



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 7, Issue 2 — February 2017

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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- Pro Fishing Guides as members
- Dale Daneman, Dale's Foothill Fishing Guide Service
- Fishing Foothill Lakes in Amador, Tuolumne and El Dorado Counties
- Twenty-one foot Coastal guide boat

Fishing with Dale!

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club has been very blessed and benefited by the support of dozens and dozens of pro fishing guides over the years as invited breakfast guest speakers in our three decades as a fishing organization. As independent business entrepreneurs, fishing guide's ability to catch fish for their clients is their livelihood. As with other businesses, fishing guides invest thousands of dollars in their guide boat, electronics, tackle and other gear with the anticipation of a ROI (a Return On Investment). Their biggest investment and asset is the hundreds of hours spent on the water refining their fishing skills.

To us, the recreational angler, we too often take fishing guides for granted as just fun fishing buddies and a way to be reasonably sure we will catch fish with them. Seldom is the information and techniques they impart during fishing outings taken seriously. The efforts of the Rooster Tails is to bring guides fishing knowledge to our breakfast meetings. We are honored to have four professional fishing guides as RT members and thank them for being 'on call' at meetings and fishing outings to provide advice to our club's membership.

One of the four member-guides, is a long time Rooster Tails supporter Pro Guide Dale Daneman. **Dale will be the Rooster Tails February 17th breakfast guest speaker** with a PowerPoint presentation on the lakes he guides on.

Dale has educated and entertained the RTs for over fifteen years as a breakfast guest speaker, participated in our fishing events, and has shared with us his many years of extensive fishing experiences. Dale is the owner of Dale's Foothill Fishing Guide Service and is a retired Sheriff Deputy. He has

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Calendar of Events

February 17

Rooster Tails Breakfast
Pro Guide Dale Daneman

March 17

Rooster Tails Breakfast
Lake Camanche Expert

March 25

1st Quarterly RT Tournament
Lake Camanche

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	27	28				

Fish Bio

Fish Report

Fisheries News and Information

January 30, 2017—Many areas in California are still recovering from the previous weeks of torrential rainfall, caused by an atmospheric river. As large amounts of precipitation have swept across the western United States, storms have created extreme flooding, mudslides, and several power outages. While powerful atmospheric rivers can cause tremendous damage, they also supply an average of 30-50% of the annual precipitation experienced along the West Coast. California receives almost half of its yearly precipitation during just 5-10 days per year (Dettinger 2016). Due to such a high percentage of rain and snowfall over a short period of time, these storms can dictate whether or not California will remain in drought or have an above-average precipitation year. It appears that despite previous predictions, atmospheric rivers have brought enough precipitation to relieve most of California of its current extended drought.

The storm added 350 billion gallons of water to California reservoirs as of Jan.10. The storms' impacts reached the Sierra Nevada mountains elevating its snow water content. The mountain range received its largest snowstorm in 6 years according to the National Weather Service in Reno. Currently snow water content in California is at >200% compared to its yearly average. Above-average snow water content ensures water supplies during the dry months, and reservoirs such as Trinity Lake depend on this runoff.

The recent storms have supplied precipitation levels high enough for multiple California reservoirs to open floodgates and release water, causing high flows on rivers in the Central Valley. October 2016 marked the new Water Year (WY), and many reservoirs are experiencing water levels much higher than predicted. Lake Oroville is currently at 81% capacity compared to 44% only months ago, McClure has risen from 35% to 73% capacity, and Don Pedro is at an astonishing 90% capacity from its previous 65% (Figure 1).

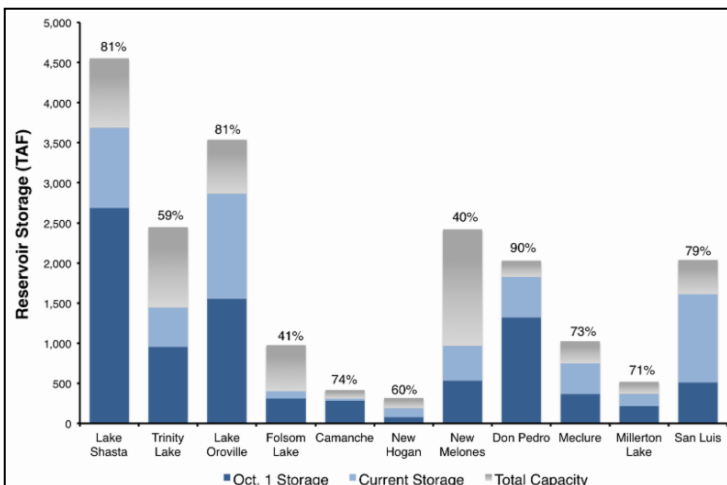
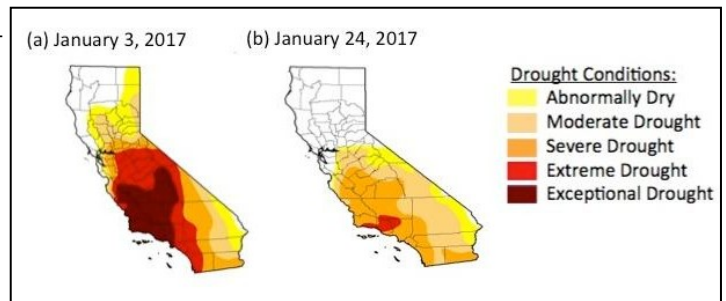


Figure 1. Current California reservoir storage levels. Historically, periods of prolonged drought in California have

ended when statewide average precipitation was near 150%. Although there are areas still experiencing varying drought conditions, the recent storms have mitigated the extreme levels of drought in most of northern California.

As of January 24th only 61.2% of California is experiencing a state of drought, compared to January 3rd when 82% were experiencing drought. In order for a statewide drought recovery, there will need to be multiple years of above-average precipitation for water storage to be replenished. Even with drought conditions improving, Southern California is still experiencing relatively low reservoir levels (Figure 2).

Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Summary: (a) Week before storms on Jan. 3 (b) After major storms on Jan. 24.



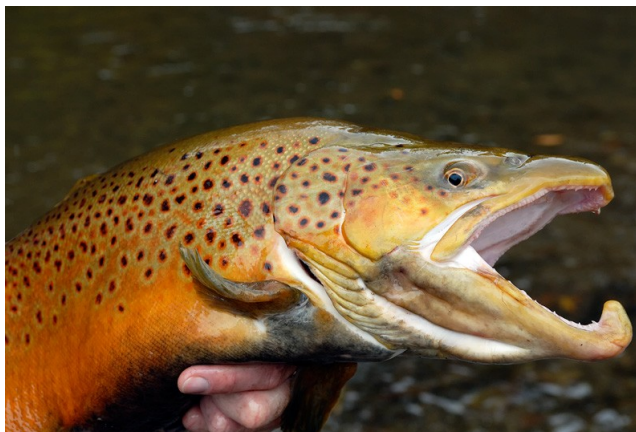
With California's drought status relying closely on a small number of storms brought by atmospheric rivers each year, management for water shortage and flooding are more closely related than previously thought. Looking towards the future, new technologies and management of storm capture for groundwater basins would be useful as California continues to go through periods of extreme droughts.

Groundwater supplies 30-60% of water used by Californians in a given year. Investing in better methods to capture storm water in these major storms will provide more water sources during multi-year droughts. While the current drought may finally be subsiding, it is important to focus on long-term water management, and plan for future periods of water scarcity.

(Atmospheric Rivers are trails of moisture in the atmosphere composed of condensed water vapor. Atmospheric rivers are typically found on the boundaries of different weather zones like cyclones that form in regions other than the tropics. At any given time there are a few (between 3-5) atmospheric rivers in Earth's hemisphere; each can be thousands of miles long and hundreds of miles wide. The moisture contained within an atmospheric river can be equivalent to the amount of water in the Amazon River, although only 10% of the Earth's circumference is covered by an atmospheric river band. 90% of Earth's north to south water vapor transport is done through atmospheric rivers.)

Understanding Trophy Brown Trout Behavior

Brown trout (also known as German Brown Trout) catches are the legendary and fireside tales as well as of the one that got away! These beautiful fish are highly efficient predators and will grow to very large proportions only dependent on the availability of forage and consistent water conditions. California's official state record is 26.8 pounds caught from Twin Lakes, California in the Eastern Sierras, with the world record at 41.7 pounds.



The common Brown trout (Salmo trutta) has a brain the size of a pea, if not smaller! Yet, fishermen have huge brains and try to out-think this simple fish but are more-often-than-not, out-witted!

The brown trout is highly regarded as a fierce fighter that has broken many lines, rods, and tackle. Even medium-sized browns are seen as significant catches amongst most anglers. Brown trout are 'meat eaters' by nature and are renowned for prowling in close proximity of the shoreline during early morning hours and as the sun sets to ambush and dine on unsuspecting smaller fish holding in shade protected water. They have a higher temperature tolerance and will aggressively feed along the warmer shoreline more than other species before retreating to their deep, cooler, quiet water lairs.

Browns tend to be homebodies and less migratory than their trout brethren. In general they are more wary than other trout species which helps ensure their longevity in waters where other trout are regularly fished out. Locations that produce browns will usually be productive year after year. When not feeding, big browns are very structure oriented and reside in and around large structures of drop-offs, large boulders, and submerged stumps and trees.

Studies suggest that browns prefer to hold in 47-60 degree water with their peak feeding range 54-62 degrees. As opportunistic feeders they venture out of their comfort temperature zone only to feed, then return 'home' to be sedentary ignoring lures resembling 'food' until motivated to once again hunt for a meal.

Their menu will often include larger prey including larvae, crayfish, frogs, newts, and worms. Big bad browns also are known to favor unsuspecting planer rainbow trout and large minnows.

Early morning browns move to the shoreline to seek forage before the sun is bright on the water. As night breaks to dim daylight, trolls long-line large joined Rapalas or Rebels or similar scented bait-fish imitations 200' to 300' behind their boat. Assistance from a planer-board, can be a huge asset fishing the shoreline because it won't spook the fish as much as the boat and not as

much lined needs to be paid out.

The speed of your troll should be relatively fast, somewhere between 2.5 mph – 3.5+ mph. You need to have your rod in hand and work the lure toward you and then easing it back out repeating this motion over and over. It causes feeding browns to aggressively give chase to it, when the lure suddenly moves away or stalls from the pursuing brown, they will attack it! With your fishing rod in hand you increase your odds dramatically compared to leaving it in a rod holder.

If you want to catch trophy big browns on Lake Pardee, you must make a commitment to fish for them, they are seldom caught by accident. Hiring an experienced guide that specializes in fishing for brown trout will expedite the angler's learning curve. Self-taught trophy brown hunters may sacrifice many attempts of landing their dream catch of a lifetime more often than not.

If you are tired of fishing for truck-trout, try your hand at fishing for brown trout... it will be rewarding! Remember to catch, quickly photograph, and release these legendary fish for another exciting trophy hunting day!

Secrets of Fishing Lake Pardee—cont. from page 1

participated as an ISE presenter, been a regular personality on California Sportsman's Radio, and contributor in various fishing publications. He is also a Pro Staff factory representative for Sep's Pro Troll, Cannon Downriggers, Humminbird Electronics, Minn Kota Trolling Motors, Pflueger and Shakespeare rods and reels. He is also a factory representative for Rogue Jet Boat-works, manufacturer of his custom twenty-one foot Coastal guide boat that is powered by a 225 hp Honda.

Dale specializes guiding only on lakes within Amador, El Dorado, and Tuolumne counties that are rich in quality trout and Kokanee.

They include the following water impoundments: Lake Amador, Bear River Reservoir, Camanche, Caples Lake, Ice House, Loon Lake, New Melones, Silver Lake, Union Valley, and Lake Pardee, his resident lake guide. He has a huge inventory of various lures for his clients that are productive under various conditions on these lakes.

We hope you will attend the Feb. 17th special breakfast and show your support for Dale as he has done for our club. Reservations are not necessary, but arrive early to speak to Dale one-on-one for the latest fishing in the high-country

California Triploid Trout

Fishing Lake Pardee a while back, it was heard over the marine radio that a fisherman caught a 'tri-tip trout'... as in steak. He could have been partially right from a size perspective! What the angler really meant to say was that he caught a planted **triploid rainbow trout**. Triploid rainbow trout are named *triploid* because they possess three sets of chromosomes which render them sterile. The triploidy process involves treating normal fertilized trout eggs at the hatchery which causes them to become sterile.

The move to create sterile rainbow trout is in response to a lawsuit filed in 2006 by the Pacific Rivers Council and the Center for Biological Diversity against DFG claiming that DFG's fish stocking operation did not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In July, 2007, DFG was ordered by the Sacramento Superior Court to comply with CEQA regarding its fish stocking operations. DFG now requires California hatcheries to make available *only* triploid trout which are considerably more expensive to produce due to a higher degree of depreciation.

Why is sterile trout desirable? Research biologists contend that sterilization is beneficial to prevent hybridization of native strains of rainbows and cutthroat trout. Also, since they do not spawn, all their growth potential goes to growing as opposed to producing eggs or milt. Many trout die as a result of the stress of spawning so the expectation is that the triploid trout live longer and grow bigger. In addition triploids have ravenous appetites with one fisherman being quoted as saying that he found the entire glass bottle of Berkley power bait in the stomach of a Triploid caught in Utah? (*I do not know if I believe that.*)

By all reports, triploid trout are fast swimmers, strong fighters, taste, and appear to be "normal" trout. So good luck on your next 'trip'!

Lake Pardee



The water forms **Pardee Reservoir**, the primary source of water for the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in the San Francisco Bay Area. The structure dams the Mokelumne River and the water impoundment it created was opened for public use in 1929. The dam has a height of 345 vertical feet and is 1,337 feet in length. Like all the reservoirs in the Sierra watershed, most of the water originates from the annual snowpack in the High Sierra. The reservoir normally covers 3 square miles with 204,450 acre-feet of water capacity and 37 miles

Jackpot Contest

2015	2016	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	17"		BOCA	7-7	D. CUTCHELD
	Landlocked Salmon	23"	36.6oz	OROVILLE	5-16	LARRY THOMAS
	River or Ocean King Salmon	36 3/4"		STINSON BEACH	8-16	LANNIE BROOKS
	Striped Bass	33 1/2"	136.5oz	DELTA	11-4	TOM HYDE
	Rainbow Trout	21 1/2"		UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER	4-18	A. STONEBAKER ERIC LISKE
	Brown Trout	19"		LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CHUCK MIERKEY
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	96.7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	36"	17lbs	DOWNER LAKE	9-6	SHAWN CONLAN
	Large Mouth Bass	22"	76.4oz	DELVATE POND LAKE WILLOWOOD	3-29 3-29	RIK COX IVAN ICHTERS
	Small Mouth Bass	16 1/2"		BERKESSA	2-5	RIK COX
	Coffish	31 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
	Shad	16 3/4"		SACTO RIVER	4-29	MEL EWING
	Crappie	12 3/4"		CLEARLAKE	9-16	GREG HICKS
	Sturgeon					

SUMMARY OF JACKPOT CONTEST RULES:

- Rooster Tail Members in good standing may enter the Club's Annual Jackpot Fishing Contest for the longest fish for each of 14 specified species.
- Enter the contest anytime between January 1 and through November 30 by paying an entry fee of \$10.00 to the Contest Chairman or Club Treasurer.
- The entry fee must be made 2 weeks in advance of your fish-catch entry and any time between the starting and ending contest dates. No fish-entry will be accepted without a two-week prior entry fee payment.
- **NEW!** No ties for the same length fish species, subsequent entries for the same species must exceed the current entry by a minimum of one-half inch.
- Verbal information about a catch will not qualify as an official Jackpot entry, only a catch entry form will qualify for an official entry. Entry forms can be found at www.roostertailsfishingclub.org. Click on the tab CLUB EVENTS and then Jackpot Contest.
- The catch entry form along with a jpg photo is to be submitted to the Contest Chairman by hand, mail, or email at info@roostertailsfishingclub.org within 30 days of the catch-date.
- Jackpot entrants that do not have a winning Jackpot Contest fish entry will have a chance to win a proportionate cash prize based on a random drawing at the Annual Holiday Brunch ceremony.

of shoreline. As of February 1, 2017, it is at 100% capacity and spilling at 277 cfs. California state law prohibits human body to water contact within Pardee Reservoir, so water skiers, jet skis, and lake swimmers are forbidden, with fishing being the primary activity.