

Becker Lake Journals

Subject: My Becker Lake Journals

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Becker Lake is my favorite Lake in Az. Why?: because I've found it produces the biggest fish consistently. FWIW, here are some thoughts and observations I've gathered, although others likely have other thoughts and recommendations. I think these general tactics are pretty applicable to other Lakes.

1. Use electronics. Depth is a primary issue here, as the trout often feed just above the bottom, meaning you must know the depths under where you're fishing.
2. Hanging flies under an indicator is the go to method, after which trolling leeches and striping Elvis follow.
3. During warm water and winter, fish are deep (15 ft). This requires break away indicators.
4. Red and black midge patterns in size 16-18 are best (e.g., zebras and sno-cones) usually work.
5. Set up a rod with 10' leaders, below with 4-5' of 4x mono to a swivel (for weight), then a foot or so of 5x to the flies). Add a small split shot if not using weighted flies.
6. If you have wind chop, that will animate the flies. If waters are still (this never happens), move the flies to you using finger retrieves or longer pulls that lift the flies, after which strikes often occur as the flies drop. This also helps with the boredom of watching your indicator.
7. I set up with two 10 ft rods; one rigged with an intermediate line for pulling leeches and Elvis, the other with a floating line for hanging flies under indicator and for dry flies should you see surface activity (usually hoppers and ants). No results?: Change depth, then location, before going through your fly box.
8. Fish often feed just off of weed beds, visible most of the time. Great places to hang or troll along.
9. Elvis is ridiculously effective at times. Fish these by casting long and immediately pulling in any slack, as fish often hit as the fly sinks. Then, either retrieve with 2-3 short (5-8") pulls followed by rests, or experiment with various retrievals. Trout often hit as the fly falls or follow until you begin to pull the fly up to the boat. Elvis is also often hit simply trolling as you kick. No need for subtlety here, use swivels and 4x down to the fly. Respond to hits using a pull strike rather than raising the rod.
10. Fish near shore in the shoulder months (spring and late Sept into Nov), and plan to go deep at other times.
11. Be sure to carry an anchor with plenty of scope, as anchoring is often necessary to deal with the wind.
12. There is usually a fleet of locals who know what the fish are doing. Go where you see these guys concentrating. Ask what's working; they may actually tell you!

Sent from my iPad

