

# The Almanor Fisherman

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION

## IN THIS ISSUE...

*Dick's Guide Service	Page 1-3
*Rick's Guide Service	Page 4
*Almanor Fishing Association News	Page 5
*Chester/Lake Almanor C of C	Page 6
*Big Meadows Guide Service	Page 7
*Big Daddy's Guide Service	Page 8
*Wayne's Bear	Page 9
*Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company	Page 10
*Almanor Fishing Adventures	Page 11
*Quagga Mussels - PG&E	Page 12
*Plumas County Sheriff's Patrol	Page 13
*Lake Almanor Fishing Map	Page 14-15
*Almanor Research Institute	Page 16-17
*Quagga Mussels - AFA Member	Page 18-19
*CIFI and Kokanee Power	Page 20
*Roger's Guide Service	Page 21
*Fish For A Wish - Make A Wish	Page 22
*The Hex Hatch	Page 23-24
*Lake Almanor Thermal Curtain Issue	Page 25
*Almanor Fishing Assoc Picnic	Page 26-27
*Fish Plant Info & Photos	Page 28



**Peyton Farmer From Nevada Proudly Shows Off Her Prize Brown Trout Catch**

## A Review Of 2009

By Dick Mason of Dick's Guide Service

The year started out on a high note. We spend the winter months (January, February, & March) at Shasta Lake, fishing for bass. We stay at a trailer park and we are only 10 minutes from the launch at Jones Valley on the Pit arm. I fish every day, weather permitting. It's like a vacation to me. I have family and friends come down every week. The fish aren't big, but they are plentiful. A three pound spotted bass is considered big. Fish between a pound and a pound and a half is an average size. Twenty and thirty fish days are the norm, and on ultra light tackle, this just makes for a fun day. On Jan. 16th I caught a 7 lb 1 oz spotted bass, which I had mounted and now hangs in my living room.

My wife, being married to a hard core fisherman, has seen a lot of fish come and go. She has always said the last thing she wanted was to have a fish hanging on the wall in her living room, however I think she is getting used to it. To any of you fishermen out there that catch a once in a life time fish and you want to have it mounted, I would like to recommend a taxidermist. His name is Glen Smith, "aka Smit-ty". If you give me a call, I can tell how to get in touch with him. I have never seen a better mount, he is truly an artist.

*Continued on Page 2*

All good things have to end. Vacation is over and it's time to get back to the mountains and get back to work. We got home towards the end of March. Just in time to get in on pretty good shallow water brown bite. This usually happens late March & early April. About the time the small mouth starts to move into the stump areas. I like to troll in about 10 to 12 feet of water in areas with stumps. One of my favorite lures for this kind of fishing is a clown colored Rapala, at just less than 3 miles an hour. In water this shallow, you want to have your lures a long way behind your boat. At that speed, the hits are pretty spectacular. I have picked up a trick that I have been using the last couple of years that I think has helped me catch more fish. When fishing hard baits, like Rapala, needle fish, and speedy shiners, the liquid scents will wash right off of your lure. But if you smear a little unscented Vaseline and then add a little of your favorite liquid scent, it will last a long time.

Late April and May, I migrate with the fish up into the flats at the north end, off of the west shore and Bailey Creek, where the bite is mostly rainbows. May is probably one of my favorite months to troll, with October being number one. I probably fish a piece of a threaded night crawler with a slow troll, about one mile an hour about 50% of the time. The other half of the time, I troll lures, such as needle fish and speedy shiners. The last couple of years, I have started using a lure called "Ex-Cel". It is similar to lures like speedy shiners and needle fish. I don't think it catches any more fish, but I love their color selection, and it has really been working for me.



*Cory & Dennis Planje limited out with guide Dick Mason*

Don't forget Butt Lake in the spring, as it can be a real sleeper. We landed probably a dozen rainbows in between four and five pounds with two browns a little over six pounds. I hate to see spring end, because when summer comes, so do the water skiers. I'm kind of embarrassed to tell you how I put up with the water skiers, because I don't. After memorial week-end, I book just about all my trips on Eagle Lake, where they are not a problem. I feel guilty, because I know I am missing some good fishing on Lake Almanor. I promise myself I will spend more time on Lake Almanor this summer, because of the size of the fish it kicked out last year. June, July, and up to the middle of August was just about automatic limits every trip on Eagle Lake.

Do you ever have the feeling that everything is going too good and running too smooth? I hit a major speed bump in the middle of July. The day started out innocent enough. I had a trip on Eagle and got up at 4:00am, and went out into my carport to get the boat ready to fish. We have a freezer in the back of the carport that I keep ice in for the fish box. I opened the freezer door, and I sensed a little movement down by my left foot. Now you have to remember that this is 4:00 in the morning and I am not fully awake. There is a skunk as big as cocker spaniel just inches from my left foot. I was afraid to close the freezer door because I thought the movement might make him spray. Looking back, I don't think I was thinking at all. I just backed away and got the hell out of there. Now I didn't know what to do, as the back of the carport is closed off and I didn't know how to get rid of the skunk. But the skunk solved the problem for me. As I was standing there thinking, he waddled out of the front of the carport and left on his own. I was thinking "boy are you lucky". You just dodged a bullet". Well, I was wrong.



*Chuck Weeks Shows Off His 6 - Plus Lb Trout*

*Continued from Page 2*

This was one ornery skunk. Before he left, he sprayed a direct hit inside the freezer. Now everyone has a remedy to get rid of skunk odor. For a month, my wife tried at least dozen different ones. We never did get rid of the smell. We ended up losing all the contents and the freezer too. We ended up buying a new freezer. The final insult was we had to pay a \$15.00 dump fee to get rid of a perfectly good appliance. So now I am at war with the skunks. I bought a trap and set it in the back yard, and it worked. The next morning there was a very big unhappy agitated skunk in the trap. I thought to myself that this skunk trapping is easy. Then realized I didn't have a clue how to get that unhappy skunk out of my back yard to the release point. The part I didn't like is your hand has to be about six inches from the skunk's tail to open the trap. We trapped three in about week's time and it was a learning experience. I learned I don't like to trap skunks and they don't like to be trapped.



Three or four days later, I had another trip on Eagle. My wife doesn't usually go on my fishing trips, but she knew the people and wanted to go along so she could visit. Fishing was great, and we were done by mid morning. I drove the boat onto the trailer and my wife pulled me and the boat up into the parking lot. This is where things went terribly wrong. We were going down the middle aisle and my wife tried to stop several times. I am sitting in the boat behind the console and I kept motioning her to go further as I wanted her to go clear to the end of the parking lot so we would be out of everyone's way. She did not know what I wanted her to do, so she stopped the pickup and got out. Reverse and park are only a click away, so the truck is still in reverse and we start going backwards with her out of the pickup. We are going down the aisle backwards with her trying to get back in the pickup. My pick up is a diesel with a lift kit, and it is a big step getting in, especially if the truck is going back-wards and the door is open and pushing against you. Now in my wife's cheer leading days, she would have just vaulted into the pickup and that would have been the end of the story. But that was a few years ago, so we continued backwards with what seemed to me at an alarming rate of speed. With the only result being a major collision with a lot of damage to the front end of someone's pick up and a lot of damage to the back end of my boat. But my wife, God bless her, was able to grab the steering wheel and crank it hard to the right, causing the boat to jack knife into the back of my pick up.

The end result was no damage to our boat and only a broken tail light lens on the pickup and no body work. All in all, it couldn't have ended better. Looking back, the open door could have knocked my wife down, and the pickup could have run over her. You can always replace a lower unit but a good wife is hard to find. I have always heard that God does not subtract from a man's life time spent fishing. After that week, I think I owe him a couple of days.

During the year, I usually meet some good people and hear some interesting stories. This year, I had a guy tell me that when he was younger he arm wrestled on ESPN and beat the ex football player "Too Tall Jones" twice. I also had a preacher that told me he did a funeral on a reservation and a grieving mourner got to close to his mother's open grave and fell in on top of the casket. They had to get a step ladder to get him out. Now you can't make stuff up like that. Eagle Lake usually slows down a little around Labor Day weekend. It is kind of a transition time between summer and fall. I came back and started fishing Almanor and had a good deep water bite on the east shore. As fall approached and surface temperatures started to lower, I had some of the best fishing I had had all year at the north end of the lake in the flats, trolling in water fifteen to twenty feet deep. I also had some good days on Butt Lake. I can't remember a year with so many fish in the four to six pound range. So if 2009 is an indication of things to come, I can hardly wait for 2010.

I want to thank Almanor Fishing Association for all the business they have sent me and all the good work they do to enhance the fishing on Lake Almanor.

Good fishing to everyone and if you see me on the lake,  
give me a wave.

Book your trips at: 530-256-3317 or  
e-mail [dcmason@frontiernet.net](mailto:dcmason@frontiernet.net)

My web site is [www.anglernet.com](http://www.anglernet.com)

Harry Le Seur, Pharm. D.  
Susan Le Seur



*Lassen Drug Co.*

Mon.-Fri. 9-5 • Sat. 10-1

Phone (530) 258-2261

Fax (530) 258-1999

E-mail [chester@lassendrug.com](mailto:chester@lassendrug.com)

P.O. Box 827

271 Main St., Suite A

Chester, CA 96020



# Rick's Guide Service 1993-2010

By Guide Rick Taddei

This is my first year to write an article for Almanor Fishing Association. So I thought I would let you know a little bit about myself and my Guide Service.

I'm a life time resident and have been fishing Lake Almanor for over 50 years. I can't remember not having a fishing pole in my hand when I was growing up. When I was 2 1/2 years old we went to visit my uncle in Anderson. The next day my dad and uncle left to go salmon fishing without me. The Anderson Newspaper Headlines Read "Youngster Takes Stroll As Wild Search Goes On". They found me 1 hour later and 1 mile away "Going Fishing".

I have been lucky enough over the years to land two large brown trout. One fish was 29 inches long and weighted 11 lbs 4 oz, the other one was 33 inches long and weighted 14 lbs 5 oz.

## THE BIG ONES ARE OUT THERE!

Approximately twenty years ago I met my friend Dick Mason (Dick's Guide Service 530-256-3317). We talked a lot about fishing and guiding. Even though our methods of fishing are different, our goals of catching fish and making people happy are the same. Dick's enthusiasm in what he does is what inspired me to start guiding.

I didn't start guiding until 1993 and have found it to be very challenging at times but always rewarding. To me there is no better feeling than to see the look on someone's face (especially the kids) when they catch the fish of their lifetime. It's also very rewarding to have so many people that choose to spend part of their vacation time out on the lake fishing with me year after year.

That's enough about me. Now I would like to tell you about my Guide Service. I fish solely for Smallmouth Bass from mid April (weather permitting) through mid June.

I use light action spinning tackle and artificial lures only. From mid June through mid August I fish for Rainbow and Brown Trout. I use light action spinning tackle with live bait and jigs. I run my trout fishing trips from late afternoon until dark. I do not troll, so if you like holding the rod, feeling the bite, setting the hook and fighting the fish not the equipment then give me a call.

You can contact me by calling my cell # (530) 394-7170 or my home phone # (530) 284-6005. My E-mail address is rtaddei@yahoo.com Thanks and Good Fishing



*Trinity Proudly  
Shows Off Her 6.2 Lb  
Brown Trout While  
Fishing With Guide  
Rick Taddei*

## New Members Welcome

Please help support the Almanor Fishing Association. Thank you!



### ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP COUPON

P.O. BOX 1938 • Chester, CA 96020 • PHONE (530) 258-3790

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/PO \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ☐ SPONSOR \$100 ☐ FAMILY \$50 ☐ BUSINESS \$30 ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$25

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

# SCHOLARSHIP

For the tenth year, the Almanor Fishing Association is offering a scholarship to a Chester/Westwood High School student who shows an interest in the local fishery and has career goals in Marine Biology, Forestry or another related field. Scholarship recipients in recent years were:

Arick Biggs - 2004 - Westwood  
 Nicholas Anderson - 2005 - Chester  
 Samantha Lee - 2006 - Chester  
 Shae Cheli - 2007 - Chester  
 Nicholas Delucci - 2008 - Chester  
 David LaGroue - 2009 - Chester

We hope our members will take pride in helping students attain their educational goals.

## WHAT IS THE ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION?

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

*If it concerns fishing – we're concerned!*

## ASSOCIATION JACKETS AND ACCESSORIES

Almanor Fishing Association Jacket, tee-shirts, sweat-shirts and hats are available from Loretta Green's shop in Susanville called "Green Stitches".

- Jewel Neck sweatshirts - \$40.00
- Hooded Sweatshirts – \$50.00
- Tee-shirts – \$14.75
- Hats – \$13.50
- A variety of Jackets are also available
- Bring your own item and get our logo:  
 Small front logo \$10 - Large Back Logo - \$28

All colors available for above items.

Contact Loretta at (530) 251-2580

## ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Pleau, President/Secretary  
 Paul Garrido, Treasurer  
 Wayne Clegg, Photographer  
 Jim Buckley, Board Member  
 Tommy Gaither, Board Member  
 Tom Johnston, Board Member  
 J. C. Jones, Board Member  
 Ray Pallari, Board Member  
 Eric Rudgers, Board Member  
 Gary Spence, Board Member  
 Mike Wylde, Board Member

Newsletter Editor: Irene Faria

### Cedar Lodge Motel



**& RV Park**

Quiet • Pool • B-B-Q • Snowmobile trails  
 Located in woods off highway

Katherine & Al Templeton  
 P.O. Box 677  
 Jct. Hwys 36 & 89  
 Chester, CA 96020

(530) 258-2904  
 fax - (530) 258-2016  
[www.cedarlodgeonline.com](http://www.cedarlodgeonline.com)  
[cedarlodge@frontiernet.net](mailto:cedarlodge@frontiernet.net)

### Notice to Fishermen

*Cedar Lodge Motel is offering a 10% discount off room rates when guests use a fishing guide from the Lake Almanor area*

### GREEN STITCHES

177.1031.107 & LORETTA'S LONG ARM

**Loretta Green**

'Authorized Janome Dealer

2440 Main Street  
 Susanville, CA 96130

530-251-2580 - phone 530-251-2545 - fax

'Embroidery-LongArm Quilling-Sewing Classes

'LorettasLongArm@msn.com

## SERVICES ON LAKE ALMANOR

### West Shore of Lake

#### **Plumas Pines Resort**

Marina, Gas, Boat & Jet Ski Rentals, Store with tackle, bait and other food and beverage items.

Lakeside at The Pines – serving Lunch, Dinner.

Courtesy Dock Available.

#### **Camp Prattville**

Cabins, R.V. Sites, Marina. Store with Tackle, Bait and other food and beverage items. Carol's Cafe and West Shore Deli serving Breakfast & Lunch daily and Dinner on Sunday. Take-out available. Courtesy dock available.

### North Cove - East Side of Lake

#### **Big Cove Resort**

R.V. Sites, Marina, Gas & Propane. Store with Bait, Tackle, Snacks, Cold Beer and Soda. Boat Rentals-Pontoon Boats, Fishing Boats, Waterbikes and other water toys. Boat Launch Facilities

#### **Knotty Pine Resort**

Cabins, Marina with snack bar, Cold Beer and Soda, Gas, Bait, Tackle, Boat Rentals-Pontoon Boats, Paddleboats, SeaDoo's and other water toys.

## Chester-Lake Almanor- Chamber of Commerce

Plan your family trip, group retreat or special occasion getaway with us and....

The Lake Almanor Basin and surrounding area spread across a natural wonderland created by millions of years of geologic forces, a crossroad where the granite of the Sierra Nevada meets the lava of the Cascades...come together with the mountains.

Enjoy hours of pleasure on Lake Almanor with its 52 miles of shoreline, in Lassen Volcanic National Park which boasts the southernmost volcano in the Cascade range and in the 1.2 million acres that make up the Lassen National Forest and Caribou Wilderness area with over 300 campsites. This is a playground for all seasons, for all ages and any lifestyle.

The Basin and surrounding area offer world class fishing in lakes and streams, family fun on skis, wakeboards, tubes and jet skis, quiet mountain adventures in camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, horseback riding, bird watching and championship golf.

Winter brings the quiet beauty of Lassen Peak keeping watch over pristine fields of snow and groomed trails for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. With a cup of steaming coffee on an early winter morning one can catch the alpen glow on Lassen Peak and experience a moment of the quiet and beauty that make our paradise in the pines.

Call or visit the Chester-Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce for lodging, dining and recreational information 530-258-2426, or visit our website for up to date event information and area news [www.LakeAlmanorArea.com](http://www.LakeAlmanorArea.com).



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

**Dennis Mason CRB, GRI**  
Owner/Broker  
DRE# 0061935  
Office: 530-596-3232  
Fax: 530-596-3234  
Toll Free: 800-360-5478  
Cell: 530-251-7711  
E-mail: [dmason@thegrid.net](mailto:dmason@thegrid.net)

**Little NORWAY Marine**

**SALES & CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS**  
for  
**Mercury • Mercruiser • Johnson • Evinrude**

3718 Big Springs Rd. • Lake Almanor, CA. 96137  
(530) 596-3200 FAX: (530) 596-4640

**Ayoob's Ace Hardware**  
**201 Main Street - PO Box 645**  
**Chester, CA 96020**

(530) 258-2611

Karen Kemp      Ralph Neuman



## Try Winter Trolling

By Mark Jimenez Of Big Meadows Guide

As I write this article in mid January we're having a mild winter with very little snow. Heavy snow and rain is predicted by the third week of January so we'll see! Keep your fingers crossed that they're right.

Lake Almanor while sometimes frozen over by now, remains free of ice and is producing some first-rate trolling for me. It seems to me that trout shouldn't strike trolled lures with water temperatures in the mid to upper thirties but what do I know?

I've had excellent luck lately trolling with my hand tied streamer flies which resemble the pond smelt minnows the trout are feeding on. Other lures such as speedy shiners, needlefish, and Rapala's also work and I've caught trout on these lures as well.

I troll with two leadcore line outfits and one downrigger. My leadcore line is 12 or 15 pound line with an 8 pound test 30' leader and very light weight casting rods rated at 4 to 8 pound line. I like 7 to 7 ½ ft rods which are actually made for Kokanee Salmon fishing.

Having a top quality trolling reel is very important as you need a nice smooth drag for playing large trout so as not to lose them because of a jerky uneven drag. My personal favorite levelwind reel is a Quantum Cabo PT 30 which will hold six colors of 15 lb leadcore line and an adequate amount of backing line. You can find nice light action rods for about a third the price of a good reel.

This is an excellent time to keep a few fish for the smoker or barbeque as they are exceptionally tasty coming from ice cold water. I enjoy smoking a few trout during the winter months when I can get them.

Another nice thing about winter fishing is the peacefulness and solitude; no congested boat traffic to deal with; the view of Mt. Lassen and the surrounding mountains covered in snow is a very beautiful sight. I also usually see a Bald Eagle or two out hunting while on the lake during wintertime.

With all the choices in cold weather clothing these days there's really no reason to get cold while out winter fishing. I do carry a propane heater in my boat in winter which helps keep my hands dry after handling fish with gloves off.

Some mornings during winter are very foggy so a compass, GPS, and a bright light on your boat are essential for safety reasons. I know Almanor well enough that a compass is all I use to navigate with in foggy weather.

Get out this year and try some winter fishing whether by boat or just on the bank. You'll enjoy the peace and quiet of winter on Lake Almanor and the fishing can be excellent.

Best Wishes and Good Health!

Mark Jimenez

Big Meadows Guide Service

530-596-3072



*Mark Jimenez  
Struggling To Hold  
Up His Clients Catch  
Of The Day*

## Boat Ramps

By Capt. Bryan Roccucci Of Big Daddy's Guide Service

Most fishermen put a lot of thought into their day of fishing, preparing their tackle and gear so everything is ready to go, and in tip top shape. A little pre planning of your time on the boat ramp can go a long way to getting your day off to a good start.

A few things to consider at the boat ramp: have your boat ready to launch when you pull on to the ramp. Things such as covers, straps, motors, and fishing gear should be taken care of in the parking lot. Remember some people are faster at launching and recovering than others. There are multi person "teams", with one driving the truck and the other the boat, that may not even have to tie off the boat to the dock and are often times the quickest in and out, to people, like myself, who are most of the time alone and will have to tie off then return to the boat after parking the truck. We all have our little routine we go through, give people plenty of room and time to accomplish it.

If it happens to be dark while you are launching, turn off your headlights while backing down the ramp. There is nothing worse than trying to back your boat down a ramp while being blinded by the person in the next lane who left his lights on.

In the fall, winter, and spring when temperatures are cold don't race up the boat ramp after you have launched. Water that continues to drain off of your trailer will freeze on the ramp and parking lot making things increasingly difficult as the day goes on. Instead, pull up slowly and stop when your trailer tires just clear the water and allow the trailer to drain. Once drained proceed up the ramp slowly. This will go along way to keeping the ramp from icing up as bad as the day goes along, remember you will most likely have to use the same ramp when you come off the water.

Finally a little common courtesy goes along way. We all want to get on the water as fast as possible to get our chance at that trophy fish. Nothing can ruin the day faster than an incident at the boat ramp.

Tight Lines, Bryan Roccucci

About the author:

Capt. Bryan Roccucci is a full time professional fishing guide and operator of Big Daddy's Guide Service. Bryan specializes in light tackle fishing techniques on Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, Bucks Lake, and Eagle Lake. Bryan fishes Lake Almanor exclusively from January until May and keeps his clients comfortable in a fully enclosed heated cab aboard his 23 foot Boulton Powerboat. For more information please visit [www.bigdaddyfishing.com](http://www.bigdaddyfishing.com) or call (530) 283-4103.

## Fishing FYI'S

### FISHING LICENSE ONLINE NOW:

You can now buy your fishing license online & print them with internet access. Licenses are required of any person 16 years of age or older. To get your fishing license online go to [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov). Visa or MasterCard are accepted for secure purchasing.

### FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 2010:

July 4th (falls this year on a Sunday) and Labor Day (Monday Sept 6th)  
On Free Fishing days, Californians can fish any freshwater lakes without a fishing license. All fishing regulations remain in effect.

### LICENSE DISPLAY:

As of March 1, 2010, anglers no longer have to display their sport fishing license on their outer clothing above the waist. However, their sport fishing license must still be in their immediate possession while fishing, except when diving as provided in Fish and Game Code Section 7145.

### NORTH STATE GROCERY, INC.

dba

**HOLIDAY**

fresh food • friendly people

**BRIDGETT BUSTAMANTE**  
**STORE MANAGER #54**

Address:  
271 Main Street  
Chester, CA 96020

Phone: (530) 258-2122  
Fax: (530) 258-2552

**SHARON HENRY**

**Lassen Gift Company**  
&

Soda Fountain



Phone (530) 258-2222  
Fax (530) 258-2211

P.O. Box 736  
220 Main St.  
Chester, CA 96020



**Bob & Linda Rouland**  
Your Insurance Specialists  
Lic. #0657918 & 0750817

**Rouland Insurance Agency**

Auto • Home • Life • Business • Health

P.O. Box 425 • 650 Main Street  
Chester, CA 96020  
Bus: (530) 258-2118 • (800) 254-2218  
Fax: (530) 258-4223 • [ilnsuru@citlink.net](mailto:ilnsuru@citlink.net)



## Wayne's Bear

By Wayne Clegg, AFA Board Member

It was almost a year since Wayne's bear appeared in the fall of 2008. (See 2009 edition of the Almanor Fisherman).

I received a phone call on 10/28/09 from Paul Garrido, Treasurer & Board Member for AFA. He stated that my bear was back and had ripped a large hole in the back of our metal shed that stores the fish food at the Hamilton Branch power house where our fish cages are located. We had just received 15,000 pounds of fish food & 50,000 Eagle Lake trout just the week before.

Paul contacted California Dept. of Fish & Game and the federal trapper was hired to resolve the problem. That evening Paul and the trapper patched up the back of the food shed and set the bear trap behind the shed.

Wayne's bear (every bear that comes into the area now belongs to me per Paul) had ripped into numerous 40 pound bags of high protein fish food. This created a big problem for the bear because the only difference between ex-lax and fish food is that the fish food isn't chocolate flavored. It came out as fast as it went in.

Early the next morning I received a call from the trapper stating he had my bear in his trap. Bears are opportunist and the trapper knew the bear would be back the next night.

I grabbed my camera and headed for the PG&E Power House. In the trap was a brownish red 300 pound California black bear. It wasn't Wayne's bear from last year as this bear's color was different and lacking green eyes.

The Federal trapper informed me that the AFA would have to fortify the food shed or Fish & Game wouldn't keep hiring him to deal with our bear problems. I got a big laugh out of his statement as I walked him to the front of the shed and pointed to the big yellow sign attached to the front of the shed stating "Property of the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game". He asked me to take a picture of the sign for his records. Wayne's bear took a long ride to the back country for release.



## The Merits Of Catch And Release

By Tom Maumoynier Of The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing

When I started this article I wanted to be sure I wasn't saying that you should not eat what you catch, rather use a little sensibility and take only what you can eat. Fish that have been frozen lose their taste and we both know that frozen fish from the store are much cheaper. We are blessed in the Almanor area with fish that we measure in pounds not inches. A 4 pounder will easily feed a family of four and the stories of the days fishing makes it taste even better.

Mounting a fish of a lifetime is fine but they also make nice fiberglass replica mounts now days. I had a large Rainbow mounted last fall and had some critics tell me I should have let it go, but when you are standing there with a fish that you have been after for a long time, it's easier said than done.

Try to practice CPR with fish, (catch, photograph and release). Barbless hooks are a good basic for releasing fish; smashing the bar down with a pair of needle nose pliers is the easiest way. Barbless hooks will also help you to become a better fisherman. They teach you to keep constant pressure on the fish, which in return will help you land bigger fish and more of them. If the pressure is not constant the fish will quickly let you know, this is helpful when you have that big one on. The added benefit of a barbless hook is that they come out of you easier than a barbed hook, a little discomfort if you get hooked but not the end of the days fishing.



***Tom Maumoynier Of The Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company With His Trophy Rainbow***

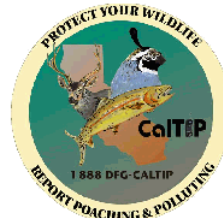
Always handle the fish as little and gently as possible. Fish have a protective slime that helps stop fungus; it can easily be removed by handling a fish. Wet your hands first before handling and revive fish fully before releasing. If the fish is hooked deeply it is sometimes better to cut your line short and release; if you use standard not stainless hooks they will rust out quickly.

With the current economic situation of the California Department of Fish and Game, I can only imagine that the fish plant will suffer. For this reason when fishing around pre-spawning fish extra care should be given.

There is no comparison between a native and a planter. The native has the ability to survive in its environment much better because it has been there since birth not just days.

I'm proud to be a fly fisherman and I know some fly fishermen are known to have unrealistic views towards releasing fish. We need to keep kids and seniors involved and what better way than to enjoy your catch. Just think of everything in moderation and protect our local resources for the future, we should all pitch in.

Tight Lines, Tom Maumoynier  
530-258-3944  
[flyfishing@frontiernet.net](mailto:flyfishing@frontiernet.net)



Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters  
1 888 DFG-CALTIP(888 334-2258)

### A Confidential Secret Witness Program

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

CalTIP was introduced in California in 1981 in order to give Californians an opportunity to help protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. The toll free telephone number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You do not have to give your name.

# Lake Almanor Going Forward

By Doug Neal of Almanor Fishing Adventures

2009 was a good fishing year here at Almanor, very good as a matter of fact. The fishing was good all year, and it didn't matter if you were trolling, jigging, or bait fishing, every application seemed to do well last year. Pond Smelt were abundant, the hex hatch went off in a big way. Still, fishing pressure was almost on the light side. Lake Almanor is the jewel of Plumas County, but it always seems to be just under the radar when fishermen gather and talk about fishing Northern California Lakes. Actually I like being under the radar.

Shasta and Eagle Lake come to mind when you think about great Northern-California fishing destinations. Eagle Lake had some launching issues last year, low lake levels required some dredging, which has been completed. Because of these low lake levels last year, several diehard Eagle Lake fishermen booked a trip fishing with me, here at Almanor, and they were amazed at what a solid and diverse fishery Lake Almanor is. Many of these guys said "I've been driving by Lake Almanor for years, with boat in tow, headed for Eagle. I've been meaning to stop by to fish Almanor but never got around to it". Now many of these guys are looking twice at the Almanor Basin. Shasta had issues last year too, very low lake levels made launching a 2 man job, and the fires that burned some of the hillsides around the lake and near the dam, well, it just looked bad, and its hotter than hell there some days.

So here you are at Lake Almanor, surrounded by thick forested mountains, nestled in a cool mountain basin at 4500 ft. elevation, away from the searing valley heat. Mt. Lassen to the Northwest stands guard over the lake while providing cold water from snow run off, in addition to dozens of cold water springs. Fish thrive here. Browns, Rainbows, and Smallmouth Bass all naturally spawn here. How successful they are in reproduction is not fully understood. A solid stocking program is needed annually to insure that Lake Almanor's great fishing continues many years from today.

Lake Almanor usually receives annual fish plants from 3 sources. The Chester High School Limnology Program, the Almanor Fishing Association, (AFA), and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). However, the amount of fish actually making it into the lake has been on the decline for several years now. The Chester High School Limnology Program has raised and released 5000 to 8000 Brown Trout annually into Lake Almanor, but had to shut down in 2008/09 for needed upgrades, repairs, and relocation, so no fish production.

Supplemental fish plants from DFG also continue, but have been on the decline over the years at Lake Almanor. Browns, Rainbows, and King Salmon plant numbers have slowly gone down over the years. And this year the State's DFG budget is a wasteland. We will get fish, but don't expect more fish this year, although more would be nice.

One of the bright spots has been the Almanor Fishing Association's "Fish Pen Project" located in the Hamilton Branch. 50,000 Eagle Lake Rainbow are raised from 5" to about 13" every year, and released into the lake in late April or early May. Its hard work tending to these fish. During the winter it's icy, cold, & blowing snow sideways, but the AFA crews get out there to feed these fish every day, sometimes digging their way through the snow just to get to the pens. Once the snow has been removed they lug 40 lb bags of food down to the hungry fish. We would not have this fish food if it were not for our friends at Kokanee Power who contributed over 15,000 lbs of high grade food for our young Rainbows this year.

The AFA guys make up a very large part of Lake Almanor's stocking program. Volunteers from the AFA have saved the State of California, and DFG, hundreds of manpower hours by raising these fish, and maintaining the pens. Over the years AFA members raised and released over 1 million Rainbow Trout into Lake Almanor. We can all enjoy this excellent fishery, but in these rough economic times it's harder and harder to get funding for this project. Which, by the way, is one of the largest and most successful fish pen projects in the state, and was in real danger of ending.

Continued on Page 18



**Lake Almanor Fitness Center**  
**160 CEDAR STREET**  
P. O. Box 999  
Chester, CA 96020  
  
**GARN PRINGLE**  
(530) 258-3900  
Cell: (530) 263-1311  
Email: lakealmanorfitness@yahoo.com  
www.lafc.bizland.com



## You Can Stop Them – Don't Move A Mussel

By: Mike Malloy, Hydro Operations Manager, PG&E  
And Janet Walther, State Agency Representative, PG&E

Quagga mussels in this discussion include both Quagga and Zebra mussels (from the family known as Dreissenid) and they are a harmful, and highly invasive freshwater species that has recently been discovered in California waters. They are native to Eastern Europe. Since their introduction to the United States (in the Great Lakes area) in the late 1980's, these mussels have caused billions of dollars in damages as well as management and control issues for resource agencies and private industry, particularly in the eastern U.S.

Current infestations in California are limited to Quagga mussel infestations in several reservoirs that receive water from the Colorado River and a Zebra mussel infestation at one isolated reservoir in San Benito County. Their appearance in California poses the potential for introduction of these species into other waterways in California, including PG&E facilities. However, Quagga and Zebra mussels have not been found in PG&E reservoirs or waterways.

In waters outside their native range, and if there are favorable growing conditions, both mussels can have impact on local ecosystems, recreation activities, personal and public property, and hinder water delivery. Both mussels range in size from microscopic to the size of a fingernail and when small feel like sandpaper to the touch. They attach themselves to hard and soft surfaces on boats and boat trailers, and then are transported from one water body to another. Water in boat engines, bilges, live wells and buckets can also carry mussel larvae to other water bodies. See picture on page 28.

Recent California legislation, AB 2065, has added requirements to the California Fish and Game Code. The Code requires owners and managers of reservoirs to assess the vulnerability of their reservoirs for the introduction of nonnative mussel species and to develop and implement a program designed to prevent the introduction of these mussel species.

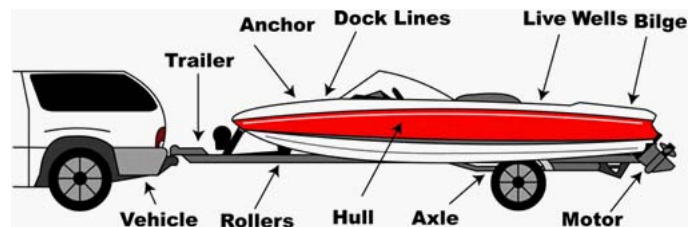
In 2009, PG&E began implementation of a program for our 99 reservoirs that includes a vulnerability assessment of PG&E lakes and reservoirs to determine the potential for mussel infestation; public education; monitoring for early detection of these mussels; and management of recreational, boating and fishing activities, as may be needed. Specifically, at Lake Almanor, PG&E continues monitoring; water sampling; public outreach, which includes signage, distribution of brochures; and partnering with community organizations to share information with boaters on what they can do to help stop the spread of invasive species.

Based on the Andrew N. Cohen, Phase 1 Report (located on the CDF&G website), the calcium in Lake Almanor does not appear to be at a level that would provide favorable growing conditions for Quagga Mussels. However, not transferring mussels from one waterway to another is the best way to protect all of the waters in California.

PG&E appreciates the support from the Lake Almanor community in working together to keep Lake Almanor free of invasive mussels.

What can you do to help? Don't Move a Mussel—when leaving the water Clean, Drain and Dry.

Look for Mussels Here



Check Your Boat, Trailer and Vehicle

To learn more about how you can help to keep California's waters free of invasive mussels visit:

California Department of Fish and Game Website:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company Website:

[www.pge.com/mybusiness/](http://www.pge.com/mybusiness/)

Welcoming a new Fishing Guide to Lake Almanor



## Are You Ready For The Lake?

By Otto Brackett - Plumas County Boat Patrol Supervisor

Well here it is President's week and the beautiful weather is unreal. The trees are starting to bloom; new growth of flowers is starting, so it's time to think about spring and summer.

This year I am going to start a little different. Normally I write about your boat and laws, but this year I want to start with fishing.

When is the last time you put new line on your reel? If you asked me that question I couldn't tell you. You would be awfully mad if you lost that big one due to bad line. The same with the leader that you use. In choosing the line, choose the line for the type of fishing that you are doing. The same applies to the leader you are using. Some people suggest that you buy a new rod and reel. How about your tackle box, have you checked it out? It's about time to reorganize it. I bet you could find last year's salmon eggs in there. They might be a little hard this year. Check and see what is missing. Don't wait until you are out in the water to see what you don't have. How about those favorite lures? How many did you lose last year? Replace all lures that are either lost or don't look good. This year let's make a list of the lakes or streams you would like to fish by organizing your time, this may leave you some extra time for the golf course.

Now that we have that out of the way, let's get back to basics. Let's start with the boat trailer, have you greased your wheel bearings? Pack those bearings with good water resistant grease. When regular grease is used, it will break down and bearings will rust. You will have problems plus big expense. How old are your tires. Most people don't know. Your tires can look good, but how many times do you use your trailer. Because of age good looking tires can crack and get hard. Even though they look good, they can be dangerous. Drop into your local tire dealer and have him check them.

Make sure that your boat battery is full of distilled water. Keep your battery charged up. This is one of the major problems I see on the lake. One more major problem, people using last year's gas that has not been conditioned. This old gas will cause your boat motor to run rough or not at all. On the subject of fuel, raw gas will burn, but gas fumes in your bilge will explode. Make sure that you turn on your exhaust blower for up to 5 minutes before starting your motor always. If gas is spilled on or in your boat, turn off all electrical equipment. Clean up spilled gas and dispose of rags appropriately.

Last year I mentioned spark plugs. I would suggest putting in new plugs and wires. They are not that expensive and could eliminate lots of problems. Most outdrives have a boot around them, check to see what condition they are in. Some people suggest replacing the impeller in the outdrive, because the fins weaken and their ability to drive water through the engine for cooling can be effected.

Do you remember how to back your trailer? Remember to place your hand on the bottom of the steering wheel. Move your hand on the direction that you want your trailer to go.

Be sure that you have the necessary items in your boat: fire extinguisher if required, anchors, rope, life ring, throwable life ring, throwable cushion, horn or signaling device. Make sure your life vest/jackets are "U.S. Coast Guard Approved". We have been seeing some that are not approved. This could lead to a possible citation. Other items you should have with you are rope, oars, appropriate clothing for the day. Water, sun screen, dark glasses, bug spray, do you have a cell phone, on some lakes phones do work. Many times this past year people have gotten help by using their cell phone. When on the lake, take every precaution to keep a good day from going bad. When you are out on the lake, you are going to have people that break the law and make you mad. Wait, don't get mad right away. Get their registration, type and color of boat or wave runner, and what they are wearing. Get this information to the boat patrol deputy, the number to call is 530-283-6300. When you have done all of this then you can get mad. Remember this year your vessel will be getting your 2011 stickers. They are no good hanging on your refrigerator or microwave, get them on your boat. Don't forget students under the age of 12 must be wearing a life jacket while the boat is in motion. If you are waterskiing your observer must be at least 12. Within 200 feet of shore the speed is 5mph. There are many more laws on the lake, check with your boat patrol deputy and he can give you a pamphlet, this contains the rules and laws of Plumas County. Be courteous around other boats. You can be a big help for our boat patrol deputies. If you see someone breaking the law get the information for the deputy. Your boat patrol deputies are there to help you, don't be afraid to flag one down if you need help. We appreciate all of the help you can give us. Have a great and safe year on the lake!!

**Oh, I almost forgot.  
Don't forget to check & make sure the  
drain plug is in your boat.**

## FLATS/MOUTH FEATHER RIVER

### 9. Mouth of the Feather River.

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

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

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

## PENINSULA/WEST SIDE

### 11. Bailey Creek.

This seasonal creek can flow from May into mid July.

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

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

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

## NORTHEAST SIDE OF PENINSULA

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

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

### 14. The A-Frame.

Some have said that this is the best spot on the Lake!

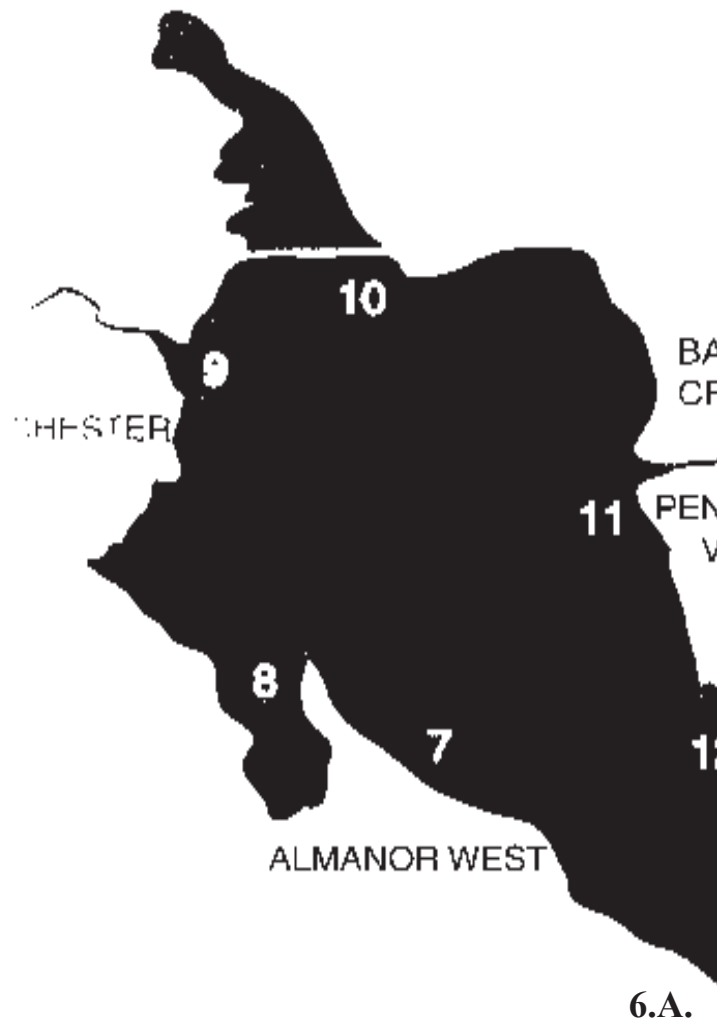
A deep water cold spring located just off the shoreline brings them in. The A-Frame is a local land mark, it's easy to spot that aqua marine green roof. This area is famous for some really big fish and limits of browns, rainbows and King Salmon from time to time. Bait fish off the bottom or troll along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

### 15. Big Cove Resort Marina,

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

### 16. Big Springs.

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



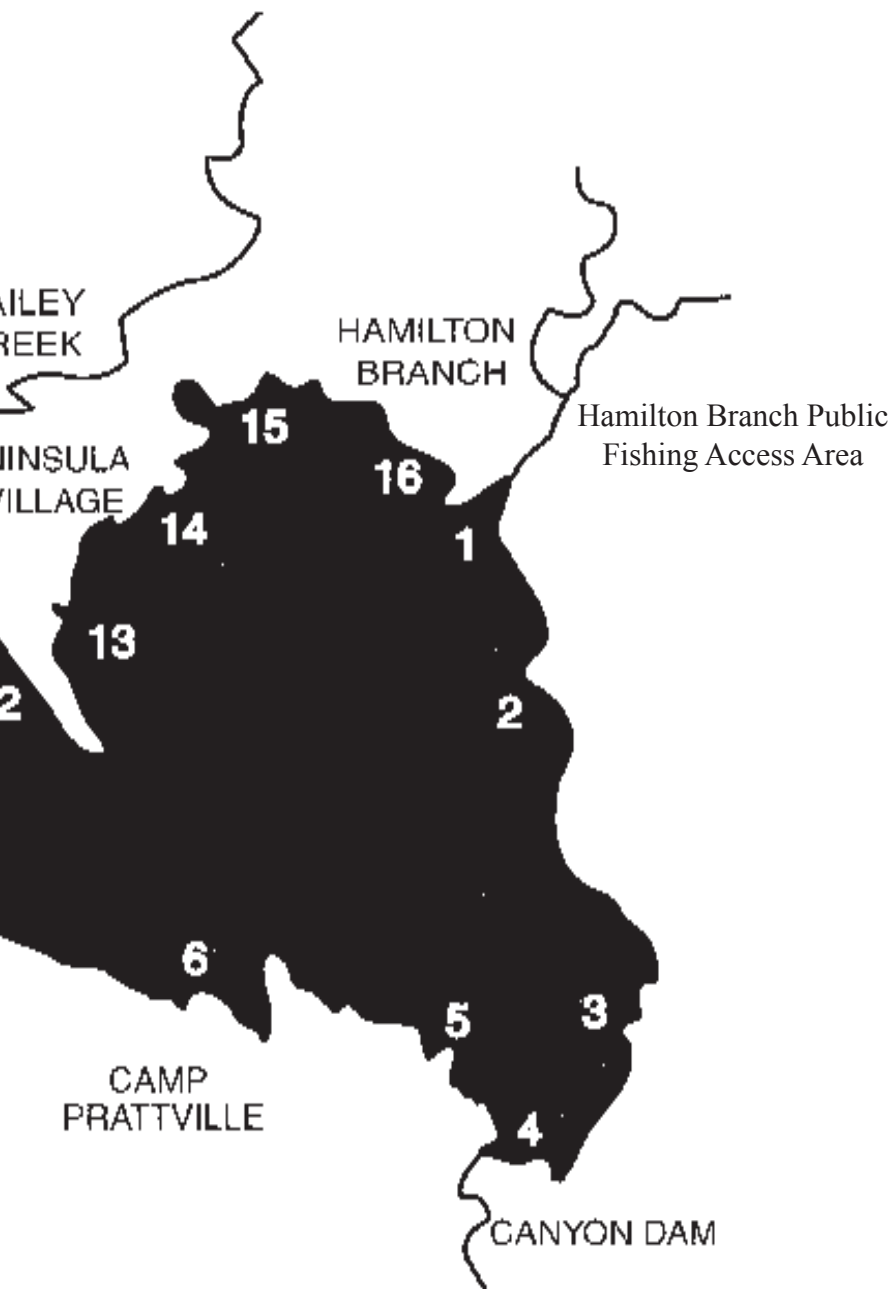
6.A.



# Lake Almanor



## EAST SHORE FISHING



### 1. Hamilton Branch Area and Powerhouse.

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

### 2. East Shore.

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

### 3. The Snag.

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

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

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

## WEST SHORE FISHING

### 5. Rocky Point Campgrounds.

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

### 6. Prattville.

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

### 6A. USFS Public Boat Ramp.

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

### 7. Almanor West.

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

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

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

# Almanor

# Almanor Research Institute

By Dave Bradley

The trout hatchery program at Chester Jr/Sr High School started in 2000 as a result of an educational grant from California Department of Education called Specialized Secondary Program, SSP. The total grant was for more than \$250,000 and was intended to develop a science curriculum for students that would motivate them to take the more difficult college prep science courses. The science program and curriculum was called the Almanor Research Institute, ARI.

A 2,000 gallon recirculating hatchery was built in an unused classroom near the science department at Chester High. The purpose of the hatchery was to spawn Lake Almanor trout in the spring, incubate the eggs, and raise the fingerlings. The fingerlings would be released in the upper tributaries of Lake Almanor.

The students in the ARI program operated and maintained the hatchery throughout the year raising rainbow and brown trout. The hatchery supported a number of science programs and classes, Aquaculture/Advance Biology, AP Environmental Science/Limnology, Freshwater Ecology, and a science club for junior high school students.

ARI has done a variety of Lake Almanor watershed investigations including the calculation of Lake Almanor's volume of cold water during the summer for the "Save Lake Almanor" project.

However, the classroom was not a permanent situation because of the amount of water that was spilled regularly on the wooden floors. So, two years ago, the hatchery was shut down and moved to the Chester High School's old auto shop, ideal for a hatchery with its concrete floors and drains.

With the help from a number of sources, including the Almanor Fishing Association, ARI hired an aquaculture consultant to design a new facility using the old tanks and pumps in the old auto shop. This was last year and a lot has happened since then. Donations from local organizations, foundations, and private citizens made it possible for the hatchery to reopen this year. It currently has several new tanks in addition to the older tanks increasing the hatchery's capacity to 4,000 gallons. A new treatment facility including an automated drum filter, two 1,000 gallon bioreactors, and an oxygen generator recirculate the hatchery water at 200 gallons per minute. A chiller, from the old hatchery, keeps the water between 55 and 65 degrees.

The hatchery does not have fish, yet. The ARI students have spawned and collected 23,000 eggs in late March. ARI is hoping to increase the egg number by at least 50,000. Hopefully, by June, there will be 50,000 to 60,000 healthy fingerlings being raised in the ARI hatchery.

Although the system is running, it is not complete. We are waiting for new funding to finish the Phase I portion of the new facility. The oxygen generator and ozone generator, necessary for high density trout population, remain unconnected. Ultimately Phase I will include 3 additional 8 foot tanks increasing the total volume of the hatchery to 6,000 gallons.

New filtration and recirculating system, 200 gpm.



Elevated view of biofiltration tanks, aquaria, and troughs.



Elevated view of the four new 500 gallon tanks



## Almanor Research Institute trout hatchery

- The new hatchery is up and running. It consists of 4,000 gallons of tanks, troughs, and aquaria. Only the oxygen and ozone generator needs to be installed. The pumps are recirculating water, 200 gpm. The biofiltration is treating 100 gpm of tank water.
- ARI will be spawning fish later this month. As of now, there are no fish being raised in the facility.
- The hatchery plans to install two additional tanks, each 800 gallons, when funding is available.



### David & Judith Finkbeiner Managers

7329 Highway 147 • PO Box 1564  
Lake Almanor, CA 96137  
Phone (530) 596-3249  
Fax (530) 596-3250  
Cell (530) 258-6521

Email: [info@lakehavenresort.com](mailto:info@lakehavenresort.com)  
[www.lakehavenresort.com](http://www.lakehavenresort.com)

*Kitchenette cabins, motel rooms, seasonal,  
monthly and overnight RV sites*



KEHR/O'BRIEN  
REAL ESTATE



### TIMOTHY D. O'BRIEN Broker/Owner

(530) 258-2103 OFFICE  
(530) 258-2066 FAX  
EMAIL: [timmyob@hotmail.com](mailto:timmyob@hotmail.com)

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE  
P.O. BOX 556  
CHESTER, CA 96020

WEBSITE: [www.almanorcoldwellbanker.com](http://www.almanorcoldwellbanker.com)

Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated.



## **Don't Move A Mussel**

By Ray Pallari, AFA Board Member

After more than 24 years in the water the pens need repairs. The supporting timber and floats are water logged, and look like they are one big storm away from breaking apart. The AFA Board Members and Membership have been working to keep this program moving forward, however with California's current economy in the tank it appeared that funding would not be found. Something wonderful happened. This year again, as in years past, California Inland Fishing Foundation Inc. (CIFFI) has stepped up by providing a grant of \$15,000.00 to Almanor Fishing Association for repair of the fish cages. Because of this funding we will be able to keep this fish pen program afloat, literally. The repair work is scheduled to start this spring. We all appreciated everything CIFFI has done to keep this program on track, and above the water line...pun intended. This spring the fish pens will be removed from the Hamilton Branch one section at a time, and refitted with new supporting timber, floats, and surface decking.

As a resident guide here at Lake Almanor I enjoy excellent fishing all year, and it's the stocking programs that keep it all going. I will continue to post current fishing reports on my web pages at [www.almanorfishingadventures.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventures.com). The fishing reports are collected from a small group of local, reliable fishermen, and receive about 1000 to 1200 hits per month. Dozens of fisherman have contacted me about specifics, and I always respond to every question shot my way, and will continue to do this so that your fishing experience can be optimized, hopefully.

Today I write to you not as a guide, but as a member of the AFA. I encourage you to become a member or make a small donation. You can show your support for the future of this great lake. Looking forward to better fishing in years ahead requires proactive planning. Your membership will help us continue the fish pen project at the Hamilton Branch. Go to: [www.almanorfishingassociation.com](http://www.almanorfishingassociation.com), and click on 'Join the AFA', it's that easy. Or fill out the membership form located in this publication. You can make the difference! By contributing to AFA's Fish Pen Project, you will be helping to strengthen this program, and you'll feel good helping us with the most urgent and needed repair work.

Enjoy the lake, and good luck catching that big one. It just might be one we released from the AFA pens 2 years ago.

Almanor Fishing Adventures  
530-258-6732  
[www.almanorfishingadventures.com](http://www.almanorfishingadventures.com)

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 19

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

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

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

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

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

It is the goal of the Almanor Basin Watershed Committee, The Sierra Institute, PG&E, Calif Dept of Fish and Game, and the Almanor Fishing Association to have a specific program in place by the beginning of the boating season in 2011 and a well researched prevention plan submitted to the Board of Supervisors by October 2010. Until the plan is submitted to the Board of Supervisors we need to help. It is imperative that we as watercraft owners and users of Lake Almanor continue to do all in our power to protect this beautiful lake.

See picture on page 28.

**Help us to protect Lake Almanor.  
Do your boat inspections as outlined below and  
keep your watercraft mussel free.**

## **DON'T SPREAD INVASIVE SPECIES**

### **When leaving the water:**

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



### **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## *Partners With The Almanor Fishing Association*

### **California Inland Fisheries Foundation Inc.**

At the February 17, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting of California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Inc., (CIFI), the Board unanimously voted to provide assistance to the Almanor Fishing Association, (AFA). This is in response to the request CIFI recently received from AFA, requesting support and outlining projected potential improvements needed to maintain the Pen Project at Lake Almanor.

The very successful fish cage program at Lake Almanor is one of the largest, if not the largest, in the State, and the Board of Directors of CIFI has made a commitment to ensure this program does not fail because of lack of funding.

CIFI's commitment at this time is in the amount of \$7,500 to assist in the initial stages of the repair/rebuild project. A check for this amount is enclosed.

Further, CIFI has made a commitment to AFA for an additional \$7,500 this year, to be granted at such time as the findings and speed of completion warrant.

The Board of Directors has requested that details of the use of this funding be provided by AFA to CIFI and that CIFI be allowed to inform its membership, sponsors and partners how the dollars are being utilized.

CIFI will further be involved in providing direction and leadership in fund-raising efforts to enable AFA to become self-sustaining in the future.

CIFI looks forward to continuing this partnership with Almanor Fishing Association at Lake Almanor.

Sincerely,  
CALIFORNIA INLAND FISHERIES FOUNDATION,  
INC.

Garry Erck, President



### *Kokanee Power*

Almanor Fishing Association and Kokanee Power are celebrating another great year of partnering with the completion of the license agreement, obtaining insurance, purchase of 15,000 lbs of fish food, maintenance of the pens and a successful stakeholders meeting at the International Sportsmen's Exposition in Sacramento.

PG&E requires a license agreement for any facility on Lake Almanor and the Fish and Game license agreement would not work in the future. So, Kokanee Power worked with PG&E and representatives from AFA to get a signed agreement in 2009. As part of the license agreement, PG&E required Kokanee Power to have insurance for the operation. AFA was also included in the insurance coverage to help reduce their costs.

AFA coordinated the maintenance of the pens in October and Kokanee Power covered the maintenance expenses to keep the pens functioning through the winter. We all knew the pens needed more maintenance and that we would focus on that in the spring of 2010.

Kokanee Power President, Gary Coe, ordered 15,000 lbs of fish food for the cages in October. The cost of food has now increased to over 50 cents per lb. and is going up every year. We get the best price since we are buying fish food for pen projects at four lakes. Lake Shasta has five pens, Collins Lake has six pens, and New Melones has two pens. The pen projects are a great opportunity for trophy trout and Kokanee Power even has the only brown trout pen project in California at New Melones. What if in the future, Lake Almanor had a brown trout pen project and released 2-4 pound fish every year?

AFA and Kokanee Power helped coordinate a meeting with stakeholders on the rebuilding of the pens at the Sacramento International Sportsmen's Exposition in January. Representatives from Fish and Game, Fish Sniffer, Almanor Fishing Association and Kokanee Power gathered to review the status of the pens and start work on developing a plan to rebuild the pens. Kokanee Power would like to invite our friends at Almanor Fishing Association to join us for the Bucks Lake Derby on July 31st. It is a great family event that helps create funding for Chester High School, Feather River College and the pens at Lake Almanor. Check our web site for details.

See us at [www.kokanee-power.org](http://www.kokanee-power.org)

The Kokanee Power board recognizes the great efforts of the Almanor Fishing Association and looks forward to working together with all the stakeholders to keep enhancing the fishery at Lake Almanor.

Gary Coe—President- Kokanee Power



## It Ain't The Bait – It's The Jerk Behind It

By Roger Keeling of Roger's Guide Service 1972 – 2010

How many times has this happened to you? You're fishing beside someone using the same thing as you but only one of you are catching fish. Sometimes luck is involved but most likely it's due to several intricacy's that make fishing the great sport that it is. To some anglers just being outdoors is sufficient reason to pursue the sport, but others are always looking for a little edge or detail that will make them more successful. To some this edge comes natural, but others have to put in their time to be just marginally successful. I'm somewhere in between, but have always loved the sport so much and also depended on catching fish so much that persistence would most likely describe my style.

Lake Almanor and other lakes in this area can be very intriguing. Most years the food chain is very good and these fish aren't as likely to pounce on a poorly presented bait, lure, or fly, as they would in some valley lakes where more brood stock and planters are stocked, most of which never successfully make it through one season. Almanor of course is stocked, however the food chain is so good most fish are accustomed to a natural diet in a short amount of time after being stocked. The pond smelt have always been cyclic and if we don't have a good hatch there are enough aquatic hatches, snails, leeches, etc. to keep the fish somewhat selective in their diet.

Usually the answer to the puzzle is a lot of thought and detail to your line and terminal tackle. Most novice anglers fail to take into consideration line size, line color, hook size, and baiting techniques while angling in the Almanor area. I've found that many times on Lake Almanor a bright shiny lure just out of the box will actually spook the fish so I carry different shades of sun bleached or toned down lures to hopefully match existing conditions for that particular day of bright/sunny, cloudy, windy, etc. Also when fish are feeding on tiny midge emergers, trolling a large night crawler usually will not work unless you down size it.

One other aspect that can be of significant importance is confidence and timing. Fish do not feed constantly a large percentage of the time and being in the right area at the right time has been the answer for me thousands of times and experience can really help you here.

Weather conditions, water temperature, and especially wind direction & velocity can significantly alter feeding schedules and being able to decipher the situation can make the difference between success and failure. Many of my best days started out slowly but due to clients patience we ended up having a successful day. I've always learned more on the tough days and actually enjoy the challenge.

One other thing I might mention is the fact that although you seem to be doing everything right and you're not getting any response from the trout to carry some bass equipment. Many a day has been salvaged by being open minded and willing to change species. I don't know how many times I've heard guides say "I only fish for trout" or "I only troll for trout". Children in particular usually don't care what they're catching. I believe a good guide will take this into consideration and fish for what is available at the time. Under some full moon conditions I will fish for bass early as the main trout bite won't start until around 10:00am or later.

All of the above is only my opinion, however I hope it gives everyone a little different view of the great sport we call fishing.

A special "Thank You" to all who shared my boat last year and may God Bless You with health and the ability to visit beautiful Lake Almanor again in 2010. Hopefully it will be another big fish year.

Serving all skill levels from novice to professionals, who want to improve their skill level. I also specialize in family custom trips to other lakes that are providing the best fishing near Lake Almanor.

Serving Plumas, Lassen, Tehama and Shasta counties.

"Go with experience, you'll be glad you did".

Roger's Guide Service Lake Almanor Area:

May 1st – Nov 1st call 530-284-6429

Red Bluff (Shasta Lake & Sacramento River):

Nov 1st – May 1st call 530-528-0525



*George Connor Of La Mesa With His 5lb Trout  
Caught With His Guide Roger Keeling*

# Fish For A Wish

By A. J. Casella

The 6th annual Fish For A Wish trout fishing tournament will be held on Saturday, August 7th 2010 at Lake Almanor's Big Cove Resort, which is owned by A.J.'s father Gary Casella and uncle Paul Casella. The tournament will begin at 6:00 am and end with a weigh-in scheduled for 12:00 pm. There are prizes for the greatest total weight, as well as the largest single fish. There will be a complimentary lunch, followed by a prize ceremony for the winning anglers, a silent auction and a raffle with many outstanding prizes.

A.J. came up with the idea for his fundraiser several years ago, after losing his friend, John, to leukemia. While John was battling his illness he was granted a wish by the Make-A-Wish Foundation to attend the All-Star Game at Fenway Park in Boston. A.J. saw how John's wish provided a much-needed break from the ordeal he and his family were enduring, and decided he wanted to raise money to help Make-A-Wish grant wishes to more seriously ill children. A.J.'s love of fishing events, along with his drive to organize, motivated him to come up with the idea of creating a fishing tournament. Currently, A.J. is busy working from his Tiburon home to organize the event.

So far A.J. has raised over \$165,000, including cash and in-kind donations, over the past five years for the Greater Bay Area chapter. "My goal is to raise 200,000 by the time I graduate high school, and I couldn't obtain this goal without the generous support of the local community around Lake Almanor," said A.J. "Now that I have been doing the tournament for a few years I feel I've obtained the support of enough people and businesses to reach my goal." The record setting income raised last year was over \$65,000, which helped fill the hearts of children with the hope that a wish provides.

In 2009 your support of Fish For A Wish enabled A.J. to grant the wishes of four very deserving children.

They are:

\*Gia, age 11, is battling Sickle Cell Anemia and wished to have a bedroom makeover.

\*Matthew, age 15, has Renal Disease and wished to visit the pyramids in Egypt.

\*Jason, age 8, is fighting Sarcoma and wished to be an astronaut for a day.

\*Lillian, age 12, who is fighting Lymphoma and wished to learn how to hang glide.

As these wishes inspire hope for our wish kids and their families, we are reminded that the power of a wish not only touches one child or one family, but an entire community. Your gift helps create the magic that inspires a wish child.

For tournament information, questions, or entry forms please contact Big Cove Resort after May 15th at 530-596-3349. Also please see their web site at [www.big-coversort.com](http://www.big-coversort.com) Click on Special Events then on 2010 Fish For A Wish Trout Tournament. Please make checks payable to Make-A-Wish. The mailing address for entry forms, donations of checks/cash &/or auction item/prizes can be sent to:

Big Cove Resort  
442 Peninsula Drive  
Lake Almanor, CA. 96137

"We want to encourage everyone to find a way to participate in this wonderful event, and we are looking forward to another magical tournament this August."



## Addicted To The Hex Hatch

By Dick Fording

I was surprised when Paul Garrido asked me to write about my experiences during the Hex hatch as I'm certainly not an expert. I do enjoy enough success to make the "hatch" one of my favorite events of the year and I hope this helps others, less familiar with the hatch to join the action. Your reward might be a twenty inch plus Brown or Rainbow.

The Hexogenia Mayfly hatch usually starts in late June and is normally in full swing by the fourth of July week but it does change from year to year so many anglers start their "prospecting" in mid June. These bright yellow, biggest of the Mayfly's, are found in abundance along the west shore of Almanor from Almanor West to the County ramp at Canyon Dam. Good action is found the entire length with favorite spots easily identified by clusters of fishermen and camera flashes. Reports of success will come to the Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Company (Tom Mau-moynier), and The Sports Nut (Lowell and Kathy Blake) and they'll gladly share whatever information they have as well as providing equipment and tips to make your efforts successful. The hatch is an evening hatch and many fishermen are on the water around seven although the best dry fly action often occurs just before dark, about eight thirty to nine fifteen or so.



I fish from a boat but float tubes and pontoon boats (those designed for fishermen) are very popular as they're easily portable and allow an angler to cover lots of water. Equipment is fairly simple, a five or six weight rod with enough backbone to land large trout quickly, especially if you intend to release fish. A reel with enough backing to handle that occasional "monster" and a floating line or sinking line depending on whether you want surface action or are nymphing. Be sure you have a large enough net as you won't catch many "pan fish" size Trout. I carry two rods, one set up with an intermediate sinking line and the other a floating line. I usually start with a nymph until later in the evening when the surface action picks up. Personally, nothing is more exciting to me than casting a dry fly to a cruising fish and anticipating the explosion as it slurps your fly. You will notice the fish working in from deeper water as the sun sets and the darker it gets the more surface action you'll see.

During the Hex hatch the fish are usually eager feeders and don't seem to be too leader shy so I use a 3X seven foot knotless tapered leader. There's debate on the value of fluorocarbon tippet material but I think my success improved when I started using it so I add about two feet of fluorocarbon to the end of a conventional leader. The standard Hex fly is usually tied on a number 6 hook and all the area fly shops (Chester, Chico, and Redding) carry a variety of appropriate flies. I fish my nymph with a slow to medium strip retrieve varying the strip from six to eighteen inches. Casting distance isn't crucial as many hits occur as the fly is headed up vertically from the bottom. Trolling your nymph from a tube or pontoon boat is a highly effective method of catching fish. Some fishermen even bring three rods, one set up with a floating line, one with an intermediate sinking line, and one a full sink tip. The majority of fishermen I see are fishing in water between 20 and 25 feet deep.



***Dick Fording Proudly Shows  
Off His Huge Brown Trout***

Continued to page 24



When fishing dry's I prefer a Hex cripple, or emerger as it's also called imitating a partially hatched Mayfly, perhaps stuck in its shuck. Trout will key on them knowing they won't fly off as they strike. I use a slow finger mend to keep the slack out of my line hopefully assuring a better hookup. Again, long casting ability isn't important unless you want to cast to a distant fish. You'll often observe fish gulping flies within a rod's distance of your boat. I've noticed as the hatch goes on and starts to slow, fishing interest declines and you won't have the fifty fishing "partners" you had during the holiday week but there are still fish there with opportunities for multiple fish nights.

Towards the end of the the hatch the Hex seem smaller and paler in color and I downsize my fly to a number 8. A bonus of the hatch is hooking an occasional Smallmouth bass, often of good size. Their fight isn't flashy like the Trout but a battle of pure strength, a smashing take and then straight to the bottom with lots of head shaking action.

If you want to take the family, although fly fishing purest might object to my methods, I've used a technique that works with younger children unable to cast with a fly rod. A spinning rod can be used successfully by using a "spin bubble" (a clear plastic tapered float) followed by six feet of leader ending with a Hex emerger or adult. With my grandkids I cast or they cast and I have them retrieve line VERY, VERY slowly with no "v" wake from the float. Trout take the fly just as aggressively, much to the delight of the kids. Another successful method for kids is fishing a half night crawler a few feet under a bobber which resembles the rising nymph

A safety note to consider is to be sure and bring a light if fishing from a tube or pontoon boat. As darkness comes visibility becomes marginal looking towards the last bit of light and looking the other way is like staring into a black hole so if you're still on the water, please be careful as boats won't be able to see you without a light. There's an enforced 5 MPH speed limit after sunset but it's sometimes ignored so don't count on it! Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the experience. The evenings are beautiful, you'll see Bats, Seagulls, Nighthawks, Ducks and Geese feeding on the hatch and with luck you might catch the biggest trout you've ever caught!

## Illegal Dumping at Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area



Due to the illegal dumping of household garbage, construction materials and small appliances, we can no longer provide a garbage dumpster for the Hamilton Branch Public Fishing Access Area

We know it will be an inconvenience but hopefully everyone using this site will carry out what they carry in.

Thank you for working with us.

### Almanor Fishing Association

**The Sports Nut**

Lowell & Kathy Blake

530-258-3327  
fax 530-258-2993



208 Main Street  
PO Box 1199  
Chester Ca 96020

thenut@citlink.net

**MI CASITA**

Mexican Restaurant

**Marquez's Family**

686 Main St.

P.O. Box 1753

Chester, Ca. 96020

530-258-1879

# Save Lake Almanor

By Wendi Durkin

Prudential Lake Almanor Real Estate

The issue of taking cold water from Lake Almanor and Butte Valley Reservoir is not dead or over, it is just slowly grinding along at the state level. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can still make a determination to take Lake Almanor's cold water to lower the downstream temperature in the Feather River to their goal of 20 degrees Celsius.

It has been rumored that people are taking down their signs in support of saving the lake because the issue is "stale". Nothing could be further from the truth.

No one wants "the sky is falling" as a constant message. But, there is still a very large crack in the sky and everyone needs to be aware of that. Lake Almanor and Butte Valley Reservoir are very much in danger.

Currently, the consultant hired by the SWRCB to provide the required environmental analysis and Environmental Impact Report is in what is called the "black box". This is the consultant's opportunity to review all scientific information gathered regarding the water issue and develop a series of "reasonable alternatives". Because the findings of the consultant are supposed to be based on scientific information only and not political pressure, no contact can be made with the consultant. The consultant's findings are allegedly going to the State Water Resources Control Board at the end of this year. Of course, that deadline has been missed and delayed numerous times already.

Once the SWRCB receives the alternatives from the consultant, there will be a 60 day "public comment period" in which any positive, negative, or other feedback is presented to SWRCB for them to take into account. Once that comment period has expired, SWRCB will make a decision as to the fate of Lake Almanor with regards to the cold water. Remember that their decision is final! With the 303d designation the state placed on the Feather River, when a decision on helping those waters is made it last forever! This means if the SWRCB chooses to place a thermal curtain at Lake Almanor we will have the curtain forever.

Whether a business chooses to keep their signs to Save Lake Almanor in their windows, or hand out information to customers who request it, the issue is still an immediate threat. When the call is made to make your public comments on the issue, please make the time to do so.

If you have any additional questions please contact the  
Save Lake Almanor organization at  
[www.savelakealmanor.org](http://www.savelakealmanor.org).



**Become a \$100.00 sponsor.**

**Get a free New York Steak dinner.**

**See page 27 for picnic information.**





# ALMANOR FISHING ASSOCIATION's 2009 17TH ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC



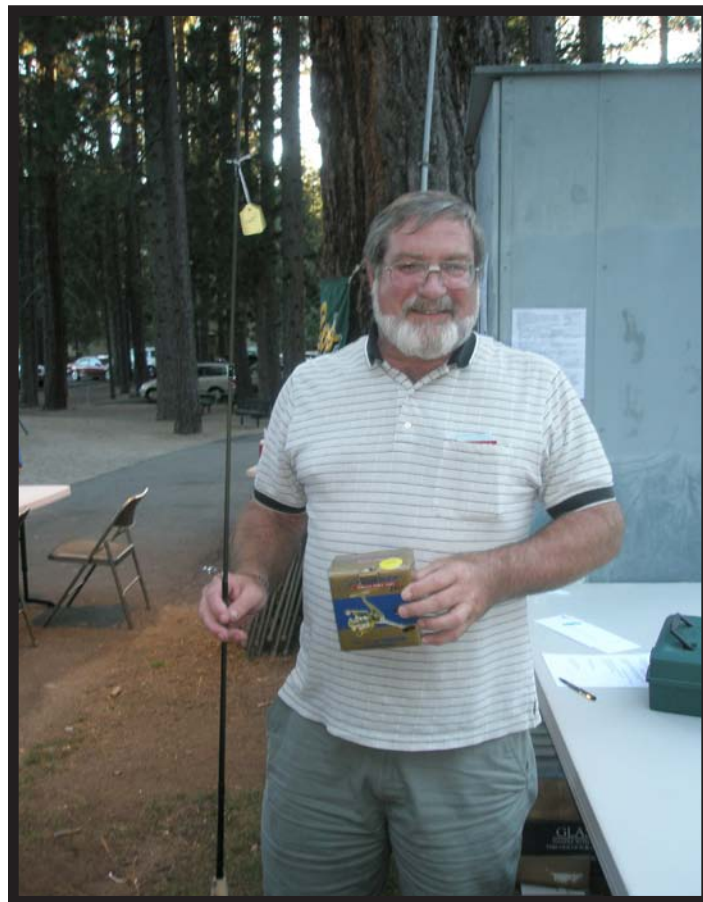
*Local John Grunder was the lucky winner of the "His & Her's" Bicycles from Almanor Fishing Association*



*Joan & Dave Richards of Reno Nevada were the lucky winners of a Three Day/Two Night stay with Complimentary Dinner For Two and Comedy Club Tickets donated by the Silver Legacy Resort Casino*



*Jim Nally of Carmichael was the lucky winner of a golf package of two rounds (18 holes) plus cart donated by Lake Almanor Country Club and a gift certificate for dinner at Dianna's*



*Uldis Vidners of Chico was the lucky winner of a Fenwick Rod & Fleuger Reel donated by the Almanor Bass Association*



*Eric Hansen of Paradise was the lucky winner of \$100.00 cash gift from AFA member Rich Dengler*



# Almanor Fishing Association's

## 18th Annual Family BBQ



**Saturday, August 21, 2010**

**4 to 9 p.m.**

**Lake Almanor Country Club  
Recreation Area #1**

**New York Steak Dinner  
\$18.00 Donation**

**Hot Dog Plate  
\$5.00 Donation**



**Get Your Tickets  
Early**



**Dinner Served  
from 5:00 to 6:45 pm**

**-----SAVE-----**

**Pre-Sale Dinner Ticket \$17.00 Donation**

**Pre-Sale Tickets Available from:**

*David Price Jeweler*

David & Florence Price  
Owners



216 Main Street  
P.O. Box 459  
Chester, CA 96020

(530) 258-4367  
Fax: (530) 258-0367

**Giftware • Gemologist • Appraisal**

email: [davidpricejeweler@digitalpath.net](mailto:davidpricejeweler@digitalpath.net)



**GARY CASELLA  
PAUL CASELLA  
530-596-3349**

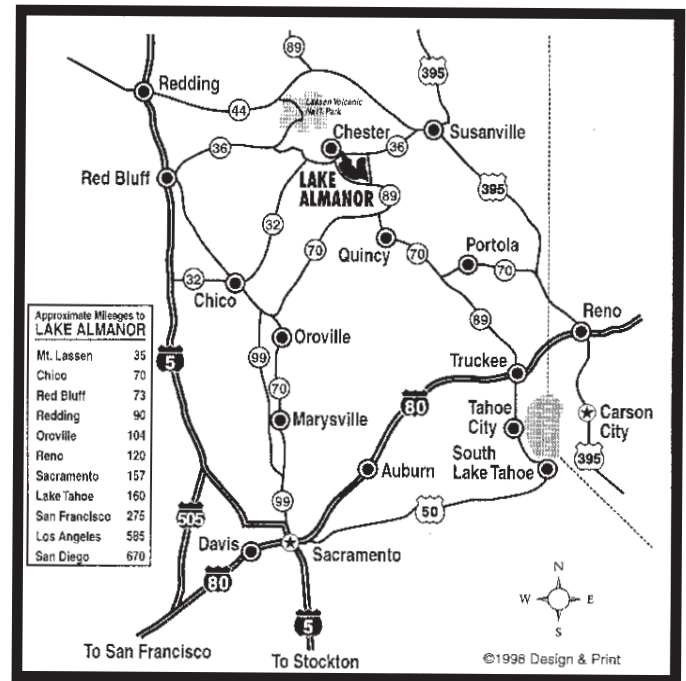
**R.V. • BOAT RENTALS • DOCKAGE • MARINA**

442 Peninsula Drive • Lake Almanor, CA 96137  
Website: [www.bigcoveresort.com](http://www.bigcoveresort.com)

## Fish Plants 2009

*Eagle Lake Rainbows.....	49,690
*Browns.....	47,470
*Salmon.....	34,500
*Eagle Lake Rainbows (Cages).....	50,000
Total.....	181,660

## Quagga & Zebra Mussel's



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