



2026 Kokanee Power Season Preview

The **Kokanee Power** season is almost here, and **2026** is shaping up to be another great year. With **great lakes, incredible fishing opportunities, and the best kokanee anglers in the state.** We welcome **all anglers of every skill level** and offer a **highly competitive Angler of the Year race**, where the season's top performers are **honored at the annual Fall Banquet**, celebrating excellence across the entire derby schedule.

Kokanee Power also proudly hosts a **dedicated Junior Angler Division**, complete with **special prizes, recognition, and opportunities for young anglers to shine.** These young competitors represent **the future of kokanee fishing**, and each season brings new talent, excitement, and unforgettable moments as the next generation builds their skills on the water.



Bullards Bar – April 4, 2026

A prolific kokanee fishery known for **tight weights and high competition**, Bullards Bar continues to deliver some of the season's most exciting finishes. This event also honors the **late, great "Uncle" Larry Barnes**—a mentor to many with his knowledge and original tackle creations. He was a true friend throughout the kokanee community. We will be raffling off his boat at the annual KP Fall Awards Fundraiser banquet. Tickets will be available throughout the year at our events.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2025 – Joe Smith team**
Picked up their first win of the season by working the **main lake** with precision and consistency.
 - **2024 – Warren Frederickson Team**
Used their deep knowledge of the lake to run **far upriver to a secret location** and secure a decisive victory.
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Lake Shasta – May 2–3, 2026 (Two-Day Derby)

One of California's most **massive and complex fisheries**, Lake Shasta challenges anglers to adapt to **multiple species**, shifting **spring weather patterns**, and constantly changing water conditions. As a **two-day derby**, it demands **consistency**, versatility, and the ability to adjust quickly.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2024 & 2025 – Nick Brito Team**
Back-to-back champions, establishing true **Shasta Lake dominance**. They **fished various locations across the lake to put together a winning mixed bag**, showcasing unmatched adaptability across Shasta's sprawling, ever-changing waters.
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New Melones – June 6, 2026

We are heading back to the **highly anticipated New Melones**, one of the most fiercely fought derbies on the Kokanee Power schedule. This year, **local Melones anglers and guides have a chance to prove their skills** in a deep and competitive field. Some extra steps will be required due to the **golden mussel protocol**, and Kokanee Power will release updates as they become available.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2024 – Kevin Smith Team**
Claimed victory **fishing amongst a very crowded field** near the **Carson Creek arm**.
 - **2023 – James Franco Team**
Made a **lengthy run and pulled off a late-day surge**, fishing near the **mouth of Bear Creek** to secure the win.
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Don Pedro – July 11, 2026

Featuring **over 13,000 fishable surface acres**, Don Pedro can be **one of the toughest kokanee lakes in California**. In recent years, **kokanee could be found from one end of the lake to the other**, and the winning angler typically must **fish tight to structure**. Low-density kokanee

populations only add to the challenge, making Don Pedro one of the most demanding strategic derbies of the entire season.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2024 & 2025 – Justin Ross Team**
Back-to-back champions, demonstrating **Don Pedro mastery**. In both seasons they covered multiple locations across the lake—from Jenkins Hill all the way to the powerlines—showcasing elite electronics skills and exceptional consistency on one of the state’s most difficult venues.
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Stampede Reservoir – August 1, 2026

A high-country kokanee powerhouse, Stampede is known for **large populations of kokanee**. Anglers can typically expect to **catch a significant number of fish throughout the derby**, making for fast-paced, action-packed fishing.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2025 – Jack Schultz / Brian Thomas Team**
Claimed victory and **big fish honors** by covering **open water on the east side** of the lake.
 - **2024 – Jimmy Brittain Team**
Navigated a crowded field to win near the **Little Truckee arm**.
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Shaver Lake – September 12, 2026

Shaver Lake closes the season with its unique blend of **mountain scenery** and **mixed-size kokanee**, where anglers must contend with **varying late-summer weather** that can range from **high heat to crisp fall temperatures and even occasional thunderstorms**. The lake’s traffic and conditions force competitors to maintain precision throughout the day.

Recent Winner Highlights

- **2025 – Joe Smith team**
Secured their **second win of the season**, fishing near the **old dam**.
- **2024 – Jack Schultz / Brian Thomas Team**
Picked up a big win and secured their Angler of the Year title fishing in front of the **houses on a very busy lake**.

As we look forward to the 2026 season, we want to **thank all anglers** for their participation in past and future Kokanee Power tournaments. A special thanks goes out to **all volunteers** whose contributions make every derby possible. We also recognize and celebrate our **Junior Anglers** for their energy, dedication, and passion for the sport. From all of us at Kokanee Power, we **wish everyone a Happy New Year**, and tight lines in the year ahead!