, and he said he sanded the silver finish off the lure, primed and repainted it pearl and had excellent results. Jigging really took off then and evolved into marabou and rubber gitzit style jigs. There are times, especially in fall and winter that some of the biggest fish of the year can be taken when little else is working. This system does require good electronics as you must be on the fish. The slower movement can trigger reluctant fish into biting.



*Marge Daly with some nice rainbows fishing with  
Guide Roger Keeling  
Picture taken on Goose Island  
October 2008*

Another technique that has been around for a long time and basically pioneered by Almanor Guide Mark Jiminez of Big Meadows Guide Service, is trolling lake flies. I first noticed Mark using this technique about the time I first started vertical jigging in the early to mid-70's. It can be extremely effective when fish are actively feeding on large masses of pond smelt. The fun part is holding the rods and giving the flies action by shaking and pumping the flies and feeling the sudden strikes. Mostly ultra-lite lead core outfits are used with this technique with usually only 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 colors of line out as the fish are in shallow water at this time and near the surface. So many young guides today are down-rigger crazy and don't realize many techniques aren't as effective presented on a down rigger.

Another bait fishing technique that is popular today is the use of meal worms or the meal-worm cricket combo. I once returned from guiding for fall run salmon on the Sacramento River in mid-October and went on an exploration trip on Almanor with Mark Jiminez. I had just bought my first box of meal worms and decided to try them for the first time that day. I was using a light spinning outfit with a small split-shot and a #12 Daiichi scud hook that we used drifting crickets for small-mouth bass. Everywhere I dropped that meal worm a fish had it before it reached bottom. Mark, who is a very innovative fisherman, decided to try it on a "slip bobber setup" so you could get your bait away from the boat in shallow water situations. When this setup is working it is an absolute blast and I dream all night of bobbers going under.

One other method I might mention was something I tried in the late 1960's. When I first started fishing Almanor, anyone trolling, as I mentioned at the start of this article, was using flashers with a worm or lure. Before Almanor West was developed we would launch our car-top boats off the shoreline where there are now lake front homes and docks. I had used a Rapala "balsa wood minnow" for the first time in the mid-60's on Topaz Lake near Gardnerville. One particular day lots of fish were rising and I let the Rapala out about 120', set it in the rod holder when a fish hit it so hard the old style bait casting reel back-lashed. The fish was almost pulling me backwards but managed to stay on. This technique turned out to be one of my favorite ways to fish although these lures weren't as available then as they are today.

It didn't take too long to write this article but I hope everyone that asks at a sporting goods store or resort, how and where the fish are biting, can appreciate how much time and effort was put into pioneering these techniques by some of the older guides. I also learned a lot from some locals who spent a lot of time fishing this area.

A quick rundown on 2008. Almanor fished well in the spring, the catch consisting of more browns than normal and this is great to see. Summer wasn't top notch due to low, warm water but we still caught decent numbers of quality fish. Road closures and fires hurt the guide business as a lot of people were bothered by the smoke. All charters on Eagle Lake from July 5th until after Labor Day produced limits of quality fish. Due to the closure of the fall run salmon I stayed at Almanor until November 1st. Although we had algae the lake fished well until I returned home.

I plan to be back at Almanor May 1st through November 1st again in 2009. I can be reached at my residence on the river in Red Bluff at (530) 528-0525 until May 1st when I can be reached at (530) 284-6429.

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*Bonnie Stahl -- Nice Brown -- June 2008*



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# Structure or “Structure”

By Guide Bryan Roccucci

While it may sound like an intro to a bass fishing article, “structure” plays an important role in the life and behavior of trout. Now before I start getting hate mail from my bass fishing buddies, it also plays a huge role in the life of bass but this is out of my area of expertise. That said, I won’t deny that fighting big Almanor Smallies on light tackle is a blast, but the trout angler who isn’t afraid to fish the “structure” will also be rewarded.

What is structure? Dictionaries define the word structure as:

**Struc-ture n.** 1. *Something made up of a number of parts that are held or put together in a particular way:* 2. *The way in which parts are arranged or put together to form a whole; makeup:* 3. *The interrelation or arrangement of parts in a complex entity:* 4. *Something constructed, such as a building.*

Something made up of a number of parts....hmmm, sounds like it could be referring to the eco-system of a lake. Something constructed....maybe if you count flooding a meadow, but buildings, bridges, and dams? In fact buildings, bridges, and dams with all or part in the water provide “structure”. Let’s cut to the chase, “structure” as it refers to lakes and fishing, in my mind, implies anything that is different than the surrounding area. Now I know that can be a bit vague but let me give you some examples and try to clear it up. “Structure” can be naturally occurring or man made. Old road grades, creek and river channels, rock piles, logs, stumps, buoys, docks, dams and intake towers are all prime examples of “structure” and are also all found in Lake Almanor.

The reasons fish relate to “structure” are many. “Structure” can be like a well stocked kitchen pantry for hungry trout, providing a safe haven for small bait fish or crustaceans like crawdads or daphnia. “Structure” may also provide a hide out for a hungry Brown to lie in wait for an unsuspecting smaller fish to cruise by. In the real world under the water you are either the hunter or the hunted and in some cases, both at the same time. “Structure” can provide safety and cover making a trout feel more secure and prevent it from becoming lunch for a bigger fish. One of the most over-looked pieces of “structure” is simply the bottom of the lake. Fish often times hang right on the bottom for food, safety and comfort.

The reasons to fish the “structure” are obvious, it holds fish, but it does have its downside and you should be prepared to make periodic donations of tackle. On a daily basis as I fish my waters more often than not I’m fishing some sort of “structure” and if you don’t believe me just look at the lead weights on my Cannon Downriggers.

Once covered in a shiny black plastic coating they are now banged and dented with that plastic coating showing scars from being bounced off rocks and drug through the sand. There is an old adage “if you are going to play, you are going to pay” and with this type of fishing it is most often tendered in tackle. It really boils down to a state of mind, and I have always been a “glass is half full” kind of guy. When I think about “structure” I don’t see snags and loss of tackle, I see hook-ups with trophy trout.

In 2008 we were held off the waters of Lake Almanor until March due to the heavy ice on the lake but once we got in the fishing was wide open. The early season, east shore Brown fishing was incredible. Later in spring the west shore bite was solid with lots of quality bows and a few salmon in the mix. As I moved off the lake in mid-May to being running trips at Bucks Lake I left the Almanor fish biting. Following a good summer at Bucks and an incredible fall at Eagle Lake I returned to Almanor this year to find the water level low. As I sit at my desk and write this article we have had a substantial amount of precipitation in the form of snow as well as heavy rain. While the huge rush of water into the lake has made the fishing tough at times I welcome the water and hope for more.

Tight Lines, Bryan Roccucci

## About the Author:

Capt. Bryan Roccucci is a full time professional fishing guide and operator of Big Daddy’s Guide Service. Bryan specializes in light tackle fishing techniques on Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, Bucks Lake and Eagle Lake. Bryan fishes Lake Almanor exclusively from January until May and keeps his clients comfortable in a fully enclosed, heated cab aboard his 23 foot Boulton Powerboat. For more information please visit [www.bigdaddyfishing.com](http://www.bigdaddyfishing.com) or call (530) 283-4103



# Fish For A Wish

By A. J. Casella

The 5th Annual Fish For A Wish Trout Fishing Tournament will be held on **Saturday, August 1st**, at Lake Almanor's Big Cove Resort, which is owned by A. J. Casella's father and uncle. The tournament will begin at 6:00 am and end with a weigh in scheduled for 12:00 pm. There are prizes for the greatest total weight, as well as the largest single fish. There will be a complimentary lunch, followed by a prize ceremony for the winning anglers, a silent auction and a raffle with many outstanding prizes.




A. J. Casella came up with the idea for his fundraiser several years ago, after losing his friend, John, to leukemia. While John was battling his illness he was granted a wish by the Make-A-Wish Foundation to attend the All-Star Game at Fenway Park in Boston. A. J. saw how John's wish provided a much-needed break from the ordeal he and his family were enduring, and decided he wanted to raise money to help Make-A-Wish grant wishes to seriously ill children.

A. J.'s love of fishing events, along with his drive to organize, motivated him to come up with the idea of creating a fishing tournament. Currently, A. J. is busy working from his Tiburon home to organize this event.

So far, A. J. has raised over \$100,000 including cash and in-kind donations, over the past four years for the Greater Bay Area Chapter. "My goal is to raise \$200,000 by the time I graduate high school", said A. J. "Now that I have been doing the tournament for a few years, I feel I've obtained the support of enough people and businesses to reach my goal." The income from his previous tournaments has been enough for A. J. to adopt seven wishes including: Seven-year-old Darragh's wish to go to Legoland®, and 18-year-old Jose's wish to meet Roy Williams of the Dallas Cowboys. This year he hopes that even with the struggling economy, he will be able to receive the enthusiasm and support for the tournament and exceed his goals, making even more wishes come true.

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## Illegal Dumping at Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area



Due to the illegal dumping of household garbage, construction materials and small appliances, we can no longer provide a garbage dumpster for the Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area

We know it will be an inconvenience but hopefully everyone using this site will carry out what they carry in.

Thank you for working with us.

### Almanor Fishing Association



*Ted Tazeau & Dennis Prohan  
with some bows & browns fishing with  
Guide Roger Keeling  
June 2008 Lake Almanor*



*Chuck Brown "Captain Sushi" of Magalia  
with a whopper of a German Brown  
fishing with Guide Bryan Roccucci*



*AFA Board Member Jim Buckley  
with a nice 4 lb. 19.5 inches*



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## Boaters Alert, Quagga Mussels!

By Dick Fording, ABWAC

By the summer of this year all launch ramps at Lake Almanor will have warning signs posted concerning the threat to Lake Almanor from Quagga mussels. The state has required PG&E to respond with a plan for Almanor. These tiny invasive mussels, ranging from the size of a grain of sand to a quarter inch, have made their way from the Caspian Sea (in the bilge water in foreign ships) to the Great Lakes and to the Colorado River and it's reservoirs, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, and Lake Havasu. In the last decade approximately 3.1 billion dollars has been spent to control their damage in the Great Lakes and now they're in California spreading to other lakes. One tiny mussel can spawn a million eggs so they build up in huge numbers clogging water systems and destroying the quality of the water by consuming phytoplankton that other species need to survive. The Department of Fish and Game is very concerned that boaters, unknowingly, will spread the mussels to other lakes throughout the State, a potential disaster!

### *What can you do to stop the spread?*

It's likely they were originally brought to Lake Mead in or on the hull of a recreational boat. They can live out of water for a week and their microscopic larvae can be transported in bilges, live wells, "fat bags" of wakeboard boats, in cooling water of engines, and even in the wet carpet of trailer bunks.

Please, read the educational material about the mussels that can be found on the Fish and Game website. Unless you've been inspected for mussels, or your boat is only operated in Almanor, pressure wash your boat and gear including anchor lines, trailers, dock lines and anything that is in contact with the water. Feel your hull for gritty spots. Drain any water from the bilges, jet drives, live wells, and motors and let them dry for a week. Be prepared for an inspection by the Fish and Game and to answer questions at Agricultural border inspection stations. Some lakes, like Tahoe, have gated all launch ramps and you can't launch without inspection! Most importantly, take the threat seriously, ask Paul Garrido about them, he interviewed a diver who works to remove them, it's a terrible problem and they're almost impossible to eradicate.

This is a relatively new concern for California since they were only discovered in this state in 2007. How the problem is confronted will change as additional science is developed but, for now, education and **YOUR HELP** is our only weapon against this tiny invader.



Local Mike Stebbins and brother from Tennessee, Larry. Mike was the lucky winner of a guided fishing trip with Dick Mason of Dick's Guide Service donated to the Almanor Fishing Association Family Picnic



Wyatt Buckley and father, Jason with a nice 2.5 lb - 18-1/2 in. Rainbow Trout  
Wyatt is the grandson of AFA Board Member Jim Buckley

# ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION'S 16TH ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

What Can We Say - Another Overwhelming Success!!!!

Thanks again to Bridget Bustamante and her very capable crew at Holiday Market for providing the super tender New York steaks, and fixin's Of course, Mike's "Wylde Beans" are always a hit.



*Local Joanne Fording was the lucky winner of the "His & Her's Bicycles from Almanor Fishing Association*



*Local Gil Grieze was the lucky winner of a Three Day/ Two night stay, Complimentary Dinner and Comedy club Tickets donated by the Silver Legacy Resort.*



*Roy Dickson won this fishermens sculpture donated by Lost Creek Rock Works*



*A Special Thanks to our Cookie Committee!!!  
Toni Pleau and Phyllis Ballentyne*



*Jeff Ogle, owner of Jeff-Roe's Produce, won this Gas BBQ and accessories donated by Lake Almanor Propane*



# Almanor Fishing Association's

## 17th Annual Family BBQ



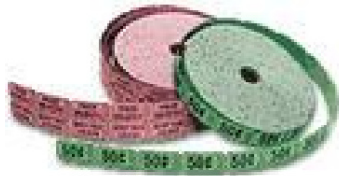
**Saturday, August 29, 2009**

**4 to 9 p.m.**

**Lake Almanor Country Club  
Recreation Area #1**

**New York Steak Dinner  
\$18.00 Donation**

**Hot Dog Plate  
\$5.00 Donation**



**GET YOUR TICKETS  
EARLY**



Dinner Served  
from 5:00 to 6:45 pm

**-----SAVE-----**

**Pre-Sale Dinner Ticket \$17.00 Donation**

**Pre-Sale Tickets Available from:**

*David Price Jeweler*

David & Florence Price  
Owners

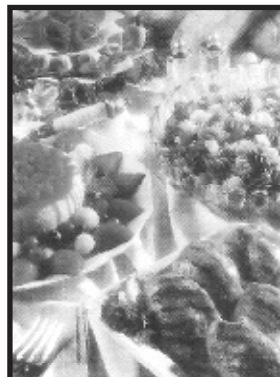


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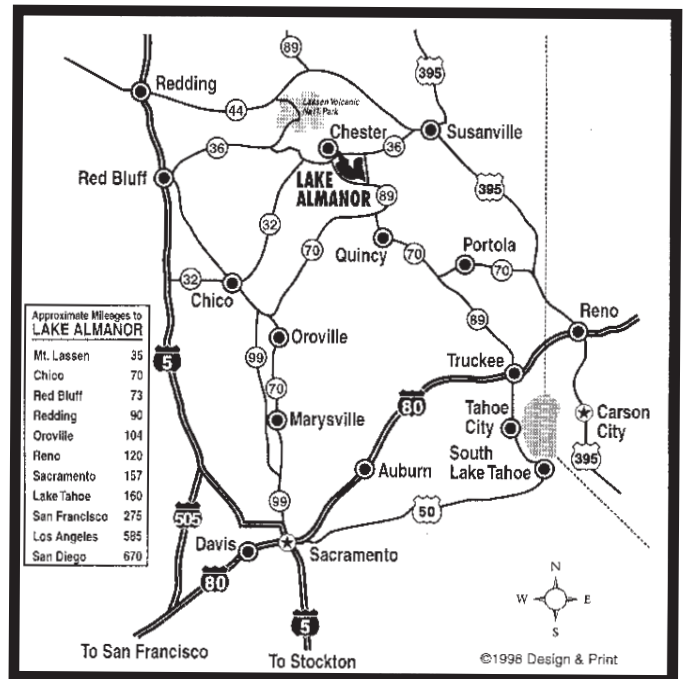


### Fish Plants 2008

* Eagle Lake Rainbows.....	40,000
*Browns.....	39,000
*Salmon.....	60,000
*Eagle Lake Rainbows (Cages).....	50,000
Total.....	189,000

### Projected 2009

*Eagle Lake Rainbows.....	40,000
*Browns.....	39,000
*Salmon.....	60,000
*Eagle Lake Rainbows (Cages).....	50,000
Total.....	189,000



*Bruce Chernack and son Sam with a limit of Browns and Rainbows. Trolling Lake Almanor West with Guide Doug Neal*



*Jim & Del Yamakawa, Almanor September 20,08 Rainbows & Browns to 5lbs. Below Recreation Area 2 with Guide Roger Keeling*

Visit the AFA WebSite at  
[www.almanorfishingassociation.com](http://www.almanorfishingassociation.com)  
 or e-mail us at  
[almanorfishing@frontiernet.net](mailto:almanorfishing@frontiernet.net)



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