



# The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 7, Issue 8 — August 2017

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.  
 PO Box 7441  
 Auburn, CA 95604  
 530-887-0479  
[www.roostertailsfishingclub.org](http://www.roostertailsfishingclub.org)

**Rooster Tails Fishing Club**  
**Table-Top Fishing Gear Swap Meet — Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**SALES TIPS for SELLING YOUR GEAR!**  
 More information at [www.roostertailsfishingclub.org](http://www.roostertailsfishingclub.org)  
 Click on the Swap Meet Flyer

## Swap Meet Highlights:

- Open 6:30-11:00 a.m.
- Buy, Sell, Trade, Fun!
- Extra Gear into \$\$\$\$
- Display Ads in WON
- PR's in 34 Newspapers
- On KAHI's Swap Shop
- On RT Web Site
- Open to Public
- Share Display Tables
- Keep All Proceeds

*Support your fishing club by being at this special August 18 Breakfast!*

## Do's:

1. Do an inventory to decide items you are most interested in selling at a current market price.
2. Do clean, polish, show-case these special items and prominently display them.
3. Do determine in advance and price-mark each item, but keep a record of the minimum price you are willing to accept. It is important to work this out in advance to stick to your numbers.
4. Do introduce yourself to a potential buyer, wear your name badge and be prepared to talk about your items for sale. Be a friend, establish rapport, above all SMILE!
5. Do offer secondary choices as alternatives to premiere items you are selling.
6. Do accept the fact that this is a swap meet and people are looking for deals. Be prepared to bargain with a minimum sales price in mind.
7. Do act like a merchant and not a panhandler. Be professional and don't be offended by low-ballers. In today's economy, most buyers will test the waters to see how desperate you are to sell. Be dignified yet willing to consider reasonable offers.
8. Do offer a firm and sincere handshake to a potential buyer.
9. Do acknowledge on-lookers and talk to them as well as the potential buyer in front of you.
10. Do realize that a sale may be made when not at your display table. Be sure your potential buyer can find you. If you leave your table be sure to leave a prominent visible note with your name and cell phone or when you will be back at your table. *(continued on page 4)*

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## Calendar of Events

**August 18**  
 Rooster Tails Breakfast  
 Annual Table Top Swap Meet

**September 15**  
 Rooster Tails Breakfast  
 Professional Guide Cliff Spediacci

**September 18 -21**  
 RT Camping & Fishing Adventure  
 Travel Trip—Eagle Lake

## August 2017

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		

## Farmers Almanac on Fishing

As good as most fishing authorities are and fellow anglers dispensing their fishing advice, the Old Farmer's Almanac founded in 1792 (*no that's not a typo*) has aided anglers all over our nation. The Farmer's Almanac's general fishing advice is no surprise to many of us, but worth noting anyhow...

The best times to fish are when the fish are naturally most active. The Sun, Moon, tides, and weather all influence fish activity. For example, fish tend to feed more at sunrise and sunset. Fishing is best during the time between a new moon and a full moon. However, most of us go fishing when we can get away from the daily demands of life, not because it is the best time! But there are best days and times to go fishing, according to the Almanac's fishing lore here they are:

### Best Fishing Days Remaining in 2017

- July 23 – August 7
- August 21 – September 6
- September 20 – October 5
- October 19 – November 4
- November 18 – December 3
- December 18 – 31

### Best Fishing Times:

- One hour before and one hour after high tides, and one hour before and one hour after low tides. Inland, the times for high tides correspond with the times when the Moon is due south. Low tides are halfway between high tides.
- During the "morning rise" (after sun-up for a spell) and the "evening rise" (just before sun-down and the hour or so after).
- When the barometer is steady or on the rise. (But even during stormy periods, the fish aren't going to give up feeding.)
- When the breeze is from a westerly quarter rather than from the north or east.
- When the water is still or rippled by a slight wind.

### Catfishing Tips from Farmer's Almanac Readers:

- "The best way to go catfishing with chicken liver is to let it sit a while in the good summer sun, then sprinkle a little garlic powder and a little chili powder on it. This combination makes the liver pasty and it will stay on your triple or single hook with little to no problem. I do offer a warning, that 'pow' you will feel on your line is going to be one big monster catfish, so get ready and have some good catfishing fun." – *Ramiro Vela*



*"All Men are Equal before Fish" - President Herbert Hoover*

-hangs. Gravel pits and large farm ponds are a great places to fish for cats." – *Todd Heil*

- "A really good bait I have found is hot dogs made with chicken meat. Cut them into one-inch pieces and set them in the sun to 'dry up'. When they are 'dried', they will stay on the hook better. You can put them in a bag in the freezer to keep. Catfish will bite this bait." – *Jean Cannon*
- "To find the really big cats, it would help out if you knew the underwater structure of the pond, river or lake. Find DEEP holes with lots of cover as in overhangs. Gravel pits and large farm ponds are a great places to fish for cats." – *Todd Heil*
- "The best catfish bait that I have found fishing for catfish anywhere bar none is shrimp, yeah it's a little costly but let me tell ya somethin' friend, its worth it." – *Chuck Hubbard Jr.*
- "I am Blackfoot American Native. We live to fish and hunt our meals. A true hint in catfishing is never to use any type of scents (Cologne, powders, perfume, etc.) Don't handle cigarettes or any type of tobacco products without washing your hands before applying baits, hooks, sinkers, new line, etc. The fish know these things." – *Tommy Bays*
- "The absolute best way I know to keep your liver bait on your hook while catfishing is: Buy 1 or 2 old plastic ice trays. Go ahead and bait your hook the best you can. I use a "threading" action. Place the hook and liver into the ice tray and let it freeze throughout the night before you go fishing. When you are ready to go fishing, just twist the old ice trays and take the liver cubes and pack them in a bag and put them in a container of ice." – *Chris Payne*
- "In Kentucky where I live we use bait-store crickets and meal worms floated with a bobber. Put three or four crickets and a couple of meal worms on a hook and hold on! You have to try different depths until you find the fish. Once you find them you can have a lot of fun catching all sizes. I have caught them from squeakers to 62 pounds on this bait, so good luck!" – *Kenny Conley*
- "I'm 68 years old and fish every chance I get. My daddy always told me to watch the cows. If they are up and eating, go fishing. If they are down resting, you might as well stay home. So far this has worked pretty well." – *Edna James*
- "The best bait I have used here in Bradenton, Fla. is hunks of fresh fish, the fattier the better, that has never been frozen. Catch them late afternoon or at night. You will catch them as long as your leg. Good Luck!" – *Bill Suggs*
- "Try it all, love the outdoors and keep your bait in the water. You won't catch anything if you aren't out there!" – *Jody Wolf*

## Basics for Night Fishing from a Boat

As the doldrums of summer-heat bathes Northern California, an alternative that can be a real change of pace and a fun fishing adventure is to go night fishing. With a little planning and attention to safety it is a great way to beat the heat. Double your night fishing fun by organizing a few Rooster Tail fishing buddies and set-out on local waters for a great time. Be sure to check the CA DF&W regulations for restrictions prohibiting night fishing on certain waters.

Also, some water impoundments are controlled by concessionaires that may not allow night fishing. Many waters only allow fishing an hour before sunrise and an hour before sunset, but many do not.

### Night Fishing Safety Checklist:

- Although a 'no brainer', be sure your boat is properly prepared for a night fishing trip including a full tank of gas, extra rope, two or more interior light sources, working navigation lights, charged engine battery, first aid and other safety equipment including PFDs. Always be sure to start and run your main engine and trolling motor before leaving home.
- Night fishing is more productive and safer when fishing locations are scouted-out during daylight hours making note of landmarks and GPS settings. Pay special attention to any water hazards, piers, islands, and other obstructions only visible during daylight hours. Also use your GPS to mark waypoints for the launch ramp and likely spots to fish.
- It is wise to bring a fishing buddy along on the trip and leaving a 'floatation plan' with someone at home as well as one in your tow vehicle. The plan should specify departure and expected return to home times.
- Fishing electronics on-board are important for a successful and safe night fishing. Pay particular attention to depth alarm settings to prevent running aground. Never run the boat 'full out' even on familiar water.
- When launching your boat for night fishing make a conscious decision of which dock or ramp to use, which side to dock, check water depth, and what landmarks surround the dock area. It will look completely different when it is dark.
- Be sure to bring a handheld floodlight! They are inexpensive and good insurance for trailering your boat and identifying hazards and other boats. Also, have at least two other light sources on board with back-up batteries.
- Bring the appropriate anchor and enough anchor rope-length for the waters you will be fishing. If you are river



*It's a different game on the water when the sun goes down.*

fishing and there is boat traffic, be sure to attach a buoy marker to the anchor line (a large orange painted milk jug works).

- All boat occupants on board must wear a personal floatation device (PFD) no matter their swimming ability. Going overboard at night puts all on-board at risk, especially when attempting to rescue a person.
- Bring a cell phone and VHF marine radio to stay in touch with other boats and to summon help should it be needed. Bring a list of phone numbers for emergency contingencies.

### Adapting to No Light

In typical daylight fishing, anglers are accustomed to seeing what they're doing and watching the line or the lure, but this is seldom possible at night. You can use black lights that make it possible to watch fluorescent lines very well, but although this was a popular monofilament line several decades ago, few anglers use this type of line, today. For the most part, intuition and a feel for your tackle become more important at night than in the daylight. This makes it advantageous to use a sensitive rod and line. However ultralight tackle may not be the best choice for a prowling night-lunker that hits.

Obviously, your vision is better on nights with moonlight than on dark or overcast nights, and there can be much debate over whether bright nights are better for fishing than dark nights. Keeping the use of external-source lights to a minimum is a good idea for some types of fishing, although it is unnecessary for others.

It is also well known that locations prone to receiving light (docks, piers, bridges, marinas, etc.) may attract small fish and thus larger predators. Even if you have great intuition and a natural feel for your tackle, a LED cap-light is a proper accessory for night fishing, since it frees both hands and issues only a small amount of light.

### Tips for Night Fishing

Without any external light source, it takes some adjustment to acclimate to night fishing and to seeing in the blackness. It's smart to keep a couple of daylight-rigged rods handy with different lures or baits on them to reduce the need to use lights in order to re-rig your tackle. If you're casting with a bait casting outfit, for example, and get a bad backlash, you can put that rod aside and employ an already-rigged spare one. If you're prone to backlashes with bait casting tackle, consider using spinning gear at night, especially if circumstances don't require accurate lure placement close to cover.

*Continued on page 4*

## Night Fishing—continued

When fishing in pure darkness, you can do several things to enhance your success. Familiarize yourself with the place that you're fishing is the best strategy, since it's easier to fish a place that you know well than one that is unfamiliar to you. When casting, it's also best to slow down and work an area well, rather looking for the next likely fishing spot.

In most situations, it helps to concentrate on quiet and stealth. Noise from operating the motor constantly, moving things around in the boat, chucking an anchor overboard, plunking the electric motor into position, etc., will spook feeding fish. You should approach an area silently from afar as opposed to running up on it with motor on. Drifting quietly and working methodically all around a boat is effective in most situations.

## Table Top Swap Meet—continued

11. Do be prepared to make the sale. Have a pen, calculator, change, merchandise bags, and whatever it takes to complete a sale.
12. Do thank the visitor/buyer for stopping by to see you and to look at your sales items.
13. Do think ahead for a 'take-everything-left-price' before the end of the swap meet should the opportunity arise.

## Don'ts:

1. Don't be offended by less-than-courtesy show-offs, knuckle-heads, and bottom-feeders looking to intimidate you for an unreasonable offer.
1. Don't pre-judge a person by his/her appearance, clothes, ability to communicate, or their ability to purchase what you have for sale.
2. Don't be rude to someone that is not knowledgeable about what you have to sell.
3. Don't talk beyond the potential buyer's level of understanding. Be patient, listen to questions and answer honestly.
4. Don't eat, drink beverages, talk on your cell phone, or to others in your exhibit in front of a potential buyer.
5. Don't ignore a "looky-loo" or another exhibitor; you never know what they have in mind.
6. Don't stay seated in front of a potential customer, get-up, shake hands and be enthusiastic.
7. Don't see other swap meet exhibitors as competitors but encourage camaraderie and cooperation by introducing yourself. Maybe even work out a referral arrangement to share customers.
9. Don't be offended by neighboring exhibitors that are less than professional. They will make you and your sales items shine!

## Jackpot Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST					
2017-2018	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
Kokanee	17"		BOCA	7-7	D. CUTCHFIELD
Landlocked Salmon	21"	36.4oz	DON PEDRO	4-28	SHAWN CONLAN
River or Ocean King Salmon	36 3/4"		STINSON BEACH	8-16	LANNIE BROOKS
Striped Bass	34 1/4"		FEATHER RIVER	4-25	TOM HYDE
Rainbow Trout	25 1/2"	8lb 4oz	BLAIR LAKE	5-14	GARY ROBERTS
Brown Trout	19"		LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CAUCK MIERKEY
Steeltail	27 1/2"	9lb 7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	20 1/2"		DONNER LAKE	6-23	SHAWN CONLAN
Large Mouth Bass	23"	6 lbs	LOP	7-2	RUSS WILLIAMS
Small Mouth Bass	19"	3lb 8oz	BERRYESSA	5-4	RICHARD COX
Coffish	31 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
Shad	19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
Crappie	16 1/4"		CAMANACHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
Sturgeon					

### 2017 Entries in Red

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Shawn Conlon**, 21", 36 lbs. 4 oz, Don Pedro, 4/28/17

STRIPED BASS, **Tom Hyde**, 34 1/4", Feather River, 4/25/17

RAINBOW TROUT, **Gary Roberts**, 25 1/2" Blair Lake, 5/14/17

LAKE TROUT (Mackinaw), **Shawn Conlan**, 20 1/2", Donner lake, 6/23/17

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Russ Williams**, 23", 6 lbs., LOP, 2/14/17

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 19", 3 lb. 8 oz., Lake Berryessa, 5/4/17

SHAD, **Greg Hicks**, 19 1/4", American River, 6/23/17

CRAPPIE, **John Hess**, 16 1/4", Camanche Lake, 3/9/17

## RT Camping & Fishing Adventure Travel Trip September 18-21

### Merrill Campground

Golden Age or Golden Access Cardholders (GA) Discounts  
12 Spaces Rsvrd for RT Fishing Club Members  
Call Alan or Carol - Reservation Hosts Site H-1, 530-825-3450

**Rates:** No hook-ups  
\$20 – w/GA \$10, Water & Electric \$30 – w/GA \$20, Full Hookups \$35 – w/GA \$25

Merrill is the largest campground on Eagle Lake with 173 sites and is only two miles from the Marina and Gallatin Beach. It was renovated in 2005 and now offers full and partial hook-ups, grey water dump areas and longer, wider parking spurs. We can accommodate anyone's needs. The new sites will hold the largest of RV's to tents and everything in between. This is a great family campground with easy access to the rest of Eagle Lake Recreation Area via the paved hiking and biking trail. It is also located next door to the Amphitheater where most of the interpretive programs are hosted.

