



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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Denis Pierce — Arctic Fox Trolling Flies An Alternative to Traditional Fishing Hardware

- Unique hand-made flies
- Flies designed to be trolled for predator fish species that eat other fish
- Arctic Fox Trolling flies used with a traditional rod not a fly rod
- Trolling streamers requires less finesse than other type of lures
- Deadly action draws fish to the fly often resulting in an explosive strike.

Outdoor writer and owner of Arctic Fox Trolling Flies, **Denis Pierce**, will present an informative seminar **Friday, April 19th** at the Rooster Tails Fishing Club's monthly third Friday breakfast meeting held at the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine Street, Auburn, 95603. Doors to the Lodge open to all attendees at 7:00 a.m. with fresh brewed coffee waiting for you to share with other men and women anglers followed by a fantastic \$15 wide-selection buffet breakfast is served at 8:00 am

Denis is a 'local' and prolific angler and has first-hand knowledge for trolling North Central California waters and beyond with his unique hand-made flies. Fly fishermen have known for years the effectiveness of imitation of various forage, Denis has expanded on this concept with flies and streamers specifically designed to be trolled for any predator fish species that eat other fish!

Fly fishing to the average non-fly fishing person is often seen as casting super-small imitations of various insects, with complex (and expensive) gear, with special strategies and skills to catch fish. The emphasis of fly fishing

is presentation-casts based and sighting fish among other techniques to be successful. However, using trolling flies with a traditional rod versus using them with a fly rod is a unique presentation.

Special trolling flies called 'streamers' are just really big flies and in fly fishing terms, they are usually presented with a fly rod as an 'active retrieve' creating an illusion of swimming forage. Streamer flies are designed to attract larger 'meat-eater' fish that dine on other fish and large aquatic insects. Trolling streamers requires less finesse than other types of lures and creates a great opportunity to catch fish when other methods

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Trout caught with an Arctic Fox Trolling Fly

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Calendar of Events

May 15
Saltwater Fishing Trip
Emeryville

May 17
RT Breakfast
Denis Pierce, Owner
Arctic Fox Trolling Flies

June 21
Speaker—tba

May 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	29	30	31	

RE-DISCOVER FISHING WITH LEAD-CORE LINE

With today's expensive high-tech fish-finders and companion down-riggers now virtually a requirement on most boats, many anglers probably have never even heard of fishing with **lead-core fishing line**. No... lead-core is not a new genre of death metal, nor is it a new type of ammunition. Lead-core line is an old-school trick that is vastly underutilized in this day and age, but is easy to use and has an economical alternative to big-bucks electronic fishing armaments. Lead-core is also a particularly effective way of getting to fish holding in rocky or in undulating bottoms without sacrificing an expensive down-rigger ball in the process. Unlike the need to constantly adjust down-rigger weights, lead-core line can easily be adjusted by observing colors of line to determine and to regulate the depth of your lure.

Lead-core fishing line is just that: line with a lead core. It has been in use for decades and is made of a braided-sleeve material with a thin strip of lead wire running down the center. The most common lead-core lines used in local waters are 12 lb. and 18 lb. test-weights, segmented into different "colors". Each color segment is 10 yards long to determine the approximate amount of line let-out when trolling. Since it is kind of a specialty line there aren't too many companies who make it. Suffix brand lead-core (about \$16/100 yds) is readily available at most tackle stores while newer TufLine Micro Lead brand (about \$30/100 yds) is harder to find and costs a little more, but worth it.

To use traditional Suffix lead-core line, you will need a high-capacity level wind trolling-reel (like many saltwater Penn reels) since the diameter of lead-core line displaces a large amount of spool-space. TufLine is a third smaller in diameter but with the same weight as Suffix that may allow you to get-by with a basic level wind fresh water trolling reel. When TufLine is spooled onto a high-capacity level wind reel, you will need to load about forty-percent of the spool with twenty-pound monofilament line as backing.

With either Suffix or TufLine, a lead-core reel should be mounted on a long (7' - 8'), medium power rod with a reasonable backbone yet with a soft enough tip section that won't rip the hook out of the fish's mouth since lead-core has very little stretch. Lead core line itself is far too large in diameter to tie directly to any lure so attach 15' - 30' leader of 10 lb. - 12 lb. monofilament or fluorocarbon line.

If trolling with a lure or bait that 'rotates or spins' (i.e. Mustad Slow Death bait hooks or rolled-shad rigs) connect the mono-leader to the lead-core with the smallest barrel swivel you can find (size 18 to 16) to allow the swivel to easily pass through the rod's line-guides and reel's level-winder. The swivel will minimize any twist in the line.

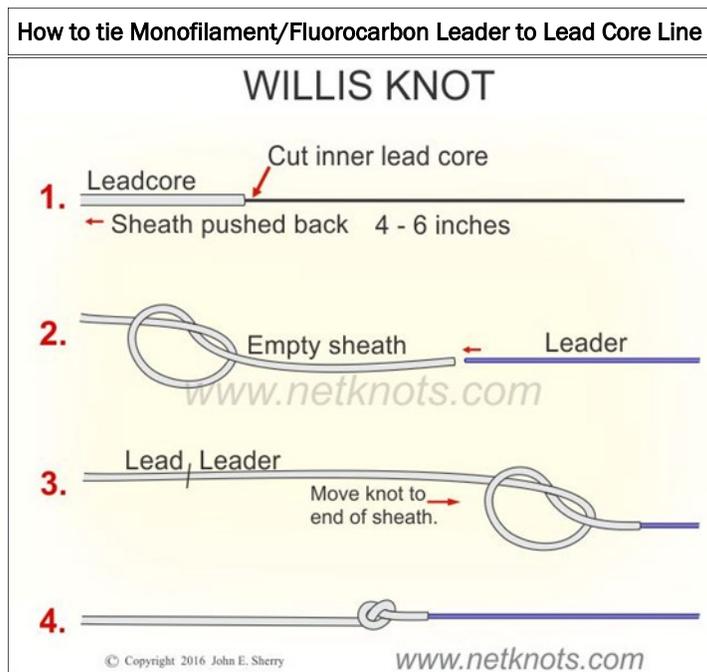
The main idea behind using lead core line is to let the line itself sink, enabling whatever lure or bait you are trolling with to reach a deeper depth than it could dive on its own using monofilament or fluorocarbon lines and accompanying hardware. This technique is great for fishing larger bodies of water, and is super useful in getting small lures, especially really buoyant lures down to the fish like Yo-Zuri Pin Minnow, Rapala Floating plugs, or threaded worms. Lead core line is typically divided into color-coded segments every ten yards. The color segments come in either 5,10,15 or even 20 colors per spool. The 10 color segment spool is the most common, which gives you about 100 yards of lead-core line. Each color pulls your lure down about five feet while trolling 1.5 to 2.5 mph. So a 100 yard, 10 color lead-core line will allow you to present your bait about 50 feet down. Depending on water current and other factors where you are fishing you may need more or less line out.

The **Willis Knot** is used to attach a leader to lead-core fishing line. When using a monofilament/fluorocarbon leader one overhand knot is sufficient. The 'knot' grips with a 'Chinese finger pull' function with the overhand knot adding the final security needed. This knot is considered to be very reliable by lead core fishermen.

Willis Knot Tying Instructions

- Take finger and thumb and pinch down on lead core line and slide back about four to six inches of the outer sheath. Cut the inner wire at that point and straighten empty sheath.
- Tie a loose overhand knot in the sheath material back by the cut part of the inner lead.
- Slide mono leader into sheath all the way back until it touches the inner lead. Now work the overhand knot back to the end of the sheath material stopping just short of the end.
- Tighten down the overhand knot and test by pulling hard on the leader. It should not slip.

More lead-core tying knots at:
https://www.netknots.com/fishing_knots/willis-knot



DO YOU NEED A PHYSICAL FISHING LICENSE?

With the very common use of a cell phone to 'take a picture' of a document in lieu of the physical possession of it, to keep-at-ready should the need to refer to it arises. Although the security of keeping a fishing license, second-rod stamp, or other required stamps, might be a security question, what is important... is it legal? Despite having a photo of your fishing license and not actually having a piece of paper in possession, **it is illegal.**

Should a warden ask to see your fishing license, to prevent a citation, the California Fish and Wildlife Code, Section 7145(a) requires that every person aged 16 years old and older who takes any fish must have a valid physical sports fishing license on his or her person or in his or her immediate possession.

There are a few exceptions - you don't need a license if you're fishing from a public ocean pier (FGC Section 7153), and if you're diving, it's fine to keep your license in the boat or within 500 yards of the shore, as applicable (FGC Section 7145(a). Except for the diving exemption, when required, you must have your valid paper fishing license in your immediate possession when fishing, not just a photograph of the license. It's an urban legend that "wardens can look it up on the radio."



Speaking of cell phones and the need to have physical documentation, be aware that there will be a **phase-out of printed DF&W Regulation Books.**

As part of a broader effort by the department to go paperless, CDFW is in the process of transitioning to online regulations books and will be decreasing the number of printed books shipped to license agents (including the Rooster Tails Fishing Club)

and CDFW offices in 2019 and beyond. The cost to print and ship regulations books is significant, and money saved will be put toward fish and wildlife conservation. This year's booklets will also be returning to the smaller, mostly black-and-white format.

Lastly, be aware that the current CA Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations, effective March 1, 2019 through February 2020 distributed at the March RT breakfast meeting **has incorrect information including possession limits.** It is questionable that an updated 'Supplement' will be printed and members are encouraged to visit the DF&W web site for current regulations.

HOW TO CALIBRATE YOUR LINE COUNTER REEL

There is one thing that maybe is overlooked when trolling... is the amount of line on the line counter reel accurate? When you let out a 100' of line, is it really a 100'? or is it 82'? or another depth where the fish are not? Try this next time, measure out a 100' of line in your backyard, set your line counter reel to zero and pull out the hundred feet of line and see if it matches line counter read-out... you may be amazed that the counter and the amount of line out don't match!

One of the most important variables in trolling is depth. One method of depth control is by adjusting the amount of line between the rod and the lure. This means that in order to control depth accurately, you have to be able to precisely measure the amount of line you have out. Most of line counter reels don't really measure the amount of line that is let out. They actually have a mechanism that counts the number of revolutions of the spool. The digits on the display are calibrated to



display some increment of feet per number of spool revolutions. When these reels are being designed, the designer has to make an estimate about how much line would be put on the reel. This estimate is the "theoretical spool diameter" that the designer uses when he sets the number of revolutions that occur to make the counter update.

For a simple, easy, and accurate way to recalibrate your line counter reel, visit the following YouTube site for a demonstration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLzC26NvgM4

Reminder - DO NOT LET YOUR DOGS OUT WHILE YOU ARE CALIBRATING!

One unlucky angler lost over a hundred yards of line chasing his fun-loving dog around the back yard. Line was all through bushes and around numerous trees before his second dog got tangled in it too and ran out of the back yard! What a mess to untangle!

Folsom Lake Fishing Outing

The Annual Members-Only Fishing Outing was held on Folsom Lake on April 24th with 41 of the 49 sign-up, showing-up and launching at safe-light. The morning air was fresh with a light breeze and mild temperatures that gave-way to temps in the mid-eighties by noon. Anticipation was high as everyone prepared their boats and gear for the task at hand...

The Lake was a little on the murky-side with the water-level being only a few feet from full. Recent rains and snow-melt brought occasional floating debris, but all four of the Granite Bay primary launch ramps were open with no issues.

Many of our boats headed-up the North Fork of the American River and plied the waters with a variety of lures. Others tried their luck on the South Fork with a few individuals fishing the dam area. Fast trolling Speedy Shiners was the lure of choice, however many other offerings were trolled with varying results. Trout were caught for the most part that were scattered in the 25' to 45' level with random landlocked salmon at varying depths to a hundred-feet.

Of the total, 28 members followed the rules and checked-out with **Board of Director Members and Event Co-hosts Ed Bell and Gregor** before leaving the parking lot. Ed & Gregor did a super job keeping track of everyone, giving out complimentary lures, and weighing the 20 contest entries between noon and the 2:00 cut-off time. The event was fun and challenging, especially for the four-place winners sharing the \$1,000 event-purse at 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10% respectively **to be awarded at our Friday, May 17th breakfast meeting**. The winners were **Tom Hamada** - First place with 8.6 pounds of landlocked salmon; Second place was won by **Chuck Mierkey** with 8.0 pounds of trout; Third place winner was **Mike Walker** with 6.2 pounds of a mix of trout and salmon; and lastly was new member, **Tim Reuter** with 6.10 pounds of trout and salmon.

The Members-Only Outing **winner are requested to be at our May 17th breakfast meeting** to receive their winnings and to pose for a photo to be published in the media. On behalf of the Rooster Tails Fishing Club and the club's Board of Directors, we extend a sincere **Thank You** for supporting this annual event.

Bring a Friend to Breakfast

May 17, 2019

Speaker—Denis Pierce

Jackpot Fishing Contest

		ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST				
2018	2019	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	11 1/2"		BULLARDS BAR	2-22	M. MCKENDREE
	Landlocked Salmon	16"		FOLSOM	3-13	S. CONLAN
	River or Ocean King Salmon	38"	28lb	SACTO RIVER	10-18	M. MCKENDREE
	Striped Bass	34"		S.F. BAY	6-20	O. SOUDERS
	Rainbow Trout	17"		FOLSOM LAKE	3-13	M. EWING
	Brown Trout	27"	7lb 9oz	DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORTHAM
	Steelhead	30"		AMERICAN RIVER	1-12	J. LAMPKIN
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	22"		DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORTHAM
	Large Mouth Bass	23"	4lb 8oz	PRIVATE POND	8-28	RIK COX
	Coffish					
	Shad					
	Croppie	14"		CAMP FAY WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLAN

2019 names in Red — 2018 names in Black

KOKAANEE—**Mac McKendree**, 11 1/2", Bullards Bar, 2/22/19
 LANDLOCKED SALMON, - **Shawn Conlan**, 16", Folsom Lake, 3/13/19
 RAINBOW TROUT—**Mel Ewing**, 17", Folsom Lake, 3/13/19
 STEELHEAD, **Jerry Lampkin**, 30", American River, 1/12/19

Denis Pierce—Arctic Trolling Flies — *continued*

might not be working. Trolling flies can be used in conjunction with down riggers or long lined with minimal weigh so the fight is without the drag of other hardware. The trolled Arctic Fox fly is designed to be used with the Wiggle Fin Action Disc which is a type of clear vibrating disc that when pulled through the water, creates a vibrating swimming action that is transferred to the fly. The deadly action draws fish to the fly often resulting in an explosive strike. The use of real Arctic Fox Fur versus feathers makes the Arctic Fox brand trolling fly durable even after several strikes.

Denis Peirce has been in the fly fishing industry as a sales rep, manufacturer and fly distributor since 1993. He hosts a one hour fishing show Friday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. called the *Fishing & Outdoor Report*. He also is a Fishing Columnist for the past 16 years for *The Union Newspaper* in Grass Valley. As a member of the *Outdoor Writers Association of California*, Denis was honored for the Feature Article of the Year Award in 2015.

Denis can be reached at 530-432-4999 or denispeirceflies@gmail.com



Arctic Fox Trolling Fly