

FREE 2019 Edition

# The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

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

A common brownish variety of the trout *Salmo trutta* that occurs in the rivers of N Europe and has been successfully introduced in North America.

Brown Trout are a treasured species in Lake Almanor. Seasoned Almanor fisherman all have a "BIG" Brown story. The one they caught, the one that got away, the Brown they saw eating a 12" rainbow; the stories are endless. Fishermen travel to Lake Almanor to catch big fish, trophy Browns in particular.

## "Salmo trutta"



## "BROWN TROUT"

This beautiful piece of handcrafted art work donated by Doug Neal will be an auction item at AFA's Annual Paul Garrido Picnic and fundraiser on Saturday, 27, 2019 at LACC Rec #1

If you haven't noticed the theme for the 2019 Almanor Fisherman is Brown Trout.

I would like to clear up some misconceptions about Lake Almanor's Brown Trout. California Fish & Wildlife ARE planting browns into Almanor. In fact they planted 20,000 browns in 2018. All the browns planted by CF&W are triploid (sterile). While Almanor is approved to receive fertile browns, CF&W does not raise and/or release fertile brown trout.

Honoring AFA's commitment and collaboration with Almanor Research Institute (ARI) and Feather River College to rear and release BROWNS into Lake Almanor



LEFT: Dallas Tognotti ARI Director at Chester High School.

RIGHT: Adam Fuller, FRC Hatchery Director

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# 2019 AFA Board of Trustees:

*John Crotty, President*

*Brett Hurff, Vice President*

*Ray Pallari, Treasurer*

*Eric Rudgers, Board Member*

*Doug Neal, Board Member*

**Gary Spence, Honorary Member**

*Rich Dengler, Board Member*

*Robert Gonzalez, Board Member*

*Jim Pleau, Board Member*

*Byran Roccucci, Board Member*

*Ruben Chavez, Board Member*

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



*Thank  
You*

On Thursday January 24th, AFA recognized long term Board Member, feeder and volunteer **Gary Spence** by making him an Honorary Lifetime Board Member, Pictured left to right are Board Members, Ray Palari, Eric Rudgers, Robert Gonzalez, Gary Spence, John Crotty, Doug Neal, Brett Hurff and Reuben Chavez.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Volunteerism:** the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or services, as for charitable or community work. The dedicated volunteers of the Almanor Fishing Association epitomize volunteerism.

I am of the opinion that volunteers and volunteerism are the cornerstone of any successful non-profit organization, youth sports program, civic club and more importantly the backbone of most if not all small communities. Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Little League, youth basketball, wrestling, football, fire departments and of course hunting and fishing organizations all play a vital role in the health and financial welfare of communities, cities and their citizens.

As a child growing up in Fortuna California, I was in awe of the youth coaches, volunteer firemen, Rodeo Board, Auto Expo Board and others that worked tirelessly to raise their families and donate their time and energy to the City they love. Forty years later I remember men like Harley Baumgart, Tom Wipf, Tom McWhorter, Bob Sommerville and "Mr. Rodeo" Roy Curless who as a child all seemed larger than life itself.

Throughout my adult life I have attempted to return the generosity of the men and women that influenced my childhood through their volunteer efforts. I am proud to have served on the Fortuna Rodeo Board, to have coached baseball, soccer and basketball and served on various boards and commissions in the Eel River Valley.

In July of 2014 Deb Reynolds and I purchased a small business in Plumas County. Upon learning of the Almanor Fishing Association and what they do and have done for the Lake Almanor fishery we immediately knew we wanted to be part of the AFA Family. Deb and I did not move to Plumas County to become wealthy entrepreneurs, we moved here with a passion to be part of a small community, to live in the mountains, to experience four seasons, to fish, work and play in one of the most beautiful, unpopulated areas in the state of California.

The Lake Almanor fishery is a driving force in the financial well being of our community and Plumas County. Past and present volunteers of AFA deserve credit for their 35 years of service to our lake and fishery. As an organization we are proud of our accomplishments and optimistic for the future of our fishery. We will continue to foster relationships with Feather River College, Chester High School, Field of Dreams, Chester Elks lodge, Lake Almanor Chamber and other non-profit organizations to provide fishing opportunities for Veterans and children. Volunteerism is alive and well here at Lake Almanor and I am proud to be part of this community and the Almanor Fishing Association. John Crotty

## New Members Needed

Please help support the Almanor Fishing Association. Thank you!

### ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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You!*

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You may count on me for help as needed: ☐ Work Party ☐ Feeder ☐ Picnic ☐ Veteran's Fishing Day ☐ Auction Item



# COLLABORATION...

In order to preserve our brown fishery, AFA has advocated for the release of brown trout, especially large brood stock browns. They are not good table fare, they are however crucial to the long-term viability of our brown fishery. If you want a wall hanger, a taxidermist can make an exact replica of your catch with a good photo.

The landscape of Almanor's brown trout fishery has changed over the years. Sterile fish, fewer fish planted, increased fishing pressure, have all contributed to a decrease in brown trout being caught. What will the landscape of our fishery look like in 20, 30 or 50 years and what part will we play as fishermen and conservationists to deplete and/or enhance our fishery?

So, the big questions are. What can we do as fishermen and what is AFA doing to enhance and protect our Brown Trout fishery? Fishermen can take what you need to eat and release all other fish,

## *Feather River College Hatchery*



join organizations like AFA and/or volunteer your time.

AFA is working with our long-term partner California Fish & Wildlife, new partners Chester High School and Feather River College and our Biologist Amber Mouser to find new and creative ways to get Browns planted into Almanor.

This past year AFA partnered with Chester High School's, Almanor Research Institute (ARI) to raise browns in their facility. AFA volunteers are assisting instructor Dallas Tognotti in all aspects of the hatchery program when school is not in session. We currently have 1,500 Browns in one of our pens at Hamilton Branch that were raised at ARI. The browns were transported to the pens in December and have been hand fed daily by AFA feeders. This is the first time we have had Browns in our pens, this would not have been possible without the volunteer efforts of instructor Dallas Tognotti and AFA volunteers,



Gill Serrano AFA Volunteer

*ARA Browns.....off to Hamilton Branch*





David Baker, Phil Datner, Brett Hurff, Doug Neal, George Hormel, Gilbert Serrano, Ray Pallari and Bob Michael.



ARI received 50,000 Brown eggs from CF&W in January and AFA will be assisting Dallas once again to raise the Browns for release into our pens next fall.

There are a few people that need recognition for this collaboration, Phil Datner, David Baker and Dallas Tognotti. Phil had dinner with Dallas's parents and the topic of ARI came up. Phil brought the conversation to the board and set the ground work for our partnership. David Baker lives next to Chester High School and has taken the lead in feeding, cleaning, salt bathing and monitoring when school is not in session. Dallas has welcomed AFA with open arms, he has tolerated our ignorance, trained us and been available at all hours when/as needed.


AFA is also working with Feather River College (FRC) to raise browns for release into Almanor. Last October Almanor Biologist Amber Mouser brought FRC hatchery director Adam Fuller to Almanor to assist in the delivery of our 50,000-pen fish. Amber started the conversation and Adam was on board to raise Browns at the FRC hatchery for release into Almanor. CF&W provided Adam with 50,000 Brown eggs, AFA purchased feed and hatchery students have been raising the Browns. AFA will continue to work with Adam and assist him as necessary at his facility.

What is the future of the Lake Almanor Brown fishery? Have you done your share, could AFA have done more, can we all do more? No one has the answers and no one person is going to change the outcome. I sincerely hope that in 50 years fishermen will be catching Salmon and Steelhead on the rivers of the North Coast, that people are traveling from the valley to catch monster Browns at Almanor that my and your grand and great grandchildren have the same opportunities we have enjoyed in our life time. Now is the time to make a difference, catch and release, join, make your voice heard, get involved, make a difference for you, me and the future of our fishery.

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019**  
**VETERAN FISHING DAY**  
**AND BBQ**  
ON LAKE ALMANOR



AFA, Field of Dreams, Chester Elks Lodge, Guides and fishermen want to show our appreciation to Veterans by providing them with a fishing trip & BBQ

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Email: [Almanorfishing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Almanorfishing@sbcglobal.net)  
Call: 530.284.0861 John or Deb

Who would have imagined that this event would become so popular so quickly. AFA, Local guides, captains, Field of Dreams, USFS, California Fish & Wildlife, PG&E, Chester Elks Lodge and fellow fishermen will be hosting the third annual Veterans Fishing Day this June. In 2018 participating Veterans received a t-shirt and hat. After a day of fishing on Lake Almanor Veterans were treated to a barbecue dinner at the Chester Elks Lodge. Twenty-seven boats took forty-seven Veterans fishing. A raffle was held for the Veterans where gift certificates, custom made fishing rods and other items were awarded. For 2019, we are excited to announce that we will have more *custom made rods handcrafted by Duncan McIntyer, a Veterans appreciation throw, metal art signs*



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# The Hex Hatch on Lake Almanor

Written by Lance Gray

The Hexagenia hatch occurs mainly on the west side of Lake Almanor where the lake is shallower than the east side of the lake. The east side is mostly rock with the lake sitting in a canyon.

The west side of Lake Almanor stretches from Canyon Dam at the south end of the lake to Goose Bay at the north. The majority of the Hexagenia hatch happens between Canyon Dam and Almanor West with the majority of fishing conducted at "Geritol Cove" at Canyon Dam or in the vicinity of Plumas Pines Resort area.

The Hexagenia nymph burrows halfmoon tunnels into the mud floor. Throughout the Hexagenia life cycle the nymphs leave the burrows to molt and grow. The Hexagenia nymph returns back to its burrow until it is mature. Once mature, the nymphs start to swim to the surface of the lake to hatch.

The Hexagenia nymphs are available to the fish for food all year long. Only in late June and early July of each year do the fish migrate to the west side to gorge themselves on the Hexagenia. Small-mouth bass, rainbows, brown trout and salmon all enjoy the feast. You never know exactly what is going to grab the mayfly.

For the best success anglers who fish the "Hex Hatch" on Lake Almanor must fish from a boat and just about anything

that floats are used. The choice of many guides, me included, is a pontoon boat. These boats are easily launched at the many launch areas on the west side. The pontoon boat can be easily maneuvered around the lake to best maximize the hatch.

Any 9 foot rod for a 6 weight line will work quite well. In fact, two rods are needed, one for a floating line and one for a sinking line. The rods must be matched with a quality reel along with a good drag system. It must be remembered that the trout in Lake Almanor are measured in pounds not inches.

The best floating line by far is the RIO Gold. This line is designed to cast big flies easily. The second rod is rigged with a sinking line. The RIO Camolux Intermediate line is hard to beat. This line disappears in the water and can be fished shallow and deep using the countdown method.

The Hexagenia Nymphs will start the slow migration to the surface early in the day. Nymphs in deeper water take longer than nymphs in shallower water. The surface hatch commonly happens right at sun down.

The Hexagenia will start to pop off the water like popcorn. It is an amazing emergence. Anglers should start to fish the hatch around 4-6pm in the evening. Start fishing in deeper water, 20 to 25 feet deep with a sinking line by working the water column using the countdown method until you find the fish.

As the sun starts to set move closer to the bank into 10 to 15 feet of water. Work the sinking line setup in the top 5 feet of the water column or until you find fish. Fish the sinking line until the fish start to show activity on the surface. The sinking setup will still produce fish but, at this time I usually switch over to the floating line and fish my Loop Wing Hexagenia Paranympths followed by my brother's Lincoln Hexagenia Stillborn.

There is nothing better than taking a big fish on a dry fly. The fish become selective at times, adding life to the dry flies with a little twitch here and there will pay off quickly.

Having two flies on each rod setup is a must. For example, on the RIO Camolux Intermediate line, I will fish my Lance's Hexagenia Nymph size 6 imitation with a smaller Lance's

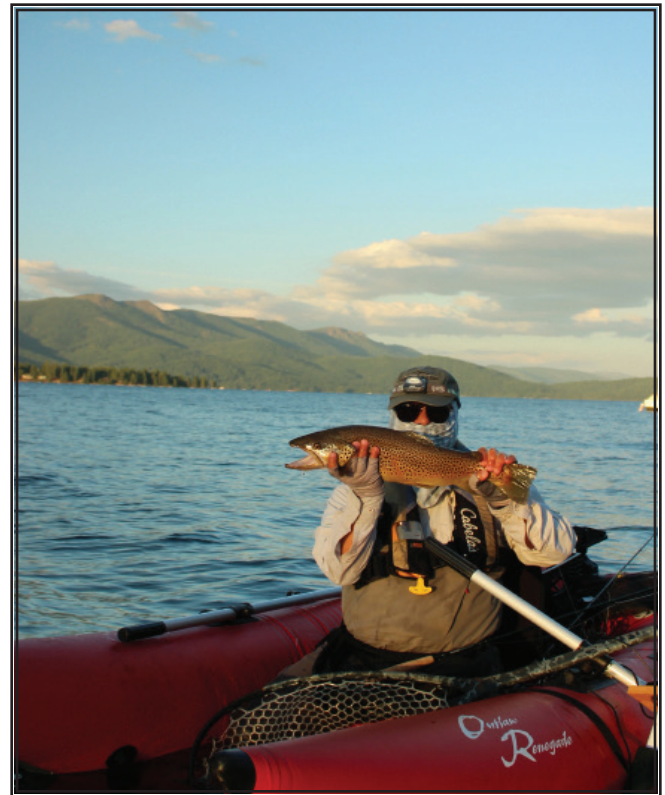
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Hex Bugger size 8 for the trailer. I use the countdown method for these flies. The countdown method is very easy to use. After you cast, simply count. For each second you count the fly will sink roughly 2 inches in the water. If you count to 20, the flies are at the 40-inch mark. When you reach the depth you begin your retrieve. A munch retrieve (hand over hand) or using small three to four-inch strips are the best retrieves. On the RIO Gold floating line, I fish my Lance's Loopwing Hexagenia Paranymp size 6 with a Lincoln's Hexagenia Stillborn size 6 as the trailer. This set up is fantastic. The Lance's Loop Wing Hexagenia Paranymp acts like the indicator for the Lincoln's Hexagenia Stillborn. The stillborn sits slightly underneath the surface.

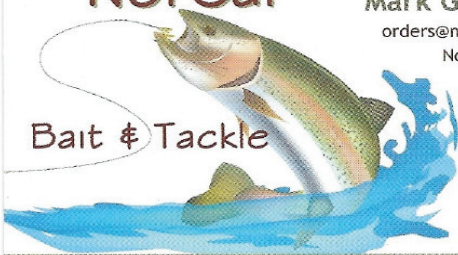
The best tactic that I have found to make these flies act as real as possible is the "Twitch & Sit" method. As soon as the flies land on the water give them a twitch and then let them sit motionless. Give the line a slight twitch just enough to make the flies move. Let it sit again and repeat the process. The fish usually strike as soon as you conduct a twitch.

Fishing the Hexagenia hatch on Lake Almanor, anglers must be conscious with the Hexagenia life cycle and patterns to match. Flies have been designed to match all areas of the life cycle. Nymphs, paranymps, stillborns, cripples and paradrake dry flies are needed during the Hexagenia hatch. All these flies are designed to imitate the natural movements. Fishing Hexagenia nymphs before the surface hatch starts using the countdown method will fill the majority of the evening. Fish will feed at each segment of the life cycle. At anytime the fish can key on one step of the life cycle. The anglers who can adapt to the change are the anglers who catch fish.



**BOB AND A BROWN**

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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



## Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service

### Boat Ramp Etiquette



We all have some great fishing stories and unfortunately it seems that we all have some frustrating boat ramp stories as well. These frustrating memories usually occur during the holiday or summer time

weekends. These are the times when ramps are most crowded and congested with a variety of lake enthusiasts. There are a few simple steps to follow when launching and loading your boat. Most of the guidelines for using boat ramps are just common sense.

Backing a boat trailer, whether down a boat ramp or into your driveway, requires a little bit of practice and experience. Your first trip to the boat ramp is not the place for a beginner to learn. Practice and repetition will increase your level of confidence once you establish a ramp routine. I recommend practicing backing up your trailer in an open area free of distraction and obstacles. It will be time well spent and will make things go much smoother at the ramp.

When I have a fishing trip, I get to the boat ramp early in the morning. This enables me to take my time when launching my boat, without inconveniencing any other fishermen. Once I'm ready to back up, I turn off my headlights, so I'm not blinding another fisherman waiting to launch. When my boat is launched, I move it over to the courtesy dock or to the far end of the dock, secure my boat, and park my truck and trailer.

If you are meeting family or friends at the ramp, make sure they park their vehicles in the areas designated for vehicle parking, not in areas designated for trailers and tow vehicles. Show them where the bathrooms are located and remind them to be cautious, as the dock may be wet or icy. It also helps if you are launching early in the morning to have a flashlight/headlamp for your guest. Make sure you load all your gear and prepare your boat at the staging area/parking lot and not at the bottom of the boat ramp. This is the most common mistake and one of the biggest causes of delays, and major point of frustration for boaters waiting behind you to launch.

Staging/parking lot areas are the locations you should use, so you don't interfere with other boats that are readying to launch. The only time you should consider backing the trailer into the water is once your boat and passengers are ready to go.

When the fishing pressure is light and there are only a few vehicles and trailers in the parking lot, give everyone some space. Be considerate and don't park right next to someone when the parking lot is wide open. This makes it easier for other fisherman to get their trailer to the boat ramp to load their boat.

The loading process can be equally as simple if a few common sense rules are followed. If you are fishing with a partner, ease your boat up to the dock and let them off so they can retrieve the towing vehicle and trailer. Drive your boat away from the dock until your trailer is next at the ramp. Priority for loading your boat is when the towing vehicle and trailer are next in line at the ramp. Drive the boat onto the trailer, attach the winch line to the bow eye, winch it up snug, and pull it out of the water to the staging /parking lot area. Now you can finish unloading and securing your boat without causing any delays.

When I'm finished guiding for the day and if the ramp is crowded, then I use the courtesy dock. I pull up my boat and tie off to the courtesy dock. My routine takes a little more time for me, but it allows other boats to launch or load while I'm getting my truck and trailer.

One thing that can make the boat launching/loading process go much smoother is to help individuals who may be having some problems. Help guide someone down the ramp who may be having trouble. Some patience and assistance can solve problems at the ramp. The quicker they get in the water, the quicker you can launch your boat and start fishing. In addition, don't be afraid to ask for help.

Launching and retrieving your boat can be a smooth and simple process if everyone uses some common sense and is considerate of each other. If you launch alone or with a partner,



follow your routine. The more prepared and organized you are, the easier, quicker, and safer we will all be.

Once I'm done guiding in the middle of October, I take my boat to Little Norway Marine for a service and winterization. When I'm ready to start guiding again in March, I follow this routine before I even consider launching my boat for the first time of the season. I reconnect all my batteries, electronics, and then I install the plugs. On a weekday evening, when the boat ramps are at minimal use, I tow my boat down to Rec 1 or 2. I back my boat down leaving it on the trailer. I start my main engine and kicker and let them idle for about ten minutes. During this time, I check my gauges and electronics to make sure everything is in working condition. Finding out I have an issue during my initial run through is better than finding out with my boat tied to the dock at 5am.

### **About the author**

Mike was born and raised in Woodland, Ca. where he is a middle school physical education teacher and high school baseball coach for the past 25 years. Mike and his family are seasonal residents of the Lake Almanor Country Club and he has been fishing on Lake Almanor for the past 16 years. He is a full-service guide who offers morning pick-ups at private docks or any other convenient lake location. His goal is to provide all clients, no matter their fishing experience, with a trip that will suit their individual fishing needs. Mike has a 21-foot Custom Weld Center Steer boat, which is fully-equipped for fishing on Lake Almanor. He is licensed, bonded, and fully-insured. Book a trip and enjoy a day fishing for Rainbow Trout, German Brown Trout and Landlocked King Salmon on beautiful Lake Almanor.

*Spencer Lasley fishing  
with Guide Mike Papas*



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*"If you catch me and let me go, I'll tell  
you where the other fish hang out. Don't  
tell them I ratted them out."*

## Some Thoughts on Fish, Fishing and Other Stuff in 2019

By: Fishing Guide, Bob Kopernik AKA Lucky Grady

Each year that I start putting my thoughts and ideas down on “paper” for publication, I reread my previous articles to see if I want or need to elaborate or modify any information or 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 be of value or have an impact on the lake, especially fishing.

One thing that has been on my mind for the past years is to publicly thank all the guys and gals who put so much time, energy, and personal funds into making the Almanor Fishing Association a truly effective organization. Deb, John and others put a lot of work into making this publication a huge success.

Another big undertaking is the annual “Veteran’s Fishing Day.” The lake guides along with other fishermen provided boats, tackle and a skipper to support a fun day of fishing to almost 50 military veterans in 2018. There is a BBQ meal and comradery following a morning of fishing fun and enjoyment. This year’s event will take place on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

All of the work activity of rearing and feeding fish (and this year some from eggs to planter size fish) seems to occur when we summertime residents are not around to pitch in, so the brunt of it falls on our year round residents. My wife Alma and I thank them all profusely.

The biggest AFA fundraiser is the picnic. Raffle tickets are sold and drawn for a wide variety of donated prizes. This year’s picnic will be held at LACC on July 27, 2019. Please purchase your tickets early and come out to help make this year’s event the biggest fundraiser ever.

There are several things that we can all do that would really help with finances. We can join the association and dig a little deeper into our pockets when we pay the annual dues. A few extra dollars will help and a few hundred would be fantastic!

If you work for or know of a business or corporation that has a budget for helping out worthwhile causes tell them about our beautiful Lake Almanor and the Almanor Fishing Association. For the first five businesses or organizations who donate \$2500.00 or more, I’ll provide them with a free fishing trip for two on the Lucky Grady.

A couple of comments on my last year’s article.

First, I mentioned that the pelicans seemed to have left the lake. Last year Alma and I went out with a Grebe Festival Tour and the Ornithologist Guide was able to show us a couple of pelicans near shore where the North Fork of the Feather River comes into the lake. He did acknowledge that there were fewer for the past couple of years than in the past. By the way, that tour was really fun, informative and time well spent. We highly recommend it for all ages who are interested in our Grebe’s and other bird life here at the lake.

Secondly, in last year’s article, I stated that in 2017 I was catching large numbers of small, bait-stealing salmon. Looking at the fish plant data from the CDFW, I’m now thinking that most of these small fish were probably rainbow trout. In 2015 the CDFW released 175,000 fingerling size triploid trout. At the time some fishermen were calling them salmon and some were calling them trout. I guess I’m not sure how easy it is to tell the difference when they are 11 or 12 inches long. My only excuse, if I misidentified them, is that I quickly release virtually all of the fish I catch while they are still in the water to ensure their survival.

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Speaking of fish plants, quite a number of my clients were/are very interested and surprised about how many fish are released into our lake each year. To provide written detail on their size, species, neutered or normal, where they are released, which hatchery they came from (including the AFA rearing pens) would get far too detailed for this article so I'll only list the year and the total number of fish released. Planted fish include rainbows, Eagle Lake rainbows and brown trout, plus landlocked Chinook salmon. This information was provided to me by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and John Crotty, the President of the AFA.

2009: 201,122	2014: 190,617
2010: 270,321	2015: 406,965
2011: 182,280	2016: 113,235
2012: 204,074	2017: 74,937
2013: 115,489	2018: 114,630

In my AFA 2016 article I talked about triploid fish believing at that time that all planted fish would be of this neutered type. Last year I got an e-mail from a CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist who informed me that Lake Almanor was eligible for diploid (normal) rainbows and Chinook salmon. Brown and brook trout on the other hand must be triploid by law.

I think the confusion came from the fact that for the years 2015 and 2016 there were almost no diploid trout available from the hatcheries that provided us fish and also the interpretation and application of the law as it was written.

The whole issue of fish plants gets very complex. Some of the issues that affect the quantity of available fish for planting are budgets, unusually hot (drought) years with reduced hatchery and lake water as well as summertime lake temperatures. Occasionally a hatchery could get infected with a disease or parasites requiring all of those fish to be destroyed. If the CDFW had to poison a lake to kill off an invasive species, the following year that lake would get the lion's share of available fish.

Finally most important, what fishing method worked best for me last year. My fishing catching success was down ~20 percent as compared to 2017. But in 2017 I had many days of releasing 15 to 25 small fish for two rods in a four hour morning trip. My best success was trolling meal worms behind a small dodger and trolling the smaller C-20 size Speedy Shiner. The color would be a tossup between the orange/nickel or gold and the red/gold.

For some unknown reason the larger Speedy Shiner did not out produce the smaller one as it did towards the end of 2017. Maybe the water clarity was different? Another thing that I have found myself saying is that I would much rather be fishing in a two foot chop with white caps than on a flat calm day. I believe the rocking and rolling of the boat gives the baits much more erratic action which induces more fish strikes. Of course without question you need to have a boat that is safe in that type of water.

One thing that needs to be said about what bait or lure catches more fish, is actually related to what bait or lure do I/we use most of the time? That same analogy applies to where do I catch the most fish on the lake? If you spend more time fishing in a particular area, the probability is that you will catch more fish there.

One thing is for sure (at the risk of being repetitious) if you don't get a hit in 20 minutes or so, "Do Something Different! Change the depth of your bait, the speed at which you are trolling, the bait, color or type of lure and lastly the location. If you are trolling with downriggers it will cost you at least 20 minutes of valuable fishing time to pick up, motor to different location and get back in the water. That is one of the reasons that I almost always have a plan before I leave the harbor.

And, yes there are areas of the lake that I catch very few if any fish, but that doesn't mean that the fish won't be there tomorrow. About 10 years ago a good fishing friend was slow drifting meal worms/crickets

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(locally called the “Almanor Cocktail”) below a split shot-sinker just above some large weed beds in ~35’ of water and having great success with catching larger fish. This method works well but gets frustrating in that because of the inconsistent breezes, you are constantly getting snagged in the weeds or hung up on the bottom. However with the new integrated electronics, linking a detailed Sonar/Lake Map/GPS with an electric trolling motor, you now have the ability to maintain a constant very slow speed and direction (a controlled drift) over a known water depth including the bottom cover and structure. So there are some fishermen taking the old “drift” method to a new level. Once they find a school of feeding fish they work the area until the bite dies or they lose the location of that school. Those of you with the right equipment should learn how to use it and give it a try. Those of us without that specialized equipment can put it on our “Christmas Wish List”.

Two years ago 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. I was pleased by the number of fishermen who requested it. If you e-mail me, I would be happy to add your name to my electronic distribution list “free of charge”. Well, it’s free to subscribe, but it will cost you \$5.00 to unsubscribe.

As a note: last year I saw my first mayfly or Hexagenia of the 2018 season on June 15. The upper water column temperature was 5’= 67.2, 15’=66.4 & 30’=64.7F. I think people fishing the “hatch” did markedly better than most years.

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 good wine for a family of four is all it will take.).

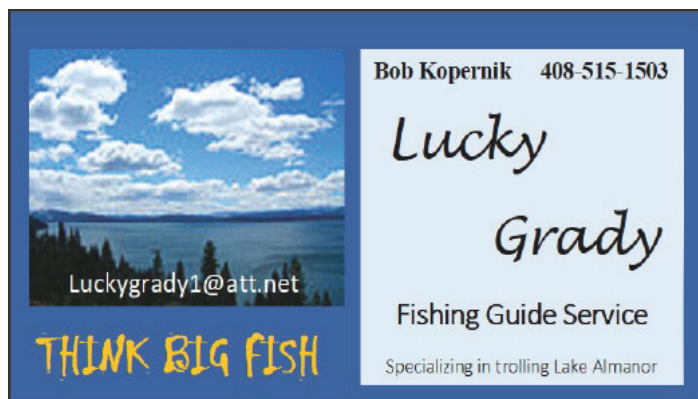
This publication’s web site lists 10 professional guides offering a variety of options. Some have patio boats for larger parties and are well suited for youngsters who do better still fishing. Others offer fly fishing or bass fishing and still others offer trips that include both still fishing and trolling. 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 motors around most of the lake 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.

This trip spends much more time motoring, explaining how and why I fish an area and answering questions than actually fishing. 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 on the AFA website go to: [www.almanorfishingassociation.org/lake\\_guides.html](http://www.almanorfishingassociation.org/lake_guides.html)

Good luck and “**THINK BIG FISH**”.



Bob Kopernik 408-515-1503

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Lake Almanor is one of the finest **small-mouth bass** fisheries in California. Indeed it can produce 50-100 fish



days that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Knowledge is the key to unlocking Lake Almanor's potential when it comes to bass.

One needs to know when, where and how to approach fishing for them. Location and technique will vary with the time of year depending on water temperature and what stage the fish are in.

For example, early season water temperature is cool and the bass have not begun to spawn. As the water gradually warms the fish get into their "prespawn" stage. During this time the fish school up on points and ledges outside of the spawning areas. This is typically when the biggest bass are taken.

Techniques for these fish that I like are swim baits and rip baits. It's not uncommon to sit on one point and catch 30 nice fish. Once the water warms to 57 degrees or so the fish begin building spawning beds.

Lake Almanor's clear water makes sight fishing for smallmouth really fun and exciting.

Boat position is key for sight fishing. Staying a good distance away from the spawning bed so the fish don't detect your presence makes them much easier to catch.

I use a variety of baits during the spawn. It really doesn't matter what you choose as a bait so long as you get it into the bed. The fish will attack it.

Note: it is very important to release all spawning fish where you caught them. Released fish can still successfully spawn.

When the spawn ends the fish go into recovery mode for a couple weeks and you can expect fishing to be slow. Once they recover though they are ravenous! That's when it's time for topwater action! Topwater will last for a couple of weeks and it's my favorite time to fish. It's so exciting.

Now let's talk about late summer. August:

I do not like August on Lake Almanor for bass. That's when the pond smelt spawn and there is so much bait in the water for the fish to eat it can be very difficult to even get a bite in August.

I recommend calling one of the many excellent trout guides. August is also a good time to play golf, enjoy Lassen Park, go hiking or enjoy the many wonders of our mountain area and history.

Don't bother bass fishing again until the water cools off and the lake turns over.

I hope this article helps you catch more Almanor bass. Please practice catch and release to protect our fishery.

Ben Williams  
Fishdog Outdoors  
408-968-8275



# The Forgotten Trout Season

Special to AFA by Capt. Bryan Roccucci

Many fishermen and women, who pursue trout, look forward to certain times of year. Spring, when all the plants and animals begin to stir, and many streams and rivers open. Warming water temps, kick bug hatches into high gear. Summer, when weather conditions can be at their most comfortable, especially in the mountains. Summer also brings many opportunities for family vacations, with children being out of school. Fall, brings cooling water temperatures, which in turn brings fish closer to the surface and spurs feeding activity in advance of the upcoming colder months. That leaves us with Winter, colder temperatures, light fishing pressure and no jet skis and wakeboard boats on the lake. Sound good to you?



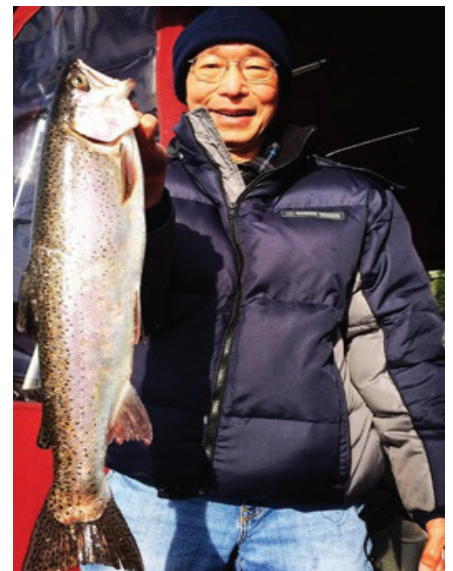
*John shows off a beautiful Winter Lake Almanor*

Winter is a magical time in the Northern Sierras, and Lake Almanor, being one of the few higher elevation lakes open to fishing year-round, offers anglers a phenomenal opportunity to get a crack at its population of Trophy Trout. There are several other factors in addition to being open to fishing year round that make Lake Almanor special. Unlike most lakes at comparable elevations the water of Almanor experiences less icing, keeping plenty of open water to fish both by boat or from shore and without having to drill a hole first. That said, Lake Almanor can and does build some ice first in the protected coves and the shallows of the west basin but even so, that still leaves an incredible amount of water to fish. Almanor is also surrounded by major roads and highways including Highway 89 in the West, 36 to the North, and 147 to the East; because these roads are constantly maintained during winter, access to the lake is relatively good, even during periods of winter storms. These factors combined with one of the best trophy trout populations in Northern California make Lake Almanor un-beatable as a winter time fishin destination

Many people including avid fishermen write off winter time fishing at higher elevation lakes due to weather. Instead they favor low elevation lakes or, even worse, hang up their rods and reels until April or May. It is hard for me to relate to you how many absolutely beautiful days we experience during Winter on Almanor. I don't just mean days without snow, I'm talking about brisk mornings followed by bright sun and glassy water that have myself and my clients stripping off the jackets in favor of sweatshirts and in some cases even t-shirts. It's pretty hard not to enjoy yourself on a day like that. Not every day during winter features "unseasonable" conditions, but it is possible to enjoy winter fishing under slightly less favorable weather. Some of my absolute best, can't keep the fish off the lines, can do no wrong by the fish God days have been while it is snowing. Snow, and the clouds that produce it, are actually an angler's friend. Light levels are lower during periods of snow making the fish much less wary about feeding close to the surface or in the shallows.

I am often asked about the wind during winter. While it is true that the wind can make things rough out there from time to time during winter, especially for people in small boats,

Cont. on Page 15



*Lawrence hoists a hefty winter Almanor Rainbow.*



it is not exclusively a winter time thing. (Ask anyone who has been caught in a small boat out on Almanor in the summer when the wind gets rippin') During the winter months wind is generated as pressure systems move in or out of the area. During periods of established high or low pressure the lake will often times be like a sheet of glass all day long. The bottom line is, during the winter season, Lake Almanor can, and does experience just about every kind of weather condition from mild to wild.

Winter time on Lake Almanor can have the fish just about anywhere and at all depths. Factors that cause the fish to move around during winter are no different than the rest of the year with the two biggest being water temps and food availability. While it is true that trout prefer cooler water temperatures, it is possible to have to much of a good thing. The super-cooled surface temps of the lake, often in the low to mid 30's will send the trout down in search of slightly warmer temperatures. Lake Almanor is known for its springs, and their ability to attract trout during the warmer months, but those same springs can offer comfortable conditions for the fish in the winter. The food menu on the lake is a bit more limited during winter for the fish. The lake's population of Pond Smelt become a vital meal ticket for the

trout and can often be key in intercepting feeding fish.

The secret to enjoying winter time fishing at Lake Almanor is to be prepared. Anglers headed to the lake should be prepared for winter road conditions including ice and snow. If you plan to bring and launch a boat, use extra caution around the boat ramps. The county has been doing an excellent job of keeping the Canyon Dam ramp and parking lot open and useable however conditions can change rapidly, and it is a good idea to have four wheel drive as well as tire chains just in case. (It has been quite a while since I have had to use chains to launch at the Canyon Dam facility even with a 23 foot boat.) Finally, proper clothing is a must and I highly recommend the layering system including a hat and gloves. It is far better to show up over dressed and have layers to take off than to not have enough and be cold. If you have never experienced winter time fishing at Lake Almanor you owe it to yourself to take shot at one of Northern California best trophy trout fisheries.

In other developments this past winter, I was appointed to the board of directors for the Almanor Fishing Association. I look forward to working with the other board members and volunteers of this long-standing organization to help better Lake Almanor and its fishing opportunities. Stay tuned to AFA, there are some exciting plans and programs going on and in the works.

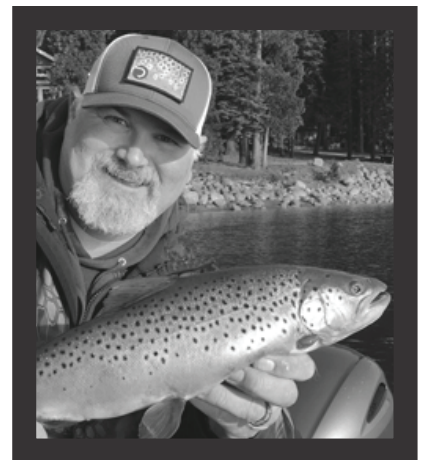
*Another example of a stout winter Almanor*



tion to help better Lake Almanor and its fishing opportunities. Stay tuned to AFA, there are some exciting plans and programs going on and in the works.

### **About the Author:**

Capt. Bryan Roccucci is a full-time professional guide and owner/operator of Big Daddy's Guide Service. BDGS offers year-round light tackle angling adventures on Lake Almanor, Bucks Lake, Eagle Lake, Lake Davis and Lake Tahoe. Bryan has nearly 3 decades of experience on these waters with more than 20 years as a professional guide specializing in trophy trout and Kokanee. For more information about Lake Almanor or any of the other lakes please visit [www.bigdaddyfishing.com](http://www.bigdaddyfishing.com)



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# Lake Almanor



## HOW LAKE ALMANOR GOT ITS NAME

Guy C Earl was Vice President of Great Western Power — the company that constructed a dam on California's Feather River and created a reservoir in 1914.

As one of the head honchos, Earl had the privilege of naming the new body of water, and he decided to create a unique moniker inspired by his three daughters — Alice, Martha and Eleanor. The reservoir was henceforth dubbed Lake Almanor — AL for Alice, MA for Martha, and NOR for the end of Eleanor. Many years later, the three daughters posed for a photo together in front of the dam their father had built. Left to right are Alice, Martha and Eleanor:



### **1. Canyon Dam also known as "Geritol Cove"**

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

### **2. Rocky Point Campgrounds**

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

### **3. Prattville**

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

### **4. USFS Public Boat Ramp**

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

### **5. Almanor West**

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

### **6. Goose Bay -**

West Shore area

Use extreme caution, shallow areas, stump fields, and grassy bottom. Rainbows, one of Almanor's best bass areas, large-mouth 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, rattle-traps, or plastics.

### **7. Mouth of the Feather River**

Again, extreme caution, stump

fields and very shallow lots of grass and other vegetation can stop your prop. Fish the stumps for smallies.

### **8. Chester Causeway / North Shore Campground**

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

### **9. Bailey Creek**

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

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

### **10. Recreation Area #2 to the Peninsula**

Excellent fishing opportunities, troll close to shore early and move out to deeper water later in the morning and afternoon. Dodgers with a nightcrawler, or flashers for deeper darker water. Good area for trolling deep with downriggers, the bottom is consistent with few very few snag possibilities. Small mouth bass are abundant along rocky shore line areas

### **11. Almanor Peninsula**

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

### **12. REC#1**

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

### **13. The A-Frame**

Some have said that this is the best spot on the Lake! A deep-water cold spring located just off the shoreline brings them in. The A-Frame is a local land mark, trees have grown in front of the A-Frame the aqua marine roof is all but hidden. This area is fa-

mous for some really big fish and limits of browns, rainbows and King Salmon. Bait fish off the bottom or troll along the shore can be productive.

### **14. Big Cove Resort Marina**

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

### **15 Big Springs**

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

### **16. Hamilton Branch Area and Powerhouse**

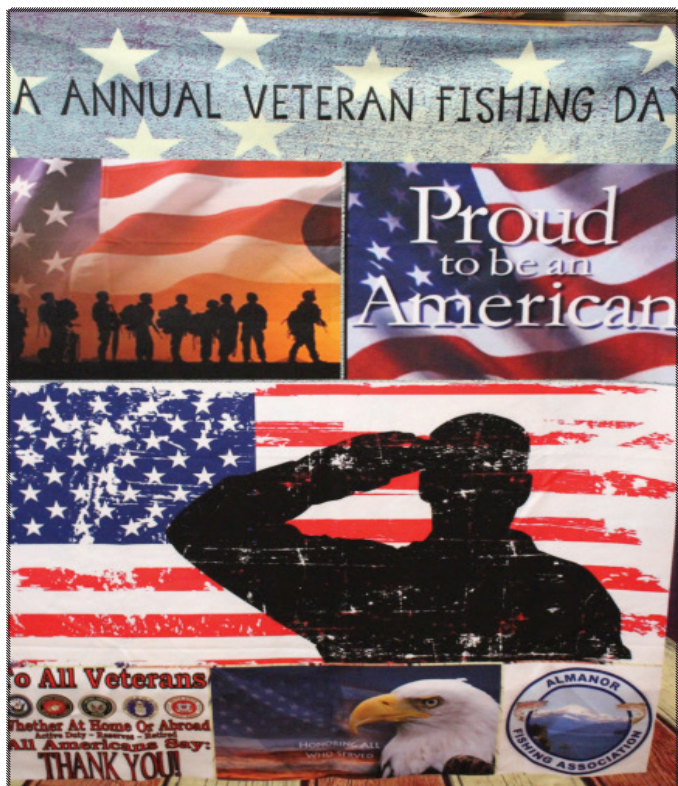
Probably the best bank fishing at Almanor. Bait, jigs and spinners all can be effective. Fisherman's access, parking, picnic tables and restrooms at the intersection of A13 and Hwy 147. Provided by the Almanor Fishing Association.

### **17 East Shore**

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

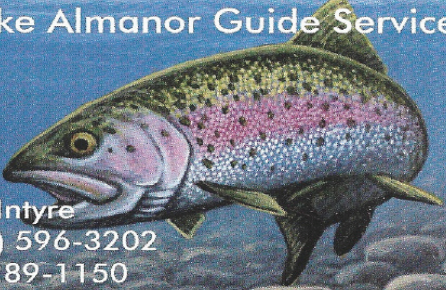
### **18. The Snag**

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



***Veteran Appreciation Throw-***  
One of the raffle items for the Veteran's Fishing Day on June 23, 2019


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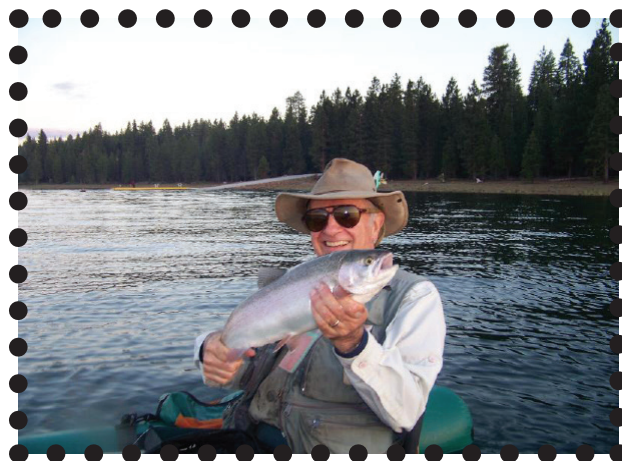
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## Services on Lake Almanor

### West Shore of Lake

#### **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, modulars, marina, supreme unleaded/91 octane gasoline and propane. Store with bait, tackle, clothing, snacks, cold beer, soda ice and ICE CREAM. Boat rentals-pontoon boats, fishing boats. Boat launch facilities and courtesy slip as well.

#### **Knotty Pine Resort (530) 596-3348**

Cabins, guest house, marina with snack bar, cold beer, soda, gas, bait, tackle, boat rentals - pontoon boats, paddle boats, seadoos, and other water toys.

#### **North Shore Campground (530) 258-3376**

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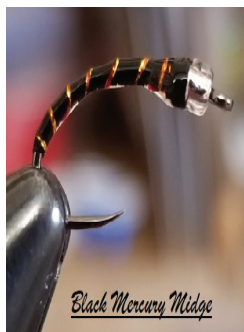
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## Fly Fishing Lake Almanor

By: Mark Antaramian

I started fly fishing when I was 5 years old walking up and down the shoreline at Lake Almanor. I have traveled around and fished U.S. and Canadian waters. After 18 years running retail stores, I retired early and for the last 5 years I have been guiding full time and fishing Lake Almanor 300+ Days a year.

### Spring:

In the Spring Lake Almanor has some great smallmouth bass fishing. Sight fishing can be productive for the smaller bass as they will just about eat anything. You can fish for rainbows, browns and bass, all in the same areas.

I start with targeting the bass with Clouser Minnow patterns then switch to Soft Hackles and Midge Patterns as the lake warms by late mornings for brown's and rainbows. When the hatches stop I simply switch back to a Clouser. You will want to fish in or near drop-offs and trenches throughout spring.

It seems that Pre and Post Chironomid Hatch is a time that is under appreciated at Lake Almanor. There are many species of Chironomid's. These little bugs are the main diet for rainbow trout. They are the most active insect the whole year. When they are not ready to hatch they will sit 12 to 16 inches off the bottom in the last thermocline feeding. There are different temperatures that they like to feed and it's not the same everywhere. You must be patient.

### Summer:

YES you can catch trout in the summer fly fishing. It could be my most productive fishing time of the year with 20+ fish days. Rainbows will school on springs around the Lake. Matching the Hatch is paramount. There are many insects other than the infamous Hexagenia, such as dragonflies, mayflies and Chironomid's.

### Guide Tip:

Water temperature plays a huge role in fishing and it is the most important thing for you to pay attention to. I would recommend getting a Fish Hawk as it tells you water temperature in 5-foot 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 also. It is very important to locate these areas.

By: Mark Antaramian

FB: Lake Almanor Guide Services

To book a guided trip with me, call 916-705-1207



Phone: 530-596-3249

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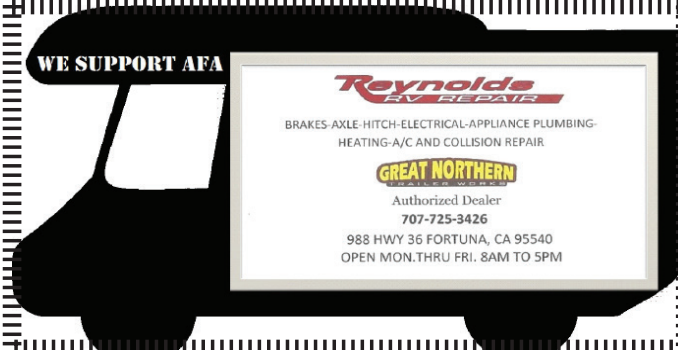
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## Spring 2019, and Away We Go

Lake Almanor sits at 4492 ft. elevation when it's full, and covers over 26,000+ surface acres. Blue water, surrounded by tall, towering pines, with snow covered Mt. Lassen as a backdrop is just beautiful. Hiking trails are everywhere, but I prefer to be on the water fishing. And what a diversified fishing opportunity Lake Almanor offers.

Great smallmouth bass fishing and largemouth bass are making a comeback. Catfish, salmon, rainbows, and brown trout all reside here. So there's something here for every angling enthusiast.

No matter what you like to do, fly fishing, trolling, jigging, spin casting, bait fishing on an anchor, it's all good.

We had a terrific season last year. Salmon and rainbows dominated most of the action. The browns are farther and fewer between lately.

While we did catch browns in all sizes, the numbers of browns reported across the lake were down.

Most fishermen realize this and lots of browns were released over the 2018 season. Reduced brown trout stocking numbers that started several years back are now showing, as fewer browns are reported annually.

As a board member for the Almanor Fishing Association I can assure you that the AFA Board and membership are working on this correcting this issue.

See the AFA article in this newsletter of our efforts to increase brown trout numbers in Lake Almanor.

Still there's a lot of fish out there, and lots of ways to catch them.

What you can do to make the most of your time spent on the water depends on several things. For instance, when are you going to be here? Got a boat? Fishing from shore?

There are a few places to bank fish at Lake Almanor. Places like The Branch, Geritol Cove, the 'Big Willow Bush' springs, in the back cove of the Big Springs area. Also the North Shore Campgrounds along the causeway early in the spring. Bailey Springs offers great shore fishing too, but it's a hike to get there.

Guys in boats will do better here. Most will be trolling.

Lake Almanor is a great lake to troll. Most of it has a flat bottom so some of the best trolling lanes are free of underwater hazards.

And then there are some areas where many a downrigger ball has been lost. You still have to closely watch that sonar depth reading.

I refer you to the map in the center section.

After you decide where to go, what are you going to do once you get there?

Running fast action lures, or slow trolling crawlers will usually produce fish even for first timers.

I generally start fishing a lot more in late March, weather permitting. We can still get some big storms in March. And we already had a real good winter this year, lots of snow.

After winter clears out it really gets interesting around here. Longer days and more sunshine slowly warm up the cold water a little every passing week. Fish become active as their metabolism picks up.

As insect hatches begin to bloom off the lakes bottom, it doesn't take long for hungry fish to find the rising larva.

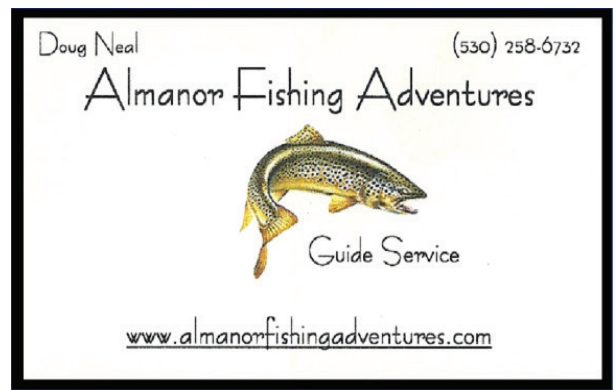
And the cycle begins anew.

By April the fishing is pretty darn good and just gets better all the way into June. Fishing pressure is generally light in the early spring, but picks up noticeably by the 3rd Saturday in June.

By then schools are all out for summer and fishing boats are everywhere.

Searching for the hot bite can

Cont. on Page 23





sometimes be elusive to the first timers.  
Lots of people hire a guide, and get into the action quickly.

There are several guides listed in this publication. I know them all, and they are all great guys and good at fishing Lake Almanor.

A guide will shorten your Lake Almanor learning curve, and give you confidence.

Different areas in both basins have feeding events constantly evolving around Lake Almanor. Spring and early summer have feeding events popping on and off, all over the lake, local guides know these areas and will get you there.

Finding yourself in the right spot at the right time will provide you with an unforgettable angling experience.

There are a lot of savvy fishermen out there that know the lake well, and there are others that could use a little advice on what to use and where to go.

We all want to make the most of our time spent on the water productive. And I want you to have a good time during your visit here.

Here are a few tips on where to start.

From April thru May, I will be looking into shallower water areas from 15 to 36 ft.

The shallows will warm a little earlier, and sunlight hitting the lakes bottom will encourage some early aquatic insect hatches.

Fish will become active in Almanor West, Airport Flats, Bailey Springs, and Lake Cove on the east shore.

Last spring, I spent many sunrises working the Airport Flats and Almanor West. Some mornings I was releasing 12 to 14 Rainbows and Browns in the 2 lb. range, and a few up to 5 lbs.

As we move from May into June, the shallows slowly start warming, to the point where fish are slowly driven into deeper cooler channels where insect activity is just beginning. So the bite continues. It just shifts to a different location.

Deeper cool water channels like the old river bed from the LACC peninsula to Rocky Point across to the east shore, the east shore to Canyon Dam, Rec.2 north toward Bailys Creek and back. All these areas will be holding fish into late June and beyond. I actually was catching big Rainbows into mid July in these areas before moving into the deeper, cooler, spring fed water of the east basin.

Generally, the east basin is the place to fish from mid July thru September. Big Springs and the A-Frame areas are well known and productive trolling lanes, until the ski boats show up. However, if you are on the water early you should have your fish before pleasure boat traffic even appears.

We usually get our fish before that all starts so it doesn't impact me that much.

But if you're a pancake eater, and hit the water later, well good luck. Early is always best. I've had a place here 20 years now, and I've covered every part of this vast body of water. I live here year round, right in the middle of Lake Almanor, Well in the middle of the peninsula actually, but surrounded by water.

Need a guide? My boat the 'ALMANOR KING' is clean, comfortable, and is well equipped for catching fish at Lake Almanor.

I launch out of Rec.1 or 2, but can pick you up at your dock, resort, or public ramp anywhere around the lake.

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[www.almanorfishingadventures.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventures.com). And click on inquiry button



Good luck to all.

D. Neal

***If you are a member of AFA or just fish Lake Almanor or you probably already know this, but to new comers I can't repeat this enough.***



The Lake Almanor Fish Rearing Cage Program is one of the largest and most successful pen projects in the State. It is located in the Hamilton Branch area at the intersection of Hwy. 147 and County Road A-13 at the northeast corner of Lake Almanor. This area is one of the most popular bank fishing areas for anglers and their families. The facilities at the public access area are maintained by the association which hosts parking, picnicking, and toilets.

The Fish Rearing Cage Program was established in 1985 in the Hamilton Branch area by two local fishermen, Jim Pleau and Reuben Chavez with the assistance of Ron DeCoto, a biologist with the Department of Fish & Wildlife. They started with two nylon net pens which were located at Lassen View Resort owned by Jim and Reuben. The DFG provided the fish via hatcheries to rear during the winter months. DFG also provided food to feed the fish, acquired the necessary permit from PG&E to have the nylon nets in the waters of Lake Almanor, and took responsibility for maintenance of the net cages.

**TODAY:** We are happy to report that 35 years later our fish pen program is alive and well. To date, we have approximately 50,000 Rainbow Trout and 1,500 Brown Trout in our ten pens. They will be released into Almanor prior to this newsletters release. The Rainbows were delivered in October and the ARI Browns in December, collectively the fish are consuming three 40# bags of feed a day. They will have more than doubled in size by their release date. The Rainbows currently in our pens are Shasta Lake strain and are Diploid's (fertile) from the Darrah Springs Hatchery.

Our fish are fed daily from they're arrival in mid-October until release at the end of April. We purchase a quality fish food that includes nutrients and vitamins, the same food CF&W feeds at they're hatcheries. Hamilton Branch is the perfect location for our pens as the branch doesn't freeze, water temps remain cooler longer into the season, PG&E maintains the access road and fish subsidize they're diets with insects and feed coming down the branch.

AFA Volunteers keep a daily log, we monitor feed rates, dead fish, water temps and any unusual activities. This year we have missed a total of two days of feeding, both missed days were for safety concerns. This year we plan to tag some of our fish to chart their progress, more details on the tagging process will be available on our website as we work out the logistics.

As we approach the two million trout planted milestone, please consider that for the past 35 years there have been a minimum of two AFA volunteers every single day from mid-October until the end of April hand feeding trout to enhance our fishery. Special thanks to all that have fed and/or are currently feeding.





# FISH PEN FEEDERS.....*Rain, snow, wind!*

Phil Datner  
Gary Hinshaw  
Doug Neal  
Henry Gronroos  
Michael DeWall  
Bob Michael

Brett Hurff  
Lee Perry  
Steve Fleming  
George Hormel  
David Baker  
John Crotty

Ed Organ  
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Ray Pallari  
John Green  
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Neal Carter

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Matt: What do you get when you cross  
a fishing lure with a gym sock?  
Rick: I don't know. What?  
Matt: **A hook, line and stinker!**

*Will with a great catch fishing  
with Guide Mike Papas*



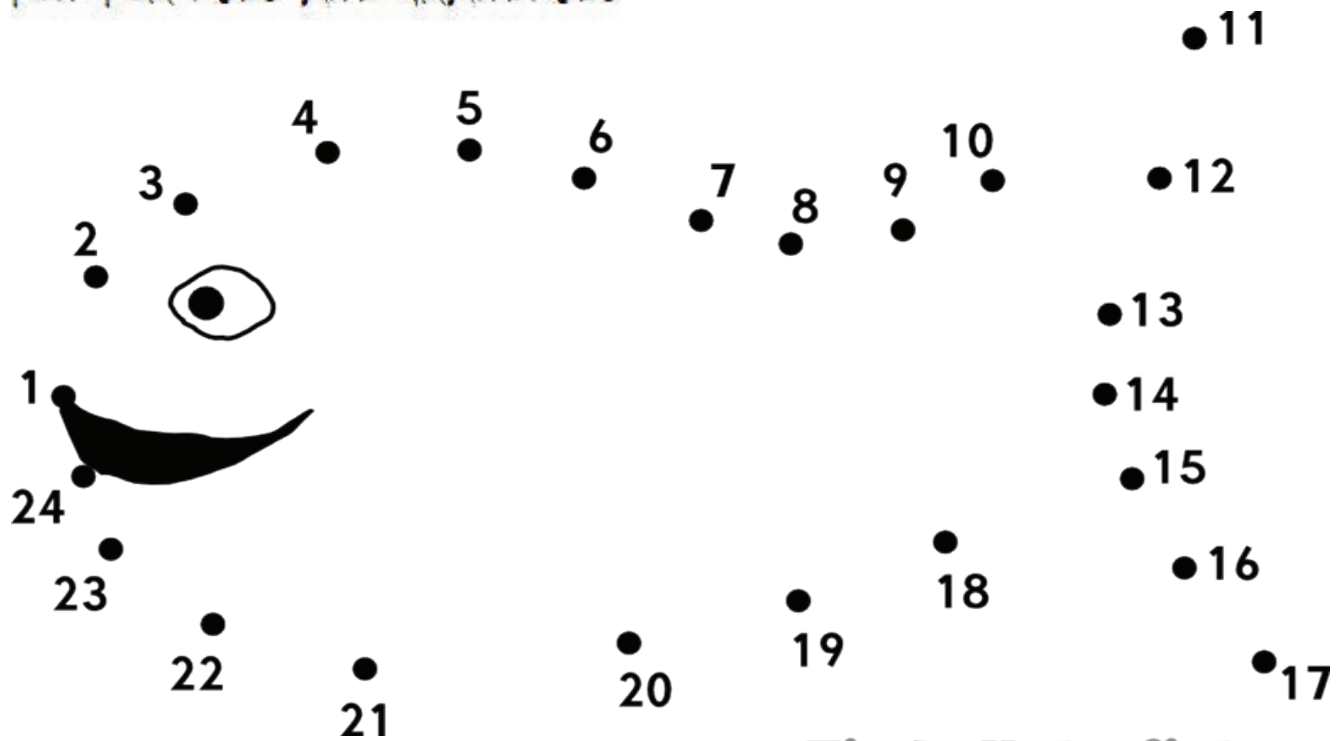
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U  
N



•Max: What kind of music should you listen to  
•while fishing?  
•Nick: Beats me.  
•Max: **Something catchy!**



# FUN FOR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS



## FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2019

July 6th (Saturday) and

August 31 (Saturday)

On Free Fishing days, Californians can  
fish any freshwater lakes

without a fishing license. All fishing  
regulations remain in effect.

## Find all the fish!

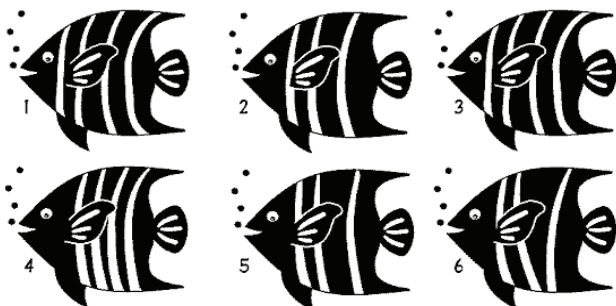
Find these words  
in the puzzle below:

ONE	RED	OLD	SAD	BAD	THIN		
TWO	BLUE	NEW	GLAD	BLACK	FAT		
Q	S	B	N	E	W	N	R
O	A	C	S	K	V	R	E
N	D	V	R	G	L	A	D
E	B	Y	B	L	U	E	J
O	L	D	A	F	P	X	T
R	A	K	D	U	Z	P	H
M	C	U	T	W	O	R	I
T	K	R	F	A	T	Q	N



## FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER: ONE AND THREE

## 26th Annual Family BBQ and Fundraiser Highlights

The AFA Annual Family BBQ and Fundraiser took place Saturday, July 28th in the LACC Recreation Area #1 and was a huge success. There were more than 500 people in attendance enjoying the festivities, 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 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. Included with the meal was a fresh garden salad, garlic bread, renowned Wylde's beans, and cookies. Our dedicated volunteers were easy to spot in their brightly colored volunteer T-shirts.

**SAVE THE DATE** *Mark your calendar for next year's BBQ and fundraiser which will be held Saturday, July 27, 2019. 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.*





## *Almanor Fishing Association's 27th Annual*



*Paul Garrido*

# **FAMILY BBQ**



*and Fundraiser*

**SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019 • 4-9 PM**

**Dinner Served Between 5-6 pm • LACC Rec 1**

**New York Steak Dinner \$20 Donation\***

**Hot Dog Dinner \$10 Donation**

*\*Note: no dinner tickets will be sold at the door.*

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B&B Booksellers, 278 Main St., Chester • 530.258.2150

(Tickets also available from Board Members)

*For more information call John:*  
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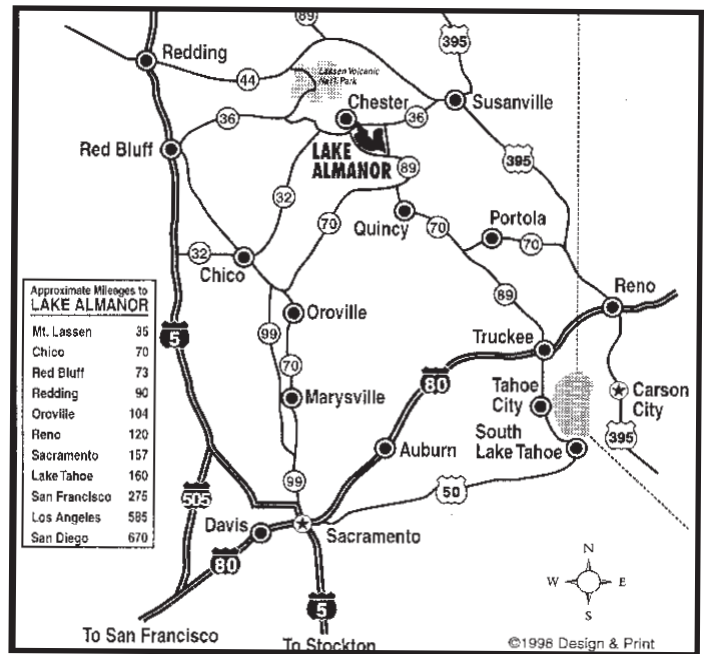
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### IT'S NOT A FEE, IT'S A CONTRIBUTION

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

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