

Loon Lake Tactics

Date: July 4, 2011

Prepared by: John Frantz, Guy Brown and Ken Mathes

Lake: Loon Lake (Rainbow & Brown Trout)

Month: July

Areas: See map below.

Water temperature & likely depth(s) fish will be at: 65-68 degrees, on the surface, perhaps as deep as 30 feet. 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; wildthing 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.

Scents/bait: Rainbows night crawlers/garlic. Brown Trout whole night crawler behind a watermelon dodger/Trophy Trout.

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.

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.

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 mph.

Amenities: Be careful of rocks, there are a lot in this lake. Keep an eye out for them. Lots of bears in the area.

Directions: Hwy 50 East. At Riverton take the Crystal Basin road to the left. Above Union Valley Reservoir, after crossing over the S. Fork of the American River look for the sign & turn right to Loon Lake. Look for the sign to the Launch Ramp. If you go over the dam you've missed it.

1. Boat ramp.
2. Head NE towards 2nd dam.
3. The Narrows at the NE end.
4. Center East shore. Larger fish.
5. Upper end (formerly Pleasant Lake) SW shore. Brown Trout.
6. On windy days.
7. The Tunnel. Very good when water flowing.

