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Collins Lake Map Feature



Fish Sniffer



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40 Years
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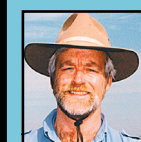
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STAFF TACKLE

What We're Using



Ernie Marlan fished with Phenix Sportfishing out of Port San Luis, California. He used a 7' Phenix Black Diamond rod rated 10-30lb teamed up with a Shimano Tranx 400 spooled up with 50lb braid and a 20lb fluorocarbon leader. He caught several rockfish including a nice cabezon. His bait of choice was a 4oz Ahi Jig in sardine color and a BladeRunner Spoon.



Paul Kneeland fished Englebright Reservoir with Bridget Looney in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught rainbow trout to 14 inches using an Okuma 8' Kokanee Black composite rod with a Okuma Convector low profile line counter reel loaded with 8 lb test Soft Steel line. They trolled Vance's Sockeye Slammers lures in candy apple red and firetiger off the Canon Downriggers from 14 to 20 feet deep at 1.8 mph.



Dan Bacher fished for rainbow trout at Rancho Seco Lake. He used a Berkley Ugly Stik GX2 6' 6" medium action spinning rod, teamed up with a Shakespeare GX235 spinning reel filled with 6 lb. test P-Line CX Premium Fluorocarbon Coated Line. He fished with rainbow Berkley PowerBait and 1/8 oz. gold and black Panther Martins.

Foothill Reservoir Trout Planting Season in Full-Swing

The time has come to dust off those trout rods and hit a local reservoir in pursuit of one of the only things going this winter – trout. Although chilly temperatures can put the freeze on most fish, trout are one of the few species that will thrive during cold winter months. With both private and public planting programs running at full capacity, there are endless opportunities to visit foothill reservoirs during the wintertime.

While many high-elevation Sierra lakes will ice over during the winter, foothill reservoirs provide a safe haven for trout enthusiasts all year long. Combine this with heavy planting schedules, and you end up with a great chance at going out and getting some tasty fillets for your grill.

I took my first trout fishing adventure this season on Sunday, November 13 at Lake Camanche. I was joined by my son Adam, plus his Little League baseball teammate Beckett Tilton and

his father Ron Tilton.

An unexpected bank of thick fog slowed our journey to the lake. After some cautious slowdowns on meandering gold-country roads, we finally passed the prison in Ione and arrived at the lake. I immediately put up the top and side-curtains on the boat, and fired up the twin-burner portable heater to ward off the biting morning chill.

In misty twilight, I slowly motored away from the ramp out to the main



WHAT'S
HOT
by
Jack Naves



Beckett Tilton (lower-left) and Adam Naves show off two nice rainbow trout landed in foggy conditions on November 13 at Lake Camanche. Both fish hit offerings trolled at 2.6 miles-per-hour set at only two-feet deep in the downriggers. Be sure to keep some of your lines up high during cool winter mornings or low-light conditions. Don't make the common mistake of going too deep!

Photo by Jack Naves

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Anglers Battle Huge Rainbows At Trout Bout In Oak Grove Regional Park

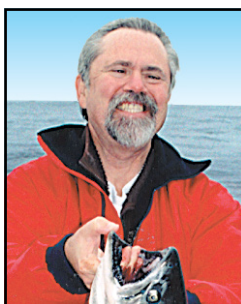
STOCKTON – Over 500 anglers enjoyed sunny, mild fall weather while participating in the 38th Annual Trout Bout, hosted by San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers, at Oak Grove Regional Park on Saturday, Nov. 19.

To place in the first three spots in the adult division of the event, anglers had to catch a fish well over six pounds in the park's 10-acre lake.

"We got some big trophy-size fish this time, plus 1,000 pounds of extra trout, thanks to the CA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. A total of 3,000 lbs. of rainbow trout were planted for the event," said Sandi Adams of San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation.

Bee Xiong of Elk Grove won first place in the adult division by catching an 8-pound, 11.6-ounce rainbow trout. He was fishing a white Power Egg with garlic scent on an ultralight rod with 2-pound test line when he hooked the fish.

"I came to the bout last year, but didn't hook any fish, so I decided to give it a try again. In addition to



GONE
FISHING
by
Dan Bacher



Humera Ali of Acampo won third place in the adult division of the Trout Bout at Oak Grove Regional Park on Nov. 19 with her 6-pound, 14.3-ounce rainbow trout.

Photo by Dan Bacher

the winning trout, I also caught 3 other trout in the 1 to 2-pound range," Xiong explained.

Xiong is an experienced angler who said he enjoys fishing for stripers in the Delta and trout and bass in the Mother Lode lakes.

Adam Pamintuan of Stockton finished second in the

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WHAT'S HOT continued from page 2



This 21 inch 'hold-over' rainbow trout was landed by Beckett Tilton on November 13 at Lake Camanche. The fish hit a Thomas Speedy Shiner spoon trolled at 2.6 miles-per-hour 100 feet behind a side-planer board. The offering was weighted down by a quarter-ounce bullet weight slid in front of a 48-inch long the ten-pound-test leader.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Naves

lake. The boys enjoyed donuts and the warmth of the heater as I began the process of setting up the gear. Thick fog had me disoriented, so I used my GPS map as a guide, and visual landmarks as a reality check. I weaved in and out of moored houseboats like a slalom skier navigating a downhill course. I had to veer suddenly left or right as each mass appeared out of a blanket of gloomy fog.

With the houseboat obstacle course behind us, we trolled east into the Mokelumne River section of the lake. Ron and his son Beckett were new to the trolling game, so I wanted to explain how everything worked as we fished. I was demonstrating how the downrigger clips works when a fish literally ripped the line out of my hand. A bite on the surface right out of the gate!

Beckett grabbed the rod and did a great job of keeping the fish clear of



Adam Naves (center) fights a hefty rainbow trout as a burst of sunlight illuminates the scene like a street lamp in the fog. Beckett Tilton (left) watches in anticipation, while the author lunges towards Adam's fish with the net.

Photo Courtesy of Ron Tilton

the other lines. I scooped the shiny eighteen-inch rainbow trout into the net and we celebrated our first fish of the morning. As I demonstrated how to bleed the fish and care for the meat, I didn't notice that we had gotten way off course. The map screen was zoomed-in too far, and the thick fog obscured any visual landmarks. I

unknowingly had trolled us into a random dead-end cove near the south shore campground!

As the nose of the boat suddenly plugged into the muddy bank, I instructed everybody to reel in as I worked the bow-mounted trolling motor free of the muck. With my guests probably thinking that I was a captain operating under a suspended license, I quickly threw the main engine into reverse and we were back on course a few minutes later.

An occasional glow from the sun appeared like a spotlight, brightly illuminating the hazy mist on the surface of the lake. Adam reeled in the next fish, a feisty rainbow that pushed twenty-inches and was over three pounds in weight. The boys were able to land a few more trout before the bite died around 9:30 am. After an hour of no strikes, I decided to pull lines and shoot westward to a different region of the lake.

The fog had cleared, and a steady northerly breeze imparted a rolling chop onto the water's surface. I explained to Ron that flat, glass-like water conditions will usually put trout off of the bite. Sometimes you have to chase wind and find chop that breaks up the lighting conditions underwater. This seems to get trout back on the bite, although it is not as pleasant in terms of enjoyable fishing weather.

We employed downriggers at various



Adam Naves playfully hoists two quality rainbow trout during a breezy afternoon at Lake Camanche on November 13. When the bite shuts down in protected waters, it can pay off to run out to the main lake to fish in choppy conditions. The surface chop breaks up underwater light, and seems to get the fish to be less likely to develop lockjaw.

Photo Courtesy of Ron Tilton

depths down to twenty feet deep, as well as two side-planer boards. The bites were mixed between the different offerings, but our next fish came at twelve feet deep on the downrigger. This was a hefty fish, and Beckett skillfully played the fish to the rear of the boat where I was poised with the net.

After getting the fish into the boat, I held it up to the ruler. "Twenty-one incher!" I exclaimed, and Beckett proudly reminded us that it was the biggest fish of the day. The boys jockeyed back and forth on a quest for the largest fish, with Ron and I getting in on the action as well. When all was said and done, we finished fishing around 2:00 pm with ten quality trout ranging between sixteen and twenty-one inches in length. It was quite a haul, with plenty of fresh fillets to go around.

We found an even mix of fish between the main lake and the narrows. The fish hit a variety of lures that included Thomas Speedy Shiners, orange Arctic Fox flies tipped with night-crawlers behind WiggleFin ActionDiscs, and orange two-inch grubs. The surface water temperature hovered around 59 degrees, so I added quarter-ounce bullet weights in front of my leaders on the side-planer rods to get them deep enough. To entice additional strikes, I employed my Sunfran Smart Jigger rod holders on the side-planer rods. I maintained a trolling speed of 2.6 miles-per-hour all day. The downriggers hooked fish scattered between two and twelve feet deep, with no bites any deeper.

Trout planting programs are currently in full-swing, so be sure to visit one of our many Northern California reservoirs this winter. Both boating and bank-fishing techniques can be effective, and it's a great way to get kids into the action as well. Look for me on the water soon, crouched down by my double-burner heater on a cold winter's day.

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