



Kokanee Power

April Newsletter

April 21, 2026

Kokanee Power: 28 Years of Passion and Purpose

What started as a simple idea among a small group of dedicated anglers has grown into one of the most impactful kokanee conservation organizations in the West.

The roots of Kokanee Power trace back to 1997, when a handful of fishermen began discussing ways to improve kokanee fisheries and create more opportunities for anglers. Those conversations quickly turned into action, and on June 3, 1998, Kokanee Power officially held its first meeting.

Now, 28 years later, Kokanee Power continues to thrive—driven by the same passion that sparked it all. From supporting hatchery programs and working alongside state agencies, to hosting derbies that bring the community together, the organization has played a vital role in sustaining and enhancing kokanee fisheries.

Beyond the events and efforts, Kokanee Power represents something bigger: a shared commitment to conservation, camaraderie, and giving back to the sport we all love.

As we look ahead, we honor those early pioneers who turned an idea into reality—and the members today who continue to carry that legacy forward.

Welcome to the Kokanee Power email newsletter. We are hoping to put this out bi-monthly or even monthly in an effort to keep members up to date on what's happening within the organization.

LAKE SISKIYOU TROUT PEN PROJECT



This is a great project that Kokanee Power supports via our bulk food purchases that supply food to pens at Shasta, Collins, New Melones, Lewiston and Lake Siskiyou. Kudos to all the groups, businesses, resort owners, vendors, and volunteers that make it happen at all of our supported pen locations. This is how membership, fundraiser, derby proceeds and donations are put to work to help enhance the fishery.



THE SHASTA LAKE TEAM EVENT, May 2nd & 3rd

A Look Back

What started in 2004 as a modest, grassroots event has grown into one of Northern California's premier fishing tournaments. The Kokanee Power Shasta Classic Trout tournament began as a simple trout and king salmon competition, drawing a few hundred dedicated anglers to the waters of Shasta Lake.

By 2006, the derby was already gaining traction, with strong participation and competitive weights. In those early years, the format was straightforward—individual anglers, modest payouts, and a focus on traditional trout and salmon fishing.

As the years progressed, so did the tournament. By the late 2000s, the event transitioned into a team-based format, bringing a new level of strategy and camaraderie. Side pots, structured payouts, and more formal weigh-ins added to the excitement and competitiveness.

Through the 2010s, the Shasta Classic truly hit its stride. Participation grew, techniques improved, and winning weights climbed. The tournament became a proving ground for some of the region's most skilled anglers, with familiar names rising to the top year after year.

Today, the Shasta Classic has fully evolved into a well-rounded, highly anticipated event. In addition to trout and king salmon, kokanee are now part of the mix, reflecting both the changing fishery and Kokanee Power's continued commitment to enhancement and conservation. With team divisions, big fish side pots, and opportunities for anglers of all ages, the derby blends serious competition with a strong sense of community both with its members and with the Lakehead Community.

From its humble beginnings on the back of a restaurant napkin, to the event we know today, the Shasta Classic stands as a testament to the passion and dedication of Kokanee Power, its members, and the Lakehead Community- like the Tsadi, Basshole, Sugarloaf Cabins, the Lyons Club and Lakeshore Inn. Whether you're fishing to win or just enjoying time on the water, it remains a highlight of the season year after year.

If you are interested in fishing this family fun event, there is still time to enter. Just click on the attached link and get signed up:

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FISHING REPORT as of 4/20/2026

To help those planning to fish Shasta, I reached out to one of the premier Shasta guides Jeff Goodwin for a few insider tips. Here's what he had to say:

"The trout fishing has picked up and so has the Kokanee bite. The Sac arm and McCloud arm will be fishing best. Look for the fish to still be 25-35' down with that number getting bigger as

the water warms up in May. King salmon should be best in the dry creek arm. Fish around 50' deep in the morning and move to 100' plus by late morning. Bass fishing will happen whether you want it to or not as they are very much on the feed before spawning. The brown bite should be good trolling KCP's behind divers and spoons behind side planers with 1-4 oz snap weights to get down into the bite windows. The Shad will be in open water up top but the bass and trout will be pushing them to the shorelines to feed. Open water and near shore trolling should be your best bet."

If you want to get a good grip on fishing Shasta Lake, reach out to one of the local guides like Jeff, Alex Ross, and Richie Hight among others. They all should have openings, just give them a call and get on the water before May 2nd & 3rd.

SHASTA WATER LEVEL

1,051.55 Feet MSL Level is 15.45 feet below full pool of 1,067.00

As of this writing, Shasta Lake sits just 15.45 feet below full pool, with rain currently falling and more expected over the next couple of days. The forecast is calling for clear weather during the event, but as we all know, predicting conditions that far out can be hit or miss.

If you're in need of lodging, consider Bridge Bay Resort. They offer clean rooms overlooking the marina, along with trailer parking and electrical hook-ups for charging batteries. I've stayed there in the past with Warren Frederickson, and it's a convenient 15–20 minute drive to Lakehead, where the weigh-in will take place.

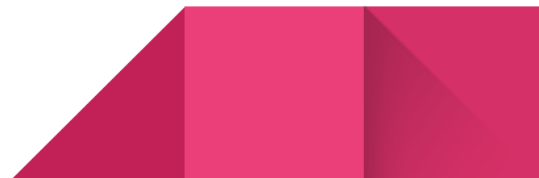




NEW BULLARD'S BAR TEAM DERBY

The Bullards Bar event presented some challenges, as can happen from time to time, but moments like these give us the opportunity to reflect, learn, and grow stronger together. At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to creating a fun, family-friendly atmosphere and modeling the kind of sportsmanship we hope to pass on to our junior anglers. They are, after all, the future. We're deeply grateful to everyone who participates in our events and supports what we do. That shared purpose is what makes this community special.

As we move forward, we invite everyone to stay engaged, bring a friend or family member to the next event, and continue helping us build something positive both on and off the water. We're looking ahead to a rewarding and memorable Kokanee season for all.



ON TO THE FUTURE

Starting next month, we'll include monthly AOY updates and derby recaps. Apologies for missing that in this issue—it went out later than planned and there wasn't enough time to compile everything.

Our next event is the **New Melones Derby on June 6th**. Boat bands are required. You can either band your boat for free starting May 4th and complete a 30-day quarantine, or have it decontaminated and banded during derby week for same-day launch. Without either, expect delays on event day. Note: New Melones does not accept bands from other lakes.

Adopt a Highway event

Join us May 16 for our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup at Don Pedro Reservoir! We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the viewpoint on Hwy 120 near Jacksonville Rd (above Moccasin Cove). With enough volunteers, it'll take about an hour—then you can hit the water, so bring your boat if you'd like. Safety gear is provided.

HELP WANTED

If you have ideas or would like to contribute to making this newsletter a success, please feel free to reach out to me by email or text.

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