



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 10 Issue 2, February 2020

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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- Fishing Folsom—techniques, tackle rigging, strategy
- April 22—Annual Spring Members-Only Fishing Outing at Folsom Lake
- Folsom Lake—11,500 acres, 75 miles of shoreline
- Where do I start?

Jerry Lampkin—Strategy for Fishing Folsom Lake

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is very proud to have club member and professional fishing guide, **Jerry Lampkin, TNG Fishing Guide Service**, as their Friday, February 21, breakfast guest speaker with an informative presentation on techniques, tackle rigging and strategy for fishing Folsom Lake. His seminar will be held at the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Doors to the lodge open at 7:00 am with free coffee and the opportunity to speak with Jerry one-on-one before enjoying a wide selection \$15 buffet breakfast that is served at 8:00 am. Reservations are not necessary but RT members and non-member guests are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat.

Tails Fishing Club will be preparing for their Annual Spring Members-Only fishing outing on April 22. Folsom Lake was chosen for this club event because of its unique characteristics to challenge both skilled as well as the novice angler. Spring fishing on Folsom's 11,500 acres of water, 75 miles of undulated shoreline, 15 miles up the lake's North Fork and about 11 miles up the lake's South Fork of the American River feeds this giant lake. For some anglers that don't fish Folsom regularly, it might seem overwhelming and they often start to fish by randomly trolling its depths that reach over three-hundred feet. Jerry will answer the question, **"Where do I start?"** *Con't on page 4*

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Folsom is Jerry's home lake where he has been rewarding his clients with quality limits of trout and salmon since 2008. Hailing from Fresno, Jerry started guiding in 2005 on the local rivers for Salmon and Steelhead. He grew up fishing the high Sierra lakes and rivers, catching Rainbows with crickets, crawlers and flashers and Bluegill in the local canals with Velveeta cheese.

As winter storms fade and Folsom Lake starts to warm with spring sunshine, the Rooster



Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Calendar of Events

February 21
Friday breakfast
Jerry Lampkin, TNG Motor Sports

March 20
Friday breakfast
Brett Brady, Fishing for Stripers

April 22
RT Members Only Fishing Outing
Folsom Lake

February 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	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

What You Need To Know About Folsom Lake

Not far from the Folsom Prison made famous by Johnny Cash, is the great fishery Folsom Lake. The lake has a surface elevation of 466 feet with its 75 miles of shoreline intersecting El Dorado, Placer, and Sacramento County. It has nine boat launch locations making lake access easy for boat owners. Although the lake levels vary a lot, the lake recovers quickly and predictions are for high water levels that extend into the future due to improvements to the dam.

The American River watershed has produced the largest wild and holdover rainbows found in the state. The American River below Nimbus Fish Hatchery produced a 25.04 lb. rainbow (legally considered a steelhead) in February 2002, while Lake Natoma above the dam produced a 27-1/2 lb. new inland state rainbow record in 2008. And Lake Natoma has produced many hundreds of rainbows in the 10 to 20 lb. class over the past two decades, including one 12.5 lb. rainbow that measured 24 inches long. The trout in Lake Natoma feed on the same forage species found in Folsom Lake, pond smelt and threadfin shad, so it's not unreasonable to believe that a fish in the 15 to 20 lb. class could also come out of Folsom. Rainbow trout and Chinook salmon can be caught in Folsom year round, but early spring is the best time to target both species.

Bank anglers experience the top rainbow and king action in the fall during the period of the fall turnover October through December. Fishermen regularly hook a mixture of holdover trout and salmon while tossing out PowerBait, nightcrawlers, minnows and other baits under bobbers and on sliding sinker rigs. "There is also a fairly significant wild rainbow trout component in the fishery," said Jay Rowan, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor. "The thought is that these fish use the North and South forks to rear, come down to the lake during certain times of year to feed and get out of the warm water in the forks, then head back up into the forks to spawn." "I'm not sure by percentage how much of the catch they make up, but enough show up in pictures on the net that make me think it's a fairly decent part of the fishery. They certainly add a trophy component to the fishery," said Rowan



Rainbow trout plants at Folsom have varied greatly from year to year. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has stocked 7,600 pounds of rainbows in Folsom last 2018 season – and stocked more trout in spring 2019. The CDFW planted Folsom with 13,300 pounds of rainbows in 2015, 5568 pounds in 2016, and 3250 pounds in 2017.

"Also, in 2014 we put in 41,760 sub-catchable Eagle Lake Trout (ELT) as 'put and grow' fish that have flourished. I think because of drought they didn't work out so well, but we're looking at giving the ELT sub-catchables another shot in the future now that we've got some water," he noted.

Folsom Lake is the second reservoir in the state after Don Pedro where the successful spawning of Chinook salmon has been documented by anglers and CDFW biologists.

The CDFW stocks triploid (sterile) Chinook salmon in the lake when they are available. The Chinooks were first stocked in 1999 and have been a very popular species with anglers because they grow to over 8 pounds in the forage-rich waters of Folsom. The lake is also known for its naturally-reproducing population of landlocked king salmon in addition to fat rainbow trout, largemouth bass, spotted bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill and crappie.

Day Use & Boat Launch Fees: The day use fee is \$12 at Beals Point, Browns Ravine, Folsom Point, Granite Bay, the Peninsula and Rattlesnake Bar. The boat launch fee is \$10 for a power boat. Boat launching is available at Folsom Point, Browns Ravine, Granite Bay, and Rattlesnake Bar when the lake is full. For persons 62 years of age or older. Proof of age based on valid state-issued driver license or other suitable photo identification. Permits year-round \$1.00 discount for vehicle day use and a \$2.00 discount for family camping in most California State Park operated units regardless of income status without the need to purchase any pass. Folsom Lake Marina in the Browns Ravine Recreation Area is a full-service marina. For more information, contact: (916)933-1300, <http://www.folsomlakemarina.com>

SPOONS FOR THE FAST TROLLING FRATERNITY—BY CAL KELLOGG, FISH SNIFFER MAGAZINE

I've said it before and I'll say it again. When trolling for trout and landlocked kings it's best to troll fast until the fish tell you they don't want a fast presentation. The only time I slow down is when I can't hook a big

enough volume of fishing moving quickly. Fast trolling offers a number of benefits.



Cal's favorite Silver Horde KingFisher-Lite Lure

First quick trolling allows you to cover a maximum amount of ground in a minimum amount of time. Second a fast presentation enables you to find fish quickly. Third, a quick moving lure triggers strikes from the most aggressive fish. And forth, when it comes to artificial lures, it is generally easier to draw strikes from large wary fish with a fast moving lure simply because it doesn't give them much time to weigh their options and evaluate the offering. They've either got to react and strike or let the opportunity pass.

As you might imagine, being a life-long angler and professional outdoor writer I've got a pretty deep selection of lures to choose from. Yet, in reality I don't use that many different lures on any given day on the water. I've been doing a good deal of trolling for trout and landlocked kings this spring and I've done nearly all of my fast work with a half dozen different spoons. Let's take a look at these lures. As we do you'll note that the common theme among them is that they are fairly large from 2 to 3 inches in length and they all run well from 2.5 to 3 plus miles per hour.

Kastmaster's balance produces wild action without line twist! The Kastmaster is machined from solid brass. It won't break, bend or corrode and it retains its luster. Kastmasters come in a range of different sizes and trout will hit several of them, but the 1/4 ounce version is my personal favorite. It's not too big for pan-size trout, but big enough to interest the big boys. In terms of color again my approach is systematic. I begin with natural colors that match the shad and smelt the trout feed on. If those colors fail to produce I start experimenting with bright offerings. Chrome, chrome and blue, gold, brass, brass and red, brass and orange and firetiger have been the most consistent Kastmaster colors for me over the years.



Acme Tackle Kastmaster

Dark colored Kastmasters definitely should have a place in your tackle box. During the low light periods of dawn and dusk and during overcast days trout and other gamefish like to zero in on the dark silhouette of dark green and frog pattern spoons.



In my mind the **Speedy Shiner** is the dean of all fast trolling lures aimed at trout and lake bound kings. They've been hooking fish for decades and I've

literally caught hundreds of bigger then average trout on these min-

now shaped pieces of metal. "The "Speedy Shiner" style of lure appears to date back to the 1960's," says Peter Ridd of Thomas Lures, makers of the Speedy Shiner. "The lure probably originated in Maine. Back in those days a lot of companies were turning out spinning gear. It was customary then to offer a line of lures to go with your gear. The Speedy Shiner style lure was knocked off by a lot of different companies and there have been a lot of slightly different configurations of the spoon we market today." These days Speedy Shiners are offered in a couple of different sizes and a wide array of colors. I go with metallic baitfish like colors most of the time, but go dark with frog or black chrome models during periods of low light. As the name indicates Speedy Shiners work best when trolled quickly from 2.5 to 4 miles per hours. When I pull them slower then that, the number of strikes starts to slack-off.



Thomas Lures Speedy Shiner

Ex-Cels are produced in the California Motherlode region and have a loyal following throughout the northern and central part of the state. Ex-Cels come in a large trout size and a smaller "kokanee" size. For me the larger models work best for trout and kings. Ex-Cels come in over 40 different colors and I've used most of them. As with other spoons I start with the baitfish colors and then move on to the bright stuff. I know, I sound like a broken record!

The action, shape and size of Ex-Cels makes them a great imitator of threadfin shad or Japanese pond smelt. For me Ex-Cels work best when trolled around 2.5 miles per hour, but they take fish all the way up to 3 miles per hour and more.



Ex-cel Spoons

Jerry Lampkin Fishes Folsom Lake


Jerry's clients enjoy the comfort of his custom Rogue Jet guide boat that is equipped with state-of-art electronics and out-fitted with quality rods, reels, and all necessary tackle. Breakfast meeting attendees will have the opportunity to check-out Jerry's boat that will be on display in the Elks Lodge parking lot. More information about Jerry Lampkin, TNG Fishing Guide Service, can be found at www.tngmotorsports.com.

Photos below of Jerry's clients and their catch.



Winners of the 2019 Jackpot Contest from L. to R. Shawn Conlan, Erick Liske, Jerry Lampkin, Mac McKendree, Bev Mierkey, Chuck Mierkey, Ray Corrao, Mel Ewing. **Congratulations to all!**

Jackpot Fishing Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST						
2018	2019	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	19"		WHISKY TOWN	9-7	B. MIERKEY
	Landlocked Salmon	23 3/4"		FOLSOM	4-18	R. CORRAO
	River or Ocean King Salmon	30"		FEATHER RIVER	10-11	M. WALKER
	Striped Bass	24 1/2"		AMERICAN RIVER	5-20	C. NEWTON
	Rainbow Trout	25"	5lb 14oz	ALMANOR	6-5	M. MCKENDREE
	Brown Trout	28.15	8.32lb	SHASTA LAKE	5-4	BEV MIERKEY
	Steelhead	30"		AMERICAN RIVER	1-12	J. LAMPKIN
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	27"		DONNER LAKE	9-12	M. EWING
	Large Mouth Bass	16	3lb 2oz	DELTA	6-27	R. CORRAO
	Lingcod	28 3/4"	5lb 3oz	OCEAN	8-1	R. CORRAO
	Catfish					
	Shad	19 1/2"		SACTO RIVER	6-14	E. LISKE
	Crappie	14"		CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLAN
	Crappie	32"	14lb 8oz	SF BAY	5-15	R. CORRAO

2020 names in Black - 2019 names in Red

KOKANEE, **Bev Mierkey**, 17", Whiskey Town, 6/7/19

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Bev Mierkey**, 22.5", 3.7 lbs., Lake Oroville, 1/18/20

RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, **Mike Walker**, 30", Feather River, 10/11/19

STRIPED BASS—**Craig Newton**, 24.5", American River, 5/20/19

RAINBOW TROUT—**Mac McKendree**, 25", 5 lbs. 14 oz., Almanor, 6/5/19

BROWN TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 28.15", 8.32 lbs., Shasta Lake, 5/4/19

STEELHEAD, **Jerry Lampkin**, 30", American River, 1/12/19

LAKE TOUT (MACKINAW), **Mel Ewing**, 27", Donner Lake, 9/12/19

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Ray Corrao**, 16", 3 lbs. 2 oz., Delta, 6/27/19

LINGCOD, **Ray Corrao**, 28.75", 5.3 lbs., Ocean, 8/1/19

SHAD, **Eric Like**, 19.5", Sacramento River, 6/14/19

CRAPPIE, **Shawn Conlan**, 14", Camp Far West, 5/21

2019 Grand Slam Fishing Contest Winner



Chuck Mierkey

Winner of most number of inches for 4 targeted fish

1. Landlocked Salmon
2. Kokanee
3. Rainbow Trout
4. Striped Bass