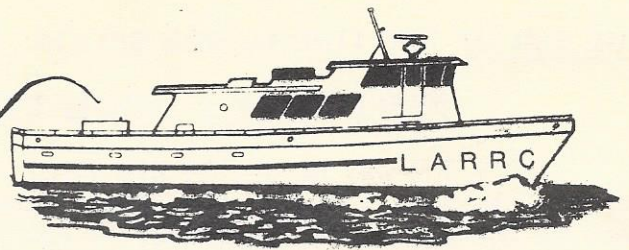




Chum Line



PUBLISHED BY THE LOS ANGELES ROD & REEL CLUB---JANUARY, 1982

EDITOR'S NOTE

As the new editor of the CHUM LINE, I would like to take this opportunity in my first edition to let you, my fellow members, just what to expect in the months to come.

I hope to bring the CHUM LINE back into focus for what it was, I'm sure, intended to be: a house organ designed and devoted to informing club members of activities, fishing trips, meeting, etc.

And as far as I'm concerned, the focus will be on fishing as directly related to the club; not about births, not about backaches, nor about private parties. It won't contain stale jokes or long, dry articles of concern to only a minority of members for their own, self-servient purposes.

It won't be a soapbox or forum for any member's particular interest or cause unless I feel the subject is of concern or interest to a majority of the members. It won't contain interviews with club members that only a few "insiders" can really appreciate.

I welcome this task and intend to do it to my fullest capability, but it can't be a success...it can't be the paper YOU want it to be without YOUR cooperation.

I intend to contribute an article or two each month...this month it's an article about a young skipper whom most of us have fished with. I'll put the paper together and see that it gets out...even if it means that I have to stuff all 125+ envelopes and mail them myself.

But if you, the members, don't help by providing timely articles of general interest, it's possible the CHUM LINE may get printed with a couple of "holes" (as they say in printer's lingo) in it. I do not believe this will be a reflection on me, but a reflection on the general membership and its apathy.

An important topic in the CHUM LINE, I feel should be the fishing results of our charters. There are at least 10 known chartermasters in the club and I request that they supply me with a fish report from all their trips whenever possible. Any gossip or anecdotes, humorous or otherwise, that they can relate, will, of course, also help.

I'm talking about guys like TED HAMMOCK, ART WEINGART, OTTO PAINTER, ANDY WEINER, HANK SCHWARTZ, MITCH LIPSETT, MAURICE LEVY, BEN VARON, DAN FELGER, SEYMOUR RIMLAND and BEN SUSMAN. All it takes, fellas, is a pencil, paper, stamp and envelope.

Moreover, the CHUM LINE can and will be glad to inform about upcoming charters and possible openings on same.

As a new member, I've been amazed to see all the politicking and egos that are involved in this club. It would please me to no end to make sure that I don't step on anyone's toes. Peace and harmony. But, unfortunately, that probably won't be possible as editor.

I would like the CHUM LINE to be the organ...the communicator...that brings the club back to what it was founded for: *FISHING, FUN, RELAXATION and CAMARADERIE*, as the masthead of an old CHUM LINE I saw once read.
--Bob Selvin, Box 5372, Beverly Hills, Ca. 90210.

* * * JANUARY DINNER MEETING * * *

Monday night, Jan. 25, 1982
Smith Bros. Fish Shanty
Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Ladies are invited!

PROGRAM: INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
AWARDS NIGHT

ON DISPLAY: THE SUPER RAFFLE BONANZA
(see page 3, column 2)

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE IN
BY JANUARY 31, 1982

MERIT McREA : YOUNG DYNAMO SKIPPING THE SEAHAWK

That's the way he spells his first name. M-e-r-i-t. And as far as many members of the LARRC are concerned, he deserves the "Legion of Merit" for his work as skipper of the *Seahawk* out of Sea Landing in Santa Barbara.

It's generally agreed among the *cognoscenti* in the club that the calico bass fishing in 1981 was the best they've seen in recent memory...most notably the many charter trips aboard the *Seahawk* with Merit at the helm.

So what about this 22-year-old dynamo, who has already developed quite a following and reputation among *our* ranks? Because of his popularity and the great fishing he helped orchestrate this past summer especially on charters run by Ted Hammock, Dan Felger and Ben Varon and others, the CHUM LINE takes an interesting, penetrating look at the youthful captain, who at 19 earned his first ticket making him then one of the youngest men ever to do so.

"He's a real 'technician,'" landing owner Fred Benko once told us, who wisely offered Merit the job to run the *Seahawk* after stints on other boats at the landing such as the *Hornet* and *Sea Trek*.

McRea actually was a deckhand on the *Hornet* and "second ticket" on the *Sea Trek*, then ran the *Hornet* for about a year until Benko bought the *Seahawk*. He took over the 'Hawk then and has been running it ever since, now approximately two years.

Originally from Berkeley, McRea began his career at sea "decking" on the *Hi Brow* in San Francisco at the ripe old age of 14. Soon after, he moved to Santa Barbara with his father and sister and attended Santa Barbara High. He spent the summer months of 1976-77-78 working as a deckhand on the old *Sundown* in San Diego.

Right now, one of the main things on his mind is the famed Naples Reef winter bass bite...or rather, lack thereof at the time of this writing (early January). (By the time you read this, the conditions and fish count could change drastically.)

For the past three years...1979-80-81, January has been *THE* best month to fish at Naples, according to McRea. How does he know? He's not trusting his memory. McRea is a real student of the game who keeps

records on things such as water temperature, wind conditions, swell conditions, bait, number of anglers on the boat and fish count. Each day, he logs this information.

"Traditionally, June has also been an excellent month for fishing up here, but January has been the best," he states matter-of-factly.

But mother nature is not cooperating, at least so far. Some recurring storms and "blows" have knocked the water temperature way down...five full degrees...and until the temperature actually *stabilizes*, he feels the bass will remain dormant.

Stabilizes is the key word. Says McRea, "I've found that it's not the water temperature dropping that makes fishing so scratchy, it's just that it doesn't *stabilize* right away. Not many fisherman are aware of this. The fish are still on Naples, but they're not real active or on the feed because of some *fluctuations* in the water temperature. Once it stabilizes, the fish will bite again."

He cited last winter as an example. *For three months*, the water temperature remained at a near constant 52 degrees (low by any standards) at Santa Barbara and that period...*despite* the low reading...produced some of the best and most *consistent* calico fishing he claims to have ever seen with fishermen using a leadhead and squid.

"Interestingly, I've also found that the day *AFTER* the water temperature goes UP is usually an excellent time to fish. Sometimes, the fish really go wild when that happens."

So in this modern day and age, Merit certainly is among the breed of skippers who approach the sport in a more cerebral, scientific fashion. This brought to mind the question about fishing during the moon cycles such as full moon, quarter moon or new moon (dark of the moon).

Merit, in all his record keeping, has found there has been very little correlation between the different phases of the moon and the fish biting. "If there is a correlation," he says, "it's been 'drowned out' by the changes in water conditions and temperature, which have proved to be far more important, as far as affecting the fishing."

Finally, he let us in on one of his best kept "secrets." If any of you have fished with Merit a couple of times or more, how

often have you seen him pull in a nice, lunker bass using that monster-size Sabre 540 rod and one of those ugly jigs...even though YOU hadn't been bit in many minutes despite using nice, lively baits and changing them frequently?

He's so successful using the 'iron' because when using a jig, you can move around the boat (when there's room) plus cover more water on the cast and retrieve than when using live bait. He claims bass probably don't always think it's lunch time when they see a jig, but very often strike one out of instinct.

He keeps a supply of jigs up in the wheelhouse, preferring Tady 45's and Tady C's. Very often, he'll sand off the original paint job, just so the surface of the jig will hold another paint color.

Then, when no one is looking, he'll reach down for his spray paint. And presto! That's his secret. What was once a nice, shiny-looking, factory-painted Tady 45 is now a dull, ugly Alpine Green. That's been *THE* hot color. A simple General Motors engine enamel available in engine repair shops! "I don't know why, but it works and works very well, I might add."

ODDS AT THE END... Our own JEFF ELLIS of the Fisherman's Spot reminds that it's time to renew fishing licenses...prices are \$3.75 for trout and salmon; \$6.25 for a saltwater tag; \$2.50 to fish inland waters; \$12.50 gets you the whole shooting match; a new tag for striped bass is \$3.50.....DR. HERMAN EPSTEIN held his 35th annual Xmas party for underprivileged and handicapped children at the L.A. County Medical Center last month and the event, as usual, was a rousing success. More than 500 needy children received gifts. SHELLY BALZAC and EPPY both donned Santa suits to distribute the presents..... After closing his auto dismantling yard, NORM PORT has found himself spending more time on his boat and becoming active in the Del Rey Yacht Club. He's been installed as the Rear Commodore for 1982. Congratulations, Norm!ANDY WEINER, BERNIE MAYERS, GUS RICH and CHUCK HIRSCHMAN are off to Socorro on Jan. 25 for a 7-dayer on the Reward and we hope they'll give us a report when they get back.....SID FEDER, DR. FRED POLESKY, JUDGE IRVING HILL and DR. JAY SUGARMAN back from a successful junket to San Benedicto, Partida and Socorro aboard the Big Mike. The group nailed 51 wahoo and 34 tuna (40-150) and didn't bother to count the various other species taken...Chuck Garrison's SOUTH

SOUTH COAST SPORTFISHING magazine is simply a must for all saltwater anglers in these parts. Well written, interesting features about fishing in OUR area, tackle tips, etc. Main office for SCS is in Orange County. For more info, call (714) 974-7300. Subscription rate is \$19.50 per year and well worth it. In the January issue, Garrison indicated his magazine is now sponsoring a weekend fishing forecast show heard every Friday morning at 6:45 a.m. on KMPC radio (710). Sounds great for an early riser like me.

**DON'T FORGET
TO RENEW
YOUR FISHING LICENSE**

ANNOUNCING

A SUPER RAFFLE BONANZA

STARTING IN JANUARY

ITEMS TO BE RAFFLED

- 1--TRULINE custom built trolling rod by Jeff Ellis.....value \$175.00
- 1--PENN INTERNATIONAL GOLD #50W..... value \$350.00
- 1--BOWEN "BAY RANGER" tackle box..... value \$80.00

TICKETS: Six for \$25.00 sold ONLY at club meetings. Each ticket must have purchasers name and phone number on it.

DRAWING: To be held at June meeting

MERCHANDISE: On display each meeting

WINNER TAKE ALL!!!

SUPER RAFFLE BONANZA CHAIRMAN:

Jeff Ellis

CHARTER PLANS...I'm tentatively planning a live squid trip on a fast charter boat to San Nicolas Is. on Mon., Feb. 15, a legal holiday. Can take 18 players at \$65.00 per. Large calicos, giant whitefish and some monster goats?? Contact me for further information and a follow up letter if interested...BOB SELVIN (213) 652-1100.

There is a rare treat in entertainment planned for the January dinner meeting. Don't miss it.

*** JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ***

Monday night, Jan. 18, 1982
At Bill Naythons's
5763 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

LOS ANGELES ROD & REEL CLUB ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1982

SEYMOUR RIMLAND.....PRESIDENT
JIMMY PORT.....VICE PRESIDENT
JOE DECKER.....SECRETARY
BEN JACOBS.....TREASURER
STEWART LIPSETT.....HISTORIAN

ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1982

JOE DECKER	SEYMOUR RIMLAND
BEN JACOBS	BOB SELVIN
DON LEE	SELIG SMITH
CY LEWIN	ART WEINGART
STEWART LIPSETT	STEVE ZUCKERMAN
JIMMY PORT	

As of this writing, Cy Lewin resigned as a board member and as club chartermaster, leaving these positions open.

LARRC FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Dave Lippey, Chairman

HERMAN EPSTEIN	BILL PEARLMAN
HENRY LEVY	GUS RICH
MAURICE LEVY	SAM STONE

1982 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

HAL PRICE, JEFF ELLIS.....	Monthly Programs
STEWART LIPSETT.....	Historian & Awards
IRV HARRIS.....	By-Laws & Legal
BILL PEARLMAN.....	Interclub Liason & Tournaments
JIMMY PORT.....	Special Events
HAL PRICE, JEFF ELLIS.....	Raffles & Drawings
BOB SELVIN.....	Chum Line Editor
OTTO PAINTER, JEFF ELLIS, ART WEINGART.....	Reporters At Large
HERMAN EPSTEIN, SHELLY BALZAC.....	Boys Fishing Trip
BEN JACOBS.....	Budget & Finance
# BILL VOGEL.....	Membership
# BILL VOGEL.....	Goodwill, Sick & Sunshine
SHELLY BALZAC.....	Elections
DON LEE.....	Family Activities
DAVE LIPPEY & STEVE ZUCKERMAN.....	Conservation
JEFF ELLIS, BILL ROSS, BILL + VOGEL, ART WEINGART.....	Greeters, Hospitality