



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 8, Issue 4 — April 2018

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Spring Fishing Seminar by Fishing Extraordinaire Jack

- Third Generation Fishing Prodigy
- 35 years of Fishing Experience
- Known as 'Bass Jack'
- Expert Striped Bass Angler

Adventure Travel & Kokanee Tournament
August 8—9
Stampede Reservoir

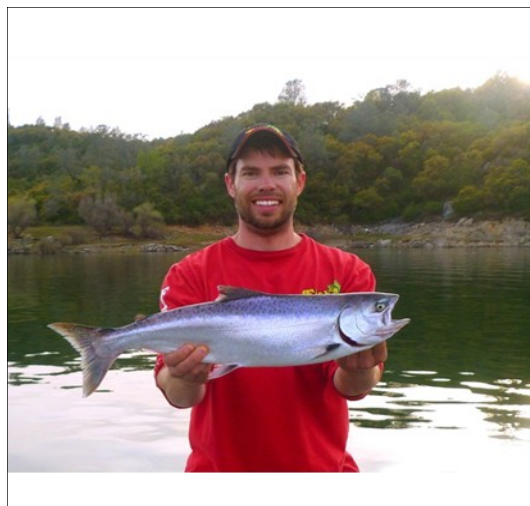
The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is proud to provide fisher men and women interested in improving their angling skills with the opportunity to hear a special seminar on spring fishing on Friday, April 20th by fishing extraordinaire Jack Naves. Jack is well known and respected by the fishing community for his expertise as a third generation fishing prodigy with over thirty-five years of fishing experience for a variety of species.

Jack is not a fishing guide and is not selling anything other than sharing his love and knowledge of fishing. His moniker is 'Bass Jack' for his reputation as an expert striped bass angler; however he is a noted winner of various fishing tournaments including Kokanee, trout, and land-locked salmon.

Jack's seminar will provide breakfast attendees with practical instructions on spring time fishing strategies, tackle, and locations for taking limits. Even experienced anglers will find Jack's special spring fishing seminar informative and will add to their fishing skills. His presentation will be streamed-live onto a huge wide screen television with multiple audio speakers throughout the room

so seminar attendees will be able to see and hear the information.

Reservations for the meeting and seminar are not required. However, breakfast attendees are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat and to speak to Jack one-on-one. In addition to hearing about fishing from Jack, Rooster Tail members will be sharing valuable current fishing condition information.



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Calendar of Events

April 20
RT Breakfast
'Bass Jack' Naves—speaker

May 18
RT Breakfast
Speaker—TBA

June 20
Charterboat Ocean Rockfish & maybe Salmon

April 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				

Spoons For The Fast Trolling Fraternity

By Cal Kellogg, *Fishing 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. 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 ¼ ounce version is my personal favorite. It's not too big for pan-size trout, but big enough to interest the big boys.



Acme Tackle Kastmaster

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. 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 than average trout on these minnow 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."



Thomas Lures Speedy Shiner

These days Speedy Shiners are offered in a couple different sizes and a wide array of colors. I got 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 than that, the number of strikes starts to slack-off.

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

I've been using **Krocodile spoons** for many years. I first started out using them while bank casting for planted in urban lakes. Now 25 years later I've used them from Alaska to Baja and many places in between for a variety of fresh and saltwater species. Krocodiles are stamped out of solid brass and are heavy for their sizes without sacrificing action. There is no denying that these spoons cast like a rifle bullet and that's why most people view Krocs as casting lures exclusively.

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Spoons For The Fast Trolling Fraternity

By Cal Kellogg, *Fishing Sniffer Magazine*—continued from page 2

Well I'm here to testify that Krocodiles are also very good trolling lures and work well at a range of speeds. I have the best success either No. 3 or No. 4 Krocs from 2.5 to 2.8 miles per hour. The No. 3 version is 2 1/8 inches long, while the No. 4 is 2 5/8". I've

caught trout at one time or another on just about every color of Krocodile available. The hammered finish ver-



Luhr Jensen Krocodile

sions are my favorites for a couple reasons. First I think those little dimples look just like the scales on baitfish. Second most spoons are smooth. Show the fish something just a bit different from the ordinary and your chances of a hook up often rise dramatically.

I became acquainted with **Slimfish spoons** when the folks at Johnson sent me a half dozen half-ounce samples to try. Being an outdoor writer is an awesome gig! The spoons are fairly thick and dense with a narrow profile and two unique little fins on the rear end. Up front they come with a quality swivel affixed. All you need to do is tie them to your leader and you're fishing. I'll admit that I didn't try using the spoons immediately, but when I did I loved what I saw and the fish loved them too! The spoon has a very erratic fluttering action, gliding and dipping through the water.



Johnson Slimfish

Slimfish are very well suited for fast trolling. My go-to speed for these lures is 2.8 to 4 miles per hour making them the prefect co-collaborator for use with Speedy Shiners. I've caught a lot of big rainbows on Slimfish. The chrome and blue version is my hands down favorite!

What you Need to Know about Landlocked King Salmon

At the top of the Pacific Coast's ocean food chain sets the Chinook salmon, better known as king salmon. These sleek open water predators spend their lives ambushing baitfish while cruising the shadowy depths of the ocean. Anglers have long loved pursuing kings due to their willingness to strike, their powerful fighting ability and the excellent table fare they provide either eaten fresh or smoked.

Over the years Chinook salmon have been planted in a large number of reservoirs across the northern half of the United States. As long as the lake in question provides cool water and ample baitfish kings have shown the ability to thrive in a wide range of geographic areas. **California kings are found in several notable lakes including Folsom, Shasta, Spaulding,, Almanor, Don Pedro, Berryessa and Trinity.** These lakes provide forage either in the form of threadfin shad or pond smelt and offer year around water temperatures in the Chinook's 50 to 56 degree comfort zone. In at least two of these lakes, Don Pedro and Folsom, kings have started to reproduce naturally by spawning in tributaries entering the lakes. In Folsom Lake, there are now a mixture of wild fish spawned in the South Fork of the American and fish planted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Despite the current muddy waters from recent rains and run-off, 2018 should be a good year for salmon fishing especially at Folsom, since addition to the naturally reproducing salmon, a decent number of the 99,990 Chinook fingerlings planted in 2014 and the 29,955 planted in 2015 should have grown upwards of the ten pound range.

The excellent angling opportunities kings provide, they are a sleeper species often overlooked by local anglers and that's too bad. Our landlocked kings offer all the thrills that ocean kings do only in a smaller package. Targeting landlocked kings should be a natural since the methods used are largely the same as those used in the ocean, only on a smaller scale. Successfully targeting landlocked kings requires a boat equipped with downriggers and a quality sonar unit capable of detecting schools of bait. Early in the spring when the surface temperature is still low, it is possible to find kings holding near the surface but once things begin to warm up they will drop down in the water column in order to remain in the cool water they prefer. Once a lake turns over and a thermocline develops targeting kings becomes fairly simple since they will become concentrated at the depth of the thermocline.

The key to catching kings is to finding them and pinpointing areas that both hold bait and fall within the salmon's preferred temperature range. A lot of anglers make the mistake of concluding that if they aren't marking large fish on their sonar unit, the area doesn't hold kings and that's often not the case. Kings often lead a more solitary lifestyle, so when searching for them it's wise to assume that if there is bait in the area... kings will be nearby.

Most mature landlocked kings average 2 to 5 pounds, but can range up to 10 pounds or more depending on the presence of large amounts of forage and adequate quality water. Kings are normally found in large expanses of open water, so it makes sense to utilize light gear and enjoy the fight when one is hooked.

Continued on page 4

Landlocked King Salmon—continued















As with ocean kings trolling and mooching are the two accepted ways of tempting landlocked kings. Trolling is the most popular method, but it is good to be prepared to mooch at times when the bite is slow and salmon are inactive. Trolling for kings is a pretty straightforward affair although there are some nuances that will help put more fish in the boat throughout the course of the season. Unlike trout, kings are not spooked by the downrigger weight, meaning that in most situations you can run your offering very near the ball. Many veteran king-anglers attach a large set of flashers directly to the weigh and run their lures just behind the flashers off a release attached a foot or so up cable to start-out with lures close to the weights than gradually let out more line until there is a hit.

As a final word about presentation, remember that salmon feed upward. This means that they look for prey they can attack from below and behind. If you are marking bait at 50 feet, run your lure slightly above that level to ensure it is above the feeding salmon. The basic trolling set-up consists of a small spoon, hoochie or fly fished behind a 4" to 6" dodger. Kings feed on baitfish and these offerings do a great job of imitating them. Start out with natural minnow colors before experimenting with bright stuff. The dodger is important because it puts out vibrations similar to those of a feeding fish, which can draw salmon in from a distance.

Many profession fishing guides rely on is trolling with rigged baitfish. In lakes where threadfin shad are the predominate forage this technique is known as "rolling shad". To accomplish this frozen shad are rigged in a special harness or attached to a special snelled-hook that causes them to rotate through the water when trolled at a slow speed. Rolling shad can be deadly effective when lures and flies draw a complete blank.

Mooching for kings simply refers to drifting with baits hanging at specific distances beneath the boat. Mooching is most effective when the kings are spooky or inactive because it keeps the bait in the strike zone for a maximum amount of time while creating minimal disturbance. Shad minnows, anchovy fillets or tails and night crawlers rigged 18 inches below a large split shot or egg sinker are the most widely used offerings. A king bite is signaled by light tapping. When a bite is registered don't pick up the rod. Kings will often mouth the bait for an extended period of time before committing. When the rod loads up and begins to pulse the salmon is hooked and it's time to begin reeling.

Jackpot Contest

2018 2017		JACKPOT CONTEST				
		LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	17 1/2"	26.7oz	WHISKEY TOWN	8-5	BEV MIERKEY
	Landlocked Salmon	21"	31.4oz	DON PEDRO	4-28	SHAWN CONLAN
	River or Ocean King Salmon	39"	22.6oz	SACTO RIVER	10-11	SHAWN CONLAN
	Striped Bass	34 1/2"		FEATHER RIVER	4-25	TOM HYDE
	Rainbow Trout	20"		FOLSOM LAKE	3-5	J. LAMPKIN
	Brown Trout	17 1/2"		NORITA FORK AR	5-15	SHAWN CONLAN
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	9.67oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	23 1/2"		DONNER LAKE	6-23	SHAWN CONLAN
	Large Mouth Bass	23"	6 lbs	L.O.P	7-2	RUSS WILLIAMS
	Small Mouth Bass	19 1/2"	4.25 lbs	BERRYESSA	2-15	RIK COX
	Coffish	28 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-18	MEL EWING
	Shad	19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
	Crappie	16 1/4"		CAMANCHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
	Sturgeon	34"		SACTO DELTA	11-18	MEL TAKAHASHI

2017 entries in red — 2018 entries in black

RAINBOW TROUT, **Jerry Lampkin**, 20", Folsom Lake, 3/5/18

STEELHEAD, **Peter Zittere**, 27 1/2", 9 lbs. 7 oz., American River, 1/17/18

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Mack McKendree**, 12 1/2", Camanche Lake, 2/1/18

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 19 1/2", 4.25 lbs., Lake Berryessa, 2/15/18

Members Camanche Trout Tournament

To say that the Members Camanche Lake Trout Tournament was a challenge for the participants would be an understatement... adding to the usual issues of trying to catch contest winning fish, on the day of tournament, the wind howled, it poured torrential rain, and the lake was inundated with white-caped waves. Our hats are off to those that did their best to fish in these less than tolerable conditions. Despite the inclement weather some very nice trout were caught. The general consensus for the future is to move our annual Members-only Tournament to April with hopes that the weather will be more hospitable.

Congratulations to the winners:

Mel, 1st place, 13.25 lbs.

Eric, 2nd place, 8.25 lbs.

Gregor, 3rd place, 3.39 lbs.

Shawn, 4th place, 2.96 lbs.

