



# 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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- Arctic Fox flies catch Coho, Chinook Salmon, Eagle Lake trout, mackinaw, striped bass
- 'Streamers' are really big flies
- Wiggle Fin Action Disk used with trolled Arctic Fox flies

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## FISHING LAKES WITH STREAMERS

**An instructional seminar presented by Denis Peirce**

*"A new look at an old technique"*

Denis Peirce, is a prolific angler, radio personality, newspaper columnist, and manufacturer of Arctic Fox trolling flies. He will be the Rooster Tails Fishing Club's April 21<sup>st</sup> breakfast meeting guest speaker.

Troll with *Arctic Fox Flies* for any predator fish species that eats other fish! Arctic Fox trolling flies & streamers have caught Coho & Chinook salmon; Eagle Lake Trout; monster mackinaw; striped bass; Pyramid cutthroat and countless rainbow trout & Kokanee.

Fly fishing to the average non-fly fishing person is often seen as casting super-small imitations of various insects, with complex (expensive) gear, with special strategies and skills to catch fish. The emphasis of fly fishing is presentation-casts and sighting fish among other techniques to be successful. However, using trolling flies with a fly rod versus using them trolled from a boat is an area of mutual applications. Special trolling flies called 'streamers' are just really *big* flies and in fly fishing terms, they are usually presented in an 'active retrieve' creating an illusion of swimming forage. Streamer flies are designed to attract larger 'meat-eater' fish that dine on

other fish, crawdads, leeches, and large aquatic insects. Trolling streamers requires less finesse than other types of flies and creates a great opportunity to catch fish when other methods might not be working.

For the angler in the know, streamers provide a great alternative to conventional lures when trolled from a boat with traditional rods and reels. Trolling flies can be used in conjunction with down riggers or long lined with minimal weigh so the fight is without the drag of other fishing hardware.

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## Calendar of Events

**April 21**  
Rooster Tails Breakfast  
Speaker Denis Peirce

**May 19**  
Rooster Tails Breakfast  
Mark Wilson "The Striper Guy"

**June 4**  
Picnic in the Park

## April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	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	26	27	28	29
30						

## Understanding Water Clarity to Catch More Fish

Anglers realize the effects of water temperature on fish, but there is also another component of water that needs to be considered; water color. Water color or more properly water clarity... Water clarity affects the environment and habits of fish, and in turn, the methods and means the successful angler must use to catch them. No lake is perfectly clear. All are colored to some degree; some more than others.

Lakes gain their color from a number of sources. Differences in water clarity are primarily caused by the presence (or lack) of dissolved substances and/or suspended particles in the water. Particles include free-floating algae, called phytoplankton, as well as other solids including sand, clay, or debris from the surrounding land that has either been washed in or brought in by wind or rain. These particles absorb and scatter sunlight as light passes through the water, therefore water clarity decreases as the amount of these particles increase.

Generally speaking, lakes fall under one of three conditions: clear, stained and dark. But how clear is clear? How stained is stained? How dark is dark? These are obviously all relative questions. What one angler sees as stained could be perceived as dark by another. If we are to make accurate determinations of water clarity, we must have some standard with which to work.

Biologists today often use a device to gauge water clarity that originated on the Mediterranean Sea in 1865. It is called the *Secchi Disc* which was invented by Pietro Angelo Secchi, a scientific advisor in Rome in the mid-1800s, and is still used today to measure the water clarity of the Mediterranean. The *Secchi Disc* is an 8-inch disc that is either solid white or alternating black and white quadrants. The disc is tied to a rope with measurement markings and is lowered into the water, and the measurement is taken when the disc vanishes from the observer's sight, thus measuring clarity.

Anglers who want a close estimate of water clarity based on the *Secchi Disc* concept can use a clean white lure such as a metal jig or other pure white metal object. If the submerged object can still be seen at a depth of 6 feet or more on a sunny day, the water is considered clear. If the lure vanishes between 2 to 6 feet, the water is stained. If you are unable to see the lure at depths less than 2 feet, the water is dark. Now that we've determined how to gauge clarity, how can we use this information to fine-tune our approach to lure selection?

First, we must understand how clarity, or the lack of it, affects the feeding habits of fish. Most fish have two primary methods of searching for food: sight and sound. Even though the ability of fish to pick up sound vibrations is keen, when possible, most predator fish will rely more on sight. In relatively clear water

that's possible. But when the water turns to heavily stained or dark, then sound becomes the dominant means of searching out forage.

Feeding times can also be affected by water clarity. For the same reasons mentioned above, fish living in dark waters will feed more during the brighter hours of daylight when visibility is best. Conversely, clear water fish tend to feed more at low light hours. Because of limited light penetration, fish in dark or heavily stained waters tend to be shallow, while fish in clear water are more often found deep.

Once the clarity situation is established for a specific lake, lure selection and presentation becomes a simple process. Common sense tells us that noisy, bright-colored lures will be more effective in dark water. Choosing the lighter colors will make detection easier, while vibrating lures like jointed lures, hard lures with incased metal beads, and other rattle-baits will attract foraging fish. Using the same sound generating lures in clear water, though, can have the opposite effect. Fish in clear water tend to be spooked by noisy presentations. For those situations anglers should tone their offerings down with less vibration and flash.

A few other differences that are worth remembering are that fish in clearer water will roam more, chase lures more readily, be more likely to school and prefer smaller lures presented with accurate life-like action. You can get by with sloppier presentations while fishing in dark water, but should expect to find fish more scattered, more object-oriented, but less spooky.

Fishing success is a balancing act where the angler must make critical decisions based on a number of variables. Water clarity plays an important role in those decisions. Approach it with a little thought and you're well on your way to clearing up the subject of clarity.

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### Rooster Tails Fishing Club – Annual Picnic



Just a quick reminder for club members, the **annual picnic will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> (a Sunday) from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M.** The picnic will be held at Recreation Park in Auburn. Look for sign-up sheets and directions at the April

and May Breakfast meetings. Plan on being there to enjoy food, fun, and club fellowship. We could use some help...If you are interested in volunteering, please call Judy Miller at 916-823-1370.

## Understanding Lure Color Selections

This is perhaps the most important point to remember: **Most gamefish detect their prey by seeing the contrast of the forage against various colored backgrounds.** The level or type of contrast depends upon many factors: time of day; type of bottom/surroundings; clarity of the water; whether it is cloudy or sunny day light penetration; and perhaps even the time of year and angle of light entering the water. There are still other variables that could affect lure colors, however keep the following in mind the next time you reach into your tackle box to choose a lure.

- Try to consider what the colors in your lure will look like at the depth you are fishing, and chose appropriately. For example, since red is the first and blue is the last color absorbed, it makes more sense to use a blue lure when fishing deep.
- If you are trying to match a particular bait, the color of your lure should match the color of the bait for the depth you are fishing. In other words, try to match the underwater color rather than the color of the bait in air.
- Many fish feed by looking up toward the surface of the water. In doing so, however, they have difficulty distinguishing specific colors, and the contrast of the prey against the surface becomes more important. When a feeding fish is looking up, a dark silhouette, even against a dark night sky, provides the maximum contrast and is attractive to predators. Selecting a lure based on contrast, rather than on specific colors, is often the key to enticing a fish to strike.
- Black is the least transparent color and gives the best silhouette at night or cloudy days. Black is probably the most visible color under most conditions.
- If your lure has two or more colors, the darker color should be over the lighter colors. Almost all baitfish have this color arrangement, and dark over light usually produces good contrast.
- Different colored lures may be equally effective or ineffective simply because they are similar in color at the depth the fish see them.
- If you are fishing your lure in deep water, the motion and any noise or disturbance it makes might be much more important than its color.
- Increase the contrast of the lure if the water is dark or dirty; decrease the contrast if it is clear.
- A good profile is important when vision conditions are low (nighttime or dirty water). Black and red lures offer good profiles.
- Some colors, such as chartreuse, always seem to work better than other colors. Yellow/white and chartreuse/white are also good pairings. Red/white, which provide good contrast under many conditions, is a popular combination for many anglers.
- Fluorescent colors, especially in chartreuse, are very popular for both fresh and saltwater fishing. Under the right conditions, fluorescent colors, which are not naturally found in nature, can be very visible under water and seen for considerable distances. A fluorescent color is one that will be bright when exposed to light having a shorter wavelength. For example, fluorescent yellow appears as bright yellow when exposed to ultra-violet, blue, or green light. Alternatively, fluorescent yellow does not appear yellow when struck by red light that

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## Fishing Lakes with Streamers by Denis Peirce—*continued from page 1*

Denis Peirce has been in the fly fishing industry as a sales rep, manufacturer and fly distributor since 1993. His interest in trolling flies began when he met Jay Fair, manufacturer of the Wiggle Fin Action Disc in the 1990's. Jay and Denis teamed-up to making a winning combination of fly-designs, color, and fish-mesmerizing action to trolling flies and streamers.

The trolled Arctic Fox fly is designed to be used with the Wiggle Fin Action Disc which is a type of clear vibrating disc that when pulled through the water, creates a vibrating swimming action that is transferred to the fly. The deadly action draws fish to the fly often resulting in an explosive strike.

The use of real Arctic Fox Fur versus feathers makes the Arctic Fox brand trolling fly durable even after several strikes.

Fox fur has the movement of marabou feather flies, however the fur has far greater tensile strength. Fox fur is tough and meant to protect the animal, and a superior fly tying material as well its white color can be dyed to a variety of bright colors. Available in multiple colors, each Arctic Fox Fly come with an Action Disc and rigged with a Gamakatsu octopus hook. Instructions are included with the individually package fly. Denis can be reached at 530-432-4999 or [denispeirce-flies@hotmail.com](mailto:denispeirce-flies@hotmail.com)



*A stopped motion-image of a trolled Action Disc and an Arctic Fox trolling fly*



## Rooster Tails Fishing at Lake Camanche

Out of a registered group of 30 Rooster Tail Fishing Club members, 22 braved the elements to fish at Lake Camanche Reservoir on March 22. With an outing purse totaling \$840, competition was intense. Of the 22 club members, 13 brought fish to the weigh-in with the top four fish weigh-ins totaled 22.4 pounds. Comments from those who caught fish indicated that the fish were at shallow depths and that small "hoochie" type set-ups were the best producers of bites. Participants listed below.

### Entry Weights - Reported (12)

Mike Pendleton	6.80 pounds
Mike Walker	6.20 pounds
John Hess	5.20 pounds
Trudy Liske	4.20 pounds
Russ Smith	4.14 pounds (See photo below)
Larry Thomas	4.00 pounds
John Peplowski	4.00 Pounds
Dale Hafelfinger	3.12 pounds
Jim Pitts	2.40 pounds
Ken Stears	2.20 pounds
Gregor Roschitsch	2.14 pounds
Richard Tyler	2.12 pounds

### Attendees – No catch reported (10)

Mac McKendree	Fred Jones
Jim Petruk	Walt Reno
Gary Frolich	Mike Peckham
Steve Lenheim	Erlc Liske



## Jackpot Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST					
	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
2017-2018					
Kalamazoo	17"		BOCA	7-7	D. CUTCAFIELD
Landlocked Salmon	29"	36.6oz	OROVILLE	5-16	LARRY THOMAS
River or Ocean King Salmon	36 3/8"		STANSON BEACH	8-16	LONNIE BROOKS
Striped Bass	33 1/2"	136.5oz	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
Smallmouth Bass	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	19"	3lbs	BERRYESSA	2-14	RICHARD COX
Small Mouth Bass	18"	36.4oz	BERRYESSA	2-23	RICHARD COX
Catfish	31 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
Shad	16 3/8"		SACTO RIVER	4-29	MEL EWING
Croppie	16 1/4"		CAMANACHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
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  
 SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 18", 3 lb. 4 oz., Berryessa, 2/23/17  
 CRAPPIE, **John Hess**, 16 1/4", Camanche Lake, 3/9/17

### Understanding Lure Color Selections—Cont. from page 3

has a longer wavelength. Because of this unique characteristic of fluorescent colors, they do not have as dramatic a change of color when they are fished deeper.

- The fluorescence of fluorescent colors is mainly due to ultraviolet (UV) light, a color that is invisible to us. Humans cannot see UV light, but we can see how it brings out the fluorescence in certain colors. Ultraviolet light is dominant on cloudy or gray days, and when UV light hits something having fluorescent material, its color becomes especially visible and vibrant. On bright sunlit days, the fluorescent effect is considerably less, and of course if there is no light, there will be no fluorescence.
- Research shows that fluorescent colors are visible and distinct for longer distances than regular colors, and that a lure with fluorescent materials often attracts fish. To be more precise, a fluorescent color having a slightly longer wavelength than the color of the water has better long-distance visibility. For example, in greenish waters, the brightest colors would be fluorescent green or chartreuse. As good as fluorescent colors may be, they will usually not work if the fish are actively feeding on a specific bait, since it is highly improbable that the fluorescent color will resemble any color in that bait.
- As you can see, light and color can get pretty complicated. But let's not forget what we are trying to do: have our lures imitate food. Fish are not very clever, and they attack prey as an instinctive behavior motivated (or so we think) by one or more stimuli. These stimuli include movement, shape, sound, contrast, smell, color, presentation, and other things unknown to us. Successful lure selection should include some of these stimuli. This is a complicated venture, of which color can sometimes be an important aspect, but only if the fish can see the color.