



Good Sportsmanship is Worth More Than all the Fish in the Ocean OCTOBER 2023

LARRC DINNER MEETING

AN EMAIL WILL BE SENT ANNOUNCING THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



**Dinner Meeting
October 30, 2023**

Lulu's Restaurant • 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys

A Message from the President

By Andrew Ratzky

Dear Club Members,

It's now early autumn. As we await the first of the seasonal storms, and the mornings and evenings start to get cooler, warm temperatures maintain during the day. The water temperatures offshore remain warm giving us so much action right here in our local waters that you don't need to go on long trips. I went on a 1.5-day trip on the Freedom on October 1, and managed to land both a yellowfin tuna and a bluefin. It was nice to catch two different tuna within site of the Orange County coast, while enjoying flat calm seas throughout the day!

And now that summer is in the rear-view mirror, I eagerly anticipate our upcoming club meetings. Be sure to circle Monday, October 30, on your calendars, as we convene at Lulu's in Van Nuys at 6 pm. Come join us for dinner, reconnect with fellow club members, engage with our monthly fishing industry speaker, and try your luck with a few raffle tickets.

In light of potential changes on the horizon at Lulu's, we're on the lookout for a new venue to host our club meetings. Rumors swirl of shift in ownership at Lulu's, leaving us uncertain about its suitability for our future gatherings. Your insights are invaluable; should you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Before I bid you farewell, let me underscore the significance of reserving the date for our annual banquet in February. Etch Sunday, February 25, 2024, into your schedules, and join us to commemorate the accomplishments of both the club and the foundation and the people that made it happen in 2023. You will also have a chance contribute towards the foundation's ongoing mission of introducing veterans and inner-city children to the joys of fishing through spirited bidding on an array of fantastic auction items.

Wishing you all the best as we enter the end of the year and the holiday season.

Drawing for a LIFETIME Fishing License

CCA LA North is having a special fundraising drawing for a California DFW Lifetime Fishing License.

Only 100 tickets will be offered.

The drawing will take place as soon as 100 tickets are sold. The license is the basic Lifetime Fishing License, valued at \$645.50 up to \$1054.25 depending on the winner's age. It does not include any of the endorsements that DFW offers.

This item is not transferable, the name on the ticket will receive the license.

Donation is \$20

as this is a fundraiser for CCA California.

All monies remain in California.

This would make a great gift for someone in your family as well as for yourself. We appreciate any and all support.

Click on the link below to purchase tickets:

<https://ccacalifornia.org/product/enter-to-win-a-lifetime-fishing-license/>

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\$20 Donation to CCA California | Registration is REQUIRED!
Register at CCACalifornia.org!



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9687 Topanga Canyon Pl. | Chatsworth, CA

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Sponsored by CCA Los Angeles North Chapter

CCA Membership not required.

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ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

By Theresa Labriola

◆ **First permits issued for new swordfish fishing gear that's safe for marine mammals** - This fall, National Marine Fisheries Service began issuing commercial deep-set buoy gear permits. Some of the first round of 50 permits were issued to swordfish fishermen who forgo large drift nets for this new system that won't also capture whales and dolphins and sharks and marlins. This represents a sea change in our definition of sustainable fishing and the transition was supported by thousands of recreational fishermen, ocean conservationists and turtle advocates. Deep set buoy gear uses hooks to target only swordfish instead of mile-long 100-foot wide nets that drift in the ocean and tangle any fish that crosses its path.

<https://www.oregister.com/2023/09/25/first-permits-issued-for-new-swordfish-fishing-gear-thats-safe-for-marine-mammals/>

◆ **Thousands of salmon escaped an Icelandic fish farm. The impact could be deadly** - Last month, thousand of salmon escaped a fish farm and they have now been found in at least 32 rivers across north-west Iceland. Studies have shown interbreeding between farmed and wild fish produces offspring that mature faster and younger, undermining the ability of the species to reproduce in nature. Iceland's open-net salmon farming industry is in its infancy, and the speedy growth has caused environmental problems and conflicts between the industry and sport fishermen. The result is a cautionary tale for those advancing aquaculture off of California. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/30/thousands-of-salmon-escaped-an-icelandic-fish-farm-the-impact-could-be-deadly>

◆ **Climate change takes habitat from big fish, the ocean's key predators** - This year's marine heat waves and spiking ocean temperatures foretell big changes in the future for some of the largest fish in the sea, such as sharks, tunas and swordfish. The rising temperatures of the oceans are especially dangerous for these fish because warming makes their open-water habitats less suitable, scientists who study the species said. Loss of habitat could largely remove some of the most important predators – and some of the most commercially important seafood species – from the ocean.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2023/09/14/climate-change-takes-habitat-from-big-fish-the-oceans-key-predators>

◆ **Biodegradable Fishing Gear Isn't Good Enough** - For commercial fishers, losing gear is part of doing business. Fishing lines and nets break and wear out over time or have to be cut loose when gear snags on the seafloor. By one estimate, at least 50,000 tonnes of nets, lines, and traps disappear into the water globally each year. In California alone, as many as 14,000 crab pots are lost or discarded each season. Most of this material is plastic, and lots of it is still partially functional, meaning it can go on catching and killing marine life for centuries—a process known as ghost fishing. For several years, scientists, fishers, and conservations have been eyeing a not-so-novel solution: biodegradable fishing gear. Made of things like microalgae fibers or biodegradable polyesters, this equipment can be broken down by aquatic microorganisms. Yet while these environmentally friendly nets offer benefits, recent field trials conducted largely in Norway and South Korea show that biodegradable nets catch significantly fewer fish than synthetic ones. This leads us to ask, “are the trade-offs worth it?” <https://hakaimagazine.com/news/biodegradable-fishing-gear-isnt-good-enough>

California News

Three California tribal nations have banded together to announce the designation of the new **Yurok-Tolowa-Dee-ni' Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area**—the first of its kind in the United States. The 1,800-square-kilometer protection zone will be jointly run by the Resighini Tribe of Yurok People, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, and Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria. The project manages critical ecosystems that support cultural economies. (Native News Online)

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LOOK and See -

CHARISMATIC CREATURES OF THE SEA

By Theresa Labriola

A fellow fisherman recently told me a tale about his recent sightings of pods of dolphins or porpoises riding alongside the sportfishing boats of Southern California. However, he wasn't sure how to identify these ocean companions or what distinguishes a porpoise from a dolphin. We're all good at fish identification because we can examine them up close, but, marine mammal identification proves a more difficult task.

Dolphins and porpoise are both cetaceans, an order of animals that includes whales. Both dolphin and porpoise are toothed whales along with beluga, narwhals and sperm whales. Both animals use echolocation to sense the world around them, to hunt for prey and to communicate. Understanding their distribution and behavior provides an easy first step to differentiating these animals.

Porpoise prefer cooler waters than dolphins. While they're both highly intelligent, dolphins exhibit more curiosity around humans than porpoises. Only two species of porpoise, Dall's porpoise and Harbour porpoise, frequent Southern California waters, and of these, only the Dall's porpoise are avid bowriders. Dall's porpoise form small groups of up to 20 individuals and move into southern waters in autumn and winter.

Five species of dolphin inhabit these waters: Pacific White-Sided, Russo's, Northern Right Whale, Common and Bottlenose. Common dolphins are the most plentiful dolphin in Southern California, form large groups of over 100 animals, and frequently engage in bowriding and aerial acrobatics. The Pacific white-sided dolphin is thought to be the second most abundant dolphin in our area, are commonly seen in groups of several hundred, and are also known for acrobatic and bowriding abilities. Bottlenose dolphins form smaller groups that also often ride the bow wave of vessels.

Given these characteristics, we can make a safe bet that when we see a large pod of bowriders, they are most likely dolphins, but we can't rule out the Dall's porpoise.

Confirmation requires a closer look at their physical characteristics. The difference starts at the head. Dolphins typically have a bulbous head and a clearly defined beak or long nose with a toothy "smile". Porpoises usually have a rounder face will a dull beak.

Their size and fin gives us another clue. Dolphins are lean and long, averaging 6-12 feet and have curved dorsal fins. Porpoises are shorter and stouter, reaching just 7 feet, and have more triangular dorsal fins. If you get a really good look, examine the teeth. Dolphins' teeth are cone-shaped, while porpoises' teeth are spade-shaped.

These morphological differences reflect their different diets and feeding strategies, with dolphins using their longer beaks to catch faster-swimming fish which they swallow whole and porpoises using their blunter beaks to catch slower-moving prey like squid.

So the next time you are out fishing, take a closer look at the wild world around you. You just might be surprised by what you see.

Dall's Porpoise

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/susanad813/>

Common Dolphin

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

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.

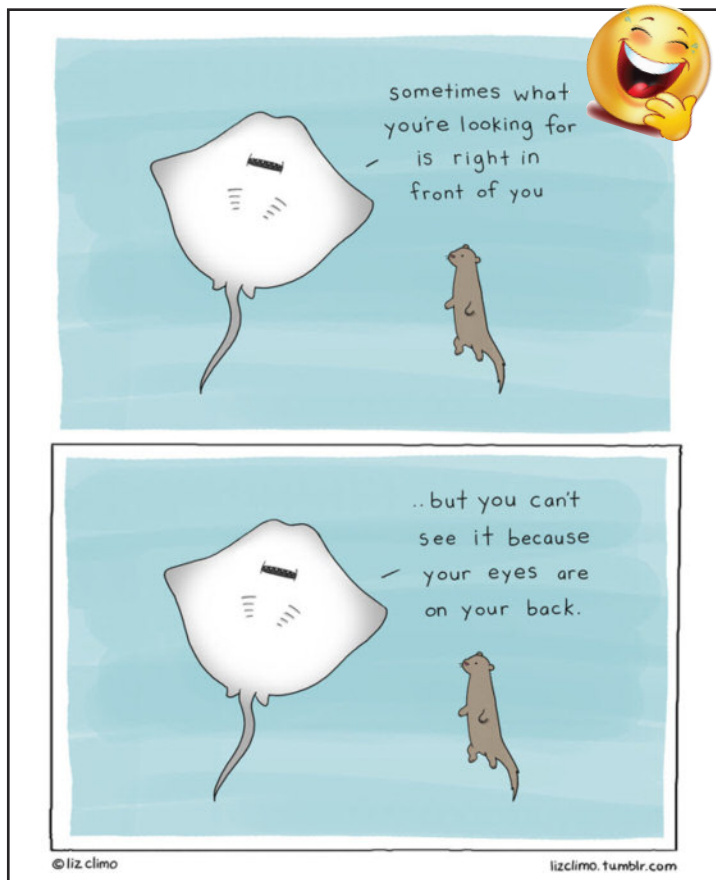
Notice: The Ralphs LARRC Barcode needs to be swiped only once to link your Rewards Card to LARRC. Future shopping trips will help raise money for LARRC when you use your Ralphs Reward Card at check-out.

Alaska Adventure

By Norman Weinstock, Member since 1989

My son Robert and I were at the Tikchik Narrows Lodge in Alaska in September. It is difficult to get to the lodge as it requires 4 flights each way from Los Angeles. The lodge is in the middle of the wilderness 70 miles from Dillingham. The lodge is very comfortable, food fabulous, and the guides great. They have 3 De Havilland Beaver float planes and one Cessna float plane. We fished only fresh water and only fly rods. Every day they fly you out at 9:00 am to a river with guides and you fish lakes and streams and then they pick you up at 5 pm and fly you back to the lodge. In most streams the lodge has two aluminum boats available at our destination. Sometimes the guides would fly out with you and sometimes the guides lived in tents on the river. All the guides were fully familiar with the lake or stream that we were on. We fished mainly drifting down the stream. We caught lots of char, dolly varden, silver salmon, grayling, and some trout. My best rainbow trout was 25 or 26 inches. I also caught a 19 and 20 inch trout and a few smaller ones. The char in the photo the guide said was about 30 inches long and weighed about 17 lbs. Caught on a 8 lb leader. This time of the year the sockeye salmon are laying eggs so there was a lot of fish in the rivers. One day we had a rain delay and finally left the

lodge at noon. We started fishing at 12 :30 pm. We were catching char and trout and dolly varden, we caught so many we were tired by 3:30 that we called for the plane to pick us up early. Most days fishing was just as good. Lots of fish and good quality fish. Everything is catch and release, but we were able to take home 3 silvers. We were on 18 flights in 10 days. I highly recommend this lodge.



CALENDAR

Board Meeting

October 23, 2023

Via Zoom • 7pm

Please email the Club President for link information.

Dinner Meeting

October 30, 2023

Social Hour 5:30 Dinner and Meeting 7:00
Lulu's Restaurant, 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys

Veterans' Trips

October 19 on the Betty-O, Marina Del Rey

Larry Scores a Super Cow BFT

By Larry Brown

Game Changer captains Ryan, Chris and Cayden are big tuna specialists. We were all gathered at the dock waiting to board when Captain Ryan walked by and stopped for a brief chat. He stated their last trip had zero fish until the last 2 hours when they "lucked" across a giant school of hungry BFT just as they were heading home; 2.5 days of nothing ending with 2.5 hours of glorious chaos. It's never over 'til it's over. Ryan also said the weather and fishing yesterday was poor. But he said his plan was to get all of us a personal best BFT. That's pretty high expectations for a veteran group of high-quality anglers three of which already had PB's of 235, 268 and mine at 277lbs, and four of us were already in the Cow Club. But we told him (with sarcastic grins) we would hold him to it and expected a money back guarantee! Haha!

We arrived outside the grounds just off San Clemente Island only to be told the Navy had just closed the area for it's war game operations. Ryan pointed the Game Changer to an area previously holding BIG fish about 3 hours away. Hum? Bad weather and the targeted zone closed to fishing was an inauspicious beginning. The first morning was spent looking and looking and looking. Ryan found fish that late afternoon and we put together a nice catch.

The night before we had a family meeting and agreed to release all fish, well, mainly most fish under 50lbs. We were focusing on monsters. My first fish was a solid 80lb beauty and Dr. Chris Minnick executed a perfect safe release with his new "release stick." The tuna swam away strongly with aspirations of becoming a cow the following year or so.

The kite was producing, and several bait fish were being hooked. Guys using 40 and 50 regretted it and started using 60 and 80. A couple of cows were welcomed aboard and we were all smiles, high fives and eager for a great night bite. Early that night the knife jigs produced another round of beautiful BFT before the tuna went AWOL and we all enjoyed a good sleep.

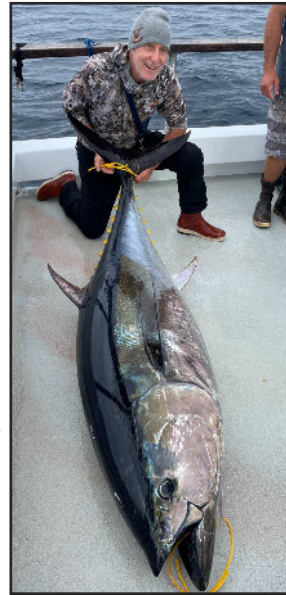
Each day seemed to get a bit better as we got dialed into the fishery. Captains Ryan, Chris and Caden are masters at their trade and working the kite. Five of us got cows, a couple of us two cows and I was blessed with a super cow, taping at 313lbs, my new personal best BFT.

Usually, the captain or deckhand mans the kite and hands off the kite fish to the anglers. They are pros and their hookup ratio is higher. Three of us elected to work the kite ourselves wanting to enjoy the full experience. Holding the rod, focusing on the flying fish puddling atop the water, see-

ing the giant splash of the tuna jumping on the flyer, winding like crazy in order to get tight on the fish and enjoying the rod until sweet victory or the agony of defeat. Having the rod in my hands 100% of the time made my victory and PB 313lb Super Cow that much more personal and memorable. You may want to think about doing this yourself given the right setting and captains approval.

The Game Changer is First Class by every measure. I'm already looking forward to our two GC charters next year.

To see the Game Changer pics from the trip click here <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ci27aqwq6r9n4qr/AA-CuTQIs7xlghKrnslfP09WAa?dl=0>



Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation

Tribute Opportunity

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

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Donations maybe deducted.

Tributes will be posted in the Chum Line.

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Information Request and Donations may be addressed to:

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MOVING *FORWARD*... LOOKING BACKWARDS

By Barry Cohn

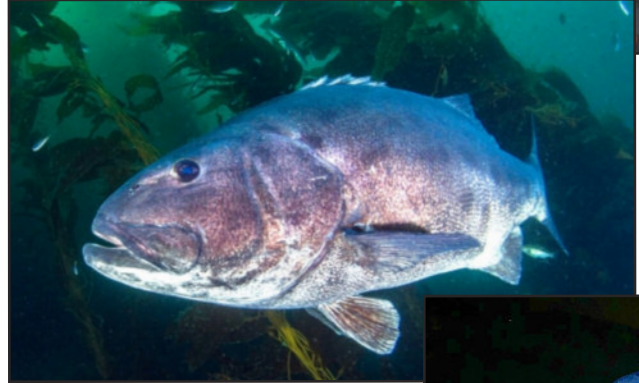
Club Member Since 2001 • Club President 2011

As I wrote in an earlier Chum Line article, possibly the best White Sea Bass captain around is Brandon Hayward. Brandon's first choice has always been targeting coastal WSB, but since they just weren't around, option two was Catalina Island. We arrived on his "secret" spot at dusk to give it a try. Several hours later, we were still trying. At last, my rod went off---big time. If this was a White Sea Bass, it was going to be an all-time world record. No way. Maybe a big Yellowtail? No. Maybe a yellow Fin?? Bat Ray??? After about an hour and a half, we finally knew. It was a Giant Black Sea Bass.

Let's digress.... Giant Black Sea Bass were once quite common in Southern California waters. Over-fishing, habitat encroachment, loss of kelp, etc took its toll and practically eliminated the species. Fortunately, the California Department of Fish and Game made it illegal to take GBSB in 1980. The population has slowly recovered, though still classified as endangered.

Back to my fish---So, back and forth we went. Then, we just stayed in one place, a stand-off with not an inch to be gained. Finally, slowly but surely, it was to the leader. At last, Brandon proclaimed it to be a 180-pound Gigantic Black Sea Bass! We snapped a few pictures, gave it a good slap on the rear and off it swam. Hopefully, to live another 50 years or so.

Next time JAWS!



Cathy - 201 and 215 on Rail Time.
Randy got 215- 30th over 200 for me

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.

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.

TROPHY CONTENDERS 2023 as of September 30, 2023

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
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MEN'S OCEAN WATER

Bass, Calico	20	Paul Varenchik	5	5
Dorado	40	Bob Tuttle	35	5
Salmon, Char	8	Norman Weinstock	17	0*

MEN'S FLY ROD

Perch, Sac	8	Rob Baldwin	3	3*
Perch, Sac	10	Rob Baldwin	3	5*
Trout, Cutthroat	8	Rob Baldwin	14	2*
Trout, Cutthroat	10	Rob Baldwin	13	7*

MEN'S FRESH WATER

Bass, Lg Mouth	20	Joel Steinman	6	0
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MEN'S OCEAN RELEASED

Roosterfish	30	Chas Schoemaker	Released	
Roosterfish	40	Bob Tuttle	Released	

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
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WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER

Halibut, California	50	Cathy Needleman	5	10
White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5

WOMEN'S FLY ROD

WOMEN'S FRESH WATER

WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER RELEASED

JUNIOR MEMBERS

FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR

White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
7-Apr-23				

FIRST ALBACORE OF THE YEAR



Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

c/o Andrew Ratzky

23297 Park Ensenada

Calabasas, CA 91302

Email: aratzky@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/LosAngelesRodandReelClub

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