

# Chum Line

Good Sportsmanship is Worth all the Fish in the Ocean



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• APRIL 1999 •

## The Frequent Pleasures of Fishing...

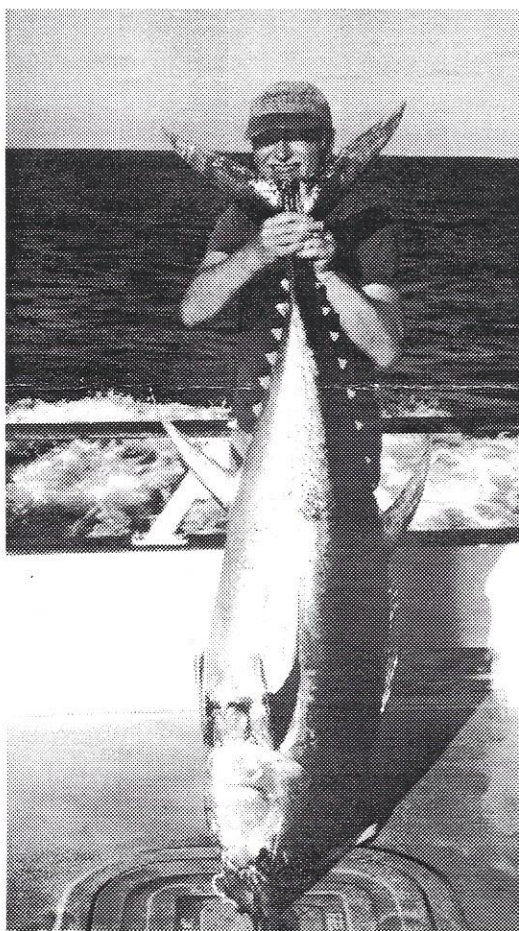
by Eric Rogger

**C**hum Line editor, Dan Felger, has written elsewhere in this edition about our recent trip aboard the *Polaris Supreme*. It seems that things came together unlike many other trips, although neither of us wound up "in the money".

It is an absolute pleasure to fish off the big boat, when the skiffs are out with their complement of anglers, and we found ourselves competing with only eleven others. The ratio of crew to passengers was two to one—that is two passengers for each crewman—and the service was excellent. Some might consider it a negative to ride the boat for almost four days to get to Clarion Island, but the time seemed to go fast. We had daily seminars on fishing techniques, dealing with tuna, wahoo and skiff behavior. It is an absolute kick to catch fish from the skiff and even a bigger blast to catch a fish off a kite. We also experienced wahoo in the chunk line, and I enjoyed catching one in that manner.

Not all of these methods are successful at all times, but everyone who puts a line in the water knows that at any time your reel might go off with a sizzling run of a "fresh one".

On these trips, which are mainly wahoo and tuna efforts, you never know what's going to take your sardine bait. I had one such occasion while fishing



Eric Rogger's reward for 1 1/2 hours well spent.

Roca Perdida. Realizing it was almost the end of the trip, I got up early and started fishing while it was still clear. Using 40-lb. line on a TLD 20 two-speed topped with a 60-lb. multistrand wire leader (remember the wahoo), I got a bite with the line peeling off about half way down the spool to my Spectra backup. I was on that sucker

Continued on page 7  
PLEASURES

## Santa Monica Bay Degradation

by Russ Izor

**T**here are many man-made causes for the oceans to be in the shape they are in today, not the least of which is unthinking commercial and, yes, sometimes sportfishing, over-exploitation of our fisheries. Take our local Santa Monica Bay, as an example. In my now lost youth, "the bay" was really quite a remarkable source of fishing activity. The close-in coastal waters (300 feet from shore) had a constant forage (anchovy, smelt, grunion, perch and sardine) population. From these fish came the food supply for the larger animals (much the same as in any jungle). There were abundant kelp forests at both ends of the bay (from Point Dume to Rocky Point). There was also good canopy (giant kelp) at the mouths of the canyons, from Topanga Canyon to Carbon Canyon. There was even a steady patch just outside of old Long Wharf and a special kelp forest right at Malibu Point. For those of you who operate small boats, the kelp was so thick at both of these points that you could not run through it! And these kelp beds held an enormous volume of fish not only inside the beds but also outside the beds where it appears that the large predators roamed.

Over the years as our city (Los Angeles) emerged as a huge metropolis, the most valuable property has become property with a view of the good old bay! The developers and their bulldozers went

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SANTA MONICA BAY

## EDITORIAL By Dan Felger

**OUR SCREWED-UP SEASONS** - The generally accepted twelve-month calendar breaks up the four seasons, as follows: December, January, February—winter; March, April, May—spring; June, July, August—summer; September, October, November—fall. This is our mental image of the seasons, although the seasons actually change on the 21st day of March, June, September and December. We are also somewhat conditioned to think of seasons in terms of weather; i.e.: winter (cold, sleet and ice); spring (showers and wind); summer (hot!); fall (falling leaves). All of this brain washing makes it easy to understand the mentality of the modern day fisherman. He or she will eagerly take the fishing tackle out of the closet in the "spring" and can't wait to get out on the briny! However, toward the end of "summer", they are burned out, so that the tackle and fishing enthusiasm are both stowed until the following spring. What's wrong with this? Answer: We got our seasons screwed up!

For the Southern California deep-sea angler, the best times to fish year in and year out are the months of June through November, and, sometimes, December and January can also be excellent. The worst months are usually March, April and May. With this scenario in mind, I have decided to exercise my privilege as Mr. LARRC and CHANGE the seasons:

Winter will now commence on February 21st and end May 20th, during which time only those certain die-hard and fishing maniacs should be fishing and, if they are lucky, they may be able to get fair fishing and decent weather about 25% of the time. They will certainly brag a lot in fruitless attempts to lure the mentally stable to join them. BEWARE!!

Spring will commence on May 21st and end August 20th, during which time the same population will enjoy good weather and some mighty fine fishing, as our waters warm up and migratory fish begin to appear.

Summer will officially commence on August 21st and end November 20th, during which period Southern California sportfishing experiences its finest

Continued on page 4  
EDITORIAL

## MEET YOUR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### Jamie Smith

LARRC Board of Directors  
Co-Chairperson, Inter-Club Tournaments  
Co-Chairperson, Programs

I was born in Portland, Oregon, June 30, 1967. I have 2 brothers, Mark and Jon, and a sister, Linda. At 6 months old, we moved to Westlake Village where I attended Westlake Elementary School. At age 9, we moved to Malibu where I attended Juan Cabrillo Elementary; Malibu Park Junior High; Crespi High, and finally graduated from Santa Monica High. I then attended Chaffey College in Alta Loma. I took a break to start my business and never looked back. I was married on May 26, 1991 to my beautiful wife and best friend, Julie.

I joined LARRC for selfish reasons ... I wanted to spend more time with my brother, Jon.

I always had martial arts and Jon had fishing. When I'd complain to him that we never saw one another he'd say, "We have nothing in common; you do Tae Kwon Do and I go fishing; you don't even know how to fish!" Well, this was true. I hadn't been fishing since the 5th grade, I didn't even own any fishing gear or even know how to tie on a hook! So, Jon gave me the opportunity to join him on the *Seahawk* in Santa Barbara in November 1995. It was a great experience because everyone helped me and treated me like family. Bill Alpert played a major part in my fishing education. He used to stand at the bow like a Viking Warrior ready for battle. He taught me how the seagulls are your friend and they will take you to the fish, just be patient and watch them.

After fishing with the Club for 7 months, I was sponsored by my brother, Jon, who was sponsored by Bob Beaver. 1998 was the year of first's for me; I caught my first yellow-tail, albacore, halibut and probably every other fish that bit my hook.

Fishing in many ways is like martial arts. To prove it I will leave you with this philosophy from my instructor; Grand Master Dae Woong Chung, "To reach the peak of the mountain, you must go straight up. You cannot waste time taking short cuts. This is never the easy path. The way is much more difficult but direct."



Tae Dwon Do instructor, Jamie Smith, with his class.



## Health, Welfare and Happenings

The Club wishes a speedy recovery to **Bill Vogel** and **Bob Maine's** wife, **Sonny**, both of whom are recovering from surgery.

Congratulations go to **Joel** and **Jackie Zide**. They have closed escrow on their very first home.

**John** and **Clara Vowels** are happy new grandparents.

**Dan** and **Carolyn Felger** announce the arrival of twin grandchildren born at 4:00 AM, March 25th. Eight weeks early, Miles Jacquin weighed in at 4 lbs., and Mikaela Madison at 3 lb. 2 oz. Both healthy, but will be in incubators for awhile. Proud parents—**Tracy** and **Michael Rosberg**.

*Club Members — If you know of someone who is in ill health or recovering from surgery, we'd like to know about it. Similarly, if you have a happy event you'd like to share with us, please call Pamela Warren at 818/222-6025.*

## EDITORIAL

Continued from page 2

moments. The kids are back in school and there is a lack of enthusiasm on the part of most fishermen. But, fishing and the availability of bait are now at their best, our waters are at their warmest, the weather is typically terrific and, in addition to the usual migratory fish, this is the time when many exotics make a healthy showing.

Fall will begin November 21st. Some of the less-hearty anglers will put away their gear for the "Felger spring", but the better fishermen know that November, December and sometimes January can be prime months. At the end of "Felger's fall", you may all go back into hibernation!

P.S. If anyone is looking for me, remember: I'm incurably insane and don't know my ass from my elbow, or February from July!



## Announcing... The 1999 Bill Alpert King of the Calicos Tournament

(Destined to be the BIGGEST, BEST, MOST FUN-FILLED and last tournament of the century!)

**Date:** Sunday, September 26th

**Place:** Santa Barbara

**2 Boats:** *Seahawk LXV* and *Stardust* — 6 Teams of 5 Players

**Departure:** 5:00 am

**Price:** \$115

### Great Prizes! Bragging Rights! Tons of Fun!

All Club members, regardless of experience or level of skill, are encouraged to participate in this fun event.

#### Contact:

Richard or Michael Lapidus

Phone: 805/582-0657 • Fax: 805/582-0970

## LARRC 5-day Long-Range Charter Aboard the Qualifier 105

The LARRC 5-day trip scheduled for September 14 -19 is **SOLD OUT**.

The limited party trip of 22 consists of: *Joe Cronin, Marvin Smith, Norm Schindler, Jeff Schindler, Julian Wolf, Dan Felger, Larry Methvin, Sherwood Kingsley, Eric Rogger, Bob Horowitz, Abe Cohen, Larry Diamant, Norin Grancell, Nona Grancell, Doug Dorflinger, Richard Stone, Pete Giannini, Bill Vogel, Saul Zide, Barry Taper (2) and Wayne Caywood. First in line for a cancellation is Linda Caywood.*

Normally there are cancellations. **If you are interested in being placed on a waiting list, please call Larry Diamant at 310/317-0480.**

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# Light Tackle Record Year!

by Royal MacNair

Last year I achieved a Club first by setting 17 new line-class records in one year, most of which were in salt water on ultra-light tackle.

When asked why anybody would want to fish albacore or yellowfin on 6-lb. test, or go for barracuda and yellowtail on tackle more suited to freshwater trout, my reply is, "For the challenge! You definitely won't land the numbers you could on standard tackle, but you'll most certainly appreciate the ones you do land even more.



Royal's 26-lb. albacore, caught on 8-lb. test.

If you decide to try ultra-light yourself, you should give yourself every break the rules allow. If you don't already know how, learn to tie a Bimini twist. To this double line, add a leader at least two or three times the strength of your main line, using a blood knot or uni-to-uni knot. If you're fishing for the toothy types, you might want to add a short, light weight wire leader. Finally, your hooks must be needle sharp, since they won't have a lot of force behind them on the hook set.

Anyone for a light tackle tournament?



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# 100-Day Fishing Tournament

by Eric Rogger

United Anglers is planning a 100-day fishing tournament from Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend. They are targeting six popular species: barracuda, tuna, calico bass, halibut, yellowtail and white seabass. Generally, the largest fish in each category may win large prizes. However, UASC is also offering additional prizes for 6 (out of 20 white seabass released with special tags) caught. It is expected that UASC may have up to \$100,000 worth of prizes. Sponsors are still being lined up.

Entry forms will be available at the Fred Hall April 8 - 11 Ventura Show (at the Fairgrounds). You can sign up there or you can call the UASC office at 714/840-0227 to learn about the rules and entrance requirements.

UASC's increasing activities suggest that they expand their membership base. Similar tournaments have been run by some of the Gulf Coast fish environmental organizations, and last year Texas added about 10,000 members to their organization. Entry fees are \$15.00 if you are a United Anglers member and have a current valid membership. The \$15.00 will go toward the tournament overhead and the \$25.00 (basic annual UASC membership) will help them get more projects done.

LARRC members wanting more information can phone me at 310/476-5936.



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## President's Message Up for Something New? Try Large-Mouth Bass Fishing

by Joel Zide

In 1992, after being a strict saltwater angler for seventeen years, I decided to try my luck fishing large-mouth bass. If you have never been large-mouth bass fishing, now is the best time to do it. With the spring comes the large-mouth bass spawn. During the spawn, these fish have a voracious appetite (giving the novice large mouth bass fisherman an edge). The large-mouth bass spawn can start as early as February and can last through the end of May (this of course depends on the altitude of the lake, along with many other variables that can effect conditions). Our Club's resident large-mouth bass fishing expert is Frank Polak, who has taken many members on large-mouth bass fishing excursions. I have had the good fortune of fishing large-mouth bass for the past six years. The two times that I have fished large-mouth bass with Frank Polak were the times when I have learned the most about this sport. I think large-mouth bass fishing has a lot to offer including:

**SCENERY:** Some of Southern California's lakes offer scenery few have had the pleasure of seeing. Casting a plastic worm into thick brush, in front of a feeder creek, while watching deer run along a mountain side is a sight not every angler has had the pleasure of seeing. This is not an uncommon sight at lakes like Castaic, Pyru, and Casitas.

**FINESSE FISHING:** When fishing slow moving baits, the large-mouth bass' strike is very subtle and sometimes undetectable. Fishing large-mouth will give you the finesse fishing experience you will need. You will learn that a very light tap or the twitching of your line could mean that a large-mouth bass has your bait in his mouth (swing if this happens).

**A CHANCE TO CATCH A BUNCH OF FISH:** I have had multiple days out on the lake when I have caught over 20 fish for the day. The picture displays a 4 lb. along with an 8 lb. 4oz. large-mouth caught on John Vowels' boat about five years ago. On this spring day John Vowels, Tim Vowels, along with myself, put over 50 large-mouth bass on the boat. What a day!!!

**DO YOU GET SEASICK?:** If you usually get seasick here is your chance to catch fish without feeling miserable. While fishing large-mouth bass chances of you getting seasick are highly unlikely.

As you can see, fishing large-mouth bass can be very exciting, as well as very relaxing. If you are invited to fish large-mouth bass during the spring spawn, I suggest you go ... and maybe you will be fortunate enough to be invited to go fishing with Frank Polak.



## Trophy Contenders as of March 24, 1999

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LB.	OZ.
<b>OCEAN WATERS</b>				
Ling Cod	12	Norman Weinstock	17	0 *
Tuna, yellowfin	30	Larry Clark	40	0
Tuna, yellowfin	80	Dan Felger	109	0
Tuna, yellowfin	130	Dan Felger	147	0
Wahoo	16	Eric Rogger	40	0
Wahoo	30	Dan Felger	36	3
<b>FRESH WATER</b>				
Trout, Rainbow	4	Jeremy Warren	11	4*

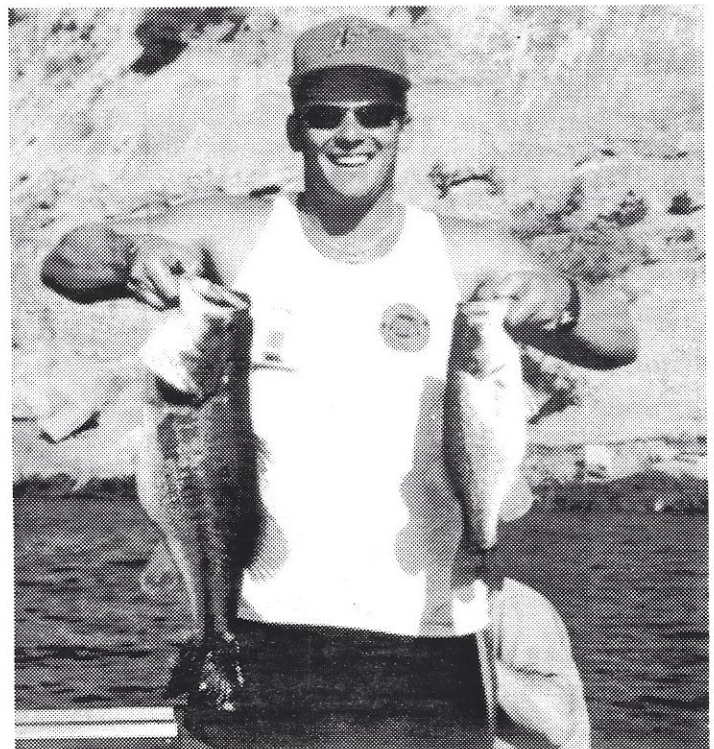
\* New Club Record

**PLEASE NOTE: To be eligible for a trophy, the catch must exceed 60% of the applicable line test category.**

*Weight certificates must be signed by a witness to the catch and witness to the weight, other than the angler.*

*Weight certificates must be postmarked within 15 days of the catch, unless a written explanation is submitted to the Board of Directors for approval*

**Send Weight Slips To: Dan Felger, 5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 120  
Tarzana, California 91356, FAX: 818 708-3657**



Joel Zide shows off his large-mouth bass.

# 1999 Tuna Fishing Trips

Charters have been tentatively scheduled on the 65' Patriot for two separate "fish-filled" sportfishing trips this summer.

## SANTA MONICA BAY

Continued from page 1

after the hillsides with a vengeance. "Thar's money in them thar hills, fellas, and we'll just bulldoze the hilltops and make nice level building places. Oh, yes, and we must bulldoze the areas leading down to the shore because that's where the state has made us an access road." Now, all's well and not so good because when the rains came (and they do sometimes in this area), all the disturbed earth that had lain there since time began, washed into the bay. It happened gradually ... more development, more bulldozers, less fishery! Forty years later, the kelp struggles and the bait fish are less apparent as we suffer the result of unrestrained growth.

Am I a tree hugger? Nope! Consider, in all of this, the amount of strength the total economy derived from all this building activity. Surely, hundreds of fortunes were made by the contractors, the building supply companies and, especially, think of all the political patronage that it took to just permit the area ... Whew! It ain't simple. The tradeoffs are beyond my feeble old brain. I can only report to you what I saw and how it happened. You will notice that I left sewage out of this equation: it is too obvious. I cannot leave out the need to totally attack the storm drain system. Let the call go out: "Heal the Bay!" Help "Baykeepers."



- JULY TRIP - 4 days:** **Board:** Friday evening - July 2nd - approximately 10 P.M.;
- Return:** Tuesday evening - July 6th - approximately 7 P.M..
- AUG TRIP - 4 days:** **Board:** Thursday evening - August 5th - approximately 10 P.M.;
- Return:** Monday evening - August 9th - approximately 7 P.M..
- Landing:** Depart from and return to H&M Landing, 2801 Emerson Street, San Diego. Parking will be available next to the Landing Office. Be sure to have your parking stub validated in the office. It will reduce your parking fee from \$8 to \$2 per 24-hour period.
- Cost:** \$1,135.00 per person, each trip;
- Deposit:** \$600 per person, each trip. No reservation will be held without a deposit;
- Included:** Charters are inclusive of yacht, crew, fuel, insurance, Mexican fishing permits, all fishing tackle, bait, fish filleting, meals, snacks, soft drinks, taxes, port and landing fees.

Participation is limited to 6 per trip, so immediate response is essential. Contact Barry Taper at 310/271-1078 (home) or 310/550-8688 (office). If response is slow, the charters will be dropped.



## PLEASURES

Continued from page 1

about an hour and a half, and made five trips around the boat. The picture shows the result, a tuna in the 140-lb. category. What pleased me most, however, was not the size of the fish but that everything worked right. The trilene knot, the double crimps and the 8/0 circle hook in the fish's mouth. Cal had worked on the *Shimano* and equipped it with new style larger disc drags.

Anyone want to come on this very limited load next year? They only run one like it every season!



## 3-Night Long-Range Charter

- BOAT:** Red Rooster III from San Diego
- DEPARTURE:** 1:00 pm, Thursday, September 30, 1999
- RETURN:** 9:30 am, Sunday, October 3, 1999
- COST:** \$580
- INCLUDED:** Food, Snacks, Coffee/Cocoa, Stateroom, Bait
- NOT INCLUDED:** License, Beer, Soda
- CHARTER MASTER:** Arnie Cohen  
11101 Viking Ave.  
Northridge, CA 91326  
818/366-3300 (office)  
818/366-4945 (fax)
- 818/368-5834 (home)  
818/832-9221 (fax)

**ONLY 5 OPENINGS REMAIN!**  
To secure your spot, please forward your initial deposit check in the amount of \$80 to the Charter Master.

# Supreme Time on the *Supreme!*

by Dan Felger

On Friday, February 18, yours truly along with fellow Club members, Eric Rogger and Larry Clark, joined twelve other anglers for a trip to the Revillagigedo Islands aboard the *Polaris Supreme*. After loading the tanks and slammers with super grade sardines, the boat headed south. There was a brief stop at Ensenada to clear customs, and an ever briefer stop at Alijos Rocks. Nothing doing there, so the *Supreme* continued heading south. The 3 1/2 day boat ride was spent relaxing, reading, playing cards, eating, checking tackle, tying leaders, and getting acquainted with fellow passengers.

Tuesday morning we arrived at Clarion Island. First order of business was to launch the two skiffs. It was an absolute ball slow trolling sardines for wahoo on the skiffs. While the skiffs were out, there only eleven anglers on the big boat. Most of the larger grade tuna were caught either on the kite or chunk, and believe me, it required a lot of patience to do kite or chunk fish. The first three days at Clarion produced fair counts of quality tuna and lots of wahoo. Then gradually the tuna bite slowed down, although, wahoo fishing continued at a fierce pace for the first five days at Clarion. Fishing was tough on day six, so Captain Tommy Rothery decided to leave Clarion and head to Roca Perdida.

Wahoo fishing at the Rock was sensa-

tional, but the tuna fishing was only fair. However, Eric Rogger hooked and landed a tuna estimated to be 140 lb. on 40-lb. test that took him around the boat several times and consumed an hour and a half of well-spent energy. That night we picked up anchor and by daybreak were at San Benedicto Island. Since it was necessary to be in Cabo early the following morning to allow ample time for people to catch their flight, we were only able to fish until 9:15 am, but WOW what a few hours of fishing. The wahoo bite was wide open. Yours truly put ten wahoo on the deck that morning.

Thursday...cleared customs at Cabo and flew home later that day. The jackpot fish was a 220-lb. cow that required a backup, and when the outfit was close to being spooled, the angler was put in a skiff, and 2 hours later the tuna lost. My largest tipped the scale at 147 lb. Not as big as some of the fish Ger Steinberg, Eric Rogger and Jim Marshall have caught in the past, but I'll take it!

I highly recommend the limited load trips on the *Polaris Supreme*. Tommy Rothery is one of the best skippers, the crew as good as any boat in the fleet, and the food was excellent. I have signed on for next year.

We all agreed that it was more fun when you catch fish and have prayers answered.



**The deadline for  
Chum Line copy  
is the 25th!**

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**Mark your Calendars NOW!**  
*The annual United Anglers Banquet and FundRaiser  
has been scheduled for Saturday May 11th at  
Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach*

Last year we had sell-out crowd when over \$60,000 worth of prizes were auctioned off. These included long-range trips, local fishing adventures, vacation trips, works of art, tackle and many other unusual gift items.

This event honors, annually, that person who has contributed, in the opinion of the board of directors, most to the perpetuation of our marine environment. This year's recipient will be Tom Pflieger!


Last year two tables of LARRC supporters showed up to have a great dinner, enjoy short speeches and have a shot at the many bargain items being auctioned off. There will be a silent, as well as a live, auction.

The dinner, preceding the auction, will be \$85 a person. Since UASC is a non-profit, this may be partially deducted while you are helping preserve our marine environment.


**The fight to maintain our fisheries continues!**

For reservations call UASC's office at 714/840-0227 or Eric Rogger at 310/476-5936.

**Tackle Tips of the Month**


 How to straighten plastic tails. Dip your plastics in very hot water for a few seconds. Remove them quickly and lay them out nice and straight on their backside. Let cool, then store.

—*Sal Vallone, Bob Sands Tackle*

 It's spring again, time to start jig fishing for calico bass and barracuda.

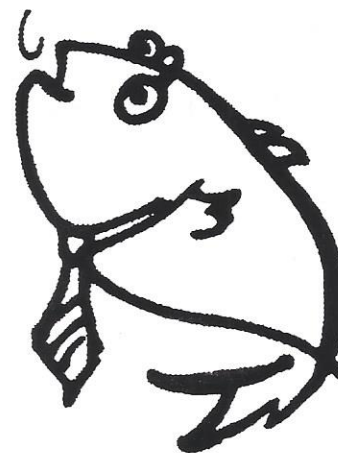
To keep your jigs in the best condition, we recommend rinsing the jigs you fished with in fresh water. Allow time to dry, then apply light oil or your favorite fish attractant. Usually these are oil-based. This will keep your jigs from rusting, and be irresistible to the fish.

—*Wayne and Linda Caywood, Malibu Fish'n Tackle*

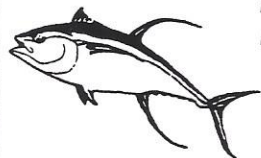
 To test if your hooks are sharp: place the point on your finger nail. If it catches and does not slide it is sharp. If it slides easily, touch it up with a file.

—*Michael Grossman, Executive of Action Rods*

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**Thank You LARRC for your continued support.**



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# Chum Line

Published by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club  
Dan Felger .....Editor

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## Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

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