

# The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

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## Roger's Guide Service 40th Anniversary 1972-2012

By Roger Keeling

I am writing this article in mid January and it feels like April or May here in Red Bluff where I spend the winter. The lakes are in pretty good shape from last year's heavy storms but we sure could use a little moisture. I did a charter January 4th on Shasta Lake and it was 67 degrees which set a record for a high in Redding.

The last 2 years I've learned how uncertain life can be after going through 4 surgeries and 2 bouts of cancer. I honestly believe the patience I've learned in guiding has helped me endure the seemingly endless treatments, re-scans, and doctor appointments needed to try and keep this old body going. A strong faith in God and countless friends and clients cheering me on made a world of difference in getting me through this difficult period of my life. Thanks to all of you!

I grew up in Central Illinois with my mother who divorced my father before I was 2 years old and she never remarried. She also never had a car nor a drivers license, had 3 part time jobs 6 days a week, and walked to work in the dark and it was usually dark before she got home in the evenings. To put it mildly we had it rough but I wouldn't trade my childhood for anything as I've learned a great respect for everything we had, and also a great respect for my mother. I can still

hear mom saying "How are we going to make it?" I would reply "I'll catch more fish or shoot more game". There were no child support laws at that time and if there was dad didn't seem to care. Because mom had it so rough I started fishing and hunting at a very young age. Fishing tackle, guns and ammunition wasn't easy to come by. So I picked up night crawlers at night and dug worms in the daytime. I would sell them to bait and tackle shops on our local reservoir. This mainly took place during the 3 month school vacation and I wore out many a bicycle tire riding the 6 miles to the lake. I purchased my 1st fly rod selling worms and really developed a passion for catching bass on poppers and hair bugs. I once was playing a large bass from shore on my fly rod in front of a cabin on our local lake when an older man walked down and introduced himself. He was intrigued seeing such a large bass being caught on such a light outfit. He was a Frenchman named "Jules Delattre" and we became very good friends. He also found out I had a divorced mother, they started dating and that was the closest mother ever came to remarrying. Jules had never used a rod and reel however caught more fish on trot lines and bank lines than anyone I knew. Jules had an incredible knowledge of seasonal patterns and how to use natural baits. I soon learned that fish don't just swim around aimlessly but have ever changing season patterns. The reason a lot of anglers and some guides have problems is they're not aware of this. Jules had a commercial license and could sell any non-game species. He also had a large worm bed and sold worms called "Frenchies Giant Red Worms". I later introduced him to the fly- rod and rod & reel. He started carving bass plugs, fly rod poppers and different floats including tiny "ice fishing floats".

It wasn't uncommon to catch over 100 blue gill and crappie in a single day through the ice, none of them was wasted either. There were few people fishing at this time and keeping fish was probably a positive conservation tool as most pan fish are too prolific and can easily become over populated or what some call 'stunted'.

On my summer trips to the lake to sell worms I would often fish the rest of the day or fish over night for catfish. It wasn't uncommon to catch over 50 catfish a night and I would clean them the next morning. What mom and I couldn't use I would package up and sell to the neighbors or friends of my mothers.

I bought an old wooden row boat when I was 12 and was told if I would coat the bottom with tar it wouldn't leak so badly. I left it chained to a tree at our lake and had to pull it up out of the water to keep it from sinking. I had a friend who thought he was king of the world rowing me around while I sat up front and fished. I also bailed the water out of the boat about every hour.

A technique I used was flipping live night crawlers into weed pockets and other structure that was extremely deadly. About 50 years later this technique was named "flipping", later everybody on bass tours started doing it. Now you need to have special flipping rods and countless gear to do this.

In the early 60's I moved from Illinois to California and started learning how to fish for species not available in the mid-west. At every opportunity I started fishing different lakes, stream, and rivers.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Guide Roger Keeling - Continued from Page 1

The equipment used then looks very old fashioned compared to what we have now. Today with the hi-tech electronics it is much easier to adjust to a given lake or river. There is much more involved with being a good fisherman than just gazing at a fish finder. I really admire the few fishermen who understand all the daily and seasonal patterns of different species of fish. One of the trickiest aspects of fishing large lakes is to understand water stratification. One of the most informative articles I have ever read about this seasonal change was from A. J. McLane's Fishing Encyclopedia with several pages devoted to water stratification. Many fishermen believe the hotter the weather the deeper the fish have to go. This is not necessarily so as the thermocline determines where the most dissolved oxygen is located and the zone below this may be colder but void of oxygen. So fish will spend most of their time in the thermocline or move to more oxygenated spring areas or into creek or river tributaries during warm summer months. Every lake is different due to altitude, depth, water clarity, etc... I admire those who can adjust and be successful wherever they go without relying on someone else's information. This takes more than the average fisherman's experience. It requires a lot of dedication and desire to really understand why fish are doing what they're doing on any given day on larger lakes like Lake Almanor and Eagle Lake. Lake Almanor fish can be extremely finicky and selective due to a fantastic food base. They are also known for moving a lot so being successful can require a lot of experience. One thing I've noticed through the years is the fact that sometimes fish will just be fish and not do what they're supposed to. That's why it is such a great sport and no one will ever be perfect at all the aspects of fishing.

I was such a loner as a child and still can't believe that I've made it this far in a business when you're exposed to so many people. I'm glad I did it as it has been so enjoyable and I've been blessed with such a wonderful client base. I would have never met these people except through this business. My policy for dealing with the few in my boat that were not pleasant to be with are as follows "Try to make it through the day, still make it a nice day for them, however don't book them again".

Now a little run down on my 2011 season. I spent most of my time trolling shallow west end spring areas due to the higher lake levels. While others were fishing 35 to 50 feet on the east side I caught most of my fish through-out the summer at 16 to 35 feet. I rarely used a downrigger and relied mostly on ultra-light lead core outfits. This has so many advantages over downriggers and most clients just think we are using color coded line. When I hit a shallow area or hump I just speed up and the lines come up without cranking up downrigger gear. I rarely get snagged and another plus is lack of stretch in the line. Downrigger weights and terminal gear are very expensive and trolling shallow areas can become very expensive. So many people using downriggers just stay out deeper, a fact I've noticed many times on Almanor.

When I was first introduced to lead core in the early to mid sixties most people were using heavy rods, reels, and usually large flashers. I haven't used a flasher or dodger for 2 years. Most people underestimate a fish's ability to see small baits & lures at depths we have to fish in the summer. I introduced trolling worms by themselves in Lake Almanor in the sixties and I seldom have to use a flasher.

Here is a brief run down on how I rig lead core. I use Quantum Cabo P.T. or Quantum Great White level wind reels which are very light for a level wind reel. Garcia Ambassador's will work but the Quantum's are easier to service. I first spool on 75 to 100 ft of a small diameter 10 lb test backing and the splice 6 to 7 colors of 15 lb test lead core line. I then splice approx 36 ft of 8 or 10 lb test fluorocarbon monofilament and tie on a P-line Duramax swivel, then 4 to 5 ft of

leader to your hook or lure. One source for purchasing the items in the Chester area is "The Sports Nut" sporting goods located in Chester. It helps to watch someone experienced in lead core fishing in setting this up, especially the splicing, but it's not that difficult. 75% of the year I'm fishing in the top 15 ft of water and I'm usually only running 3 to 5 colors of lead core. The reels I use are Quantum P. T. Cabo or Quantum Great White's. The rods I prefer are the 7 ft Kokanee Pro or 7 ft Lamiglass in either light or ultra-light action. These are trigger stick rods designed for level wind reels.

The other and most important plus is the ability to add action to trolling, flies, swim baits, and lures by shaking or pumping the rod. I didn't lose one lead core set-up last year on a snag. If I do get snagged I back over it and almost always get everything back. I might also mention if you are using rod holders set them so they are straight out horizontal and not pointing up towards the sky as this will cause you to have to let more line out. Lead core is very durable and can be used for years, the only time I change it is if I should lose a section of it on a snag or if it becomes brittle & frayed. I do want all colors matching on all my setups. I carry 12 to 15 outfits in my boat. Some are rigged for worm trolling and some set up for lures or flies so I don't have to waste people's time in re-rigging all the time.

The most popular weights when purchasing lead core are 12 lb, 15 lb, & 18 lb. I recommend sticking with one weight as it all performs differently. It takes a lot of practice to learn what depth you're at, at different speeds, but every technique used for lake fishing requires practice.

Mark Jimenez of Big Meadows Guide Service & I probably catch over 75% of our fish on lead core and most of the techniques we're using just wouldn't be possible using anything else. There are many productive ways to fish but I hope this is informative to you and adds some enjoyment to your time spent on the water.

I would like to thank the staff of the Almanor Fishing Association and a special thanks to Irene Faria for the dedication involved to make this publication enjoyable and informative to its readers. I'm sure you noticed us guides are not journalists however we do our best to present our views in a way that might be helpful to the readers of this newsletter. Here's wishing you a great year of fishing in 2012 and hope to see you on the water.



*Pictured Above Is  
Earl Zeigler &  
Ernie Smith*

*Continued on Page 3*

**Guide Roger Keeling - Continued from Page 2**

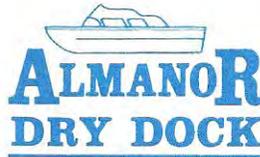
Roger's Guide Service specializes in family trips to the most productive lakes in the Lake Almanor area. Fall & winter trips for salmon are on the Sacramento River & trout and bass trips on Shasta Lake. "Go with experience, you'll be glad you did". Instructional trips also available for the novice or professional. All fish are cleaned and packaged on board, free of charge. Trout & bass can be deboned if desired. Just bring your lunch & personal items.

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*Pictured Below Is Del & Jim Yamakawa*



*Pictured Above Is Jeana Pipkin And Kids*



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## Thermal Curtain Update

By Wendi Durkin

Finally in January of 2012 we received some communication from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding the continuing Save Lake Almanor efforts. The Level 3 Screening report was released. This report was released to the SWRCB in 2009, but made public to us, the citizens that will be affected, just this year.

The Level 3 Screening report is a tool that will be used in the Draft Environment Impact Report (EIR). The Draft EIR will be making direct suggestions on alternatives to lower the temperature of the downstream river. In other words, the SWRCB will use the Draft EIR to make a decision on the future of Lake Almanor. It is their decision on whether or not to install several thermal curtains, dredge the lake bottom, remove additional cold water through Canyon Dam, or to simply do nothing.

The Level 3 report clearly tells us that the thermal curtain is definitely a threat to our lake. Almost every alternative they examined included the thermal curtain at the Prattville intake as well as thermal curtains on Butte Lake. The report also stated that the level of dissolved oxygen in Lake Almanor and Butte Lake would be greatly affected. Our fisheries need dissolved oxygen to survive! The report mentioned that with the thermal curtain at Prattville measures would have to be taken to increase the dissolved oxygen in Butte Lake, but it doesn't mention how that may be done and if it would prove to be successful. Of course, the failure to have adequate dissolved oxygen would prove fatal to our fisheries.

At this time, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and Save Lake Almanor are researching the proposed alternatives and how they would directly impact Lake Almanor as well as Butte Lake. Nothing can be done until the release of the Draft EIR, which we have been told to expect in April. Of course, we expected the Level 3 report years ago, so time frames have been greatly shifted throughout this process.

Once the Draft EIR is released, we will have a clearer picture of what alternatives SWRCB will be considering. That is when we will need all public support and assistance in stopping the removal of cold water from our lake. Please realize that this issue is very alive and very dangerous to our lake as well as our entire community.

Updates will come in the local newspaper, [www.savelakealmanor.org](http://www.savelakealmanor.org), as well as our Supervisor, Sherrie Thrall, email list.

Our lake will need your support!

If you would like to be a part of Save Lake Almanor, please email Wendi Durkin at [wendi@baileycreek.com](mailto:wendi@baileycreek.com) or call 530-228-2683.

## Think Big Fish

By Bob Kopernik of "Lucky Grady"  
Fishing Guide Service

Like our two kids and four grand kids I think my sixth birthday present was a fishing rod and I haven't stopped chasing the elusive critters since. Over the years I have had the opportunity to fish fresh water in ten or more states and both of our oceans plus the Gulf of Mexico. Then in the late 70's we found beautiful Lake Almanor.

Needless to say we spent a lot of time on the water without putting very many fish on the grill. Over the years my fish catching success gradually improved. I'm finally to the point where I'm embarrassed when I have to call my wife, Alma, on the radio and report that it will have to be hot dogs for dinner tonight! (It happens to all of us!)

Even so a lot of folks do ask me what the secrets are to catching trout in this lake. My short answer is "All fish are object freaks." I don't spend much time trolling flat bottomed areas of the lake. If I don't get a hit in 20 minutes or so, I do something different like changing the bait, the depth that I am fishing at or the trolling speed. I'll go try an area that produced last week, last month or last year or an area that I have never fished before. When I do get a hit, I very quickly set the hook with "authority".

Note that I am a California DFG Fishing Passport Stamping Agent and will gladly verify your catch.

Give the "Lucky Grady" a call on VHF channel 69 and let me know how I can be of service to you.

*Please See Some Of Lucky Grady's  
Fishing Photos On Page 21*

**Bob Kopernik** 408-515-1503  
koperniks@att.net

*Lucky  
Grady*

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## SCHOLARSHIP

For the 12th 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:

- 2006 - Samantha Lee - Chester
- 2007 - Shae Cheli - Chester
- 2008 - Nicholas Delucci - Chester
- 2009 - David LaGroue - Chester
- 2010 - Tyler Hernandez - Chester
- 2011 - None Awarded

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

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### Notice to Fishermen

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*Please Note New Address For  
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## Almanor Smallmouth

By Rick Taddei of Rick's Guide Service

As many of you know Lake Almanor is one of the top smallmouth lakes in California. It draws fisherman from all over the country. I have clients that come from as far away as L.A., Oregon and Nevada just to fish for Almanor smallies. Almanor is also a great draw for numerous bass tournaments, large and small each year.

Pound for pound the smallmouth bass is known for being one of the hardest fighting fresh water fish there is. They can be very acrobatic as they try to throw the hook. When you finally get one to the boat that's when the real fight begins. You had better have your drag loosened because they will show you their tail and pound for the bottom over and over again. They have a never give up attitude. I think they wake up in the morning mad! A lot of the bites you get are not from feeding fish but are spawned from pure anger. Chances are your bait has invaded his territory. But don't be fooled as they can be just as finicky as they can be aggressive. Small changes in the barometric pressure, winds, cloud cover and sunshine can greatly affect the smallies attitude.

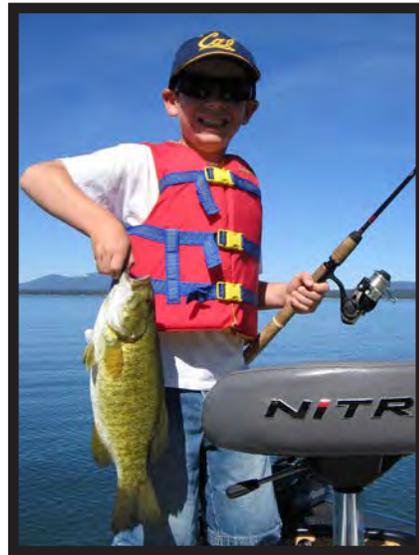
While there is a healthy population of smallies in Almanor, we as sportsmen must practice good conservation. By good conservation I mean we must all practice a certain amount of catch and release. There is nothing wrong with keeping some smaller male fish to eat. As most of us know the smaller fish taste better anyway. Never use a net if you plan to release a fish. Use a boga grip or wet your hands before lipping it. Handle the fish as least as possible to ensure you don't remove any of its protective slime coat. Unlike Almanor's trout population, the California Dept. of Fish & Game has no ongoing stocking programs for the Almanor smallies so they are a self sustaining species. Be selective in your harvest. If you catch a smallie off its bed you should return it as quickly as possible. Almanor has a large population of Sacramento Pike or Squaw Fish and sculpin, among others that are waiting for the opportunity to eat any unguarded eggs or fry. It can take up to 12-15 years for a smallie to attain the 4-6 pound size range so if you catch a large fish that you wish to have mounted all you have to do is take length and girth measurements, photograph and release it. Have a replica made. The replicas they make now are far superior to skin mounts. They last longer, are easier to clean and many times are less expensive. The large smallies are far too precious of a resource to be enjoyed only once.

The smallies diet consists mainly of crawdads followed by pond smelt, sculpin, various minnows and aquatic insects. Most smallie fishermen use artificial baits as live baits are often frowned upon. In most cases when using live bait such as crickets or crawlers the fish swallow the bait thus making it hard to release the fish without it dying. There are numerous types of artificial baits you can use to catch smallies. They range from spinner baits, crank baits, rip baits, top water baits to soft plastics. It is best to use bait in the natural colors of their forage but it is not the law. Sometimes it takes wild colors to trigger reaction strikes. Remember smallies have an attitude! One of my favorite baits is a top water. There is nothing more exciting than to see a big smallie take bait off the surface. Also for you fly fishermen who are tired of waiting for the Hex hatch to start, try some streamers and poppers. Who knows, this may open up a whole new sport for you.

Smallie fishing is a very active sport. It is great for all ages and especially kids who get bored easily. I have had kids as young as 5 years old casting and retrieving their own lures within 15 minutes. There is nothing better than to see their faces when they hook their first fish. Their excitement is overwhelming.

So if you are looking for a great way to spend a spring time day, smallie fishing may be the answer. For the past 20 years I have been the only Almanor

guide that dedicates the spring months solely to smallie fishing. From mid April (weather permitting) through June I fish smallies. From July through August I fish Rainbow and Brown Trout only.



*Above Is Colton Proudly Showing His 8 lb Catch and Below Is Tyron & Trey With Their 16 lb Catch*



~ Smallmouth ~      ~ Rainbows ~      ~ Browns ~

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### North Cove - East Side of Lake

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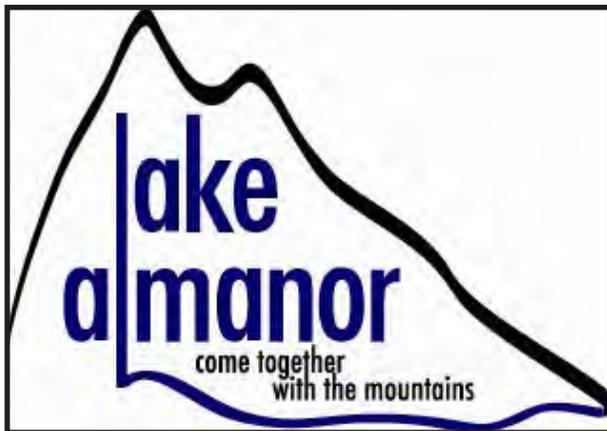
#### **Knotty Pine Resort**

Cabins, Marina with Snack Bar, Cold Beer, Soda, Gas, Bait, Tackle, Boat Rentals-Pontoon Boats, Paddleboats, SeaDoos

## Trout Pen Project

By Paul Garrido - AFA Treasurer

Once again, in October 2011, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) delivered 50,000 Eagle Lake Trout to the Almanor Fishing Association's pens in the Hamilton Branch. At the time of their release this year's fingerlings should be rather healthy and large due to the warmer weather this winter. The caged fish tend to eat a lot more when the weather is warmer. Some of you may not know we did complete the refurbishment of the last two platforms and four cages before the fish were delivered in October. The Almanor Fishing Association (AFA) was awarded \$7,000 from the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission to assist in this refurbishment project. With the monies provided and some funds from the AFA we were able to complete all five platforms and ten cages. The refurbishment of the last two platforms went well because these platforms were not in as bad a condition as the previous three in 2010. We wish to thank the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission for their award which allowed us to complete this project. We also want to thank Brett Womack and his crew at Almanor Dock Supply for all their diligence and hard work. And lastly we want to thank the AFA volunteers who assisted in the refurbishment of the last four cages by drilling out and replacing the old nuts and bolts with new stainless steel ones. Great Job Everybody!!!



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# Dick's Guide Service 2012

By Dick Mason

It's February and I'm writing this article while staying at Shasta Lake. We've been spending our winters here the last seven or eight years. It's kind of like a vacation; it gets us out of the snow, and really breaks up winter for us. I fish trout all year on Almanor, Eagle and Butt Lake, so for a change of pace I concentrate on spotted bass. They are plentiful and lots of fun on light tackles. As a bonus they are great table fare. My wife deep fry's them in a beer batter and a touch of hot sauce, which rivals any fish I've had at Long John Silvers.

I had two trips on Shasta in early February that I learned a lot from. This is one thing that I would like to stress. I have never been on a fishing trip with a fisherman that has a reputation for catching fish that I have not picked up things that have made me a better fisherman.

What made these two trips different for me was the depth we trolled, 70 to 75 feet deep. We launched at 1st light at the Centimudi ramp, near the dam and headed for Dry Creek. Both fishermen did something new to me. The 1st one had a string of four large flashers attached to his ball and he ran his lure, which was an ex-cel, about six to eight feet behind the flashers. He swore by the color blue and I can't argue with this as we caught over 20 land locked kings by 1:00pm.

The 2nd trip we fished the same area. What made this trip so different was the method. He also had flashers attached to his ball. They were willow leaf spinners on the latest craze, "The Alabama Rig". His home lake is Don Pedro and I think that is where this technique originated "Slow Rolling Shad". That shad were rigged with a needle that looked something like a crochet hook. The line was threaded through the vent out behind the head, then up under the chin and between the eyes and out the top of the head. Then you put a bend in the bait and pull taut. Done right you get a perfect slow roll. I can attest to this method as the fish just ate them up. I'm sure this would work at Almanor, unfortunately if I read the regulations right it is not legal on Almanor.

The point I am trying to make is you can learn so much from other fishermen. An example, I have never trolled a fly ever until I fished with a friend who was an expert at it. One trip and I was hooked. Now I fish flies on Eagle Lake 95% of the time. Another way that other fishermen help me is sharing information. There is nothing like getting a call putting you on a hot bite from the day before. When, where, and how; these calls are precious. But you have to "give to get" too.

Wrapping this up, we are so lucky to have Almanor as our home lake. In the late 80's and early 90's Eagle Lake was the place to go because of the size of the fish. But I think it has lost its title to Lake Almanor, and I think the Almanor Fishing Association can take some credit for this. Good fishing!



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## Don't Move A Mussel

By Ray Pallari, AFA Board Member

Quagga/Zebra mussels are a tiny invasive fresh water mussel that are destructive and represent a very serious threat to Lake Almanor.

The mussels arrived in this country in the 1980's in the bilge water of foreign ships. They are now currently well established in the Great Lakes region of the United States, costing billions of dollars in damage and maintenance to water systems, agricultural irrigation, and power plant operations.

From the Great Lakes regions the mussels have spread to many eastern waterways, rivers, and lakes. On January 6th of 2007 Quagga mussels were found in Lake Mead, Nevada, and later throughout Lake Mead's lower basin. In January 2007 the mussels were found also in Lake Mojave, Lake Havasu, the Colorado River System, as well as lakes & reservoirs in San Diego County, Riverside County, and in San Benito County of California.

The migration of the mussels to California waterways was most likely transported through human related activities. Investigation indicates the larvae of the mussels were brought to Lake Mead on the hull of a recreation boat. In addition to their destructive nature with water systems the mussels represent a serious threat to the environment of Lake Almanor. If they are allowed to enter the lake Quagga Mussels will upset the food chain by consuming phytoplankton that other species need to survive. The mussels are "filter feeders" meaning they sift large quantities of lake water and consume large portions of the microscopic plants and animals that form the base of the food web. The consumption of the phytoplankton decreases zooplankton and can result in a complete disruption of the balance of entire bodies of water. This in turn can displace native species resulting in a severe threat to the fishery of Lake Almanor.

If we analyze the reproduction of the female Quagga mussel it becomes apparent how rapid their effect can be on Lake Almanor. A female Quagga mussel releases 40,000 eggs in a reproductive cycle and up to 1,000,000 eggs in a spawning season. The young larvae are too small to see with the naked eye and are "free drifting" making it almost impossible to contain the spread of the mussels. The free drifting characteristic not only threatens Lake Almanor, but all streams, canals, lakes, and reservoirs downstream.

Evidence indicates that the spread of the mussels is a direct result of boat owners unknowingly transporting the larva from one lake to another. The larva will attach itself to boats, motors, trailers, anchors, and all water recreation equipment. In addition all areas of the boat holding water; live wells, bilges, motor, and propellers are all possible habitats. The mussels also clog water pipes, coat piers, and ruin boat motors. Tests have shown the mussels can survive 5 - 7 days out of water during summer months and up to 30 days during winter months.

In conjunction with the Calif Dept of Fish and Game, The Sierra Institute, PG&E, Lake Almanor Water Shed Committee, and the Almanor Fishing Association are all working diligently to address the mussel problem and formulate a defensive solution. At this time there does not exist an eradication program that would be effective on a large scale against the mussels nor is there a natural predator that would contain or minimize an infestation.

Lake Tahoe and Clearlake have recently started strict compliance requirements on all watercraft entering their respective lakes. Mandatory fees, inspections, and compliance stickers are all part of their programs. A similar program at Lake Almanor would not be feasible at this time recognizing the various boat ramps and launching facilities both public and private.

It should be apparent that Quagga/Zebra mussels represent a serious threat to Lake Almanor. At this point in time Lake Almanor does not show any infestation. The biological water samples indicate a "Low Risk" assessment. This is excellent news however it emphasizes the importance to all watercraft owners and users to help maintain this positive trend.

Preventing mussel infestation requires both public and private education with watercraft owners and some type of monitoring/screening program. There are many variables that go into determining the risk factor of lake users, such as: water boats have been in infected lakes, lake users are responsible in their boat inspections, origin points of repeat users, and origin points of one time users such as holiday weekends.

More information can be found on the California Dept of Fish and Game web site at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) under Resource Management, under Invasive Species, and then under DFG Invasive Species Info on the right hand side. Quagga hotline is 866-440-9530.

Please do your part, help us to protect beautiful Lake Almanor. Follow the nine preventative steps listed below which outlines how to keep your watercraft and our lake mussel free.

### DON'T SPREAD INVASIVE SPECIES

When leaving the water:

- **Inspect** all exposed surfaces  
- small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch.
- **Wash** the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.
- **Remove** all plants and animal material.
- **Drain** all water and **dry** all areas.
- **Drain** and **dry** the lower outboard unit.
- **Clean** and **dry** all live-wells.
- **Empty** and **dry** any buckets.
- **Dispose** of all bait in the trash.
- **Wait 5 days** and keep watercraft dry between launches into different fresh waters.



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## Fish For A Wish - Make A Wish

By AJ Casella

It's hard to believe that eight years ago, I walked into The Make-A-Wish offices in San Francisco, California and presented them with an idea. I was twelve years old and somewhat like other kids my age I had some crazy ideas. While the vision to start a fishing tournament for the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish foundation may have seemed like an unrealistic proposal at the age of twelve, I believed that it could be possible with the help of some of the people around me and within the Make-A-Wish foundation. Thanks to my Father Gary, and Uncle Paul, I was able to host the tournament at our families' Big Cove Resort. While the venue for the event was important, the tournament would have never been possible without the generous support of our local merchants, sponsors and fishermen.

The idea originally started as an effort to combine my passion for fishing and a desire that I had to give back to an organization like Make-A-Wish. That desire was born after seeing what Make-A-Wish did for one of our close family friends who had recently passed away from Leukemia. I saw first hand the positive effect the wish experience had on our friend and his family during his treatments. This experience instantly determined me to build my idea into a successful event that could help children in need of a wish.

Eight years later, I am currently planning my 8th annual fishing tournament in an effort to continue granting the wishes of children who suffer with life-threatening illnesses. Over the past seven years, the community around Lake Almanor has continually supported my efforts and has helped me raise almost \$300,000 for the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish foundation. Last year's event achieved another record year, resulting in close to \$70,000 in cash, and in-kind donations, helping to grant the wishes of five children.

While the event has grown significantly over the years, it's still equally important to take some time to reflect on the positives and negatives of the previous year's event. After talking to several annual supporters and local fishermen, I have decided to make some positive changes to this year's event. In an effort to maintain the support of the community around Lake Almanor, ***this year's event will feature a new bass category, a senior discount for supporters over the age of 65, and will include a new dedicated donors appreciation program.*** All donors that have been devoted to contributing to Fish For A Wish for the past five or more years will receive a complementary tournament appreciation package including a free entry fee into the 2012 Fish For A Wish tournament.

This year's event is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 4th at Big Cove Resort. In an attempt to provide a fair and fun event for all participants, the structure of

Fish For A Wish will be changing this year. Prizes will be awarded for the largest single fish in both Trout and Bass categories, in addition to prizes for the greatest total team or boat weight. All participants must be entered in the big fish category to participate in the tournament, and additionally will have the option to enter their boat as a team to win the greatest combined weight category. The tournament will begin at 6:00 am and conclude with a weigh-in, lunch, and raffle at noon.

Entry forms and tournament rules describing the new layout of this year's event will be available at Big Cove Resort (530-596-3349) starting June 1st. We are currently seeking volunteers to help out with planning and event day operations. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please email me at [ajcasella@gmail.com](mailto:ajcasella@gmail.com). Also check out our website [fishforawish.com](http://fishforawish.com), for updated information, entry forms, and donation forms for this year's event. Remember to follow Fish For A Wish on Facebook and twitter #fish4awish, for information and discounts for this year's event.

Thank you for your past support in previous tournaments and we look forward to seeing you in August 2012.

***Pictured Below With AJ Casella Are The Adult Winners Right To Left:  
1st Place Corrine Guio  
2nd Place Doug Neal  
3rd Place Duncan McIntyre***



Continued on Page 11

## Lake Almanor The Blue Meridian

By Doug Neal of Almanor Fishing Adventures



*Pictured Above Is Christian Koster For The Biggest Single Fish*

*Pictured Below With AJ Casella Are The Kid Winners Right To Left:  
1st Place Ryan Nardella  
2nd Place Christian Koster  
3rd Place Derek Beckman*



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At Lake Almanor good things happen every day, sometimes every hour, every minute. It begins at first light. Still morning waters reveal fish casually rising, breaking the surface, filling the panorama of vision. That first cleansing breath of the pine scented morning air stimulates a heightened scene of awareness.

To the northwest, snow capped Mt. Lassen reminds us of this areas volcanic past. Distractions from other places now seen far away and forgotten, as we go forward into the vast blue meridian.

The drive is the desire to find that trophy fish. This is the call. It's always close, but elusive. It can come at any-time, usually when you least expect it. Good things happen to those that fish. There are some big fish here. Make no mistake about it, and they didn't get big by not eating.

A few browns in the 12 to 15 lbs class are caught here every season. Most Almanor browns caught here are closer to the 2 to 5 lbs slot. Rainbows range from 1.5 to 5 lbs. The king salmon are here too. 2½ year old kings will be about 19", and older kings range up to 28" and to 6 lbs. All can be caught by trolling, jigging, on the drift, or bait fishing on anchor. Understanding feeding patterns and insect events takes time.

I have had a place here for 13 years now, and spend my fishing time trolling the top water early, and bait fishing late mornings and afternoons, that's my job. Making good decisions comes from experience, and a lot of that experience came from bad decisions. We learn from our mistakes, or we're supposed to anyway. It took me a long time to get good at this, and there's still a long way to go. Perhaps some of my thoughts about Lake Almanor may shorten your own learning curve.

Most boats that fish Almanor are equipped with downriggers. This lake is ideal for trolling, and it's always a good way to explore the lake while hooking fish. Downriggers or lead core line is required here to get your presentations down deeper as the sun gets higher. Rising surface temps drive fish down to the deeper, cooler water known as the thermocline; downriggers can get you there. However there are other ways to get down there. It's a fact that the biggest fish more often come from suspending baits off the bottom, while on anchor. Mealworms, crickets, night crawlers are all great for trout, smallmouth bass too. While the king salmon will eat these baits as well, they really prefer the anchovy tail the most. I have to remind myself to "Open up the entire playbook" and that some days its best to troll, and some days it's just not. That it is just as important to effectively bait fish and jig in addition to trolling.

Continued on Page 14

## FLATS/MOUTH FEATHER RIVER

### 9. Mouth of the Feather River.

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

### 10. Chester Causeway / North Shore Campground.

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

## PENINSULA/WEST SIDE

### 11. Bailey Creek.

This seasonal creek can flow from May into mid July. Good trolling area in front of the mouth, & south to Bailey Springs & back. Shallow area around the mouth & close to shore, watch for hazards. Browns, rainbows, & bass from Bailey Creek to Rec. Area #2.

### 12. Almanor Peninsula (Recreation Area #2).

Good trolling from Rec Area #2, north to Bailey Creek, or south to the tip of the peninsula. A couple small springs just outside the log boom hold browns & rainbows almost all year. Bait fish on anchor or drift crickets, mealworms, or night crawlers 5 ft off the bottom.

## NORTHEAST SIDE OF PENINSULA

### 13. Almanor Peninsula (Recreation Area #1).

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.

### 14. The A-Frame.

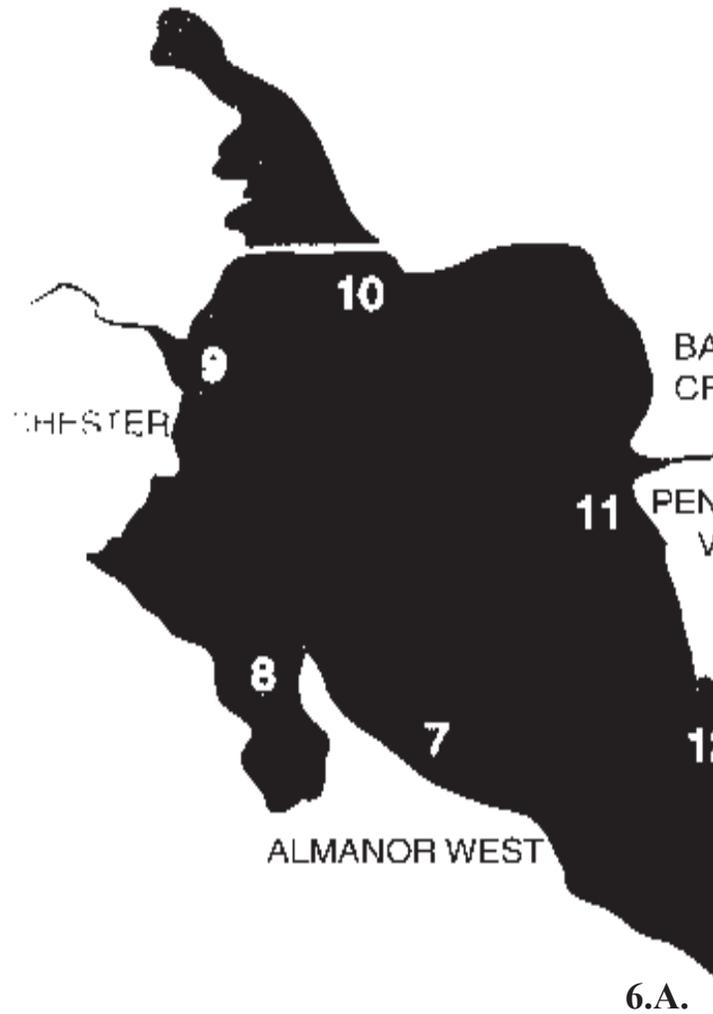
Some have said that this is the best spot on the Lake! A deep water cold spring located just off the shoreline brings them in. The A-Frame is a local land mark, it's easy to spot that aqua marine green roof. This area is famous for some really big fish and limits of browns, rainbows and King Salmon from time to time. Bait fish off the bottom or troll along the shore, both can be productive.

### 15. 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 South past the A-Frame, & down to Rec Area #1 and back or work the shoreline toward Big Springs.

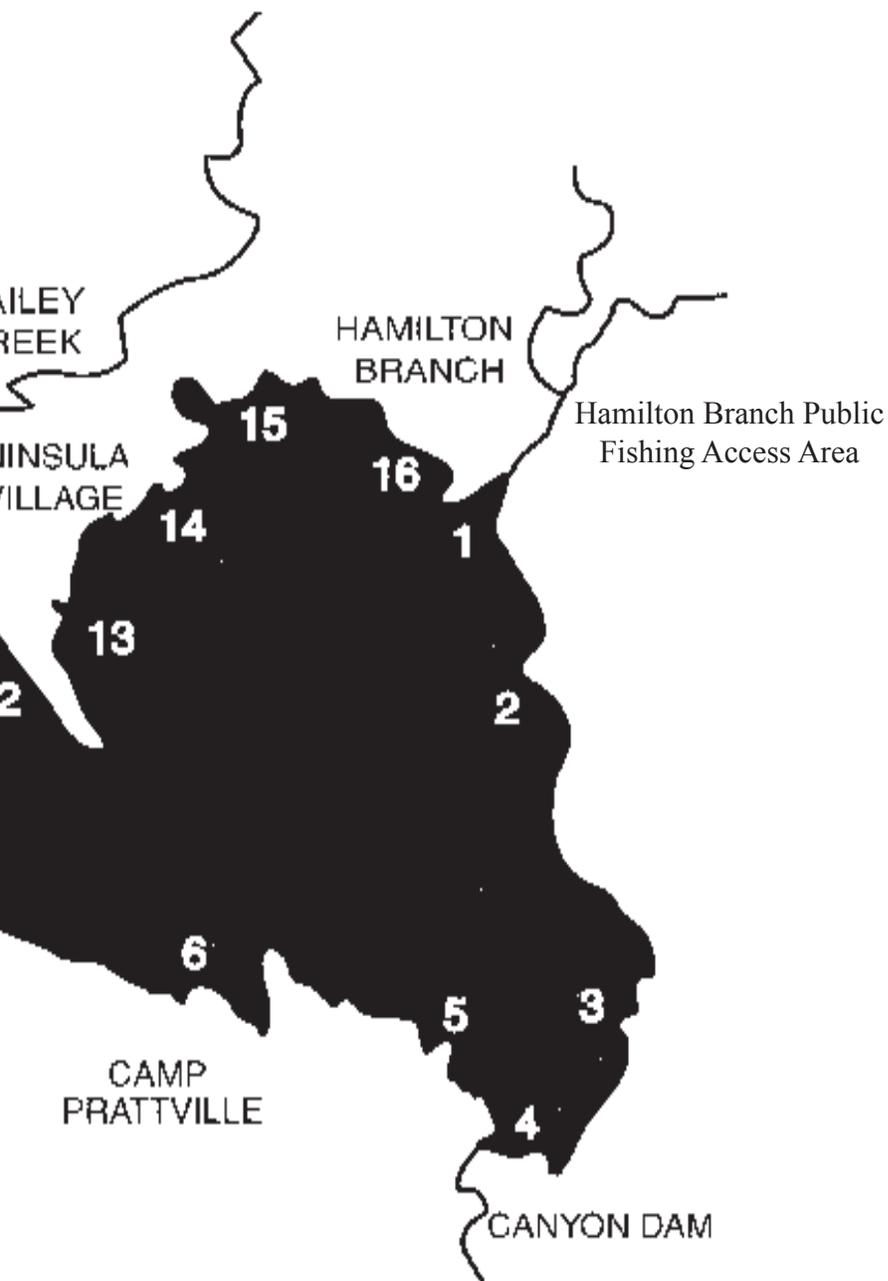
### 16. Big Springs.

Several deep underwater springs are scattered along this area, and a couple in closer to shore. King Salmon, browns & 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, crawlers are effective for trout. Salmon like anchovy tails 5 ft off the bottom.



# Lake Almanor

## EAST SHORE FISHING



### 1. 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.

### 2. 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.

### 3. The Snag.

While trolling the east shore beware of the "Snag". It's a point that juts out and it get shallow there 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.

### 4. Canyon Dam also known as "Geritol Cove".

Another good bank fishing area is in Geritol Cove. For browns and rainbows use inflated nightcrawlers or powerbait off the bottom. Trolling can be great right from the ramp to the east shore and back. Public boat ramp, parking, handicap access, restrooms, picnic tables.

## WEST SHORE FISHING

### 5. Rocky Point Campgrounds.

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

### 6. Prattville.

A good place to start you trolling or have breakfast. Head west toward the jetties for browns and rainbows.

### 6A. USFS Public Boat Ramp.

West of Prattville, in the old town of Almanor. Offers 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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. Goose Bay - West Shore area.

Extreme caution shallow areas, stump fields, and grassy bottom. Rainbows and browns. 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, rattletaps, or plastic worms.

# Almanor

Map Details Provided By Doug Neal

I bait fish about 50% of the year and some of our best days and biggest fish have been on anchor, bait fishing one rod, while jigging another. Being diversified can only help fill that bottom line, and the cooler.

Springtime:

Fish are looking to feed now that leaner winter months have passed. The warming surface temps have fish excited to feed, time to replenish depleted reserves. Longer days have the sun high in the sky. Insect hatches will explode off the lake bottom like a flower blooming in fast forward. Food will be abundant as the aquatic food chain shifts out of neutral and into 1st. gear. And once it gets rolling it's not going to stop for 5 months.

Green and blood midge hatches, black leeches, all stimulate the bite, leading up to the mother of all insect events, the hex hatch. Insect larva's rising up from the muddy depths are like sitting ducks to feeding fish. Picked off one after another, as they struggle to make their way up the water column toward the surface. Insect protein converts quickly to energy, and spring time hook ups usually deliver a good battle from even the smaller fish.

Spring and summer insect reproduction hatches will take some pressure off the pond smelt, allowing time for them to start their own reproduction cycles. And all the while, lurking in the depths, the big fish are there, looking for any easy target. They need to eat every day, and often. We know this; we lay awake at night thinking about this. What can we do to get Mr. Big on the bite?

Lake Almanor's big fish are smart, but also lazy. Following the schools of Tui Chub bait fish, commonly referred to as smelt, picking up the weak, stragglers that fall behind, or any collateral damage caused by the more aggressive younger fish. All winter long our smelt populations have been constantly pursued by hungry fish.

Slashing thru, attacking the large bait schools separating off smaller groups of smelt, until they are but a few, and the last one consumed. Many bait fish will be damaged in feeding attacks, stunned or tail wacked, falling behind means falling victim, to the big fish that are right there, cleaning up on the leftovers. Big fish are lazy, over time they have learned to pick up on the easy stuff. While the young fish do all the work, the fat cats just keep getting fatter (sounds just like our Congress). Knowing their weakness, it can be used against them if you know how.

Soft hand poured PVC plastics baits like the "Basstrix" line, offer realistic smelt patterns that I often employ to get quality fish that are focused on the smelt. They can be jigged or trolled behind a dodger. White, yellow, or chartreuse jigs are often used here to mimic the evasive maneuvers of a panicked bait fish that has been separated from the safety of the school. Also these colors hold their true value and contrast as they are worked in deeper water

where there's much less light. Berkley Power Minnows are designed to look and smell like baitfish. Working or trolling smelt patterns slowly along the bottom are what fish find as easy pickings. Or as one guy called it "The Dead Look".

Think like a fish, be the fish, smell like a fish. Whether your trolling or bait fishing, mooching, or on the drift, add some Pro-Cure 'Trophy Trout' Super Gel. It's made from ground up Tui Chub. Tui Chub is a common baitfish found all over the world. Our Lake Almanor smelt populations fall into that classification of baitfish. Remember a scent path always helps.

Lake levels are going to lower this year. We just won't match the winter of 2010/2011 this year, too much dry time has passed. Nov. Dec. and Jan. and most of Feb. have been dry. Insect hatches will be prolific, and setting up this year's hex hatch as a much anticipated event. 2010/2011 was the most snow and rain accumulations in the Almanor basin since 1951, 60 years.

So, here we are moving through spring and on to summer, knowing that the stage is set for another great season; it's just waiting for you. Good luck, and as The Cars song says, "Let the good times roll."

About the author and guide, Doug Neal. His work has been published in Western Outdoor News, The Fish Sniffer, California Fish and Game Magazine, Chico Enterprise Record, and the California Sportsman's Magazine, among others. His seminars won "Best in the West" award, at the Sacramento International Sportsman's Exposition 2012. In addition to "Live On The Water" fishing reports, for "The California Sportsman's Radio Program" with Sep Hendrickson, KHTK 1140 AM and the "Bob Simms Outdoor Program" KBFK 1530 AM.

Doug Neal operates "Almanor Fishing Adventures" a year round resident guide service. Starting our 10th season guiding Lake Almanor. Posting weekly, Lake Almanor Fishing and Lake Status Reports, or book a trip at: [www.almanorfishingadventure.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventure.com)

**Judd Hanna Of Mill Creek - Guide Doug Neal**



## A Few Reminders From Plumas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol

By Otto Brackett - Boat Patrol Supervisor



Rod Overstreet Of Clayton - Guide Doug Neal

Doug Neal (530) 258-6732

Almanor Fishing Adventures



Guide Service

[www.almanorfishingadventures.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventures.com)

## A Few Reminders From Plumas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol

By Otto Brackett - Boat Patrol Supervisor

Well here it is the end of February and we are still looking for winter. Except for some very cold days, you would never know winter had been here. Because of the lack of rain and snow they are starting to talk about water shortage and water rationing. Maybe we can ask Irene to do a rain dance.

Section 10-1.17 of the Plumas County Code states that the use of a boat for bedroom purposes is prohibited by law. This is the time after sun down but before day break of the following day for bedroom purposes. Every year we get questioned as to why. I personally hope this law stays in effect. Some boaters state they are equipped to take care of human waste. I counter that for every boat that is equipped, how many more are not. Also of boats that are equipped, does that mean they will use them? Will a boat owner take his boat out of the lake to empty the waste tank? I do not know of any place on Lake Almanor where a boat can dump their waste. I would not like to see Lake Almanor become a cesspool.

PFD/Personal Flotation Device: The law states that every boater under the age of 13 must be wearing a PFD while the boat is in motion. For infants and very small children you can ask your boat patrol deputy as he should have one in his boat loaners. We are there to help out in this situation. The law also states there must be a PFD for every person in the boat. The PFD's come in all sizes. Be sure to make sure that all of them are labeled as US Coast Guard Approved; it will be marked on the inside of it. Be sure each person has one that fits. If a PFD

is too large for a small child when they go into the water they can slip through or become hidden from view. Make sure these are in good condition with no breaks or tears and the strap is present. For infants and small children make sure their PFD has a strap that goes between the legs so they can't slip/fall through. I would suggest that all people that can't swim or poor swimmers wear a PFD. One last thing about PFD's is that some stores sell PFD's that look just like the US Coast Guard Approved ones, but are lighter in weight. These can also be a name brand one however still not approved by the Coast Guard. Skiers and boarders like them because they are more comfortable. People will pay \$100 or more for them not knowing they are illegal. You can be cited if you are wearing them not knowing they are illegal. Last summer I stopped two older gentlemen on a wave runner and checked their PFD's; one of them was wearing an illegal one and he had no idea. He was not cited and I escorted him back to shore. These cannot be counted as PFD's for use in your boat.

Swimming – Section 10-1.14:

1. No person shall swim or bathe in designated boat launching areas where such areas are designated boat launching areas and where such areas are posted or buoyed.
2. Open and main channels of lakes: No person shall swim in the open or main channel of any lake within the county unless accompanied by a boat commanded by a competent operator. In the boat shall be a PFD for the swimmer. This is in regard to people swimming 300 feet from shore.

Aircraft – Section 10-1.13 of the Plumas County code states no person shall land any aircraft on or take any aircraft off any body of water not specifically designated for the landing of aircraft unless a permit to do so is first obtained from the sheriff.

Boats Speed Limit - Section 10-1.06(c): No person shall operate a boat at speeds in excess of five (5) miles per hour between the hours of one-half (½) hour after sunset and one-half (½) hour before sunrise of the following day.

May I remind you of your boating preparedness:

1. Every time start out with new gas.
2. Get new spark plugs.
3. Check wiring.
4. Make sure your fuel container is clean.
5. Shake the tank to make sure the gas and oil mix properly.
6. Before you leave home start your motor before you go, this way if you have a problem you won't be out on the water away from help. This comes from personal experience. One time I had got up real early to go fishing. I got my boat in the water and the boat would not run. You might know I was not a happy camper.

Don't forget to check the blower in the boat. The blower can save your life. Gas in your bilge is very dangerous and it doesn't take much gas in the bilge to have an explosion.

If you do most of these things you can have a good day on the lake. Oh I almost forgot: DON'T FORGET TO PUT THE BOAT PLUG IN!!!!!!!  
Have a great summer !!



# Almanor Fishing Association, PG&E and Kokanee Power Announce NEW DERBY !!!

By Gary Coe - Kokanee Power President

The executive board and the members of Kokanee Power are excited about the sponsorship by Pacific Gas and Electric, and the Derby planned with Almanor Fishing Association for July 7th 2012.

PG&E has provided grants to Kokanee Power to help with the fisheries enhancement projects in Northern California Lakes, including the pen project at Lake Almanor. Lake Almanor is a very special recreational and fishing lake for the public and Kokanee Power is proud to be in partnership with AFA, California Department of Fish and Game, and PG&E. This is a great example of how PG&E's Community Grant program can help all of us partner on maintaining and enhancing this beautiful natural resource. There are many PG&E employees and retirees that are involved in this volunteer effort.

The new derby on July 7th was planned with the AFA leadership team to help the Almanor Pen Project become self sustaining. A successful derby could help with the maintenance and food for the continuation of the 50,000 annual trout pen. Kokanee Power has the experience in running derbies and AFA has the local resources to help manage the operation of the derby. We hope to see great support in the form of derby registrants and sponsorships. If the community gets behind this important fundraiser, it could be the start of AFA developing the funds to sustain the cages.

Kokanee Power now has the following pen operations in California:

Lakes and Partners	Number of Pen(s)	Number of Fish Enhanced	Pounds of Food and Cost
Shasta Lake-Jones Valley Marina	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Shasta Lake- Sugarloaf	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Shasta Lake-Silverthorn	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Shasta Lake-Holiday Harbor	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Shasta Lake-Tsasdi	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Shasta Lake- Antlers	1	800/year	1,100 lbs @ \$550
Trinity Lake	3	2250/year	3,000 lbs @ \$1,500
Lewiston Lake	2	750/year	1,000 lbs @ \$500
Collins Lake	6	3,000/year	5,000 lbs @ \$2,500
New Melones	2	1,000/year	2,000 lbs @ \$1,000
Lake Almanor	10	50,000/year	15,000 lbs @ \$7,500

Kokanee Power has recently taken over the responsibility of the Lewiston and Trinity Lake pens that California Inland Fisheries had asked Fish and Game to find a replacement partner. Each of the Partners helps with derbies, business memberships and donations for the Annual Kokanee Power Dinner in March. Our goal is to partner to build sustainable funding for each of our Fishery Enhancement Projects.

To join in the partnering effort, please contact me at 1-916-985-4943 or go to our Website  
<http://www.kokaneepower.org>

Hope to see you at the Almanor Derby and other fundraising events... Gary Coe-Kokanee Power President

**Almanor Properties, Inc.**  
 313 Peninsula Drive  
 Lake Almanor, CA 96137

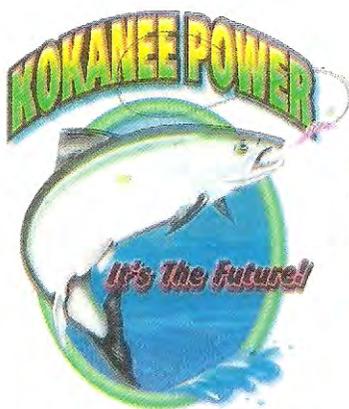
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 Managers

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KOKANEE POWER & THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION PRESENT THE:

# LAKE ALMANOR TEAM TROUT & SALMON DERBY

## Saturday, July 7, 2012

### Heaviest Team Limits Win

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[almanorfishingassociation.com](http://almanorfishingassociation.com)

#### TEAM ENTRY FEES:

(per participant)

- \$45.00 (member) / \$55 (non-member)
  - Open to any age
  - **THREE** fish weigh-in per team
- Rainbow, Brown Trout and/or King Salmon
  - A **TEAM** is one or more anglers.
    - One boat per team
    - One team per boat

All California Fish & Game laws apply. At age 16, a Junior will be required to possess a valid adult fishing license.

#### TEAM SIDE POTS

- Blind Bogy: \$20.00 per team (Heaviest Limit + Lightest Limit Divided By 2)
- Big King Salmon: \$20.00 per team
- Big Trout: \$20.00 per team
- All 3 Side Pots: \$50.00 per team

Check-In, Registration, Weigh-In, Awards & Raffle Event will be held at the:

Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access  
Hwy. 147 at County Road A-13

Take Hwy. 36 East to A-13  
On the right just before the intersection of  
A-13 and Hwy. 147

For more info: [almanorfishing@frontiernet.net](mailto:almanorfishing@frontiernet.net)

#### JUNIOR DIVISION INFO

**JUNIOR DIVISION  
ANGLERS FISH FREE !!!!**  
(with paid adult)

- Open to anglers 15 yrs of age and under
- **ONE** fish weigh-in per junior
- Must weigh-in separate from team.
  - Junior Division Prizes
- Anglers 15 years and under cannot participate in Junior Division if they fish as part of a team

**FOR INFORMATION ON PLACES  
TO STAY AT LAKE ALMANOR  
CHECK OUT:**

[www.plumascounty.org](http://www.plumascounty.org)

- Payouts down to 15th Place
- 1st Place: \$600 (based on 125 paid anglers)

### Important Information

**Registration:** by mail, by phone, or at the Check-In (see below)

Mail completed registration no less than 7 days prior to the derby date, call the derby chairperson to register by phone or register at Check-In.

**Check-In:** Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area

Friday July 6, 2012, 3:00 - 7:00 pm and  
Saturday July 7, 2012, 5:00am-5:30am  
All anglers must check-in prior to fishing.

**Derby Start Time:**

5:30am (no exceptions)

**Weigh-In:** Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area

Starts: 1:00pm Ends: 2:00pm  
\* You must be in weigh-in line by 2:00pm

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

**Lunch:** (included with entry fee & begins at 1:00pm)

**Lunch Only: \$15.00**

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Gary Coe  
916-985-4943

Email:  
[coekanee@att.net](mailto:coekanee@att.net)

#### **KOKANEE POWER**

P.O. Box 3857  
Merced, Ca 95344  
"a 501(c)3 Non-profit  
Organization since  
1998"  
[www.kokaneepower.org](http://www.kokaneepower.org)

# Quail Lodge Lake Almanor Trout Fishing Adventures

By Allen Shepherd

Allen Shephard is a PROFESSIONAL Fishing and Hunting Guide in the Lake Almanor area. His dream has always been to own a Fishing and Hunting Lodge, where fishing and hunting people can gather to enjoy the sport.

Allen has stayed at many fishing resorts around the world. He had the opportunity to Fly Fish CHRISTMAS ISLAND for his 50th birthday. The sport fish there was Bone Fish. It was truly a lifetime experience. He has many years of experienced game fishing in Baja Mexico, Loreto and Cabo San Lucas.

Allen has been FISHING AND HUNTING the Lake Almanor area for over 40 years. He has fished and hunted with local guides and GUIDED friends throughout the years. He has developed his own skills and secrets. Allen has gained a wealth of knowledge fishing and hunting the Lake Almanor area. He is experienced in Fly-Fishing as well as Conventional Fishing and Deer Hunting. Allen is patient and a very good instructor. Lessons are included in our fishing rates. We also provide equipment and bait.

ALLEN SHEPHARD PROFESSIONAL LICENSED FISHING AND HUNTING GUIDE-CALIFORNIA LICENSED #011749 AND BONDED

Special pricing for children and singles. We also offer a \$10.00 discount on rooms when you mention fishing with one of our Lake Almanor Guides.

Advanced reservations recommended 530-284-0861.

[www.QuailLodgeLakeAlmanor.com](http://www.QuailLodgeLakeAlmanor.com)



*Pictured Above Is Matt Goodrich Proudly Showing His Beautiful 10lb Brown*



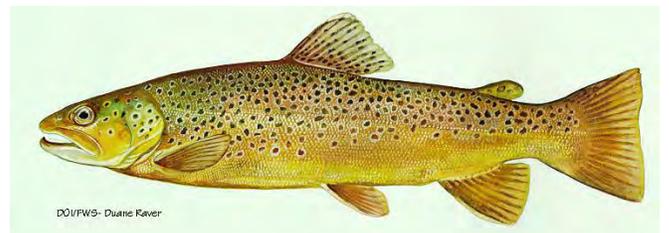
*Pictured Above Is New Guide Allen Shepherd Of Quail Lodge Lake Almanor Trout Fishing Adventures*

**QUAIL LODGE LAKE ALMANOR  
TROUT FISHING ADVENTURES**

**ALLEN SHEPHARD  
Fishing Guide**

29615 HIGHWAY 89  
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[www.QuailLodgeLakeAlmanor.com](http://www.QuailLodgeLakeAlmanor.com)

530-284-0861



**Quail Lodge  
Lake Almanor**

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# Fly Fishing Lassen Park and Adjoining Areas

By Tom Maumoynier of The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company

I have had the opportunity to teach the sport of fly fishing for the Drakesbad Guest Ranch over the past 4 years. I have met some wonderful people at the Ranch, mostly beginners who enjoyed learning a new way to enjoy the outdoors. I own The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company in Chester and have lived and fished the area for over twenty years; the Lassen Park and Caribou Wilderness are near and dear to my heart. I have known many local old timers that have given me some great information on how it was in days past, and leads on places to venture to in the southern most portions of the Cascades.

The area is blessed with many streams and lakes that hold wild trout; I say wild because the Park has not planted fish since the 80's. These fish are generally smaller but what they lack in size they make up in beauty. There are rainbows, browns and very colorful brook trout that inhabit the surrounding waters.

My favorite fly fishing is from Drakesbad Guest Ranch, south and south east to Caribou Lake via Caribou Wilderness. That region encompasses approximately one hundred thousand acres with an average elevation of six thousand nine hundred feet. The best accesses are, Drakesbad through Warner Valley, Juniper Lake, Hay Meadows and Caribou Lake; a good web site for maps and directions is [www.Sherpaguides.com](http://www.Sherpaguides.com). This end of Lassen Park and Caribou Wilderness gets less pressure than the well traveled part by the main entrance on route 89.

Because of the elevation the best time to fish is mid June until September; these three and a half months one can explore countless lakes. As with almost everywhere most of the better fishing includes a hike of some sort and this is no exception. Most hikes are no more than five miles, which passes nicely because of the diverse scenery.

The longest stream is King's Creek which can be reached by heading up to Drakesbad Guest Ranch, the stream itself is mostly pocket water with some small runs. All local varieties of trout inhabit the creek; they are very colorful and eager. Lake fishing is the main fair, with large diverse lakes such as Snag and Horseshoe to small intimate lakes like Gem, Teal and Jackey. If the fishing is slow or there are other people around it is just a short walk to the next opportunity for a new pristine lake; it is all about exploration.

The fly fishing equipment I would recommend would be a three or four weight rod seven to eight and half feet long, a four piece rod is best for packing. A floating line would be used the majority of the time but a slow sinking line is a real help in the lakes. Leaders seven and half feet to nine feet long tapering to either four or three pounds will fool trout. A packable float tube and light weight waders would cover most all that is needed to enjoy fly fishing. As far as flies just your basic assortment that includes adams, mosquito and humpy's for dry flies and timberline emergers, small wooly buggers and leeches in various colors would be great wet flies. Always bring bug spray, sunscreen, a head covering, rain gear and water; they make some great water filters that will save on weight. Maps and GPS will let you safely explore a lake that is off the main trails. I hope this will help to motivate you to get out and explore this little known part of California. Please use barbless hooks and catch and release to protect this self sustaining resource.

See you on the trail, Tom.



**THE LAKE ALMANOR FLY FISHING COMPANY**

181 Main Street  
P.O. Box 273  
Chester, CA 96020

Tom Maumoynier

Phone: 530-258-3944  
E-mail: [flyfishing@frontiernet.net](mailto:flyfishing@frontiernet.net)  
[www.almanorflyfishing.com](http://www.almanorflyfishing.com)

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## Almanor Research Institute Trout Hatchery

By Dave Bradley of Chester High School

Chester High School's Almanor Research Institute Trout Hatchery is still up and running with more than 1,000 pounds of Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout. The trout were donated to the program almost 2 years ago by California Department of Fish and Game. The facility, operated by Chester High School students in the Aquaculture class, was expanded this year by adding three 500 gallon tanks. The hatchery now has seven 500 gallon tanks, four 300 gallon acrylic tanks, six 100 gallon aquariums, and two 100 gallon troughs. The capacity of the hatchery is one pound of fish for every two gallons of water so the facility is less than one half of its capacity with the current levels of fish.

The hatchery is a re-circulatory system, 100% of the water is re-circulated at a rate of 250 gallons each minute. The trout are sensitive to ammonia waste, low oxygen, and high temperatures. What allows the fish to be maintained in a re-circulating system, at these levels, are two 1000 gallon bio reactors that remove dissolved organic compounds and convert ammonia waste to nontoxic nitrate. Oxygen is purified from the air by an oxygen generator. We try to maintain an oxygen level between 9.0 and 13.0 parts per million. Temperature is controlled during the warm summer months by a water cooled chiller. Once a week the system is purged by adding new water.

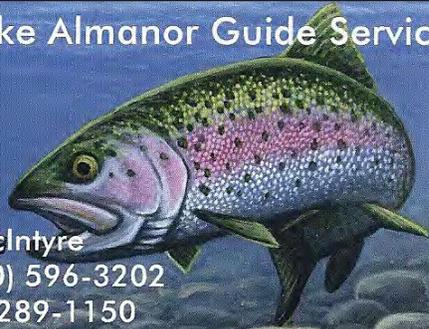
This year the students will try to spawn the trout that have been raised in the hatchery. If they are successful, it will be the first time hatchery raised trout have been spawned for their eggs. The Aquaculture class will still spawn wild Lake Almanor Rainbow Trout in the spring, if the conditions allow it. The goal of the aquaculture is to incubate 100,000 eggs this year. The fingerlings from these eggs would be raised during the summer and released in the late fall. We would like to maintain a fish population of about 2,000 pounds of fish. This would include breeders for next year spawn.

Plans for next year are to replace the chiller; the system is too large for the present chiller. During the summer months the temperature of the water can reach 70 F. We try to keep the temperature around 58 F.

If anybody is interested in having a tour of the facility and seeing the trout up close, please call Chester High School, 530-258-2126.



**Mac's Lake Almanor Guide Service**



**Duncan McIntyre**  
 Home (530) 596-3202  
 Cell (510) 289-1150

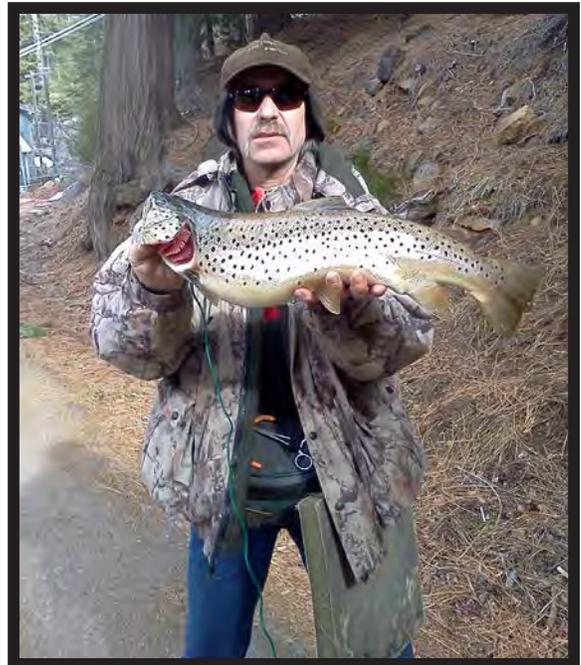
**The Sports Nut**      530-258-3327  
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208 Main Street  
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 Chester Ca 96020

thenut@citlink.net

More Lake Almanor Fish Photos



# ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION'S 2011 19TH ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC



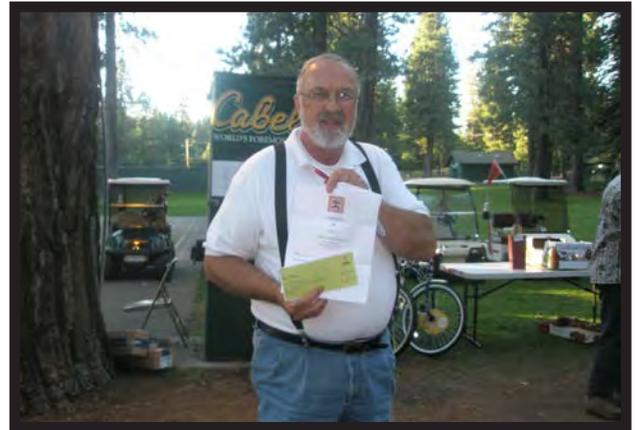
*Ray & Dianna Pallari of Lake Almanor were the lucky winners of Dick's Guide Service Fishing Trip*



*Ric Hansen for Ken Worsham of Indio was the lucky winner of the Big Cove Resort Package*



*Phil Baiocchi of San Rafael was the lucky winner of the Peppermill Package*



*Mike Head of Orland was the lucky winner of the Lake Almanor Country Club Golf Package plus a Gift Certificate from Dianna's*



*Diane Dowden of Lake Almanor was the lucky winner of the Atlantis Casino Package*



*Reuben Chavez of Lake Almanor was the lucky winner of the His & Hers Bicycles donated by the Almanor Fishing Association*

# Almanor Fishing Association's 20th Annual Family BBQ



Saturday, July 28, 2012  
From 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Lake Almanor Country Club  
Recreation Area #1

New York Steak Dinner  
\$20.00 Donation

Hot Dog Plate  
\$5.00 Donation



Get Your Tickets  
Early



Dinner Served  
from 5:00 to 6:45 pm

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### Fish Plants 2011

*Eagle Lake Rainbows.....	40,000
*Browns.....	20,000
*Salmon.....	65,000
*Eagle Lake Rainbows (Cages).....	50,000
Total.....	175,000

### Projected Fish Plants 2012

*Eagle Lake Rainbows.....	46,000
*Browns.....	20,000
*Salmon.....	60,000
*Eagle Lake Rainbows (Cages).....	50,000
Total.....	176,000

*Estimates May Vary Due To Availability Of Fish*

Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters  
1 888 DFG-CALTIP(888 334-2258)  
A Confidential Secret Witness Program

CalTIP (Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters) is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide Fish and Game with factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters.

CalTIP was introduced in California in 1981 in order to give Californians an opportunity to help protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. The toll free telephone number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**You do not have to give your name.**

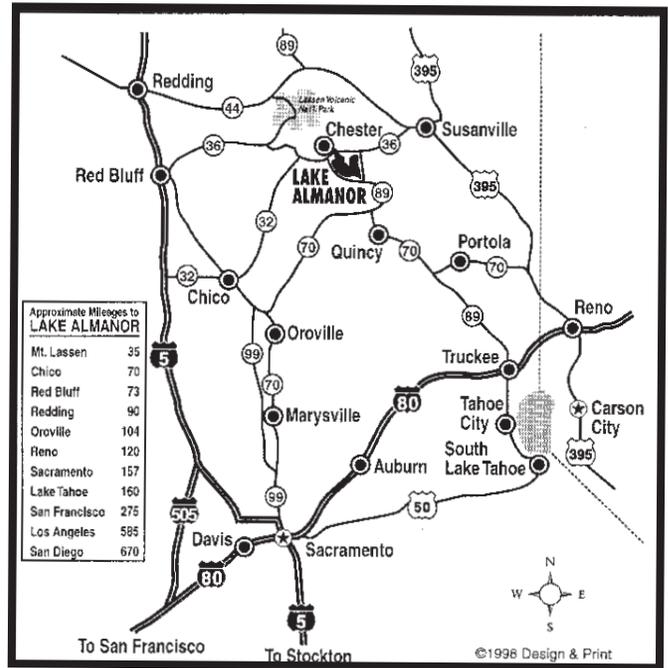
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### FISHING FYI'S

#### SPORT FISHING LICENSE ONLINE NOW:

You can now buy your sport fishing license online & print them with internet access.

Licenses are required of any person 16 years of age or older.

To get your fishing license online go to [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov). You can print a temporary document for immediate use which will be valid for 15 days. The original will be mailed to you.

Must use a Visa or MasterCard for secure purchasing.

#### FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2012:

July 7th (Saturday) and

Sept 8th (Saturday after Labor Day)

On Free Fishing days, Californians can fish any freshwater lakes without a fishing license. All fishing regulations remain in effect.

#### LICENSE DISPLAY:

As of March 1, 2010, anglers no longer have to display their sport fishing license on their outer clothing above the waist.

However, their sport fishing license must still be in their immediate possession while fishing, except when diving as provided in Fish and Game Code Section 7145.

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