

# The Fish Sniffer

Lafayette Res. Map Feature



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Our 29<sup>TH</sup> Year

"The No. 1 Newspaper In The West Dedicated Entirely To Fishermen!"

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## Veteran's Day Foray To Lake Camanche Yields Father And Son Fun

**B**ack on November 11, I was able to make a rare mid-week fishing trip with my father Bob Naves to Lake Camanche. I was lucky to have the day off as our nation paused to honor the Veterans that have



Jack Naves of Roseville nailed this husky rainbow while trolling a Rapala 6 feet deep at Lake Camanche on Veteran's Day. Photo courtesy of JACK NAVES, Roseville.

served our county.

I picked up my dad at his house at 6:30 am in Elk Grove and we made our way through the half light of dawn to the lake's north shore launching facility. Rainbow trout were to be our target for the day.

Lake Camanche is a beautiful reservoir nestled in the Mother Lode region of Northern California near the town of Ione. The north shore facility boasts a fish cleaning station, bathrooms, a small store, and a multi-lane launching ramp. We had the boat in the water by 7:30 and quickly motored to the west end of the lake near the dam.

We started out near Hat Island trolling assorted Rapala Floating Minnows. We put out four different rods. Two rods were topline at 140' and 160' feet behind the boat. The other two rods were set in downriggers. One was set at 4' deep and 100' back. The other one was set at 6' deep and 120' behind the boat.

I added some Pro-Cure threadfin shad gel to the lures as well as tipping two of the lures with a 2 inch section of night crawler. We'd made a full loop around the island when my dad shouted, "There's one!"

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WHAT'S HOT? FRESHWATER by Jack Naves



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EASTERN - SOUTHERN SIERRAS

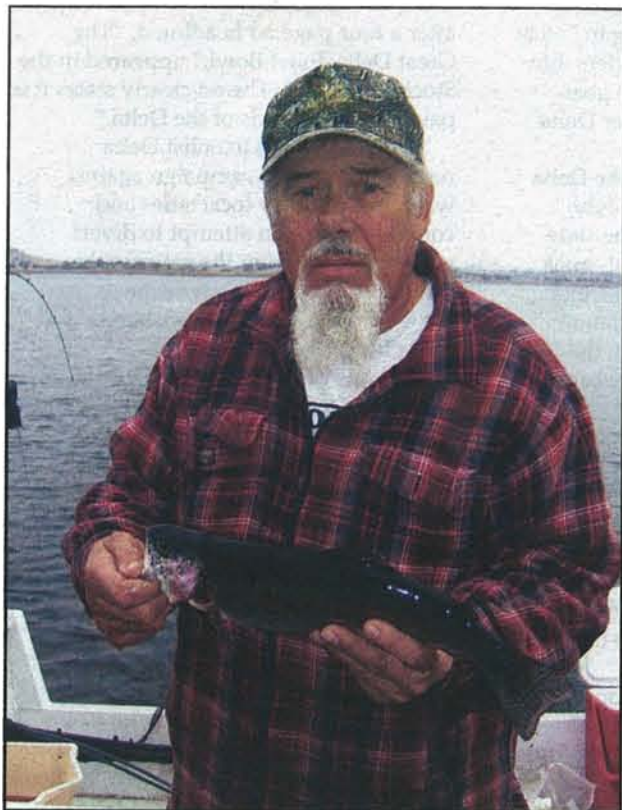
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## What's Hot?...FRESHWATER

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My rod on the starboard side was bobbing and shaking violently. I raced from the helm to the back of the boat and started reeling, but the fish had come off. I told dad, "It felt like a small one anyway" and we continued on our way.

We made our way to the dam, but still hadn't picked



Bob Naves landed this colorful rainbow while plying the waters of Lake Camanche on November 11. Photo courtesy of JACK NAVES, Roseville.

up any fish by 8:30. I circled back towards the island and started trolling tight to the shoreline. Until that point we had been trolling in open water that was about 50' deep. Now I was following the contour of the shoreline in 15' to 25' of water. It's always a good idea try different structures and holding areas until you figure out where the fish are hanging out on any given day.

I was trolling in gentle S-shaped curves along the shoreline when one of the downrigger lines popped out of the clip. I had gotten a little too close to the shore on the previous turn, and I figured that my lure had hung up.

"It's snagged," I commented, but when I picked up the rod, it started pumping. I was only using six pound test on a limber kokanee rod, so the fish really gave me a battle. After about five minutes we had the fish in the net. It was a chunky planter rainbow that went 2.5 pounds on the scale.

We circled back though the same spot and it didn't take dad long to hook a beautiful rainbow. This fish looked very different from the fish I'd caught.

It had a rose colored gill plate and a dark-pink stripe down its side. The fish was covered in large dark spots and looked to me like the native rainbow trout that are caught in the upper-section of the Sacramento River. It definitely wasn't the type of fish I was expecting to see in a foothills reservoir.

My next fish was a hard-fighting holdover rainbow that made several jumps and strong headshakes during the fight. This fish had a nice squaretail and the flesh was a deep orange color. It was another quality fish that I quickly cleaned and put on ice. Shortly afterwards my dad picked up a feisty largemouth bass and released it.

Although we caught several fish along the shoreline, we never really found any hotspots holding big concentrations of fish. "They don't seem to be schooled up, do they?" my dad commented. "No," I related as I motored the boat around a bend.

As the morning went on, we picked up several more trout and also lost another one. Living in Roseville, I was conscious of the mid-week commuter traffic and decided to call it a day at 1:30 pm.

We had landed six trout, one bass, and lost two fish. Although the fishing hadn't been off the hook, the calm winds and overcast skies had made for a nice relaxing day on the water.

Our hot setup was a Rapala Floating Minnow in the F7 size. The best color was a custom white minnow that I made by sanding the finish off of a lure that was originally trout-colored. An

orange/gold Rapala also caught several fish.

The topline only caught one fish while the downrigger rods set at 6' deep hooked the most trout. Our best speed was 2.6 mph according to the sonar unit's GPS indicator. I'm not really sure why, but the trout at Lake Camanche seem to like lures trolled relatively fast compared to the other nearby lakes such as Lake Amador.

This winter is looking to be a promising one at Lake Camanche. Their quality facilities coupled with an aggressive fish planting program will make it a top destination for trout anglers this winter. Fish in excess of 10 pounds are caught every year, and fish over 5 pounds are fairly common.

If the doldrums of winter get you down this year, give Lake Camanche a shot and you might be able to catch the biggest trout of your life!

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Staff Says:  
CAMANCHE TROUT  
GOLDEN GATE CRABS  
DELTA STURGEON

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