



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 9 Issue 9 September 2019

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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"If You Have the 'Will' to Fish, We Have the Way!" -- Craig Newton

- Will Fish Tackle—Resource for the Latest Fishing Reports
- Craig Knows What Baits and Lures to use
- The Newton's purchased Will Fish Tackle in April 2017

Craig Newton, owner of **Will Fish Tackle** in Auburn, would be considered by many marketing-people as a successful 'niche business'. Craig and his business associates cater to expert as well as novice fishing enthusiasts with a wide selection of fishing-gear and personalized one-on-one advice on how to use it. Will Fish is also a resource for the latest fishing reports from their many customers, fishing guides, and tackle suppliers.

Will Fish is also a great place to meet other anglers for fun and informative conversations. At any given time, several Rooster Tail Fishing club members meet there to arrange fishing outings for both fresh and salt water fishing.

In addition, Craig spends many hours personally testing the latest lures and baits. He knows what works and where to use it unlike trying to find advice at a big-box sporting goods store. Choosing the right species-specific tackle is not akin to going to the grocery store where you know exactly what to buy. Becoming an expert fisherperson takes time on the water, dedication to increasing fishing knowledge and acquiring the right species-specific tackle.

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is delighted to have **Craig as a member and special guest speaker for a salmon seminar at our September 20, 7:00 a.m. regular monthly third Friday breakfast meeting.** Bring a guest to share with us a super buffet breakfast and informative salmon fishing seminar. We encourage you to arrive early for the best seat and close parking since we expect a large crowd.

Will Fish Tackle was established in 1997 by Steve Willis and Jack Hill. Steve and Jack
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Craig Newton, Owner, Will Fish Tackle

Calendar of Events

September 20
Speaker—Craig Newton
Will Fish Tackle

October 18
Speaker—Captain Jeff Soo Hoo
"Strategy for Catching Trophy Striped Bass"

November 6
Turkey Tourney—Collins Lake
No Entry Fee
Sign up at Friday breakfast, 9/20

September 2019

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	30					

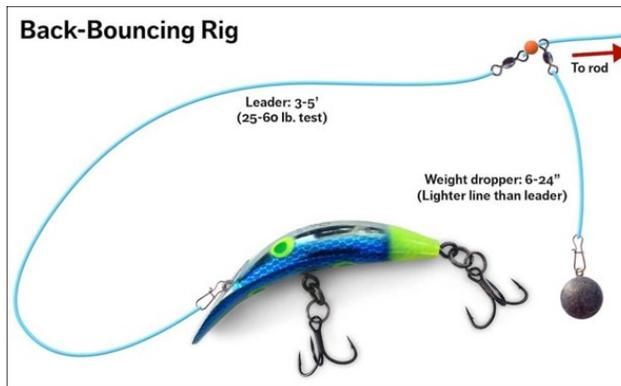


Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

How to Back-Bounce Plugs for River Salmon

By JD Richey from his eBook – *Plug Fishing for River Salmon* available on Amazon

Back-Bouncing wobbling plugs like Flatfish and Kwikfish is one of the most effective ways to catch king salmon that are holding in deep holes in our Central Valley rivers. It takes some time to master this method and it requires focus, practice... and some muscle. Get it dialed in, however, and you will have an extremely important salmon technique at your disposal.



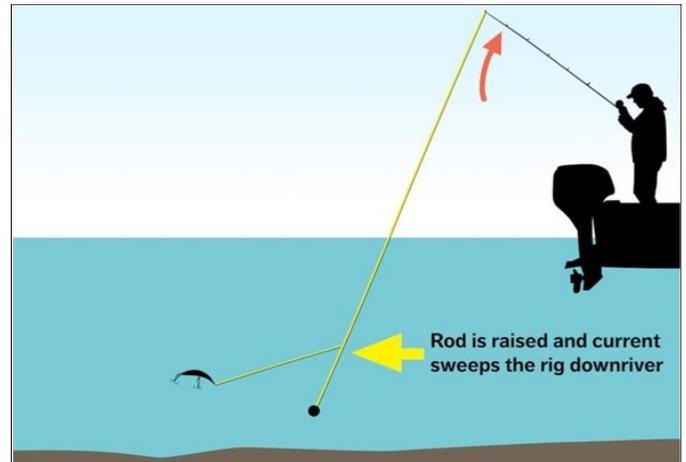
current walk the lure back, drop the tip and pause for a second or two, then repeat. Remember, you're not trying to impart a jiggling action to the lure with the lift and drop routine. The objective is to simply keep the lure and lead following the contours of the bottom so you stay "in the zone" and out ahead (downstream) of the boat.

The idea here is to use a lead ball sinker in a dime-to-quarter size to get your plug down deep. You need enough weight to touch the bottom but not so much that you end up anchored to it.

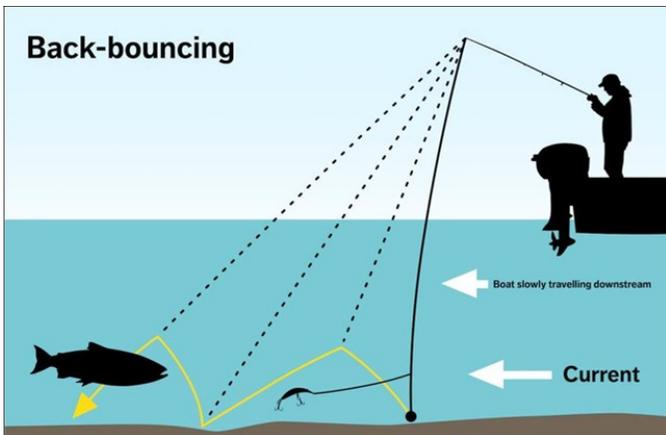
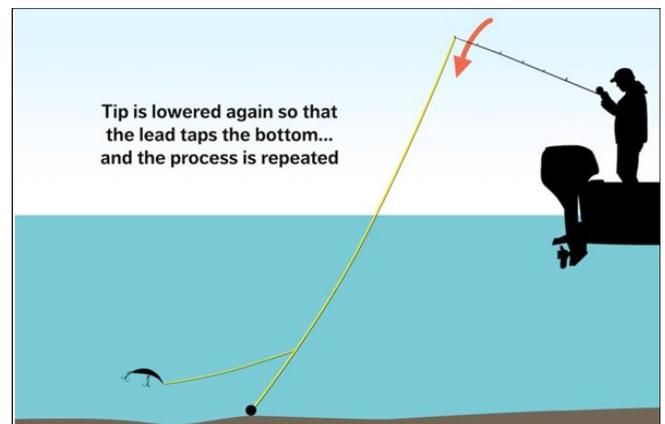
Traditional Back-Bouncing

Once you're anchored-up above a good prospective hole potentially holding fish, orient the boat with the bow pointed upriver. Start by clicking the reel into free-spool and then drop in your plug-sinker setup a few feet off the stern. You want a rapid (but controlled) sink rate, so lightly thumb the spool on

Feeling the bottom is one of the trickiest parts to pick up... especially on the initial drop. If, after a few bounces, you have not made contact with the riverbed, simply reel up and start over. When you are first learning, you may not feel the sinker hit



bottom and then continue letting line out as you search to feel it. What's often going on here is your lead is lying on the bottom and you've have an ever-growing bow in your line between the tip and the sinker. As the this usually ends up getting the rig snagged. Keep an eye on the angle of the line between your rod tip and the water. If it's straight down or pointed slightly upstream, you are hung up. **Reel up fast!**



the way down. Letting out line too quickly will result in loops or back-lash on your reel spool. When the sinker touches down on the bottom, smoothly lift the tip and then gently drop it back down, feeling for the tap of the lead on the rocks. If you don't feel the sinker hit, let a short blast of line slip out from under your thumb and then try to find the bottom again. Normally, you'll have to repeat this process a few times to get enough scope-out to 'feel' the bottom on every drop of the rod tip.

The term "back-bouncing" is a bit misleading. What we're really trying to do here is slowly "walk" the sinker downriver six-inches to a foot at a time as the rig slips downstream. The word "bouncing" implies herky-jerky rod movement but instead you're looking for a nice, easy pace. **Lift, then let the**

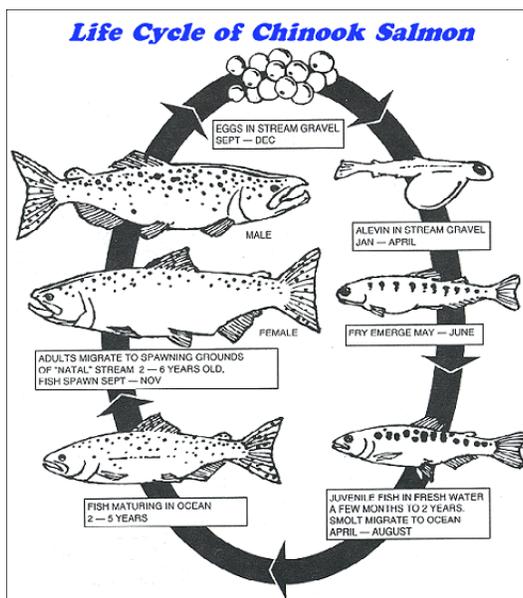
A Salmon Winter-Run Perspective

Usually, "winter" makes people think of cold, blowing snow, and ice - but no winter-run Chinook salmon alive today experience conditions like that. In fact, the only existing winter-run Chinook salmon population in the world is located in hot, dry California. Chinook salmon, and all other Pacific salmon and trout in the genus *Oncorhynchus*, require cool, fast flowing water for survival, especially during their sensitive early life stages.

These days, with severe drought and record high temperatures, it is hard to imagine how any Pacific salmon or even trout populations became established in California, the southernmost and warmest limit of the distribution of Pacific salmon around the world. About half of salmon eggs laid are not expected to survive at temperatures greater than 60°F, and no eggs survive at temperatures greater than 62°F. While summer Sacramento River temperatures can exceed 70°F, these cool-water loving fish have been able to survive in California by mostly avoiding inhospitable warm river conditions.

There are four races of Chinook salmon in California, and all are named for the timing of when the adults migrate from the ocean to the rivers to spawn. Fall-run and late-fall-run Chinook salmon adults migrate out of the ocean and up the rivers in the fall. By migrating and spawning in the fall, these fish avoid summertime in California rivers all together, and allow their offspring to grow from eggs to fry during cool and favorable river conditions in the winter, then migrate to sea during the following spring. Spring-run Chinook salmon adults migrate from the ocean to the rivers in the spring. The relatively hardy adult spring-run fish must hold in the rivers through the summer before they can spawn in the fall, allowing their more vulnerable offspring to rear during the winter and migrate to the ocean the following spring.

As you have probably guessed, winter-run Chinook salmon adults migrate from the ocean into the rivers in the winter. Adults spawn through the spring and summer, which means their offspring must endure California's often inhospitable summers through their sensitive early life stages. Historically, winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon that spend their summers in California rivers were able to survive in relatively high-altitude creeks that are cooled by Sierra snowmelt, and cold water springs during the summer, but this is no longer an option for winter-run Chinook salmon. With the growing water demands of California's expanding human population, dams



were constructed on all major California rivers, blocking access to the high-altitude creeks used by salmon during the summer. These changes to California's rivers has been particularly detrimental to winter-run Chinook salmon. Completion of Shasta Dam, located in the upper Sacramento River, in 1943 blocked access to nearly all creeks used by winter-run Chinook in the summer, and vulnerable winter-run eggs and hatchlings were forced to endure the often harsh summer river conditions downstream of Shasta Dam.

The only reason winter-run Chinook salmon have been able to survive without access to their historical habitat is

a large cool water pool that accumulates in the bottom of the huge reservoir created by Shasta Dam (Lake Shasta). The same cold snowmelt and spring water that provided continuously cool summer water temperatures in the historic winter-run creeks of Mount Lassen and Mount Shasta drains into Lake Shasta, and, because cool water is heavier than warm water, it sinks to the bottom of the lake. For a few decades, release of this vital cool water through Shasta Dam created a 44-mile haven below Keswick Dam (close to Redding), in which Chinook salmon eggs and hatchlings could grow and prepare for downstream migration.

Cool water releases from Lake Shasta kept winter-run Chinook salmon populations relatively high, with 118,000 adults returning to the upper Sacramento River in 1969. However, with increasing human populations, it became more and more challenging to meet human water and power demands while maintaining the cool temperatures required by Chinook salmon in the upper Sacramento River. Winter-run Chinook numbers began to rapidly fall after 1969, and during the last extreme drought period in the 1990s, adult spawning numbers dropped to an alarming 200 salmon during two separate years. On the brink of extinction, winter-run Chinook salmon were designated as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act in 1989 and the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1994. Thanks to a hatchery supplementation program, strict management of downstream obstructions, like Red Bluff Diversion Dam, to maximize upstream fish passage success; tight restrictions on ocean harvests of adult Chinook salmon; and construction of a Temperature Control Device on Shasta Dam, winter-run numbers had partly rebounded to nearly 20,000 adult spawners in 2007. As resource managers worked to balance water needs for consumption and the environment, the future was looking brighter for winter-run Chinook salmon in 2019.

2019 STAMPEDE TOURNAMENT

BY SHAWN CONLAN

Jackpot Fishing Contest

The 2019 Stampede Kokanee Tournament was a success with almost all participants catching fish. Out of 23 participants 19 weighed in fish by the 2pm deadline. Many small fish were caught and released with the bigger fish being caught in deeper water. Out of the 4 prize categories there were 3 ties for 1st, 2nd AND 4th place.

First place went to **Mike Walker** and **Ron Medeiros** with 4.0 lbs; 2nd place went to **Tim Reuter** and **Dave Robinson** with 3 lbs 12 oz ; 3rd place went to **Shawn Conlan** with 3lbs 6oz; 4th place went to **Mel Ewing** and **Ed Pigeon** with 3lbs 4 oz. Our boat found the larger fish on the west end of the lake in 65-80' of water. Pink micro-hoochies with small flashers were the top lure in our boat trolled at 1.2 mph. Thanks to Mike Walker, Gregor Roschitsch and Shawn Conlan for volunteering at the tournament and to Jim Petruk for working on the flyers ect. The total pot was \$700. The winners are as follows:

First Place Tie

Mike Walker and Ron Medeiros
4.0 lbs — \$140 each

Second Place

Tie Tim Reuter and Dave Robinson
3 lbs 12 oz — \$105 each

Third Place

Shawn Conlan
3 lbs 6 oz — \$140

Fourth Place Tie

Mel Ewing and Ed Pigeon
3 lbs 4 oz — \$35 each



From left to right:

Shawn Conlan, Mel Ewing, Ed Pigeon, Tom Reuter, Mike Walker, Ron Medeiros

		JACKPOT CONTEST					
	2018	2019	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
			17"		WHISKEY TOWN	6-7	B. MIERKEY
			23 1/4"		FOLSOM	4-18	R. CORRAO
			38"	28lb	SACTO RIVER	10-18	M. MCKENDREE
			24 1/2"		AMERICAN RIVER	5-20	C. NEWTON
			25"	5lb 14oz	ALMANOR	6-5	M. MCKENDREE
			28.15"	8.32lb	SHATA LAKE	5-4	BEV MIERKEY
			30"		AMERICAN RIVER	1-12	J. LAMPKIN
			22"		DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORSTAM
			16"	3lb 2oz	DELTA	6-27	R. CORRAO
			28 3/4"	5lb 3oz	OCEAN	8-1	R. CORRAO
			19 1/2"		SACTO RIVER	6-14	E. LIKE
			14"		CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLAN
			32"	14lb 8oz	S F BAY	5-15	R. CORRAO

2019 names in Red — 2018 names in Black

KOKANEE—**Bev Mierky**, 17", Whiskey Town, 6/7/19
 LANDLOCKED SALMON, - **Ray Corrao**, 23 1/4", Folsom Lake, 4/18/19
 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
 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
 PACIFIC HALIBET, **Ray Corrao**, 32", 14.8 lbs., S.F. Bay, 5/15/19

Speaker Craig Newton—continued from page 1

were joined by John Wadden shortly after they opened the door. Steve left the business to pursue other passions leaving the business in the skilled hands of Jack and John. During that time Jack and John built a thriving business that served the local area and sponsored many long range trips out of Southern California.

In 2000 Jack left the business and John continued on with help from many friends and supporters. In April 2017, the Newton's purchased Will Fish Tackle following Craig's passion for fishing and the outdoors.



Upper Sacramento River Salmon Fishing

There have been small groups of new, chrome bright king salmon showing in the upper Sacramento River near the spawning grounds. The best section of river has been from Anderson Balls Ferry downriver through Hamilton City at this time, but changes daily. Everyday has been different depending which boat launch you choose – Red Bluff, Los Molinos or Corning at Woodson Bridge. The best bets have been back bouncing large sardine wrapped plugs like Kwikfish, Flatfish, or Brads Killerfish plugs. As an alternative, try drifting and back bouncing roe/puffball combos. The best salmon fishing is still to come late in September and around mid-October being prime times.

Salmon and Steelhead Adult Migration, Upper Sacramento River											
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Winter Chinook			X								
			X Spring Chinook								
						Fall Chinook			X		
X Late-Fall Chinook											
Steelhead											

