



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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www.roostertailsfishingclub.org

- Pyramid trout lures on display
- Fishing for spectacular Lahontan Trout
- Off-the-shelf and unique trout lures
- Pyramid Lake is home to the largest Cutthroat Trout in the world

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Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Fishing for Cutthroat Trout with Michael Peckham

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is proud to announce that Captain Michael Peckham will be their January 17th breakfast guest speaker and host for a special seminar for fishing Pyramid cutthroat trout. Reservations are not required to attend this seminar, however attendees are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. As part of his seminar, Michael has invited select tackle manufacturers to display Pyramid related lures for breakfast attendees to examine firsthand. Experienced as well as novice anglers are invited to attend this free seminar and gain valuable information not otherwise available.

What does Pro Fishing Guide Captain Michael Peckham do on his days off when not guiding on the Delta and Central Valley Rivers? As owner of MJP River Adventures & Guide Service, he takes buddies with him to fish for the spectacular Lahontan cutthroat Trout on Pyramid Lake, Nevada. Rooster Tails Fishing Club Member and a well-respected California guide, Michael has taken the easy drive from the Auburn area to Pyramid Lake for many years. By not serving as a Pyramid guide, Michael has taken his time to leisurely experiment with a variety of both off-the-shelf as well as unique trout lures. Relying on his custom Rogue Jet Boat that is equipped with state-of-art electronics, he has perfected an

effective lure presentation speeds and an effective strategy to target trophy trout.

Pyramid Lake Nevada is the home of the largest Cutthroat Trout in the world. These massive Lahontan Cutthroat Trout grow to fantastic sizes up to and over 20 pounds in the high alkali waters of Pyramid Lake. The PH at Pyramid measures over 8.5 on the scale. The staple food source for these monster fish are the Tui Chubs. Along with the giant cutthroat, the lake supports the rare Cui-ui fish that is found nowhere else on Earth except at Pyramid Lake.

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Michael Peckham fishing at Pyramid Lake

Calendar of Events

January 17
Friday breakfast
Michael Peckham—speaker

February 21
Friday breakfast
Speaker—TBA

March 20
Friday breakfast
Speaker -TBA

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	29	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

6th Annual Turkey Tourney — *by Art Stonebraker*

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club held its sixth annual Turkey Tourney at Collins Lake on November 6, 2019. Anxious anglers were ready to check in and get out on the water at 5:30 AM. Days prior to the tournament fishing reports out of Collins Lake reported that many one pound and larger trout were being taken, some in excess of 5lbs. Trout limits by anglers was a common occurrence.

It was with this information that thirty-eight anglers showed up to participate in the tournament, each with the anticipation of taking home one of the 15 grocery gift certificates for a Thanksgiving turkey with trimmings. Fishing was slow the first part of the morning but after 9 AM the bite started picking up. It was a beautiful sunny day with a daytime high of 76 degrees.

With a 2 PM deadline to have their catch officially weighed in, most tournament participants arrived at the designated weigh-in location between 12:30 and 1:30. The weigh-in was at a picnic area close to the boat ramp. While the fish were officially being weighed

in, the RT Board of Directors hosted a chili dog feed for the hungry anglers.

A total of 16 anglers caught fish with a combined total weight of 46.54 pounds. This weight did not include non-trout species because this was a trout-only tournament. Individual bag entries ranged from a high of 8.12 pounds to a low of .12 pounds. Although it was advertised that only 15 gift certificates would be awarded 16 certificates were available in case of a tie for last place. Since there was not a last place tie it was decided to award a gift certificate to all 16 participants who entered fish.

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club wishes to thank Collins Lake for opening their entrance gate an hour early and for their cabin accommodations for Rooster Tails members only. A



Winners pictured from L. to R. are Eric Liske, Trudy Liske, Paul Ross, John Hess, Jim Babich, Razz Ortiz, Gary Frolich, Mike Pendleton, Shawn Conlan, Mike Walker, Burt Jansen. Winners not pictured are Ric Cox, Gary Roberts, Ben LaSala, Virgil Lopen, Greg Brazier

special thanks to the Auburn grocery stores, Raley's, Bel Air and Safeway supermarkets. For the last six years these three merchants have been the only grocery stores to participate as co-sponsors in the Rooster Tails annual Turkey Tourney. The club thanks you for partnering with the Rooster Tails with your generous gift certificate donations.

Pyramid Trolling Tactics

- Follow the breaks on the West side. Troll with an "S" pattern from close in out to 100-150 ft. There is a break at about 20 ft that defines a shallow shelf along most of the West shore.
- LCT do not school up until the spring pre-spawn. But they congregate wherever prey is abundant. So fish where they are, not where they ain't. Concentrate on the depths where you catch fish.
- Change speeds to draw strikes.
- When the fish move up onto the shelf, set your downriggers shallow (6 - 12 ft) or ½ oz banana weights 5-6 ft in front of your lures without downriggers. Un-weighted diving plugs also will work very well.
- Troll with an exaggerated "S" pattern along the East side rock walls. The trout are often found chasing small bait pods suspended over deep water.

A Few More Pyramid Tips

- Start with darker lures in the morning and use brighter colors as the day lightens up. Dark green/frog, watermelon/army truck, chartreuse/rainbow patterns. Reverse the progression as the sun drops in the afternoon.
- The trout are very rock wall oriented early in the season, but move more to the bays as the water temperature drops. Cool temperatures let them get at the chubs that had a thermal refuge in shallow water during the summer.
- Use lures with single hooks and 12 - 25 lb leaders. Release the fish at the side of the boat using pliers or a hemostat. Survival is much better if you don't use a net or try to bring fish into the boat.
- On days when the fishing is really hot, set a reasonable C&R limit. Remember that approximately 10% of the fish you release are not going to survive no matter how careful you are.

December 4th Emeryville Salty Lady Trip — by Mike Walker

Twenty six members and guests joined us on Wednesday December 4, 2019 to fish on the Salty Lady fishing boat out of Emeryville, California. Most left Placer County between 3am and 3:45am. We had intended to fish on the Marin Coast, but Captain Jared Davis highly recommended that we fish the Farallon Islands for more and a better quality of fish.



Ski (Gregor Roschitch's son) the Jackpot winner, with the biggest Ling Cod, about 13 lbs.

We left the dock shortly after 6:00am. A couple of our fishermen were a little tardy in arriving. The Captain gave us a safety talk prior to departing and it was agreed to fish the Farallon Islands. The Captain suggested that we pull crab pots first to get that out of the way early. The pots were approximate-

ly seven miles out beyond the Golden Gate Bridge in about 150' of water. We had two deckhands - Tommy & Jessica and they did the work pulling up the crab pots, removing the crabs, and rebaiting the pots before sending them back to the bottom. Much to our surprise nine of the first dozen crab traps that were pulled were empty (thieves had emptied the pots before we got to them). Fortunately the Captain had another string of pots which were full of crabs. We ended up with ten crabs for each fishermen plus limits for the Captain & deckhands.

24 of the 26 fishermen participated in a jackpot at \$5 each for the biggest fish caught that day. We continued out just past the Farallon Islands and started fishing. The deckhands gave help to anyone who needed it getting their tackle ready to fish. (shrimp flies were suggested in red/yellow colors). Almost immediately both sides of the boat began catching fish in water approximately 200-260' deep. The shrimp flies were not baited with the strips of squid, but the flies worked very well just bare. Many were bringing up two fish at a time. The Captain asked that we put our rods down inside the boat when the fish reached the surface and use our hands to pull the fish into the boat.

A few fishermen were targeting Ling Cod and several were caught on the boat. The jackpot fish was the biggest Ling Cod - about 13 pounds. The rockcod were of many different species including yellow, canary, vermillion, china cod, coppers, and bocaccico. The rockcod ranged from 7 inches up to 4 to 5 pounds each. As always some fishermen caught more than others. Also as usual a few fishermen got their lines tangled a few times - the Captain and the deckhands helped to get the lines untangled.

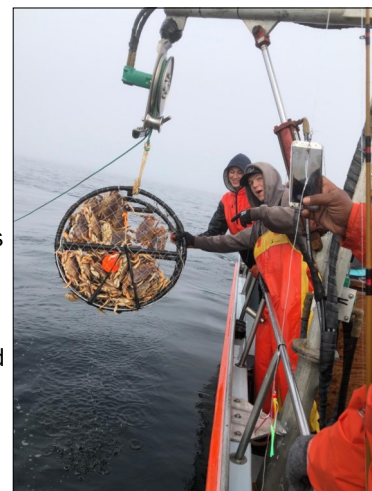


John Bergman with a large orange rock cod

After about 2 hours the deckhands counted up the sacks of fish and determined that we had a boat limit. Every fisherman went home with ten rockcod and some had bonus Lingcod. It was time to head back to the dock at Emeryville. The deckhands filleted the fish for \$10 per limit as we traveled East towards San Francisco Bay.

After all of the fish were cleaned the crabs were passed out to the fisherman. Most purchased an orange mesh bag (\$2) to have the crabs cooked once we were back at the Emeryville dock. It was \$10 to get the crabs cooked and an additional \$15 to get them cleaned. There were about 7 large pots on propane burners and each bag was numbered as payment was made. Our group waited 45-55 minutes to get our cooked and cleaned crabs returned to us. Sure beat trying to do it yourself.

Our truck ride home had enough passengers (3 or more) to be able to travel in the commuter lane - we left Emeryville around 4pm and arrived back in Auburn around 6:30pm. All in all it was a very successful fishing trip and I think our club will be fishing with Captain Jared on the Salty Lady again next year. Check out the Fishemeryville website fishing report for December 4th and you'll see photos and the Roostertails Fishing Club charter mentioned for the Salty Lady. Hope to see you on one of our trips next year.



Deck hands with a full crab pot coming onboard

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