



July 2022 Rooster Tails Newsletter

Message from the Board of Directors

Fellow Rooster Tails:

Our club continues in the swing of life. Many of you are making it out on the water in spite of all the chaos the world is experiencing. Read some of the fishing reports below members have sent in. If you have ever considered an Alaskan Fishing experience check out Bruce Hansen's report on his recent trip.

Our guest speaker for the July 15 monthly meeting will be **Alan Fong of Fisherman's Warehouse**. He will be speaking on fishing for LandLocked Kings and Kokanee. Bring a friend and join us for breakfast.

We have a report on the first annual Mel Ewing Kokanee Tournament below . The winners will be awarded their prize money at Friday's meeting.

Ongoing registration for the Jackpot contest, our raffle ticket sales and "for sale" table are in full swing mode. We still need help on the Board of Directors so if interested please let us know. See you at next Friday's breakfast meeting at the Auburn Elks Lodge. Doors open at 7am, breakfast at 8am, speaker at 9am and the raffle will be after the speaker.

Thank You and we look forward to seeing you Friday!

CLUB UPDATES

- 18 Members have signed up for this year's Jackpot Contest and as of Monday five fish been entered. See below for pictures. If you would like to participate in the Jackpot contest, sign up at Friday meeting or contact Ed Pigeon at 707-480-3326 or edpigeon@yahoo.com.
- A For Sale table will be set up in the back for members to sell off unwanted fishing gear.
- Keep an eye out for details on our Annual Turkey Tournament this November.
- Rooster Tails Board of Directors Meeting August 15.
- Rooster Tails Monthly Breakfast Meeting August 19.
- The Board has received many positive comments about last months speaker, Craig Newton of Will Fish Tackle. The tips on Kokanee fishing as well as launch etiquette was deeply appreciated. See, you can teach an old dog new tips! Thanks Craig!

First Annual Mel Ewing Kokanee Tournament

by Mike Walker

The first annual Mel Ewing Kokanee Tournament was held on June 25, 2022 at Bullard's Bar. Fifteen members signed up for the members only event. Some launched at the Marina and others at the Dark Day launch ramp. Boats covered many spots all over the lake. Not all fish caught were weighed in. Most fish were caught on down riggers at 30 to 70 feet. Six members weighed in their ten fish limit of Kokanee. The winning limit was caught by Tom Hamada at 7.04 pounds, Second place was Razz Ortiz at 6.6 pounds, 3rd and 4th place came in at 6.12 pounds each caught by Mike Steer and Mike Bashore. The 1st place payout was \$200, 2nd place was \$150, 3rd and 4th place each received \$75. The weigh in was held at the Dark Day parking area and staffed by Ed Pigeon, Gregor Roschitsch, and Mike Walker. We anticipate another tournament in 2023.

Will Fish Tackle Report by Craig Newton



7/9/2022

Good weather has resulted in good fishing in lots of places. Ocean Salmon and Rockfish bites are wide open. Kokanee, trout, and landlock kings are biting at many local lakes. Water temperatures are on the rise, pushing coldwater species lower in the water column. Black bass are in their post spawn mode and

getting after baitfish schools. Get out and enjoy the water while lake levels are up and ramps are in the water.

BULLARDS BAR: Dark Day and the ramp at the dam are open. Kokanee are being caught at 35 to 70 feet on the wire. Mill Creek and Willow Creek areas are producing along with School House and Garden Point. Simple presentations of pink and orange dodger/hoochie or spinner combos is doing the trick. Limits are the rule for those who find the fish.

COLLINS LAKE: Collins continues to produce trophy rainbows for those willing to troll a little deeper. Bank anglers soaking powerbait are doing well also. The Bass and Crappie bite will be the focus as the water temperatures continue to rise.

DELTA: Striped Bass fishing continues to be good with trollers getting multiple hook ups on deep diving yo-zuri crystal minnows. June is usually when we see a slow down for Delta stripers but that has not been the case this year. Fishing has continued to be good into July with no end in sight yet.

ENGLEBRIGHT: Trout fishing is good at Englebright with a few healthy Kokanee in the mix if you can find them. Kokanee that make their way down from Bullards Bar do very well in Englebright. The water quality is good and fishing for hold over rainbows is a good option. Dodger worm combos and long line rapalas work well early and late for trout..

FOLSOM LAKE: King and Trout action continues to be good with kings up to 10lbs being landed. The bite has shifted from pond smelt to the larger shad. Schools of shad are being reported in the main body from the dam to Brown's

Ravine. Kings and rainbows are being caught trolling speedy shiners at the dam and up to the south fork. Dodgers with rolled shad are working as well. Bass action continues to be good as Folsom fish are feeding after the spawn.

FRENCH MEADOWS: Mostly browns are falling to gold and red lures along the shoreline early in the day. Crawdads are in short supply this year so the fish are focusing on worms and rapalas.

HELLHOLE: Great fishing for browns and mackinaw has continued. The kokanee fishing has improved with fish ranging from 12-15". Roads from Foresthill and Georgetown are open and passable.

OROVILLE LAKE: There are sparse reports of Kings being caught on the slow troll of dodger/hoochie combos. Biggest fish are in the 5lb class. Bass fishermen continue to do well on spots with 30 fish days being common. Most ramps are open for launching.

OCEAN SALMON: Wide open salmon fishing when weather permits. All baits are working with anchovy being best. The grade of fish has been very good with many fish over 30lbs being landed. One charter landed a 44 and a 50+ pound fish on one trip.

PYRAMID LAKE: The end of the season saw the lake continue to produce quality fish. the last week produced personal best for a few customers including a 18.5lb pilot peak. The October 1st opening is on my calendar!

SACRAMENTO METRO: Salmon fishing in the river opens on the 16th of July but there has not been much excitement around the opener. Low, warm water is likely to keep the fish out of the system. Those fish that do come in will be on a mission to get to cold water in the upper stretches of the Sacramento, Feather, and American.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY: The bay continues to produce good numbers of keeper halibut. Live bait is the rule but trollers are getting their share as well. Berkley flats and the channel east of Treasure Island are the hot spots this week.



Fishing Trip to Petersburg, Alaska by Bruce Hansen

Between June 17- 24, four of us (Eric Liske, Peter Vogt, Heinz Klose and Bruce Hansen) made a trip to a lodge in Petersburg, S.E. Alaska to fish for Halibut and King Salmon. We stayed at the Green Rocks Lodge, which included a cabin for the four of us with two bedrooms, bathroom, and small refrigerator. Green Rocks Lodge is like many of the lodges in the Petersburg area which provide three meals a day (breakfast, dinner, sandwiches for lunch) with no guides. Eighteen and twenty foot aluminum boats with 50-60 HP outboards are included as well as rods, reels, tackle and bait although this varies and some folks bring their own rods and reels.

In preparing for the trip we contacted Alaska Airlines beginning in November. After talking with several agents we were told that during New Years and Super Bowl celebrations guys got together and someone mentions they are planning a fishing trip to Alaska and several buddies are inspired to join them and ticket prices then increase dramatically and become unavailable.

Leaving from the Sacramento airport early Friday morning, we flew to Seattle, then Juneau and finally the small airport at Petersburg and spent the night at the Tides Inn. Saturday morning a van from the lodge picked us up and we stopped briefly for some groceries and supplies and then to a nearby landing and made a short trip by boat to the lodge.

We enjoyed great weather by Alaska standards. We had several very sunny days, lots of low hanging clouds and drizzle and very little heavy rainfall. The boats were equipped with a depth/fish finder and navigation chip, radio, a harpoon for bringing in large Halibut, gaff hook and net. We rented two boats, both covered, and found some variation with the electronics, outboards and gear. We were happy we paid the extra amount for the covered boats, as the weather is so unpredictable and we avoided getting soaked some days and protected from the sun on other days.

We discussed our plans for fishing each day based on our conversations over dinner and breakfast with advice from the lodge owners, fishing reports from other guests, and advice we heard in advance from folks who had recently visited neighboring lodges in the area.

We decided that we would primarily target Halibut fishing, and then King Salmon, and the limit in our specific area was two of each fish per day. The week prior to our visit there were very dramatic changes between high and low tides, with a difference of 20-22 feet! These fluctuations settled down a bit, but the tides and currents played a primary role in our fishing plans, as we were fishing narrows and straights which formed elaborate inland passages in protected waters from the open ocean. We were somewhat disappointed by the salmon fishing as we had planned the trip to coincide with the beginning of the King run. Of the twenty folks at the lodge there were only a few folks who caught their limit on a given day, only to be skunked using the same techniques the next several days. We caught a total of four Kings during our stay, primarily trolling with Herring. Several folks made trips to the Petersburg Harbor and jigged for Herring, and then put them in a brine solution which did help preserve them. We soaked our frozen Herring bait in

a similar solution. We would spot schools of salmon in the narrows we fished, and in places they were stacked up, but there were very few bites even when we trolled through these areas repeatedly. There appeared to be quite divergent opinions among lodge guests about the best techniques, locations, trolling speed and timing of the tides, although to many of us the results appeared quite random.

Halibut fishing definitely was best in the period two hours before and after a tide change, with slack tide being the best. There were long periods of no action, and then the currents or tide would make minor changes and they would start to bite. On several days we all limited, and one day none of us caught anything. The average size was 15-25 pounds and the best eating fish are probably no more than 35-40 pounds. Heinz came in with the biggest fish at 92 pounds and we were quite surprised by its size when it surfaced and had quite a time hauling it in over the transom in a net. We each came home with a box of around 45 pounds of fish, primarily Halibut.

It was the first trip fishing in this manner for several of us, and there was definitely a learning curve involved in picking the best locations, navigating the tides and currents and learning fishing techniques. The overall experience of spending 5 1/2 days fishing with good friends in such a beautiful place was a memorable experience and a trip we hope to make again.

Bruce Hansen

Editors Note: Due to technical issues, photos were not able to be added by press time. Stay tuned to future Newsletters for images of Bruce's trip.

More Fishing Reports from Members

From Steve Linheim:

Kokanee fishing at **Stampede** has been very good these days. It's a very beautiful lake and would make a great outing. Go early as the wind kicks up around 11am. The fish have been 14-16 inches

From Shawn Conlan:

Stampede

June 23-25th. I fished Stampede for 3 days in June and it was red hot for Kokanee. Found a big school of fish behind the island in 35-50 ' of water and out of the main fleet. Green wedding ring or pink micro hoochie behind a bent teardrop flasher at 1.1 mph. Also, fished for trout with lead core and speedy shiners at 2.8 -3 mph , 5 colors and caught several Kokanee. Fish were averaging 14-15 inches.

Folsom

I fished from Rattlesnake bar ramp up the river arm and caught 2 nice bass with speedy shiners. Could not find the trout in the North Arm of the lake.

Jackpot Entries as of 7/11/2022

Trudy Liske - Rainbow Trout,
23", 6.3#, Collins Lake



Trudy Liske - Catfish, 25.5",
5.9#, Lake Camanche



Yvette Meador - Rainbow Trout,
21.5", 5#, Collins Lake



Bev Mierkey - Landlocked
Salmon, 20", 3# & Rainbow
Trout, 23.5", 3.73 #, Lake
Oroville.



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