



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 8, Issue 7 — July 2018

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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Craig Newton, Will Fish Tackle, Auburn

- Experimenting with the latest tackle
- Learn about the latest tackle rigging, strategies to fish for Kokanee
- Will Fish Tackle with hundreds of rods, reels, lures, live bait

Adventure Travel & Kokanee Tournament
August 7 & 8
Stampede Reservoir

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Calendar of Events

July 20
Craig Newton—Kokanee Fishing on Stampede Reservoir

August 7 & 8
Adventure Travel & Kokanee Tournament

August 17
Vance Staplin, Golden Gate Salmon Association

Rooster Tail Members and Guests are invited to attend our Friday, July 20th breakfast meeting with neighbor, good friend, and RT member, Craig Newton, owner of Auburn's Will Fish Tackle, as our special guest speaker. By owning his heavily stocked bait and tackle store, Craig has every fisherman's dream of access to hundreds of rods, reels, lures, live bait, and virtually every option under-the-sun to fish for a variety of species. In addition to personally operating his successful tackle store, he spends copious amounts of time on fresh as well as saltwater experimenting with the latest gear and tactics.

Craig will share his firsthand experience by explaining what tackle works and what strategy yielded the best results. He also will pass along information from a bevy of fishing guides and expert client-anglers that report to him on what's hot and working. At the Rooster Tails July 20th breakfast meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the latest tackle rigging and strategies to take advantage of the robust Kokanee season now in full swing. Members planning on participating in the Rooster Tails August 7th and 8th Adventure Travel Camping and Fishing trip to Stampede Reservoir will find Craig's presentation particularly important.

As part of the Adventure Travel event, the Rooster Tails will be hosting a club members only Kokanee fishing tournament on August 8. More information about the camping and tournament can be found by visiting the Rooster Tails web site www.roostertailsfishingclub.org or by contacting event Host Mac McKendree 916-203-0055 or email to habudrvr@yahoo.com. To find out more about Will Fish Tackle, drop by the shop at 11944 Masters Court, Auburn for a cup of coffee and probably run into other club members. Craig can be reached at 530-887-0839 or www.willfishtackle.com.



July 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				

More about Stampede Reservoir Site of the Rooster Tails Annual Adventure Travel Camping and Member's Kokanee Tournament August 7-8, 2018.

Completed in 1970, Stampede Dam and Reservoir are located on the Little Truckee River immediately below the mouth of Davies Creek and approximately 8 miles above the confluence of the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers. It sits at an elevation of 5,949 feet above sea level with 25 miles of shoreline and a surface area of approximately 3,340 acres and stores 226,500 acre feet of water when full. Stampede is used to regulate the water flow for fisheries in Pyramid Lake and along Truckee River. The dam is 239 feet tall. There are 201 improved campsites in the Logger Loop Campground along with four group sites at the Emigrant Group Campground.



Local and out-of-town anglers know that Stampede Reservoir is overall an excellent lake for fishing. It has been most notable for Kokanee, which are landlocked sockeye salmon and large Mackinaw and brown trout. While Kokanee are bountiful and the most targeted species, however they are typically small, in the 11- to 13-inch range at most locations. On occasion Stampede has produced kokes in the 20-inch and larger range. The Kokanee growth-rate depends on the amount of food and the number of fish that compete for available forage and water conditions each year. Anglers that target brown trout, such as the Brown Baggers Fishing Club fish exclusively for browns weighing more than 10

Fishing season is year-round, with ice fishing during the winter. Available species include Kokanee salmon, rainbow, brook, brown and lake trout (Mackinaw). In the mid-1980s, Mackinaw were introduced by the Department of Fish and Wildlife in an attempt to control the populations of trash fish. An illegal introduction of smallmouth bass sometime in the late 1990s created a viable fishery for smallies. The smallmouth in Stampede are now established with the largest smallmouth weighed-in tipped the scale at 4.5 lbs.

lbs., know that Stampede is home of some monsters. They believe that this lake could produce a state record brown trout exceeding the current record of 26-lb., 8-oz. fish caught in 1987 in Twin Lakes near Bridgeport, CA.

Rooster Tail members are encouraged to sign-up for the Adventure Travel camping and fishing fun by contacting Event Host Mac McKendree 916-203-0055 or club treasurer Shawn Conlan 831-320-3671. Further information about the Kokanee tournament on August 8th can be found on the RT web site www.roostertailsfishingclub.org.

Join the Rooster Tails Adventure Travel Trip to Stampede Reservoir

August 7th (Tuesday - general fishing fun & camping) August 8th (Wednesday - members-only Kokanee Tournament)

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club provides annual special events for club members that include family and friends beyond just fishing. Our club's Adventure Travel Trips are organized for camping, touring/exploring, fishing, and group fun. The club's Board of Directors looked for reasonable travel time, anticipated weather conditions, camping and hotel accommodations, and sightseeing alternatives, and of course fishing opportunities before selecting **Stampede Lake as this year's**

destination site. Stampede Lake is located North of Truckee. Driving time from the Auburn Elks Lodge via I-80 to Truckee and to the campgrounds is around two hours. In conjunction with this year's Adventure Travel event, the Rooster Tails will host a **Kokanee fishing tournament for member-only on August 8th with a \$20/angler entry fee.** Total weight of will decide the 1st through 4th place winners. Tournament start-time will be at safe-light with a weigh-in at 2 p.m. For every 10 paid in advance participation registrations, the club will contribute \$100 with the anticipation of a thousand-dollar cash pot. For more details about camping and Stampede Reservoir, log onto www.roostertailsfishingclub.org and click-on the navigation bar tab 'Club Events'. Page down to Adventure Travel Events then click on the image (photo) of Stampede Lake. **To sign-up for the trip and/or the tournament, contact Host and RT Board of Director's Vice President, Mac McKendree at 916-203-0055 or email to: www.habudrvr@yahoo.com**



Preserving Your Catch!

For all the time, money, and effort we put into catching fish, it is amazing how little thought many anglers put into preserving their fish (a.k.a. table fare) once they are



Super chilling with crushed ice and salt.



Crushed ice works best because it packs more closely, cools more quickly, and keeps fish colder than would blocks of ice or frozen bottles of water.

caught. This is especially true during summertime-fishing when water temperatures can be sixty degrees or warmer, which is ok for the fish if they were alive, but as soon as they die, their flesh starts to deteriorate. Preserving your catch for a delicious meal is the reward for being a conscientious angler. Consider that the US Department of Health clamps down on restaurants that have their refrigerators operating at anything above forty-two degrees... there is no reason why anglers should consider anything different regarding preserving their catch to eat.

All freshwater fish have delicate flesh that begins to deteriorate even before the fish dies if it's roughly handled or excessively stressed, especially for Kokanee salmon. Keeping fish lively as long as possible in a proper-functioning live-well, circulating oxygenated water is one step to fine-tasting fish. Fish dragged on a stringer next to the boat stresses the fish, though keeping them alive, frequently warmer surface water banging against the boat causing bruising. After a fish dies, its flesh starts to deteriorate quickly if the fish isn't handled correctly. Once they die, gut them immediately when possible to do so. Don't let sour, bacteria-filled stomach and intestinal juices touch the flesh for long. Gutting fish also bleeds them: blood left in flesh speeds deterioration. Wash gutted fish in cold water to remove bacteria, then surround the fish with ice to retard any bacterial growth.

Don't let fish soak for long... even in icy water. Use the same strategy when processing fish at the fish-cleaning-station. Unless they're fresh and lively from a live-well, the fish should already be iced. Once a freshly-killed fish is cleaned, immediately immerse it in clean iced water. Once it's chilled, give it a quick rinse, pat it dry with a towel, wrap it with cling wrap, and surround it with crushed ice. Crushed ice keeps fish for at least five days, although the table quality of the flesh may deteriorate slightly each day.

Super Chilling is a method for preserving fish while camping or for storage while traveling. Super-chilled fish that have been properly gutted and cleaned can be kept on crushed ice for several days depending on ambient air temperature. Properly packaged fillets can be kept for up to five days, although it's best not to fillet fish until you have to, since whole fish keep longer. To super-chill fish, line the bottom of a quality insulated cooler with several inches of crushed ice, leaving the drain open. In another container, mix coarse ice cream salt and crushed ice at a ratio of 1 to 20. For average-sized coolers, that's one pound of salt to 20 pounds of ice. Wrap the fish tightly in cling wrap, surround and cover them with ice and drain the melt-water frequently so the fish doesn't soak in water. Proper icing lowers the storage temperature to about thirty-four degrees.

SO YOU WANTA BE IN PICTURES!

Whether your fish-photo is for the Rooster Tail's Annual Jackpot Fishing Contest for a big fish entry, or just a picture of a nice catch, a little preplanning will yield a photo you will be proud to show. The Rooster Tails want all of your fishing photographs, even if it is not necessarily of trophy-caliber fish. We plan to post your pictures on our photo display board to be shown at each of our breakfast meetings and of course at our Annual Holiday Brunch in December. We also will forward your photos to *Fish Sniffer* and *Western Outdoor News* magazines as well as showing them on our club web site.

Here are some tips for a better fish photo:

- Most of today's standard point-and-shoot digital cameras and smart phones have enough resolution to generate photos suitable for publishing. However, many older cell

phones may or may not have the necessary 'pixel' density for publication. A modest investment in a packet digital camera (*there are many choices well under \$150*) will allow you to take high quality pictures, not just of your fishing adventures, but of general photography keep sakes.

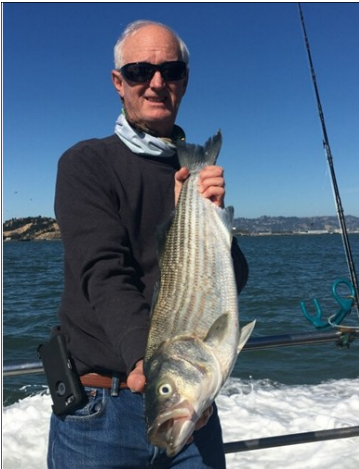
- The first step in taking a quality angler/fish photo is to be prepared to take the picture. Your camera should be 'at the ready' with something of a plan as to where the angler and his catch might stand for the best position for taking the photo taking the background into account.
- The best time to give instructions for taking a fish-photo and using your camera to its advantage is before actually catching a fish for photographing. It is wise to have a brief

Continued. on page 4

S.F. Bay Striper & Halibut Fishing Trip

On June 20th, twenty Rooster Tail members boarded the Sea Gull II captained by Don Wong. Most arrived at 5:30 a.m. at the Emeryville Marina. The boat left the dock at 6:00 a.m. It was took about ninety-minutes to drive from Auburn to Emeryville. During the day we fished many locations within San Francisco Bay – mainly between the SF Bay Bridge and the San Rafael Bridge. We started on the east side of Angel Island. We were fishing with live anchovies in water from 12'-25' deep.

The first legal fish landed was a beautiful striped bass that was 34" long and estimated to be more than ten-pounds caught by Olin Souders. Olin's striped bass turned-out to be the Big Fish charter boat cash winner (\$100) fish. During the day everyone caught undersized mostly halibut and a few undersized stripers. End of the day count, per Captain Wong, was 12 legal halibut and 4 legal striped bass. The largest halibut was caught by RT Ed Bell. Ed's halibut was in the 5-6# range. No one was reported as being sea sick. We fished until about 5:30pm and then headed back to the marina. The deck-hand cleaned the fish for those who wanted their catch cleaned. An ocean trip is planned for this fall – keep tuned. A special thank you to the Rooster Tail Members that shared this fun saltwater trip – RT Board of Directors Member and Trip Host, Mike Walker.



Olin Souders winning striper

discussion in advance with each person fishing with you to know where the camera is located and how to operate it. Some 'action photos' tell a better story than an angler 'posing' with his catch. Friend's jokes aside... it is better to be prepared for that 'big fish' than to waste an opportunity to take a quality photograph.

- A planned photo of a catch-and-release trophy fish provides a Jackpot entry with specifics of length without sacrificing the fish is a major victory for you and the fish. The release of a quality fish is a great way to allow the best of a given species to survive and prosper!
- If your plan is to release a caught fish, leave it submerged in the net, but not for long... get quickly organized for a photo. Do not drag the fish into the boat or onto shore for photo purposes! Be prepared to lift the fish from the net with wet hands, being careful to keep fingers out of gills and the gill plate. Cradle the fish's body bulk in one hand and with your other hand grip the tail and position the fish at a slight angle to your body. This position gives the photographer the side view, color of the fish at its best, as well as its girth and length. Hold the fish at a comfortable chest level. Forget about extending your arms towards the camera to make the fish look larger; it also makes your hands look like Sasquatch is holding the fish!

Jackpot Contest

JACKPOT CONTEST					
	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
Kokanee	16"		WHISKY TOWN	5-22	B. MIERKEY
Landlocked Salmon	22"		FOLSOM LAKE	5-24	MEL EWING
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	24 1/2"	5.43	DON PEDRO R.	3-15	B. MIERKEY
Brown Trout	23"	5lb 10oz	SHASTA LAKE	5-6	B. MIERKEY
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	16 1/2"	2.63	FOLSOM LAKE	5-4	Rik Cox
Small Mouth Bass	19 1/2"	4lb 4oz	BERRYESSA	2-15	Rik Cox
Catfish	28 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-18	MEL EWING
Shad	19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
Crappie	14"		CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLAN
Sturgeon	34"		SACTO DELTA	11-18	MEL TAKAHASHI

2017 entries in red – 2018 entries in black

- KOKANEE— **Bev Mierkey**, 16", Whiskeytown, 5/22/18
- LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Mel Ewing**, 22", Folsom Lake, 5/24/18
- RAINBOW TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 24 1/2", 5.43 lbs., Don Pedro, 3/15/18
- BROWN TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 23", 5.10", Shasta Lake, 5/6/18
- STEELHEAD, **Peter Zittere**, 27 1/2", 9 lbs. 7 oz., American River, 1/17/18
- LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 16 1/2", Folsom Lake, 5/4/18
- SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 19 1/2", 4 lbs. 4 oz, Berryessa, 2/15/18
- CRAPPIE, **Shawn Conlon**, 14", Camp Far West, 5/21/18

So You Wanta Be in Pictures — continued from page 3

- The best photos of the angler and fish are with them facing the sun/light source, minimizing shadows whenever possible. Remove the angler's hat/cap, sunglasses, and remember to smile! A carefully placed lure in the fish's mouth, the rod and reel in site also adds to the photo's story.
- The fish will photograph best if it is wet and right after being caught, a quick dip will add to the photo. Delay taking the photo until you get to shore or later when it is more convenient will cause the skin to mottle and the colors will fade .
- Fill the 'frame' in the camera's view-finder with what the end picture will look-like with the angler and his catch and minimizing the surrounding unrelated background. For examples, look at pictures published in fishing magazines.
- When several fish are harvested and laying on the floor of the boat, forget about the 'dead fish snapshots' and forget the 'meat photos', they don't tell a story about the angler, the fish, or the fight. Be a little creative, think of what you would like to see in a photo before taking a picture.

Rooster Tails are invited to email all their jpg photos to:
www.info@roostertailfishingclub.org