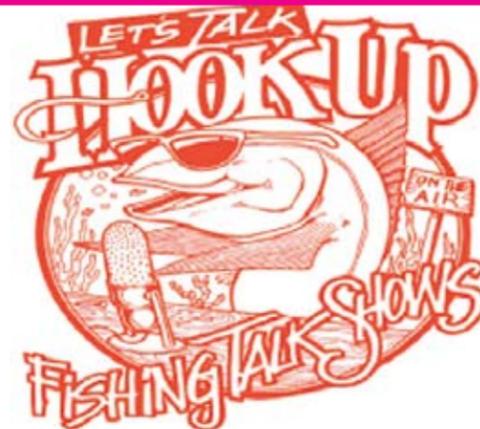


LET'S TALK HOOK UP

FALL 2007

FREE!



Tune in to "Let's Talk Hook-Up" every Saturday and Sunday 7am to 9am on **XX Sports Radio 1090 AM/105.7FM**

KATMAI - IS THIS A FISHING OR A CATCHING LODGE?

By **Pete Gray**

Anyone that has listened to our program for over 16 years knows I am a hard core saltwater angler. I do love to fish, and I even occasionally like bass fishing! About 15 years ago Marty Milner introduced me to fly fishing for trout in Alaska, and I have been hooked ever since. Hard to believe this hard core saltwater guy likes to finesse trout in a river or stream, but it is true. I must even confess that it has become a real passion. Whether in the high sierra, Oregon, Montana or Alaska, trout fishing isn't just



Pete Gray with his "Morain Monster" rainbow trout caught on the Morain river. The fish measured 26" long and had a 15" girth.

about fishing, it is also about where you do the fishing. It has been said that trout don't live in ugly places, and for the most part that is true. When it comes to trout fishing in Alaska, it's like an NFL player going to the Super Bowl - it truly is the ultimate experience.

Marty used to tell me stories about this incredible place in Alaska called Katmai Lodge. He told me stories about this river called the Alagnak that runs right in front of the lodge. You could not only catch all 5 species of pacific salmon on this river, you could also catch trophy rainbow trout. He told me it

was one of his favorite places in the world, and since visiting last year, I now understand why. Our trip last year was fantastic. We caught king and sockeye salmon and huge rainbow trout. I asked our guide Scott when the best time to catch big rainbows was, he said early to mid August. I decided right then I had to come back, and I did with my good friend Rich Topp. Scott was absolutely right, it was the ultimate rainbow fishing I always dreamed about.

Our first day we arrived at the lodge from Anchorage about 10:30am, got our bags to the room, put our waders on and headed down river for an afternoon of silver salmon fishing. We really lucked out, though this years run was not a strong one, we hit a fresh group of silver salmon flushing in by the hundreds into the river. Fly rod, spin tackle - it didn't matter. Rich and I caught 10 - 14 pound salmon one after the other. It was

See **KATMAI**, Page 4

EXCELLENT FISHING ON THE "EXCEL"

By **Bob Blum**

"It was like fishing in an aquarium." I had heard that expression before but did not fully appreciate it until the third day of the 6 day Let's Talk Hook-up trip on the "Excel" September 18-24, 2007. Yellowtail were swimming all around the boat and bit any lure or bait (sardines) that hit the water. At one point I got four yellowtail on four successive drops of a butterfly jig. I then assembled my 12 wt. fly rod and got one on a fly.

The trip had started with the Excel making the 280 mile run from Fisherman's Landing to Cedros Island. On our first afternoon of fishing the 30 passengers (29 men and one woman) caught 55 yellowtail in the 25-35 lb. class. We also got 15 halibut to 32 lbs.



Jennifer Sung and deckhand Derrick Waldman with 20 lb. yellowtail caught on surface iron

The next day seven other long range boats would be at Cedros, and since Guadalupe Island had not been producing, Captain Justin Fleck decided to look elsewhere. That is the advantage of a six day trip over a five day trip. It gives more options.

The next morning found us 150 miles south and east of Cedros near the town of Abreojos. The town is on the same latitude as Santa Rosalia which is on the western side of the Baja peninsular. Abreojos is known to surfers and not many else.

Captain Fleck set the boat up on a high spot where we caught about 150 yellowtail in the 10 - 20 lb. class.

That night we moved 60 -70 miles up the coast to San Pablo Bay This is where we got to

fish in the aforementioned aquarium. By the time I caught the YT on the fly rod we had put over 200 yellows on board for the day and over 400 for the trip. Since all 30 passengers now had their Mexican limit or near limit of 15 yellowtail for the trip, the captain decided to move the boat closer to shore in the kelp. Here we caught an assortment of calico bass, sand bass, rockfish, whitefish, bonita, and small sheepshead, most of

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HOT BITES



PETE GRAY & RICK MAXA
Hosts of **Let's Talk Hook-Up**

As citizens of the USA we are fortunate to be able to involve ourselves in political process and make our voices heard.

As an angler living in the USA, we are also fortunate to be able to get involved in political processes that dictate access to our fisheries. If you haven't already noticed, there are many that are working hard to deny us access to some of the most productive fishing grounds. If the extreme environmental groups have their way, we will lose many of our favorite and most productive fishing areas. The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) is real, and it is happening now. We are on the verge of losing key areas we love to fish in. We have talked about it for years, but- really- now is the time to get involved. The MLPA comes to southern California soon, and we all need to be a part of the creation of the laws that shape the future of our fisheries.

We are very fortunate that the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) has entered into the political process. This national organization realizes that these MPA's (Marine Protected Areas) threaten the future of our industry. It is not just in California, but in many coastal states. ASA knows that California MPA's are just the beginning, and that is huge for us! Along with United Anglers, Coast side Fishing Club and the Sportfishing Association of California these fine people are working with us to retain access to our fisheries. Now is the time to participate in the process! If you are in the fishing industry you need to be involved with ASA and give your time and money to the organization that is helping assure a bright future. If you are an angler that doesn't want to be denied access to your favorite fishing spot you need to join United Anglers, watch the ASA web site (www.asafishing.org and www.keepamericafishing.org), and write letters to government officials that are involved in the MPA's. Everyone concerned about the future of our fishing access needs to educate themselves on the facts. Find out about ASA's strategic plan to be involved in the decisions that shape our future fisheries. Giving money to support this process is important, but if you get involved by understanding what is happening, you will know what that money you have given is doing and have a true impact in the MLPA process.

GRUBBING FOR PERCH

By Gundy Gunderson

On a clear brisk winter's morning, I make the last of the steps down to the beach and stop to survey the scene. The water is glassy and calm, a mild offshore pushes in the smells of the coastal scrub and the surf barrels cleanly onto the beach.

A side-armed lob puts a carolina rigged grub in the dark green water of a surf-formed trench. I flip the bail and wind tight to the sinker. The moment I feel the sinker... bang! A fish inhales the grub. I lay back with my rod and the light tip arcs sharply toward the surging surf.

The barrel of the spinning reel turns as the fish takes line in short bursts. With constant pressure, the game adversary begins to yield. On a small breaker, the tired fish is laid on to the wet slope of the sand. The morning glow colors the beautiful perch a rich gold. I land him, admire him then release him into the shallow remains of the last breaker. The next cast produces another quality fish and the next another. The barred surf perch are biting well this morning.

In the doldrums of winter, when fishing ebbs to its slowest point on the California coast, the

barred surf perch can provide some fast action on light tackle for the opportunistic angler.

Although these aggressive surf line feeders will eat a variety of live and cut baits, my favorite way to take them is using small



Carolina rig showing swivel, bead, and sinker. Note, swivel to lure distance should be about 30"

artificial grubs.

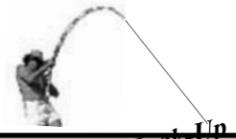
Barred surf perch are most often found in the turbulent water of the breakers. The wave action on the beach dislodges food and small prey drawing the perch into the shallow water to feed. With keen eyesight, the perch can spot these meals through the sand, air bubbles and foam kicked up by

the breaking wave. The fish instinctively strike whatever moves in this feeding zone. For this reason, a small grub with its whirling tail action can be deadly on these aggressive predators.

Terminal Tackle:

The grub is best fished on a carolina rig. In light surf, use a 1/4-ounce sinker, in heavy surf, a 1/2 or 3/4-ounce sinker. With the sinker on the main line, use a bead, a swivel and eighteen inches of leader. Under most conditions, an inch and a half grub, a # 6 baitholder hook and six-pound test is ideal. When big perch are present, go to a three-inch grub on a #4 baitholder on six or eight

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tackle Days at Fishermans Landing
Saturday December 1, 2007
Fishermans Landing, San Diego
www.saltwatertackle.com

San Diego Boat Show
Jan 3-6, 2008
San Diego Convention Center
www.nmma.org

52nd Annual Los Angeles Boat Show
February 9-17, 2008
Los Angeles Convention Center
www.scma.com

Fred Hall Fishing Tackle and Boat Show
March 5-9, 2008
Long Beach Convention Center
www.fredhall.com

Fred Hall Fishing Tackle and Boat Show
March 26-30, 2008
Del Mar Fairgrounds, San Diego, CA
www.fredhall.com

EXCEL -- fish were breaking in every direction

Continued from Page 1

which were thrown back. However, 53 big red, black, and white male sheepshead were kept.

At his point, Captain Fleck

(Vince Otani, Jordan Richard, Derrick Waldman, Chris Pharo, and Brandon Wilske) and the two chefs and I do mean chefs not cooks, Ja-



Baaa!!! Sheepshead caught in San Pablo Bay

decided to finish up the trip by taking us albacore fishing. This meant moving 400 miles north. Because the Excel had new engines, we were able to cover the distance at the speed of 12.5 knots.

Sunday morning, September 23rd found us just to the west of San Clemente Island. The weather was perfect, and fish were breaking in every direction. At first, the albies were reluctant to bite, but throughout the morning we picked away at them. At about 1:00PM we had a 100 fish stop that lasted several hours. By 5:00PM we had over 250 longfins that averaged 30 lbs. Most were caught on sardines with some coming on Megabaits.

At that time a unanimous decision was made that only the crew would fish. The five deckhands

son Fleck and Stan Pawoazas were the only guys who got to fish. One of the passengers climbed up on the bait tank to throw chum. Other guys washed the decks and still others did the gaffing (not as easy as it looks). Everyone else took pictures and cheered the crew. I bartended. It was great!

Back at the dock on Monday morning the jackpot was divided as follows: 1st place: Brandon Wallace, 39.8 lb. albacore. 2nd place: Stan Seals, 37.8 lb. albacore. 3rd place (tie): Paul Lucio, Larry Hengsteler, 36.0 lb albacore.

Next years trip on the Excel will be on the same dates September 18-24. This year the trip was sold out in January. Don't wait! Call the Excel office at 619-223-7493.



California Fishing Passport FALL FISHING CHALLENGE 2007

Pack your bags, load up your tackle boxes, grab your favorite rods and reels and your fishing license, and join us for some great fishing adventures across California's many lakes, rivers and ocean waters. And don't forget your passport ... your California Fishing Passport, that is!

The Department of Fish and Game, along with Bass Pro Shops, Berkley and Abu Garcia, are in search of adventurous California anglers who would like to win some great fishing prize packages ... just for fishing ... in the California Fishing Passport Fall Challenge!

How to Enter:

1. Just pick up a copy of the California Fishing Passport (Passport), and then go out and enjoy some fishing in California's many beautiful lakes, bays, rivers or ocean waters between September-December of 2007. Catch any of the fish listed in the ocean (green), inland warmwater (yellow) or the inland coldwater (blue) sections of the Passport to be eligible.
2. There are three separate contests or "slams" available, and anglers may compete in one or all. The Passport book lists all of the species eligible for the Challenge:
 - **Saltwater Slam:** Choose from 86 different species of fish found in California's more than 220,000 square miles of ocean and bay waters. Catch any five (5) different species from the ocean (green) section of your Passport book to qualify.
 - **Warmwater Slam:** Bass, catfish, sunfish and other warmwater fish can be found throughout the state in streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, reservoirs and the Delta system. Choose from 25 different fish species included in the inland warmwater (yellow) section, and catch any five (5) to qualify.
 - **Coldwater Slam:** Trout and other coldwater fish can be found in lakes, reservoirs, streams and rivers. Choose from 17 different species within the coldwater (blue) section, and catch just three (3) different species to qualify.
3. To officially enter the Passport Fishing Challenge, it's fast and easy. Just submit digital full-color photos of yourself with each of your different fish, along with your fishing data, through our Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/fishingpassport/triptracks.asp, and you're in!

Awards/Prizes:

- Berkley/Abu Garcia/Stren Tackle Packages (\$100 value) or Bass Pro Shops Gift Cards (\$100) will be awarded to 60 anglers (20 anglers per slam) selected by random drawings from all anglers that complete a slam.
- 10 Anglers will be awarded \$500 tackle packages or \$250 Bass Pro Shops gift cards for completing the entire challenge of all three (3) slams, selected by random drawings from all anglers completing all three slams.

For questions or need more information, please visit our Web site at www.fishingpassport.org or call (831) 649-7191.



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KATMAI -- You can go downriver to the hot salmon spots or upriver to the hot trout spots

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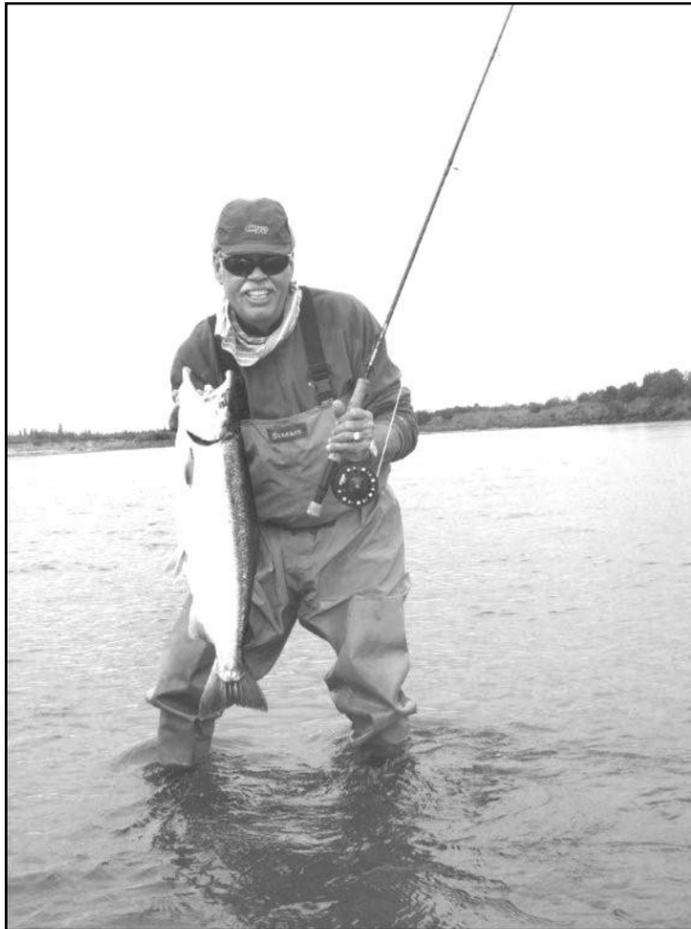
a great way to start the trip. After a fabulous afternoon of fishing we returned to the lodge for a glass of wine and appetizers on our deck overlooking the river. We watched bald eagles, beavers and even bears as we prepared for a great meal in the Katmai Lodge dining room.

Katmai is all about location. It is not the white table cloth dining and fancy rooms. Katmai Lodge is very comfortable rooms, some with great vistas, hearty meals, great guides on the best boats on the river, superb management and spectacular fishing. You are literally in the middle of the action.

You can go downriver to the hot salmon spots or upriver to the hot trout spots. You see many of the ultra expensive fly out lodges flying their guests into the river every day. The huge advantage of Katmai Lodge over these lodges is weather related. If the weather grounds the fly out lodges, they are left to stay in the lodge and play cards. At Katmai Lodge if you choose to do a fly out trip to a remote river and the weather turns, you hop in a boat and go fishing.

Our second day Rich and I went

up river to "the braids" and had an incredible day of trout fishing. I caught over 50 trout, many over 20" and up to 24" that day. On the way up river and back to the lodge you are treated to incredible views



Rich Topp with a bright silver salmon on the Alagnak River

of the river, mountains and wildlife. We saw lots of brown bears, a moose, otters, beavers, dozens of bald eagles, timber wolves and other incredible sights.

In August, one of the highlights for the Katmai Lodge guest is doing a fly out trip. Though this is certainly not necessary, it is a great added experience. This time of the year the sockeye salmon that passed by the lodge in July are now about 70 miles up river spawning. This attracts giant trout and dolly varden from all of the lakes and surrounding

rivers there to feast on their eggs. It also attracts many brown bears to feast on the dying salmon. Our fly out trip was to the American River. We caught huge trout and dolly varden to 26" one after the other. It was truly an amazing fishing experience. All day we saw bears in the river with us, a little intimidating at first until your come to the realization that they are more concerned about eating the salmon to bulk up for the long Alaska winter than about us. We spent our lunch time eating our sandwiches sitting in a wild blue berry patch watching a mother bear and 3 cubs just 50 yards away feasting in the river. Many fly to these rivers just to watch the bears, but we had it all - the ultimate fishing experience and bear watching all in one!

The fly out to the American River was such a treat Rich and I decided to spend the extra money and do another fly out to the Morain River. This is ranked in the top 5 in the world for numbers of large

rainbow trout, and it didn't disappoint. I caught several 25" plus fish that pushed 10 pounds. My largest of the day measured 26" long with a 15" girth - not a giant by Morain standards but certainly my largest trout ever.

We spent the rest of our fishing days fishing the upper Alagnak for trout and even spent a day spin fish-



Alaskan Brown bear watching us fish

ing for silvers since our casting arms were getting sore from pulling on so many fish!

It really doesn't matter when you go to Katmai during their short season June to September. If you want

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SEARCHER

Sportfishing

Dept 1 p.m.	Ret 8 a.m.	Days	Cost	Load	Sponsor
MAY 23	MAY 26	3	695	29	Memorial Day Special
MAY 30	JUNE 2	3	695	29	
JUNE 7	JUNE 14	7	1795	22	Penn Fishing University Open
JUNE 14	JUNE 19	5	1295	22	
JUNE 19	JUNE 22	3	775	25	
JUNE 22	JUNE 27	5	1295	22	
JUNE 27	JULY 1	4	1050	25	
JULY 1	JULY 3	1.5	350	32	Departure at 6 p.m.
JULY 4	JULY 8	4	1125	29	Izorline Open-Free line!
JULY 8	JULY 12	4	1125	29	
JULY 12	JULY 14	1.5	350	32	Let's Talk Hook-up Shimano Seminar. Departure at 6 p.m.
JULY 14	JULY 17	3	875	29	
JULY 17	JULY 22	5			2nd Annual Idaho Charter
JULY 22	JULY 27	5	1395	25	
JULY 27	JULY 29	1.5	350	32	Departure at 6 p.m.
JULY 29	AUG 2	4	1125	29	Accurate Fishing Products Open
AUG 2	AUG 6	4	1125	29	Izorline Open-Free line!
AUG 6	AUG 9	3	875	29	Let's Talk Hook-up Shimano Seminar
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KATMAI -- Most important thing is save your money and go

Continued from Page 4

to catch tons of sockeye salmon and some Kings in the river along with good rainbow fishing, go in June and July. If you want to catch giant rainbows and do the fly outs, go in August. Most important thing is save your money and go. Whether you are fly fisherman or conventional tackle, there is something for everyone at Katmai Lodge - great

nations is what draws us back.

A week at Katmai Lodge is about \$5500. This is a full seven days of fishing! There are 4 day packages too. Fly outs are \$375 each. Not a cheap deal until you compare it with other remote lodges that offer this type of fishing. You will understand why it is expensive to go after you visit. Everything

If you want more information on Katmai Lodge, call John Donovan at Time to Travel: 800-937-7335 or check out www.katmailodge.com



Rich Topp and guide Scott at the American River with a huge dolly varden

fishing, superb service, incredible wildlife and fantastic adventure. For me and Rich, we are going back in mid August of 2008. The opportunity to fish the big trout and silver salmon in the Alagnak and do a couple of fly out trips to new desti-

must be brought in by small plane. The season is very short and the number of people to run the operation properly is massive. But think about it - where can you go in the world and fish for seven full days for less? Not too many places.

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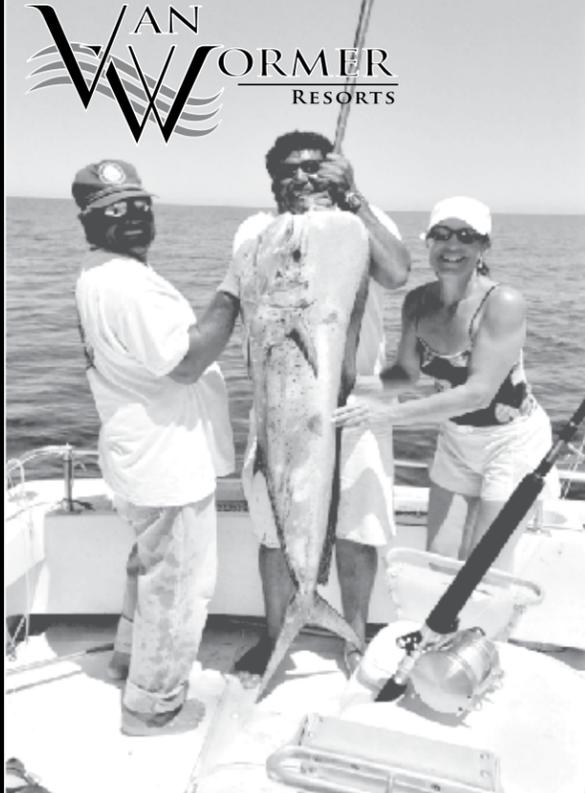
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WADING BACKWARDS

By Jean Sedar

It wasn't that long ago, at least it doesn't seem like it, that I was 5 years old and my parents presented me with my first fishing rod. In the latest real estate terms, both that spinning rod and I would now be referred to as 'mid-century classics', but actually it was my parents who were the classics because they encouraged their two girls to learn to fish along with their two boys. It's a given that most women of today did not have this opportunity growing up, and even if they were one of the lucky ones who did, continued support in later years was usually in short supply. In perhaps even shorter supply was fishing clothing designed for women before the 1980s. We had usually been introduced to the sport with hand-me-downs and when we eventually went in search of replacements, were forced to adapt our needs to fit somewhere within the only available parameters of Men's Small and Men's X-Large. I think the exponential boon in fly-fishing changed both ac-

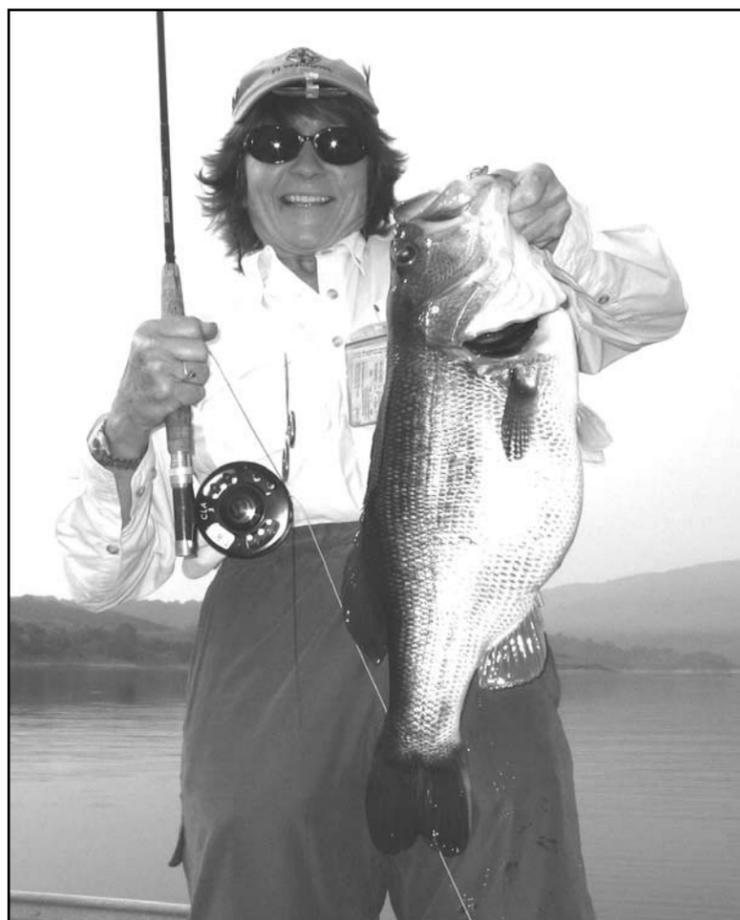


Leona Barrong, 89 (with son Bill) of Grants Pass, Or, with a 22 lb. king salmon, she caught on the Siuslaw river near Mapleton, Oregon

ceptance of us and supply for us... and much of that can probably be attributed to the movie "A River Runs Through It".

No longer are females relegated to buying voluminous fishing shirts, waders and vests sized for barrel-chested men, using heavy equipment or staying in accommodations designed primarily for a male clientele. Gradually over the years, the fishing manufacturers responded to our clamoring, adding women's sizes and colors to their lines of clothing, and

some companies even created divisions specifically for women's designs. It's interesting that even with such dynamic fishing women as Maggie Merriman and Joan Wulff wading ahead of us many years ago, it really was only in the last twenty years that the fishing industry acknowledged there is a difference between a Men's Small and Women's Petite. Progress rippled out from there with women in ever-increasing numbers seeing their fishing-



Jean Sedar with her 9 lb. "Birthday Bass"

BIRTHDAYS AND BASS

By Jean Sedar

If it were your birthday, what would you ask for? Well, I wanted to go fishing so I got up the nerve to call fellow club member, Jeff Peariso to ask if he would take me on a 'big bass' adventure like the ones he'd been talking about at our Santa Barbara Flyfishers meetings. He initially offered me a rain check, but it turned into legal tender the following day when the seed I had planted for taking a day off germinated under layers of smoke and ash from our months-long Zaca fire. Lucky for me, he and his tree trimming crew were tired of breathing all that nasty stuff.

I was out on the street ready at 5:30 in the morning for a quick load of my gear into his truck and by 6:45 we had launched Jeff's compact Gregor aluminum boat at Lake Casitas and were heading out to his latest favorite spot. We had been optimistic about leaving behind the ash that inundated Santa Barbara and the smoke that slid heavily over our mountains and unapologetically stole our sunlight. But when we topped the grade on Hwy 150, an all-too-familiar smoke plume towered above the Ojai Valley mountains and a hazy red and orange orb was rising over the

See *Wading* Page 9

See *Birthdays* Page 8

WAHOO, DORADO, AHI, CABRILLA, PARGO, OH MY!

By Carlos Gaudier

The East Cape never ceases to amaze me, and this year's Let's Talk Hook-up/Palmas de Cortez Fall Spectacular was no exception. My friends and I have been fishing these waters for the past 7 years now with Pete, Rick,



Team "No Bananas" holds up a nice variety of fish

Marty, John, Mark, and the rest of the Let's Talk Hookup crew and our trips are always filled with many fond memories. This visit proved to be no different.

The theme of this year's trip turned out to be the East Cape Smorgasbord. It was like eating at your favorite seafood buffet restaurant. At one part of the table were sierra, pargo, cabrilla, pompano, and amberjack. On the other end were wahoo, dorado, tuna, sailfish, and marlin. The variety of species caught/released and caught/filleted was amazing. I caught a sierra on the first day the fantastic kitchen staff at Palmas sautéed it for a wonderful dinner. Pete caught a pompano on his butterfly jig and this turned out to be a muy delicioso ceviche. Our friends also had their fresh catches of dorado and ahi grilled up for dinner as well. We also had our favorite Mexican Sashimi prepared. I think I gained a

few pounds.

There were numerous memorable catches. Chris and Linda brought down their grandson Quinton, I believe he was 12 years old, and he caught his first yellowfin tuna that weighed in at 22 lbs. We met a very nice group from Poway, Jim, Mary, Jimmy and Janine. It was their first time to the East Cape, but probably not their last. Janine also caught her first tuna at 20 lbs. Mary caught her first dorado at around 20 lbs. The Jims caught their first sails, Jim's was a nice one at around 120

lbs. The first place winners from Long Beach had a phenomenal last day. They ran away with the tournament by landing several nice sized tuna, the 2 biggest at 72 and 97 lbs. The 97 pounder was the biggest fish of the tournament, which won them a very nice Accurate reel. To top it off they also boated a couple of nice wahoo. The Rusty Hook crew, Alex, Joe, and Ken got into some big tuna, bringing in some 60 and 70 pounders daily and they almost landed a 125 lb bruiser. Some boats that were lucky enough to find the porpoise schools had wide-open bites on decent sized tunas. Some even got into some hot bites with dorado and sailfish schools. For Team No Bananas the highlights were Khanh's 80 pound class tuna, Drew's 60 pound class tuna, and the double marlin hookup for my bro Manny and me. Our fourth and last day of fishing was perhaps our most

enjoyable. Khanh hooked up on an 80 pound class sailfish on 30 pound test with a 30 pound fluorocarbon leader while live bait fishing a sardina for tuna. The sail put up a nice fight on the light set-up, but Khanh was able to catch and release it in good time. We also had a nice surprise when we were able to catch 2 nice sized cabrilla and a pargo. I landed my very first amberjack head, unfortunately a #S%&)%%\$ seal stole the rest of it!

Besides with the great fishing the perhaps most enjoyable part of these trips is just hanging out with our friends, both old and new. It was nice to reunite with many returning amigos; The Rusty Hook Crew (Alex, Joe, and Ken), Team Whiskey Tango (Pam and Phil), Team Phil Specter's Smoking Guns (Chris, Linda, and Quinton), Lou and Ellie, the veterans of the tourney, Woody and Linda, Clint, etc.... We also met some new friends; the Poway gang and Randy & Marshall the Washington Albacore fishermen.

In addition we met some really nice prison guards to whom we suggested that they use "Don't Drop the Soap" as a team name. We joked with them that they booby-trapped our bathroom by placing bars of soap on our floor. Over the years we have also gotten to know the staff at Palmas pretty well and can truly consider them great friends.

As an added bonus we had a hilarious nightly sideshow provide by the black "house

dog". He would routinely get on his belly and start rubbing his underside on the welcome mat. The funny part was that he would take several laps around the mat and the show would last for several minutes. We thought he either had itchy cajones or was very enamored with the carpet. My friend Alex and I tried to capture this on film as we quickly bolted to our rooms to get our cameras, but unfortunately the show was over when we got back. Needless to say we avoided walking on that mat for the rest of the trip.

We're sure going to miss the wonderful staff and friends we've met down at Palmas. However, we're not going to miss pulling on the giant squid for



Variety was the norm on this exceptional trip

bait and the bars of soap on our bathroom floor! Thanks to Pete, John, Mark for putting together another great tournament. Muchas gracias to Chucky and his great staff; German, Chuy, Pedro, etc., for their warm hospitality. Eddie, Shannon, Jennifer, Dusty and the rest of the US staff, thanks for all your help with our reservations. Mario and Luis, you guys are the best! Salud to good fishing, good times and especially good friends.

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FEB 7	FEB 22	15	28
MAY 2	MAY 19	17	24
MAY 21	MAY 27	6	32
MAY 27	JUNE 2	6	32
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BIRTHDAYS -- Best cure for any ailment is to catch a fish

Continued from Page 6

lake. My sinuses went into another tailspin, but as we anglers know, the best cure for any ailment is to catch a fish. So I did; a small but legal bass that broke the tension of anticipation, and hinted that I was on the right track under Jeff's tutelage. Lew Riffle, another club member and life-long family friend, zipped across the lake to join us and break in his new trolling motor. (I hear there's a story behind what happened to his previous one.)

Jeff and I cast our shooting heads adorned with his Larry's Minnow bucktail flies all over and around some high spots and drop-offs that his depth finder registered as he operated his trolling motor. Then Jeff hooked into a considerable resistance that quickly rolled and gave us a hint of its girth. After some maneuvers around the boat to keep the 'toad' fish out of the prop and away from the rough underbelly of his boat, Jeff hefted a huge bass up and gripped the lower lip with his hand-held scale, then smiled as he read 9 pounds! Wow! Just like he'd been telling us all along – the big boys were out, and now I saw first-hand that Jeff knew how to entice them to bite.

A couple quick photos for the record and then back to his wattery home went the big 'ole bass. Excited congratulations from me were accompanied by high-fives between us and together we sent a couple calls over to Lew to share the moment, then Jeff and I quietly motored uphill so we could set-up and cast as we drifted with the breeze. Shortly after, Lew's rod bent over and he picked up a beautiful 4#'er that we scooted over to appreciate a little closer before he returned it to its environs. Jeff promptly repositioned us a bit away in 13 feet of water and within min-

utes my stripping hand was stopped short with a wonderfully heavy sensation. My line was steadily brought to the surface until out a ways off the bow, a large bass rolled over just to tease me with a glimpse of its gleaming white belly. Then a frightened dive, a head shake, line pulled off my reel, a swim into the weeds, more head shakes, line pulled out again, my wrist aching from the downward pull on my Sage fly rod, a trip east past the bow, a return trip west, my rod handle braced parallel under my forearm for support and finally - color! What Jeff thought was "probably a good 4 or 5-pounder" about five minutes previously turned into, "Wow, Jean, I think you have a really big fish on there!" Nothing like causing me to worry some about losing my prize before I could get photos. What a relief to bring that fighter to the boat, lift his head with my fly rod and finally put my thumb in his lower jaw and heft him over the gunnel into the safe air above the floor! Jeff's scale quickly recorded a wonderful story of my own catch coming in just a couple bucktail hairs shy of nine pounds; my personal best bass! The loud kudos, hoots, high-fives and photos that followed were for me, and I reveled in them.

Anyway you do the 'fish math', my first time on Lake Casitas added up to a HUGE success: 6 weight rod + 6# tippet = 9 pound bass. Or: I turned 54 and 5+4=9. Well close enough. The only thing that could have made it any better is if my dad, bass fishing guru Bill Sedar, had been there to witness the biggest bass of my life, on my fly rod, on my birthday. But he did get a call after I released my gift, even while my hands were still trembling. Nothing like being able to share a lifetime experience with someone

who's been there, done that, and felt the rush. When I printed out an 8x10 glossy and handed it to dad a few days later, we shared enthusiastic comments like, "Wow, what a monster bass!" "What a great fight." "Nothing like it." "A day to remember, for sure." Then he put my photo in his album across from the slightly faded one of his Cachuma Lake record Largemouth bass of 11 1/2 lbs. in 1985. I'm tak-

ing dad bass fishing soon for his 93rd birthday. Do you suppose the fish gods could send another present – for my favorite fishing partner?



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- 12/1 - ROB SANFORD LIVE FROM TACKLE DAYS
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WADING -- Not just a hobby, but a way of life

Continued from Page 6

related books published, as guides, on the Pro Bass circuits and holding their catch on the glossy front covers of almost every publication on the racks.

Graphite material in fishing rods was a welcome innovation for us females, making it much easier to fish mega-hours without wearing out our casting arm. I recall having barely completed making my first fiberglass fly rod when graphite hit the market and made me an immediate convert. I started purchasing all my fly rods and blanks to wrap my own in that wonderfully sensitive and light material. Eventually all my freshwater conventional bass and trout spinning rods were replaced with graphite so that now just my saltwater rods for 15 pound test and up are fiberglass.

Yes, I still have that fiberglass fly rod I made, my first fishing vest and Flyweight waders of my very own (both Men's Small yet with enough room for two of me) and my brother's hand-me-down neoprene waders. But they have been replaced with 'futuristic' materials and/or sizes and forms that flatter: graphite, boron, mesh, supplex, breathables and those with built-in sunscreens. These days, that arsenal of originals is pretty much kept as loaners and teaching aids for future fishing enthusiasts, allowing me to teach

young scouts, nephews and women without worrying about "uh-ohs". It has been almost a dozen years since I signed on as a fishing instructor with the fabulous "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" program and gave a bit of help forming United Anglers' early "Salt Water Woman" program; the least I can do for a sport that has given me not just a hobby, but a way of life. Besides these and other national organizations, there are almost always local clubs, many geared just for gals that provide encouragement and camaraderie. The co-ed sport fishing and fly fishing clubs I belong to offer a myriad of fresh and saltwater trips, casting clinics and even a Youth Fly-fishing Academy. Support for novices, sage anglers and females alike is so accessible nowadays, that I can't help but use the old cliché when I say to the entire fishing industry, "You've come a long way, baby!"

Jean Sedar is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential in Santa Barbara, CA, a freelance writer, producer of her own "Time Out!" television show in Santa Barbara and is currently repeating her presidency of the Santa Barbara Flyfishers. She sold her fishing store, Hook, Line & Sinker in Santa Barbara in 1985.



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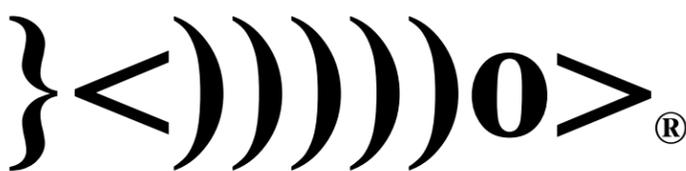
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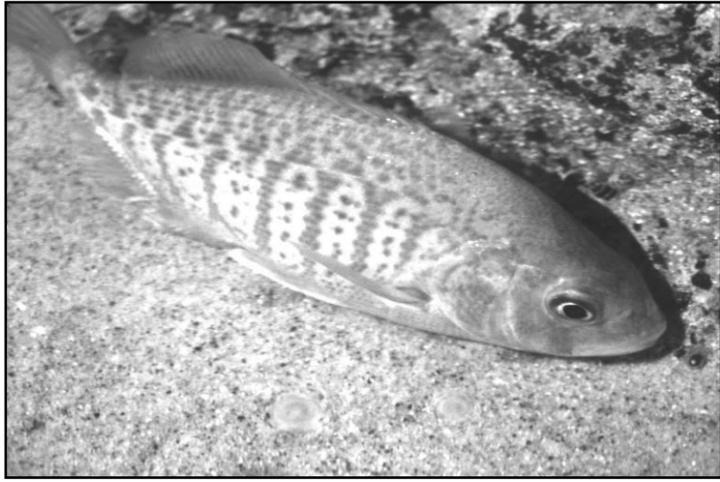
PERCH -- Look for the subtle beach structure that holds feeding perch

Continued from Page 2

pound test.

As for grub colors, I like browns and reds. Standby colors are motor oil, root beer, red with red flake or clear with red flake.

For consistently good action choose a quality grub. I like the MoJo grubs or the Berkley Gulp



Barred Surf Perch residing on a sand/rock edge

Swimming Mulletts.

Tides:

One of the first investments a surf fisherman should make is in a good tide log. Tide is one of the major forces that influence tidal and inshore waters. The entire inshore aquatic food chain, from minute organisms to top-notch predators, responds to opportunities created by the massive movement of water during these periods of strong tide. Predator fish behavior is dictated by tidal movement because baitfish and other prey are also active during tidal movement and will expose themselves to predation. In bays and estuaries fish behavior is influenced primarily by tide, but in the surf zone, tide works in combination with surf and physical beach characteristics to shape conditions. In either case, if you are fishing inshore waters, the feeding behavior of fish is closely linked to tide.

Invest in a good tide book or log. The best logs give a graphic representation of the tide movements. Like a biorhythm chart, the line will move above and below the mean tide line. This allows the reader to conceptualize the high and low tide periods and the range of tide movement in-between. Strong and subtle tides are easily discernible. Additionally, catches and time of

catches can be logged into the book offering valuable insight into the feeding patterns, trends or tendencies of surf zone fish.

Light Tackle:

Although surf fishing is more commonly associated with long rods, heavy line and big sinkers, Grub fishing for surfperch, is a light tackle endeavor. Most of the targeted quarry is found in the more turbulent areas of the surf zone, which is

essentially where the surf breaks. The majority of perch will feed actively in the wake of a pounding wave or in the trench formed by the surf. Food and prey are dislodged by surf and the fish are quick to take advantage. Long casts with heavy sinkers are not necessary.

Light rods and small spinning reels are more than adequate in getting your bait to the fish. In addition, light tackle makes for excellent sport when tangling with perch that can push the three and four pound mark. An occasional halibut on the grub will also test your light tackle skills.

I prefer a seven to eight foot light action rod and a small spinning reel loaded with six-pound test. The longer rod is useful in keeping the rod tip high allowing you to work your grub more effectively in the surf zone. A light action is sensitive to the perch's light take and forgiving in heavy surf or surge once a fish is hooked. The spinning reel should have a smooth drag and fresh line. Because of the caustic nature of the surf environment, I use Shimano gear in the salt. Nothing holds up as well. Six pound test is light enough to get bit consistently by the keen eyed perch yet provides good strength in landing tough fish in a hostile environment.

Finally, look for the subtle

beach structure that holds feeding perch. Trenches, holes, depressions, scattered stones, river inlets, jetties and points are all good perch habitat. Put some time in and fish these structures thoroughly during different tidal periods. With time in you'll find biting fish.

For an easily accessible fishery, that demands little in the way of tackle and produces excellent winter action, look to the beach, the grub and the barred surf perch to cure your winter fishing blues.

Gundy Gunderson is a freelance writer who has contributed many fine stories to the southland angling community. Gundy can be heard every Sunday on Let's Talk Hook-up with the surf fishing report as a regular guest on the program.



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On the web the Let's Talk Hook-Up "Links Page" is loaded with links to informative pages including:

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Trip 3

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Let's Talk Hook Up

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Sun, May 4 through Mon, May 12, 2008

Join Pete Gray and Richard Casteneda on this great fishing adventure to the "Tuna Coast" where you will have the opportunity to catch Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Yellow Fin Tuna, Dorado, Roosterfish, Cubera Snapper, Amberjack, Pargo, Sierra Mackerel plus a variety of other types of fish. Fishing in Lake Gatun for the Peacock Bass is incredible, not only will you catch a bunch of Peacocks in the 1 to 5 pound class but the jungle that surrounds the lake contains lots of animal life such as monkeys, huge crocodiles, manatees, parrots and macaws, etc....

The package price for this fishing adventure to Panama is \$1645.00 per person based on two per room and two per boat and will include all ground transportation while in Panama, first and last two nights hotel room in Panama City including daily breakfast, 5 nights at the Villa Marina, 4 days panga fishing, one day fishing in Lake Gatun, all taxes, breakfasts, lunch and dinner while at the Villa Marina. Not included is round trip airfare from the U.S. to Panama, tips for panga guides, hotel staff at the Villa Marina, baggage handling in Panama City and the bus driver. This is probably the lowest price trip you will find in Panama for this many days fishing. For questions, airfare and reservations call Cass Tours at 800-593 6510.

12th Annual Rancho Leonero Spring Tournament

Sat, Jun 7 through Wed, Jun 11, 2008

One of the best times of the year in the East Cape for great weather and superb fishing. Join Pete Gray and Rick Maxa on this fun tournament. This year we're adding a new twist; you have the option to fish two or three days keeping your best two days for the tournament results. Package includes four nights lodging, two or three days of fishing, all meals, and tournament entry. For more information call the Rancho Leonero office at (800) 334-2252.

11th Annual Kingfisher Lodge in Sitka Alaska Trip

Sun, June 15 through Thur, June 19, 2008

The end of June is the peak of the legendary king salmon run in Sitka. It is also a great time to target big halibut. It took us several years to get Seth to give us these dates for our trip, as it is considered the absolute prime part of the king run. You will also have the opportunity to catch huge rock fish. This package to Kingfisher Lodge in Sitka includes 3 days of fully guided fishing each day (10 hour full day charters on 26' heated cabin cruisers with no more than 4 persons per boat), 4 nights lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and soft drinks each day, fish cleaning, vacuum packing, freezing, and boxing, all necessary fishing licenses, all fishing gear, tackle, bait, rain gear, airport pickups, and transportation in Sitka. For more information and reservations please contact Kingfisher Charters at (800)-727-6136.

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Fri, Sep 5 through Wed, Sept 10, 2008

Join Captain Art Taylor and his crew for a prime time 5 day trip. This is the time when such hot spots like Guadalupe Island and Cedros Island go off, add in the potential for great offshore fishing to complete the trip. Trip includes all food and is value priced at just \$1395 plus permits and possible fuel surcharge. The trip is limited to only 25 anglers. Call Searcher Sportfishing 619-226-2403 or www.searchersportfishing.com

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Thur, Sept 18 through Wed, Sept 24, 2008

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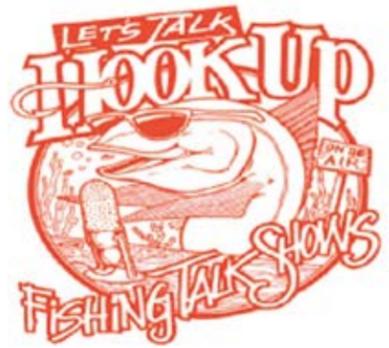
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