



# The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 8, Issue 3 — March 2018

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## Local Fishing Advice from Craig Newton, Expert Angler and Owner of Will Fish Tackle in Auburn

- Life-long reservoir of fishing knowledge
- How to use the newest tackle on the market
- How to land a wall-hanger trout

Rooster Tails  
Camanche Lake Trout  
\$1,000 Cash Members'—Only  
Tournament

March 21st  
Launch at Safe-light  
Weigh-in at 2:00 pm  
South Shore parking lot

\$20/per person entry fee

What do you get when you cross an accomplished civil engineer with an expert fisherman? You get Mr. Craig Newton and his life-long reservoir of fishing knowledge and advice on multiple fish species. Craig has a wide field of experience including expertise in ocean fishing for rock fish, springer river salmon, to his favorite... drift boat fishing for steelhead. He has pursued fishing from Oregon to Baja.

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is honored to introduce Craig to its members and guests to hear a special presentation at their regular third Friday breakfast meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. What is unique about his presentation is that he will explain the latest effective techniques for pursuing this season's abundant trout fishing opportunities, but also the newest tackle on the market and how to use it.

Spring trout fishing is already in full swing despite the weather, with many northern California managed waters releasing winter-fed pen-raised trout. This trout season will be exceptional, offering many chances to land a wall-hanger fish. Trout anglers that plan on participating in the various spring derbies and tournaments are encouraged to attend this special presentation. What attendees will discover at the Rooster Tails breakfast meeting is that not alone is the guest speaker

an expert angler, he is a 'fishing-everything' local resource, since he owns his own tackle store.

Craig and his wife Kim purchased the only Auburn dedicated fishing store, **Will Fish Tackle**, in April of 2017. Unlike big-box or chain retail tackle stores, Will Fish offers one-on-one advice and often first-hand experience on catching specific fish species. In addition, Craig also is in regular contact with several recommended fishing guides. Breakfast attendees are encouraged to arrive early for free coffee and to 'talk-fishing' with RTFC members.



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### Calendar of Events

**March 16**  
RT Breakfast  
Craig Newton—speaker

**March 21**  
Members Only \$1,000  
Spring Tournament on  
Lake Camanche

**April 20**  
RT Breakfast  
Speaker—TBA

### March 2018

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	31

## Dodgers & Flashers

Article by Chris Shaffer, Game & Fish Magazine

You've probably been pulling these shiny pieces of metal behind your boat for years, but are you using them to their full effectiveness? Check out these proven techniques to add more catch to your day!



Flashers and dodgers have been a standard item on pegs in tackle shops for decades. In fact, they're some of the most common tools used to catch trout throughout California. However, even hardcore anglers commonly misuse flashers and dodgers. In fact, most anglers who employ these tools aren't aware of their purpose. They just know that everybody else uses them. Knowing the ins-and-outs of how to fish flashers and dodgers and what they were designed for is a sure way to boost your success.

Enter Buzz Ramsey, formerly a lure designer for Luhr-Jensen. Ramsey compares flashers and dodgers to birds preying on bait. Consider this: A seagull flying across a lake sees a school of shad or minnows near the surface and dives down to ambush the bait. Other gulls see the bird's activity and move in closer to investigate. Soon, a feeding frenzy begins. This is similar to what occurs with flashers and dodgers, although these metals draw in trout and Kokanee, rather than birds. "When trout feed, their silver bodies tend to send out a different flash, and flashers are designed to mimic that," Ramsey said. "Trout feeding attract other trout. The flash makes trout want to come investigate, because it means an easy meal."

**While flashers and dodgers are both attractors, they do differ. A flasher is simply an attractor, while a dodger attracts fish and also imparts action to your lure.** Each is effective in several ways. But many anglers ask a fair question, "Do I really need a flasher or dodger, or can I just fish with a bare lure?" "You cannot use a flasher or a dodger just anytime," Ramsey said. "Normally it's a good idea to use one, because fish are attracted to that flash in the water. I suppose people hesitate to use one only because by doing so, they're adding weight to line between them and the fish. Some anglers don't like that because it takes a little bit of the fight out of the fish." This is the downside. Many anglers aren't fond of the added tension on the line. The use of flashers and dodgers take away from the fight, although there are alternatives. Micro mini and ultra-light flashers have become standard products for many tackle manufacturers. (Google mini flashers made by GVF Lures, Crystal Basin Lures, Sep's Pro-Troll)

"It's true: They take away from the fight. Many anglers like to use small dodgers and flashers," Ramsey added. "Small ones

work fine on small lakes. But on bigger lakes, where you may have to draw in fish from farther away, you might do much better with a large flasher." There's no wrong time to fish with a dodger or flasher. However, you'll need to experiment to find out which is the most effective on

that particular day. "The reason people use them is because they are so effective," Ramsey said. "Although one trick I use is, I'll use two attractors to draw fish into my gear, and then have other setups that don't have them. Then I'll hook fish on the lines without the flashers and I can get the sportier catch." **There are dozens of sizes of dodgers in the market, but for trout, you'll want to stick to a 4/0 or 5/0 for most waters.** These are standard trout sizes. "A dodger not only attracts, but it has the added advantage of lending a pulsating action to the lure," Ramsey said.

Try fishing with a flasher on one line and dodger on the other, and when you get a bite, you'll know which the fish prefer — at least on that particular day. Dodgers and flashers come in dozens of sizes and colors. Deciding which to use can make the difference between a successful day and a sour one. A flasher is a pure attractor and has the ability to draw trout in from a large area. Virtually a string of blades on a wire, flashers spin in the water and emit a flash that trout are drawn to. When fish are scattered and not confined to a small area of the lake, flashers can increase your catch rates. The thumping sound of the blades churning in the water also brings trout near. "It's sending out a flash and vibration to draw fish in to investigate," added Ramsey. "On small lakes, you get can by with small flashers, but it depends. It's a trial and error thing."

Today's technology has begun a new wave of ultra-light flashers that don't cause as much pull on your line. However, many anglers shy away from them simply because they've been employing Ford Fenders and Cow Bells — standard flashers that have been on the market for decades. "Some flashers create more vibration," says Ramsey. "The fish are drawn to the flash and the vibration." It's important to consider the speed, size and finish of whatever flasher you're using. **For the most part, the slower you go, the better. It's standard to run flashers from 0.5 to 1.2 mph.** Some anglers fish them faster and still catch fish, but flashers' design makes them perform best at slower speeds. "Generally speaking, trout are a 1- to 2-mph fish; I lean more toward 1 mph," Ramsey added. "But it's always

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## Dodgers & Flashers

Article by Chris Shaffer, Game & Fish Magazine—continued from page 2

good to experiment and try it out. A lot of anglers go slow, maybe as slow as a half mph, because that's where the blades get that thump-action trout seem to like." On the other hand, the size of the flash can play an important role. When you're dealing with murky or off-colored water, it can be effective to employ up to a 1/0 dodger or larger flasher to draw trout. Under these adverse conditions, the vibration and flash can be more potent and draw fish in more effectively. Keep in mind that different finishes emit varying flashes into the water. For example, a hammered flasher kicks off a different ray of light than a standard flasher. There's no wrong or right method to decide which to employ under certain conditions. Again, it's trial and error.

Follow these simple guidelines: Nickel blades produce best in bright weather, while copper is ideal on overcast days. "Sometimes they'll surprise you," Ramsey said. "Sometimes color will affect them more. (The fishing industry) is offering more colors than we ever have. When it's overcast, I like a 50/50 nickel brass, but some would disagree." On the other hand, there are times when flashers and dodgers can actually decrease catch rates. In some clear-water lakes, the attractor does its job by drawing trout in, yet when they get close and see the flasher or dodger, they're often spooked by it. When this occurs, it may be time to lengthen your leader. Often that will do the trick.

At other times, though, a shorter leader is necessary. **When fishing a dodger, short leaders impart more action to a lure than longer ones do. Anglers mostly use a six- to 22-inch leader.** This can be the difference between catching a limit of fish and seeing maybe only a few strikes when you have a short leader and your lure is dancing, the trout will strike the lure at times out of aggression or curiosity, rather than hunger. Lengthen your leader and sometimes you'll get them to bite. I've gone with a leader as long as six feet"

Many anglers believe that with a flasher or dodger, you can use only night crawlers as your bait, but that's not the case. There's no wrong lure to use in conjunction with either one. With these setups, anglers can fish with stick-baits, night crawlers, spoons and spinners. Fortunately, they're effective on every trout species in small and large lakes. From a boat, flashers and dodgers can be used in just about any application. Whether you are slow-drifting, fast-trolling or slow-trolling, each can be used. You can fish them on the surface with lead core or on downriggers. When using a downrigger, the only consideration is that the deeper you fish, the less visible it may be because less light penetrates. When fishing at these greater depths, you'll want to use a glow-in-the-dark pattern or a color that reflects well in low-light conditions.

## The Most Interesting Fish in the World,

Article by Fishbio Newsletter Report, Feb. 19, 2018

FishBio recently embarked on a quest to find the most interesting fish in the world. Clearly, what constitutes "interesting" is highly subjective: we asked twenty FishBio staff to pick the most interesting fish and got 20 different answers. So we decided to try a more quantitative approach by defining "interesting" as the amount of attention a species receives in the scientific literature. To figure out about which fish the scientific community focuses on most, we scoured the web using a popular academic search engine, and tallied the number of publications listed for each fish species. With a **staggering 33,700 fish species** currently recognized on [FishBase](#) (a Global Information System on Fishes) a few lines of computer code were necessary to automate this process – but after some brooding, tinkering, and data mining, the results are in!

**Leading the pack by a margin of about 10 percent is the ever-popular rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*.** Rainbow trout as a species encompass an astonishing amount of diversity (including [steelhead](#), the anadromous form), and may be the most sought-after prize for recreational anglers.

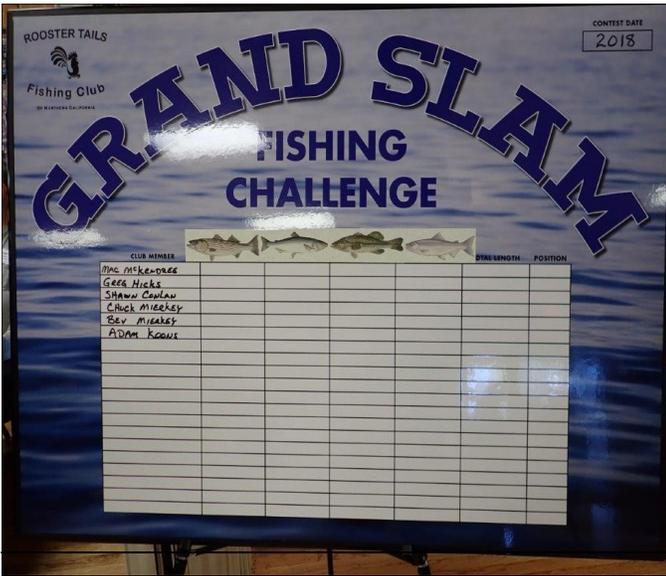


From its origins in Northern California, the world-wide conquest of rainbow trout in temperate lakes and streams was facilitated by the relative ease of transport and artificial breeding. Likely outnumbering any other intentionally stocked fish, rainbow trout have been trucked in tankers, carried by mule, and dropped from airplanes to "enhance" recreational fishing opportunity on all continents except Antarctica. Rainbow trout also top the ranks of freshwater aquaculture production in [Europe](#). **In the United States, most of the nearly 130 million trout distributed in 2016 for restoration, conservation, enhancement, or recreational purposes were rainbow trout.** Despite its popularity, however, this species also brings plenty of challenges, including spread of disease, hybridization with native strains, and decimation of amphibians – all of which garner plenty of scientific press and contribute to its ranking

**Runner-up was the common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*.** In general, the highest-ranking species are those that play an important role in aquaculture, are used as a model organism in various fields of research, have a wide geographic distribution, and are often invasive. Common carp check all these boxes.

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## Grand Slam Fishing Challenge



## Jackpot Contest

	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
Kokanee	17 1/2"	2lbs. 7oz	WHISKEY TOWN	8-5	BEV MIERKEY
Landlocked Salmon	21"	36.4oz	DON PEDRO	4-28	SHAWN CONLAN
River or Ocean King Salmon	39"	22lb.6oz	SACTO RIVER	10-11	SHAWN CONLAN
Striped Bass	34 1/4"		FEATHER RIVER	4-25	TOM HYDE
Rainbow Trout	25 1/2"	8lb.9oz	BLAIR LAKE	5-14	GARY ROBERTS
Brown Trout	17 1/2"		NORTH FORK AR	5-15	SHAWN CONLAN
Steelhead	27 1/2"	9lb. 7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	23 1/2"		DONNER LAKE	6-23	SHAWN CONLAN
Large Mouth Bass	23"	6 lbs	L O P	7-2	RUSS WILLIAMS
Small Mouth Bass	16"		Folsom Lake	1-16	STEVE LEUHEIM
Catfish	28 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-18	MEL EWING
Shad	19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
Croppie	16 1/4"		CAMANACHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
Shurgeon	34"		SACTO DELTA	11-18	MEL TAKAHASHI

2017 entries in red – 2018 entries in black

The **Grand Slam Fishing Challenge (GSFC)** was created for club members with a higher degree of fishing skills, to focus on specific fish species, and to compete to win **one large single cash prize**. The 2017 winner was Greg Hicks, winning \$250. This contest is based on contestants catching and submitting the lengths of only four (4) pre-determined fish species. The 2018 designated four species are: King Salmon (ocean or river), Kokanee, Largemouth Bass, and Striped Bass.

During the contest time-frame, contestants submit successive entries of increased lengths over their prior catch in any of the four (4) predetermined fish species. The final combined total length of the four species by November 30<sup>th</sup> determines a **single winner of the GSFC**. However, the winning-length contestant must have caught at least one of all four species.

The \$50 entry fee and sign-ups start at the January 19<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting. Contest Chairman is Board Member Mel Ewing, 916-759-3665.

### The Most Interesting Fish in the World – continued

Carp have been propagated in ponds for millennia and are a very popular food-fish in many countries. They are also widely used in many areas of research, from actinobiology (the study of radiation on living things) to zoopathology (the study of animal diseases). Now found in nearly every part of the world besides the poles, carp are considered a pest in many areas, and are among the few fishes included in the IUCN list of 100 worst invasive organisms. **Behind the carp in third place is the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar***. The enormous interest in salmon aquaculture fuels the body of research on this fish. Native to the North Atlantic, this species is now raised in in-shore net pens from Norway to Australia to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for seafood at a time when many of the world's capture fisheries have reached capacity or are in decline. Rounding out the top ten are Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*),

- KOKANEE, Bev Mierkey, 17 1/2"**, 2 lbs 7 oz, Whiskeytown Lake, 8/5/17
- LANDLOCKED SALMON, Shawn Conlan, 21"**, 36 lbs 4 oz, Don Pedro, 4/28/17
- RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, Shawn Conlan, 39"**, 22 lbs.6 oz., Sacramento River, 10/11/17
- STRIPED BASS, Tom Hyde, 34 1/4"**, Feather River, 4/25/17
- RAINBOW TROUT, Ray Corrao, 2 lbs. 9 oz, 18"**, Folsom Lake, 2/14/18
- STEELHEAD, Peter Zittere, 27 1/2"**, 9 lbs. 7 oz., American River, 1/17/18
- LAKE TROUT (Mackinaw), Shawn Conlan, 20 1/2"**, Donner lake, 6/23/17
- LARGE MOUTH BASS, Mack McKendree, 12 1/2"**, Camanche Lake, 2/16/18
- SMALL MOUTH BASS, Rik Cox, 19 1/2"**, 4.25 lbs., Lake Berryessa, 2/15/18

European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), and the European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*).

How did our staff picks rank in the search? Anywhere from 35<sup>th</sup> (striped bass, *Morone saxatilis*) to 13,638<sup>th</sup> (blue-eyed plec, *Panaque cochliodon*, a wood-eating tropical catfish). In the word cloud above, the size of the fish name corresponds to its publiAScation ranking. Check out the [full-resolution image on our Flickr page](#) to explore the details! The vast body of scientific literature available on the top-ranking species illustrates that there is a lot to be said – or written – about these fishes. We will follow up with a more detailed look at some of these most studied species in future Fish Reports. To us, they are all interesting – stay tuned.