

LARRC DINNER MEETING

LARRC WELCOMES STEVE YATOMI

Steve is the Managing Director of Adventure Travel Alliance. For 30 years he has been guiding anglers to locations in South America, Indonesia, Southeast Asia and Africa enabling them to experience fishing unlike anything they had experienced previously. In the last 10 years Steve has focused his trips toward sustainable fishing ecotourism and has been honored with the IGFA Representative Conservation Award for the program he has established in the Apoteri Village in Guyana. Leave your passport at home but please bring your desire to fish in exotic waters and join us for a very special evening.



Dinner Meeting
January 29, 2024

Social Hour 5:30pm Dinner and Meeting 7:00pm

Lulu's Restaurant • 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys

CONSERVATION MATTERS

By Theresa Labriola

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024. This year got me thinking about large, ecosystem level changes that we've witnessed, that we predict, and that impact the balance of our ocean communities and fishing opportunities. Sometimes, we take for granted that which we cannot see, such as kelp forests. Sometimes we don't know how to listen to ecosystem signals such as seabirds. Only later do we realize how difficult it is to recover what we have lost. Thank you to the LARRC for looking beneath the surface to consider how we impact the balance of our great ocean.

Turns Out Undersea Kelp Forests Are Crucial to Salmon

- A healthy kelp forest is typically a quiet safe haven. They provide complex habitat to hundreds of species, including benthic invertebrates, small fish and animals all the way up the food chain to gray whales. Sea otters twist their bodies into the kelp. That way they can sleep without drifting and wake to breakfast a forepaw's swipe away. Forests of kelp dampen wave energy and create a physical refuge for marine life. They also store so much carbon that scientists call them the "sequoias of the sea." Like terrestrial forests, they also bolster oxygen via photosynthesis and absorb carbon dioxide. In the sea, that reduces acidification that kills more vulnerable marine animals. There are so many benefits—and recently a newly verified one: salmon, those Pacific Northwest icons, also use kelp.

<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/turns-out-undersea-kelp-forests-are-crucial-to-salmon>

Did the tides turn for oceans at COP28? Climate summit draws mixed reviews

- The ocean featured in many negotiations around the climate crisis at the U.N. climate summit known as COP28, which took place in Dubai between Nov. 30 and Dec. 13. The final version of the global stocktake (GST), which served as the main agreement for COP28, referred to the importance of protecting and preserving the ocean and coastal ecosystems, and called for "ocean-based action." COP28 was the stage for several large pledges to support the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. However, experts say the GST does not capture the necessary urgency to curtail fossil fuel emissions and may encourage the launch of controversial and still-untested geoengineering techniques that aim to lock away carbon in the ocean.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/did-the-tides-turn-for-oceans-at-cop28-climate-summit-draws-mixed-reviews>

Seabirds Can Help Predict the Size of Fish Stocks—If Only We'd Listen

- In 2015, fisheries managers monitoring Atlantic herring in the waters off the United States and Canada made a grave miscalculation. Things were looking good for the multi-million-dollar fishery: adult herring in the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy were more plentiful than they had been in a decade, and mathematical models estimated that one-year-old herring were also abundant—a promising sign for future catches. The

managers set high fishing quotas for the next three years. Then, the herring population went into free fall.

Researchers have been tracking seabird diets for decades. They were very aware that there were not a lot of herring between 2012 and 2014, Scopel says. This should have been a red flag to herring managers. Terns and puffins are expert samplers of juvenile herring, the little one-year-old fish that will grow big enough to be caught by fishers in a couple of years. Fisheries managers, however, have no dependable way to count juvenile herring and instead rely on the uncertain estimates generated by mathematical models. Seabirds are highly sensitive to changing ocean conditions and prey availability, earning them a reputation as sentinels of the sea. But ornithologists worldwide struggle to get fisheries managers to pay attention.

<https://hakaimagazine.com/news/seabirds-can-predict-the-size-of-fish-stocks-if-only-we-d-listen>

High-value US West Coast stocks may migrate out of reach due to climate change

- Recent NOAA research forecasts that three high-value groundfish species will migrate toward deeper offshore waters along the United States West Coast due to climate change in the near future, which will likely require fishery managers to adapt their strategies in response. A NOAA study shows that sablefish, dover sole, and shortspine thornyhead are projected to migrate to deeper offshore waters, posing challenges for fishers that may need to travel longer distances and fish at greater depths or shift their operations completely to target more accessible species. Together, these are a large proportion of the groundfish caught off the West Coast. This may not be good news for the fisheries, but it hopefully provides some foresight into how distributions may shift and gives fisheries time to consider how to adapt to these changes.

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/premium/supply-trade/noaa-predicts-high-value-us-west-coast-stocks-will-continue-to-move-farther-offshore>

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2024 TIDE Article - Bluefin

By Chris Arechaederra

Fishing for the pacific bluefin tuna...it's one of those things where anglers often complain about them, yet we find ourselves back on our boats or sport boats going after them year after year. The bigger models along with the volume have been around for so long now that we're in this weird position of wanting them to keep sticking around because we don't know when they'll be back, but also craving another old friend of a species to start sneaking back down to Southern California...the Albacore. But for now, we're enjoying (or being frustrated by) them for longer periods of each year, and as many oldtimers have often said, these quite literally are "the good old days" of fishing in Southern California.

Every year, there seems to be a new hot method for catching them. Years ago it was the yummy flyer attached to the kite rig that had to be at least 200 yards off the corner of your stern just for the presentation to be right. In the past few years, the night bite has really been working well, fishing jigs like the Eddie Bomb (a 16-ounce wired-through sinker with a treble hook and assist hooks at the top) or almost any kind of knife jig out there. This all sounds intimidating at first, but let's walk through the basics...

The combo...

When fishing bluefin, you can go the easy route or the hard route, as in you can make it easier for yourself or make it harder on yourself while you're in the fight. That all starts with the type of combo you have. Having a 2-speed reel while fighting a fish is almost an absolute must in order to be successful. Having the low-gear handy while fighting these monsters of fish (some are quite literally the size of Volkswagens) is critical in that critical time when it comes up to color and the adrenaline starts kicking in as the battle nears its end (or so you think). Some good options that won't break the bank are the Penn Fathom 2-speeds. They're moderately priced, and will get the job done with no issues. You can go higher up in quality with the Okuma Makairas or the Shimano Talicas, but for the casual angler, it's not necessary. The rods can be in the 7' to 8' size, but preferably something that is on the stiffer side. You want the broomstick to put more pressure on the fish rather than yourself.

The line...

Braid. It's that simple. You need braid, preferably in the 80#

to 100# range, no less than 65# though. What's preferable is to have your reel filled up quite a bit (if not all of the way to the top) with braid to take advantage of the line capacity of your reel. It's personal preference on whether

you'd like to fish monofilament, but for me personally, I like to go straight braid all the way, until the leader. The leader will depend on the fish, whether they are being finicky or not, what size of fish are around, or whether you're fishing with live bait or with a jig. The rule of thumb is to try and get away with as heavy a class of fluorocarbon as you can.

Bait or jigs...

If fishing live bait, a good point to start is with 40# fluorocarbon, with a ringed hook (anywhere from size 4 to a 2/0, depending on the size of the bait). I like fishing a ringed hook because of the ability for the hook to stay in place in the mouth of the fish buried, rather than the line moving as the fish swims, creating a bigger hole in the mouth caused by the movement which will allow that hook to fall out. When fishing jigs though, you have the opportunity to use bigger hardware.

One of the most common jigs to fish (especially at night) is a knife jig, in the 200 to 400 gram range. I like to rig it ahead of time with a set of 2 assist hooks on the top of the jig and a 9/0 J hook at the bottom of the jig. It might be a lot of hardware on a single jig, but I don't like to take a lot of chances when fishing bluefin. That is just one of many ways, and of course it is still personal preference. But while you're in your local tackle store, take a look at what they have available in terms of bluefin rigs, and ask the guys behind the counter. They will know exactly what's working at that exact moment. What they have to say is worth their weight in gold before leaving on a trip.



continued on page 4

The method...

When fishing bluefin, you've got to pay attention to a whole bunch of things. One being of what the crew and the captain are saying about what they saw on the last trip. You also have to follow whatever they're recommending too, even when they say "go to bed". These fish have been on the chew at night these past few years, and when you're up at 2am or 3am jig fishing for these monsters, you'll regret not doing it. One important thing to keep in mind while jig fishing is the depth of where the fish are located and being able to determine where that is on your spool. Some people mark their line, others can get colored line that can designate where they are at, but it is critical to make sure you're in the strike zone at the right time. Another key is to figure out drift on the boat you're on. Every boat drifts a little differently and maybe in a different direction from what you're used to, so it's important to know. One pro tip would be to start your jig or bait upcurrent and throw it off the bow and walk it back towards the stern, keeping the line in front

of you at all times (another critical thing to keep an eye on).

Doing all of those things or getting that gear will at least put you in the right place with the right tools for the job. It's still up to you and your ability to adjust on the fly and to pay attention to what is going on around you. Fishing on a sport boat, you'll have the luxury of having the professionals (the deckhands) around you on standby, but you have to be willing to listen and take their advice. Trust me, as a former boat owner and operator, we want the fish in the boat more than you do. While fishing on a private boat, you have the luxury of working as a team with those on the boat with you. Don't be afraid to ask for help, and communicate every little thing that's happening with the guy next to you or the guy driving the boat. Having everyone on the same page is crucial when being successful with these fish. We want to be successful with these fish, because we don't know when they might disappear again.

(Article originally published in TIDE Magazine January 2024)

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.

CALENDAR

Board Meeting

January 22, 2024

Via Zoom • 7pm

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

Dinner Meeting

January 29, 2024

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

Lulu's Restaurant

16900 Roscoe Blvd. • Van Nuys, CA 91406

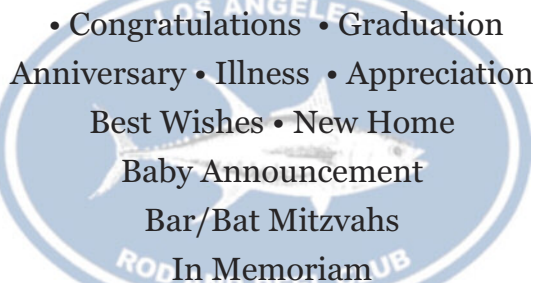
Annual Banquet

February 25, 2024

Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation

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1941 Majorca Drive, Oxnard, CA 93035

818-987-2645 • 818-345-6104 Fax

tammy2508@socal.rr.com

JAMES "JIM" PURTEE BIO

Jim's love of fishing and the outdoors started at an early age, camping and fishing with his grandfather in California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Places like the Salmon and Selway Rivers, Priest Lake, Owens River, Mammoth Lakes, Convict Lake, Lake Mathews, and Lake Henshaw are special memories.

Retired since 2020, Jim spends his time camping, fishing, traveling, working around the house, and caring for elderly family members. He has been happily married for 37 years to his wife, Tina, whom he has known since high school. They have four grown children.

Prior to retiring from a rewarding career in public service, Jim served as City Manager for the city of Palm-dale from 2015 through 2019 and held several executive positions with the city of Simi Valley from 1988 to 2015. Prior to public service Jim worked for engineering and construction firms in Southern California.

Jim holds bachelor's (Earth Science) and master's



(Geography) degrees from California State University, Northridge and a Certificate in Public Leadership from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Staying busy in retirement, Jim currently serves on the Board of Governors for Southwest Healthcare and, in addition to being a member of the LARRC, he is a member of the International City Manager's Association and the California City Managers Foundation. He is also a senior advisor for a global energy services company and an Advisory Board Member for a private library development company.

EARN MONEY for LARRC Foundation By Shopping at Ralphs!



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

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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.

Richard Stone, Membership Chairperson,
has received 2 applications for membership:

Warren Harper, lives in Panorama City and is a retired Metro employee.

Toby Williams, lives in Van Nuys and is a sales manager.



HI GRANDPA

By Barry Cohn

Club Member Since 2001 • Club President 2011

"Hi Grandpa, this is Noah. It's been a while since we have gone fishing. Can we take a trip together?"

Noah is my 24-year-old grandson. So, after about 5 seconds, I replied "Of course! Where would you like to go----San Diego, San Pedro, Ventura?"

"No Grandpa, I want to go the Tropic Star Lodge in Panama!!" After another 5 seconds of thought, I replied "Absolutely. Let's do it!!!"

My next phone call was with club member Norm Weinstock, my previous Panama fishing partner. "Would you like to join Noah and me on a trip back to the Tropic Star?" After about 6 seconds he replied "For sure. I will also ask my wife Sandi, son Robert and his wife Pam to join us."

The next call went to former club member Kevin Jussila and current owner/operator of Kukkula Vineyards in Paso Robles. "Hi Kevin, Noah and I are going to go to the world-famous Tropic Star Lodge in Panama. How about bringing your son Adam with us to celebrate the upcoming granting of his PHD in Neural Physical Electro Chromatic Radiological Sequencing with Concentric Divisionary Imaging Via Spatial Technology —NERDS for short." Seven seconds later he replied, "Count us in!!!!"

Our group of 8 was now in place. All we needed to do was await our departure date 6 months down the road.

And we did happily and hopefully. The trip started with our LAX to Panama City flight leaving right on time—a smooth flight and a timely arrival. We whizzed through immigration. We overnights at the brand-new Sofitel Legend Casa Viejo. We settled in and got ready for our day trip down the Panama Canal and through the Gamboa rain forest. By the way, the Sofitel was one of the nicest hotels we had ever stayed at. Dinner in Panama City was excellent. Our early morning flight to the Lodge went without incident, and we arrived at the beautiful Tropic Star in time for a welcoming cocktail and lunch. The afternoon and evening were spent pleasantly, followed by sweet dreams of big strong fish. We cast off at 6:30 the next morning accompanied by blue skies and calm waters.

Most of the time during the next three days we fished on the reef a mere 6 miles offshore. Sailfish and Dorado were our target species and Sailfish and Dorado were what we got. The Sails ranged from 80 to 120 pounds and the Dorado up to 54 pounds. Both Norm and Noah landed 54-pound giants (great fun on 20-pound test line!). Throw in a big Blue Marlin for Adam and a big Black Marlin for Robert.

Kevin and Adam had a professional photographer on board who captured some great shots of their Marlin and Sailfish. There was excellent and abundant fishing for all. By the time we were finished, the "youngsters" were exhausted from fighting fish! How great is that!!

The combination of terrific fishing, a world class lodge, delicious food and beautiful scenery could not be surpassed.

Our trip back to Panama City for our over-night stay went perfectly, and our stay at the Sofitel, had an added surprise of discovering its secret speakeasy, with a very long and colorful history, on the top floor of the hotel. Knock three times, The password is "Party".

Noah's parting comment was "Grandpa, this trip was fantastic. I will remember it forever."

The best words a Grandfather could ever hope to hear.





SHOGUN YEAR END

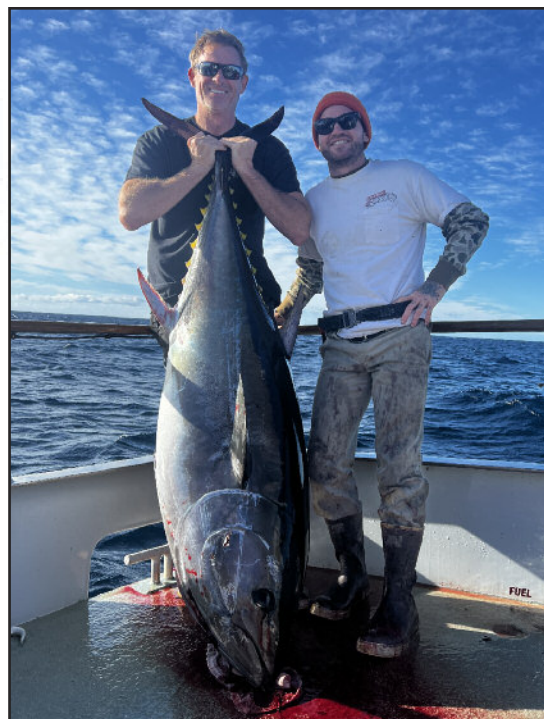
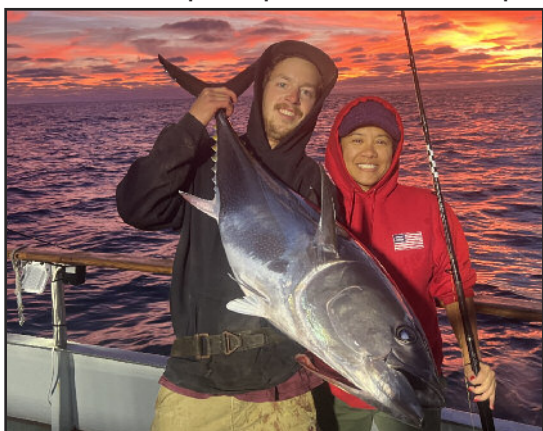
By Sophia Huynh

Xmas Trip 2023 in the books. We always have some sort of Christmas miracle and this year was the last 2 days of awesome bluefin tuna fishing. The trip started slow with smaller yft, some yt and misc fish. We made some moves and Captain Conor Shanahan and the guys made it happen. We were able to fish for 20-240 lb tuna and everyone went home with fish. Kevin was lucky with a 230lb on the kite and several over 200lbs made it over the rail either by flyline or jig.

I found a photo album I made of our first Xmas trip we ever took aboard the Royal Polaris in 2009. We made lots of friends and memories. We really bonded with the crew, so when they moved to the Shogun in 2010 we followed and have been there since. We have seen lots of faces come and go, but we have made amazing connections over the years. Of course, we have had epic trips and some eh trips but it's

the people and fun we have together that keeps us going back.

Time to get the gear tuned up, replace line and take stock of all the tackle I need for 2024 (lol)!!! Remember it's the down time so take care of all that stuff before April!!!



NEW CLUB RECORDS as of DECEMBER 31, 2023

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LB	OZ
FLYROD				
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				
Salmon, Char	8	Norm Weinstock	17	0*
WOMEN'S OCEAN				
Albacore	30	Cathy Needleman	3	0*

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.

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.	SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
MEN'S OCEAN WATER					WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER				
Bass, Calico	20	Paul Varenchik	5	5	Albacore	30	Cathy Needleman	3	0*
Bass, Calico	25	Ed Liberman	4	2	Halibut, California	50	Cathy Needleman	5	10
Dorado	40	Bob Tuttle	35	5	Swordfish	65	Cathy Needleman	209	0*
					Swordfish	80	Cathy Needleman	265	0
MEN'S FLY ROD					White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
Perch, Sac	8	Rob Baldwin	3	3*	WOMEN'S FLY ROD				
Perch, Sac	10	Rob Baldwin	3	5*					
Trout, Cutthroat	8	Rob Baldwin	14	2*	WOMEN'S FRESH WATER				
Trout, Cutthroat	10	Rob Baldwin	13	7*	WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER RELEASED				
MEN'S FRESH WATER					JUNIOR MEMBERS				
Bass, Lg Mouth	20	Joel Steinman	6	0					
Salmon, Char	8	Norman Weinstock	17	0*	FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR				
MEN'S OCEAN RELEASED					White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
Roosterfish	30	Chas Schoemaker	Released		7-Apr-23				
Roosterfish	40	Bob Tuttle	Released						

30	Cathy Needleman	3	0
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