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KOKANEE POWER
P.O. BOX 3857 MERCED, CA 95344-1857

THE KOKANEE KRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOKANEE POWER

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE!

BY: WES HAMASAKI

While small in stature compared to other sport fish that frequent the waterways of Central and Northern California, they are one of the most popular during the Spring and Summer months. On any given day between April and September, you are bound to see a boat going down the freeway with downriggers either going to or coming back from one of California's many impoundments that have Kokanee.

California's Kokanee fishery is extremely important to both the state's economy as a whole as well as the local economy. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent every year on Kokanee fishing from boat sales, boating accessories, rods, reels, and fishing tackle. If you take a walk through the International Sportsman's Expo every January, you could see how big of a presence Kokanee fishing has. Kokanee fishing helps support the local economies as families plan their summer vacations around Kokanee fishing. They come from all areas of California to fish their favorite impoundment for Kokanee. After catching their limits in the morning, they get cleaned up and go into the towns that surround the lake they are fishing at to enjoy what the town has to offer such as shopping, restaurants, and museums.

While Kokanee are a key staple here in California, it is not widely known the amount of effort it takes to ensure that these wonderful fish are available for us to catch on a yearly basis. It's a team effort from California's Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), fisheries organizations like Kokanee Power, and many volunteers. It all begins with the egg take. In late September, the DFW put weirs in two places - the Little Truckee River and Taylor Creek. This traps the Kokanee into a confined space, and the DFW monitors their maturity process until they are ready to spawn. Once the Kokanee are ready, a group of volunteers go up to each location with the DFW for the egg take. This is where they net the Kokanee, extract the eggs from the females, and fertilize the eggs with the male's sperm.

After the eggs are collected, they are delivered to the San Joaquin Fish Hatchery in Friant, CA. Here, a group of Kokanee Power volunteers in partnership with the DFW tend to the eggs daily. As the days, weeks, and months pass by, they get to see their hard work pay off. They are able to see the Kokanee grow from those eggs into little fingerlings and eventually into a size large enough to be planted in California's impoundments. It's definitely a rewarding effort as it's like watching kids grow up. Once the Kokanee fishing season is over, the process starts all over again with the egg take. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the 2014 egg take, please contact Director John Lico after 5 PM at [\(707\) 246-7171](tel:7072467171).



FUTURE PUBLICATIONS OF THE KOKANEE KRONICLE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:

<http://www.kokanee.com>

OR



Search "Kokanee Power" on Facebook

Below are the 2014 Kokanee plant numbers by impoundment:

2014 CALIFORNIA KOKANEE SALMON PLANTS		2014 CALIFORNIA KING SALMON PLANTS	
Water	Count	Water	Count
Bass Lake	50,036	Almanor	53,985
Berryessa	49,994	Berryessa	88,910
Boca Reservoir	49,968	Del Valle	10,000
Bullards Bar	99,537	Don Pedro Reservoir	90,035
Del Valle	19,888	Folsom Lake	99,990
Don Pedro	9,991	McClure	49,997
Donner Lake	49,994	Oroville	139,709
Hellhole Reservoir	24,650	Pine Flat	74,991
Little Grass Valley	19,650		
McClure	20,012		
New Melones	50,640		
Pine Flat	50,004		
Scotts Flat	24,977		
Shaver Lake	50,050		
Stampede Reservoir	74,998		
Taylor Creek (Tahoe)	149,991		
Union Valley Reservoir	49,984		

A special thank goes out to all the volunteers who have helped during any stage of this process. Without their help, we would not have the vast opportunities to fish for Kokanee like we do now.

SHAVER LAKE RECAP

BY: WES HAMASAKI

After a year absence from Shaver Lake, Kokanee Power returned on September 6th for the last event of 2014. Last year, the event was cancelled due to the Kokanee not being mature yet and still young. In 2011, Shaver Lake was drained to conduct some much needed work on the dam. When the effort was completed in 2012 and the level of the lake safe enough to restock fish, the Department of Fish and Wildlife put the first plant of Kokanee into the lake.

Knowing the history, the anglers were excited to be at Shaver Lake for the event. Anticipation was high leading up to the event as reports of Kokanee over 15 inches have been consistently caught on all the usual offerings. Over 80 participants came to experience what Shaver Lake had to offer, and while the water was low due to the drought, the fishing did not disappoint as there were some nice quality fish caught that tipped the scales at just over a pound. While contention among the top five was tight, the team of Jack Schultz, Alan Treynor, and Carol Voris were victorious with a final weight of 49 ounces for their three fish.

The derby results have been posted and can be seen at the link below. Also check out the photos in our Photo Gallery or on Facebook

<http://www.kokaneepower.org/derbiesdet.php?code=20140906>

PARDEE DERBY RECAP

BY: WES HAMASAKI

A set of headlights appear in the distance. As it gets closer, you can hear the rumble of a diesel pickup becoming more audible along with the occasional squeak coming from the springs of a boat trailer. It's early Saturday morning. August 16th to be exact. This is the first vehicle to approach the Lake Pardee Recreational Facility. It's early enough that the gates are still closed for another 30 minutes. However, with each minute that passes, the line of vehicles and boats continues to grow. Before long, there's a decent sized line wishing for the Pardee gates to open.

On August 16th, Lake Pardee served as the setting for Kokanee Power's sixth event of 2014. With over 100 adult entrants and close to a dozen junior anglers, this was one of the biggest single-day events of year. Mother Nature was kind rather than coming derby day. In previous years, the weather is the epitome of summer with temps over 100 degrees. However, this year, participants were greeted with unseasonably cool temperatures. The morning was brisk with temperatures into the mid-50s and by the afternoon increased to the mid-80s, which made fishing very pleasant.

While the weather was great, the fishing itself proved to be a challenge. Some anglers were able to piece together the puzzle and work for limits of chunky Kokanee up to 14 inches while others struggled for even a bite. While huge schools of Kokanee were marked, it was definitely a struggle to get them to bite. At the end of the day, the best action was around the Deer Island area between 90 and 115 feet. The best lure used to entice the Kokanee into biting were Apexes in various assorted colors. Jack and Gina Naves clued in on this pattern and emerged victorious. Their daughter, Gina, also took top honors in the junior division as well.

A special thank you to all participants and congratulations to the top adult teams and juniors that placed. Without your support and participation, we wouldn't be able to do what we do to enhance California's inland fisheries.

To view the derby results, you can see them at the link below and check out the photos in the Photo Gallery or on Facebook.

<http://www.kokaneepower.org/derbiesdet.php?code=20140816>

STAMPEDE DERBY RECAP

BY: WES HAMASAKI

It's a brisk, cool morning in August. The air is fresh and clean with a slight hint of pine. The night sky is still present and the stars look as bright as can be. There's a slight layer of dew that was left during the night on the vehicle windows and boats parked in the campground. Soon, a tranquil and silent place begins to come alive as fellow derby anglers awake from their over night slumber and prepare for what lies ahead of them - the Stampede Kokanee Power Derby.

On August 2nd, Stampede served as the setting for the fifth event of the Kokanee Power 2014 season. Anglers were greeted with record low water levels. Leading up to the event, there was an effort to remove silt from the bottom of the launch ramp that has not been exposed in years so that boats could launch. While the water was low and made launching slightly more challenging than normal, spirits were high as anglers took to the water search of the lake's beautiful, hard fighting Kokanee.

In typical Stampede fashion, the bite was best during the first couple hours of the morning as the sun rose over the mountains and the dam. Once the sun was up, the bite slowed and challenged angler's patience and every trick in their book of secrets to entice the fish to bite. At the end of the day, the team of Dale Gibbons and Jason Tidwell enticed the heaviest three fish as they weighted in a total of 2.5 pounds to emerge victorious over their fellow competitors.

Congrats to the to those who placed in the top 15 as well as the top juniors. Thank you to all who participated and showed their support for the fishery and organization! To view the derby results, you can see them at the link below:

<http://www.kokaneepower.org/derbiesdet.php?code=20140802>

UPCOMING EVENTS



Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

September 30th: First Egg Take At Little Truckee River

Call John Lico after 5 PM at **(707) 246-7171** if you would like to participate.

October 11, 12: Shasta Lake Trout Derby

Sign up via through <http://www.shastalaketrounderby.com>

WANT KOKANEE POWER GEAR? VISIT OUR NEW ONLINE STORE AT:

<http://www.kokanee.org/store/>

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? VISIT:

<http://www.kokanee.org/join.php>