



FREE 2020 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.

AFA- 2019-2020 PROJECTS Serving our Community since 1985



2 New Pens! 13,000 Browns

Almanor Fishing Association's Tagging Program

For this program's success we are reaching out to all "ANGLERS" to JOIN IN and help the AFA collect valuable information which will benefit the Lake Almanor fishery. Reporting a tagged fish is one of the easiest and best ways to get involved in tagging programs.

See more information on pg. 7

*****2020*****

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*T*he 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I sit down to write this year's President's message, I have more questions than answers as to the health and welfare of Plumas County, the Lake Almanor Community and the Almanor Fishing Association. COVID 19 is striking fear throughout the world, our stock market has crashed, thousands of people are dying and millions are impacted. Our small fishing group seems insignificant amidst this world wide turmoil as does my personal message.

Regretfully I am rewriting this message as the AFA Board voted unanimously this past week to cancel our Veteran's Fishing Day and Annual Picnic. Collectively we were concerned with the health and welfare of our guests and volunteers. In addition, we were not comfortable soliciting local businesses for donations in light of a very difficult economic environment. We also received notice from our partners that they have, or will be, canceling all of the scheduled youth fishing events. The AFA board will continue to make day by day decisions based upon the best interests of our supporters and members and we will post updates on our Facebook page, website and via emails.

With all of the uncertainty I would like to take this opportunity to assure AFA supporters that we are financially sound, our board has planned well for our future and AFA will survive these trying times. We have every intention of working with California Fish & Wildlife to continue our fish cage program this October, as well as fostering our relationships with ARI and Feather River College.

Please enjoy the 2020 version of the Almanor Fishermen and thank you to our sponsors, donors and contributors. *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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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ☐ SPONSOR \$100 ☐ FAMILY \$50 ☐ BUSINESS \$50 ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$35

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

Almanor Fishing Association 2019 A Year in Review



Mike Papas

Mikes' Lake Almanor
Guide Service

Cell: (530)383-7785

The Almanor Fishing Association (AFA) is a nonprofit organization made up of fishermen and local citizens interested in maintaining the health and quality of the Lake Almanor fishery. Our goal is to present a strong, collective and unified voice in advocating the merits and interests of sport fishing in Lake Almanor and interfacing with local, state and federal agencies and with various corporate and private entities. In addition, we will explore and develop, solely or in cooperation with others, plans, programs and facilities for the perpetuation and enhancement of the Lake Almanor fishing resource.

As a guide on Lake Almanor, member and volunteer of the AFA I am proud to serve the Lake Almanor community as we promote and enhance this world class fishery.

AFA is a year-round organization with numerous community service and fundraising events held throughout the year. Attached are a list of some of those projects either completed or ongoing into 2020. AFA members have always held true to their mission statement and overall objectives to make Lake Almanor the best fishery in Northern California. With our dedication, hard work and teamwork and this communities support no task is too great or unreachable.

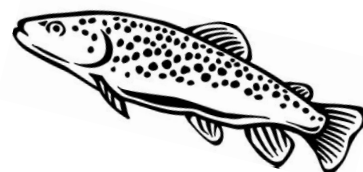
Hamilton Branch Fish Pen Projects

Hamilton Branch Fish Pen Repairs-AFA members spend countless hours making repairs to the stairs, fish pens and dock throughout the year.

Hamilton Branch Fish Food Delivery -Approximately 15,000 pounds of fish food is delivered and unloaded by hand at a cost of \$11,000.

Fish delivery 2-day process, The delivery of the 50,000 Shasta Lake Rainbows marks the start of the 2019/20 Almanor Fishing Associations fish pen program. Every single day for the next six months an AFA volunteer will pack food down the staircase, remove snow and battle freezing weather to feed and care for these fish.

Otter Proofing the Hamilton Branch Fish Pens - Over two days, 12 dedicated and hardworking AFA volunteers spent the afternoon making alterations to our Hamilton Branch fish pens to prevent Otters from participating in the morning all-you-can eat buffet.



Super Feeder David Baker

Fish Pen Snow Removal

Devoted AFA members battle the elements as needed to clean snow and debris from the Hamilton Branch fish pens, stairs, transfer dock, cage walkway and cage lids in order to make the feeding process more manageable and safer for all AFA Branch feeders.

Adding an Additional Two Pens to Hamilton Branch

Here is some exciting news for AFA and the Lake Almanor Fishery. In 2019 AFA was approved by PG&E to add two fish pens at Hamilton Branch. Nick Defabrizio of Almanor Anchor has been working on the new pens and docking. This project will be completed prior to printing of this newsletter.

Log Booms

Cedar logs were donated to AFA for future log boom use at our Hamilton Branch Pens. AFA members bucked and debarked the logs, which are currently stored at Recreation Area #1 for drying. Once seasoned they will be used as a protective boom in front of the fish pens.

Almanor Research Institute (ARI) Chester High School Projects

Almanor Research Institute (ARI), AFA volunteers feed and clean every day at Chester High School, the 50,000 Brown Trout eggs are incubated, raised and transferred to our Hamilton Branch Cages. Once again prior to the publication of this newsletter thousands of these Browns will be transferred to our new pens at the branch.

Community Service

AFA Veterans Fishing Day

AFA, Field of Dreams and local guides hosted multiple fishing trips for Veterans on Lake Almanor. Our 3rd annual Veteran's fishing day was held on June 23, 2019... It was a great event for all involved. 49 Captains and 97 Veterans attended this event with more than 300 people attending the barbecue after fishing.

REGRETFULLY CANCELLED SAVE THE DATE 6/26/2021

Kids Fishing Days: AFA is assisting CF&W and the USFS to take youth fishing in Plumas County. Last year approximately two hundred Plumas County youth participated in these free events.

Feather River College Hatchery Clean Up

AFA continues to support and work with Instructor Adam Fuller at the FRC Hatchery. AFA volunteers traveled to Feather River College in Quincy and assisted in cleaning and spreading base rock at the Hatchery. FRC released a couple of thousand fingerling browns into Lake Almanor last year and currently have 50,000 fertile browns that will be released into Almanor in 2020.

The Reno Trade Show in coordination with The Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce

AFA volunteers joined the Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce at the Reno trade show. The Chamber of Commerce set up a very nice booth with a lot of literature on things to do in Plumas County.

Doug D'Angelo Hamilton Branch day use parking lot.

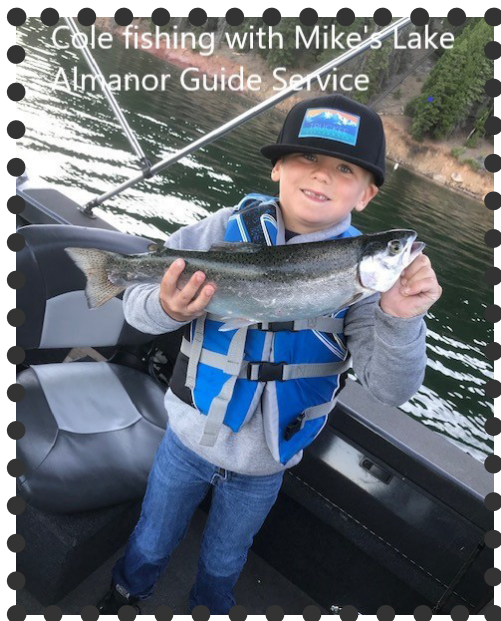
AFA Volunteers clean and maintain the public access parking area and AFA pays to have the restrooms maintained.



Fundraising

The 27th Annual AFA "Paul Garrido" Picnic

The Picnic was attended by more than 600 people. This annual event is our major fundraiser hosted by our dedicated and active group of volunteers. Funds from the event support the publication of our annual newsletter, "The Almanor Fisherman", our association's fish rearing cage program, scholarships for local high school students and financial support to the Chester High School Limnology Laboratory when needed. The Almanor Fishing Association Fish Rearing Cage Program is the largest and most successful pen project in the state. Approximately 2,000,000 trout have been released into Lake Almanor



through our pen program. Our annual BBQ is necessary to raise money so we can continue to make Lake Almanor a trophy trout lake for the North state.

About the author: Mike is a seasonal resident of the Lake Almanor Country Club and he has been fishing on Lake Almanor for the past 17 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 Jetboat, which is fully-equipped for fishing on Lake Almanor. Mike is licensed, bonded, and fully-insured. Book a trip and enjoy a day fishing on beautiful Lake Almanor for Rainbow Trout, German Brown and Landlocked King Salmon.

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1st PRIZE- LIFE-TIME FISHING LICENSE



2nd PRIZE- YETI 65 HARD COOLER



3rd PRIZE- BATTLEBORN AFA
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Drawing to be held on 7/25/2020
at the AFA Annual Picnic

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



**ALMANOR FISHING
ASSOCIATION**

www.almanorfishingassociation.org

**2020 FUNDRAISER
FOR YOU!**



**Win a LIFETIME
FISHING LICENSE**

AFA FISH TAGGING

Objective: To explore and develop, solely or in cooperation with others, plans, programs and facilities for the perpetuation and enhancement of the Lake Almanor fishing resource.

AFA has tag 500 fish Annually (browns/rainbows). Each year the tag will be a different color with a 4-digit tag number and a phone number. You may enter information **online at Almanorfishingassociation.org** or you may call 530-284-0861. You can report a tagged fish whether you keep it, or release it alive.

All reporting parties will be entered into a drawing, to be drawn in December.



AFA will draw 10 winners. Need not be present to win.

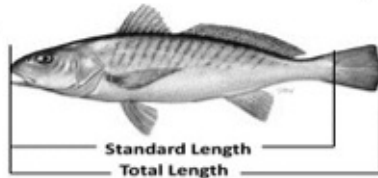


Tips for providing the best information when you report a tag:

Be alert!

Get the tag number. You don't have to remove the tag if you're going to release the fish alive, just write down the tag number or take a photo

Measure the fish. Total Length: From the tip of the snout to the end of the fleshy part of the tail. You can measure the fish even if you're planning to release it alive. Just handle it gently, with wet hands or wet gloves, and get it back in the water as quickly as possible.



More information is always better, but any information is better than none!





AFA Member helping Chester Elementary School 4th graders how to fish at the North Fork Feather River.

Spring has sprung and the fish trucks are rolling out to support our local communities' educational programs! With the intent to inspire and motivate young people, last year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reached out to the Plumas Unified School District's Outdoor Core program about trying a new event in which kids studying fish would be given the opportunity to fish in a local water at the end of their school year.

Fourth grade is the "year of the fish" in the Outdoor Core program. CDFW was able to partner with the Almanor Fishing Association to host a series of kids' fishing days for all of the Plumas County fourth grade classes. Fish plants were scheduled at four separate waters close to each of the four participating Plumas County elementary schools to wrap up their year of studying fish: Snake Lake for Quincy Elementary School, Round Valley Reservoir for Greenville Elementary School, the North Fork Feather River for Chester Elementary School, and Lake Davis for C Roy Carmichael Elementary School. The kids got to help plant the fish from the truck into the water at each location, followed by an opportunity to fish for them. Many of the kids had never fished before, and some even limited out! The fish were provided by American River Hatchery, Crystal Lake Hatchery, and Darrah Springs Hatchery. The fishing poles were borrowed from the CDFW Fishing in the City Program. Many volunteers were on hand, including members of the Almanor Fishing Association, local fishing guides, the Plumas County Fish and Game Commission, local businesses, teachers and parents. These events were such a success that CDFW was able to purchase rods that are dedicated to this program and will continue to support these activities on an annual basis. Additionally, the Almanor Fishing Association will be able to send a rod and reel combo home with every participating fourth grader this year!

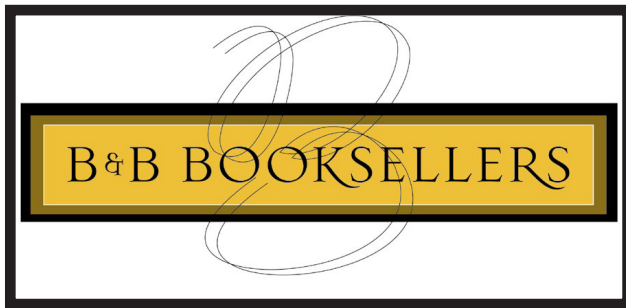


The upcoming fourth grade fishing days are scheduled from mid to late May 2020. All of the waters planted for the kids last year will remain the same, with the exception of Chester Elementary School, who will now be participating at Lake Almanor instead of the North Fork Feather River. Hopefully, these events will help to foster a love for fishing and the outdoors. These kids may grow up to be the next generation of advocates to help preserve and enhance our local fisheries. This is truly a rewarding experience for everyone involved. If you would like to participate at any of the upcoming events by helping to teach a kid to fish, please contact Amber Mouser (amber.mouser@wildlife.ca.gov) or John Crotty for specific dates and locations. Your support is greatly appreciated!

REGRETFULLY CANCELLED



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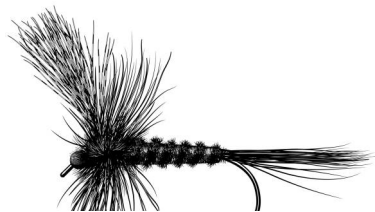
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I would like to thank the Lake Almanor Fishing Association for the opportunity to write this article. M.A.

The Four Seasons of Lake Almanor

Spring April - May:

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, they will just about eat anything.

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 dead horse on this one. My technique is using a 5wt rod with a type 2 or 3 line and a 7.5' 3X Tapered leader with a #12 brown leach. Count 30 seconds to sink it down to a 20 to 29-foot depth. Use a Slow Smooth strip.

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 that 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 also. It is very important to find these areas. You must always pay attention to the hatches and match the hatch.

Fall September - November:

This one can be tricky. We get a die off of smelt most years that causes an eating frenzy. The Floating POD Smelt Bite is what it's called.

In November when the lake turns over the mall leaches float to the top and spawn and its Game ON!


Winter December - March:

It's Cold and Wet and typically snowing. However, 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 the Fly fisherman out there on skill. Long Leaders #18 flies long accurate casts are a Must.

Mark D. Antaramian -I Started Fly Fishing in 1985 at the age of 5. I have spent most of my life fishing Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake and Butt Lake, and all the creeks and streams where I grew up. In 1988 my parents decided to venture out and bought an RV to go fishing around the United States and Canada. As a result, I have been versed in many different types of techniques from the many guides that my father hired over the years. I have tried to come up with some out of the Box Flies and techniques. To this day it's not uncommon to see myself and my father on Lake Almanor fishing together. I enjoy tying flies for my upcoming season to have something a little more dialed in each year. All of the flies I use are 100% made by myself and tailored to each season and year..I decided to start Guiding after teaching a few High school students how to fly fish in 2010. Since then I have been hooked on teaching the art of Fly Fishing. Thanks for reading.

Mark Antaramian FB: Lake Almanor Guide Services to Book a Guided trip you can call me at 916-705-1207





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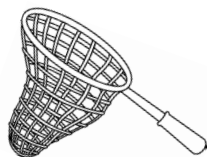



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Some Thoughts on Fish, Fishing and Other Stuff

2020 By: Fishing Guide, Bob Kopernik
AKA Lucky Grady

Each year when 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). In addition to this mental exercise, I 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. Last year, I believe that Lake Almanor produced more big fish than I can remember from any of the previous 40 years. In July, the three RV Resorts on the East Shore that host a monthly fishing contest for their residents each weighed in an 8 plus pound trout. That is fantastic! I understand that this may not really be an indication that bigger fish are being caught. But rather, that communication has changed so dramatically over time. Years ago we only had word of mouth and the weekly Chester Progressive. Now we have VHF radios, cell phones, text messaging, Face Book, digital photography, email and various websites, so our information about what is going on around the lake and what people are catching is almost instantaneous. When chatting with newcomers to the lake, the questions I most frequently get asked regarding fishing is “Where is your favorite or most productive place to fish and what bait or lure do you use?” The answer is actually pretty easy. I, like most other fishermen, that I know almost always go back to the last place that had good action and use the same bait that last produced some quality fish. I almost never leave the dock without some kind of plan. Even if I have had a couple slow days, I always have a thought as to where I will put my baits in and then there are days that I choose to just go exploring. I almost never chase radio fish. “Radio Fish” are the reports of someone having good catching results, and they’re almost always at the far end of the lake from where you are. I’ll guarantee you that by the time you get there the bite will have dramatically slowed or stopped. An odd thing I have observed over the past years is that the fish very often do “turn-on” all over the lake at the same time. I don’t know how many times I will be conversing with someone lamenting that neither of us has had a hit in over an hour when simultaneously we both shout out “Fish On I have to go!” Additionally, I often wonder if there is a correlation between the fish feeding in the lake and the other wildlife such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, birds and other land-dwelling creatures. I think one of the reasons that this lake produces so many quality size fish is a “Good News-Bad News” story. The good news is that there is so much natural food in the lake that the fish grow quickly-The “Bad News” is that this same natural food allows the fish with no need to chase down our lures that are being trolled or seek out our baits when we still fish. I always believed that the main sources of natural food came from the super abundance of Pond Smelt which were introduced as forage fish, and insects, such as midges, wasps, and May Fly’s. That was until last year when I caught two Tui Chubs. One was 15” long and the other about 10”. (See photos.) Note that I caught these two in the northern end of the West Basin while slow trolling Speedy Shiners above some weed beds in 35’ of water. Because I had no idea what species these fish were, I took photos and sent them to several of my more experienced fishing friends. I immediately got a response from one

that they were Tui Chubs, which were in his opinion, not good news. This friend has fly fished this lake for over sixty years and has never caught one or even heard of one being caught here. He told me of several lakes where the Tui Chubs took over the lake and completely ruined the sport fishing industry. According to him, examples of this are nearby Eagle Lake, Bridgeport Reservoir and Diamond Lake in Oregon. Of the 40 or so fishermen that I eventually reached out to, only four reported ever catching any in Lake Almanor. Over this past winter I did a considerable amount of internet research. I’ll share much of what I found to be the most interesting and/or pertinent. Note that I think I saw some spelling inconsistencies regarding certain subspecies and their known location as well as the use of chub photo images that may have been misidentified or at least inconsistent. I learned that the Tui Chub is found mostly in the western United States. There are somewhere between 12 and 15 known subspecies. The earliest specimen recorded in the Feather River watershed (Lake Almanor) is listed in the USGS NAS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species in 1976. It is listed as Specimen ID 28835 and identified as a *Siphateles bicolor* subspecies. Tui Chubs live to about 35 years. Their growth cycle is unusual in that they have rapid growth in the first four years to about 10” long. They then begin reproducing and grow very slowly after that up to about 18”. They estimate that a female will lay about 12,400 eggs and sometimes spawn twice a year. There is a reliable report of a 22’ Chub caught in Eagle Lake, but it is unclear to me if they have a different subspecies. Considering the above growth info I would guess that my 15” fish was about 25 years old. Upon hatching in an area of heavy vegetation (Goose Bay and the northern portion of our West Basin including the marshland north of the causeway), the fry feed on invertebrates, plankton and algae. As they grow larger they begin feeding on vegetation. The largest fish feed primarily on vegetation but also eat some smaller fish. I spoke with Valerie Aubrey a newly retired Fishing Guide with 60 years of experience on Eagle Lake. She believes that the larger adults are territorially aggressive and protect the smaller chubs from any nearby feeding trout. You can read all of her extensive writings about Tui Chubs and their effect on water quality and the fishing on her web site. <https://www.eaglelakefishing.net/current-fishing-report/> In Eagle Lake, Tui Chubs are currently so thick that people will pick up



Jacob Angelis, Harbor Master,
Plumas Pines Marina 6/18/19

their lines and move to get away from the large schools that exist there. Pyramid Lake in Nevada is interesting in that the biologists estimate that from a “bio-mass” stand point, there are more Tui Chubs in that lake than all other fish combined. When I called a good friend who frequently fishes there he reported not ever catching one, although he has occasionally heard of them being caught. The DFW at Diamond Lake in Oregon and Bridgeport Lake in California have spent millions of (taxpayer) dollars to eradicate them. In 2006 Oregon DFW killed an estimated 95 million Tui Chubs in Diamond Lake only to have them show up in fish traps a number of years later. Below is an interesting excerpt from my 2018 AFA Newsletter article 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 winter. 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. After my internet research and speaking with others who have fished lakes with large numbers of Tui Chubs, I now believe that a large school of fish that blanked out my sonar screen were probably Tui Chubs. A couple of years ago another Lake Almanor Fishing Guide who was fishing the north end of the West Basin was chatting with someone on the radio and expressing his frustration that there were so many “fish” under his boat that if he dropped a bowling ball he would most assuredly kill three or four of them. His exasperation was that he couldn’t get any of them to bite? Perhaps these fish were not trout or salmon at all but rather Tui Chubs? While writing this article it dawned on me that growing up in South Chicago my parents would go to a smoke house located on the Calumet River, just before it entered Lake Michigan, and buy smoked chubs for dinner. My wife Alma and I both remember from when we were children that they were a family favorite Friday evening meal and delicious especially when they were fresh out of the smoker. Much later in life, after our marriage, we bought them from grocery stores and they never met our expectations. When I looked up eating Chubs on the internet it was like I opened “Pandora’s Box”, so I’ll let you do your own research and decide how or if you might want to prepare them. Interesting that I did see an internet photograph of some smoked chubs @\$43.00 per pound! WOW!!! When I started my internet research I was looking for and coming up with the negative or bad news articles about Tui Chubs. Then on Valerie Aubrey’s website I found a poster published by the California DFW which says if you want to continue catching trophy size (Eagle Lake) trout “Do not kill the Tui Chubs”. They are an essential component of the food chain which helps the trout grow big? (I paraphrased) Note that when speaking with her she vehemently disagrees that the over population of large adult fish is beneficial. Another interesting tidbit of information is that whenever I keep a fish for consumption, I clean it and carefully split open its gullet to see what it has been feeding on. I don’t remember ever seeing something stranger than a sculpin. I certainly never saw anything 4”, 5” or 6” long that could possibly have been a Tui Chub. But these days I don’t keep nearly as many big fish as I once did. In fact, a 16” trout is about all my wife, Alma, our dog, Happy, and I can eat without left

overs. So taking into account all of what I learned, it is my current belief that as long as we have a good population of grebes, pelicans, and cormorants and our trout and small mouth bass population remain healthy, they should keep the Tui Chub population in check and we should be OK. If our fish restocking programs get interrupted due to financial, weather or water conditions, then we could be in for some dismal times similar to some other lakes. One 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 while still fishing. Others offer fly fishing or bass fishing and 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 do offer a discounted price for “Catch and Release” trips. I and at least one other guide, offer a “Learn the Lake” outing which could be most valuable to newcomers who are beginning a fishing vacation here or frequent visitors that have an interest in learning more about the structural and cover features of the lake to improve their catch. This trip actually motors around most of the lake and explains where, how and why to fish five or six different areas of the lake depending on the type of boat and tackle that they own. 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 rig baits. I’m surprised how often “experienced” clients need help with how to set the hook with “authority “ or 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:

http://www.almanorfishingassociation.org/lake_guides.html

Good luck and “THINK BIG FISH”.

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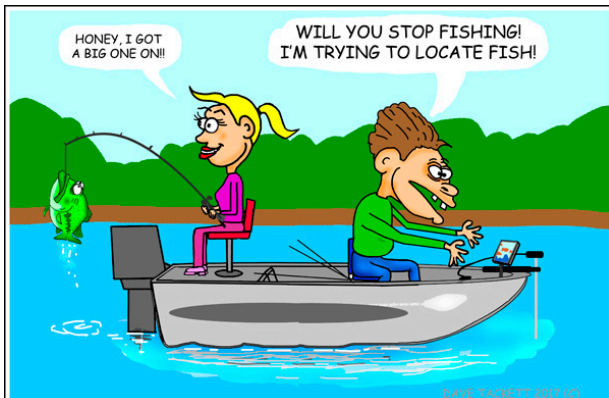
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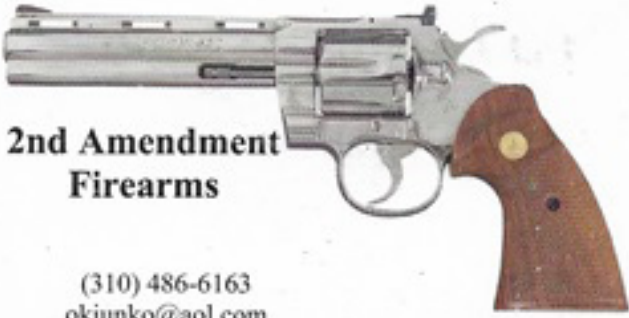


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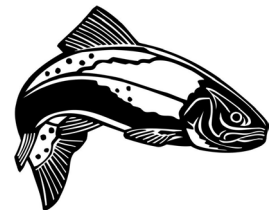
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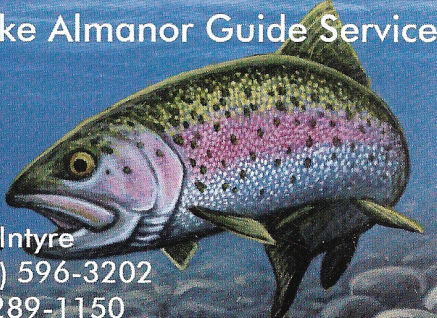
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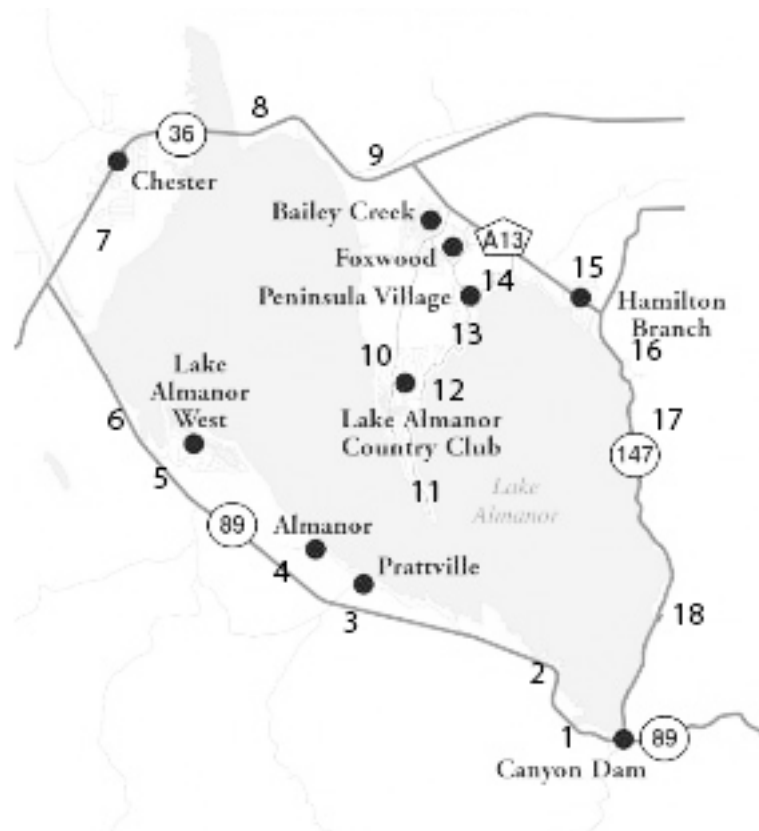


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Lake Almanor

AL for Alice MA for Martha NOR for Eleanor

Guy C. Earl Vice President of Great Western named the lake after his three daughters



**PLEASE USE THIS REFERENCE MAP
FOR REPORTING TAGGED FISH**

ALMANORFISHINGASSOCIATION.ORG
CALL 530.284.0861

AFA'S FISH TAGGING PROGRAM- SEE PG 7

1. Canyon Dam also known as "Geritol Cove"

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

2. Rocky Point Campgrounds

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

3. Prattville

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

4. USFS Public Boat Ramp

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

5. Almanor West

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

6. Goose Bay -

West Shore area

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

7. Mouth of the Feather River

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

8. Chester Causeway / North Shore Campground

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

9. Bailey Creek

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

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

10. Recreation Area #2 to the Peninsula

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

11. Almanor Peninsula

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

12. REC#1

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

13. The A-Frame

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

14. Big Cove Resort Marina

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

15. Big Springs

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

16. Hamilton Branch Area and Powerhouse

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

17. East Shore

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

18. The Snag

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

PLEASE

ENJOY

FISHING!

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

Summer time Smallmouth

Summer can be a rewarding time for smallmouth here. All it takes is a little understanding of fish behavior.

Bass are more active in summer because warmer water speeds their metabolism. And, bass have no eyelids. They can't squint and they don't wear sunglasses. Bright light bothers them. Knowing these two simple things can help you locate and catch summertime smallmouth.

Fish during low light hours:

Early morning and early evening are prime times to cover water. Smallmouth will cruise the flats searching for food before returning to cover or deeper water once the sun hits. I love to use topwater lures during low light. Poppers, Zara Spooks, whopper ploppers and the like until it gets dark or the sun hits the water. In the morning I'll make this time period last longer by fishing shaded banks after the sun comes up.

Fish cover and shade:

Smallmouth on Lake Almanor will remain shallow all day if they have shade. Stumps, rocks and docks all provide excellent sources of shade. When fishing these types of structures, you'll need to slow down. Use shaky heads, drop shot and tubes for best results.

Go Deeper:

Many fish will simply pull off the flats and hang out in depths with less light penetration. The slow fishing techniques already mentioned work well on Almanor for fishing depths of 15-30 feet.

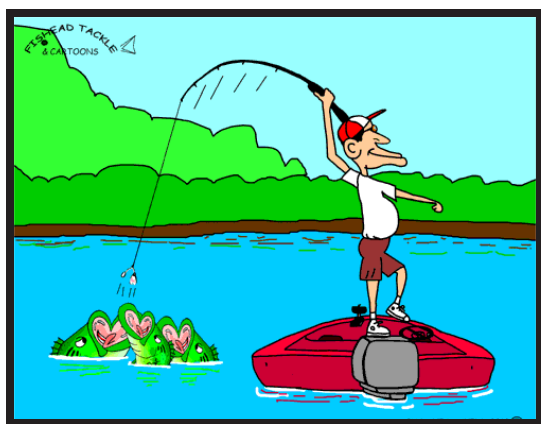
When to quit:

After the fourth of July we have many visitors enjoying the lake. Water skiing and jet skiing have an impact on the fish. On weekends it can be difficult to find areas not being torn up with boat wakes. It's been my experience that too much boating activity will turn the bass off. That's when I go home, take a nap and head for the golf course!!

Ben Williams

Fishdog Outdoors

408-968-8275



I hope these tips help you catch more bass. Please remember to take a camera and practice catch and release. Keep our fishery



Photo by Marnie- Patchett

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
Campground with cabins, tents and RV space. RV and boat storage. Boat slip, kayak and canoe rentals. General store, laundry and showers. Fun outdoor activities and local attractions.



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*Lake Almanor is magical.
Or at least the “**Trout Tramps**” from Lake Haven would tell you so.*



Although this year will be my fourth summer living at Lake Haven Resort (LHR) during the summer, my husband Tom and I have been coming to Lake Almanor for over 50 years! The same would be true for many of the couples from our eclectic group at Lake Haven Resort. We owe this close knitted group of friends to the owners of Lake Haven, Dave and Judy Finkbeiner. Judy literally has hand picked every camper and just seems to know who would be the best fit.

We are a motley crew for sure with backgrounds that would never cross paths if it weren't for our little piece of Heaven, LHR. We have veterans, interior designers law enforcement,

veterinarian, teachers, administrators, supervisors, equipment owner/operators, tractor supplies, book keepers, professional golfer, boat cover makers, slot machine and TV repair, realtors, firemen, farmers, telephone operators, carpenters, linemen, show dog owners and even a retired nun that now does dog walking for the fun of it! I'm sure I've missed a few.

But it works and we live together from May 1 to October 15th in our individual RV's. If anyone needs anything, someone has it or can fix it. We enjoy potlucks, wild card games, BINGO, BUNCO, happy hour, celebrity dress up, garage sales and any other excuse to get together. So many great cooks in one camp and let me tell you the Nun can really pull off some prize winning desserts. We even have a full blooded Italian (Jim) that taught us how to make home made ravioli's. That feast was one we will never forget.

Fifteen of us have Hobie Kayaks and that is where the real fun happens. Out on Lake Almanor peddling sometimes up to 10 miles on a beautiful day trying to get in shape for the poker paddle sponsored by the Almanor Recreation and Park District the last weekend in July on Lake Almanor. One particular year we had a “roll over” by our very own Nancy Serrono. Thank goodness it was Nancy because she was the only one of us that actually practiced trying to get back in the kayak if it ever turned over. So, needless to say we have lots of laughs and don't really take ourselves too serious.

The rest of the time you will find a good number of the “Trout Tramps” meeting at the boat dock at 9:00 in the morning and off we go trying to out fish the men in our camp. By the way that hasn't happened yet. Almost all of the men in camp fish and have helped us learn how to tie hooks, share the best line to

get, tell us what kind of bait we need and have even told us some of their secret fishing holes. We've met several other fishermen out there and all of them have been so helpful and respectful. We certainly have our favorites, you know, the ones that share their fishing secrets and even their bait from time to time.

Patti and Candi are sisters and have been kayaking and fishing for quite a while on Lake Almanor. They have taken the rest of us ladies under their wings and had to first teach us how to launch the Hobie! Then they started telling us about fish finders...the rest is history.

Hamilton Branch and Big Springs are two of our favorite hangouts. Its been said that they could hear us back in camp when a couple of us were first trying to handle those night crawlers, which I swear looked like small snakes! Personally, I thought the rubber night crawler looked pretty good because it didn't move when I tried to put it on my hook. Then there were those ugly (mean) mealworms that bite...YIKES. We were convinced those fish were afraid of us because we could see them but they just wouldn't bite. Then we found out about the garlic and anise spray and soon we were handling the bait and pulling the fish in.

Gilbert Serrano lives with us at LHR and is a volunteer for the Almanor Fishing Association. Gilbert has been such a great resource and has helped to educate us about the importance of the enhancement and preservation of a high quality fishing resource in Lake Almanor.

Look for us this summer.

We will be the ones in the colorful Hobie Kayaks. We almost always have our dogs with us so we are easy to spot.

Happy Fishing



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Lake Haven

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Almanor Fishing the Highlights – *written by Lance Gray*

Many fly fishers ask me what I love about Almanor. I simply say – “Big Fish”. The lake has a huge population of big browns, rainbows and smallies and all of them are great! The fly fisher can fish for fish all year long (in good weather) and there are always fish to be hooked



KEN & A HUGE BROWN

In March the Blood Midge is the main hatch that fly fishers can hit. This hatch happens all over the lake where there is mud bottoms. The Blood Midge is not the only midge hatching during this time. The fish key on the Blood Midge but are also eating the smaller Chironomids. Fishing in water that is no deeper than 10 feet with indicator rigs is perfect. I like using three flies at one time on the rig. The rig is basic. A 7 foot drop leader made of 20 pound fluorocarbon for the indicator to run back and fourth on. Then I attach tippet to the barrel swivel that is on the bottom of my drop leader material. I like to use 4X tippet (6-pound fluorocarbon). I attached the flies on by using the eyes of the hook. This way the flies are hanging out on the tippet material. I use a couple of Blood Midge imitations and usually one Chironomid pattern. Top patterns that I like are Zack's Jumper-Cable Midge and Zack's



Cut Bait Midge in Size 10-12. For the Chironomid Midge patterns I like simple Zebra or Tiger Midges in Black, Red and Claret in Size 14-20. In June you have the Hexagenia Hatch. This hatch is prolific and lots of fun. Fly fishers in float tubes wearing shorts are fishing in the heat of the late afternoon. The “Hex Hatch” is the biggest draw to Lake Almanor for fly fishers. Nothing better than catching big fish on bug dry flies. During the hatch we fish using different lines and flies. Basically, we match the hatch from the start of fishing and throughout the evening changing from fishing nymphs on sinking lines to fishing dry flies on floating lines. Fishing dry flies for rising fish is the ultimate on the lake. I fish four different patterns during this time. Many times, I fish two together. I use one for my indicator for the other one. For example, I like fishing Lance's Hex Paranymp Size 6 in front of Lincoln's Stillborn Size 6 or Lance's Hatching Hex in Size 6. The paranymp being larger and with foam on it allows it to float high and it is easy to see. The stillborn and hatching hex imitations lay low in the water. The only fly I fish by itself is the Lance's Hex Wulff. This fly is a high floater that I like to skate on the surface. The leader for the dry fly hex is simple; 9-foot taper leader to 3X (8-pound monofilament) tippet. I then attach my fly. If, I am using two flies I just add 18 inches or so of 3X tippet material between the flies. I use the hook bend to attach the tippet to the first fly and then to the eye of the second fly. In October the Pond Smelt are in high demand for the big fish. The fish eat and eat trying to get weight for the winter water. Fishing the smelt in

the coves is awesome. Sight casting to these cruising big fish is a blast. I like using a floating line with a long leader, (12 -foot 4X 6-pound Monofilament tippet) while fishing a Milt's Pond Smelt or my Lance's Pond Smelt bucktail pattern on the surface or just below it. The grabs are powerful. Using a monofilament leader that stretches is better than using a fluorocarbon leader that doesn't. Fish will hit and break your fly off quickly. I usually fish the pond smelt until the fish get off of them or until the weather gets to cold. There is fishing in-between these hatches and the Pond Smelt chase. Bass and trout are available all throughout the year around the lake. Grab your rod and get out on the lake and fish!

Lance & Kirsten Gray

Owners of Lance Gray & Company

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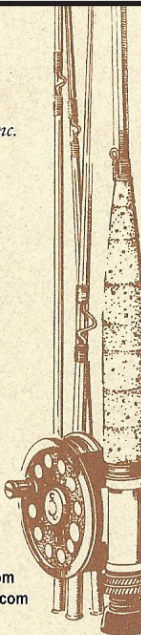


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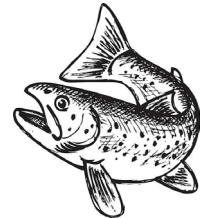
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THANK YOU DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

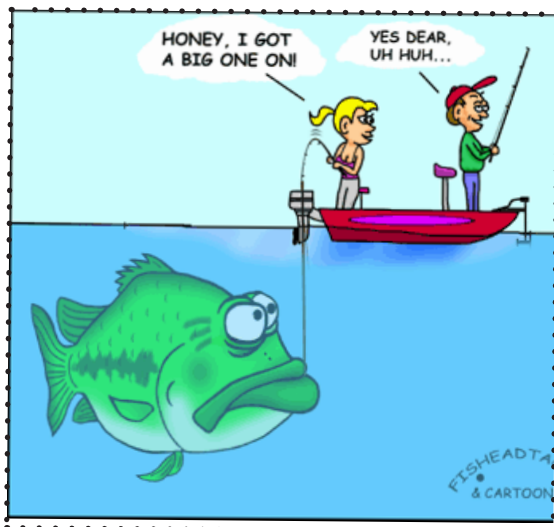


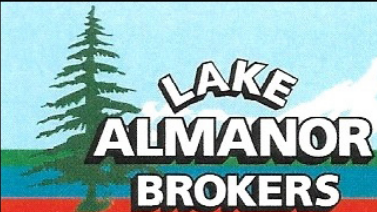
AFA SCRAMBLE

CLUE

1. sirrehocaateniseuimnart _____ Chester High
2. oalonotcbilar _____ Working Together
3. ancpacifi _____ 3rd Week in July
4. eegaifrngihrmorpanpsr _____ Established 1985
5. geansdfspu _____ Support AFA
6. ytfrrcchahe _____ Rearing Program

Scramble Answers Pg 29







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Otter infestation



2019 Kids Fishing Day



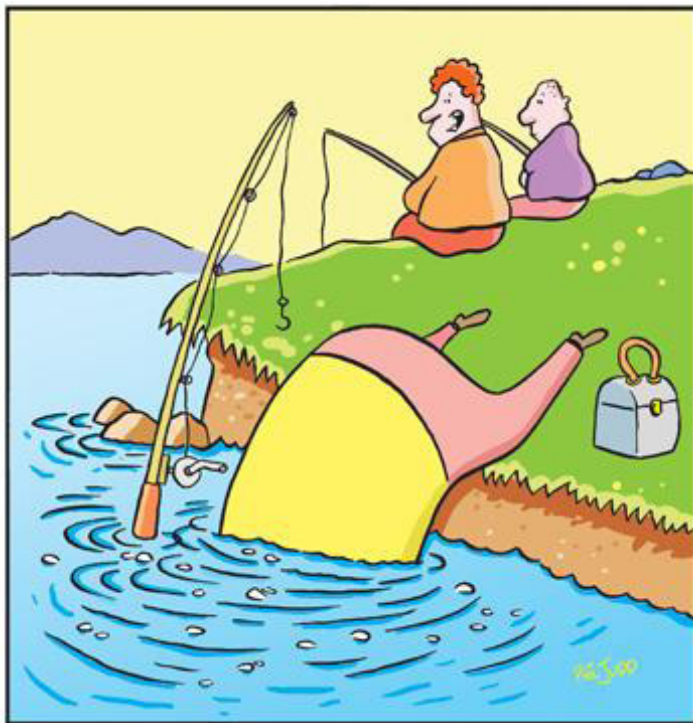
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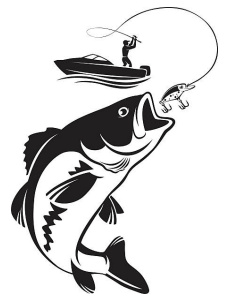
2017



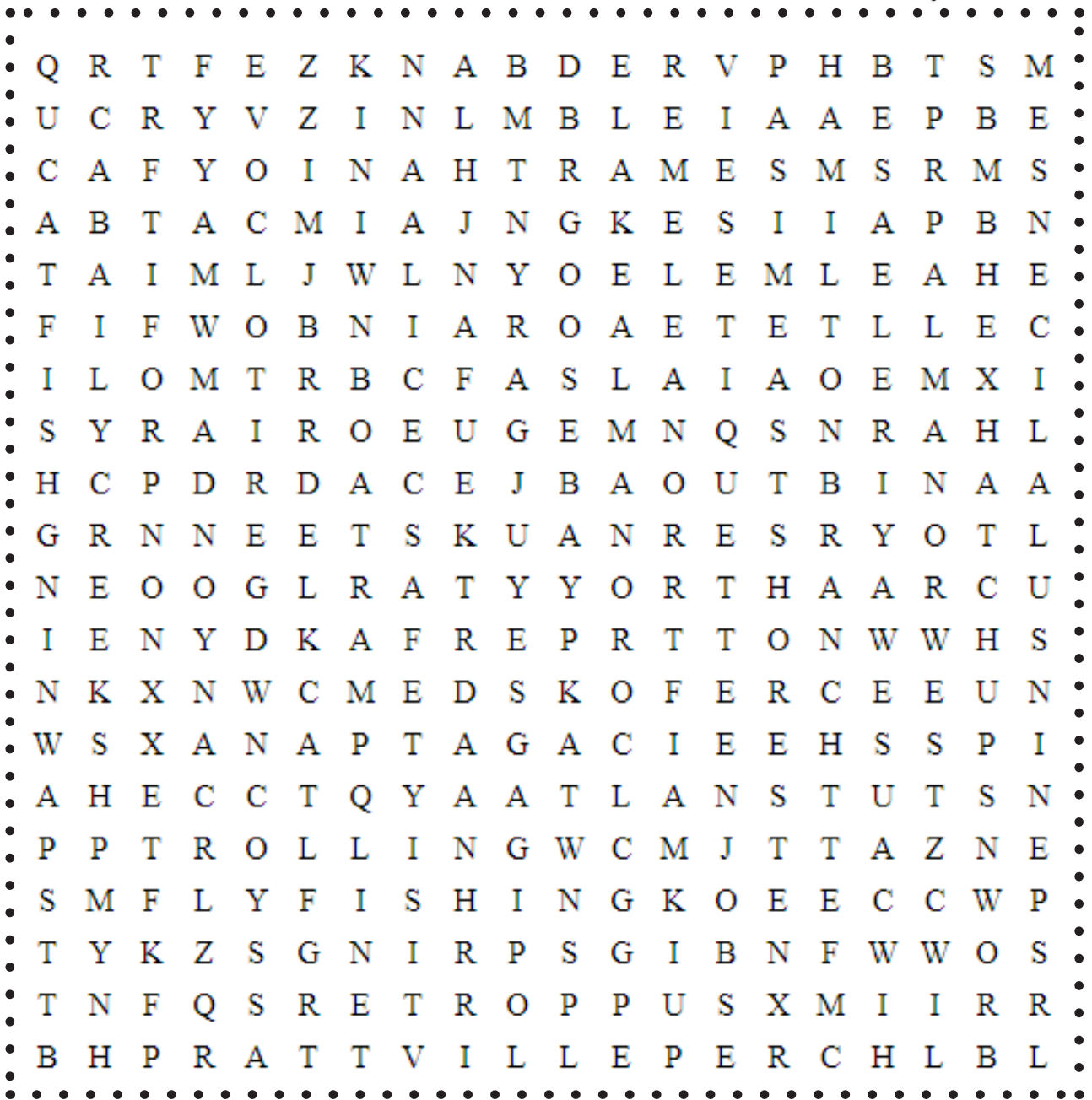
"He's trying to talk them into giving themselves up!"



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REDBANK
RELEASE

ROCKYPOINT
SAFETY
SALMON
SPAWNING
SUPPORTERS
TACKLE
TROLLING

FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2020

July 4th (Saturday) and
September 5th (Saturday)

On Free Fishing days, Californians can
fish any freshwater lakes

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



Veteran's Fishing Day 2019



Scramble Answers from Pg 25



| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3rd Week in July | AFA PICNIC | 1. anpacifi |
| Chester High | ALMANOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE | 2. slirehocaateiseniueimart |
| Working Together | COLLABORATION | 3. oalonoctblilar |
| Established 1985 | FISH PEN REARING PROGRAM | 4. eegallnnglhmorpanspr |
| Support AFA | USFS AND PG&E | 5. geansdfrspu |
| Rearing Program | FRCHATCHERY | 6. yftrccchahe |

27th Annual Family BBQ and Fundraiser Highlights(2019)

The AFA Annual Paul Garrido Family BBQ and Fundraiser took place Saturday, July 27th at the LACC Recreation Area #1 and was a huge success. There were more than 600 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 dinner in under an hour. 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 this year's BBQ and fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2020 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.



Alishia Hindshaw treating guests to
"God Bless America"

REGRETFULLY CANCELLED
LOOKING FORWARD TO **July 31, 2021**



Almanor Fishing Association's 28th Annual



Paul Garrido

FAMILY BBQ



and Fundrais **2021**

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2020 • 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.*

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES:



Big Cove Resort, 442 Peninsula Drive, Lake Almanor • 530.596.3349

LACC Sugar Pine Lounge, 951 Clifford Dr., Lake Almanor • 530.259.5440

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

Sierra's Fly & Tackle, 3820 Lake Almanor Dr., Lake Almanor • 530.596.3820

and ONLINE at almanorfishingassociation.org.

(Tickets also available from Board Members)

For more information call John: 530.284.0861



1-888-334-CalTIP
(888-334-2258)

A Confidential
Secret Witness
Program

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

IT'S NOT A FEE, IT'S A CONTRIBUTION

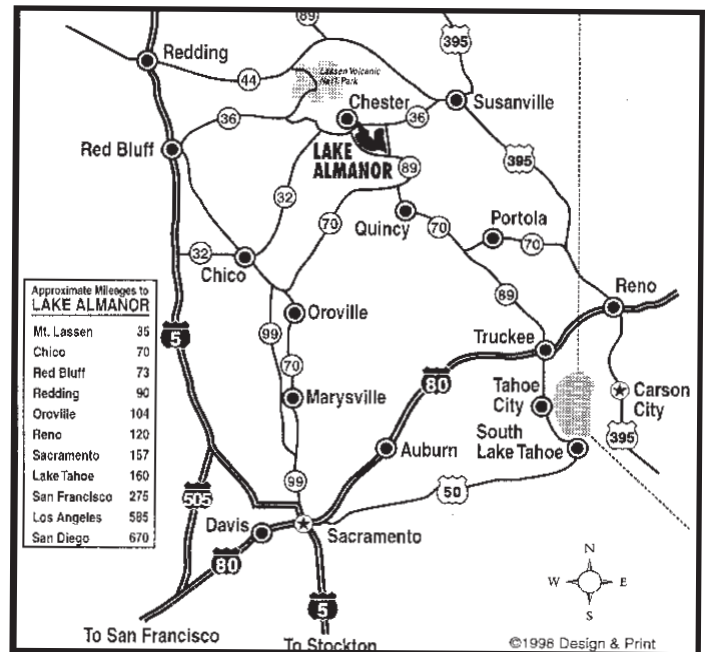
When you purchase a California fishing license, the fees help fund a number of state conservation programs such as: fishery management, habitat protection, and fishing education. You can do your part to help with conservation efforts by respecting our resources and following some simple fishing etiquette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

**FIRE
SAFETY**



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www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing

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