

Union Valley Reservoir Tactics

Date: June 19, 2011

Prepared by: John Frantz, Guy Brown and Ken Mathes (Double Flutter lure)

Lake: Union Valley Reservoir (Rainbow & Brown Trout, Kokanee & Mackinaw)

Month: August

Areas: Spillway; Dam peninsula; Dam; Sunset area; Yellowjacket area; behind the Sunset ramp; South shore. See map on reverse side.

Water temperature & likely depth(s) fish will be at: 65-68 degrees, 30 feet (Rainbow), 60-65 feet (Kokanee), 100-120 feet (Mackinaw). Water may be visible down to 35 feet.

Rod, reel, main line (e.g. # test, lead core, etc.): Medium, medium light action, 6-7 feet, 8 lb. mono.

Leader #/length: 8 lb., 6-8 inches long.

Dodgers, side-kicks, wiggle fins, e-chips, flashers: Micro flashers early, mini flashers later with a night crawler; Wild Thing dodger gold with night crawler. Apply a scent to the dodger.

Lures/colors: Rainbows use red lures to match the red plankton in the top 6 inches of the lake. Mini-crawlers and night-crawlers behind flashers. Brown trout firetiger lures behind a gold dodger. Orange & purple dodgers have been good the 2009-2010 season. Mackinaw Rapalas, Double Flutter.

Scents/bait: Rainbows night crawlers/garlic. Brown Trout whole night crawler/Trophy Trout. Mackinaw thread a 5" herring from anus out through mouth with 18 inches of 20 lb. Maxima behind a watermelon dodger. Add lots of herring scent. Kokanee hootchies, ACMEs, Radical Glow Tubes in pink, green, purple with 2-hook rigs, shoe peg corn or Berkeley maggots garlic/carp spit/krill.

Leadcore, Side-planers, downriggers: Rainbows flashers & mini-crawlers. Brown Trout use side-planers early within 10-15 feet of bank, later try deeper water 50 feet from bank. Down riggers can be productive if fish are not on the surface. Mackinaw and Kokanee downriggers.

Tactics: With an electric trolling motor put your line behind the boat 100+ feet, more if you are using an outboard motor. Hard bite: Make S turns note which side gets hits (side where lures drop to a lower depth, slow down or side where lures rise to a higher depth, speed up); take boat out of gear for 3 seconds, put back in gear. Mackinaw: At 100-120 feet down using a dodger, 18 inch 20 lb. leader, 5 inch herring, herring scent. Rainbows: Good bank fishing.

Peak times: first light and dusk.

Fish finder: Start the day setting it to read water depth to 40 feet.

GPS: If you have one mark hits, hook-ups as soon as they occur and then stay in that area until the bite stops. Watch the direction of the marks it may tell you which direction the fish headed.

Boat handling: For Rainbows troll at 0.9-1.2 mph. For Kokanee 0.8-1.5 mph. For Brown Trout 1.5-3 mph. For Mackinaw 0.9-1.2 mph.

Amenities: Campground. Bears.

Directions: Hwy 50 East. At Riverton take the Crystal Basin (Ridge) road to the left. Follow the signs to Union Valley Reservoir. Pgs 66,59 DeLorme CA Gazetteer, 2008.

1. Sunset area
2. Dam.
3. Spillway
4. Dam peninsula
5. South shore
6. Behind the Sunset ramp
7. Yellowjacket area

