

Chum Line



Good Sportsmanship is Worth More Than all the Fish in the Ocean

JULY 2023

LARRC DINNER MEETING

AN EMAIL WILL BE SENT ANNOUNCING THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



**Dinner Meeting
July 31, 2023**

**Check your email for the dinner speaker announcement
Lulu's Restaurant - 16900 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406
Social Hour 5:30pm • Dinner 7:00pm**

Dedicated to Fishing, Fun, Relaxation, and Companionship!

LARRC AUGUST DINNER MEETING

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND TWILIGHT FISHING TRIP ON THE MONTE CARLO BIG BOAT - BIG GALLEY - LOTS OF ROOM

The August dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 from about 6pm to about midnight for the inflation busting price of just \$50 (Food, Drinks, Crew Tip, and Fish Cleaning not included).

Join your fellow club members for a fun time on the Monte Carlo out of 22nd Street Landing in San Pedro of a Night of Fishing, targeting Calico Bass.

“There will be no other meeting in August”

Space is limited, reserve your spot now for this sure to be sold out summer club meeting on the water!

**Bring your kids and fishing friends
and let's make this a Family Event!**

Contact charter master John Ballotti (310) 995-3592

johnballotti1@gmail.com with any questions.

Mail your check payable to LARRC to:

John Ballotti



Rendezvous on the North Platte

By Ted Feit

John Ballotti and Rob Baldwin embarked in early June on an epic road trip to fish some of the great trout streams and reservoirs of the West. On June 17th, Chas Schoemaker and I jetted from Palm Springs and Burbank to join them in Caspar, Wyoming. Our target: The Grey Reef tailwater stretch of the North Platte River formed below the Grey Reef Reservoir, named by American Angler Magazine as the #1 spot in the lower 48 states for number and size of trout. The flow management, coupled with the artificial fly and lure only regulations, have resulted in one of the best wild rainbow trout fisheries in the West. The upper 12 miles of the Gray Reef has over 8000 fish per mile, with most between 16 and 19 inches!

We stayed in the Best Western Hotel in downtown Caspar (population 57,000 and the second largest city in Wyoming). We left the hotel at 7 a.m. each day to drive the 30 or so miles to the Grey Reef Fly Shop, the launch site for our drift boats. Each drift boat had an angler at the stern and bow and a guide in the middle, who tended to our fishing needs while using oars to provide steering and locomotion. The area received three inches of rain the previous week, and the river was running fast and somewhat turbid. However, the off-color water did not put off the trout from biting.



Launching the Boats

We nymph fished all three days. The terminal tackle consisted of two flies, a “leech” consisting of a #12 hook with some drab brown feathers and tiny #18 hook surrounded by some nondescript thread pegged to imitate an emerging insect. On the third day we also used a #18 hook with a few turns of thread on its shank dubbed “the worm.” As underwhelming as these offerings appeared to be, they worked! The flies were attached by a leader to a small weight, maybe

1/16 of an ounce, and indicator which acted as a float and kept the flies suspended in the current. Using a 6-weight fly rod, the goal was to cast two to three rod lengths away from the boat and mend your line into a “lazy S configuration” so that indicator and flies led the line. A bite was indicated by any bobbing or erratic motion of the indicator, so you had to keep your eyes glued and your reflexes ready. Now in the major leagues, batting 0.300 is damn good and batting 0.350 is awesome. I don’t know what my exact batting average was with my bites, but I swung and missed many times. My guide Scott explained that as soon as the trout bit, it knew that the fly was not food and spit it out, so you had to be fast, fast, fast. However, I did connect sometimes to these amazing wild trout.



A lunker rainbow

Everything you do playing a trout on a fly rod is counterintuitive if you are used to playing saltwater game fish. Instead of letting the fish run and take line, you are supposed to “strip line” – that is take in line as fast as you can with one hand, while providing some drag with pressure from a finger on the other hand. You vacuum up the excess line at your feet by turning the reel when you have a chance. Once the fish comes close, you fight the fish mainly by putting pressure on the fish by keeping the long flexible rod vertical and allowing the fish to take some line against the drag of the reel when it runs. Eventually, you use the rod to lead the fish head up to the guide’s outstretched net. With the small barbless hook we used, it is important to maintain constant pressure, else the hook will eventually slip out. Needless to say, I lost many fish that I hooked, but I did land some great fish.

These wild rainbows were fat, fast, and feisty. I had one fish that jumped four times four feet into the air. I think that their runs were as spirited as those of a steelhead or an Atlantic salmon. On the first day, I landed my biggest fish – 21 ½ inches. This was the largest fish we caught until John and Rob each bagged a 23 ½ inch rainbow on the third day. John and Rob – experienced and expert as they are – landed about 10 fish each day, while I averaged three to four. Chas started off slow but confidentially caught more fish each day.



Our guide shows one of Chas' trout

The guides were superb and worked hard, positioning the boat in the current for our drifts, undoing tangles and snarls, adjusting the weights and flies for abundant bites, rowing up stream along the bank to make another pass through a productive drift, and - not the least – coaching us when the fish was on and netting our fish. They worked easily with both accomplished fly anglers and rank amateurs like me.



John hefts a trophy rainbow



Rob with one of his many fish

There is something special about floating down a river. The river cut through some impressive sandstone canyons. Wildlife was abundant and included deer, pronghorn antelope, white pelicans, and bald eagles.



Sandstone Canyons

We encountered a curious creature along the river bank, a Tyrannosaurus Rex fishing. Incredible. Apparently, this dinosaur's predecessors miraculously survived the great extinction and have eked out a living fishing the North Platte for millennia. We have photographic proof.



The actual back story is that this sculpture was welded by Ed Richner, who owns the Lone Tree Ranch on the northeast riverbank, from used farm equipment. He and a cousin put it together for fun during a long winter in the 1980's and placed it on the riverbank, where it has greeted floating fisherman ever since. Unable to find anything out about this sculpture from Mr. Google, I called the Ugly Bug Fly Shop in Caspar and the nice lady there gave me the phone number of Ed's grandson, who passed on this information. This area of Wyoming is noted for its many Tyrannosaurus Rex fossils.

While Chas and I left LA to rendezvous with John and Rob for trout fishing, we were also participating in two other get togethers from the past. For one, we were all past presidents of LARRC, so we arranged to have an ex-presidential portrait taken.



The Four Ex-Presidents

Second, all four of us had been on the September, 2005 LARRC trip to Guadalupe Island. Most notable, an 18-foot great white shark attacked the boat during this trip, shaking

the boat and sending up a wave along the rail at the place of the attack. A great white chomped one of my tuna in half. Nevertheless, we came back to San Diego with a hold full of yellowfin tuna. I looked through my files and found a picture of all the participants.



Participants in the Qualifier 105 2005 Trip

Sadly, some of the participants in this trip have passed on and Guadalupe Island is now off-limits for fishing. We much cherish our memories of good times together with people in general and with our fishing companions.



Pulling out from the river at the end of the day

Ocean Sport Fishing Interactive Web Map
Linda Chilton
Education Program Coordinator
Sea Grant Program
University of Southern California

Linda Chilton emailed Steve Simon a link which is very informative regarding CDFW Marine Regions. There is a button for current fishing regulations, MPA information, fish identification, and the legend which explains the color coding and boundaries shown on the map.

You are able to click on the color coded area and a pop up window appears giving more detail information on the specific area.

This link is a fantastic resource for anglers with their own boats and may not be aware of the up to date regulations. I recommend bookmarking the website and passing it along to other anglers!

<https://cdfw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c00c82e1f32a49e99c747e2411e3439e>

Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation

Tribute Opportunity

Tribute Cards are available when you want to send your thoughts or feelings for –

Congratulations • Graduation
Anniversary • Illness
Appreciation • Best Wishes • New Home
Baby Announcement
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • In Memoriam

Your LARRC Foundation is a charitable organization. Donations maybe deducted. Tributes will be posted in the Chum Line.

Tribute cards will be sent to recipient.

Information Request and Donations may be addressed to:

Mrs. Tammy Steinman
1941 Majorca Drive, Oxnard, CA 93035
818-987-2645 • 818-345-6104 Fax
tammy2508@socal.rr.com

CALENDAR

Board Meeting

July 24

Via Zoom • 7pm

Please email the Club President for link information.

Dinner Meeting

April 24

Social Hour 5:30pm • Dinner & Meeting 7:00pm

Lulu's Restaurant

16900 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406

August Dinner Meeting

August 30

Twilight Fishing Trip on the Monte Carlo

Veterans' Trips

July, August, October

Marine Mentors

August 7

Navegante 1.5 Day

August 8-10

Health and Happenings

Linda Simon is our contact for "Health and Happenings"

Please contact Linda either by phone (818-980-7470) or email

(simonmurphy08@sbcglobal.net)

for any information about our club members/ family - i.e., happy or sad news; health issues; graduation or congratulations, etc.

Advertise Your Business or Service in the Chum Line

The monthly prices are as follows:

1/8 page: \$20

1/4 page: \$40

1/2 page: \$80

Full page: \$160

The page format is 8.5 x 11 with 3/4" margins all around

One month FREE with 6 months of paid advertising!

Contact John Ballotti

johnballotti1@gmail.com

FISHING FOR HALIBUT IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

By Ed Lieberman (aka Sheephead Ed)

Whenever I travel to Northern California, I do not miss the chance to fish the waters surrounding San Francisco. Most tourists see the San Francisco skyline from land. But watching the Skyline come alive at sunrise from the bay perspective is an incredibly beautiful sight.

This year's Halibut fishing season in San Francisco Bay has been one of the best. By now, Salmon season has usually opened, but the salmon fishing season has been closed this year due to the low ocean abundance caused by the recent drought.

My go to boat for Halibut fishing is the California Dawn I or the California Dawn II out of the Berkeley Marina.

Captain James Smith will always put you on the fish... especially Halibut.

My last trip was a couple of months ago. The trip was targeting halibut and striped Bass. As always, Gary (the deckhand) started off with all anglers gathered for instructions on a fool proof technique for catching Halibut:

We fished close to the shore in South San Francisco. The waters were very shallow (about 30-40 feet).

The boat limited out on Halibut and Striped Bass (12 to 20 pounds) I was lucky enough to catch three Halibut (limit) and four striped bass (limit is two).

So next time you are visiting San Francisco (especially during Halibut season) consider skipping the chocolate at Ghirardelli Square and instead, spend the day on the Bay fishing for Halibut !

1. Rig the line with a special halibut rig (basically a reverse dropper loop-the sinker attached to the loop and the 3.0 hook attached at the end of the line below the sinker)
2. When attaching the live sardine used for bait, make sure to hook the sardine from under the mouth through the top of the nose, making sure the mouth stays closed.
3. The boat will use the drifting method in fairly shallow water.
4. Allow the line to go to the bottom. Place the rod in the rod holder making sure you see a slight bobbing or tapping and the end of your line.
5. You will be able to tell that the halibut is starting to bite at the bait when the tapping or bobbing changes at the end of the line. Let the fish continue to eat the bait...as Captain James says.... when you think the fish is almost at the hook.....let it eat more....be very patient.
6. When you see the rod bend, leave the rod in the rod holder and wind the reel four or five times to set the hook.
7. Take the rod out of the rod holder and reel in the fish.
8. Make sure to leave the head of the fish in the water or you risk the hook coming out. The deckhands will be there with the net to bring the Halibut on deck.

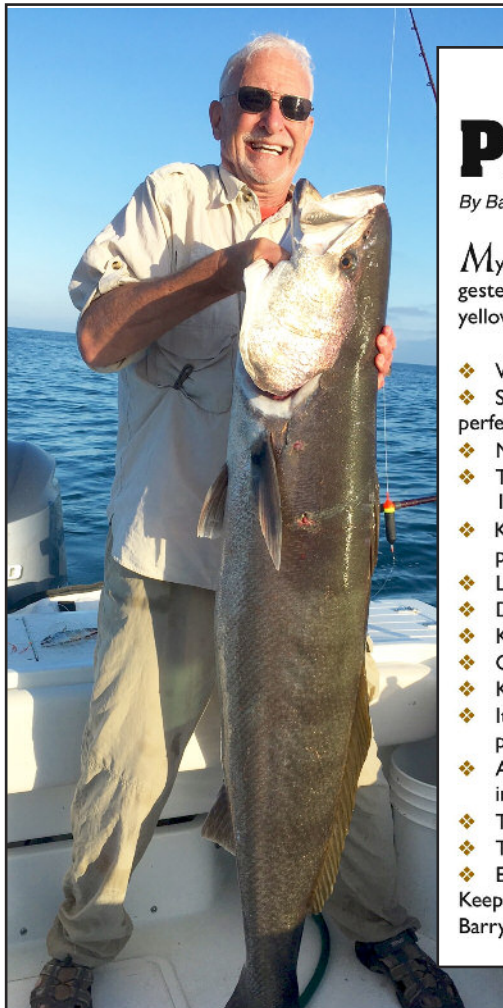


MOVING FORWARD... LOOKING BACKWARDS

By Barry Cohn

Club Member Since 2001 • Past President 2012

As I reminisce about all the incredible fishing trips I have been on, and all the fish I caught, one alone stands out. I have had been on trips with bigger catches, both in numbers and size of fish, one stands out alone.....On May 22, 2017, I was fishing with Brandon Hayward, the renowned White Sea Bass king. We departed Oceanside harbor at 2:00 pm and were set up on his secret spot at 4:00 pm. Instead of recalling the events of what transpired, this time I will let my June 2017 Chum Line article titled "Perfect!!!" speak for itself!



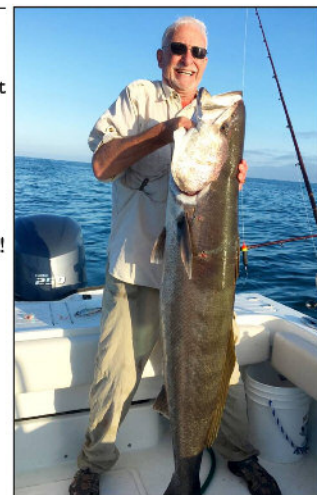
Chum Line JUNE 2017

PERFECT!!!

By Barry Cohn

My continued quest for the elusive white seabass continued with a trip with Captain Brandon Hayward. Brandon suggested a 2pm departure for parts unknown. The WSB fishing had been really spotty. Possibly, a trip to Clement for yellowtail would be better? No, let's give the white seabass a try. "Ok Barry, but everything is going to have to be perfect."

- ❖ We had a dozen or so squid in the bait tank—perfect.
 - ❖ So off we went to a spot that he had picked out about 30 minutes up the coast—perfect.
 - ❖ Nobody was on it—perfect.
 - ❖ These WSB prefer mackerel during the daylight, so we jigged up a tankful in about 15 minutes—perfect.
 - ❖ Kelp fishing like this requires a brisk north to south current. We had one—perfect.
 - ❖ Let the line back about 150 feet to the kelp line—perfect.
 - ❖ Don't get caught in the kelp—perfect.
 - ❖ Keep your eye on the float. What float? Reel, reel, reel, you are on a fish—perfect!
 - ❖ Get her out of the kelp. Almost perfect, but successful.
 - ❖ Keep on reeling—perfect.
 - ❖ It's almost here. Just a little closer. Then in unison, "OMG, it's a monster!!"—perfect!
 - ❖ And it was a perfectly beautiful, 65 pound white seabass, 60 inches long and 36 inches around.
 - ❖ Thank you Captain Brandon for a perfect day.
 - ❖ The next evening we had delicious barbequed WSB—perfecto.
 - ❖ Even our cat, Dewey loved it—purrfect.
- Keep on trying for the big one,
Barry



EARN MONEY for LARRC Foundation By Shopping at Ralphs!

Here's How:

Step #1: Enroll in the Ralphs Reward Program if you are not currently enrolled.

Step #2: Print out this page and take it with you the next time you shop at Ralphs.

Step #3: At check-out, have the LARRC barcode swiped by the cashier together with your Ralphs Rewards Card/phone number.

Notice: The Ralphs LARRC Barcode needs to be swiped only once to link your Rewards Card to LARRC. Future shopping trips will help raise money for LARRC when you use your Ralphs Reward Card at check-out.





Donald Goldsobel's

CALLING ALL COOKS

Tuna Mac N' Cheese

From Valerie Handzus/Paula Deen recipe

Submitted by Wendy Tochihara

Steam chunks of tuna in steamer basket over about 1 inch of water with lid on for about 12-15 min. Let cool.....set aside.

PS: If cooking mac n cheese WITHOUT the tuna then total cook time is 3 HRS on low.

Note: For large amount I double everything below but for the eggs, I only use five.

Single recipe serves about 8-10 people

Ingredients:

- 2 cups uncooked large elbow macaroni
- 4 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces
- 2 1/2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz) cheddar cheese soup
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper (I use white pepper when I have it)

Directions:

1. In medium saucepan, bring plenty of water to a boil. Add macaroni and cook until tender, about 7 minutes. Drain
2. In medium saucepan, mix butter and grated cheese. Stir over low heat until cheese is melted.
3. In slow cooker, combine cheese/butter mixture, eggs, sour cream, soup, salt, milk, mustard, and pepper...stir well
4. Add drained cooked macaroni and stir again
5. Make sure everything is evenly mixed. I break up the melted cheese a little bit with my hands so that it spreads out more evenly throughout the pot.
6. Sprinkle a little grated cheese over the top.
7. Slow cook on LOW for
2 1/2 hrs.
8. Flake steamed tuna into chunks and add to mac n cheese.
9. Finish slow cooking dish with tuna for another 1/2 hr.

Enjoy! It's one of our favorite dishes!

PS: If you're in a hurry for a quick meal.... Buy Stouffers Mac n Cheese (really good)! from the freezer section at the market. Follow directions to microwave for 7 minutes.... when it says to take out and stir, this is when you can add a can of drained tuna and microwave for another 2 minutes.....really good, easy and fast!

Charters 2023

RULES REGARDING CLUB CHARTERS

All LARRC charter participants signing up for club charters are obligated to pay the full fare to reserve a spot. In the event a participant cannot make a trip, the club will attempt to fill the space once a waitlist forms. A participant may try to fill their space prior to departure. There may be surcharges this year based on fuel price increases. Bunk preference is assigned by the charter master based on the order received. So book early! If you have any special needs please make the charter master aware of them at the time of booking.

August 7	Marine Mentors	Contact Joel Steinman ~ jsteinman@socal.rr.com
August 8-10	Navegante 1.5 Day Club Charter	Contact Dustin House ~ cph_bass@yahoo.com

TROPHY CONTENDERS 2023 as of June 30, 2023

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.	SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
MEN'S OCEAN WATER					WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER				
Bass, Calico	20	Paul Varenchik	5	5	Halibut, California	50	Cathy Needleman	5	10
MEN'S FLY ROD					WOMEN'S FLY ROD				
Perch, Sac	8	Rob Baldwin	3	3*	White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
Perch, Sac	10	Rob Baldwin	3	5*	WOMEN'S FRESH WATER				
Trout, Cutthroat	8	Rob Baldwin	14	2*	WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER RELEASED				
Trout, Cutthroat	10	Rob Baldwin	13	7*	JUNIOR MEMBERS				
MEN'S FRESH WATER					FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR				
Bass, Lg Mouth	20	Joel Steinman	6	0	White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
MEN'S OCEAN RELEASED					7-Apr-23				
WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER					FIRST ALBACORE OF THE YEAR				

