



The Almanor Fisherman

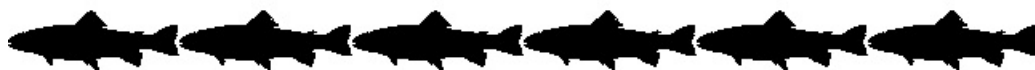
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION



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 and receive our annual newsletter.

Fish Rearing Cage Program

A big thanks goes to Jim and Toni Pleau, Reuben and Julie Chavez and Ron DeCoto for their foresight and initiative; Rich Dengler and Ann Bakey for their tireless efforts in promoting and enhancing AFA, PG&E for their long-standing support; California Fish & Wildlife for our 35 year partnership; our dedicated and hardworking volunteers for their eagerness to do good and be personally motivated to support the pen project regardless of need – and, most importantly, to Paul and Wanda Garrido for their many years of devotion and unselfish desire to keep the pen program alive.



Almanor Fishing Association



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The Almanor Fishing Association 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 their 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.

*Thank
You!*



AFA FISH FEEDer APPRECIATION LUNCH! Left to Right: Ray Pallari, Henry Gronroos, David Baker, Ed Organ, Doug Neal, George Hormel, John Green, Phil Datner, Dan Back, Ron Mendoza, Steve Fleming (kneeling), Gary Hinshaw, John Crotty, Bob Michael, and Brett Hurff. Not pictured – Aaron Kelly

PRESIDENT's MESSAGE



My name is John Crotty and for the past few months I have been honored and humbled to be the president of the Almanor Fishing Association. I was prepared to write an article for the 2018 newsletter and talk about our great volunteers, our fish pen program, Veteran fishing opportunities and all AFA does for Lake Almanor and Plumas County. After some soul searching, I decided it would be far too easy to mention our accomplishments and pat ourselves on the back. Instead, I hope that this article will motivate you to get involved, volunteer and support the organizations that fuel your passions.

While it is easy to question California Fish & Wildlife's fish planting policies, triploids vs. diploids, keep/release, our multiyear drought, global warming, fishing pressure, etc. we as fishermen and outdoorsmen need to look in the mirror and ask what we can do to preserve and enhance the sport's we love. At the age of sixty I have witnessed firsthand the decline of the once mighty Eel River fishery, the decimation of our Abalone beds, the decline of our coastal Salmon and Steelhead fisheries, the systematic deterioration of Eagle Lakes once world class fishery, and the list goes on. If you think Almanor's fishery is immune to the perils that have devastated other fisheries, please think again. You need look no further than Eagle Lake to see how a declining fishery impacts a local economy. Could Lake Almanor be next?

The following is my opinion and may/may not represent the views of the AFA Board and our members. I firmly believe: a five-fish limit on Almanor is excessive to sustain our fishery; fish seeking shelter in Hamilton Branch and those attempting to reach spawning grounds via the Super Ditch need protection. I also strongly encourage the release of Browns and spawning Rainbows, while photo worthy, they are not good table fare and a good taxidermist can make a replica from a picture and supporting measurements.

AFA's Board and our members work tirelessly to protect and enhance Almanor's fishery. CIFI, PELT, Kokanee Power and other organizations perform similar services for the waterways they support. While you may not be able or available to volunteer your time, I encourage anyone reading this to join and support the organizations that work for you. In most cases membership dues are less than the cost of a lunch and much less than a tank of gas for your boat. The sustainability of our fisheries and outdoors depends on all of us.

Please get involved, join, volunteer and assist those who share your passion. Thanks for supporting AFA!

New Members Needed

Please help support the Almanor Fishing Association. Thank you!

ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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



Almanor Smallmouth Fishing

World Class Smallmouth fishing can be had on Almanor. Starting in April the water warms and Smallmouth go on the bite preparing for the May spawn here. This is the best time to land a trophy Smallmouth of 4-6 pounds.

The two best techniques I've found for pre-spawn Smallmouth are ripping and swimbaits. Good rip baits are the Stacey and pointer minnows from lucky craft or the #9 shadrap by Rapala. Four-inch swimbaits like the Kietech fat minnow or basstrix are also affective. I fish the points and edges of flats near the spawning areas. Also, anywhere the wind is blowing into the bank. Try these methods during pre-spawn. You will be pleasantly surprised!!

Please take a camera to document your catch. Practice catch and release to keep the fishing good for all of us!

Ben Williams
Fishdog Outdoors



JUST A BEAUTIFUL DAY.....I CAN'T SAY MORE

Lake Almanor, Outlook 2018

By Guide, Doug Neal.
Almanor
Fishing
Adventures.



After the 'Winter that Wasn't', many have already asked, what's in store this year with less cold water available? Lake levels will be stable for most of the summer however there's not much snow pack to rely on. Generally we notice a drop in lake levels after the 4th of July weekend, this year it could be earlier. Surface temps will spike earlier and last longer.

How's that going to effect fishing? Hard to say for sure. However, based on past experiences I believe the fishing could be very good early this spring and solid during the summer months. This season expect lower lake levels to produce more successful aquatic bug hatches, like past low water years here.

Clear skies, warm sunny days, less cold runoff, means a warming that will trigger early and above average aquatic insect hatches. Or hatch levels could remain the same and just last deeper into the summer.

Last year, a above average water year, the Hex hatch was a dud.. Not this year, very little snow and less rain.

Last February while trolling Almanor West it was 55 degrees at noon. Aquatic insect activity was already showing on the sonar, with even a few airborne bugs flying around. Unbelievable.

Usually in February there's 4 ft. of snow, the lake is semi covered in sheets of ice, and it 26 degrees.

That was then, and winter, as weak as it was, is in the rear view mirror.

So now you're here at beautiful Lake Almanor.

And it's a good time to be here. All creatures are happy now as the food chain awakens anew with the promise of springtime and the abundance of summer.

The surface warms, as sunlight penetrates the shallows. Evidence of insect hatches begin to appear all across both basins. Fish are becoming active as they consume the first aquatic insect larva rising from the lake bed. Insect protein converts to energy quickly, and we're off. Even 2 pounders are ripping off line, going airborne. Burning the everlasting image forever into the very fabric of your memory. Slapping high fives, wet nets, and excited kids. That's fishing, that's what keeps us coming back for more.

Through spring, summer, and into fall the bite begins to spike like the stock market, going up during a dark moon phase, and dropping off during a full moon. Full moons enable fish with more feeding hours, which changes feeding times and cycles. If you're fishing during a full moon cycle pack an extra sandwich. Sometimes the best bite is super early, and not again until after lunchtime into the late afternoon.

Continued from Page 4

But generally, every day it's getting a little better, every passing week fish are feeding and growing. By mid July fish will be turning their attention to smelt as insect reproduction cycles have peaked, and are now declining.

As we roll through the summer, and lake levels drop, you will find more fish seeking the sanctuary of spring fed areas around the east basin. Some of these Springs can be found on fishing maps, most of them cannot. It's estimated there are about 200 springs here, some very small, others much larger, and flowing fresh clean water all year round.

Springs give Lake Almanor a huge advantage over most lakes. Delivering unseen upwellings, keeping the water fresh, and helping sustain lake levels.

This is my 19th season fishing Lake Almanor, and my 15th year guiding. I've learned a few things, and there's always more to learn, that's for sure.

When I first arrived here in 1999 I really was more of a stream and creek fisherman. So at first, looking out at this vast body of water for fish was like looking out across a desert and wondering where the oasis was, what direction I should go?

I wanted to troll mostly, but I needed to learn how to bait fish and jig on anchor as well.

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. But when it comes to fishing I did not want to spend any time making mistakes, I wanted to catch fish, period.

It could take an average resident years to really get a handle on a lake so big, so diversified. Catching one here and one there and taking all day to "get 'er done" wasn't working for me. Like most anglers, we all want to make the most of our time spent on the water productive. Including me.

So I hired a guide to show me the ropes, and to shorten my learning curve.

My guide was Doug D'Angelo. He lived about a mile down the peninsula from me. He guided Lake Almanor for over 50 years. Nobody knew more about this lake than him. In my first 6 outings, I learned more about fishing Almanor from him than I would have in years out there 'winging it' alone. He knew all the spring locations, when they produced, and how to fish them.

I was fortunate to have fished with him many times over the last 14 years of his life.

I miss him, his quick wit, and straight 'no nonsense' attitude when it came to catching fish.

While D'Angelo preferred to bait fish and jig on anchor. He did troll a little as well, but for him trolling was the last resort.

His bait fishing and jigging knowledge was well advanced over most, let's say superior. Over the years I've been able to combine bait fishing and jigging skills, along with trolling skills, producing some very large fish.

Being diversified in both these disciplines opens up the entire playbook of angling possibilities at Lake Almanor. Because some days its better to bait fish, and some days its just not. Some days its better to troll.

So when it came time to sharpen my trolling techniques, I read everything I could find. I attended seminars at the huge ISE shows in Sacramento and then San Mateo. Looking for Trout trolling seminars from experts like Brian Roc-cucci, and Rick Kennedy. Learning to make adjustments. And that's where I met Sep Hendrickson. Sep introduced me to all the Pro Trolling Elite. He also gave me advice about fishing etiquette, and always taking the 'High Road' when others are taking shots at you. He was another who helped me along the way, he helped shorten my trolling learning curve big time. After a few years of aggressive fishing here it was me on stage giving seminars at ISE. Thanks Sep, you are one in a million.

Now Days, I am slowing down a little, out of the fast lane, enjoying every day out on the water. Sharing all I can with the next generation of enthusiastic Almanor anglers.

There's a lot of savvy guys fishing here at Almanor. Some are very good fishermen and women, with terrific boats and experience, who don't need any help. Others need help.

Some of you that come here will have only a few days to catch fish before heading home.

Hiring a guide should shorten your learning curve. There are several guides listed in this publication. So if your looking for the next level, call me, or give one of them a call. They're all great guides and you will learn different approaches, schemes, theories, and tricks of the trade that produce results, which is the bottom line.

I fish Lake Almanor all year, but generally really start guiding a lot more in March, weather permitting, and wrap up the season in November.

Book early for best available dates. Holidays and weekends book up fast.

Just need some current info? Call or text me Doug Neal at 530-258-6732.

We also post The Almanor Fishing Report at almanorfishingadventures.com

Marine Band CHL 69, Almanor King, if your out, give us a shout.





FLY FISHING LAKE ALMANOR WITH POND SMELT

A pond smelt that thrives in Lake Almanor is a Japanese Pond Smelt. The Japanese word for pond smelt is “Wakasagi”. In 1972 and 1973 the California Department of Fish and wildlife introduced the pond smelt to Lake Almanor to provide a food source for the trout. It worked. Every fish in the lake eats pond smelt!

The pond smelt is available to the fish all year long. So fishing a pond smelt pattern is a good fly to fish. Many times the pond smelt are in small groups throughout the lake. Other times it is like fishing an ocean – look for the birds. You find the birds you will be right on a huge bait ball with thousands of pond smelt together in a group. Usually this doesn’t happen until fall when the pond smelt go on spawn themselves but, I have seen it throughout the year. The birds will be on the pond smelt from the top and the fish will be crashing through them from the bottom. The poor smelt don’t have a chance. Not to worry. The pond smelt population is huge in the lake.

The pond smelt is just not in Lake Almanor. It is in Butt Valley also. The large browns and rainbows sit at the power house spill way and when the power house is running they eat well. All day they sit just under the big current eating pond smelt like French fries.

Fishing the pond smelt is quite simple. We fish the pond smelt on a floating line, on sink tips and on full sinking fly lines. The trick is to match the pond smelt fly pattern and your line to the situation that you are fishing. For example at the Butt Valley Powerhouse we fish a floating fly line (RIO WF Gold) with a 7 1/2’ 3x (8 Pound Tippet constructed from monofilament) leader with a floating pond smelt pattern called Milt’s Pond Smelt. Milt’s Pond Smelt is constructed from foam and pearlescent mylar and floats on top of the water. So we match that with a floating fly line to



help keep it floating. The short 8 pound tipped leader is strong enough to land big fish. When we are fishing the big bait balls during the pond smelt spawn in the fall at Lake Almanor we fish with a fly called Lance’s Pond Smelt which sinks.

We fish this fly on a full sinking intermediate line (RIO InTouch Camolux WF) with a short 4’ leader that is constructed from 10 pound fluorocarbon. We don’t fish long leaders at all. The short leaders keep the fly with the sinking fly line so they are sinking together. The intermediate line sinks 1.5 inches per second. So when the bait balls are just under the surface, let’s say 2 feet or so, the fly remains in the bait ball longer. This gives the fly a longer chance to be eaten by a fish.

Trout are not the only fish that eat pond smelt, bass do too. The bass love them. We fish the bass at Lake Almanor around the rocks on the south side of the lake. Here we fish a fly called Lance’s Pond Smelt Whistler. This fly is design to sink quickly and to bounce down the rocks. The bass love it. We fish this fly with a sink tip fly line (RIO Streamer Tip WF) with a short leader 4’ constructed with 10 pound fluorocarbon (to keep the fly close to the sink rate of the fly line). This is a fun way to fish for bass. We position the boat so we are casting to the shoreline. Once you make the cast you will start striping the line so the fly walks it way down the rocks. The bass love to ambush the fly, so the grabs are fantastic. This type of fishing can be done from April until November. If you fly fish Lake Almanor you need to fish pond smelt. Another trick is to fish pond smelt during the Hexagenia hatch that happens in June and July on the lake. Some of the biggest browns I or my clients have caught during that time have come on pond smelt. I like fishing both Milt’s Pond Smelt on the same rig as I mentioned above during the hatch itself. I also like to fish Lance’s Pond Smelt on the intermediate line as I mentioned above.

The fish are so accustomed to pond smelt that they eat them just out of habit. I often fish pond smelt the later it gets during the Hexagenia hatch. The fish get tired of eating the Hexagenia but it’s such a big protein that they continue to eat it. You toss a pond smelt in the mix and boom fish on!



Kirsten Gray, Fly Guide





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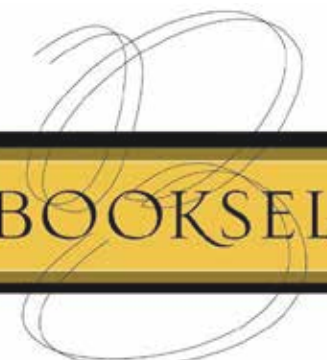




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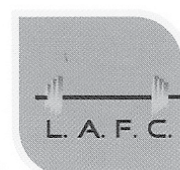


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NOTICE TO FISHERMAN
Cedar Lodge Motel is offering 10% discount
off room rates when guests use a fishing
guide from the Lake Almanor Area



The Need For Speed

Special to the Almanor Fishing Association by Capt. Bryan Roccucci

Picture yourself cruising beautiful Lake Almanor, the air is clear and crisp. Multiple rods are set and at the ready waiting for that first magical bite. We are heading north at a good clip, and in the distance, the tip of Mt. Lassen glows with the mornings first rays of light. **BAM!!!** One of the rods takes a savage strike, the rod tip is nearly in the water and line is leaving the reel at an alarming rate. You spring into action grabbing the rod and absorbing the pressure being applied by the fish and gathering some line back on the reel. The boat slows from its trolling speed, and there you are, rod in hand and on the end of the line is a beautiful Almanor trophy trout. The fish goes airborne, splashes back into the water and proceeds to start dumping more line off the reel. You and the fish are engaged in a tug of war that either of you might win or lose. The runs begin getting shorter each time, and as the fish nears the boat the battle becomes more up and down with the fish torquing downward trying to achieve some depth and doubling over the ultra-lite rod. Finally, it surfaces, and you slide it into to the net. Success! After the fish is dealt with, a few pictures, high fives and fist bumps the motor's rpms increase, and water can be heard lapping at the aluminum hull as it splits the lakes placid surface, it's time to re-set the rods and look for number two. Sound like fun? You bet it is. This is high speed trolling at its finest.



This Monster Brown was number two of the morning for Jinny.

What is high speed trolling? Well simply put, it is trolling at speeds from 3 to 5 mph, and it offers some distinct advantages and some exciting outcomes when done properly. In addition to yeilding some outrageous strikes by triggering the trout's instinct to hunt down and kill prey, it allows you to cover more water which in turn gives you more opportunities to hook up. Now there is a little more to it than just letting out your line and ramping up the throttle, you need to be conscious of the water conditions, trout behavior and lure selection.

It has long been known that the speed at which a lure or bait is trolled is a very important factor in how successful your day of trout fishing may or may not be. So, what determines how fast to troll a lure or bait? The answer is, many things including things like water temp, fish feeding habits and even the bait or lure itself.

Water temperature, especially during the cold winter months here on Lake Almanor, can be well below the comfort range for the fish resulting in a slowed metabolism and lethargic attitude. Baits and lures fished slow this time of year will generally out preform the fast-trolled offerings. As the water temp rises in the spring, and the fish become more active, often spurred on by available food sources such as Pond Smelt and bug hatches, conditions become prime. Then, in the fall, as water temps cool from their summertime highs, fish begin to spread out and chow down for the upcoming winter, and the stage is again set.



Thumbs Up to big Bows whacking high speed spoons.

Lure selection for this type of trolling is extremely important as it becomes mandatory to have a lure that will continue to be effective at these speeds. Most of the time the lures that will run fast for trout will fall into two categories, Plugs and Spoons. Plug is a general term referring to many lures made with a variety of materials from wood to plastic. Plugs come in all shapes and sizes, but not all will run at high speeds. Plugs like Flatfish are made to produce big wobble at lower speeds, run them too fast and you will have a mess on your hands as they spin instead of wobble and lose their fish catching effectiveness. Rapala makes a vast array



From left to right: Rapala J11 and H10, Kingfisher, Speedy Shiner and Optimizer

Continued from Page 8

of minnow inspired plugs with many of them being able to function at higher speeds while maintaining fantastic action that entices big fish to attack. Spoons, like plugs, come in many shapes and sizes but generally consist of a shaped piece of metal with a single or treble hook on one end and an attachment point on the other. Spoons can be found in just about every color pattern under the sun and some of the more popular ones, probably found in every trout fisherman's tackle box, include things like Needlefish and Dic Nites, both outstanding choices at average speeds. When it comes to working at faster speeds your selection can be narrowed just a bit, however spoons like Speedy Shiners, Optimizers and Kingfishers will maintain their balance and fish catching appeal. These spoons are designed to work at these speeds, and in fact at slower speeds they actually lose their action and attraction.

The higher speeds of this method will affect just about all facets of your fishing presentation. Some things to consider include; how you will achieve your desired fishing depth, top line, downriggers, lead-core. The additional speed will generally make your rigs run shallower and, in some cases, you may have to upgrade your downrigger releases to hold your line with the increased drag in the water or let out some extra lead-core to get your lures down. You may also want to back your drag down just a little to let the rod and reel adsorb some of the shock of these big hits. Bait scents are always a good idea when fishing lures and the addition of bait scents, like the ones from Pro-Cure, will leave a scent trail behind your high seed offering and further aid the fish in tracking it down.

If all this sounds like a good time, and I promise you it is, then get the right gear put it in the water at the prime times and hit the throttle. Want to learn more about this style of fishing? Come spend a day with me on the boat to see all these tips, tricks and more in person. You just might find you have a need for speed.

About the Author:

Capt. Bryan Roccucci is a full time professional guide and owner/operator of Big Daddy's Guide Service. BDGS offers light tackle fishing adventures on Lake Almanor (year round) Bucks Lake (May-Sept.) Lake Davis (May and June) Eagle Lake (Sept.-Dec.) and Lake Tahoe (June-Sept.) Capt. Bryan has nearly three decades of experience on these waters with more than 20 years as a professional guide specializing in trophy trout, land locked salmon and Kokanee. For more information about fishing at Lake Almanor or any of the other lakes visit www.bigdaddyfishing.com

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Bryan Roccucci



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DID YOU KNOW?

FREE AND REDUCED-FEE SPORT FISHING LICENSES

CDFW offers reduced-fee sport fishing licenses to honorably-discharged veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 50 percent, to recovering service members, and to resident low-income seniors who are at least 65 years of age.

The term "recovering service member" means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or a Reserve, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy and is in an outpatient status while recovering from a serious injury or illness related to the member's military service. (FGC, Section 7150)

Disabled veterans and recovering service members can prequalify for reduced-fee sport fishing licenses via e-mail. To prequalify, e-mail your CDFW issued GO ID and a letter from the Veteran's Administration documenting your service connected disability rating of 50% or greater to LRB@wildlife.ca.gov. After your customer record has been updated, you will be able to purchase a reduced-fee fishing license anywhere licenses are sold.

Free sport fishing licenses are available to eligible persons who are blind; low-income American Indians; developmentally disabled persons, and residents who are so severely physically disabled that they are permanently unable to move from place to place without the use of a wheelchair, walker, forearm crutches, or a comparable mobility-related device.

Eligibility for free and reduced-fee sport fishing licenses will be verified. Applications and additional information are available and online at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing.

License Sales By Telephone



Sport fishing licenses, validations, and report cards may be purchased via telephone from Active Network's telephone license sales line at (800) 565-1458. Items purchased by telephone sales will be delivered by mail within 15 days of purchase.



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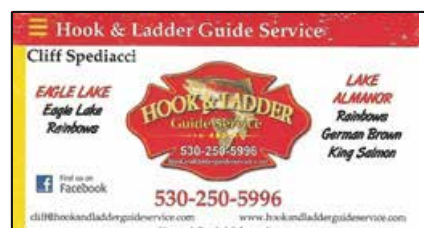
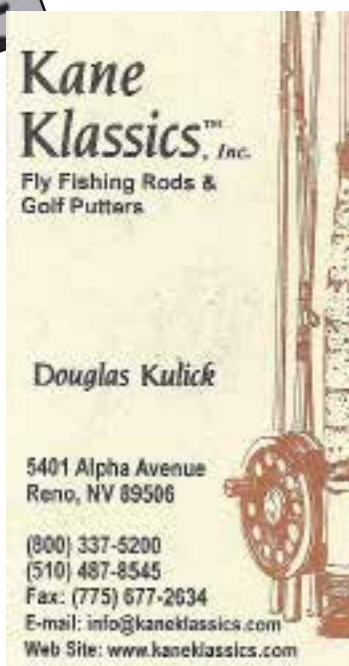
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Services on Lake Almanor

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Plumas Pines Resort (530) 259-4343

Marina, gas, boat and jet ski rentals. Store with tackle, bait and other food and beverage items. Lakeside at The Pines – serving lunch, dinner. Courtesy dock available as well.

Camp Prattville (530) 259-2267

Cabins, RV sites, marina. Store with tackle, bait, and other food and beverage items. Carol's Cafe and West Shore Deli serving breakfast and lunch daily and dinner on Sunday. Take-out available. Courtesy dock available.

North Cove - East Side of Lake

Big Cove Resort (530) 596-3349

R.V. sites, marina, supreme unleaded/91 octane gasoline and propane. Store with bait, tackle, clothing, snacks, cold beer, soda and ice. Boat rentals-pontoon boats, fishing boats and water bikes. Boat launch facilities and courtesy slip as well.

Knotty Pine Resort (530) 596-3348

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<http://www.tantardinos.com>

FLATS/MOUTH FEATHER RIVER

9. 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.

10. 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 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.

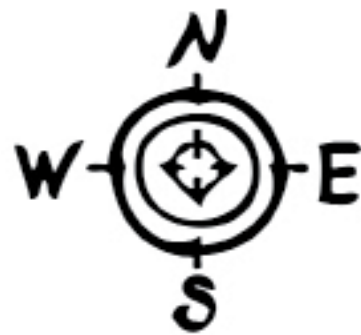
Some have said that this is the best spot on the Lake! A deep water cold spring located just off the shoreline brings them in. The A-Frame is a local land mark, it's easy to spot that aqua marine green roof. This area is famous for some really big fish and limits of browns, rainbows and King Salmon from 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 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, crawlers are effective for trout. Salmon like anchovy tails 5 ft off the bottom.



Lake Alm

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 your trolling or have breakfast. Head west toward the jetties for browns and rainbows.

6A. USFS Public Boat Ramp.

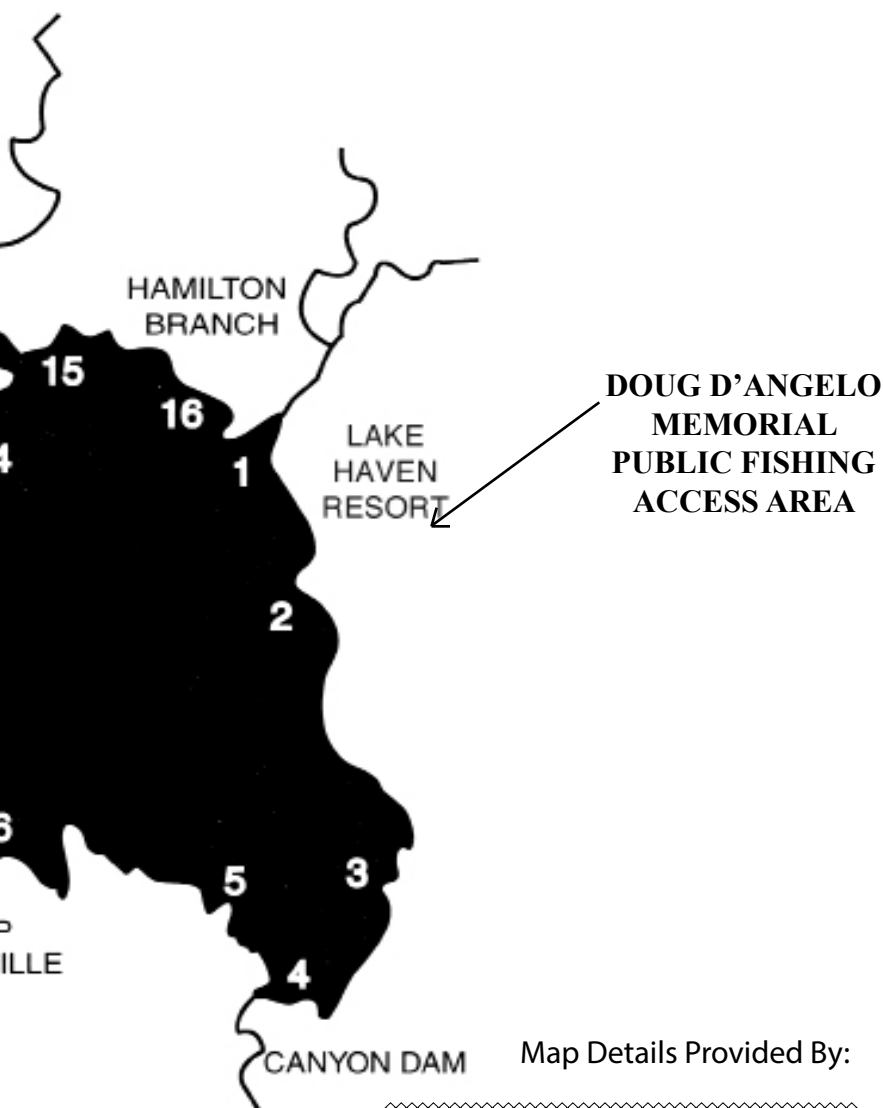
West of Prattville, in the old town of Almanor. Offers easy access with plenty of parking, 2 ramps with dock, and restrooms. Very good spring and summer time trolling from Prattville to the tip of Almanor West peninsula. Browns and rainbows will hit threaded crawlers, lures, behind blades or a dodger,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

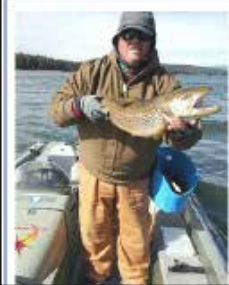
Extreme caution shallow areas, stump fields, and grassy bottom. Rainbows and browns. One of Almanor's best bass areas, largemouth bass, and small mouth bass. From Goose Bay back into the airport flats. Best early morning and late evening. Use plugs lures bait or white jigs for trout. For bass use crank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



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First off, I would like to thank the Lake Almanor Fishing Association for the opportunity to write this article.

So where should I start? I guess Spring. Considering this is a 365day Fishery (Four Season's). So here is a summary for all year.

Spring April - Beginning of June:

In the spring we have some great Smallmouth Bass Fishing as the Bass are on their Red's for longer than most lake's. The pre-spawn is one of my favorite times. In pre-spawn (April) you can fish for Rainbows Brown's and Bass in the same areas. I start with targeting the Bass with Clouser Minnows and then switch to Soft Hackles and Chironomid Patterns as the lake warms by late AM for Brown's and Rainbows. When the hatches stop I simply switch back to a Clouser. You will want to fish drops and trenches the whole spring. Sight fishing can be fun, also for the smaller bass, because they will just about eat anything. On to Summer.

June HEX:

The Hex hatch. Typically this Starts at Canyon Damn and goes down to the West Shore where it stops at Almanor West. There are a ton of articles about this so I'm not going to beat a seat horse. My technique is a 5wt rod with a type 2 or 3 line and a 7.5' 3X Tapered leader with a #12 Brown leach 30 count to sink it at 20 to 29 foot depth. Slow Smooth strip. I like to cast and retrieve. I feel it's sportier than trolling.

Summer Late July - Mid September:

There's no secret that water temperature has a huge roll in fishing. It is the most important thing you can pay attention to. I would recommend getting a Fish Hawk. It tells you water temperature in 5ft increments. If anyone has fished with me they already know all about it. A good fish finder will show you where the cool water spots and Springs are. It is very important to find these areas. You must pay A lot of attention to the Hatches and match the hatch.

Fall September - October:

This one can be tricky. There are times that there are more Smelt than food it's also a spawning time for Smelt and the Few Brown Trout that are left. We get a die off of smelt most years that causes an eating frenzy. The Floating POD Smelt Bite is what it's called. On years this is not going on

it can be tough fishing. When the lake turns over the small leaches float to the top and spawn it's Game On. Then when everything has settled winter hits.

Winter December - March:

It's Cold and Wet and typically snowing. It could be one of my favorite times of year. The Rainbows and Brown's move to the warmer water which is near the surface. This makes for some fun sight fishing. This will push even the best of them out there on skill. Long Leaders #18 flies long accurate casts are a Must.

I don't really like writing thing's about myself. I normally let my personality and skill to do so.

I started Fly Fishing when I was 5 years old walking up and down the shore line at Lake Almanor. If that gives you any clue to how long I've been fishing here and abroad. I have traveled around the U.S. and Canada Fly Fishing Still-water mostly. After 18 years running retail stores. I retired early and the last 4 years I have been Guiding and fishing Almanor 300+ Days a year.

Thanks for reading,
 Mark Antaramian
 FB: Lake Almanor



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 530-383-7785

My name is Mike Papas, better known as "The Greek" on marine band channel 69. You can recognize me fishing on Lake Almanor in my 21 foot center steer Custom Weld jet boat.

My family and I have been seasonal residents of the Lake Almanor Country Club (LACC) for the past thirteen years. I was born and raised in Woodland, CA, where I am a middle school physical education teacher and high school baseball coach. I've coached freshman, JV and Varsity level baseball teams for the past 23 years. My wife Ronda and I have been married for 22 years and we have one son, named Eric, who is a sophomore at Shasta College.

Since purchasing our cabin in 2005, we look forward to our long relaxing weekends. We travel to the lake on Friday evenings and return to our Woodland home late Sunday afternoons. During the summer months, we spend most of our time in Lake Almanor. During this time, you

can find my wife and myself fishing, golfing, kayaking and relaxing with friends and family. Every opportunity I have when I'm in Lake Almanor, I spend my time fishing. I troll in the morning and/or bait fish at Rec 1 or Rec 2 in the evenings.

During our first summer in Lake Almanor, I knew I wanted to learn more about the lake and give myself the best opportunity to catch fish. Fishing an unfamiliar lake can be very challenging. So, I booked a family trip with Guide Doug Neal, of "Almanor Fishing Adventures". It was a great experience. Doug is very personable and extremely knowledgeable about the techniques needed to be successful when fishing Lake Almanor. Each year, I would book a fishing trip with Doug to get some much needed insight and perspective about the lake.

As Doug and I developed our friendship, I would stop by his house to share fish stories and talk about fishing Lake Almanor. Over the years, he has taught me many valuable skills that have helped me become a successful fisherman on Lake Almanor. The knowledge shared from Doug and the numerous hours I have spent fishing the lake has helped ensure productive and enjoyable trips each time I am on the water.

In 2005, I joined Almanor Fisherman's Association (AFA) with the encouragement of a family friend, Gary Spence. He told me it would be a great way to meet other fisherman and that it would be very rewarding helping out the AFA. I have met a great group of volunteers/fisherman who tirelessly work to improve the quality of fishing on Lake Almanor. Since then, my family has gotten involved with volunteering at the AFA Family BBQ and other functions led by the AFA. The Motto stands tall with all AFA members: "If it concerns fishing...we're concerned".

As each year passes, my knowledge of Lake Almanor continues to grow through my discussions with Doug, other guides and local fishermen. I always ask a variety of questions, such as where's the hot bite? how fast?, how deep? and how far back are your line setbacks? I was always willing to listen and apply what I learned. With my increasing confidence and understanding of Lake Almanor, I considered starting my own fishing guide service. In the summer of 2017, with the encouragement and support from my family and Doug, I started Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service. It was an awesome first season of guiding and I met a lot of great fisherman/clients. Having clients on the boat was no different than having a few friends on the boat, engaging in good conversation and enjoying the beauty of Lake Almanor. As always, it feels great to put fish in the box!!!

I'm currently booking trips for the 2018 season I start fishing in May and finish up at the end of October. I'm a full-service guide who offers morning pick-ups at private docks or any other convenient lake location. I will also clean/filet and bag your day's catch, ready for your ice chest. My goal is to provide all clients, no matter their fishing experience, with a trip that will suit their individual fishing needs. My boat is fully-equipped for fishing on Lake Almanor. In addition to morning fishing trips, I offer evening bait fishing trips from 6pm-9pm. Drop anchor, bait the hooks,

set the rods and wait for a take down, basic fishing techniques is all that is needed. I am licensed, bonded, and fully-insured. Give me a call, text, or email to book a trip. Don't hesitate book your trip early for the best available dates. You will need a valid California fishing license, lunch/beverages and an ice chest to transport your day's catch. Book a trip and enjoy a day fishing on beautiful Lake Almanor for Rainbow Trout, German Brown and Landlocked King Salmon.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their fishing techniques and knowledge with me. A special thank you goes to Wendy Carrington (fishcharmer.com Web Design) for creating and maintaining my web page (<http://mikeslakealmanorguideservice.com/>) and Doug Neal for opening the avenues to fulfill this opportunity. Finally, I would like to thank Almanor Fisherman's Association (AFA) for giving me the opportunity to write an article for the newsletter.


Thank you,

Mike Papas, aka "The Greek"
Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service
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DFW# 1000727



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Some Thoughts on Fish, Fishing and Other Stuff.

By: Fishing Guide, Bob Kopernik AKA Lucky Grady, 2018

Each year that I start putting my thoughts and ideas down on “paper” for publication, I reread my previous articles to see if I need or want to elaborate or modify any information and opinions that I previously offered. (Mostly I don’t want to get repetitious.) The other mental exercise that I go through is to reflect on any significant changes or anomalies from the previous year that might have an impact on the lake especially fishing.

It turns out that last year there were a number of noteworthy topics. Where did the pelicans go? I’m not sure when they first showed up but, my guess is about 8 or 10 years ago. At first there were a couple of pairs and in 2016 I think well over 25 (pair). Last year I only saw one out on the lake and don’t recall seeing any above or below the causeway. But, the population of swans seems to be increasing. A note on pelicans is that I had a really knowledgeable client who was a full time Fishing Guide for many years in Alaska and now has a small guiding business somewhere on the Delta of the Sacramento River. It was his opinion that pelicans are the worst thing that can happen to a small lake in that they collapse the natural food chain by devastating all the small fish and reptiles in the shallow water which is in our case the north end of the west basin, including Goose Bay and the north side of the “causeway” area.

The other “bird life” odd thing was that we had very few seagulls in and around Plumas Pines Resort Marina until the Hex Hatch started in late June. Speaking of the “Hex Hatch”. It doesn’t only happen “near shore”. Last year in late July (well after the near shore hatch ended) while netting a fish about 200 yards offshore I noticed Hex Casings on the water’s surface. I concentrated my fishing to this area and in a couple days seven or eight other boats were fishing right alongside of me and we were all having pretty good catching success. The water in this area was about 45 feet deep. After that, I found other localized hatch areas with pretty much the same results. These hatches seemed to last a little over a week. I think the fish are attracted to these “hatch” areas and aggressively feed well into the late morning hours.

In years past, a little known fact was that there were lots of big fish (both trout and bass) caught inside the log booms of Plumas Pines Marina. About four years ago two River Otters took up residence under the marina building. Last year I counted five. Yep, they were “cute” and I even heard one young lady refer to them as “adorable”. Unfortunately I think most of the catchable fish have either been eaten or just moved out. The Otters have also gotten into several boats, done some damage and made a mess. DO NOT leave any food in your boat to attract them.

Current Climate Change with generally increased atmospheric temperatures and minimal snow pack produces a year round increase in lake water temperatures. This increases the hatching of insect larvae from the lake-bottom and allows more pond smelt to survive the cold of win-



Alex Coppo with a 23” long Rainbow

ter. In early May of last year my sonar screen was actually “blanked out” by a huge school of pond smelt that was well over an acre in size. Previously I had only seen this condition in the Pacific Ocean waters where large schools of anchovies, herring or krill were present. The greater abundance of natural food means fewer fish will seek out the bait(s) we use to catch them. There is a thought or theory that if your presentation has more “flash” it will entice a fish to chase it down and strike it more readily.

The only “flash” scenario that I can attest to is the Speedy Shiner lure that gained popularity about 10 or 12 years ago. When it was first produced by Thomas Lures it came in the ¼ oz. size. In a couple of years they came out with the smaller 1/6 th. Oz. size. Most of the fishermen that I know (myself included) started using the smaller size. In mid-August of last year I lost one of my last 1/6th.oz. Red and Gold (RGSS) lures and while searching through my tackle box I found 4 or 5 of the larger size. I modified one of them and put it out. That morning, it produced nine fish to one of a similar RGSS lure of the smaller size fished on the other side of the boat. After a while I even swapped the rod positions but the results were that larger lure kept catching fish and the smaller one did not. I can only attribute the better results to a larger lure had more “flash”. This scenario again reinforces one of my most basic premises that “If you don’t get a hit after 20 minutes or so “DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT”!

Another observation about Pond Smelt is that they “school up” near the surface about an hour before sundown and pretty much dissipate throughout the water column about an hour or two after sunrise. Several people have suggested that this might be a natural “survival instinct” in that there is safety in numbers after dark? I have fished (trolled) at night and had unbelievable success. In fact one night I could not keep two rods in the water. And there were nights I got Zip. Go figure. When the Pond Smelt are dissipated they often show up as singularly lit up “pixels” on my sonar screen. If I go for a period of time without a hit, I’ll carefully examine my sonar screen for these pixels. For me its “no pixels-no fish” and it’s time to move to a different location.

Over the years I have caught 7 or 8 Sacramento Perch while trolling live bait. Last year I landed my largest ever that was 15.5" long and weighed 2#10 Oz. (See photo.) Believe it or not the fish took a Speedy Shiner. Some years ago someone in town told me that the "locals" fished for them very early in the spring off the causeway. When I did a little research I learned that this fish is really from the "Sunfish" family and Lake Almanor is reported to have one of the larger populations and produces some of the largest (3# 8oz.) fish reported. The current California State Record is 3# 10oz. caught in 1979.

One good bit of news was that I had no reports nor did I see any dead Small Mouth Bass exhibiting the white latex looking parasite (?) protruding from one gill plate as we saw in the previous year (2016). If you see any, please put it on ice and drop it off at the Plumas Pines Marina or give me a call and I will pick it up and get it to a Fish Biologist with the DFW.

Several years ago I suggested putting a couple of frogs in your boat to control insects and especially spiders. I was whining to our son, John that when he doesn't bring the grand kids up to catch some frogs for me the bugs take over the boat. As a joke, he bought me a product that turned out to really work. It is available from West Marine or on the internet.

For less than \$20.00 you can buy "Spider Away" by Star lite.

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Note: We sprayed it around our RV and deck and only had one or two spiders all summer!

Last year the bait steeling small (10" average size) Coho Salmon grew to about 14" in size from May to mid-September. If the water is warm enough for them to feed all winter I would expect these fish to average 20" long and weigh between 3 to 4 pounds by mid-year 2018. Because there are so many of these Salmon in the lake, the year 2018 should produce some really fantastic fish catching experiences!

Over the past five years the number of Brown Trout that I have caught has been in steady decline. Last year I only caught eleven! The message is if you catch a Brown and it is not injured to the point that it won't survive, consider releasing it and if it is not a genetically modified triploid type of fish it just might be able to reproduce and help to replenish the Brown Trout population in our lake.

Last year I mentioned that I post my weekly fishing report appropriately titled "You Should Have Been Here Yesterday Report" on my bulletin board next to my boat slip at the Plumas Pines Resort Marina. It is a short truthful synopsis of the latest fish catching info and current water column temperatures. I try to get it posted by early Friday each week to serve weekend fishermen. If you e-mail me a request, I would be pleased to add your name to my electronic distribution list ... "free of charge".

One last suggestion that I offer, if you are discouraged by not catching very many quality fish or just want to gain a wealth of knowledge about fishing this wonderful but sometimes frustrating body of water, consider hiring a professional fishing guide. (The price of eating two meals out including a bottle of wine for a family of four is all it will take.) This publication's web site lists 10 professional guides offering a variety of options. Some have patio boats for larger parties and are well suited for youngsters who do better still fishing. Others offer fly fishing or bass fishing and still others offer trips that include both still fishing and trolling. Note that I specialize only in trolling using downriggers for trout and salmon. The Lucky Grady accommodates two clients very comfortably, three gets crowded. I also offer a discounted price for "Catch and Release" trips.

I and at least one other guide, offer a "Learn the Lake" outing that actually takes you to and explains where, how and why to fish five or six different areas of the lake. On this trip, I spend significant time on how to use a sonar/GPS lake map, selection and differences of rods and reels, basic knots for tying leaders, how I modify my lures and how I rig baits. I'm surprised how often "experienced" clients need help with how to set the hook with "authority", play a big fish and coax it into the net. Be sure to clearly communicate with the guide that you choose what your needs, desires and expectations are, being aware that even the most experienced fishing guides can't guarantee that you will catch fish. (That's really why we call this sport "Fishing" instead of "Catching".) To see the guides listed in this publication go to...http://www.almanorfishingassociation.com/lake_guides.html

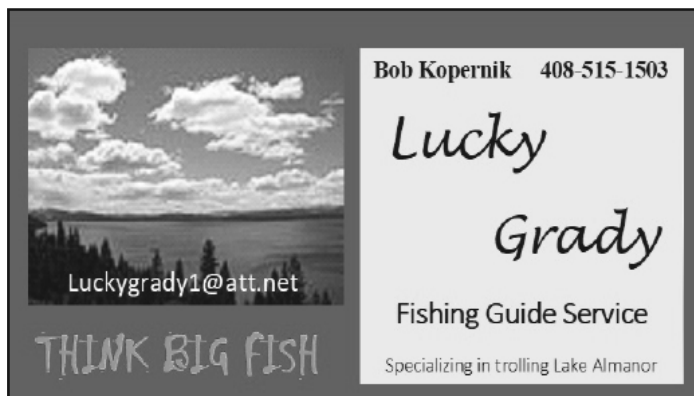
Good luck and "THINK BIG FISH".

Bob Kopernik

Lucky Grady Fishing Guide Service

LuckyGrady1@att.net

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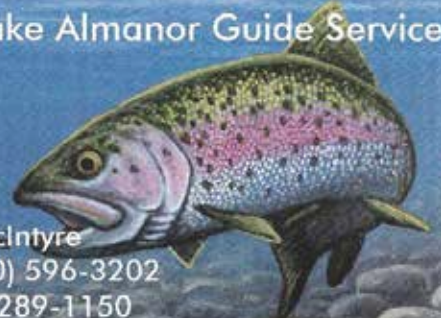


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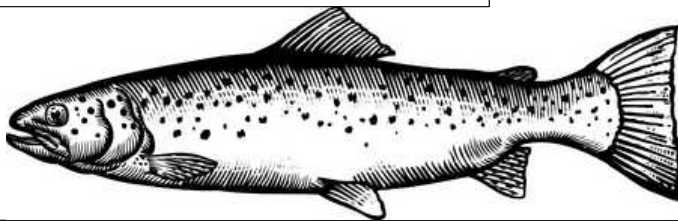
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Almanor Fishing Association

My name is Tom Maumoynier and I'm the owner of The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Co. My shop is located at 159 Main Street in Chester and we are pleased to be starting our 11th year. I have been lucky enough to live in Chester for the last 27 years and have been blessed with many hours on the water.

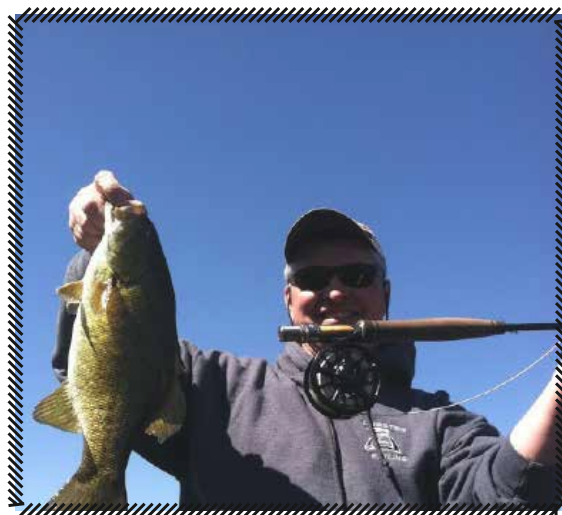
The Lake Almanor Basin has a great variety of fishing opportunities from large and small lakes, rivers to small streams. Rainbow, Brown, Brook Trout and Smallmouth Bass all reside within a few miles; fish range from a few inches to several pounds. The most fishing pressure is for 6 weeks starting around June 15th ; the remainder of the year it's all yours.

Lassen Park and Caribou Wilderness are where you can find solitude on small streams and pristine lakes. The Feather River starts at the foot of Lassen Park and flows into Lake Almanor. Lake Almanor then flows into Butt Lake and Feather River Canyon. To completely fish all these waters would take years.

I would like to mention a few things to keep in mind while fishing the area. The fish in the Almanor Basin are on average some of the largest in the state, measured in pounds not inches. Keep what you need for a good meal for your family but there is nothing worse than freezer burnt fish. The Brown trout to me is the king of the lake, hard to catch (nocturnal predator), hard fighting and extremely beautiful in fall colors. The Brown is being planted at greatly reduced numbers and so spawning fish are being greatly relied upon to supplement numbers, please consider releasing them.

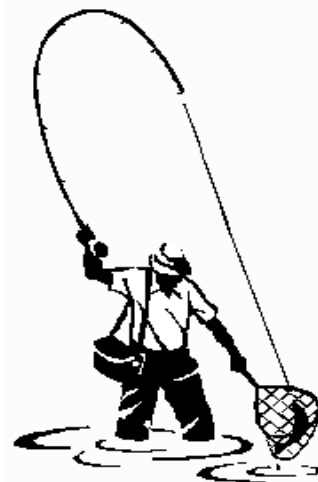
Think barbless hooks for a couple of reasons, it will make you a better fishermen and hooking oneself will be less traumatic. When you chose to fish barbless it teaches you to keep pressure on the fish or it will come off, this will help for landing the fish of a lifetime. Keep in mind when fighting a fish; you want to work at tiring it out quickly. This is accomplished by moving its head from side to side. Holding the rod straight up only puts upward pressure on it, but add side to side pressure and you will see the difference. Last... when you get the fish in if you choose to keep it, dispatch quickly and put it on ice. If you choose to release it, carefully remove the hook (another advantage of barbless), handle as little as possible because handling will remove protective mucus coating and please don't put your fingers in the gills. Hold the fish in the water by the tail and slowly move it back and forth until revived this is a great opportunity for pictures. Just remember fishing is an excuse to be in the great outdoors so enjoy the view.

Thank You, Tom Maumoynier



Fly Fishing Guide, Tom Maumoynier

*To fish is human,
to throw back is divine.*



NOTE TO SELF
Things to Remember
To do list!

XXXXXX

4. GO FISHING



3. GO FISHING



2. GO FISHING



1. GO FISHING

25th Annual Family BBQ and Fundraiser Highlights

The AFA Annual Family BBQ and Fundraiser took place Saturday, July 29th in the LACC Recreation Area #1 and was a huge success. There were more than 480 people in attendance enjoying the afternoon and evening festivities. Following dinner there was a silent auction and large raffle drawing for prizes such as overnight stays at casinos, golf packages, coolers, fishing gear (rods, reels, lures, dodgers, etc.), gift certificates, gift baskets, artwork, cash, a big screen smart TV, a kayak, and much more. A special youth drawing also took place to ensure every youngster between the ages of 3 and 14 went home with a prize.

Everyone was served their steak or hot dog dinner in under an hour and a half which was a great feat given we had more than 480 people in attendance. Included with the meal was a fresh garden salad, garlic bread, renowned Wyld's beans, and cookies. The festivities were complete by 8:00 p.m. and AFA netted \$15,333 from the event.

Mark your calendar for next year's BBQ and fundraiser which will be held Saturday, July 28, 2018. The event will be held at the Lake Almanor Country Club, Recreation Area #1 and will start at 4:00 p.m. with dinner served between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.



FUN TIMES



Almanor Fishing Association's 26th Annual



FAMILY BBQ



and Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018 • 4-9 PM

Dinner Served Between 5-6 pm • LACC Rec 1

New York Steak Dinner \$25 Donation • Hot Dog Dinner \$10 Donation

Buy Your Steak Dinner Tickets Early for \$20 and SAVE \$5

PRE-SALE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES:



Big Cove Resort, 442 Peninsula Drive, Lake Almanor • 530.506.3340

LACC Sugar Pine Lounge, 951 Clifford Dr., Lake Almanor • 530.258.5440

BAJ Bookellers, 278 Main St., Chester • 530.258.2150

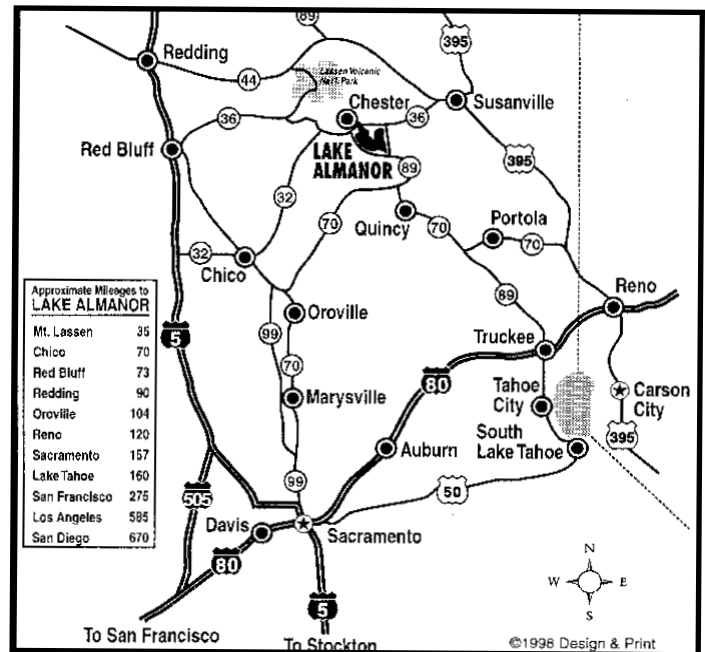
CALIFORNIANS TURN IN POACHERS AND POLLUTERS

1 888 DFG-CALTIP (888 334-2258)

A Confidential Secret Witness Program

Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters (CALTIP) is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services 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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FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2018

July 7th (Saturday) and
September 1st (Saturday)

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

GIVE IT A TRY.....IT'S EASY

SPORT FISHING LICENSE ONLINE NOW

You can now buy your sport fishing license online and 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.

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.

www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing



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