



March 2024 Rooster Tails Newsletter

Message from the Board of Directors

As we prepare this newsletter the rain is pelting the windows and making one think of being on the water when the weather clears. We had a few days of absolutely awesome weather and a few of us made it out to the water. Winter is not done with us yet, and we all know we need the water, but the fishing should be taking off very soon.

Our **March 15 breakfast meeting** speaker will be Peter Vogt of [Tahoe House Bakery and Gourmet](#) in Lake Tahoe. Peter is a Swiss trained Chef and will be discussing some of his recipes for salmon as well as knife techniques in the kitchen. We look forward to hearing Peter's tips on how to cook our catch as well as how to handle knives in the kitchen.

Membership renewals have begun in March and are due by April 15th. Notices will be emailed beginning in March. New members can sign up now and be included for the 2024-2025 time period. You can pick up a membership application and release of liability form at our meetings or you can download the forms from the [Rooster Tails Fishing Club](#) website in the Become a Member section.

CLUB UPDATES

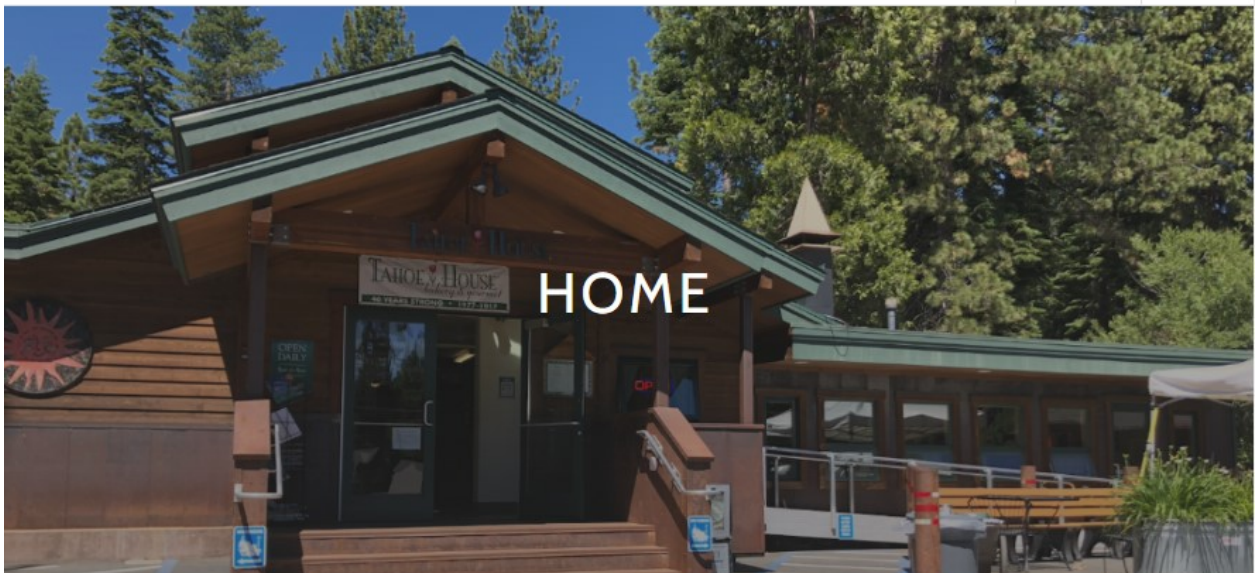
- 2024 Jackpot Contest opened January 1. All those participating will need to be a member in good standing, have a liability form on file, and have paid the Jackpot entry fee. You can download a form from the [Rooster Tails](#) website or pick one up at the next meeting.
- Rooster Tails Board of Directors Meeting - March 11, 2pm, at Lyons Real Estate office (near Mel's Dinner in Auburn). Free pizza provided.
- Rooster Tails Monthly Breakfast Meeting - March 15 - Auburn Elks Lodge. Doors open at 7am, breakfast served at 8am, Speaker at 9am.
- Rancho Seco Trout Derby - April 6-7 (see below)
- Rooster Tails Board of Directors Meeting - April 15, 2pm, at Lyons Real Estate office (near Mel's Dinner in Auburn). Free pizza provided.
- Rooster Tails Monthly Breakfast Meeting - April 19 - Auburn Elks Lodge
- Rooster Tails Bay Halibut & Striper Trip - April 22 (see below)



MARCH SPEAKER — Peter Vogt Tahoe House Bakery & Gourmet

The [Tahoe House Bakery and Gourmet](#) is one of the last true “Mom and Pop” operations around. In May of 1977 Peter and Helen Vogt moved to Lake Tahoe with their two little girls and opened the Tahoe House Restaurant. In the beginning, The Tahoe House served dinner only. Peter, who is a Swiss trained chef, oversaw the kitchen. Helen managed the dining room and was the hostess who greeted one and all at the front door. Peter and Helen are originally from Switzerland and brought with them a love of European style breads and pastries. In the early 1980’s the lack of availability of quality breads and cakes prompted Peter to begin baking. He experimented with many of his favorite recipes and developed a dessert cart full of cakes as well as freshly baked bread. Many of these creations are still available today.

Peter has been an avid angler and lover of fish dishes and has been a member of the Rooster Tails Fishing club for many years. At our March meeting Peter will discuss some of his favorite recipes for fish as well as knife techniques in the kitchen. He will also discuss his recommendations for the best knives to have as well as how to care for them and he will bring mini croissants filled with smoked trout which will be available at the breakfast buffet table. Be sure and be there, March 15th at the Elks Lodge.



**TAHOE HOUSE BAKERY &
GOURMET**

CALL TOLL FREE
(877) 367-8246
(530) 583-1377

KOKANEEMART.COM FISHING REPORT

by Craig Newton



03/04/2024

Well Winter decided it was not over. The recent storms and snow are a curse and a blessing at the same time. Run-off and dam releases have significantly impacted the reservoirs and downstream fisheries alike. The reservoirs and lakes are feeling the brunt of the storm run-off with enough dirty and cold water coming in and releases going out that unsettled conditions will be the norm for a while. The downstream rivers will eventually benefit from the

spring snow melt with better flows longer into the summer and fall. That said, it is going to be a little while before reliable patterns prevail.

BULLARDS BAR: As has been the pattern the last several winters, Kokanee are plentiful and readily willing to take almost any presentation that remotely resembles a dodger and you name it. Fish can be found from the surface down to 70' on the wire. Like all reservoirs right now, expect colored inflows to push the fishing downstream.

CAMANACHE: Plants continue and fish continue to cooperate. Tactics similar to Pardee should be employed here. Pardee helps take the sting out of the dirty water for a while. However, the upper section of the lake will likely muddy up. Try the main body around big hat island and the channel towards the dam in search of better water quality.

FOLSOM LAKE: Both the North and South Forks of the American are high and dark this week. Not to mention cold. Combined with increased releases, this will undoubtedly impact the fishing. Prior to the most recent storm events the fishing for cold water species had been good by Folsom standards. There were even signs of life for the Bass guys. If you have to go in the next few days, run up the forks until the water goes from green to brown and start working your way back towards the main body and dam. Consider speed trolling with Speed Shiners and Rapalas in bright colors until you locate a few fish willing to play.

FOOTHILL LAKES: Amador and Collins have been producing decent planter rainbow action. Like everywhere else, water conditions will be critical with the recent and forecasted storms. Slow presentation like those described for Pardee and Camanche will work here. Bait fishing might be the way to go if water clarity is hampered by storm runoff.

PARDEE LAKE: With the lake opening back up to fishing in the last few weeks, the planting program has been in full swing. This lake is always worth a shot early in the year for the planter rainbows. Trolling from the boat ramp to just past the narrows with spoons and Rapalas can be very effective. Consider the naked grubs at a snail's pace if the faster presentations aren't doing the job. I never shy away from a dodger/nightcrawler combo there too. Water quality may be tricky at Pardee after the recent storms.

PYRAMID LAKE: Storms continue to be the biggest factor for Winter fishing at Pyramid. The winds combined with rain and snow made fishing Pyramid next to impossible recently. The brief breaks from the weather have resulted in great results for trollers and bank anglers alike. If there is a weather window and the pass is clear, this can be a great time to visit one of my favorite fisheries. Just bring the warm clothes and hot beverages, you are going to need them.

DELTA: As spring approaches, so will the stripers. With the current flows coming down all the rivers, it is going to be a while before the delta conditions are conducive to good striper fishing. Keep this one in your back pocket for the time when conditions improve and the stripers start their move.

TIGHT LINES!



THE RISE OF LITHIUM MARINE TROLLING MOTOR BATTERIES



(While this is a marketing email from Johnson Outdoors, we wanted to share the information on Lithium batteries.)

If you've been in the market for new trolling motor batteries recently you may have noticed some changes to what's available in the market. Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) marine batteries are becoming a more common option for powering trolling motors, fish finders and other accessories.

A wide array of brands have started to offer Lithium-based batteries for fishing boats, and—depending on your budget—the price point of a new lithium setup might scare away price-conscious anglers.

So what makes Lithium marine batteries different and are they worth the extra money?

[Click here to read the entire article.....](#)

BANK ANGLERS TYPICALLY PROSPER AT COLLINS LAKE

by Cal Kellogg

[Collins Lake](#) is what I like to call an equal opportunity trout fishery in as much as the lake's bank anglers enjoy just as much success as visiting boaters.

All in all bank fishing for trout is a simple endeavor, but like other types of fishing it requires a selection of efficient good quality gear and a solid systematic strategy. I'll go out on a limb and assume that everyone reading this has a trout spinning rod or six so I won't burn time discussing the perfect rod, reel and line. Instead I'll cut right to rigs and baits...

Since trout spend most of their time holding near the bottom; that's the most effective zone for presenting your bait. The basic bait fishing set up is the sliding sinker rig. To construct sliding sinker rigs that meet a number of different situations and conditions you'll need a selection of trout size octopus hooks, weights, beads and swivels along with a with some fluorocarbon leader material.

Once you've gathered all the necessary components, putting together a rig is simple. The first step is to pass the line of your spinning rod through one of your sinkers going in from the narrow end

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Collins Lake—Continued from page 4

and out through the wide end. Next pass your line through a bead and then tie on a swivel using an improved clinch knot. The bead acts as a spacer between the weight and the swivel, protecting the integrity of the knot. To the other end of the swivel attach an 18 to 36 inch section of fluorocarbon leader with an improved clinch knot. The final step is to tie a hook to the end of the leader using a palomar knot.

There are several popular and productive baits and bait combinations for tempting trout at Collins, but the best baits all have one thing in common - they float up off the bottom. Trout will seldom pick a bait directly off the bottom. You want a bait that floats up and away from grass and debris, so that a cruising trout can find it easily.

Three decades ago, worms, salmon eggs and soft cheese were the kings as far as trout baits were concerned, and then it happened. Floating dough baits arrived on the scene and things haven't been the same since. Power-Bait and Zeke's Sierra Gold are the most popular and most effective of these putty like concoctions.

If you hit Collins Lake for a session of bank bait fishing this spring, you'll want to have a good assortment of both PowerBait and Zeke's Sierra Gold and of course don't forget your night crawlers and worm blower too!

[Read more from Cal here.....](#)



FOLSOM LAKE'S UNIQUE TROUT

(Continued from Feb. 2024 Newsletter)

Last month we shared a post from Tom Mailey regarding a research paper he obtained from the [Wild Salmon Center](#) on native steelhead runs that got stuck behind dams. We have decided to the full report for anyone that might be interested.

Anadromy Redux? Genetic Analysis to Inform Development of an Indigenous American River Steelhead Broodstock

The construction of dams and water diversions has severely limited access to spawning habitat for anadromous fishes. To mitigate for these impacts, hatchery programs rear and release millions of juvenile salmonids, including steelhead, the anadromous ecotype of the species *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. These programs sometimes use nonindigenous broodstock sources that may have negative effects on wild populations. In California, however, only one anadromous fish hatchery program currently uses nonnative broodstock: the steelhead program at Nimbus Fish Hatchery on the American River, a tributary of the Sacramento River in the California Central Valley. The goal of this study was to determine if potentially appropriate sources to replace the broodstock for the Nimbus Hatchery steelhead program exist in the Upper American River, above Nimbus and Folsom dams. We show that all Upper American River *O. mykiss* sampled share ancestry with other populations in the Central Valley steelhead distinct population segment, with limited introgression from out-of-basin sources in some areas. Furthermore, some Upper American River

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FOLSOM LAKE'S UNIQUE TROUT

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populations retain adaptive genomic variation associated with a migratory life history, supporting the hypothesis that these populations display adfluvial migratory behavior. Together, these results provide insights into the evolution of trout populations above barrier dams. We conclude that some Upper American River O. mykiss populations represent genetically appropriate sources from which fisheries managers could potentially develop a new broodstock for the Nimbus Hatchery steelhead program to reestablish a native anadromous population in the Lower American River and contribute to recovery of the threatened Central Valley steelhead distinct population segment. To access the entire report, [click here...](#)

CALIFORNIA BOATER SAFETY CARD

Do you need the boater Boater Card? As of January 1, 2023, all boaters 50 years of age or younger will be required to carry the Boater Card. All boaters regardless of age will be required to obtain the card by 2025. Follow this link to <https://www.boat-ed.com/california/> to get certified online.



KOKANEE POWER EVENTS



ROOSTER TAILS BAY HALIBUT & STRIPER TRIP MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

The Roostertails Fishing Club has chartered the **New Huck Finn** out of Emeryville for April 22, 2024 to fish San Francisco Bay for halibut and striped bass. The cost will be \$180 per person. You should arrive between 5 & 5:30am at the dock as the boat leaves at 6:00am. Rod and reel rentals, as well as tackle packs, will be purchased. Hopefully live bait will be available. Bring your own lunch and car pooling is advised with 3 per car to use the commuter lane on the way home. Contact Mike Walker 530-320-1750 with any questions.

RANCHO SECO TROUT DERBY

We wish to remind RTFC members the annual SMUD fishing derby will be held April 6 and 7, 2024. This is a two-day event. The entry fee is \$5 plus daily park entrance fee. First place prize for heaviest trout weighed in on day 1 and 2 of the Derby is a Adult fishing kayak (Ages 18+ only).

More information on this event can be found on smud.org/RanchoSeco.

ROOSTER TAILS CLUB BREAKFAST UPDATE

We've received a new six month's contract from the Elks Lodge for our breakfast meetings with an increase from \$19/person to \$21/person for breakfast. The Elks Lodge not only provides space for our meeting but also AV & sound systems and storage space for our equipment as well as unlimited coffee & tea. Costs for almost everything have gone up in the recent past.

The Rooster Tails Board has decided to cover the \$2.00 increase for the first three months of 2024 to make this adjustment easier on our members. Therefore the cost for breakfast at our meetings will remain \$19 for the March meeting. The Board will review this again and announce our decision.

ROOSTER TAILS FISHING CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES — DUE APRIL 15TH, 2024

Membership Renewal fees are due April 15th, 2024. The revised dues Application and Liability Waiver are attached and can be printed and mailed to the club's P.O. Box 7441, Auburn , Ca, 95604 or brought to the March breakfast meeting on March 15th at the Auburn Elks Lodge. You can also pick up a copy of the membership application at the March breakfast meeting. Family membership includes Spouse/Partner and up to 3 immediate family members, for a total of five (5). Immediate family includes adult sons & daughters, grand-children, aunts & uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc.

If you are a new member and you paid after Jan 1st 2024 you are paid up thru April 15, 2025. More information can be found on the membership form located on the Rooster Tails website ([click here to download and print a copy](#)). If you have any questions they can be emailed to info@roostertailsfishingclub.org. Individual membership is \$ 50 and Family membership is \$ 60. Thanks to all our continuing members for making this a great group.

MEMBER FISHING REPORTS

Ron Retzlaff jumped on the water in between rain in search of some stripers. He found them in the Port of Sacramento, 10 keepers and 13 shakers with five of the keepers being 23 to 25 inches. Berkely Dredgers and YoZuris worked best and the larger fish were taken on the YoZuris.

Most other members are sitting out the weather for now. Keep us posted on what you're doing by sending a message to info@roostertailsfishingclub.org.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS MONDAY

MARCH 11th , 2 PM

Rooster Tails Board of Directors currently consists of 7 members including Mike Walker, Steve Burgess, Dave Stallions, Bruce Hansen, Gregor Roschitsch, John Warren and Shawn Conlan. The next Board meeting is on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2pm at the Lyons Real Estate office, 1900 Grass Valley Highway, Suite 100. If you would like to join us as a guest at the meeting just drop in. The meetings normally take about an hour. We will have pizza at the meeting.

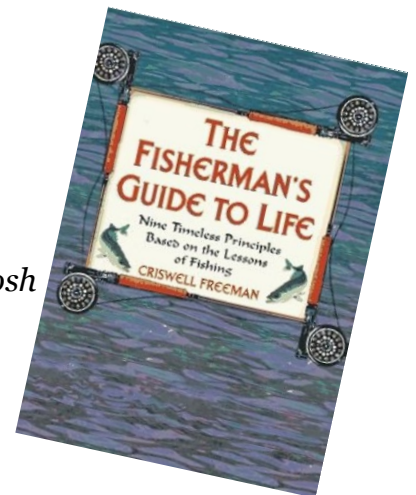
We also would be interested in hearing your feedback about our meetings, newsletter, and fishing reports. We strive to make this club as inclusive and responsive as we possibly can so, please let us know your thoughts by sending an email to info@roostertailsfishingclub.org

Rooster Tails Monthly Quote

From "The Fisherman's Guide to Life - Nine Timeless Principles Based on the Lessons of Fishing" by Criswell Freeman.

"Experience usually is what you get when you don't get what you want, but if there were no such thing as optimism, there wouldn't be any such thing as fishing."

Michael McIntosh



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