



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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- Unique fishing conditions not seen in years
- 3rd generation fishing prodigy
- Targeting hold-over trophy trout
- Bait & tackle rigging details
- Strategy for fishing likely hot spots
- Streamed live on 70" flat screen

Trout Fishing Extraordinaire Jack Naves

The most prolific fish that anglers pursue in North Central California waters is rainbow trout. This year's abundant rain and major DF&W as well as private stocking programs have created unique trout fishing conditions not seen in years. **The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is proud to provide anglers with the opportunity to hear a seminar by trout fishing extraordinaire Jack Naves at their March 17 breakfast meeting.** He is well known and respected by the fishing community for his expertise as a third generation fishing prodigy with over thirty-five years of fishing for a variety of species on multiple waters. Jack will share with Rooster Tail members and non-member guests on how to target hold-over trophy trout on Lake Camanche. Jack's presentation will provide details on bait and tackle rigging as well as a strategy for fishing likely hot spots. His presentation will be streamed-live onto a 70" flat screen for his expected large audience to see and hear via the Auburn Elks Lodge state-of-art video and sound system.

What is unique about Jack's passion for trout fishing is that he is not selling anything; he is not asking you to buy anything from anyone; nor is he sponsored by any fishing company. Despite the fact that Jack would certainly qualify as a pro fishing guide, he has chosen to provide for his family through other endeavors. He authors fishing articles, wins tournaments,

and is in high demand as a guest speaker. Jack's motivation and personal satisfaction is that he would like his audiences to benefit from his fishing advice and become better anglers.

Northern California anglers that participate in the many spring trout tournaments, derbies, and club outings held on Camanche can gain an edge by attending this special trout seminar. What often makes the difference of taking home a fishing event prize is often due to learning new angling techniques and being prepared for ever changing fishing conditions. Jack has won many fishing contests. He invites both novice as well as expert anglers to hear his presentation on March 17 at the Auburn Elks Lodge.



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Calendar of Events

March 17
Rooster Tails Breakfast
Speaker Jack Naves

March 22
1st Quarterly RT Tournament
Lake Camanche

June 4
Picnic in the Park

March 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				

Boat Batteries - A Layman's Guide & What You Should Know!

The commercial use of the lead acid battery is over 100 years old. The same chemical principal that is being used to store energy is basically the same as our Great Grandparents may have used. A battery is like a piggy bank. If you keep taking out and putting nothing back you soon will have nothing. Present day boat battery power requirements are huge as boats get more sophisticated. Like vehicles, boat electronics require a source of reliable power, and poor battery condition can cause expensive electronic component failure. Average battery life has become shorter as energy requirements have increased. Life span depends on usage; 6 months to 48 months, yet only 30% of all batteries actually reach the 48-month mark. A good option that can extend your batteries' life is by hooking it up to a charger during your boat's off months.

Safety: When working on and around batteries, remove all jewelry. After all you don't want to melt your watchband while you are wearing the watch. The hydrogen gas that batteries make when charging is very explosive. There have been several instances of batteries blowing up and drenching everything in sulfuric acid. Use safety goggles even for basic battery inspections and cleaning. Also, remember when doing electrical work on your boat, it is best to disconnect the ground cable. Just remember you are messing with corrosive acid, explosive gases and 100's amps of electrical current, all of which can hurt you and worse...

Types of Batteries: There two main types of lead batteries; a **Starting battery** and **Deep Cycle Marine battery**. The starting battery is designed to deliver quick bursts of energy (such as starting engines). The deep cycle battery has less instant energy, but greater long-term energy delivery (such as powering boat accessories and trolling motors). Starting batteries should not be used for deep cycle applications because their thinner plates are more prone to warping and pitting when discharged. **Wet Cell** (flooded), **Gel Cell**, and **Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM)** are various versions of the lead acid battery. The **Gel Cell** and the **AGM** batteries are specialty batteries that typically cost twice as much as a premium wet cell. However they store very well and do not tend to sulfate or degrade as easily as wet cell. There is little chance of a hydrogen gas explosion or corrosion when using these batteries; these are the safest lead acid batteries you can use. Gel Cell and some AGM batteries may require a special charging rate. If you want the most versatile battery type, consideration should be given to the AGM battery for marine use.

Battery Maintenance is an important issue. The battery should be cleaned using a baking soda and water solution; a couple of table spoons to a pint of water. Cable connections need to be cleaned and tightened as battery problems are often caused by dirty and loose connections. A serviceable battery needs to have the fluid level checked. Use only mineral free water. Distilled is best as all impurities have been removed, and there is nothing left that could contaminate your cells. Don't overfill battery cells especially in warmer weather because the natural fluid expansion in hot weather can push

excess electrolytes from the battery. To prevent corrosion of cables on top post batteries use a small bead of silicone sealer at the base of the post and place a felt battery washer over it. Coat the washer with high temperature grease or petroleum jelly (Vaseline), then place cable on the post and tighten. Coat the exposed cable end with the grease. Most folks don't know that just the gases from the battery condensing on metal parts cause most corrosion.

When **buying a new battery**, purchase a battery with the greatest reserve capacity or amp hour rating possible. Of course the physical size, cable hook up, and terminal type must be a consideration. You may want to consider a Gel Cell or an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) rather than a Wet Cell if the application is in a harsher environment or the battery is not going to receive regular maintenance and charging. Be sure to purchase the correct type of battery for the job it must do. Remember that engine starting batteries and deep cycle batteries are different. Freshness of a new battery is very important. The longer a battery sits on a retailer's shelf and is not re-charged the more damaging sulfation build up there may be on the plates. Most batteries have a date of manufacture code on them. The month is indicated by a letter 'A' being January and a number '9' being 2009. Therefore a C9 battery would tell you the battery was manufactured in March 2009 and is old. Remember the fresher the better!

Battery life and performance - Average battery life has become shorter as energy requirements have increased. Two most common complaints are **"my battery won't take a charge"**, and **"my battery won't hold a charge"**. Only 30% of batteries sold today reach the 48-month mark. In fact 80% of all battery failure is related to sulfation build-up. This build up occurs when the sulfur molecules in the electrolyte (battery acid) become so deeply discharged that they begin to coat the battery's lead plates. Before long the plates become so coated that the battery dies. **The causes of sulfation are numerous:**

- Batteries sit too long between charges. As little as 24 hours in hot weather and several days in cooler weather.
- Battery is stored without some type of energy input.
- "Deep cycling" an engine starting battery. Remember these batteries can't stand deep discharge.
- Undercharging of a battery to only 90% of capacity will allow sulfation of the battery using the 10% of battery chemistry not reactivated by the in-completed charging cycle.
- Heat of 100 plus F., increases internal discharge. As temperatures increase so does internal discharge. A new fully charged battery left sitting 24 hours a day at 110 degrees F. for 30 days would most likely not start an engine.
- Low electrolyte level - battery plates exposed to air will immediately sulfate.

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Trolling from a Boat with a Fly-Rod?

Posted by Steve Galea

For most of us, fly fishing conjures up images of anglers making long, graceful casts. This is certainly the classic approach, but it's not the only one. After all, casting is only a means to deliver your fly to the water. That's where the fish are and that's where your fly needs to be to catch them. Why is it, then, that so many anglers shun the idea of trolling with fly-fishing gear? I'm not sure, but I suspect this prejudice has more to do with style and aesthetics than the merits of the tactic.

Trolling, after all, allows you to present your offering, precisely and quietly, to a slew of productive spots in lakes or large rivers. It's efficient in that it always keeps your fly in the game. And it can be a devastatingly effective tactic for trout, bass and a host of other sport fish too.

Better still, it is the great equalizer, especially when someone with less than stellar casting abilities is aboard the boat; in other words, when you're trolling, everyone has a chance. And, as if that's not enough, there's no better way to prospect for hot spots on a new lake fly fishing in the traditional sense. Need one more reason? Well, when the wind makes casting dangerous or difficult, you can continue fishing if you opt to troll.

Streamers Rule — You can troll successfully with wet flies, but streamers and trolling flies are the obvious choice. That's because they can be made to imitate minnows, or even ridiculous-looking flies that are, for some strange reason, irresistible to fish. My favourite flies for this tactic includes Bead-head Woolly Buggers; Gray and Black Ghosts; white, yellow, and black Marabou Muddlers; and Seaducers. All of these are tied in sizes 4 to 8.

Of course, these choices are personal and work well in the waters I fish, but there are countless other flies that will do the trick too. The important thing is to experiment and have faith and confidence in the fish-catching potential of whatever flies you choose.

Having said that, here's some advice that might be useful when developing a trolling arsenal. First, streamers tied with feathers or marabou pulsate and look livelier in slower water than bucktails do.

Second, if you are fishing your flies in deeper or stained water, a little bit of flash added to the fly won't hurt a bit. But neither will basic black, which silhouettes well, when fish are attacking from below.

In the end, however, the fish will always be the final judge. So experiment with colors, flies, and action until you find what they like. And, every now and then or when the tried and true doesn't work, try something new.

What's My Line? - Most times, trolling with a floating line and weighted fly works well enough. But if I have the pleasure of another angler's company, I will suggest that one of us fish a sinking or sink-tip line just in case the fish are holding a little

deeper. After you hook a few fish, you'll figure out what depth they are suspended at and, hopefully, adjust accordingly.

When it comes to leaders, I prefer a short level fluorocarbon leader, 4- to 6-feet in length, attached to my sinking lines. I'll double that on my floating lines. The former keeps the fly from lagging too high above the sinking line on the descent; the latter permits a weighted fly to drop a bit below the floating line. In either case, use the lightest leader you can get away with.

A Bit of Teamwork - When fishing with another angler, you have another important advantage: you can both use different flies. This allows you to cycle through a variety of colors and patterns until you zero in on what the fish prefer. I've been amazed at the number of times that an olive woolly bugger with a bit of crystal flash, for instance, will radically out fish a plain olive woolly bugger on some days.

This might seem like a small difference, but not to the fish. If you have two anglers constantly experimenting, you'll find these things out that much sooner. And you'll have someone to take a photo of you when you finally land that lunker.

The Need for Speed — Speed is critical to trolling success, especially with flies. They just won't pulsate correctly if you are trying to set some speed record on the water. Even so, there are no hard and fast rules. I prefer to start as slow (about 1 mph) as my trolling motor (a four-stroke, 4-horse) will allow and zigzag over productive cover until I find fish. If this doesn't work, I'll increase my speed slightly. A handheld GPS is helpful because it permits you to monitor exact speed and remain at the pace that is working best. It's important to pay attention to wind and currents too. When trolling against either, you need to increase your motor's output to attain the same speed. Conversely, if you can't troll slowly enough, back trolling or trolling against the wind and current are all viable solutions. Also, take note if your hits are coming on an inside turn (when the fly is deeper and travelling slower) or outside turn (when it's higher and faster). This provides valuable clues about the depth and speed at which you should be fishing.

Structured Approach — Although many fly fishing purists wouldn't think of it, a good depth finder can contribute significantly to your success, especially on a new lake. They reveal high-percentage spots such as shoals, drop offs, saddles, and weed beds and allow you to fish them with an exactness that even years of local knowledge couldn't match. Generally, I troll towards structure like shoals, from deep to shallow water, and then away from it. I also zigzag along the edges of drop offs and weed lines until I locate fish.

Strikes and Hooking Up — When trolling with a fly rod the hook set is a bit different. Generally, it requires more effort

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Batteries—continued

- Cold weather is also hard on the battery. The chemistry does not make the same amount of energy as a warm battery. A deeply discharged battery can freeze solid in sub-zero weather.
- Parasitic drain is a load put on a battery with the key off.

Battery Do's:

- Think Safety First.
- Do regular inspection and maintenance especially in hot weather.
- Do recharge batteries immediately after discharge.
- Do buy the highest RC reserve capacity or AH amp hour battery that will fit your configuration.

Battery Don'ts:

- Don't forget safety first.
- Don't add new electrolyte (acid).
- Don't use unregulated high output battery chargers to charge batteries.
- Don't place your boat into storage without some type of device to keep the battery charged.
- Don't disconnect battery cables while the engine is running (your battery acts as a filter).
- Don't put off recharging batteries.
- Don't add tap water as it may contain minerals that will contaminate the electrolyte.
- Don't discharge a battery any deeper than you possibly have-to.
- Don't let a battery get hot to the touch and boil violently when charging.
- Don't mix size and types of batteries.















Trolling with a Fly Line — continued

since the fly is often being fished with a longer line. So, when you detect a hit, sweep the rod back and remove slack with a quick tug from your line hand. That, combined with the forward movement of the boat, often ensures a solid hook up. A stiff-action rod is helpful too. Fish will often hook themselves, too. Unfortunately, this is often superficial and easily shook, so drive the hook home.

As always, the more line you have out, the more difficult it is to drive the hook home. Typically, we'll begin trolling with 35 to 50 feet of line out behind the boat. If you can get away with it, fish less line than that. If fish are spooky, however, you might have no alternative than to fish a bit more.

One Last Run — Though not very glamorous, trolling with a fly rod is effective and even fun once you get the hang of it. You get to cover a lot of water efficiently, feel bone-jarring strikes and enjoy surprising success. As in all angling, the name of the game is figuring out the patterns. Should I use a light or dark fly? A floating or sinking line? Fish the weed beds or shoals? Troll fast or dead slow? There are times when the key to catching fish is buried deep within one of those questions. And finding the answer can be frustrating. But when all that knowledge comes together, you'll be happy that you gave your casting arm a rest.

Jackpot Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST						
2017	2016	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	17"		BOCA	7-7	D. CRITCHFIELD
	Landlocked Salmon	29"	36.6g	OROVILLE	5-16	LARRY THOMAS
	River or Ocean King Salmon	36 3/4"		STANSON BEACH	8-16	LONNIE BROOKS
	Striped Bass	33 1/2"	13.55	DELTA	11-4	TOM HYDE
	Rainbow Trout	22 3/4"	5.35	CAMANACHE	2-14	JOHN BERGMAN
	Brown Trout	19"		LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CHUCK MIERKEY
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	9.67g	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	36"	17lbs	DOWNER LAKE	9-6	SHAWN CONLAN
	Large Mouth Bass	19"	3lbs	BERRYESSA	2-14	RICHARD COX
	Small Mouth Bass	16 1/2"		BERRYESSA	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					

2017 Entries in Red

RAINBOW TROUT, **John Bergman**, 22 3/4", Camanche Lake, 2/14/17

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 19", 3 lbs., Berryessa, 2/14/17



Members, spouses, significant others, family members, and guests are all invited to attend the Club's Annual Spring Barbeque Picnic luncheon held at Recreation Park,

Auburn on June 4, 2017. This year, join your Board of Directors, who will be doing the cooking and serving, at this annual event.

Meet and greet fellow Rooster Tail Fishing Club members and their families/friends. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April & May breakfast meetings so sufficient food can be ready for your enjoyment.

Barbequed beef and savory chicken entrées will be prepared on-site and served hot. Included with the entrées are salads, ranch beans, and fresh baked breads. A variety of free beverages are included at an open bar offering choices of sodas, beer, wine, and water. Utensils, flatware, and other event necessities are all provided.

Volunteers are needed to help with the setup and takedown of the picnic area. To help with the setup volunteers should arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. Volunteers and attendees are also welcome to bring their favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at noon.

Hope to see you there...

by John Warren, RTFC Board Treasurer