

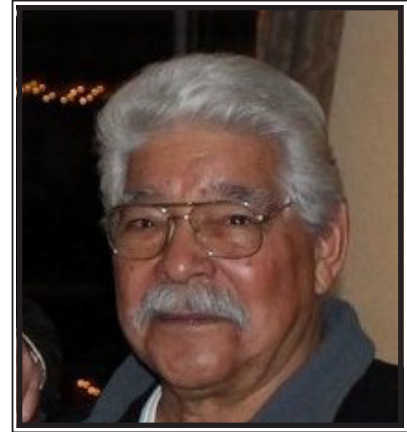


FREE 2022 Edition

The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

The Almanor Fishing Association is a nonprofit organization made up of fishermen and local citizens interested in maintaining the health and quality of the Lake Almanor fishery. Our members support our projects, & activities.

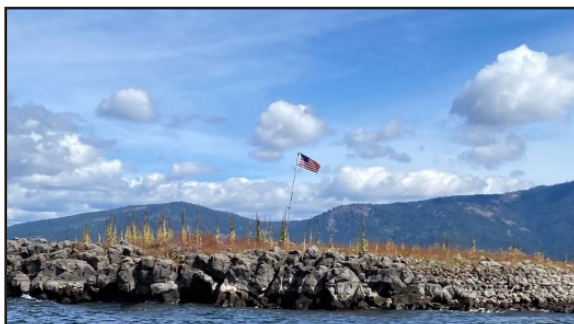


This Newsletter is dedicated in memory of Reuben Chavez

The future of Lake Almanor's cold water fishery is in jeopardy!



**Community
Action Needed!**



In October of 2002 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) filed its application with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to relicense the Upper North Fork Feather Hydroelectric Project (Project) as the current license expired on October 31 of 2004. PG&E operates under an annual license currently. Most of the significant relicensing milestones were achieved years ago and the majority of the parties to the licensing agreement entered into a Settlement Agreement on April 22nd of 2004. The parties resolved "all lake level and streamflow issues for ecological purposes, river-based recreational uses, and other resolved subjects in support of [the U.S. Forest Service] issuing its recommended conditions," BUT left water temperature issues unresolved. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff completed its environmental analysis for the relicensing under the National Environmental Policy Act with a Final Environmental Impact

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Statement issued in November 2005. In addition, the federal fishery agencies completed their consultation under the Endangered Species Act with biological opinions issued in January 2005. The major source of delay of a new Project license has been the State of California's Water Quality Certification ("WQC") under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA").

PG&E filed its initial application for a WQC with the SWRCB on October 9, 2002. For the next 17 years, the SWRCB indicated that it lacked sufficient information to act and suggested that PG&E withdraw and resubmit its WQC application to avoid denial. In March of 2019 PG&E once again refiled the WQC application, which the SWRCB again denied in March 2020. Instead of reapplying, on April 24, 2020, PG&E filed a petition with the Commission for an order declaring that the SWRCB waived its authority to issue a WQC for the relicensing under Section 401. On July 16, 2020, the Commission issued a declaratory order ruling that the SWRCB had waived its Section 401 authority for the Project. SWRCB did not challenge the Commission's order before the court of appeals, and it is now final.

Notwithstanding PG&E's pending petition for declaratory order before FERC, on May 19, 2020, with no application before it, the SWRCB issued a draft WQC for the Project and filed it with FERC. On July 15, 2020, despite PG&E's filings objecting to the conditions proposed in the draft WQC, the SWRCB issued a final WQC for the relicensing and filed it with FERC. Condition 1(B) of the SWRCB's WQC includes a condition requiring minimum instream flows below Canyon Dam that are higher than those required under the Settlement Agreement. In addition, Condition 6 requires PG&E to release supplemental flows of up to 250 cubic feet per second ("cfs") from Lake Almanor through Canyon Dam from June 16 to September 15, purportedly to reduce water temperatures in the North Fork Feather River to protect cold freshwater habitat for fish. Should the Deputy Director of the SWRCB determine at any time during the new license term (expected to be 40 to 50 years) that the supplemental flows are insufficient, the WQC provides that SWRCB can direct PG&E to provide additional supplemental flows, install thermal curtains at the Prattville and Caribou intakes, or require other temperature control measures.

The Commission has indicated that where a state waives its Section 401 authority, FERC may still consider any water quality conditions proposed by the state as recommendations for inclusion in the new license. PG&E argued to FERC that the SWRCB has not shown how the flow releases required by Condition 6 are necessary to comply with state water quality standards and that the condition fails to reasonably protect beneficial uses in Lake Almanor.

In summary, for the past 19 years the SWRCB failed to relicense PG&E to operate the Upper North Fork Feather Hydroelectric Project. In 2020 PG&E filed a petition that stated SWRCB waived its authority to issue a WQC, the SWRCB did not challenge the petition. The relicensing of the Upper North Fork Feather Hydroelectric Project is now on FERC's desk for approval. While the SWRCB has failed

Cont. on Pg 3

to relicense PG&E's application for the past 19 years and waived its authority to issue a Water Quality Certification they are requesting FERC impose Condition 1(B) requiring higher minimal instream flows below Canyon Dam that are greater than the Settlement Agreement. The SWRCB is also requesting FERC impose Condition 6 which requires PG&E to release supplemental flows of up to 250 cubic feet per second through Canyon Dam from June 16th through September 15th. Lastly the SWRCB wants to keep thermal curtains on the table at the Prattville and Caribou intakes.

It will be years before we realize the true impacts of the Dixie Fire to our lake and fishery. We have witnessed unprecedented algal blooms the past two years as a result of low water and warming water temps on Almanor. Lake Almanor is a shallow water lake, the deepest spot on the lake is approximately 100' in a very small area, the average depth of the lake ranges between 40 and 50 feet. If FERC adopts the condition's recommended by the SWRCB our cold-water fishery will be decimated, we will be forced to abandon our fish pen program, Lake Almanor's entire ecosystem will be in jeopardy. The impacts to the Lake Almanor Community, tourism and our way of life here in Plumas rests on FERC's desk and the recommendations of the SWRCB.

The Lake Almanor Community has banded together, we are currently working with Rock Creek Energy Group, to file a Motion to Intervene Out-Of-Time with FERC and we are prepared to pursue legal action if FERC adopts the SWRCB's recommendations.



John Crotty

If you would like to assist the Lake Almanor Community in our efforts to save our cold-water fishery and protect our resources, we encourage you to write a letter to FERC expressing your concerns. All letters should be addressed to:

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary,
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

After Page 30 (back) is a drafted letter that you are welcome to detach and mail in.

Community Action- Example Letters: See almanorfishingassociation.org



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The Chironomid Hatch at Lake Almanor



What's A Chironomid?

Why should you know about this tiny Bug?

This is a Great Hatch for all Skill levels whether you are a beginner or total Trout Bum.

Lake Almanor is full of these little bugs, and it is the main food source for our awesome fish. The peak of this is typically in April and will run until our Famous Hex Hatch (The Big Yellow Bug in June). However, Chironomid's will Hatch all year long. As this Bug develops the fish will feed on them when the going gets tough for other food sources.

The Chironomid life cycle and The Basic Entomology:

There are Four life stages, Egg, Larva, Pupa, and Adult, in the chironomid life cycle. Female adults lay eggs on the surface of the water. Eggs sink to the bottom and typically hatch in several days to one week. After developing into larvae, they burrow into the mud or construct small tubes in which they live, they feed on plankton algae and decaying matter and develop. Some Larvae will transform into pupae while still in their tubes. After pupation, pupae actively swim to the surface of the water some species will develop a noticeable amount of air in their bodies these are commonly known as Chromes. Adults emerge at or near the surface from the pupal exuviae. The Adults (fly) have been known to live 20 to 30 days. The chironomid family is species-rich, with approximately 5,000 species worldwide; however, I have estimated as many as 100 species to exist just in Lake Almanor.

The Many Colors:

Chironomid larva can be found in white, green, olive, brown, red and maroon. Free living species in lakes are often olive or bright green while those species living in the bottom zone lean toward red or maroon. The red or maroon color larva common to Stillwater's have been nicknamed bloodworms due their distinct color. When the larvae turn to a pupae, they will change colors. During this change they develop white gills. Hence the white bead on some of the flies you will see at the fly shops. Also, during this change in color, they can take on many colors. I have personally seen them with 6 different colors.

Fishing the Hatch:

As The Chironomid Hatch is most active in the low light (first light, Last Light) getting up early or staying out late can be most productive when fishing this Hatch. Although fish will feed most of the day due to the small size of the bug. Best areas to look for fish are, shady spots created by things like Trees, Weeds, etc. blocking the sun above or below the water and Big muddy ledges. A great starting depth is around 20 feet on Lake Almanor. I like to Start with A Size #14 hook. Great colors to start with are Red, Wine, Rust and Black.

Recommend Equipment:

Rod: 5wt to 6wt Fast Action Echo Lago or Stillwater, Scott Centric, Sage X, One or Mod

Reel: 5wt to 8wt with a good drag.

Fly line:

For Indicators: Scientific Anglers Anadro Nymph, Rio Grand, Airflow Elite. Over-line, if possible, example if you have a 5wt use a 6wt line.

For Retrieve: Type 1 or 2 full sink or Sink tip.

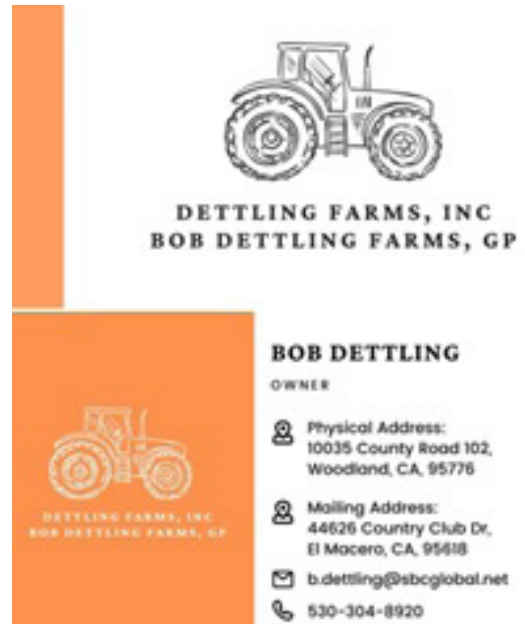
Patterns: WD-40, Ice-cream Cone, Zebra Midge, RS-2, Chironomid Bomber, Pure Midge, Disco Midge and Griffiths Gnat.



Mark Antaramian Guide Services

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Markantaramian@gmail.com



Almanor Smallmouth

Early spring means big smallmouth at Almanor. It's a time bass anglers refer to as pre spawn. And it's arguably one of the best times of year to catch Lunker bass.

Pre spawn on Almanor usually begins around mid-April and goes until the second week of May. During this period bass tend to group up and feed heavily gaining energy for the rigors of the coming spawning ritual. They will hit a variety of baits and the big females are susceptible to them. My favorites for Almanor are rip baits and swim baits during this period. I concentrate my efforts on points or ledges outside of traditional spawning areas. Let your rip bait pause between jerks. The bass will hit it when it's sitting still. Small swim baits like a Kietec 3.8 with a 1/4-1/2oz head are ideal for these fish as well. Reel slowly and feel your bait "tick" the bottom occasionally. I love this technique because the bass absolutely hammer it! I hope this helps some of you catch more bass on Almanor.

"Take a camera and practice catch and release!"

Ben Williams
Fishdog Outdoors
408-968-8275



January 2022 Big Meadows Fishing-

You may recall in the last issue of The Almanor Fisherman, Big Mike the trout was finally caught using a dead mouse as bait. Apparently Big Mike could not resist and so ended his reign at Big Meadows. Sadly this was not a catch and release situation, rather Big Mike went home with Mr. Alex Vogelsang in 1904.

At this point the reader may be wondering what was fishing like over 120 years ago at Big Meadows. What local resources were available, who fished Big Meadows springs, ponds and streams, are guides available and so on. As it turns out there was an abundance of local talent to help with your every need.

For custom lures you might visit Mr. Ab Costar's shop. Ab had a reputation for tying fine fishing flies.



High quality row boats were built by Mr. George Butterfield. Mr. Butterfield was known for his carpentry skills whether it doors, caskets or boats. In fact a local newspaper predicted one of George's row boats would most likely win the 1891 4th of July races. His boats were described as "dandies". Who might you find fishing the ponds and streams around Big Meadows? Fishing was extremely popular with local folk and widely enjoyed by ladies as well. Miss Martha (Matti)

Bunnell, daughter of the Bunnell Hotel owners, from an early age enjoyed fishing local waters.

Our tackle is in order, row boat rented, now to find the "secret hot spots". For that you'd want to hire a guide. Local teenagers were always looking for "pocket money" and happy to row you around. Whether you find that secret spot remains to be seen.

I wish to thank Marilyn Quadrio, Director of the Chester Museum for providing me with photos and details in this article. I encourage you to stop by our museum on 1st Street in Chester. The museum and library share the same building.

Steve Fleming, Plumas County

Museum Trustee

Lake Almanor, CA

plumasmuseum.org 530-283-6320



Introducing J.A.G. Fly Fishing

Joe Garza

At the young age of four, I first fell in love with fishing thanks to my grandparents. My first fishing trip will live in infamy. My grandparents told me they were going to take me fishing, something I had never done before. I got so excited about the trip that I made myself sick 15 minutes into the drive. Needless to say, my grandparents had to take me back home, and I was pretty upset. A week later, my grandparents took me for a "drive" and surprised me with a camping and fishing trip. When we arrived at the campground, they set up my rod and took me to the creek. After about 20 minutes at the creek, they decided I needed a nap. Reluctantly, I went to take my nap. When I woke up from my nap, I had forgotten all about my fishing pole. My grandparents had to remind me. I ran down to the creek, where I discovered I had hooked a fish. Many pictures were taken of that first fish, and I was very proud. It wasn't until my adult years that I realized that the fish was already cleaned, gutted, and gilled. That, my friends, is how it all began for me.

Just before my teen years, I moved to Paradise, California, and spent as much time as I could on creeks, rivers, and lakes. I would often ride my bike fifteen miles or more to fish and explore lakes, rivers, and creeks. The year 2001 marked my baptism into fly fishing. On a fishing trip with some friends on Deer Creek in Plumas County, a fly rod was put in my hands, and I haven't put it down since. I jumped in head first and did everything I could to gain as much knowledge as possible about this sport. In 2004, I became youth coordinator for a local fly fishing club in Chico, CA. There I spent five and a half years teaching youth about presentation, casting, fly tying, aquatic entomology, and freshwater ecosystems. In a short amount of time, the youth program became nationally recognized.



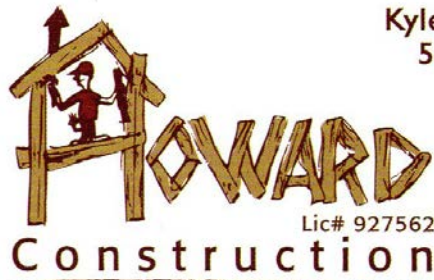
to Almanor to guide the famous Hex Hatch (in June and July), the Midge Hatch (in early spring and mid-summer), Pond Smelt (in the fall), and Small Mouth Bass (in April). Plumas County has always held a special place in my heart. Deer Creek is where I learned how to fly fish. I landed my first monster trout on a fly rod on Lake Almanor. My family and I have spent many summers up here at the pond. For the last 18 years, Lake Almanor has been my home away from home. Since my leap to fly fishing, Milt Jensen, Jay Fair, Mark Antaramian, Lincoln Gray, Lance Gray, and Tom Maumoynier have been major influences I have had during my transition from the Central Valley Rivers to still water fly fishing.

Cont. on Pg 13



In 2011, I left the youth program to spend more time with my own family. I spent the next 4 years focusing primarily on teaching my children all I could about fly fishing. In 2014, a good friend and fellow guide (Lincoln Gray) talked me into getting my California Guide License. So, with 42 years of fishing experience, I decided to embark on a new adventure of becoming a guide. And in 2014, J.A.G. Fly Fishing Guide Services became a reality.

I guide many waters here in Northern California year-round, including the Lower Sacramento River, the Feather River, the Lower Yuba River, Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake (November/December), and Deer Creek (in summertime). I come up



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Without getting into the past two years and talking about all the bad,

.....let us take a step forward and remember that we live in Plumas County the heart of the Sierra's We have had so many changes to our skyline, but the downfall to the horizon does not change who we are as anglers.

Let me start by saying this past year on the water for me in Northern California was amazing in many ways. I get to wake up and drive the west shore of our beloved Lake Almanor admiring its sunrise every day. When I pass, I remember back when I was a child fishing with my father who showed me the art of being successful on the water.

I was also able to live my dream and put my 30 years of tournament angling to work and join the Wild West Pro Series as a full-time member. I'm so excited to step up to the plate along with my sponsors and put our town on the map.

As many of you noticed last year, we had many new groups of anglers here on lake Almanor, from weekend angler to the Wild West Apex series. The goal is to always catch quality fish, but I stress to everyone that conservation and population of all species is key to why our fishery is so amazing and we need to keep our ongoing efforts to keep it up. I'm going to talk about smallmouth bass in this article since that's my main focus. I had a gentleman come to me last May with a nice 3-pound male bass that he took off a spawning nest and said, "it's ok to take males because females have spawned out". Let me put into perspective the exact time frame in smallmouth behavior in Almanor. Females feed during winter and start building eggs for the spring spawn. When the water starts to warm "52-58 degrees" the females will start to spawn after building a bed with their partnered male. When the spawn cycle is complete the female leaves the bed and starts to feed once again to regain weight from March to late May depending on water temperatures. The male then takes over and is solely responsible for protecting the eggs from predator fish. This process takes time and removing a male Smallmouth from the spawn bed is detrimental to the survival of the eggs and fry.

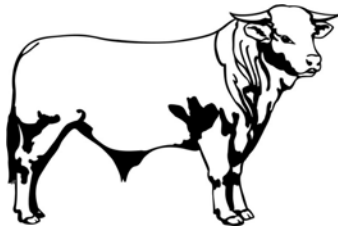
I have caught thousands of fish over my career as a professional bass angler and weekend hobbyists, 99.9% were released unharmed. I practice catch and release for future generations of anglers from young to old. Let's make 2022 a monumental year by increasing the fish population and being gentle when returning fish to the water to be caught again.

I will be guiding "catch and release" trips this spring as well as fishing the Wild West Bass Pro Tournament trail for 2022. This year will be very exciting and a monumental step for anglers on the west coast. I hope you all follow as I chase my dream to becoming one of the top anglers in our sport. If you have any questions about our fishery or surrounding waters, please feel free to ask any questions anytime.



Mark Pilgrim
WWBT Pro Angler
53024938102






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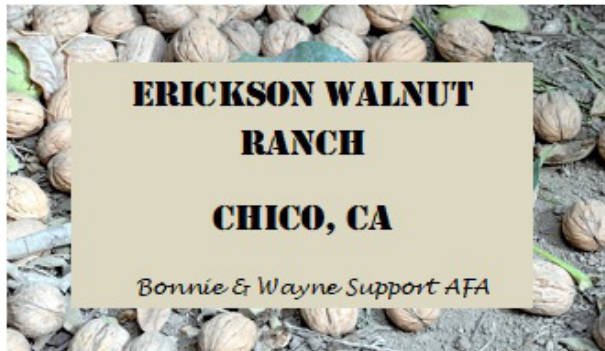
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“Creating a lifetime Angler”

Being in the fishing business has its ups and downs. Long days can become long weeks. The constant maintenance and pressure to perform at the highest potential each and every day with new faces poses its challenges. One of the perks of this business is fishing with children. Like the business itself, they have their

ups and downs. Short attention spans pose the challenge of producing fish and producing them quickly. But the faces don't disappoint and one always knows how they feel. Their curiosity, abundant energy and constant pursuit of entertainment is a joy. The genuine excitement displayed by the wide eyes of youth is a reward that never gets old. I've seen a fish or two this past year; some I remember, some I've forgotten. The children who have passed across my decks are the anglers of tomorrow. The hard work of the Almanor Fishing Association, the hard work of the mothers, the fathers and us guides can create memories that last a lifetime for the children. It is my goal that the experiences created do not get forgotten. It is my hope that every child that comes onto my boat catches and releases a beautiful healthy fish that stays in the mind and is shared with family and friends for their entire journey through life. And, in their journey that follows, they choose to fish. It's a team effort, and one that we all have a stake in.

It was a quiet, calm, and sunny fall day. As Captain of the Olivia Lynn, I had already seen a day's share of beautiful fish caught and released into the cold Almanor water. Clayton and Dalton Cecil were at the rods. Father Jake and I were discussing the finer points of topography and sonar clutter at the helm as the boys played on the back deck. Their youthful restless energy took them from one side of the boat to the other. The commotion was unambiguous, but not abnormal as the kids informed us another fish was down and tight at the stern. “Clear the lines, keep tension on the rod, you got this” Jake casually offered as we continued to focus on our discussion. “Oh goodness, It's big” Dalton yelled out with obvious excitement in his voice. Jake and I glanced at each other and decided we should go check it out. For what felt like an eternity we all enjoyed the give and take of line that every angler loves. The fish dance, the sounds of the drag, the bend of the rod. That was to ultimately become our biggest fish of the year and the biggest fish of young 9 year old Dalton Cecil's life. He trembled and gasped as I slung what weighed in as a 13.82 lbs brown trout over the gunwale. It was a beautiful fish to catch and release, a fish of a lifetime. And what we hope becomes a lifetime of fishing for both young men.

Thank you to the volunteers of the Almanor Fishing Association. Thank you to the families who come and fish with us. Here's to looking forward with hope to another rewarding year of large and plentiful fish. To the children who join us and learn about the beauty of this lake and the rewards of releasing these fish so that they can return to these waters and catch them again.

If you would like more information about our fishing charters, please visit www.AlmanorFishingAdventures.com or call 530.570.9925



Captain Rob with Anglers Dalton and Clayton Cecil from Orland CA



Bree Weltch of Clear Creek CA



“Creating
a lifetime
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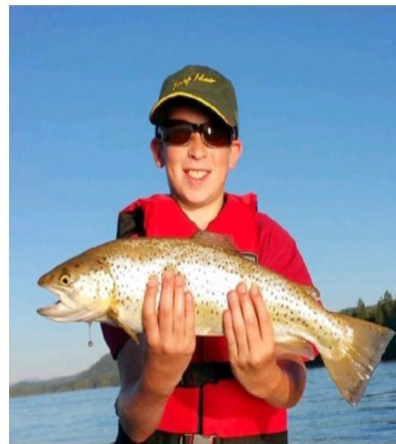
Dylan Foley of
Davis, Ca.



Daniel Drummond of Shingle Springs Ca.

JAG...Cont. from Pg. 7

On Lake Almanor, we fish from my Crestliner Fish Hawk 1750. We use a wide variety of tactics on the lakes, depending on the time of year and how the fish are behaving. I prefer to use 9' to 9'6" moderate to moderately fast action, #6 weight rods. On a typical day, I have two of each of the following rods rigged up and ready to go: two rods with type 3/4 sinking lines, two rods with type 2 sinking, intermediate sinking, or midge tip lines, two rods with floating lines for dry flies, and two rods with floating lines for indicators. Fishing conditions on the lake change fast, so you need to be ready to adapt quickly to whatever conditions are thrown at you. It is easier to pull a rod that is ready to go than to sit and rig one up on the spot. If you're looking to get out and fish Lake Almanor or just looking for some tips, feel free to give me a call. I'd be happy to help. Joe



JAG
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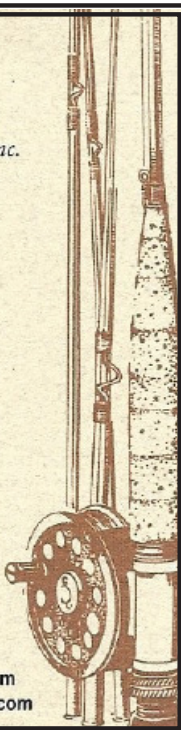


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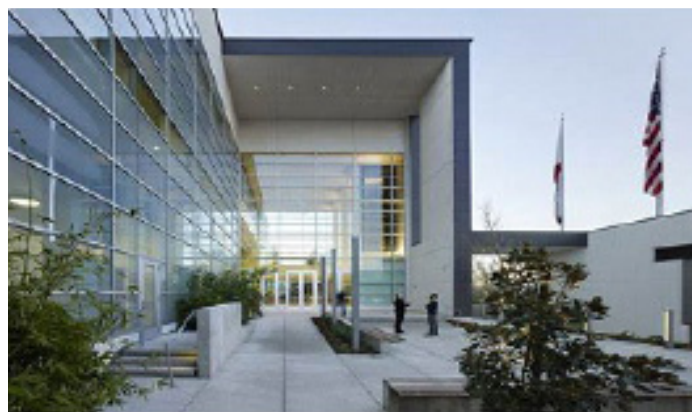
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The Almanor Fishing Association is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Lake Almanor Basin Sport Fishery. We encourage the practice of true sportsmanship, the enjoyment of the sport of fishing, and the responsible use and management 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.



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1. Canyon Dam also known as "Geritol Cove"

Good bank fishing in Geritol Cove, use inflated nightcrawlers or power bait off the bottom. Trolling can be good from the ramp to the east shore and back. Public boat ramp, parking, handicap access, restrooms and picnic tables.

2. Rocky Point Campgrounds

Good trout and bass fishing right off the point. Crickets, inflated crawlers, power bait, or spinning tackle.

3. Prattville

A good place to start your trolling or have breakfast. Plumas Pines and Carols have docks for dining, marina with gas, groceries and fishing tackle available. Head west toward the jetties for browns and rainbows.

4. USFS Public Boat Ramp

West of Prattville, in the old town of Almanor. Easy access with plenty of parking, 2 ramps with dock, and restrooms. Very good spring and summer time trolling from Prattville to the tip of Almanor West peninsula. Browns and rainbows will hit threaded crawlers, lures, behind blades or a dodger, or just by themselves.

5. Almanor West

Excellent spring time trolling for rainbows and browns, close to shore or out in deeper water. Lead core or down rigged threaded night crawlers are recommended. Good bass fishing later in the summer along rocky areas and around docks. Lots of hex activity beginning late June and through July.

6. Goose Bay -

West Shore area

Use extreme caution, shallow areas, stump fields, and grassy bottom. One of Almanor's best bass areas, largemouth bass, and small mouth bass. From Goose Bay back into the airport flats. Best early morning and late evening. Use plugs, lures, bait or white jigs for trout. For bass use crank baits, rattletraps, or plastics.

7. Mouth of the Feather River

Again, extreme caution, stump fields and very shallow lots of grass and other vegetation can stop your prop. Fish the stumps for smallies.

8. Chester Causeway / North Shore Campground

Both sides of the causeway good for rainbows, browns, and bass. Bass anglers work the stumps on the east side of the campgrounds. Parking available along the causeway.

9. Bailey Creek

This seasonal creek can flow from May into mid-July.

Good trolling area in front of the mouth to Bailey Springs & south along Red Bank. Shallow area around the mouth & close to shore, watch for hazards. Browns, rainbows, & bass from Bailey Creek to Rec. Area #2.

10. Recreation Area #2 to the Peninsula

Excellent fishing opportunities, troll close to shore early and move out to deeper water later in the morning and afternoon. Dodgers with a nightcrawler, or flashers for deeper darker water. Good area for trolling deep with downriggers. The bottom is consistent with few very few snag possibilities. Small mouth bass are abundant along rocky shore line areas. Two small springs outside the log boom hold browns and rainbows almost all year. Bait fish on anchor or drift crickets, mealworms, or night crawlers 5 ft off the bottom.

11. Almanor Peninsula

Good trolling from Rec Area #2, south to the tip of the peninsula.

12. REC#1

Good trolling from Rec #1 West to the Peninsula and East to the A-Frame. Fast and shallow early in the year, deep and slow as Lake temps warm.

13. The A-Frame

Some have said that this is the best spot on the Lake! A deep-water cold spring located just off the shoreline brings them in. The A-Frame is a local land mark.

14. Big Cove Resort Marina

Boat gas, boat rentals, bait/tackle/worms and other retail services are located at Big Cove Resort Marina. Good trolling from the marina West past the A-Frame, & down to Rec Area #1 and back or work the shoreline toward Big Springs.

15. Big Springs

Several deep underwater springs are scattered along this area, and a couple in closer to shore. King Salmon, browns and rainbows all can be found moving around this entire area. Trolling can be very productive, but bait fishing is often the method that produces faster action. Crickets, mealworms and crawlers are effective for trout. Salmon like anchovy tails 5 ft off the bottom.

16. Hamilton Branch Area and Powerhouse

Probably the best bank fishing at Almanor. Bait, jigs and spinners all can be effective. Fisherman's access, parking, picnic tables and restrooms at the intersection of A13 and Hwy 147. Provided by the Almanor Fishing Association.

17. East Shore

Trolling from the Hamilton Branch into Lake Cove and on to Canyon Dam. The east shore offers great rainbow and brown trout action. Try rainbow runners, speedy shiners, needle fish, or z-rays. Threaded night crawlers are good also. Troll top water early, deeper later in the day.

18. The Snag

While trolling the east shore beware of the "Snag". It's a point that juts out and it gets shallow, quickly, hence the name. Many a downrigger ball and tackle have been lost here; keep your eye on your depth finder. Deep salmon hole on the south side of the snag, use anchovy.

PLEASE

ENJOY

FISHING!

And Be Safe! <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/boating>

Lake Almanor: Releasing a Trout

Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service

We all should do our part to keep the Lake Almanor Fishery thriving. A great start would be to join the Almanor Fishing Association, make a monetary donation and/or become a volunteer.

AFA's annual events that we need volunteers for are Youth Fishing Days, Veterans Fishing Day and Family BBQ, or you could become one of our dedicated fish pen feeders. However, something we can all do is properly release our catch if we do not intend to cook it for dinner or put it on the smoker.



Here are a few tips that will help increase your chances of a successful release of your Lake Almanor rainbow or brown:

- Tip 1** When landing a trout, try to do it in the minimum amount of time to lessen the amount of stress on the trout.
- Tip 2** Invest in a rubber net since they cause less damage to the trout's protective slime layer.
- Tip 3** If the plan is to release and not take a picture, unhook the trout while the trout is in the net and in the water.
- Tip 4** If the trout is hooked deep in the mouth, cut the line near the mouth without causing any injury. Most hooks dissolve in a couple of months.
- Tip 5** Handle the trout as little and as quickly as possible. Keep the trout in the net and in the water while getting ready to take a picture.
- Tip 6** When handling a trout for a picture, be careful. Handle with damp hands and keep your fingers away from the gills.
- Tip 7** When releasing a trout from your boat that is moving slowly, face the trout into the current as this allows water to flow through the gills. Hold the trout by the tail. When the trout kicks out of your hand, then it is successfully revived and can be released.
- Tip 8** I usually encourage my clients when possible to release trout that are over 4 pounds. Take a quick picture and release ASAP.

Following some of these steps will increase the trout's chances of survival after release. The information in this article was compiled from a variety of veteran fisherman, local fishing guides and various fishing articles.

Good luck and enjoy your time on the lake. Mike

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North Shore Campground (530) 258-3376
Campground with cabins, tents and RV space. RV and boat storage. Boat slip, kayak and canoe rentals. General store, laundry and showers. Fun outdoor activities and local attractions.



Be a Hero

Special to AFA by Capt. Bryan Roccucci

I originally wrote the following piece not knowing exactly what to do with it. It was first published in early fall 2021 by our local Plumas News but is still as true today as it was following the Dixie Fire.



Oxford defines a Hero as “a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities “. The word hero certainly describes many people currently in our communities. So many local first responders, many of them volunteers, out working incredible hours doing their best to save lives and property from this beast they named Dixie. In addition to our local heroes, many men and women have come from out of town, out of area, out of state and even out of country to help in these efforts. Here in Plumas County, we are no strangers to an influx of travelers, though usually they are attracted here for a variety of other reasons.

Fire is not usually on the list of what brings people into our region, what normally comes to mind are things like natural beauty, forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife, meadows, mountains, small towns and small businesses. While just about every single one of these has been impacted by Dixie, they are down, but not out. Not all the forest land has burned, rivers and streams still bring water into our lakes teeming with fish. Animals that may have been displaced by the fire will begin to return, and our mountains, while they may bare some scars, still stand. Mother Nature is an incredible healer, and the process has already begun.

There has been so much devastation and destruction of both our natural and man-made resources, the collective loss that the area experienced is massive. Homes, buildings, business in fact whole towns were decimated and thousands of people displaced. Some businesses, especially the small seasonal type, even without direct losses to the fire, have had months of their “busy season” canceled as a result of evacuation orders and travel restrictions. As we look to the future, the people and business that still exist, and can operate, will be one of the key foundational elements to rebuilding the region. Most, if not all, of these businesses are run by and employ members of the local communities. Many of these people are still showing up for work despite having suffered their own losses to Dixie. Your support of our local businesses will be the direct injection of life saving blood the local economy needs, with an average 67 cents of every dollar spent in a small business staying in the community. Come to our area, take advantage of local lodging, grab a coffee at the little place on the corner, fish our waters, and experience our mountains. You may not be a fire fighter or first responder, but you still have an incredible opportunity to be a hero for our local communities.

Despite a lengthy pause in the middle of the fishing season for the fire and a, lower than average water year, 2021 fishing at Lake Almanor was fantastic, producing solid numbers of both Browns and Bows. Almanor quality never disappoints, and I was fortunate to be part of so many “biggest Brown or Bow” or “first Brown” moments with some anglers breaking their new “personal best” record in the same day. Plenty of children came onboard in

Raphael with a massive Lake Almanor Rainbow



2021, and there is nothing more exciting than to watch the look of sheer grit and determination on their face as they do battle with one of these trophy fish. Unfortunately, the AFA BBQ at the end of July had to be canceled but we were able to hold the Veterans Fishing Day which was an amazing event and my absolute honor to be a part of. I'm looking forward to both events this year.

Thank you for your continued support of our local area, businesses and AFA. A huge thank you to everyone who chose to come onboard with Big Daddy's Guide Service in 2021, especially post fire. My customers are all heroes to me, and I look forward to seeing all of you this year.



Joel with his biggest Brown to date caught and released

Heath from Chico Ca with a sizable Rainbow that was released

Damion from Chico with his personal best Brown caught and released

Guide Service. BDGS offers year-round light tackle angling adventures on Lake Almanor as well as seasonal trips on Bucks Lake, Eagle Lake, and Lake Davis. Bryan has nearly 3 decades of experience on these waters with more than 20 years as a professional guide specializing in trophy trout and Kokanee.

For more information about the fishing on any of the lakes please visit:

www.bigdaddyfishing.com or follow us on Facebook /Instagram / YouTube @bigdaddysguideservice

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Hex Hatch at Lake Almanor

By Lance Gray

The Lake Almanor Hex Hatch brings all ages of anglers to the lake to fish for big fish. I love looking at folks out fishing in boats, fishing from the bank and folks just coming out to watch the Hexes themselves. The “Hex” is a the Hexagenia fly. It is an insect in the Mayfly family. What makes the Hexes so great that they are the largest of the mayflies. A normal mayfly is only about ½” long, the Hexagenia is around 2” long. It is huge.

The Hexagenia will start to hatch on the lake in early June and continue into July. The peak of the hatch will be at the Summer Solstice. The hex nymphs will start to swim from the bottom of the lake to the surface approximately around noon on each day. The nymphs will hatch into adults right at dark.

The Hexes are found from the shoreline to water depth of approximately 25 feet. The fish will come in from the deep water to eat the Hexes in the nymph form starting around 5:00pm. They will continue to eat the nymphs and then the adult Hexes into the early evening.

The fly fisher and conventional anglers can fish along the shoreline with flies. The fly fisher can fish nymphs on sinking lines and dry flies on floating lines in the evening. The conventional angler can fish nymphs underneath a bobber and fish dry flies behind a bobber.

Fish that can be caught are rainbow trout, brown trout and smallmouth bass. All these fish love the Hexes. Fish range from a 2-16 pounds. Yes, 16 pounds and bigger. That is what makes the Hex so much fun. It is easy to fish from small boats ort the shoreline and can catch really BIG FISH!!



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*Top flies are Gray's Balance Hex Size 6,
Milt's Hex Nymph Size 6, Milt's Para drake Size 6,
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2021 YOUTH FISHING DAY

In 2021 AFA volunteers assisted Plumas County, CF&W Fisheries Biologist Amber Mouser with taking Plumas County **fourth graders fishing**.

Through the generosity of Dave and Mark Banta and Duncan McIntyre, AFA was able to provide every participating fourth grader with a brand **new fishing rod**.

As you can see by the smile on Joey's face, the fishing rods were a huge hit with the kids.



Jennifer & Mike Gilmore
Lake Almanor Friends

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Dave Cutler
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Mark Leonar
Cheryl Burton
Jeff Janus

There is no disputing the AFA fish pen program is the back bone of our organization. It is equally clear our feeders are the heart and soul. For the past three years afa volunteers have not missed a single day of feeding. For the past thrity-seven years, from the end of October (when we receive our fish) until the end of April (when they are released) an AFA volunteer has been packing 40# bags of fish food down a stair case and hand feeding up to three bags of food daily.

As we approach the two millionth trout released into Almanor, AFA is preparing for the future of our fishery. This summer we will replace four of our oldest pens and docking with new at a cost of fifty-eight thousand dollars. The AFA board would like to replace all of our existing pens with new over the next five years. Our goal is to insure AFA will be prepared for the next thirty-seven years and the Lake Almanor Fishery will continue to be recognized as this states premeir cold water fishery.






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Founder (n.) – One who establishes something or formulates the basis for something.[1] Founder is a label with some amount of prestige. It carries connotations of creativity and innovation ...

More than forty years ago Wanda and Paul Garrido, Julie and Reuben Chavez and Toni and Jim Pleau founded the Almanor Fishing Association. Through their collective dedication to the Lake Almanor Community and the Lake Almanor fishery. AFA and our fish pen program are recognized as the “longest running most successful fish pen program in the state”. As AFA approaches the two millionth trout planted into Lake Almanor the AFA Board wanted to honor Wanda, Paul, Julie, Reuben, Toni and Jim for their forty years of dedication to our world class fishery. The Board recently voted unanimously to change the name of our annual family picnic to the...

ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION FOUNDERS' FAMILY BARBECUE.




Almanor Fishing Association's 29th **FOUNDERS'** **FAMILY BBQ**

Honoring our Founders:
*Wanda & Paul Garrido,
Julie & Reuben Chavez,
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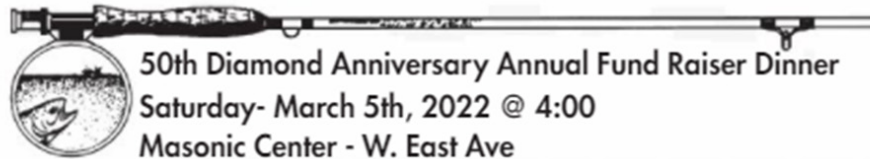
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CAF has been a major supporter of AFA and our fish pen program. On March 5, 2022, CAF President Pat Sleeper presented AFA with a check for \$3,000 in addition Pat and CAF donated twelve \$100 gift cards that will go to the twelve Veterans in Greenville that lost their homes to the Dixie Fire.



Veteran's Fishing Day

"I think there is one higher office than president, and I would call that **PATROIT.**" G Hart



On June 26, 2021, the Almanor Fishing Association held our fourth Veteran's Fishing Day on Lake Almanor. We had Over fifty boats take more than 100 Veterans fishing, what a spectacular day for all involved. Mr John Bottomley celebrated his 98th birthday at our picnic. What an honor for all involved.

***This year Veteran's Fishing Day is on June 25, 2022
If you would like to participate, call Deb at 707-845-2493***



On November 11, 2021

.....the Almanor Fishing Association participated in the Veteran's Day parade in Greenville. We handed out AFA Veterans Fishing shirts and a bunch of youth fishing rods. We were honored to be a part of this historical event. Thank you John Banks and all the Veterans that participated. In addition, thank you to all the Veterans for your service to our country. This parade is one giant step in our community's healing process. Thank you Ray Pallari, Jim & Antoinette Pleau, Mike & Ronda Papas, Robert Gonzalez, Rich Dengler & Brett Hurff it was an honor to attend this event with you all. JC



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It's Not a Fee, It's a contribution

When you purchase a California fishing license, the fees help fund a number of state conservation programs such as: fishery management, habitat protection, and fishing education. You can do your part to help with conservation efforts by respecting our resources and following some simple fishing etiquette tips.



Published by AFA Volunteer,
Deborah Reynolds
Releasing a BIG Brown

Newsletter printed by
Feather Publishing, Quincy, CA



FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2022

July 2nd(Saturday) and
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May 01, 2022

Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E. Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

Project 2105
North Fork Feather RiverDear Commissioners,

As an angler, recreationalist, and supporter of Lake Almanor, I am concerned that Conditions 1(B) and 6 included in the California State Water Resources Control Board's Section 401 water quality certification will have a devastating negative impact on our lake, community, and fishery. The supplemental cold-water withdrawals from Lake Almanor envisioned during summer months to reduce water temperatures in the North Fork Feather River will be especially harmful, should those conditions be included in the new license. Lake Almanor is a world-renown cold water fishery, producing record setting Rainbow and German Brown Trout, drawing sportsmen and fishermen from across the Western US. Almanor also attracts thousands of vacationers every summer, many spending their entire summer here to enjoy the boating, water sports, and cooler summer temperatures offered here. The Dixie fire of 2021 burned 404,005 acres of the Plumas National Forest. The majority of the 963,309 acres burn scar is within the Feather River Watershed. Forty percent of Plumas County's economy is based upon tourism. Lake Almanor is the crowned jewel of Plumas County and the driving force of our economy. The future of Plumas County hinges upon Lake Almanor's cold water. It will take years before we realize the impacts of the Dixie Fire on our environment. I am terrified by the prospect of FERC approving Conditions 1(B) and 6 and the impacts to Plumas County's economy, Lake Almanor's fishery and the residents of Plumas County's way of life. Please do not make a decision that could seal our fate, and please agree to maintain the original settlement agreement of 2004, with no additional cold-water releases from Lake Almanor.

Thank you,

SAVE OUR LAKE

