

Chum Line



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

APRIL 2025

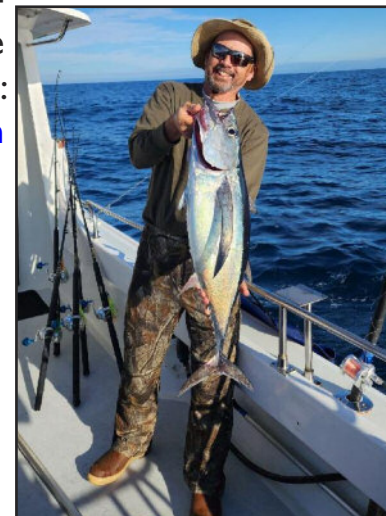
LARRC DINNER MEETING

LARRC WELCOMES JIM HENDRICKS AND MERIT MCCREA

Jim Hendricks has built a 40-year career in the marine and sportfishing industries in capacities that have ranged from advertising and public relations, to editor and publisher. He is currently West Coast Editor for Salt Water Sportsman and Boating magazines. Hendricks has also fought for years for marine conservation issues and anglers' rights. In the 1908s, he served on Assemblywoman Doris Allen's Gillnet committee, which campaigned against inshore set gillnets along the California Coast and placed Proposition 132 initiative on the 1990 state ballot, which passed overwhelmingly and led to the phase-out of set gillnets in state waters. Hendricks currently serves on the state board of directors and executive committee for the Coastal Conservation Association of California, and is the chair of CCA Cal's Marketing Committee. He is also a member of the Ocean Resources Enhancement Advisory Panel, which helps guide the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the white seabass hatchery program.



Merit McCrea is the SoCal saltwater editor for Western Outdoor News. A veteran Southern California party boat captain, he is the Science and Fisheries Coordinator for the Sportfishing Association of California and a marine research scientist with the Dr. Milton Love Lab at the University of California at Santa Barbara's Marine Science Institute. He currently serves on the Groundfish Advisory sub-Panel of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission, and the CCA-Cal State Board. He can be reached at: merit@wonews.com



Dinner Meeting April 28, 2025

Social Hour 6:30pm Dinner and Meeting 7:00pm
Lulu's Restaurant • 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys

What's On My Mind

By John Ballotti

**Charters, Charters,
Charters, Charters**



Got it? Let's go fishing. LARRC has four charters this summer. Let's fill them.

First up is a 1 1/2 charter on the **Navegante** leaving the evening of **June 2nd** and returning early morning **June 4th**. The cost is \$455 for members and \$470 for non-members. Early summer fishing usually means yellowtail and other surface species.

Next is our annual **Twilight** trip on the **Betty-O** on **Saturday, June 21st**. Are you tired of fighting traffic on the 405 for a weekday twilight trip? This trip is for you. It is a limited-load, fun trip targeting bass, halibut, and white seabass. It will not be a rock-cod trip. This trip is a bargain at \$75 (including tip). Details are elsewhere in this edition.

July 24 brings our ever-popular **King of the Club** trip on the **Navegante**. This day trip leaves at 5 AM and returns around 7 PM. The cost is \$175. There will be eleven teams of two anglers. Grab a partner and sign up for this rapidly filling charter that will sell out. Club bragging rights are to be had for the winning team.

October means bluefin, and we will be ready for them. Please join us on a 1 1/2 charter in the **Navegante**, departing the evening of **October 28th** and returning early morning on **October 30th**. The cost is \$455 for club members and \$470 for non-members.

Four charters, four opportunities to be on the ocean with friends. It could hardly get better, but it does. CCA CAL is again holding its' annual STAR tournament from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Sign up for the tournament, catch and enter a qualifying fish on our three charters during tournament time, and you could win one of the weekly prizes or one of the fabulous final grand prizes. Check out the CCA CAL website, ccacalifornia.org, for details, or come to the April dinner meeting when Jim Hendricks, CCA CAL state board member, will discuss the tournament and answer your questions.

A summer of fun, fishing, and friendship! Let's go!

3 OPEN Positions

Elections
Public Realties
Tackle Management - Maintenance

CALENDAR

Board Meeting

April 21, 2025

Via Zoom • 7pm

Please email the Club President for link information if you would like to attend the Board Meeting.

Dinner Meeting

April 28, 2025

Lulu's Restaurant

16900 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406

Social Hour - 6:30pm Dinner & Meeting 7:00pm

Lou Berke Fish Derby

May 9, 2025

Hansen Dam Aquatic Facility

Navegante - 1.5 day

June 2nd -4th, 2025

Twilight Trip

Betty-O

June 21, 2025

Annual Kids' Trip

July 7, 2025

Long Beach Sportfishing

King of the Club

Navegante

July 24, 2025

Navegante - 1.5 day

October 28-30, 2025

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

CONSERVATION MATTERS

By Theresa Labriola

In Southern California, a Sea-Mammal Crisis Washes Ashore

In recent weeks, hundreds of sea lions, dolphins and other animals have turned up in the sand along the Southern California coastline dead or seriously ill, alarming rescuers and beachgoers alike. Coastal researchers and officials say the cause is a neurotoxin, domoic acid, produced by an algae bloom. It is harmless to fish, but can be deadly to sea mammals. Fish carry the toxin, but if mammals and birds eat the fish, the toxin can poison them, causing seizures, making them behave erratically or putting them in a coma. Algal blooms are not rare in California, but the amount of toxic acid the blooms have been releasing and the scale of harm they have been causing to sea life have puzzled scientists. There are several theories but no definitive answers about the reasons for the severity of the toxin turning up along the Southern California coast. Some say it has to do with climate change and warming sea temperatures. Others say the nutrients in the runoff from land can stimulate algae blooms.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/31/us/southern-california-dolphins-sea-lions.html>

Thriving Antarctic Ecosystems Found in Wake of Recently Detached Iceberg

In January, an iceberg the size of Chicago broke away from the George VI Ice Shelf, one of the massive floating glaciers attached to the Antarctic Peninsula ice sheet. An international team of scientists took the opportunity to study the area that was previously covered by ice. The expedition was the first detailed, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary study of the geology, physical oceanography, and biology beneath



such a large area once covered by a floating ice shelf. The team observed the deep seafloor for eight days and found flourishing ecosystems at depths as great as 1300 meters. Their observations include large corals and sponges supporting an array of animal life, including icefish, giant

sea spiders, and octopus. The discovery offers new insights into how ecosystems function beneath floating sections of the Antarctic ice sheet. Little is known about what dwells beneath Antarctica's floating ice shelves. The team was surprised by the significant biomass and biodiversity of the ecosystems and suspect they have discovered several new species. Deep-sea ecosystems typically rely on nutrients from the surface slowly raining down to the seafloor. However, these Antarctic ecosystems have been covered by 150-meter-thick (almost 500 feet) ice for centuries, completely cut off from surface nutrients. Ocean currents also move nutrients, and the team hypothesizes that currents are a possible mechanism for sustaining life beneath the ice sheet. The precise mechanism fueling these ecosystems is not yet understood.

<https://sevenseasmedia.org/thriving-antarctic-ecosystems-found-in-wake-of-recently-detached-iceberg>

Ocean dumping - or a climate solution? A growing industry bets on the ocean to capture carbon

From the grounds of a gas-fired power plant on the eastern shores of Canada, a little-known company is pumping a slurry of minerals into the ocean in the name of stopping climate change. Whether it's pollution or a silver bullet that will save the planet may depend on whom you ask. From shore, a pipe releases a mixture of water and magnesium oxide that Planetary Technologies, based in Nova Scotia, is betting will absorb more planet-warming gases into the sea. Planetary is part of a growing industry racing to engineer a solution to global warming using the absorbent power of the oceans. Dozens of other companies and academic groups are pitching the same theory: that sinking rocks, nutrients, crop waste or seaweed in the ocean could lock away climate-warming carbon dioxide for centuries or more. Nearly 50 field trials have taken place in the past four years, with startups raising hundreds of millions in early funds. But the field remains rife with debate over the consequences for the oceans if the strategies are deployed at large scale, and over the exact benefits for the climate. Critics say the efforts are moving too quickly and with too few guardrails.

<https://apnews.com/article/climate-geoengineering-global-warming-greenhouse-gases-oceans-184653b35ad8c63db2c6e7b533037c19>

Conservation Matters cont...

The U.S. terminated its 30×30 conservation plan but this also presents an opportunity

Two years ago, the world agreed to protect 30 percent of our oceans by 2030 with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The U.S.'s 30×30 goal galvanized federal funding, instituted new protections, and created an all-of-government approach to conservation. Although Trump reversed the U.S.'s 30% commitment in the first month of his administration, if we respond effectively, we could model a different way of achieving success in ocean conservation around the world. A vision of a post-30×30 conservation framework is already emerging, and this moment provides an opportunity to turn ocean conservation into something that is more inclusive and durable.

Meet & Greet

Keith Heerdt

Keith grew up in the Elysian Heights area of Los Angeles in the 1960's and 70's with his identical twin brother Kevin. The boys would often fish at Echo Park Lake with their matching Zebco spincaster combos. Their father Bob Heerdt was an avid fisherman and took the boys fishing often. Bob would pile the boys into his little sport fisher and fish along the San Pedro breakwater catching many bonito and bass.

Bob liked to take the twins hiking and camping in the High Sierras, often relying on caught trout for dinner. During the summers dad took the boys fishing around Catalina Island. Every summer the family would hop on the Southern Pacific, traveling to Wyoming for fishing and hunting with family there. Plenty of rainbow and cutthroat trout, brook trout, Mackinaw trout, and northern pike were caught. Brookies for breakfast were grandma's favorite and a sure way to make her happy.

During high school Keith often loaded up fishing gear on his Schwinn Varsity and rode the 20 miles from West Los Angeles to King Harbor to rent a rowing skiff and fish the Bubble Hole action for yellowtail and anything willing to bite. Also, at that time he would lead friends hiking into Cleveland National Forest to fish the small streams for trout. It was a lot of fun, back then Orange County was mostly orange trees and the mountain streams were untouched.

In 1998 LARRC member Richard Stone invited Keith to the club's annual long-range trip on the Qualifier 105. Hav-

ing never been on a 7-day long-range trip he was skeptical, but he was encouraged by a new friend Carol Chow, she said: "You should go". Two loves were ignited: one for long-range fishing with his buddy Richard and another for Carol, now his wife and a current LARRC director.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2025/02/the-u-s-terminated-its-30x30-conservation-plan-but-this-also-presents-an-opportunity-commentary/>

Keith is a CPA and has been practicing accounting for 45 years. Keith and Carol are now taking more time to fish together. They have fished the Galapagos Island for wahoo and yellowfin tuna, Alaska for halibut and salmon. A couple of years ago Carol decided to start flyfishing, which they now do often, fishing the lower Owens for trout. They also enjoy stalking Southern California beaches for corbina with their fly rods. Next up Keith and Carol are traveling to New Zealand to see what will bite for them there.



LARRC'S ANNUAL LOU BERKE FISH DERBY **NEEDS YOU!**

Friday morning May 9, something special is happening at Hansen Dam Aquatic Center. One hundred Special Needs Students from LAUSD Lokrantz Special Education, Lassen Elementary, and Maclay Middle School will be our guests at the Annual Lou Berke Fishing Derby.

LARRC has hosted over 2000 students at this event over the years.

WE NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THE MAGIC HAPPEN

This event takes over 100 volunteers. We try to be one-on-one with the kids since many will need assistance and have not fished before. We need volunteers to do tackle prep, food prep, serving of the food, and fish cleaning. All fish caught are cleaned immediately and put on ice for each student.

Not available May 9?

On May 7, we need 8 volunteers to help put the net in the water at Hansen Dam.

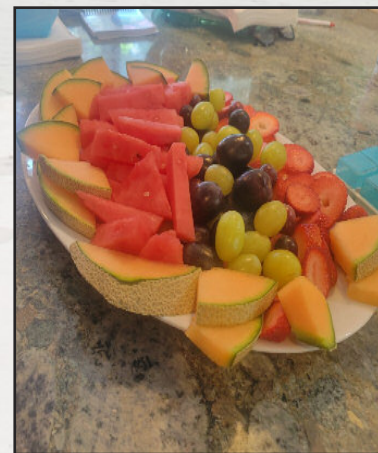
Free T-shirts, breakfast, and lunch is served to all volunteers. Once the students arrive, we start preparing lunch for all students, teachers, parents, helpers, and all volunteers.

If you are able to help either or both of those days, please call or email Ted Feit.

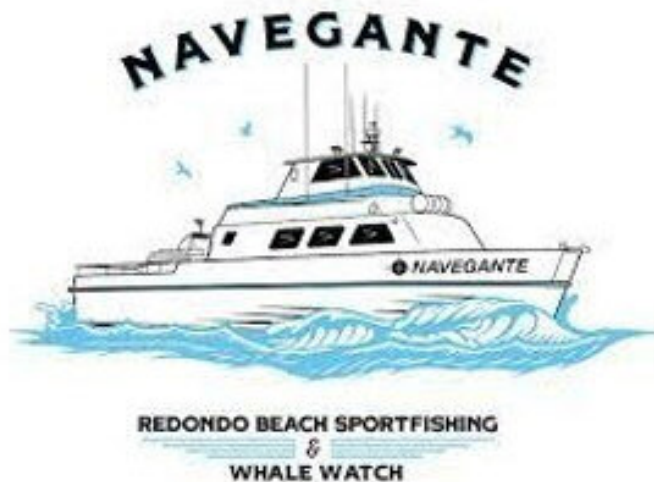
Don't forget to give him your shirt size if you are helping the day of.

It makes it easier for the kids to know who to ask for help or any questions.

Please volunteer for this event and bring along family, friends, and significant others. Contact Ted Feit at tedfeit@gmail.com with the names and addresses of the people you are bringing along.



Many thanks to the several club members who gathered on April 12th at the Varenchik home to get all the rods and tackle ready for the kids!



THE NAVAGANTE IS 65 FEET LONG WITH A GENEROUS 20 FOOT BEAM. SHE HAS A 160 SCOOP BAIT TANK, SIDE SCAN RADAR, RSW HOLD TO KEEP YOUR CATCH SUPER FRESH. THIS IS A COMFORTABLE BOAT WITH A FINE GALLEY, MEALS ARE INCLUDED! THE BUNK ROOM HAS 24 COMFORTABLE BERTHS.

Dates: June 2nd (9pm) – June 4th (5am), 2025

Cost: \$455 for LARRC member, non-members \$470. Non-members please enquire.

- Note: A \$20 fuel surcharge, at this time, will be charged and paid individually per angler at the day of the trip to the boat directly.
- Snacks, drinks, tip and fish cleaning are an additional charge per angler.

Anglers: 17

Charter Master: Dustin House, cph_bass@yahoo.com (714) 904-5789

Location: Redondo Beach Sportfishing, 140 International Boardwalk, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Trip Description: Departs 9:00 pm, Monday, June 2nd, returns Wednesday, June 4th, early morning (approximately 3-5am). The target for the trip will be Tuna, Yellowtail, and/or other game fish at offshore fishing grounds. Redondo Beach is ideally located to go where the fish are. Your fare includes all meals. Tip is not included but is customary by each angler.

- Arrival is 2 hours prior to departure to check-in, sign the boat manifest and show proof of fishing license (not included)
- Please bring your own bedding – pillow and sleeping bag/blanket

Make your check payable to **LARRC** and mail to John Ballotti, 1751 B Andreo Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501.

Please contact Dustin House to inquire about availability



**TWILIGHT TRIP ON THE
BETTY-O
SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025
LIMITED LOAD OF 20***

\$75 (includes crew tip)

Please join your fellow club members for a summer solstice celebration on board the Betty-O. It will be a fun evening of fishing and friendship. Saturday evening means no weekday traffic to contend with on departure. The departure time has yet to be determined, but it will be late afternoon.

Fish cleaning and galley purchases are not included in the ticket cost. To reserve and pay for your spot, contact John Ballotti at (310)995-3592 or johnballotti@gmail.com. This trip has sold out every year.

*Charter master reserves the right to overbook by two.

TROPHY CONTENDERS 2025 as of March 31, 2025

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.	SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
MEN'S OCEAN WATER					WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER				
Wahoo	60	Marc Monforte	72	6*					
Yellowtail	50	Marc Monforte	48	2					
MEN'S FLY ROD					WOMEN'S FLY ROD				
MEN'S FRESH WATER					WOMEN'S FRESH WATER				
Bass, Large Mouth	4	Paul Varenchik	7	0	WOMEN'S FRESH WATER RELEASED				
Bass, Large Mouth	8	Scott Schiffman	6	5	WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER RELEASED				
Bass, Large Mouth	9	Greg Cohan	3	8	JUNIOR MEMBERS				
Bass, Large Mouth	10	Joel Steinman	8	4*	Bass, Large Mouth	8	Connor Cohan	2	9
MEN'S FRESH WATER RELEASED					FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR				
					FIRST ALBACORE OF THE YEAR				

Health and Happenings

Linda Simon is our contact for "Health and Happenings"
Please contact Linda either by phone (818-980-7470) or email (simonmurphy08@gmail.com) for any information about our club members/ family - i.e., happy or sad news; health issues; graduation or congratulations, etc.

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

Charters 2025

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.

June 2-4	Navegante	1.5 Day Trip • \$455 Member / \$470 Non-member
June 21	Betty-O	Twilight Trip • \$75 (includes tip)
July 24	Navegante	King of the Club • \$175• Eleven teams of two
October 28-30	Navegante	1.5 Day Trip • \$455 Member / \$470 Non-member

Members...



Paul Varenchik with a healthy solid 7lb bass at Lake Balboa on 4lb test!



Sophia Huynh went on a ¾ on the Monte Carlo and landed this nice sized sculpin.



Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club
 c/o John Ballotti
 1751B Andreo Avenue
 Torrance, CA 90501
 Email: johnballotti1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
 Contact Toby Williams
 Email:
toeb34@gmail.com

Chum Line

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 Editor: Sophia Huynh (fishnsoph@gmail.com)

2025 OFFICERS

President	John Ballotti
Vice President	Toby Williams
Secretary	Dustin House
Treasurer	John Ballotti
Historian	Dustin House

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tami Shepphird	John Ballotti
Keith Heerd	Toby Williams
Carol Chow	Dustin House
Scott Schiffman	

2025 FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Keith Heerd - Chairperson

Ron Glider	Toby Williams
Paul Varenchik	Chas Schoemaker
John Goss	

2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Family Event	Mike Hartt & Ted Feit
Apparel	Steve Simon
Awards Banquet 2025	John Ballotti
By-laws and Legal	Randy Sharon
Charters	Dustin House
Chum Line Editor	Sophia Huynh
Communications	Scott Schiffman & Michael Godfrey
Dinner Meetings	Tami Shepphird
Dinner Speakers	Wendy Tochiara
Elections	OPEN
Environmental Affairs	John Ballotti
Events:	
Earl Warren's Memorial Kids' Trip	Paul Varenchik & John Goss
Lou Berke Fish Derby	Ted Feit & Carol Chow
Bill Alpert King of the Club	Dustin House
Frank Polak Marine Mentors' Trip	Andrew Ratzky
Fishing Records	Joel Steinman
Fly Fishing	Rob Baldwin
Hall of Fame	John Ballotti
Health and Happenings	Linda Simon
Membership	Toby Williams
Public Relations	OPEN
Raffles	Scott Schiffman
Surf Fishing	Keith Heerd
Tackle Management - maintenance	OPEN
Tackle Management - storage & donations	Tami Shepphird & Sophia Huynh
Tax Consultant	John Rhind
Tributes	Tammy Steinman
Veterans' Trips	Steve Simon
Trophies	Sophia Huynh
Website	Scott Schiffman
Yearbook	John Ballotti