

Our 40th Year

"The Magazine for West Coast Sportsmen!"

# CVA Pardee Derby Features Plentiful Kokanee and Big Trout

This year's Russ Faught Memorial Team Kokanee Derby at Pardee Lake on Saturday, June 25 featured fast kokanee action and chunky trout. The annual derby is sponsored by the Central Valley Anglers (CVA) club of Lodi, CA. According to their website, CVA is a "family-friendly fishing club that strives to improve understanding and knowledge of fisheries in the California Central Valley. As a club, we hold derbies for Trout, Kokanee, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, Salmon and other fun events."

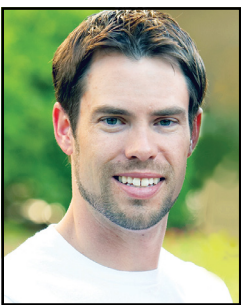
After missing this year's Kokanee Power derby at Pardee, I jumped at the opportunity to fish in a derby at my home kokanee lake. On the day before the derby, I headed out with my daughter Grace to see if we could figure out where the fish were holding. This time of year, kokanee at Pardee are typically located from the river mouth down to the south end of the lake. However, after zigzagging the



Jack (left) and Adam Naves pose with a chunky lightning trout landed at Pardee Lake on June 25. The fish hit an orange Arctic Fox tube fly trolled behind a WiggleFin ActionDisc at 1.8 miles-per-hour. The trout weighed enough to place 3rd in the Big Trout division at the CVA derby on June 25.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Naves

area using my boat's sonar unit, it was clear very few kokanee were present.



## GONE FISHING by Jack Naves

We turned around and ran full speed to the upper-reaches of the Mokelumne River arm to start fishing. With several boats, including local guides like Three Sons Guide Service and Gateway Adventure Co. working the area, I figured that we were in the right area. We started catching fish immediately after dropping lines, and after only a few hours we had limited out. We trolled for trout down to the dam for only one lost fish, and were on our way home by 10:30 am.

The next morning came early at 2:15

CONTINUED ON PG 16

# Two Personal Bests at Pyramid Lake!

John Brassfield of Trucksmart stores and I fished the last weekend of the season at Pyramid Lake, Nevada. Pyramid is famous for huge lahontan cutthroat trout, and we were not disappointed! We arrived at the launch ramp at Pelican Point about 6 am on Friday and launched the Fish Sniffer Rogue Jet 21 Coastal. We headed north east to our favorite late season fishing grounds of Hell's Kitchen and Fox Bay. It was beautiful morning with a slight northerly breeze and a temperature of about 50 degrees. Water temperature was 66 in the morning and up to about 73 in the afternoon. There were very few boat trailers in the parking lot, and I think many people are missing out on the best fishing for trollers of the year. We started trolling at the south end of Hell's Kitchen with some of our favorite offerings: I had a 3 3/4 inch Doctor Spoon in their "triple threat" color behind Vance's Cannonball Flashers set at 40 feet deep, and a Lyman "Dill Pickle" color plug top lining to start the day. John started with his favorite Silver Horde Spoon in chartreuse/orange on the down-

rigger and a large, double jointed Bilt to Bite plug 10 feet higher on the down-rigger. We hadn't trolled a hundred yards when my line was violently torn off the downrigger, the drag was screaming from the Daiwa Lexa reel, and snap! My line broke. Boy that felt like a big fish! Unfortunately, that was my last Doctor Spoon in that color, so I put on another Doctor that was an orange/brown color.

We trolled up the Kitchen at 2.6 to 2.8 mph, and saw lots of fish on the graph from 30 to 70 feet deep, but only got a few hits and landed 3 trout. At the top of the Kitchen, we saw a pretty good concentration of fish, so decided to stop and jig for a while. John put on a large 3 oz ProMar jig in



## WHAT'S HOT by Paul Kneeland



John Brassfield of Trucksmart Stores in Auburn and Rocklin shows off an "average" Lahontan Cutthroat taken trolling a Silver Horde spoon at Pyramid Lake.

Photo by Paul Kneeland, Fish Sniffer staff

black and silver. I used a 2 oz Promar in green and silver. We tried for about 15 minutes with no bites till suddenly John hooked a trout. He was using a

CONTINUED ON PG 18

## INSIDE Area Reports

**FRESHWATER REPORTS**

Lake Almanor - American River .....	8
Berryessa lake - collins lake .....	9
American Basin - Klamath/Trinity Rivers.....	10
Los Vaqueros Reservoir.....	11
New Melones Lake - Lake Oroville.....	14
Pardee/Camanche Lakes .....	15
Rio Vista/Delta - Stampede Reservoir .....	17

**SALTWATER REPORTS**

Bodega Bay.....	20
Fisherman's Wharf/Sausalito/Berkeley .....	22
Half Moon Bay - Monterey Bay .....	23

## FEATURES

**Where...When...How...**

GO FOR IT: Staff .....	4
MAP FEATURE: Dan Bacher.....	12-13
SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION: Dan Bacher.....	19

## STAFF TACKLE

### What We're Using

Ernie Marlan - fished the Central Coast beaches for surf perch and halibut. He caught and released several quality sized surf perch on a 9ft Phenix Trifecta 6-12lb teamed up with a Van Stall reel spooled up with 20lb FINS Windtamer Braid. The lure of choice was a Calissa Jerkbait in sardine color.

Paul Kneeland - fished Pyramid Lake with John Brassfield of Trucksmart stores in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught Lahontan Cutthroat trout to 18 pounds using an Okuma 9'6" SST triggerstick with a Okuma Convactor Line counter reel loaded with 12 lb test Soft Steel braided line. They trolled Silver Horde and Doctor spoons and Lyman and Bilt to Bite plugs in green and orange off the Canon Downriggers 30 to 50 feet deep at 2.8 mph.

Dan Bacher - fished for rainbow trout and king salmon at Folsom Lake with John Cadiente of Meadow Vista and Jerry Lampkin of TNG Motor Sports Guide Service. They used Rogue steelhead rods, teamed up with Daiwa Lexa LC100 line counter reels spooled with 12 lb. P-line CXX. They hooked 7 fish, landing four holdover rainbows, while trolling red and gold Speedy Shiners, Matrix Shad Paddletails and GVF spinners at 65 feet deep.



GONE FISHING

continued from page 2



Jack Shultz (left) along with Al Milan (not pictured) took home first place in the CVA kokanee derby at Pardee Lake on June 25. Their four-fish total weighed 2.55 lbs.

Photo By Jack Naves



Adam and Grace Naves pose with kokanee and prizes from the Central Valley Anglers derby at Pardee Lake on June 25. Feisty 11 to 13 inch kokanee kept them busy reeling in fish, netting, and tipping their lures with corn all morning.

Photo By Jack Naves

am. I staggered out of bed, but my usual fleece sweatshirt wouldn't be needed on this morning. We were in the midst of another central valley heat wave, and a wall of warm-dry air hit me as I made my way outside. After corralling the family into the truck, we were at the Pardee Lake front gate by 4:30 am. After getting all of the downriggers, rods, and corn-tipped lures set up, we were finally able to deploy our lines at the derby's 5:30 am start time. Based on our pre-fishing results the day earlier, we decided to start out upriver. The fishing was slow. We had a few

fish in the box, but nothing of substantial size. My wife Gina kept asking if we needed to move. "No, the fish are here, they will turn on" I replied. "Yesterday we caught fifteen fish right here!" I exclaimed, as I pointed down at the water directly under the boat. Later in the morning, the kokanee finally started to cooperate. Suddenly, we couldn't get our rods into the water fast enough. Soon, each of was approaching our ten-kokanee per person limits.

Derby Results

Central Valley Anglers Russ Faught Memorial  
Team Kokanee Derby at Pardee Lake  
Saturday, June 25, 2022 (There Were 51 Anglers)

Kokanee Bag (4 fish)

1. Jack Schultz & Al Milan 2.55 lbs

2. Jack & Gina Naves & Juniors  
Grace & Adam Naves 2.45 lbs

3. Brian Thomas, Nathan Kelch &  
Junior Alex Thomas 2.40 lbs

4. Chris Miller & Richard Contreras  
2.35 lbs

5. John Woodring & Junior Hunter  
Woodring 2.30 lbs

6. Mike Miller & Grover Bethards  
2.30 lbs

7. Mike & Brandi Clark 2.30 lbs

Big Kokanee (1 fish)

1. John Woodring & Junior  
Hunter Woodring .80 lbs.

Big Trout (1 fish)

1. Mike & Brandi Clark 5.00 lbs

2. Jim Fox, Jim Bennion & Glenn  
Greenwell 4.50 lbs

3. Jack & Gina Naves & Juniors  
Grace & Adam Naves 2.70 lbs

An important item to note is that not all California Lakes allow for the take of ten-kokanee per day. The usual limit is five per angler - Pardee has a special ten-kokanee limit. Please be aware of any current or local regulations before hitting the water! As we approached our limits, we inched our gear deeper and deeper to chase the descending schools of kokanee. During the hot summer months, kokanee will typically push deeper as the morning progresses. On this day, we started out catching most of our fish at 35 feet down. As we finished off our limits just before eleven o'clock am, the majority of our fish were coming at 65 feet. The ability to keep an eye

I run these without any dodgers, with the smallest sized WiggleFin ActionDisc directly in front of the fly. This is my favorite trout setup hands-down. It has caught me numerous big trout, including some nice derby-placing trout.

on the sonar readings and adjust your downrigger depths is a key component of being a successful kokanee angler. With our kokanee limits in the cooler, we switched gears and trolled for trout during the remaining two hours of the derby. I decided to pull lines and run to a spot just outside of the launching ramp area. It was here that we tied into a nice 2.7 pound lightning trout at 35 feet deep. I had sped up to 1.8 miles-per-hour and switched out our kokanee spinners for orange Arctic Fox tube flies tipped with worms. I run these without any dodgers, with the smallest sized WiggleFin ActionDisc directly in front of the fly. This is my favorite trout setup hands-down. It has caught me numerous big trout, including some nice derby-placing trout. With one o'clock approaching, we pulled lines and made the short jump back to the ramp. Back at the derby area, we enjoyed grilled sausages and sides provided by the CVA organization. It was a good time to get caught up with some friends I hadn't seen for quite some time. CVA announced the prizes, and we were able to place in both the kokanee and trout divisions. We stuck around for the raffle before heading back down the hill with a bounty of kokanee to share with family and friends.

If you have kids, or just want to get into some really fast action on 11 to 13 inch kokanee, head over to Pardee Lake this summer. Be sure to check [centralvalleyanglerslodi.org](http://centralvalleyanglerslodi.org) for upcoming derbies put on by the CVA club.

Rancho Seco Recreational Area

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Rancho Seco Recreational Area is located 25 miles south of Sacramento at 14960 Twin Cities Road in Herald, CA.

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