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# Fish Sniffer

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Pardee Lake Map Feature



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Vol. 42 - ISS.8

June 9, 2023



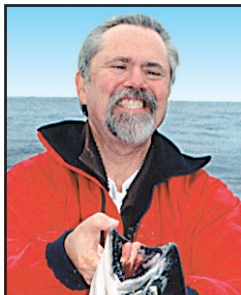
"The Magazine for West Coast Sportsmen!"

## Winnemem Wintu, State and Feds Sign Agreements To Return Endangered Salmon to Historic Habitat



Winnemem Wintu Tribe Chief Caleen Sisk, CDFW Director Chuck Bonham and NOAA Assistant Regional Director Cathy Marchikewage sign the agreements to restore winter-run Chinook salmon to the McCloud River on May 1.

Photo by Dan Bacher



GONE FISHING  
by  
Dan Bacher

At the McCloud Bridge Camp ground on now-full Lake Shasta on May 1, the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries signed what they described as "historic agreements" to restore Chinook salmon to the McCloud River.

The Tribe signed a "co-management" agreement with CDFW and a "co-stewardship" agreement with NOAA Fisheries, reflecting the way the two agencies describe accords with tribes. "This is an historic agreement that moves us one step

closer to our goal of returning wild salmon from New Zealand and creating a volitional passage around Shasta Dam," said Winnemem Wintu Chief Caleen Sisk. "It's incredible that we can now share this vision with CDFW and NOAA. We have a long way to go, but there are now

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## Rain and Bows at the 2023 Shasta Classic

FLOP-SQUEAK FLOP-SQUEAK Jimmy's windshield wipers frantically tried to keep up with the onslaught of rain pelting his truck as it frantically motored down the interstate highway. I was a passenger in Jim Brittain's Ram pickup on I-5 near Red Bluff. We were on our way up to Kokanee Power's two-day Shasta Lake Classic Team Tourney May 6-7. It was the Thursday before the contest, and we had been met with non-stop rain ever since we had passed Woodland.

"It's going to be a wet one" Jimmy proclaimed, as the forecast called for steady to heavy rains throughout our four days of visiting the lake. Armed with my Gore-Tex parka and several pairs of boots, I mentioned that I'll take rain any day of the week over high winds. As it turned out, we got to see a little bit of both.

The rains converted to mist as we descended upon the lake for our first day of pre-fishing. We had our lines wet by 9:30 am, and our jackets were soaked by noon. We trolled the McCloud River arm and main lake during that first day of fishing. We managed to land all seven of the

trout that we hooked. The fish weren't huge but were definitely bigger than the rainbows we had landed the previous year. With three more long days of fishing ahead of us, we pulled lines around 5:30 pm and headed to our hotel in Lakehead.

Early the next morning, we launched at daybreak in a steady rain and headed to Jimmy's spots on the main lake. With not much happening, we shot across white cap conditions over to the dam area. We found refuge in the Dry Fork arm, but the catching was slow. About the time that we vacated the area, high winds joined the rain to make for an unpleasant trip across the lake.

SMACK-SMACK-SMACK waves pounded Jimmy's aluminum hull as his outboard motor roared in the



WHAT'S HOT  
by  
Jack Naves



Drew Bundy shows off a nice 21-inch brown trout that he landed on a Speedy Shiner during the Shasta Classic Tourney. The fish helped to catapult Drew into second place in the junior division.

Photo provided by Paul Kneeland, Fish Sniffer staff

protest. Our next stop was Gooseneck Cove on the Sacramento River arm of the massive reservoir. We were able

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## STAFF TACKLE

### What We're Using



Ernie Marlan fished for striped bass on the California Delta. He used a 7'2" Lew's Elite Series Casting Rod teamed up with Team Lew's Elite-Ti

baitcasting reel. He caught and released several stripers while using a Strike King 3.75 inch Rage Swimmer in Pearl color.



Paul Kneeland fished Davis Lake with John Brassfield of Trucksmart stores in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught rainbow trout to 21

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 in candy apple red off the Canon Downriggers from 10 to 10 feet deep at 1.6 mph.



Dan Bacher fished for trout at White Pines Lake. He used a Berkley Ugly Stick 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 garlic chartreuse Berkley PowerBait, 1/8 oz. gold and black Panther Martins and 2/5 oz. gold/red stripe Little Cleos.

## WHAT'S HOT continued from page 2



Jim Brittain shows off a brown trout (left) and rainbow trout (right) that he landed on the second day of the Shasta Classic Tourney on May 7. These quality fish helped to propel Jim's team into second place. The scenic backdrop of the full-to-capacity lake added to the splendor of four days on the water.

*Photo by Jack Naves, Fish Sniffer staff*



The author shows off a massive brown trout that was caught and released while pre-fishing the Shasta Classic Tourney on May 5. The fish slammed a Speedy Shiner trolled at 2.7 miles-per-hour across a gradual point on the main lake at only nine feet deep.

*Photo by Jim Brittain, Orangevale*



Kokanee Power's two-day Shasta Lake Classic Team Tourney featured a raffle and giveaways. Each team received several bottles of scent from Northwest Bait & Scent to fish during the derby, and Lorelei Cantrell (pictured above) was the lucky winner of an EDGE MagPro HSR 7111-1 rod.

*Photo provided by Bryan McGinty, EDGE Rods staff*

to pick up three rainbows, but nothing of size. We trolled southbound, and a downpour broke out. We pulled lines and made the choppy run back to the main lake where we dropped our lures. That was when the classic pre-fishing jinx hit us hard!

Just after re-tying one of my kinked leaders, my rod got slammed and I landed and quickly released a massive six-pound brown. It was a beautiful fish, but we hoped for a non-repeat of the previous year when we burned up most of our brown trout luck during pre-fishing. Determined to scout new waters for tourney day, we hit several more spots for a daily total of six trout with no fish lost. With all thirteen of our hooked fish landed over two days of pre-fishing, we knew what loomed for us during tournament fishing...

On the first morning of the tournament, we slowly motored out of the hotel parking lot in dark, quiet rain. About forty minutes later, Jimmy's boat was in the water. We slowly crept across the water's surface in anticipation of tournament start time. I was staring at my phone, it read 5:29 and then suddenly switched to 5:30. "Five thirty!" I called out, and we immediately slung our lures into the water as rain dripped from our hoods.

Less than ten minutes later in near darkness, Jimmy's rod popped out of its downrigger clip. Right off the bat, he had a substantial fish pinned to his lure! Just as I stretched out with the net, the lure came flying out of the water. Our first lost fish of the trip, and it was a nice one! Doom and gloom set in when only five minutes later we pulled a repeat performance, only this time it was my turn to lose a fish in similar fashion.

With daylight gaining ground, we pondered 'what if the bite turns off and we just blew our chances at getting a four-fish bag'? Luckily for us, that did not turn out to be the case. We found a steady bite all morning, landing nine of the twelve fish that we hooked that day. Contrary to usual tournament luck, we were actually catching bigger fish than we caught during pre-fishing. We bagged chunky rainbows between two and three pounds, plus a small brown that contributed to our four-fish bag. With five o'clock approaching, we headed to the weigh-in at Basshole Brews and then cleaned up for the banquet.

Dinner was served on Saturday evening to a jam-packed crowd at the Lakehead Lyons Club. After a feast of smoky tri-tip, cheese potatoes, green beans, and cake for dessert, the standings were announced. Jimmy and I were shocked to be sitting in third place, but both of us recounted to the previous year when we dropped out of the top ten

after a dismal second day of fishing.

Back at the hotel, it resembled backstage at a dysfunctional Broadway dressing room. Bibs, parkas, and gloves of every size and color hung from lamp shades, curtain rods, and anyplace we could find to dry our soaked apparel. Sleep came easy after three days of battling the elements. There was still one and final day to go.

Considering that a lot of the teams struggled or failed to catch four-fish bags on the first day, we knew that we were onto something good. We packed up, checked out, and hit the road by four-thirty Sunday morning. The rain gave us a reprieve, allowing us to launch in non-soaking conditions for a change.

Back on the fishing grounds, we picked up where we had left off on Saturday. By eight o'clock, we already had an eight-pound bag for the weigh-in. On cue, the skies opened and rain greeted us for the fourth-straight day. Unsatisfied, Jimmy motored the boat into a new cove we hadn't yet explored. Just like magic, he pulled a 2.5 pound brown trout off of a steep, rocky ledge. An upgrade fish!

We continued to work in the rain along shorelines and open water, ending with seven trout on eleven hookups. Another solid day, and good enough as it turned out to bump us into second place! The derby was a huge success and featured 60 teams and 153 participants. There was a lack of king and kokanee salmon, but the size of the rainbows was definitely up from recent years.

Our sights are already focused on next year, with dreams of hooking that six-pound brown during the derby instead of during pre-fishing. The full-to-capacity lake was absolutely gorgeous. This tourney is more of a vacation than a competition, and I encourage anybody reading this to plan on attending next year. With Basshole Brews, Tsasdi Resort, Sugarloaf Cottages Resort, and other amenities located in Lakehead, you get the full experience of a vacation along with the excitement of tournament fishing rolled into one. Visit [www.KokaneePower.org](http://www.KokaneePower.org) for details and to view other upcoming events.

## Shasta Classic Results

### Main Team Event (2-day total, 4-fish each day)

Robby Mannon, Jeremy Huff 20.86 lbs

Jim Brittain, Jack Naves 18.26 lbs

Tom Hamada, Scott Dean 16.21 lbs

Kenny MacDonald Steve McSween,

Ken McDonald 14.77 lbs

Mike Tripp, Kyle Wise 14.75 lbs

Warren Fredrickson, Rene Villanueva,

Brian Hough 13.77 lbs

Tony Whiteside, Tom Akin 13.28 lbs

Nick & Breana Kemp 13.05 lbs

Mary Dunham, Chris Dunham 12.95 lbs

Paul Kneeland, John Brassfield 12.30 lbs

### Big Trout

Robby Mannon, Jeremy Huff 4.72 lbs (Saturday)

Brandon Copleman, Donna Short 5.22 lbs (Sunday)

### Big King

Brent & Robert Beers 1.19 lbs

### Junior Division (2-day total, 2-fish each day)

Aubrey McLennan 5.82 lbs

Drew Bundy 4.87 lbs

Lorelei Cantrell 4.24 lbs

Jack Sacfuri 2.91 lbs

Kassidy Landsburg 1.24 lbs

Lyla Landsburg 1.03 lbs