



FREE 2021 Edition

The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

WANTED TROPHY FISH, *Dead or* ALIVE



Dillon Martin



Erika Pilgrim



Ross Volker

If it Concerns Fishing, We're Concerned!

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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 FISH PEN PROGRAM PAGE 25

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.



It's no secret Lake Almanor produces a **"World Class"** grade of fish. We chose to place Erika, Dillon and Ross's photos of their trophy fish on the front page of our 2021 newsletter for obvious reasons. For most of us fishermen/women each of those fish would be a career best. Erika's bass, Ross's brown and Dillon's rainbow are beautiful fish and certainly deserve front page status, that said, the main reason they are highlighted is, all three "Trophy" fish were returned unharmed.

There is a strong likelihood that Erika, Ross and Dillon's fish were hooked and/or ended up in someone's net previously, who knows, they may already have had their picture taken by a proud fisherman/woman. It would be fascinating to know the history of each of these three fish, how old, what parts of the lake they hang out in, diet and lastly how they survived as long as they have. More importantly is what does the future hold for these fish and what is the future of Lake Almanor and our fishery.

In 2020 the state of California saw a substantial increase in sales of fishing licenses. There most certainly were more fishermen plying the waters of Almanor and it would make sense that more fish were harvested. What is the balance of fish planted verses harvested, how do we manage our resources and how can we all become better stewards of those resources.

I am a firm believer of catch and release, especially large "trophy" fish; they are typically not good table fare and in my opinion deserve to be returned to the water unharmed. When you catch that "once in a lifetime" fish, carefully take a picture, get some quick measurements and have a replica mount made if you wish. You will enjoy the memory of the battle so much more knowing your personal best was returned unharmed.

As always thank you to our Sponsors, businesses, members and volunteers for making the Almanor Fishing Association the longest running most successful fish pen program in this state.

John Crotty



New Members Needed

ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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

"BIG MIKE IS NO MORE" Caught Famous Trout



"Large trout captured in Big Meadows" Caught by Means of a Mouse

*Steve Fleming, Plumas County Museum Trustee
Almanor Fishing Association Board Member*

"Big Mike", a famous trout at Big Meadows, has fallen victim to the angling skill of Alex T. Vogelsang, formerly of this city.

For years this trout, which weighed nine pounds, has been one of the sights at the Meadows. Each morning he appeared at a certain point near the bridge. His habits were so regular that his name was carved in the railing of the bridge above the point at which he was invariably seen. The hotel guests were accustomed to visit the bridge each morning for a view of the splendid trout.

The cleverest anglers tried their daintiest Bannan flies on him and also their gaudiest, but he turned up his aristocratic nose at all their offerings. It remained for Mr. Vogelsang to find an Oriental tidbit at which he snapped greedily, to his sorrow. The hotel cat killed a mouse, and something prompted Mr. Vogelsang to present this to his troutship.

He let it float lazily downstream and Big Mike espied it. He gulped it down in one swallow and with it the barbed hook from which there was no escape.

The anglers feel as though they had lost an old friend in the passing of **"Big Mike"**.

Please visit our web site at
["plumasmuseum.org"](http://plumasmuseum.org).

**Article from Stockton paper,
June 27th, 1904.**

**Alex lived in Stockton at the time.
He was one of 5 brothers and
reported to be an avid fisherman.**

Patterning Almanor Smallmouth

In this article I want to step away from specific spots and techniques a bit. And talk about what professional anglers call "patterning".

Patterning is a method of figuring out fish behavior to a point where one can find a place where fish are biting and duplicate the conditions. To find other spots that are equally productive.

To begin you need to start with a baseline to work from. Your baseline will depend on your existing knowledge. Time of year, water temperature, water clarity, species of fish, depth, and structure preferences of that species. And of course, your knowledge of the lake.

Here is an example of how I might pattern smallmouth bass at Almanor.

I start fishing the lake in mid-April. I know that when water temps reach 55 degrees the bass will begin spawning. So, if I find water temperature at 48-53, I assume the fish are in pre spawn mode. Fish spawn in the flats. But they "stage" that is prepare for the spawn by hanging outside the spawning areas. So, I will concentrate my efforts there to begin. Then I may find fish in deeper water outside the spawning flats. Or perhaps on long tapering points. Or maybe on steep walls adjacent to spawning grounds. It does not matter where I wind up finding them. The key is that when I do I begin looking for similar areas. Trying to duplicate the scenario that gave me my first success.

When patterning fish, it is important to keep in mind that there can often be more than one pattern that can bring success. Top pros know this and try to establish several effective patterns before a big tournament. They know that things can change from day to day and when something quits working, they need a backup plan. Their livelihoods depend on it. So, they do their homework. They approach a lake with a purpose and a process.

Incorporate this patterning approach into your fishing and you will become a better angler and enjoy the sport that much more.

Enjoy the summer, take a camera and tight lines!

Ben Williams
Fish dog Outdoors
408-968-8275



Lake Almanor Bass Fishing

Ben Williams
Guide

Cell: 408-968-8275
Home: 530-258-3905
www.fishdogoutdoors.com

Trout Therapy by: Matt Goodrich

It is a cool early spring morning on Lake Almanor. The unsettled weather has a chilly North East breeze hitting us in the face as we launch the boat. If you were not already fully awake, you are now! Warm beverages and propane heat will get us to the sunrise and warm up. It is the beginning of another season on our beautiful lake. Our hopes are high, and confidence is guarded.

This period when the lake begins warming can produce some of the best fishing of the year. The fish are hungry and available food is relatively limited. Insect hatches will soon increase to fill the trout's needs, until then, we have a slight advantage. If our presentations are decent, they will get bit. In many cases they will be aggressively attacked. It is a scenario that we talk about and replay in our minds again and again throughout the seasons. Many of our favorite stories start with these circumstances. It is a timeless repetition of events that keep us retuning year after year. A fishing trip has the power to wash away a lot of what ails us. Now, more than ever, we can appreciate this annual attraction at our beloved Lake Almanor.

The boat is warmed up, everyone is seated and ready to cross the open water. This is a fun but crazy time for a guide. The plan you have had a for this day is swirling around in your head. Second guessing of tactics and starting points is unavoidable. It is pre-dawn with grey light on the water, the anticipation is palpable. What things will we see this day? What treasures of Almanor will be revealed; bald eagles, blacktail deer, river otters or dancing grebes, to name a few. These add spice to the main attraction. Large trout with big appetites and massive pulling power. We will apply our years of experience to entice these brutes to show themselves. When they do, we will feel the same excitement and joy that we felt the "first time". Being a guide on this water allows me the privilege of experiencing so many "first times" with a variety of people. The common denominator is always a feeling of awe. The moment when that large fish comes into view behind the boat, oohs and awes and the shaky arms. It never gets old.

We are extremely fortunate to have this spectacular resource here for our enjoyment. Many thanks go out to our supporting agencies and especially to the Almanor Fishing Association. Please become a member or donate. If you would like to fish with a dedicated guide, there are many to choose from. Give myself or one of the others a call.



You will not be disappointed.

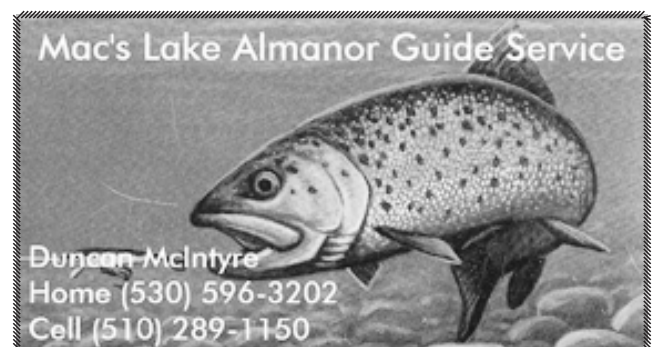
530.965.2085 CALL OR TEXT

LAKE ALMANOR CHARTERS

LAKE ALMANOR FISH DIP by: Duncan McIntyre

Equal parts smoked fish
& Creamcheese
1/2 cup chopped
green onion
Lemon Juice to taste
Red pepper to taste
Add more fish if desired

ENJOY!



Some Thoughts on Fish, Fishing and Other Stuff.

2021 By: Fishing Guide, Bob Kopernik AKA The Lucky Grady.

Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, there were a lot of boats on the water last year and the fish catching results were remarkably good. I think the number of large fish surpassed 2019 which was a particularly goodyear. Because of the number of fish planted over the past four years, I believe this year will be even better. Below is a list of total planted fish provided to me by the CADFW and John Crotty, President of the Almanor Fishing Association. We should all be thankful and appreciative of the hard work that John, Deb and so many others contribute to make it all happen. The AFA deserves our gratitude and financial support. Please do everything (\$\$\$) you can to help.

2017	DFW 74,937	AFA 50,000	Total 124,937
2018	DFW 119,830	AFA 50,000	Total 169,830
2019	DFW 262,548	AFA 70,500	Total 333,048
2020	DFW 301,483	AFA 55,000	Total 356,483

After fishing this lake for almost 50 years, I caught my first Tui Chubs in 2019. I shared my internet research on the Tui Chubs in my 2020 AFA article which is available on the AFA website. After contacting and sending photos to about 40 other Lake Almanor fishermen, eventually 5 or 6 responded that they had also caught a few, but most of them did not know what species they were at the time. In May of 2017 I saw what I now believe was a huge school of Tui Chub fry. This past year I saw many schools of bait fish on my sonar unit which I believe were small, scattered schools of the Tui Chub fry off Rec. #1.



I cleaned several fish caught in this area that had one inch long “chubby spotted” fry in their gullet and I believe that these were Tui Chubs. Is the proliferation of Tui Chubs a good or bad thing for Lake Almanor?

Near term it certainly adds an additional food source for our sport fish to grow big faster. In some other lakes, over time they have had a devastating effect. I think we will have to wait and see. A couple years ago our Grandson, Alex got interested in fly fishing. He took a fly-fishing class in Alaska and apparently got hooked. A Fly Fishermen is to fishermen who troll are like Sail Boaters to Power Boaters or Downhill Skiers to Snow Boarders, neither really understands nor appreciates the other’s love for their sport. While discussing Alex’s new venture with Jacob, the Harbor Master at Plumas Pines Marina, he showed me a book entitled “Still Water Fly-Fishing Secrets” written by **Hal W. Janssen** who is a world-renowned fly fisherman, who often fished Lake Almanor. After looking through a few pages, I knew this could be a great Christmas present for Alex. I took it home and after reading through the first few chapters I went back and bought a copy for myself. (Note that Jacob does have several more copies available for purchase.) There are scores if not hundreds of useful tips about everything you would ever need to know about fly fishing. Some of the information is applicable to all other types of fishing. I was already aware of and implementing some of the information and useful tips Hal presented. Some of these tactics I learned from my father, relatives and/or fishing buddies. Some I had learned by the fact that I spend a lot of time fishing and try to pay attention as to what strategies produce fish.

I will mention only a few of Hal’s tips because they could be extremely helpful to improving your fish catching results. 1. Hal writes that fish are opportunistic and continually feed when natural food is available. The reason we do not get bites is because our presentation of lures or baits are not like what they are currently feeding on or interested in. 2. You need to get your bait at the right depth in the water column. This is where the water temperature and dissolved oxygen is optimum, and their natural food is present. This depth changes throughout the day and calendar season. Note that I post the water column temperatures on my “You Should Have Been Here Yesterday” weekly fishing report which is posted on my bulletin board on the Plumas Pines Marina building right next to the Lucky Grady. If anyone knows of a suitable or good Dissolved Oxygen Meter, I would like to get the info about it. 3. Fishing the southeast end of Lake Michigan my Dad always said, “When the wind is from the East the fish bite the least.” and “When the wind is from the West the fish bite the best.” In the mid-western states most storm fronts come from the west and are preceded by a falling barometer. Hal totally agrees and has a whole chapter discussing how and why fish react to changing weather (and sunlight) patterns.

I have carried an old barometer on my boat for years and tried (ineffectively) to watch the correlation of barometric pressure tendencies to fish catching results. This past Christmas our Son John gave me a new barometer that will fit on the dashboard of our boat and will encourage me to observe “real time” barometric changes. I will let you know how it works out. Here is some “Good News-Bad News” info. This year is my 10th. Year

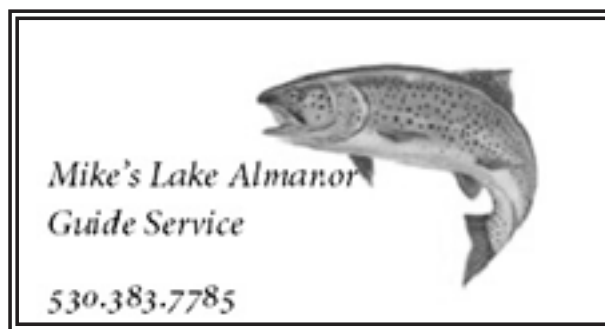
anniversary of operating my guide business The Lucky Grady. And in the Spring of 2022, I will turn 80 years old. So, I have decided that this will be my last year for guiding. It is/was a difficult decision because over the past years I have come to meet so many neat people and some have become lifelong friends. We still plan on spending

our summers here and fishing as much as possible. I will still be available to provide current information and assistance in any way possible. Contact me via VHF Channel 69 or cell phone. Thanks to all for your continued support and friendship. 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 website 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 for trout and salmon using downriggers. The Lucky Grady accommodates two clients very comfortably. 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 motors around much of the lake and explains where, how and why to fish five or six different areas depending on the type of boat and tackle that they currently 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 am 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 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 cannot guarantee that you will catch fish. (That is why we call this sport "Fishing" instead of "Catching".) To get information on all the guides listed on the AFA website go to... http://www.almanorfishingassociation.org/lake_guides.html

Good luck and "THINK BIG FISH".



Fishing and Baseball



It is time to look forward to 2021 and get 2020 behind us. What a long year it has been, and I am being discreet. The educators in my district, Woodland Joint Unified School District, have been teaching classes virtually since the middle of March. Teaching middle school Physical Education to seventh graders through Zoom can be extremely challenging. Explaining the history, rules, boundaries and how to play a variety of sports without any equipment or actual participation has been quite different to say the least. The students have been great, making the best out of a crazy situation. However, I cannot wait to get back to school.

A couple of days before Thanksgiving, my wife, son and I all tested positive for COVID-19. All of us had mild symptoms and probably would not have even known we had contracted it. We all did our 14-day quarantine and are feeling fine. During my quarantine, which felt like an eternity, I received an email from John Crotty, our AFA President, reminding us to start working on our articles for this year's AFA newsletter. Since I had nothing but time, 14 days to be exact, I started thinking about what I could write about this year for the newsletter. I wanted to try something different; therefore, I ventured outside the realm of the usual fishing articles and decided to write about the similarities between fishing and baseball. This seemed appropriate since I love to fish and coach baseball.

The Team

In both fishing and baseball, there is a comradery amongst its participants to achieve a common goal. First, AFA's Board and general membership works extremely hard to improve the Lake Almanor fishery in a variety of different ways, which include the tireless effort needed to run a successful Hamilton Branch fish pen project, youth fishing days, Veterans Fishing Day and the AFA BBQ. Similarly, Varsity, JV and Frosh coaches and players put in countless hours to improve the overall quality of their baseball program. This would include the importance of being a student/athlete, baseball field maintenance and projects, practicing, conditioning and fundraising. Both groups collectively try to raise the bar and make things better for future generations.

Terminology

Surprisingly, there are a lot of words that fishing and baseball have in common. Here is some terminology that is universal in both fishing and baseball: Single, Double, Triple, Grand Slam, Win, Loss, Catch, Drag, Bleeder, Count, Fishing, Save, Error, Strike Out, In the box, and What's the score.

Etiquette/Unwritten Rules

In fishing and baseball, there is etiquette that should be followed. For example, when you are trolling, make sure you do not turn too close behind another boat. Give a wide berth to an angler fighting a fish. Next, make sure you troll in the same direction as others so that you do not cross lines. Finally, plan your turns accordingly. In baseball, you never want to show up your opponent or your teammates, run up the score, or make the first out at third base. Respect the game and anglers that are on the water. These are just a few examples that will make your day on the diamond or on the lake much more enjoyable.

Scouting/Fishing Report

If you are fishing or playing your crosstown rivals in baseball, it is a necessity to gain as much information about your opponent as possible, even if it is a rainbow trout. Doug Neal explained this to me: "Good decisions come from experience, and a lot of experience comes from bad decisions." You need to ask questions, check the AFA fishing report and put time on the water. Knowing your opponents tendencies, where to align your defense and understanding your players' strengths and weaknesses will increase your chances of success. When you make a coaching mistake in baseball, it can cost you the game. Similarly, it can make for a long boat ride when you are fishing.

Superstitions

Baseball players are among the most superstitious athletes in sports on and off the field, and anglers on the water are not far behind. Some baseball superstitions include not talking about a no-hitter in progress, players jumping over the foul line when taking the field, or eating particular foods prior to a game. Now when it comes to fishing, anglers are not immune to superstitions either. Wearing your lucky hat, having a positive attitude, keeping bananas off the boat, and never renaming your boat are a few fishing superstitions. It doesn't matter if it is baseball or fishing: if it works, keep doing it.

Catch of a Lifetime

When you go fishing or start a new baseball season, you never know when you will have the opportunity to catch the "catch of

a lifetime.” Both have so many factors that can affect the outcome. When you coach baseball, you never know which player may have the opportunity to take the next step and play Major League Baseball. Before making it to the Major Leagues, each player has endured a variety of situations where they can succeed, be passed over in the minor leagues or even released. Thankfully, my baseball “catch of lifetime” happened twice. I had the opportunity to coach the second baseman for the Boston Red Sox, Dustin Pedrioa, when he was a freshman at Douglass Junior High. In addition, I coached pitcher Kyle Lohse, who played for the Minnesota Twins, Cincinnati Reds, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals, Milwaukee Brewers, and Texas Rangers. I coached him during his sophomore and junior seasons at Hamilton City High School. Both have won World Series and many MLB accolades. As in fishing, you never know what is in store when you set that line in the water. Getting that monster brown to the boat to get a glimpse of it may be a lot easier said than done. That is what is so intriguing about fishing and keeps you going back. Could today be the day? During this upcoming season at Lake Almanor, you might just encounter your “catch of lifetime.”

I hope you enjoyed the article, and I would encourage you to become a member of the AFA or make a small donation. Your support will go a long way in furthering the success of the Hamilton Branch Fish Pen project, Veterans Fishing Day and Kids Fishing Days. You can join online or fill out the membership application located in the newsletter. When you are on the lake and want to get in contact with me (The Greek), I am on marine band channel 69. Let us all do our part to continue to make Lake Almanor the best fishery in Northern California. Enjoy the lake and good luck catching your catch of a lifetime!

About the author: I was born and raised in Woodland, CA. For the past 27 years, I have worked in this community as a middle school physical education teacher and high school baseball coach. My family and I are seasonal residents of the Lake Almanor Country Club, and I have been fishing on Lake Almanor for the past 17 years. I am a full-service guide who offers morning pick-ups at private docks or any other convenient lake location. My goal is to provide all clients, no matter their fishing experience, with a trip that will suit their individual fishing needs. I have a 22-foot Design Concepts fishing boat, which is fully equipped for fishing on Lake Almanor. I am 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.



**ERIC
PAPAS
Enjoying a
day with
dad**



Nate with Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service

Mike's Lake Almanor Guide Service

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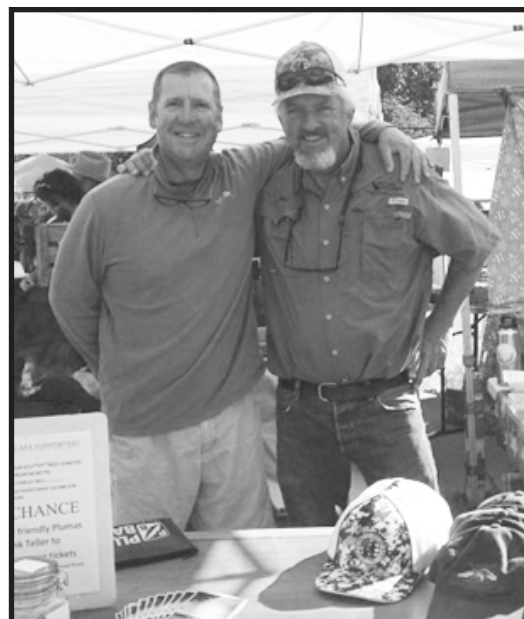
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Mike Papas and John Crotty TEAM AFA

Just for FUN!

Most fish reproduce by laying eggs, though some fish, such as great white sharks, give birth to live babies called pups.

Lungfish can live out of water for several years. It secretes a mucus cocoon and burrows itself under the unbaked earth. It takes in air with its lung through a built-in breathing tube that leads to the surface. A lungfish has both gills and a lung.

Some fish, such as the great white shark, can raise their body temperature. This helps them hunt for prey in cold water.

The oldest known age for a fish was an Australian lungfish. In 2003, it was still alive and well at 65 years old.

Fish use a variety of low-pitched sounds to convey messages to each other. They moan, grunt, croak, boom, hiss, whistle, creak, shriek, and wail. They rattle their bones and gnash their teeth. However, fish do not have vocal cords. They use other parts of their bodies to make noises, such as vibrating muscles against their swim bladder.

Fish can form schools containing millions of fish. They use their eyes and something called a lateral line to hold their places in the school. The lateral line is a row of pores running along the fish's sides from head to tail. Special hairs in the pores sense changes in water pressure from the movements of other fish or predators.

Since a fish's jaw is not attached to its skull, many fishes can shoot their mouths forward like a spring to catch startled prey.

Electric eels and electric rays have enough electricity to kill a horse.

Sharks are the only fish that have eyelids.

Fish have sleep-like periods where they have lowered response to stimuli, slowed physical activity, and reduced metabolism but they do not share the same changes in brain waves as humans do when they sleep.

Some fish, such as the herbivorous fish (grazers), often lack jaw teeth but have tooth-like grinding mills in their throats called pharyngeal teeth.

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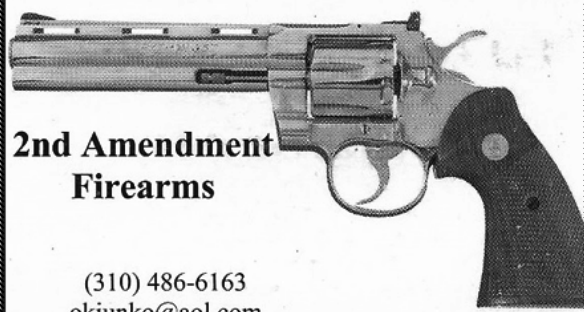
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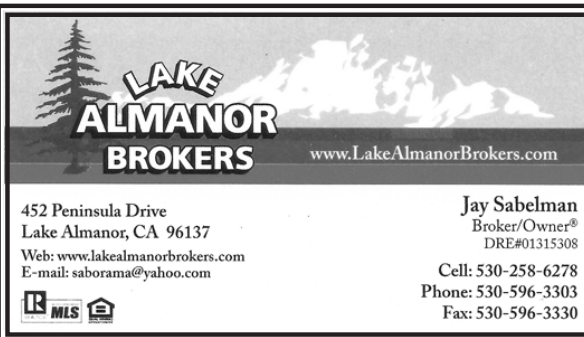
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MAKE ANY STYLE LAKE ALMANOR FISH PATTIES

1 Fish (trout, bass, salmon or catfish)

½ Cup Chopped Onion

2 Eggs

Your favorite hot pepper diced finely

Seasonings

Breadcrumbs

Oil or Butter

Bake fish until flakey (20 min.) Cool. Mix with all ingredients, except breadcrumbs and oil or butter. This is where it gets interesting: You can add any variety of seasonings.

You want KICK? Add KICK. Hot sauce, peppers, anything. Want MILD? Keep it MILD. Diced olives are a nice addition too. Make patties any size you want. I make them ½ dollar size. Bread them with the breadcrumbs. Heat oil or butter and fry until golden. Don't forget your favorite sauce for dipping.



*Enjoy!
Deb Reynolds*

Q: How do you communicate with a fish?
A: Drop it a line!

Q: Did you hear about the fight at the seafood restaurant?
A: Two fish got battered!



**Colten
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Store Manager

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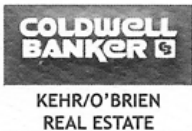
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*"I'm telling you right now--
I'm not cleaning it!"*



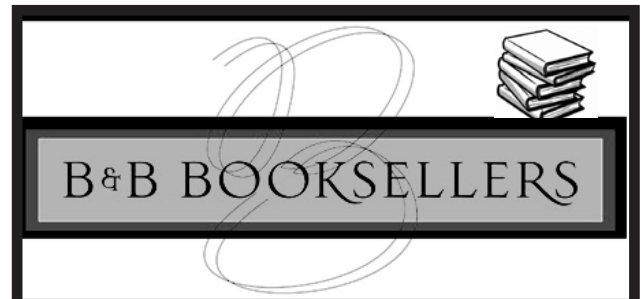
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Q: What is the richest fish in the world?
 A: goldfish

Q: How do fish go into business?
 A: They start on a small scale!

Thank You

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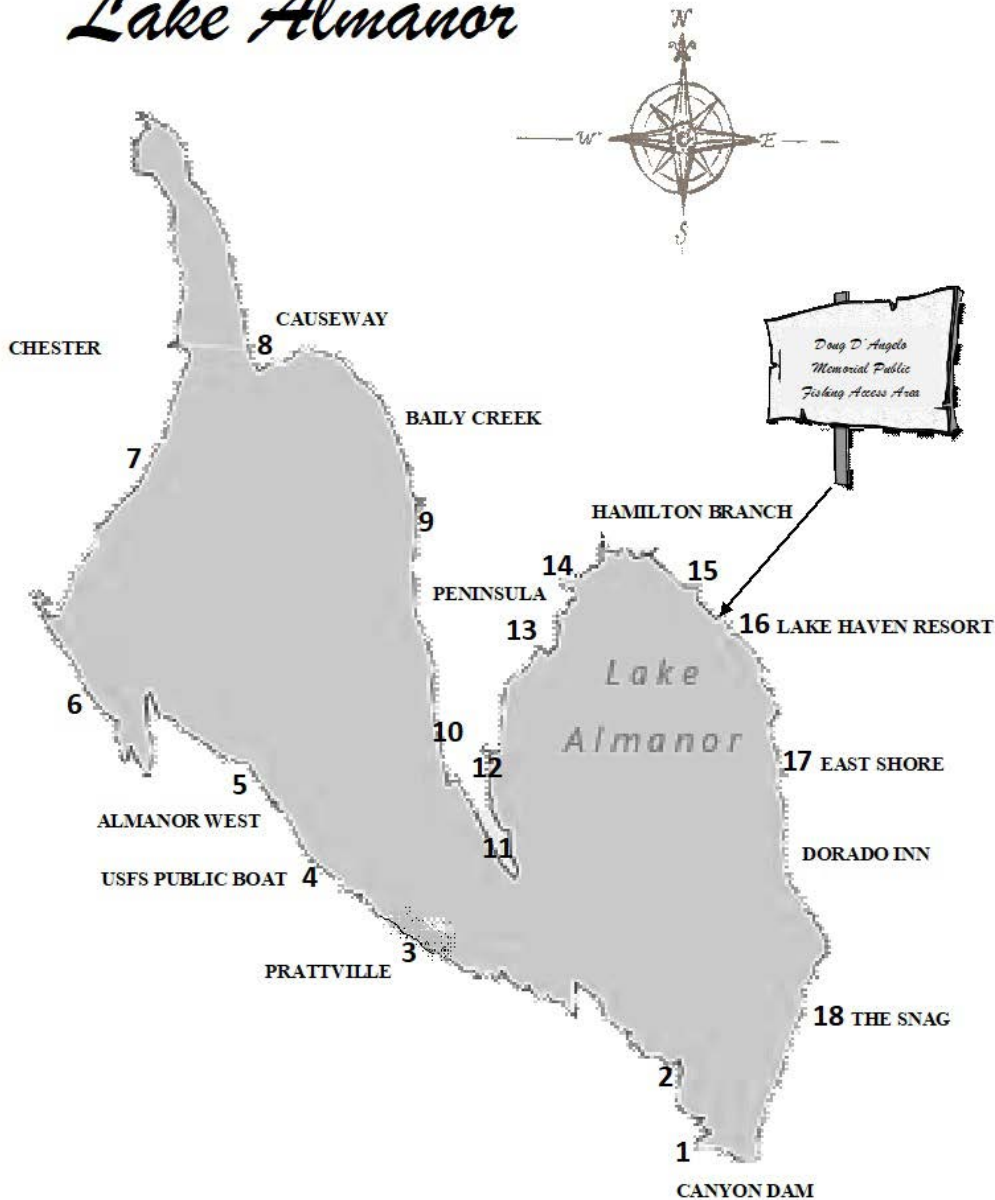
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2020-Tagged 500 Fish (Blue Tag)
2021- Tagged 1000 Fish (White Tag)

**PLEASE USE THIS REFERENCE MAP
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ALMANORFISHINGASSOCIATION.ORG

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, 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>

The Summer Bite. July, August, and September

It is not just warm outside, but the Fishing can be Red Hot Too. There's not many places you can go in the middle of summer and catch large Trout (20"+) on a flyrod consistently.

As the Hex Hatch dwindles, and the Lake water warms the Trout and Bass will start to seek cooler water Temps.

Typically trout will go deep and out of the reach for the typical Fly angler. However; Lake Almanor has thousands of cold springs and a few cold rivers coming in all around the lake. This cool water is a haven for trout. It is like a natural AC unit. Find cool oxygenated water and they will be there. The trick is getting the fish to bite. These fish key in on Hatches Big time. Most common Hatches are Midges, Damselfly, Hex, Daphne, and the occasional Smelt School moving through.

Some of my favorite setups are a 10' 6wt with a 7wt Floating line for Indicators and 9'6" 6wt with an Intermediate (type 2) sinking line, using a 6 to 8lb test tippet. Leader length changes daily anywhere from 6' to 16'. Hex patterns and Blood Midges are typically a starting point.*

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Flies Under Indicators by: L.G.

Many of you know by now that fishing with a bobber (indicator) is a standard practice. Many bait fishers use bobber to suspend their offerings for the fish. The fly fisher can do the same thing using their fly rods. I should add that conventional gear can also have a fly tied on instead of using bait.

Many times, the fly fisher will use indicators in streams while nymph fish. When the indicator stops, moves or plain goes down the fly fisher sets the hook and boom — fish on. Using an indicator (bobber) in lakes is an easy and highly effective way to fish.

The “Dead Drift Rig” I use, is my standard drop leader that is made from 20-pound fluorocarbon. I cut an 8-foot piece of fluorocarbon material and I tie a size 14-barrel swivel on one end of the fluorocarbon. On the other end of the 20-pound fluorocarbon I slip on 3 medium bobber stoppers, then I slide on my Gray’s Indicator and then 3 more bobber stops. You can use other indicators like Jaydacator and air locked bobbers (or using conventional gear a standard bobber). At the end of the 20-pound fluorocarbon I tie on another size 14-barrel swivel. I attach a “SSG” split shot just above the terminal barrel swivel. The indicator now rides on the fluorocarbon being trapped by the bobber stops. The bobber stops are easily moved to adjust the depth of the fly. I use a cheater section to attach the drop leader to my fly line. The cheater section is just a 12-inch piece of 30-40-pound monofilament. I place a perfection loop on one end of it. Use the loop-to-loop method to attach the cheater section to the floating fly line. Tie the cheater section to one end of the drop leader at one of the barrel swivels. Then from the terminal barrel swivel I tie in a 36-inch piece of 3x-6x (4–8-pound test), fluorocarbon tippet to the balanced leech or jig fly. This rig can be fished in deep to shallow water. I can move my indicator for

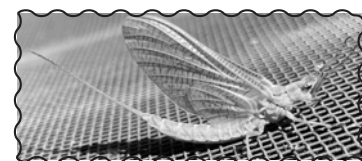


the depth I am fishing. The indicator works as a “float gauge”. My Gray’s Indicator has a post or what I call a “Tell-Tail”. When fished, the “Tell-Tail”, will be straight

up. This “Tell-Tail”, is very sensitive and will detect a strike easily. Sometimes the fish will barely move the indicator while taking your fly, and other times the entire indicator will disappear.

The balanced flies are just that. They are a leech pattern tied on a jig hook. The weight (tungsten Bead) is extended out at the front of the fly by using a sewing stick pin. This fly-tying technique allows the balanced fly to ride horizontally in the water column. You can also use jig flies that are tied onto a standard weighted jig hook. Whatever fly or jig you pick this rig can do it. You can also fish midges (Blood Midges) underneath this rig.

I have several flies that I like to fish underneath the indicator. I have Zack Thurman’s Float & Flies. These flies are small baitfish patterns tied on a size 1/16” or a 1/32” jig head. These flies represent shad minnows. I also, have balanced flies that represent leeches and Hex nymphs. For these flies I like Zack Thurman’s Swimming Balanced Leeches and my own Gray’s Balanced Hex. Ryan Williams developed a balanced Wakasagi AKA the Pond Smelt. All of these flies are awesome and work very well underneath an indicator.





Jean with a great Rainbow durin Hex *Guide L.G.



Gene with a nice Brown durin Hex *Guide L.G.

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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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The Abundance of Lake Almanor: Reflection

There is an abundance in the beautiful Lake Almanor basin. Stop for a moment while you are here and appreciate it. Notice the squirrels scamper and chatter seemingly near every tree. “Choog Choog Choog” hollers the grey squirrel while stomping its feet in protest. Golden mantled ground squirrels protest every bit as mightily. The walking trails are sheltered by a depth of trees and long shadows that allude to

history- the wisdom of time. Osprey fly overhead. Eagles, ducks, geese, grebes, loons, and gulls all share this area in great numbers. In late June, the hex hatch is well documented. Uncounted are the thousands of small creatures that emerge from the muddy bottom. Large, solitary, and esteemed is the brown trout that ply these waters feasting on that wealth. So much so that Lake Almanor is considered by some the single most preeminent brown trout fishery in the state. With ceaseless energy swallows canvas the skies around their preferred nesting habit. To these abundances add one, reflection.

Here is where my journey to Lake Almanor begins. With the reflections taught to me from others. Sure, some of it I learned on my own. Hooking my grandfather in the head while casting for small, mouthed bass along the shore. The taught line pulled against my cast with my momentum building up power into the loaded rod. “Owwe” disrupted my confusion as I looked at the baitcasting reel wondering what was wrong before turning to see the disappointment and concern from my uncle. Grandpa holding his head. The large plug buried soundly into his scalp. But ultimately this is not about me. I fled the fires of 2018. Fleeing the flames consuming not only the dry understory, but the canopy of conifers. My hometown was decimated. It was not by coincidence I ended up buying a home here at Lake Almanor. I had known the beauty of this place for many years. I did not know about the “20-year cycle”. A staple now in my vocabulary. I am told it is the cycle of the wonderful men and women who come here to live and enjoy this beautiful lake. Many get 20 years here before the difficulties of winter and the lack of health care drive them away. I did not know about the Maidu, Bunnell hotel or the Great Western Power Company. I did not know most of the wonderful people who inhabit this area full-time. Perhaps the most beautiful hidden in plain sight secret of this lake is them. There have been many influential and successful fishing guides who have fished these waters. Their years live on in the stories. There is a richness here. A wealth as great as the lake has to offer. And that is an abundance of reflection.

With my first year here, I have discovered it. Doug Neal moving on we reflect on a man who spent his 20 years, his Almanor cycle if you will, working tirelessly for the Almanor Fishing Association. His legacy and impact are felt in the work ethic, dedication, and breadth of the current volunteers. His brash doing it my way style still reverberates in the memories of fellow fishermen.

A little-known name to most, Joe Quinlan. A veteran, a fisherman, and deadly with a firearm, Joe was old school. Joe presided over his personal sanctuary in Clear Creek with great pride. He told me about the brown trout and the spawns of years ago. The years before the “Department of No fish and No game”. He would point out the spawning beds of the rainbow trout and tell me where to go to get a peek at them before they would retreat into the culvert pipe for protection.

Born locally in Clear Creek, Doug D’Angelo became a milkman. He worked in maintenance and then head of security for the Lake Almanor Country Club. He fished almost every morning; they tell me. I guess you get to be a legend when you started guiding in 1963. Not to mention holding the, for the purposes of this article, undisputed, gargantuan, leviathan, brown trout record of 17 glorious giant, mammoth, almost disgustingly large pounds. Without accepting a penny of compensation, and insisting against it, Chad Wallace from LACC maintenance and local resident carved Doug a memorial at the Hamilton Branch public access area. Doug you see, passed in 2014. Pay a visit there, reflect. In the coming years I hope to be honored with the opportunity to write a great many articles about this fishery. I have known some magic of Almanor. The cold winter waters falling calm. The entire width of the lake glass without the traffic of a single boat. The steady rise of steam coming from the Collins Pine’s cogeneration facility. Lassen looming on the horizon. And the magic as the fish rises. The surfacing of hundreds of trout, their dorsal fins parting the water. They quietly and mysteriously disappear to the deep with the approach of the boat. As someone who loves fishing, I know nothing more powerful. I know Almanor has more stories to offer.



More insights to share. But for now, I begin my journey by acknowledging the great people who have come before me. To honor them, our organization and our fishery through the reflection and mentoring of the many fine men and women who are here today. I am honored to be amongst them and privileged to receive the stewardship, insights, and history of their reflections. It is truly one of the great abundances Lake Almanor has to offer.

Stop and listen. You will be glad you did.

Captain Rob Ayres


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Viral Fishing

Special to AFA by Capt. Bryan Roccucci

Well, that was an interesting year. My 23rd season running charters and guiding clients on the lakes of the Northern Sierras. While 2020 saw some fantastic fishing, it was not without its challenges. New plans and procedures had to be developed and put in place. Customer safety has always been a priority onboard my boat, and it was just a matter of adding a few best practices. I got ahead of game by implementing a boat and equipment sanitization program long before the shutdowns and getting any input from our local and state governments. With the new safety and sanitization concerns addressed, now we could concentrate on the fishing.



**John with a solid pre shutdown
late winter Brown**



Spending time out on the boat during the shutdown, keeping up with the fish to be ready when the orders were lifted.



Scott's group had some killer summertime Rainbow action.

One of the biggest challenges was rescheduling customers that were set to fish during the mandated 7-week shut down. Some customers decided to move their spring trips to the fall to see how things would play out. Other customers requested to be notified as soon as dates were available and then changed their plans. When late May came around and I was back running trips I was able to get those people plugged into the schedule, but late spring and summer revealed another challenge. How to take care of all the new people who decided to come to the mountains looking to get out of the house and enjoy outdoor recreation?

For me, that meant very few days off and lots of additional afternoon charters to handle the increased demand. With a good rhythm established, things seemed to be settling down, and then came fire season. So many people were affected, especially here in northern California. While the Almanor basin was not directly affected by fire, there were plenty of periods of smoke with levels ranging from inconvenient to dangerous that shrouded the hills.

One positive of the whole COVID-19 thing is that it caused a surge in the fishing population, some for the first time. Other anglers who may have been out of the game for a while became reinvigorated. While an increase in angler numbers does put more pressure on resources it also brings more people to the table to protect and enhance those same resources. If you are a member of AFA thank you, if you are not, we would love to have you. All this is documented by the record number of fishing license sales in the state of California. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1,959,230 fishing licenses were sold in 2020, an increase of nearly 316,000 licenses from 2019 and equaling numbers not seen since 2008. So, most of my spring trips were washed out by the shutdown, but the fish were still biting. I made weekly runs out on the lake to keep current with the

conditions and to be ready for when things eventually opened back up. Summer trips were fantastic, despite the lower lake level. The quality of fish in Lake Almanor is really something to behold. Summer gave way to fall, and the fish really went on a tear, feasting on the lake's abundant pond smelt population. During this time, I also began running trips at Eagle Lake, talk about some fantastic fall fishing opportunities. Eagle Lake for the last few years has really kicked into high gear during the fall months, so much so that in 2020 from late October until Thanksgiving I moved the operation over there full time. Both fly trolling as well as fly casting trips saw some outstanding action with unmatched numbers and quality. Late November and early December it was back on the waters of Almanor to take advantage of both the great weather and a solid winter bite, which proved to be a nice way to cap off what was both a challenging and rewarding 23rd season.

With all the "mental gymnastics" of keeping a small, local, recreation-based business up and running in 2020 I welcomed my usual winter shut down period which allowed me to get caught up on things and take care of all the boat maintenance and upgrades required to be ready for this season. A huge thank you to everyone that came onboard in the last year and I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2021. Here is to what will hopefully be a year of equally great fishing and a lot less turmoil.

The Almanor fall fishing was on fire. Here is the result of a triple hook up on some beautiful Browns



Releasing another beautiful Eagle Lake Trout.



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 as well as seasonal trips on Bucks Lake, Eagle Lake, and Lake Davis. Bryan has nearly 3 decades of experience on these waters with more than 20 years as a professional guide specializing in trophy trout and Kokanee. For more information about Lake Almanor or any of the other lakes please visit: www.bigdaddyfishing.com or follow us on:

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Mark Pilgrim
Releasing this Big BASS

*"A bad day of fishing is still
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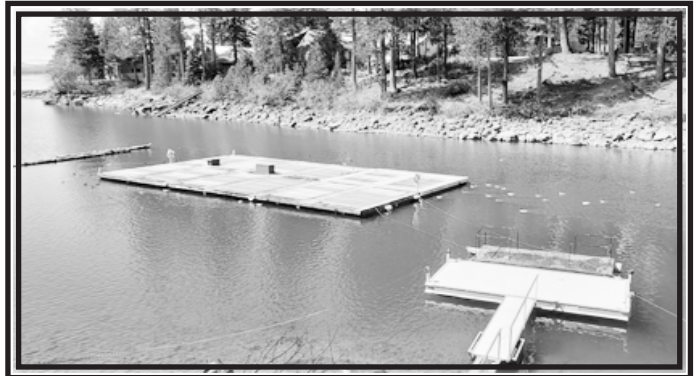
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AFA Fish Rearing Pen Project

AFA is proud and honored to share that in spite of COVID the AFA fish pen program is alive and well. We are celebrating our 36th year of partnering with PG&E, California Fish & Wildlife, (CF&W), and the Lake Almanor community to raise and release 50,000 rainbow and 10,000 brown trout into Lake Almanor.

On October 21-22 we transferred 50,000 fertile West Virginia rainbows and 10,000 fertile Shasta Lake Browns (from Feather River College) into our pens. The West Virginia strain did great. They grew quickly and thrived in their new environment.

Hats off to our dedicated feeders, they did not miss a day of feeding the entire season.

For more info: <http://almanorfishingassociation.org/index.php/fish-rearing-cage-program>



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"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles," Doug Larson.

RODS! JOHN CROTTY :)





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www.LakeHavenResort.com



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There is no better way
 to help care for your
 community than by
 joining, supporting
 and participating in
 your Chamber!



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**While we weren't able to host our 2020 Veteran's Fishing Day, approximately 15 boats met at flag island on June 27th to pay tribute to our Veterans. Please view the video created by Jason and Chris Lai.
Lake Almanor Veterans Fishing Day - June 2020 - YouTube**



★
Veteran's Fishing Day on Lake Almanor
★

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021



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
Call: 530.284.0861 John or Deb

We encourage Captains and Veteran's to sign up early to ensure their spot!

★
✌️
★

Thank You!



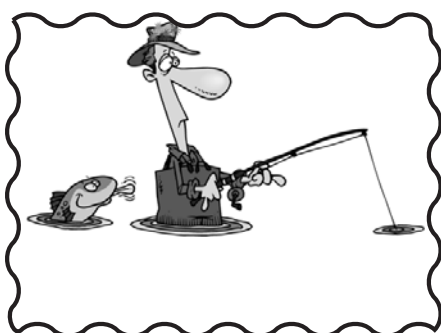
**Honoring those
who serve**



FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2021

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.



Ladies having fishing fun with Ben Williams



Fishing Terms

S	F	S	E	R	K	C	O	D	D	A	H	L	I
A	L	K	F	O	N	B	B	B	A	T	E	T	G
E	I	E	B	D	S	L	A	S	M	R	P	B	R
P	E	S	A	S	D	D	X	S	E	I	R	E	A
H	E	E	V	T	E	T	O	P	S	V	E	R	V
O	F	L	O	A	T	S	B	H	K	E	T	I	E
O	P	E	R	L	W	G	T	C	T	R	A	B	L
K	E	P	P	S	I	I	A	N	I	R	W	D	P
S	E	I	O	S	P	B	E	E	B	I	B	A	I
W	D	S	L	A	K	F	S	T	O	A	K	E	T
E	I	S	E	L	T	R	O	T	T	I	N	G	A
E	I	M	S	M	B	O	S	G	P	S	S	G	O
D	A	T	B	O	O	L	E	B	R	A	B	I	L
S	B	E	H	N	T	F	I	S	H	I	N	G	F

BASS
HADDOCK
WATER
POLES
FLOATS
TENCH
FISHING
WEEDS
BIG
HOOKS
TROTTER
SALMON
SEATBOX
BATE
GRAVELPIT
PIKE
RODS
BARBEL
RIVER
DEEP

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/38372/>

Fundraising

The 28th Annual AFA "Paul Garrido" Picnic



As most of you know, the 2020 Picnic had to be canceled.

In 2019, 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. We are approaching the 2,000,000th trout 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.

FOLLOW AFA
ON FACE-
BOOK



Almanor Fishing Association's 28th Annual



Paul Garrido

FAMILY BBQ



and Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 *4-9 P.M.

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

VOLUNTEER



June of 2020: The AFA Board voted to create an annual volunteer of the year award to properly recognize one of our hard working dedicated volunteers. The board collectively wanted to find an appropriate way to recognize and honor Doug Neal for his service to the Almanor Fishing Association and felt an annual award with Doug being the first recipient would accomplish that feat.

Doug not only guided on Lake Almanor he was also a true steward of the lake and AFA's biggest advocate. Doug recruited AFA members and volunteers, attended every work party, youth fishing event, Veterans fishing event, snow removal day and most importantly Doug was our Thursday feeder. Doug never missed a Thursday, he marked every Thursday off his calendar from the middle of October through the middle of April, it was his duty and he took it seriously. Doug moved out of the area last year. He is missed more than he will know. Doug, we wish you, Dawn and Baxter well and thank you for your service to AFA and the Lake Almanor Community.

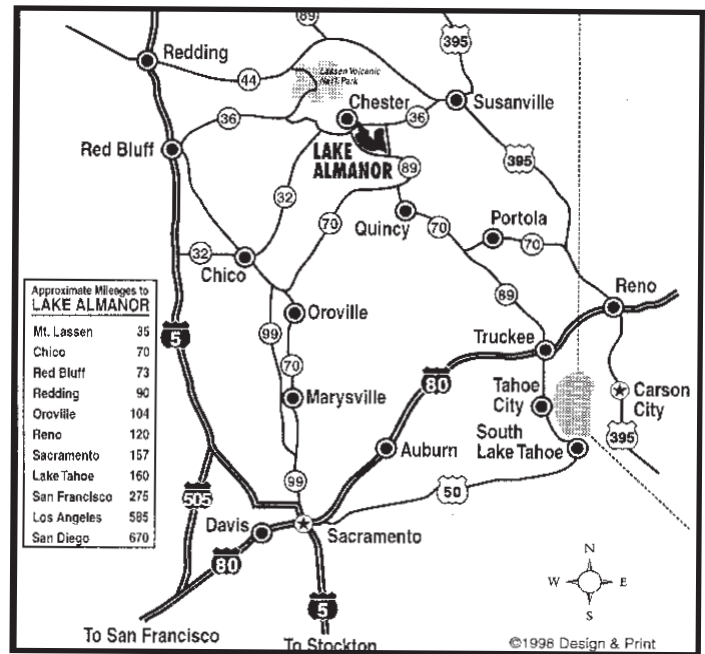




1-888-334-CalTIP
(888-334-2258)

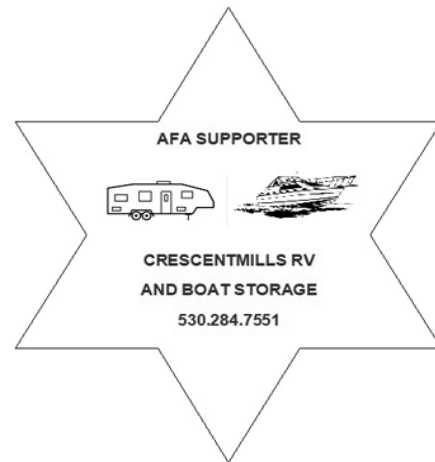
A Confidential Secret
Witness Program

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.



Deb Reynolds releasing a beautiful Rainbow



Published by AFA Volunteer,
Deborah Reynolds

Newsletter printed by
Feather Publishing, Quincy, CA

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

SPORT FISHING LICENSE ONLINE NOW

You can now buy your sport fishing license online and print them with internet access. Licenses are required of any person 16 years of age or older. To get your fishing license online go to www.dfg.ca.gov. You can print a temporary document for immediate use which will be valid for 15 days. The original will be mailed to you. Must use a Visa or MasterCard for secure purchasing.

www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/fishing

Visit the AFA WebSite at
www.almanorfishingassociation.org
or e-mail us at
almanorfishing@sbcglobal.net