

Fish Were Biting At New Melones Launch Ramp



Mark Kautz

I don't normally endorse any products, either here or on my blog, but I've found something I want to share with you. I, like nearly everyone who camps, does tailgate parties, or enjoys other outdoor activities.

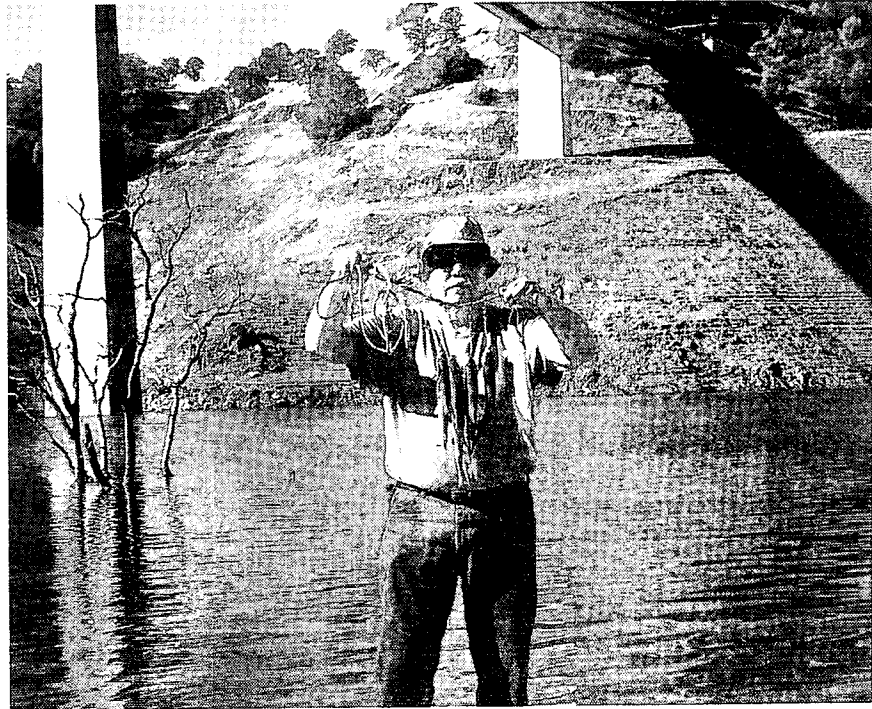
use those disposable propane canisters. I use them for camping and especially lighting my wood stove in the winter. I don't do that Boy Scout stuff with paper and kindling. I put some kindling in and a couple big chunks, and hit it with the propane torch. For at least 20 years, I've said that someone should make one that's refillable. I've finally found one and I wanted to share my discovery with you.

It's called the Little Kamper. You purchase the cylinder (filled) for around \$12.99, and when it's empty, bring it back and swap for a full one for the nominal cost of \$1.99. If you buy one at the store, it costs around \$5, so you can recover that \$12.99 with about five refills. The advertisement says the cylinder can be refilled hundreds of times. The nice part is that it can be obtained locally at Kamps Propane. I got four to start with. This is awesome.

On to fishing: I actually got out to New Melones on Monday, the 10th. I emailed my fishing buddy, Yuki, and said, "Let's go." We met at 9 a.m., at the "hand" launch ramp, just on the other side of the Highway 49 Bridge. There were two options where we could fish. One was to walk out toward the lake and climb down a pretty steep hill. The other was to walk about 100 yards down the launch ramp and fish where it met the water.

My fisherman's instinct said to go to the steep hill and fish in deeper water. My wife's voice in my brain reminded me that if I fall again, I was done fishing. OK, I went down the ramp. Besides, it was flat enough that I could put the red Coleman camping chair right next to the water.

Once settled in said camping chair, I



*Kautz holds a stringer filled with a limit under the 49 Bridge over New Melones Reservoir
Amador Ledger Dispatch photo by Mark Kautz*

re-rigged both lines with ½-oz. sinkers (for maximum distance) and rainbow Power Bait, and set both out. Yuki set out one out with chartreuse Power Bait and one with a crawler. Mine were out 150 feet or so and his were out 50 feet or so. Close in, he took the first fish on the chartreuse. Then I took one; he took his second; and I took my second. Then I quit counting.

Now, you're all aware of the Yuki hex. Well, I think I've figured out how to counteract it. See, Yuki stopped and got coffee on the way out and I didn't. He caught the first fish. There you go.

After some experimenting, we figured out that the fish were not way out, but in close and pretty much within the perimeters of the launch ramp, in about 18" of water.

Once again I re-rigged, with a smaller sinker and only 12" of leader, cast straight out 50 feet or so and then the fun began. In the span of one-and-a-half hours, we put eight fish on the stringer. At 10:30, the count was Yuki, three, and yours truly, five.

Just about then, two men and a young

boy paddled around the point. Apparently, the motor on their Zodiac boat had croaked. Since their truck and trailer was parked at Glory Hole, it was going to be a long paddle to get back. Yuki, being the nice guy he is, offered to run the guy over to Glory Hole to fetch his truck.

We packed up and walked up the 100 yards to our vehicles. Just as we got everything stowed, one of the guys said he got in touch with a friend and his friend was bringing him either the necessary parts to repair the motor or another motor.

So, our day was cut short with good intentions, but there will be other days for Yuki and me to fish together. On the other hand, he needed to take a couple of his horses to the vet. He could do that, although he'd rather have been fishing.

In case you didn't see the comment that Terry, from Lake Camanche, left me printed in my November 7 article, they started planting the week of November 9 with 4,000 pounds being the initial plant split among the North and South and the Trout Pond. North and South, they plan at the launch ramps. Get close if you can
Tight Lines.