



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

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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## COME TAKE A FISHIN' TRIP!

- Strategy for spring-fishing for trout and landlocked salmon on Folsom Lake
- See a Lund Tye guide boat rigged with Walker down-riggers, a Humminbird side-imaging fish finder, and a Minn Kota trolling motor
- 'Catching' is not always a guarantee — fishing with a guide will speed up your learning curve

Attention Anglers!! Spring fishing will be busting-loose with derbies, outings, and undisputed fish that have been fattening-up over the winter... Are you thinking your fishing skills might be a little rusty? Have not gotten around to updating your fishing gear for this fishing season? Maybe you have not been in the mood to start thinking about fishing? Well... help is waiting for you to get your fishin' spirits up-n-going!

Plan on attending the Rooster Tails Fishing Club's regular third Friday breakfast meeting, 7:00 a.m. on March 15<sup>th</sup>. **Pro Fishing Guide Mick Berklich, owner of Mick's Fish 'N' Trips, will provide breakfast attendees with a seminar on a strategy for spring fishing for trout and landlocked salmon on Folsom Lake.** Share Mick's 16 years of guiding with his presentation on tackle choices, how to rig them, and bagging limits! He will have his Lund Tye guide boat in the Lodge parking lot on-display rigged with Walker down-riggers, Humminbird side-imaging fish finder, and a Minn Kota trolling motor. Mick's 'fishin-office-machine' is powered by a Merc Verado to get his clients onto waiting fish, than he trolls for them with a 9.9 kicker.

If you're unsure about hiring a Pro Fishing Guide Mick Berklich who regularly puts his clients on fish, here's a little motivation... If you've ever looked into hiring someone that helps people have successful fishing trips for a living, you've probably weighed whether or not it's worth the money. 'Catching' is not always a guarantee, but fishing with pros like Mick far outweigh the cons when you break it down into terms of what you're paying for. Here are some motivational reasons why hooking up with a pro fishing guide will more than likely lead to hooking up with more fish:

**1. Fishing with a guide will speed up your learning curve:** Do you ever have thoughts

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Mick with a 7.5 lb. Folsom Lake Trout

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### Calendar of Events

**March 15**  
RT Breakfast  
Mick Berklich, Mick's Fish 'N'Trips

**April 19**  
RT Breakfast  
Jerry Lampkin, TNG Motorsports

**April 24**  
Members Only  
Spring 'Fishing Outing' on Folsom lake

### March 2019

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		



## Jim's Tips for Fishing Folsom Trout

- **The general rule to determine the length of leader** between a dodger (i.e. GVF Mad Action Dodgers- [gvflures.com](http://gvflures.com), Sep's Side-Kick - [sepsprofish-ing.com](http://sepsprofish-ing.com), Shasta Tackle Sling-Blade - [macks lure.com](http://macks lure.com), or any basic 4" or dodger) multiple its length 3 or 4 times tie-on the leader to the 'offering'. The offering could be a hutchie, threaded night crawler, trolling fly ([trollingflies.com](http://trollingflies.com)), rubber-minnow imitation, or anything that does not have 'action' built into their design. Dodgers impart action to the offering.



Don't launch your boat wasting time rig rods, digging through various baits, or setting up down-riggers! Fishing starts a day or two before the event by threading fresh line onto rods, determining the bait strategy to start (baits, lures, etc.), and of course

check out the boat (gas, net, bait, VHF radio, lake map, start engine). Lastly, be sure you have your fishing license!

- **When trolling using a down-rigger**, use 'flasher-attractors' (i.e. Ford-Fenders - [rapala.com](http://rapala.com), Vance's big-two-blades - [vancestackle.com](http://vancestackle.com), or any large two or three bladed flashers) attached them directly to the down-rigger ball. Run your offering 3' - 10' behind the flashers using a cable-clip or a clip release at the end of the string of flashers. Ball-attractors give flash and action to the offering without the use of a dodger.

- **Early morning trolling** when the trout are in the top 30' of water. Run 'long-lines' out 150'+ behind the boat. Long lining can use almost any offering i.e. a treaded night crawler, 2" grub, shallow-running hard baits (Rapala-types), or 'thin' spoon (GVF Speedo, Luhr-Jensen Needlefish Spoons - [www.luhrjensen.ca](http://www.luhrjensen.ca), or Speedy Shinner- [thomaslures.com](http://thomaslures.com)) run at 2.0 - 3.5 mph. To provide 'action' to a night crawler or grub that does not have it built into its design, thread a 'wiggle fin' above the offering. A wiggle fin is a small plastic 'inside-out-umbrella shape' that is particularly affective when trolling non-action baits or lures.

- **When trolling early in the morning**, the trout will tend to be closer to the shore line warmer water foraging for food. Troll as you safely can do close to the shore-line while keeping a very keen-eye on boat eating hazards which will be everywhere. As the sun hits the water, troll along shore lines with shadows cast by the surrounding terrain. When the sun is high in the sky, the trout will tend to go deep to the thermocline (where the warmer and colder water meet). A method to fish shallow water is by using a side-planner (Sep's or [yellow-birdproducts.com](http://yellow-birdproducts.com)) to track your offering while keeping the boat hull and prop well away from hazards.

- **When using hard-baits, imitation baits** (Arctic Fox trolling flies, Sep's grubs, plastic minnows), add a small amount of scent. Pro-cure makes a large assortment of scents with garlic or anise as a base ([pro-cure.com](http://pro-cure.com)). Two scents that are commonly used are Pro-cure 'bloody tuna' and 'Predator Gel'. Also try a new scent in the form of a 'Scent Spray' from Yakima Bait (made by Pro-cure) called 'Rooster Tail Garlic-Night-Crawler' ([yakimabait.com](http://yakimabait.com)).

- **When do you start fishing?** The Rooster Tails Fishing Club's Members-Only fishing outings are usually a six hour fishing event, which means you need to start fishing as soon as you hit the water!

check out the boat (gas, net, bait, VHF radio, lake map, start engine). Lastly, be sure you have your fishing license!

- **Where do you start fishing?** The Folsom Lake primary areas to fish for trout are in front of the dam to Dike 8; a couple of thousand-feet or so away from Brown's Ravine launch ramp area north to the 'large orange floating marker'; the West-side of the North Fork of the American River from the Granite Bay ramp to shallow water towards the Horseshoe Bar ramp; East & West of the South Fork of the American River.

- **Alternative to trolling is anchored fishing from your boat.** Cruise the shore line to see where bank anglers are catching fish. Stay well away from them... beyond their casting distance. Anchor-up and fish the adjoining open areas with dough baits ([berkeley-fishing.com](http://berkeley-fishing.com)), small sliding egg sinker, and #16 treble hook. Seldom do 'bankies' move along the shoreline offering opportunities to anchor-up your boat and fish prime areas. Dough bait colors that have worked well are rainbow, green/chartreuse, or glitter type in salmon egg or garlic flavors. Bobbers with dough bait or inflated night crawlers also work. Leaders between the bobber-stop/barrel swivels should be approximately 2' - 4'+.

- **Another alternative** to trolling is to allow your boat to drift with a whole threaded night crawler or dough bait with a small split-shot clipped to the line a couple feet above the offering. This is particularly affective when there is a slight breeze or just floating with the current on either of the upper-arms of feeding Folsom Lake.

- **Important!** When fishing with a boat buddy, be sure that there is coordination between the types of baits/lures and fishing strategy being used. For example, running hard-baits or spoons which require 2.0 - 3.5 mph will not work with a buddy long-lining at the same time with a threaded night crawler or grub that requires 1.0 to 1.5 mph trolling speed.

- **Other tips:** Bring two rods rigged with two different set-ups to minimize time to switch tactics quickly. Have tied-in-advance dodgers with leaders hooks, spoons, and other offerings and put them in small zip-lock bags to prevent tangles all ready for quick change-out.

- **Bring ancillary items** including a worm-threader, small scissors, pliers, fish rags, fluorocarbon leader material in #5, #6, #8 test, 1/8 - 14 oz sinkers, Gamakatsu worm hooks size #1-49410, my favorite ([gamakatsu.com](http://gamakatsu.com)), Mustad 'slow death crawler-action' hooks size #1-33862 ([mustad-fishing.com](http://mustad-fishing.com)), treble hooks size #16, swivel clips, barrel swivels for use as sinker stops.



## WHAT HAPPENS TO FISH AFTER A WILDFIRE? THE WATER KEEPS THEM SAFE ... AT FIRST.

by Starre Vartan January 23, 2019

When a wildfire rages, some animals fly, hop, or run to safety. But fish can't.

During a fire, the temperature of a stream or river will sometimes rise to a lethal degree. If a fish survives without being cooked, short-term changes to its environment might finish it off.



**Wildfires can be lethal to fish.**

Photo by PJF Military Collection/Alamy Stock Photo

increased [the] growth rate of fish," he says. In that case, Silins saw benefits to the local cutthroat trout: "Fire produced a change to a limiting nutrient that was a benefit to the insect communities. And that increased [the] growth rate of fish," he says.

Denuded stream banks erode quickly, with topsoil and ash clouding streams and making it difficult for fish to breathe or find food. Even firefighting efforts are a threat: foam fire suppressants can suffocate fish, while fire retardants can be toxic. Following those immediate threats, wildfires can also change a fish's habitat for months and even years. If trees that once provided shade burned down, that stream's water could heat up enough to make it unsuitable for cold-water fish, such as trout. Heat is particularly dire for eggs and fry.

Not surprisingly then, in the weeks and months after a wildfire, "fish populations will decline, sometimes dramatically," says Rebecca Flitcroft, a fish biologist at the US Forest Service. Flitcroft points out that as populations, many animals, including fish, have evolved to survive severe, shorter events such as fires even if their numbers temporarily decline. Indeed, while fire can be terrible for individual fish, the story for populations can be quite different. Ash from burned plants typically makes its way into streams and rivers, causing heightened loads of phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium. These nutrient dumps often result in algae blooms, which, in turn, support more insects for fish to eat.

Uldis Silins, a forest hydrologist at the University of Alberta, has studied the post-fire repercussions of the Lost Creek fire that torched 200 square kilometers of southwestern Alberta in 2003. In that case, Silins saw benefits to the local cutthroat trout: "Fire produced a change to a limiting nutrient that was a benefit to the insect communities. And that increased [the] growth rate of fish," he says.

In the watershed he studied, Silins found that underground springs kept the stream consistently cold, mitigating the loss of shade plants. The geology of the area helped the fish, too—particularly silty sediments held on to phosphorus, feeding the algae (and eventually the fish, via insects) at a constant rate. Flitcroft's research also indicates that wildfire can sometimes benefit species over the long-term. After the most recent fire in the

Wenatchee River subbasin in Washington State in 2014 for instance, spring chinook salmon populations dropped, and then rebounded. Debris flowing into the river increased the amount of suitable habitat and actually ended up boosting the population.

Whether a fish population ultimately recovers from the devastation of a fire, Flitcroft says, depends on whether there are safe refuges up or downstream from burned areas, and whether intact populations from other areas move in to repopulate the spots decimated by fire.

Because the ability of fish communities to recover depends on several interacting factors, predictions for a specific population can be tricky, Silins says. "We can't speak too generally about wildfires."

Silins says there is still lots more research to do to understand how wildfires affect fish. His team has already begun: they're now tracking how a vast span of British Columbia—10 times the size of their Lost Creek study area—evolved after it was burned in 2017 and 2018.



**7. Invest in your fishing skills by building a relationship with your fishing guide:** You are investing in more than just a day of fishing, but improving your learning curve, having faith in your gear, boat, experience, knowledge of the water, and feeling content putting the pressure and your own safety into the hands of a professional guide. Much like fishing with your buddies, each guide has their own personality and once you've dialed in with the right guide, you'll know where to go again for another satisfying fishing trip.

## Jackpot Fishing Contest

**2019 names in Red** — **2018 names in Black**

RAINBOW TROUT—**Mac McKendree**, 15', Folsom Lake, 1/31/19  
STEELHEAD, **Shawn Conlan**, 27", American River, 1/30/19

**Mac McKendree — 15" KOKANEE**  
**Chuck Mierkey**  
**Bev Mierkey**

March 15  
breakfast  
speaker, *Mick  
Berklich,  
with a quality  
land locked  
salmon*





**ROOSTER TAILS ANNUAL MEMBERS-ONLY  
FOLSOM LAKE FOR TROUT AND/OR LANDLOCKED SALMON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019**

The Rooster Tails Annual Members-Only Spring Fishing Outing will be held on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at Folsom Lake for Trout and/or Landlocked Salmon. Sign-up at the up-coming breakfast meeting or mail-in your \$20 entry fee for a shot at sharing in a potential cash pot of \$1,000 (Checks to RTFC, P.O. Box 7441, Auburn, CA 95603). Launch at safe light with a 2:00 p.m. weigh-in at the Granite Bay boat ramp parking lot (*upper parking lot near the picnic and restroom area*). The Granite Bay park entrance gate from Douglas Blvd. opens at 6:00 a.m. with a \$12.00 day use fee per vehicle, plus a \$10.00 boat launch fee (*no per angler fee*). Shore fishermen are encouraged to fish from various shore access points around the lake. Coordinate and find new fishing partners by accessing the Rooster Tails web site **MEMBERS ONLY** tab (*check your email 2/12/19 for the password*). All Rooster Tail Members, including Lady and Family Club Members are invited to participate in the Rooster Tails **Members-ONLY** Folsom Lake Fishing Outing. Club members will compete as individual entrants for a share of potentially \$1,000 or more in cash based on the number of paid in advance participants. Please note that for every ten (10) individual paid entries, the club will contribute \$100. Each participant will receive a blind-choice of a quality GVF Lure donated by RT member and owner GVF owner Richard Bernoudy; or a Sep's Lure donated by Dana Sistine owner of Sep's Pro Tackle. PLEASE PICK A COPY OF THE RULES FOR COMPLETE DETAILS AT OUR UP-COMING BREAKFAST MEETING.

