



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Trout Unlimited Comes to the Rooster Tails Fishing Club

- Trout Unlimited leads projects to conserve, protect, and restore fisheries throughout CA.
- Negative effects on fisheries include major tourist industry, agricultural needs, human consumption
- Truckee-Tahoe area surrounded beautiful and prolific fisheries

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club has invited **Sam Sedillo**, Trout Unlimited, California Public Lands Coordinator out of the Truckee Tahoe regional office as our February 15th breakfast meeting. Sam works on public lands defense, restoration projects, volunteer operations, and outreach throughout California. His presentation will be on how Trout Unlimited is leading projects to conserve, protect, and restore trout and salmon fisheries throughout California. In addition, breakfast attendees will hear how Trout Unlimited is fighting to protect public lands and access in the areas that people hunt and fish.



Sam Sedillo, Trout Unlimited, California Public Lands Coordinator

well as human consumption and a myriad of other factors.

Trout Unlimited is dedicated to ensuring that the next generation will have a far better fishery, a cleaner environment, and the knowledge to improve and protect for those that follow them.



Trout Unlimited's Mission

To conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

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Calendar of Events

February 15
RT Breakfast
Trout Unlimited presentation

March 15
RT Breakfast
Speaker—TBA

April (date tbd)
Members Only
Spring Tournament on Folsom lake

February 2019

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		

THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT RAINBOW TROUT (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

The Rainbow Trout is part of the SALMONIDAE FAMILY; also called Steelhead and is native to the west coast of North America from southern Alaska to Durango, Mexico and inland as far as central Alberta in Canada and Idaho and Nevada in the U.S. It

has been extensively introduced across the lower Canadian provinces and throughout the area of the Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast, south in the Appalachians to northern Georgia and Alabama, east in the southern U.S. to western Texas and sporadically in the central U.S. as well as above the Great Lakes on the Atlantic coast. It has been transplanted to New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, southern Asia, Europe and Hawaii. An Asian species known as the Kamchatka trout is believed to be a form of the rainbow trout. It is native to the Amur River in the eastern part of Russia as well as Kamchatka and the Commander Islands.

Coloration varies greatly with size, habitat and spawning periods. For example, stream dwellers and spawners usually show the darkest and most vivid colors and markings, while the steelhead is silvery when it returns from the sea. Though noted for the broad red or pink stripe along the middle of its sides, this stripe may not be present on all forms, particularly the sea run steelhead and immature specimens in clear lakes. A similar stripe is sometimes present on the golden trout (*Oncorhynchus aguabonita*) and the cutthroat trout (*O. clarki*), though the golden trout usually has about 10 prominent parr marks on the sides through adulthood (uncommon but not unheard of in adult rainbows). The cutthroat can usually be distinguished by the yellow, orange, or red streak in the skin fold on each side under the lower jaw. In some waters rainbow trout may faintly display this streak in the skin fold, but most do not.

The rainbow and its closest relatives in the Pacific salmon group (cutthroat, golden, Mexican golden, Arizona native or Apache, and gila trout) are known as the "black spotted" trout because they are covered with numerous prominent black spots. These spots may cover the entire body or may be more abundant near the tail. The spots characteristically extend onto the dorsal fin, the adipose fin, and the tail. Those on the tail radiate outward in an even, orderly pattern. Spots may or may not be present on any of the lower fins and there are never any red spots such as occur on freshwater and spawning specimens of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Atlantic salmon (*S. salar*). The rainbow trout readily hybridizes with other "black spotted" trout, especially with the cutthroat and golden trout. In fact, all these trout hybridize wherever they occur together producing fertile offspring with all manner of confusing color combinations and intermediate characteristics.



This is an extremely valuable species in any and all of its forms. It is the fly fisherman's delight as it takes a fly readily, leaps often, and fights hard. Though there is no direct commercial demand for the rainbow it is taken by Pacific salmon fishermen

and it is pond reared in Europe and Japan to be sold as frozen whole fish. The flesh ranges from bright red in small lake and stream populations to pink or white in large lake, stream, and steelhead populations in which the diet is primarily piscivorous. It is excellent regardless of color and may be cooked in any manner desired.

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.



All-Tackle World Record for Rainbow Trout as determined by the IGFA: 48 lb Rainbow Trout, Lake Diefenbaker, Canada



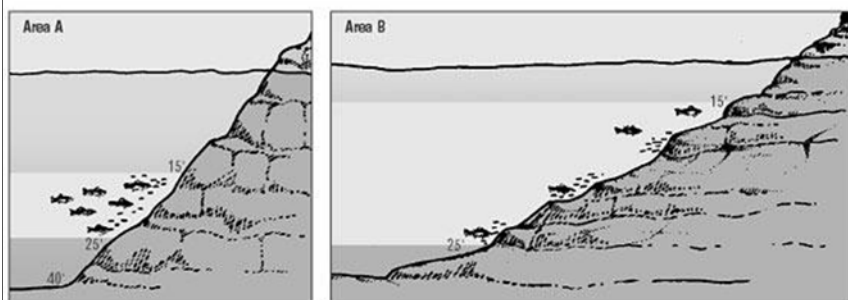
Congratulations to Bev Mierky, 2018 Grand Slam Fishing Contest Winner

FIVE FISHING TIPS FOR HAULING IN BIG SPRING RAINBOW TROUT

As the cold winter rains are finally subsiding from our lakes and reservoirs, that's the time to hit the water for spring trout fishing. You don't always have to go really deep to find the fish this time of year. That's because the water is still a bit cool for rainbow trout, which prefer a comfort zone a little north of 50° F. As a result, you'll find them closer to the surface, where the sun's rays have slightly warmed up the water. All you have to do is locate big trout is to find their food sources, and you're in business. With that in mind, here are some five tips for putting big spring trout in your boat.

1. In the early spring, many species of small forage fish will head to creeks and small streams to spawn. That means you can often find hungry 'meat-eater' big trout lying in wait, right where the water inlet connects to the main lake. Slowly and quietly approach such hot spots using your electric trolling motor to avoid spooking these predator feeders. Along the first drop-off adjacent to the creek mouth, cast a small minnow imitation lure, like a Yo-Zuri Pin Minnow or small sinking-Rapala and allow it to settle down into the run-off entering the lake. It is better to cast into these prime areas versus trolling through them.

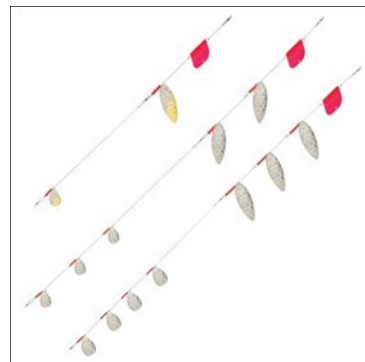
Location In Sloping Shorelines



Trout herding minnows near vertical structural Area A tend to be more concentrated than trout feeding over gradual-sloping shorelines like Area B.

2. When trolling spring lake waters early in the morning, run down-riggers or lead-core line in the top 10' to 20' of water along drop-offs and adjacent to the shoreline versus mid-lake being careful not to get hung-up on structure. Run lake willow-leaf trolls back about 50'-75' behind the boat with a large 2"-3" grub on a single hook in natural colors like pumpkin seed or black/grey. Use a 8#-10# mono-leader 10"-12" between the last troll-leaf blade and the hook. An alternative to a grub, thread a large night crawler onto a Mastad Slow-Death hook which causes the night crawler to slowly spin. Another alternative is to use a 'lake legal' small real minnow with a red egg hook impaled in its snout.

The idea is the trolls imitate a school of baitfish with the straggler (lure/bait) seen as an easy meal to a big trout. The spinning troll-blades reflect light like the silvery-sides of bait fish as well as creating their swimming vibrations. Keep in mind that when you troll at a speed of around 1.5 to 2.0 miles an hour with lead-core, your troll and bait will sink about 36" for every 10 yards of 12# lead-core line you let out (the line is color-coded in 10-yard increments). Set down-riggers just below the water surface by a couple of feet, with up to 75 feet, your lure presentation will be running about 10' to 20' depending on the terminal tackle weight variables.



3. Another likely holding area for feeding lunker trout will be under water points and submerged humps that come up shallow. These areas rocky structures retain heat from the sun, warming up the immediate area and attracting forage and feeding trout. Use your fish finder sonar to locate the edge of

the structures and trolling over and round them.

If the feeding fish are holding below the forage fish, stop and drop small jigs or spoons in natural colors like rainbow or watermelon.

4. Most larger water reservoirs and lakes during spring time conditions will have a mostly uniform temperature except for the top 15'-25' of surface water that will be warmed by the sun, warm spring rains, surrounding run-off, and water enter from adjoining tributaries. Active feeding trout typically do not school and will be scattered over the warmer water making trolling the method of choice in spring. Warm water is only relative to the greater water column volume and weather conditions. Wind and currents will also impact the water temperature, a fish-finder with temperature with a reading-out will help locate the ideal trout prefer in the mid to upper fifties.

5. Larger trout tend not to expend bursts of energy to chase a meal in large expanses of water, except when competing with other feeding fish. Open water trolling lends itself to two basic strategies of fast trolling to stimulate a reaction strike or slow trolling a presentation as an easy meal. If bait balls or surface feeding fish are present, fast trolling of spoons like Speedy Shiners or Needle Fish would be the lure of choice. Slow trolling Seps Side-Kick with a trailing grub or night crawler would be the better presentation.

Cold Weather Fresh Water Fishing by Anon Nymous

Come-on Rooster Tails, it isn't that cold out there! Put on some winter cloths and get out of the house and go fishing on several of our local waters that are producing some nice fish... Here are some tips for cold water fishing:

All fish need to feed, even in the winter when their body temperature is about the same as the water temperature they are swimming-in. However, fish feeding activities in the winter are far different than in warmer times of the year. Keeping that in mind, get your head out of what techniques and tackle you were using when you caught that big-one last spring! Fish with low body temperature are typically lethargic and expend as little energy as possible in pursuit of a meal. It will be important to present your offerings in a slow and deliberate manner.

You might be surprised to know that winter fishing plans might let you sleep-in a little longer. Unlike warmer fishing months, fish are more apt to be active later in the morning than at day-break. So to fish very early usually does not give the early-bird-angler any advantage. It all depends on water temperature...

Unlike non-winter waters when fish will chase a large lure or a whole night crawler and be more aggressive in general, you need to do the opposite in cold water as well as down-sizing your offerings. Small lures, e.g. eighth ounce Kastmasters, Thomas Buoyants, or the smallest Needlefish in bright colors are good choices. 'Tipping' a hook with a very small piece of worm, grub, maggot, or meal worm adds a little flavor and scent to your lure. An angler's 'secret' for pursuing land-locked salmon is to tip hooks with a tiny-bit of cured anchovy (slightly smaller than a pencil eraser). Natural baits are always a good bait to use including small pieces of threaded night crawler (about an inch long) trolled well behind a boat with a small dodger will get strikes as well as small worms being fished under a bobber from shore.

Cold water temperatures in the mid-forty degree range will cause feeding fish to gravitate to warmer water. Their forage is mostly on small fish and even some insects will be found in this warmer water as well. Winter anglers will target warmer water that can be found in shallow shore water or in less than 20 feet of surface lake water. Small streams and run-off water after a rain will warm the water near the shore of lakes and reservoirs. Rocky shore-lines are also good locations to find winter fish. Large rocky areas above and below the immediate water-line will absorb and retain a heat from the sun during the day and gradually release it to the surrounding water. Trolling in and around rocks and boulders can be hazardous for boats and their propellers not to mention snags and lost lures. Savvy winter anglers will locate a potential shore-line site and anchor-up or even pull their boat onto the bank and cast from the shore with worms, dough-baits, small spinners and spoons.

When winter fishing in large lakes or reservoirs, watch your fish-finder for 'bait-balls' of shad that will be close to the surface. Bait-balls can be found most anyplace on open bodies of water as they move along the water column in a random manner. Encountering a bait-ball presents an excellent opportunity to jig for fish, especially larger fish! Also, fish of deferent species will feed at the same time below and around the perimeter of this mass of bait fish. You will be as likely to catch a bass as a trout. Although it might be difficult to hold your boat near or floating just over the edge of a bait-ball, get as close to it as possible to it. Than by using a small jig, e.g. cripple herring, small spoon, or other lure imitating a bait-fish; drop it through and past the bottom of the bait-ball. With small rod-tip action, move the lure with an up and down motion, causing the lure to flutter and act like a wounded bait fish, the strikes will likely be fierce!

So, be brave, bundle-up and go fishing! You will not have to worry about crowds or water skiers roughing up your private fishing water!



Winners of the 2018 Jackpot Fishing Contest. From R. to L. Mel Ewing, Chairman Rooster Tails Fishing Club Contests, Shawn Conlan, Mike Walker, Rich Northam, Bev Mierkey, Mac McKendree, Ray Corrao, Olin Souders, Rik Cox