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Stampede Lake Map Feature

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ROUNDUP SECTION ON
PAGE 28

Our
35th
Year

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Kokanee Power Lake Pardee Derby Features Kokes, Bows, and...Channel Cats?

During a recent striper trolling adventure with the Fish Sniffer's

own Cal Kellogg, we hooked a very large fish which unfortunately turned out to be a sturgeon. While Cal may have thought he had the strip-er of the lifetime on the end of his rod, in the end it was something totally unexpected.

A similar scenario unfolded several times during the recent Kokanee Power Lake Pardee Team Kokanee Derby on June third. As my family and I targeted kokanee on a warm Saturday morning, my downrigger rod got slammed. I battled the hard-fighting, head-shaking fish, thinking that I may have a really nice kokanee to add to our weight total.

As my wife Gina swung the net into position, I could see a rosy stripe down the side of the fish. At that point, I knew it wasn't a kokanee, but instead a rainbow trout! It was not the targeted species, but a nice fish for the cooler none the less.

Catching trout while targeting kokanee is not too uncommon, but Lake Pardee still had a few surprises up its sleeve. Later that morning, we ended up landing a third, more unexpected species of fish.

This year, my derby experience began on Friday, June second, which was the day before the derby. I hadn't fished Pardee much this year, and decided that some pre-fishing to scout out my usual locations were in order. On Friday, I was fishing with Kirby Desha and his daughter Raina.

We had a great day on the water, landing fifteen kokanee and losing fifteen fish by 2:00 pm. The scouting paid off, and I discovered that most of the fish were in the south half of

the main lake. We had managed to catch two kokanee over fifteen inches long, and I could only hope to duplicate those kind of results the next day when it counted.

On derby day, the team of my wife and I arrived with our two children Grace and Adam, who would be competing in the

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WHAT'S
HOT
by
Jack Naves



Grace Naves shows off what turned out to be the Youth Division's 3rd place kokanee during the Kokanee Power Derby at Lake Pardee.

Photo by JACK NAVES, Fish Sniffer Staff.

LAKE ALMANOR: CATCH AND RELEASE THE HARD WAY!



Bryan Roccucci of Big Daddy's Guide Service has been putting his clients on some fantastic Almanor trout this June. This impressive brown was fooled with a threaded worm on June 20.

Photo courtesy of BIG DADDY'S GUIDE SERVICE, Quincy.

Bryan, Larry, Anthony, Gene and I had endured hours of cold, wind

and nasty chop, but now Larry was hooked up and from all indications he was into something big. The fish wasn't running or headshaking and truth be told it probably didn't realize that it was even hooked.

The trout simply swam slowly back and forth, some 200 feet behind the boat. Larry's downrigger rod was bent sharply against the unseen bulk and despite the fact that he turned the reel smoothly and methodically no line was being gained or lost.

It was several minutes into the "fight", when the fish came to life. Our captain, Bryan Roccucci had gone into the boat's canvas cabin to grab something and Larry was looking down at his reel when the fish bolted,

but since I was shooting video I saw everything.

The fish dug in hard with its tail and ran out to the port side in a crescent shaped blitz that ended in a wild jump.

The fish looked bright yellow and massive against the slate grey water and I felt an instant surge of adrenaline.

"Whatever you do Larry don't pump the rod or mess with the drag. Just reel. That's a really big fish and it's got a lot of fight left in it," I exclaimed.

Instantly Bryan was back on deck and he asked, "How big Cal four or five pounds? Bigger? Rainbow? Brown?"

"It's big, at least 5 pounds and honestly it looked like a big yellow carp. That got a laugh from everyone including Larry, but I

continued, "It's got to be a brown."

Larry hadn't done much downrigger trolling for trout, but he knew how to handle a fishing rod. He stayed patient

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GONE
FISHING
by
Cal Kellogg



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STAFF TACKLE

What We're Using

Cal Kellogg - Hosted the Annual Couple's Challenge aboard the California Dawn. For light tackle live bait drifting, Cal used a Fenwick 7'5" Aetos casting rod paired with an Abu Garcia Orra Inshore baitcaster with a 7.1:1 gear ratio. The reel was spooled with 30 lb FINS braid. Cal caught several halibut on the combo, but none of them were keepers.



Paul Kneeland - fished Pyramid Lake, Nevada with Bridget Looney in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught Lahontan cutthroat trout to 4-1/2 pounds using a new Lamiglas Kwik Series 8' light action Composite trigger stick rigged with an Daiwa ICV15 Accudepth level wind reel loaded with 8 lb test Yozuri Topknot fluorocarbon line. They trolled a chartreuse 4 inch Apex and chartreuse/orange dot Silver Horde spoons behind Vance's cannonball flashers off the Canon downriggers at 25 to 55 feet deep and 2.4 mph.



Dan Bacher - fished for rainbow trout at Rollins Reservoir. 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 Berkley chartreuse glitter and fluorescent orange PowerBait on #14 gold Eagle Claw hooks rigged with 4 lb. test Berkley Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon leaders on sliding sinker set-ups. He also tossed out 1/4 and 1/8 oz. Yakima Bait Rooster Tails in Brown Trout, Fire Tiger and Rainbow color patterns.



WHAT'S HOT Continued from Pg 1

junior division. We pulled up to the lake at 4:45 am, only to see a huge line of trailers waiting at the gate. Rigs were backed up all the way past the turnoff to the road to the dam! It was one of the biggest turnouts I have ever seen, and I knew we had our work cut out for us.

Once we got situated on the water, the kokanee started coming over the rails in grand fashion. At first light, we couldn't get the rods out fast enough. The kids got in on the action, landing several kokanee themselves. It was great until about 8:00 am, when the bite really slowed down. By 9:00 am, it had pretty much totally shut down.

Several hours into the slow period was when I nailed that rainbow trout. Not long afterwards, I was making a pass along an oak tree lined bank when the rod at 40 feet started pumping in the downrigger. "Wait...it's a fish" I muttered, and quickly jumped to my feet. The fish made a hard run straight down, and didn't want to

come up. I momentarily thought it might be tangled in the downrigger wire, but it wasn't. After the fish made several additional line-stripping runs to the bottom, I told Gina "This probably isn't a kokanee".

In my mind, I was thinking smallmouth bass. When I saw its golden flash though the crystal clear waters of Lake Pardee, I knew what it was. A channel catfish had grabbed my fluorescent blue kokanee spinner. Another false alarm!

The kids thought it was really cool and wanted to keep it. It was a decent-sized fish, so I figured that Cajun fried catfish wasn't such a bad idea after all. I bled it out and put it in the cooler, which was starting to collect quite the variety of species. I was thinking what's next...carp?

The bite picked up again around noon, and we scratched out a few more kokanee before heading to the weigh-in at 2:00 pm. Just after noon, we had picked up yet another catfish,

basically in the same location and depth as the first one. I guess if I ever want to target catfish at Pardee, I know where to start.

Back at the derby weigh-in, the usual festivities were underway. Kokanee Power is a well-run organization which promotes a fun, family-oriented atmosphere. Their derbies include a lunch, optional raffle, and fun for all.

While waiting in line to weigh in our fish, I overheard another entrant remark how he too had caught a catfish. Aside from the oddity of species being landed, the bite pattern was also out of the ordinary.

Usual years have us catching kokanee at Lake Pardee around 45 feet deep in beginning of June. However, with water roaring over the spillway, this year's pattern has been less predictable.

We caught almost half of our fish right on the surface, with other fish coming at 20 and 40 feet deep. It was an odd range of depths for early summer kokanee fishing. All in all, we landed ten fish while

losing an additional ten fish.

When all was said and done, my wife Gina and I finished in fourth place for the team event. We didn't get any fifteen inchers, but it was a great showing nonetheless.

What was more gratifying was that our daughter Grace took third, and our son Adam took first in the junior division. He was so proud that he actually slept with the trophy that night. Grace finished first back in 2014, so now they have equal bragging rights.

Kokanee Power has more derbies lined up this summer, and I recommend attending any of their future events if you can. Information is listed on their website at www.kokaneePower.org



Young Adam Naves took first place in the Youth Division with this big salmon during the 2017 Kokanee Power event at Lake Pardee.

Photo by JACK NAVES, Fish Sniffer Staff.

RV Lifestyle

by Cliff Woolard, RV's Of Sacramento

Lightweight & Versatile: Jayco Tent Campers!

So, you've decided that sleeping in a tent or a sleeping bag is just not what is used to be. The idea of camping beneath the stars, next to the lake in your own RV, sounds pretty inviting, right? When considering your first RV, one can hardly top the Jayco Jay Series tent camper line for features, affordability, and a small footprint on the environment.

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Hey Dan! – Letters To The Editor

What's on your mind? Do you have something you'd like to share with us and our readers? A picture... a story... a question to ask, or an answer to another?

Let's hear your compliments, or your gripes! Whatever it is, send it to:
HEY, DAN!, c/o Fish Sniffer Publications, The Fish Sniffer - P.O. Box 776, Colfax, CA 95713,
or you can now e-mail it at danielbacher@fishsniffer.com.
Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of pictures or text. Thanks!

Why Is Delta Independent Science Board Defending California WaterFix?

Hey Dan!

I decided to get out a short letter moments ago to the Delta Independent Science Board about their awful WaterFix EIR/S review. Below is the letter.

E. Robert Wright, Senior Counsel.
Friends of the River

June 14, 2017

Delta Independent Science Board Members via Email

Re: URGENT Delta Independent Science Board public review draft, Final EIR/EIS for California WaterFix

Dear Delta Independent Science Board Members:

This follows up some brief comments we made at your teleconference meeting two days ago about your public review draft of your review of the Final EIR/EIS for the California WaterFix Delta Water Tunnels project. First, we were surprised that the content and tone of your public review draft is oriented to defending the Final EIR/EIS instead of addressing such serious deficiencies as the complete failure of the EIR/EIS to include any alternatives finally beginning to restore through-Delta flows by reducing exports. The draft actually includes language in the last paragraph (at p. 14) stating:

These comments should not be taken as criticism of those who have assembled the information, carried out the analyses, and prepared the BDCP and WaterFix environmental documents. They followed what the laws, regulations, and permitting processes require. They faced enormous challenges from such a large and complex system. (Emphasis added).

In fact, there have been numerous comments by respected public interest organizations over the years about significant and profound violations of NEPA and CEQA permeating the project environmental documents. Being neither judges nor lawyers, opining that the environmental documents comply with law is not something that you are qualified to do. Many lawyers have concluded that the environmental documents do not comply with NEPA or CEQA and have stated in formal comments. That inappropriate conclusion should be deleted from your review.

Second, the last two pages of your review in addition to including the above language, includes a whole section (at pp. 12-14): "Reflections: Paralysis by Analysis, and an Opportunity missed." This section includes the language (at p. 13) stating:

In our judgment, what the Courts now require to be included in an EIS/EIR can make them so massive as to be incomprehensible... Until legislatures amend NEPA and CEQA and

set a new course, we recommend that the agencies prepare a separate document for each project laying out the critical issues for public and scientific review. (Emphasis added).

The new Administration and Congress would no doubt appreciate very much language from independent scientists blaming court decisions enforcing our laws for the length and other problems with some environmental impact statements and reports. In fact, most experienced environmental lawyers and judges who handle these cases would, I believe, explain to you that it is the continuing efforts by some public agencies in some situations to fail to make the environmental full disclosure required by NEPA and CEQA that leads to decisions determining that certain environmental documents fail to comply with law. Another ongoing problem is refusal by some public agencies in some instances, like the BDCP/WaterFix, to include development of real alternatives to projects out of concern that the public would end up favoring such alternatives over the project that the agency and/or its masters wish to carry out.

This entire section needs to either be deleted or drastically modified, unless it really is your intent to assist efforts to weaken NEPA and CEQA. In the current political climate, the very last thing we need is "amendments" of NEPA and CEQA.

~Sincerely, E. Robert Wright,
Senior Counsel, Friends of the River

Hey Bob!

You wrote a superb letter! Many public trust advocates fear that under pressure from the water contractors and Jerry Brown administration, the "independent scientists" may be following the dictates of political "science" rather than real science and cave into defending this massive water project, considered by many to be the most environmentally destructive public works project in California history. The Delta Tunnels project is based on the absurd contention that diverting more water from the Sacramento River for use by corporate agribusiness interests and Southern California water agencies will somehow result in the "restoration" of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Thanks for all of the work that you do defending the Delta, our rivers and our imperiled fisheries!

~Dan

COVER STORY



Jack Naves pulled out all the stops and no species was safe when he fished the recent Kokanee Power Derby at Lake Pardee. Kokanee were Jack's target, but that didn't stop him from landing a big rainbow and a bigger channel cat. The channel cat jumped all over a blue kokanee spinner. While Lake Pardee is best known for its outstanding bass, trout and kokanee fishing, the catfish action can be great too. Traditional baits like mackerel and nightcrawlers fished early and late in the day produce results, but the best baits are kokanee or trout entrails.

Photo by GINA NAVES, Fish Sniffer Staff.

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