



February 2024 Rooster Tails Newsletter

Message from the Board of Directors

Happy New Year Rooster Tails!

We are writing this as the rain continues to pour down. We hope this finds you dry and warm and anticipating being out on the water with the weather settles down.

Our February speaker is Hilary Glenn of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She will be filling us in on the administrations work on endangered species and other general efforts. See below for more information.

Membership renewals will start in March and be 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.

The club needs a new membership chairperson on the Board of Directors. If you can use MS Excel and would like to help the club keep track of the membership, we could use your help. Come to the next board meeting Feb 12th or call Shawn for the details 831-320-3671.

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 - February 12, 2pm, at Lyons Real Estate office (near Mel's Dinner in Auburn). Free pizza provided.
- Rooster Tails Monthly Breakfast Meeting - February 16 - Auburn Elks Lodge See below for information on the speaker from NOAA
- Kokanee Power Fundraising Dinner - March 9 (see below)
- Rancho Seco Trout Derby - April 6-7 (see below)

FEBRUARY SPEAKER — Hilary Glenn—Fisheries Biologist West Coast Region - NOAA Fisheries

Hilary is a Fisheries Biologist for the West Coast Region of NOAA Fisheries. She is recovering threatened and endangered species through a large-scale restoration project on the San Joaquin River. She is an Education and Outreach Coordinator and seeks to bring a salmon culture to the Central Valley of California through collaborative projects and partnerships. Hilary graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a B.S. in Marine Biology and Louisiana State University with an M.S. in Oceanography. Hilary has two young children, loves to be outdoors with her family, reads books by Brandon Sanderson, and is mostly winging it but enjoying herself in the kitchen.

Hilary will be covering some basics about [NOAA](#) and [NOAA Fisheries](#) and then lead into an overview of what NOAA does in the Central Valley.

We hope you will join us.

KOKANEEMART.COM FISHING REPORT

by Craig Newton



02/04/2024

I want to start this report with a sincere thank you to the Rooster Tails Fishing Club for their continued support during a challenging time for the Will Fish Tackle family. The decision to close our retail outlet was a difficult one. We appreciate the support the RTFC has shown us over the past six years and the continued well wishes in our upcoming endeavors. This means the world to us and we will always hold your well wishes close to our hearts.

Enough of that... let's talk fishing!

With winter in full swing, water conditions are very fluid, pun intended. Storm runoff will be an important factor to consider as you get out on the water in the near future.

BULLARDS BAR: For those who are making the effort, Kokanee are cooperating. Fish are in the typical spots with no large concentrations. This time of year it is not uncommon to catch fish from the surface down to 60' on the downriggers. Cycle through the colors and depths until you find a pattern that works. I always start with pink and orange there then start the progression through the colors and depths if the go-to presentations aren't producing.

CAMANACHE: The lake continues to fish well for the planted rainbows there. Cooler water dictates a slower presentation with naked grubs in pearl, chartreuse, and firetiger working. Jointed Rapalas in hot steel and brook trout patterns are working as well. Crappie are just around the corner at Camanche and can be a lot of fun. (pictured *The authors daughter with a nice Black Crappie from Camanche*)



ENGLEBRIGHT: Some very nice rainbows have hit the bottom of the net recently. Slow trolling dodger/nightcrawler combinations and J7 Rapalas are doing the job there. Fish the top to 25' for the best results. If you have some side planners, don't hesitate to give those a go.

FOLSOM LAKE: The last few weeks have been productive by Folsom standards. Lots of Kings have been landed in the 13-16" class. A good sign for things to come. A few nice hold over rainbows have made it over the rail as well. Slow trolling glow dodgers and GVF Pina Colada spin bugs tipped with a chunk of anchovy has been the top producer. Pearl hoochies behind the same dodger has also been working. Depths range from 25 -60' on the downriggers with most fish coming in the 30-40' range.

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 Camanche will work here. Bait fishing might be the way to go if water clarity is hampered by storm runoff. Pardee is set to open soon and it often fishes well the first few weeks so keep that spot in mind.

DELTA STRIPPERS: Bait fishing is the best bet to get a few stripers in the delta now days. With high water from reservoir releases and storm runoff the delta is going to be tricky for a while. Cut bait like sardines, butterflied whole shad and anchovies will be the best offerings once the system settles back into a more stable pattern.

KOKANEEMART.COM FISHING REPORT

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PYRAMID LAKE: Winter fishing at Pyramid is all about the conditions. Getting over the summit with a boat in tow can be the biggest hurdle to success this time of year. When conditions are good, the fishing has been good to great. This is the time to slow things down and try your big Flatfish and Maglips. Fish are in shallower water and closer to the surface.

TIGHT LINES!



THE TRUE CAST MAKE 2024 A YEAR TO “ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE”

by Kirk Deeter, Trout Unlimited

(This article was taken from Trout Unlimited website. Read the full article [here.](#))

We live in a cynical world.

Probably more cynical, these days, than when Tom Cruise first uttered that line in the motion picture “Jerry Maguire” nearly 30 years ago.

I’m not going to talk about politics, because that disgusts me too much.

I wonder, however, where the tipping point was that turned everything from honoring things like virtue and honor and truth... to “what’s in it for me?” and “who’s out to get me?” and “we stink less than they do” as the bases to appeal to mass audiences.

I am truly saddened, sometimes, to see so much media rooted in criticism, cutting people down, and so forth, rather than looking at the good. We should appreciate good more. Because there’s plenty of good in this world.

That’s especially true when it comes to something that might seem as trivial as fishing. Fishing can and should be a haven of good in a turbulent world. Fishing can and should bring out the best in people.



[Read the rest of the article here....](#)

THE BEST TROUT FISHING PLACES IN AMERICA

THE TRUE CAST

by Kirk Deeter - Trout Unlimited

So, what are the best trout fishing places in America? They are the ones that you appreciate most, often times for reasons other than how many fish you catch.

Here's my list:

- Wherever I'm fishing at the time.
- The place where I learned to fish.
- The trout river closest to my home now.
- The place where my family likes to fish with me.
- The river where I meet my friends.
- The lake where I can fish and throw a stick for my dog.
- The stretch of river so familiar, I could almost row it blindfolded.
- The place where I see moose, deer, bears, eagles and others that share their water with me.
- The place where the drakes hatch, and every fish on the river feeds off the surface.
- The place where I teach others to fish.

What does your list look like?

[Read the full article here....](#)



FOLSOM LAKE'S UNIQUE TROUT

For those who are avid anglers on Folsom Lake and follow the Folsom Lake Fishing Report Facebook page, you are probably familiar with Tom Mailey. Tom is often on the lake and is one of those who is willing to share information. We have obtained permission from Tom to share a recent post of his regarding a strain of trout that appears to be specific to the lake. Thanks to Tom for sharing and we hope you enjoy the read.....

So, for a long time I, like most of you, have believed that there is a strain of rainbow trout in Folsom lake that are basically the genetic ancestors of the steelhead that got caught behind the dam when it went up. Most of us have caught fish that just look a little different- sleeker, more chrome-y and certainly better fighters than run-of-the-mill planters. But, I didn't know for sure, and wanted to see if I could find out so I wasn't just talking out of my axx about something that wasn't true.

I contacted the [Wild Salmon Center](#) in Portland Oregon (an amazing group of salmon and steelhead conservationists). I thought that maybe they'd have done some research into native steelhead runs that got stuck behind dams on the west coast, but that was a complete guess. I certainly wasn't expecting anything back specifically about Folsom, at all, even though I explained to them why I was writing (which included details like the theory that the reason we only seem to consistently catch these apparently unique rainbow for a few short months, usually in spring and early summer, is because they treat Folsom like a de facto ocean, and only visit temporarily, to fatten up before being genetically compelled to swim back into the river arms to hold and spawn the rest of the year).

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FOLSOM LAKE'S UNIQUE TROUT

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Like I said, I wasn't really expecting any sort of reply that would address this, if I got one back at all. But I did get one, and quickly too! I'm sharing 2 screen shots of the reply and I think it's fascinating. Not only did the person replying know about our lake, she was part of a study of the exact fish I was asking about! Maybe some of you had heard about their research, and so this may not come as a surprise. But it sure did to me, and I think it underscores just how interesting and special Folsom's fishery is...as maddening as it can be sometimes. Hope you find this useful !

Hi Tom,

My name is Tasha Thompson, and I'm a geneticist with the Wild Salmon Center. I did my doctoral work at UC Davis, so had the opportunity to spend a bit of time in the Central Valley. Thanks for reaching out. Those are some excellent and insightful questions!

Your intuition that there is a native strain present above the dam is spot-on. While there are hatchery planters too, they don't appear to have interbred extensively with the native fish that were trapped above the dams.

Historically before the dams, the native rainbows and steelhead were very likely a single interbreeding population (with steelhead parents producing some offspring that would choose to stay in the river as rainbows, and vice versa). There are genes that influence whether a fish becomes either a steelhead or a rainbow, and research has shown that the native strain in the upper American has retained both the genes associated with being a rainbow and the genes associated with becoming a steelhead. They've likely been able to retain the steelhead genes because some of them migrate to Folsom lake and use it as a kind of "micro-ocean" (fish that migrate from a stream to a lake to utilize the feeding and growth opportunities there are called "adfluvial"). If the lake and the dam weren't there, those adfluvial fish would probably be the ones continuing on to the ocean to become steelhead.

The study that discovered this was actually looking at whether the above-dam population would be a reasonable source-stock to replace the current Nimbus hatchery steelhead stock, which isn't considered to be a native Central Valley stock due to heavy past inclusion of Eel and Mad River steelhead in the broodstock.

The genetics studies all used fish caught above the lake rather than right in the lake, so it doesn't definitively answer whether the big, sleek, chrome-y fish you observe in Folsom are in fact the native adfluvial fish. However, I'd say that is most likely the case. The appearance sounds consistent with what you'd expect from native adfluvials. Also, in my years as a geneticist I've found that fishermen and others who love and spend a lot of time interacting with fish often have great intuition for distinguishing different strains or groups.

I've attached one of the scientific papers looking at American River rainbow genetics. It's dense, but you may find it interesting.

Thanks again for reaching out.
Best,
Tasha

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 ANNUAL DINNER



RANCHO SECO TROUT DERBY

Just a note to 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.

MEMBER FISHING REPORTS



Scott Miller, caught this 20 inch rainbow on 1/30/24 at Englebright Lake with a Cop Car spinner down 2 colors of lead-core. He also caught 1 12 inch rainbow.



We didn't get Scott's report until after the email was sent so we are adding it here. We would like to include your report and pictures of your trips to the water. Please send them to info@roostertailsfishingclub.org so next time there won't be a blank!

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS MONDAY FEBRUARY 12th , 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.

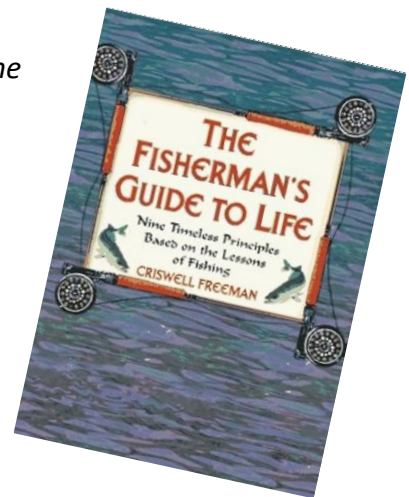
We also would be interested in hearing your feedback about our meetings, newsletter, and fishing reports. We strive to make this club as inclusive and responsive as we possibly can so, please let us know your thoughts by sending an email to info@roostertailsfishingclub.org

Rooster Tails Monthly Quote

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

"It is difficult to talk to people who are not particularly interested in the value of a river."

Zane Grey



Rooster Tails Fishing Club Inc

P.O. Box 7441

Auburn, ca 95604

www.roostertailsfishingclub.org