



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Rooster Tails Fishing Club of
Northern California, Inc.
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Mark 'The Stripper Guy' Wilson

- Techniques & strategies for catching Delta Striped Bass
- Copious water has changed traditional striper hot spots
- Using electronics to locate schools of stripers
- Dealing with the Delta winds

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club invites all novice as well as seasoned striped bass anglers to attend an instructional seminar on **Friday, May 19th** as part of their regular third breakfast meeting. Recognized by the fellow fishing guides and the general fishing community as the *Guru of Stripper Trolling*, **Mr. Mark 'The Stripper-Guy' Wilson** will provide a seminar for practical techniques and strategies for catching quality Delta striped bass. Mark's reputation is known as the go-to-guy for striper fishing and is well founded with his decades specializing in catching these hard fighting fish. His fishing skills have brought many trophy-sized wall hangers to his boat. His reputation resulted in the national rod manufacturer, Lamiglas Rods, contacting him to design striper rods to his specifications. He created the Mark Wilson XCC705 & XCC795 specifically for trolling for stripers which are now commonly used in many striped bass fishing tournaments.

Mark's seminar will also provide valuable information about the impact of the many rainstorms this year that caused huge run-offs and copious water releases from major river tributaries that ultimately end-up in the Delta. It will be important to striper fishing to understand the new dynamics of the Delta which

has changed traditional striper hot spots. These changes have provided some new opportunities for the better, but still others to the contrary. Mark will provide the latest overview of these changes.

Seminar attendees are encouraged to bring a Delta map with them to reference some of these trolling areas. In addition to tackle rigging and effective presentation of lures, Mark will discuss using electronics to locate schools of stripers.

He will also provide an insight into dealing with the Delta winds and reading the tides for improving odds of finding foraging fish.



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Calendar of Events

May 19
Rooster Tails Breakfast
Mark "The Stripper Guy" Wilson

May 24
Fish S.F. Bay for Stripers & Halibut

June 4
Picnic in the Park

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Challenge Your Fishing Skills

The news of an exceptionally big fish taken on incredibly light line has a way of capturing people's attention. Regardless of whether the amazing catch is a brute of a striped bass or salmon, some people can't understand how it's possible to land a fish that weighs more than five, six or even ten times the breaking strength of the fishing line. However, it can be done, given some careful planning, the right equipment, *and skill*.

Specialized Tackle - Those seeking larger, stubborn fish such as striped bass or salmon favor slightly shorter, medium-to-heavy-action rod blanks, some which are even rated for a heavier line class than the line being fished. The rod tips should be sensitive enough to absorb sudden surges, and quality guides. Naturally, reels should hold enough line to handle the target species. Don't overdo it, however. Some anglers believe that by filling a large, high-capacity reel with a hundreds of yards of light line, they'll prevent a big fish from stripping them and tire it out in the process. That's not how the game is played... The goal is to keep the fish as close to the boat as possible by powering-up the boat and following it, not remaining stationary. Therefore, the reel's line capacity need only be large enough to keep the angler from being spooled-out should a fish head straight for the bottom. The reel should be small and light enough to comfortably hold and manage throughout the fight.

A premium grade of line (Yo-Zuri mono is a good choice) should provide durability and forgiveness when pressuring a fish, since they often break well above their rated breaking strengths. Regardless of your choice, fill the reel to capacity and replace the line after fighting a very large fish, even if it still looks and feels like new. Always carry a spare spool or reel, which can be substituted after an extended big fish fight to avoid abrasions, nicks, or twists.

Hook Logic - One question that always arises in light-line fishing is "how can you set the hook on a big fish with light tackle?" One trick by a few light-tackle anglers centered on hook selection and sharpening. Fishing with tackle as light as six-pound test, these pros would use small, hooks that were formed from ultra-thin wire. The concept was, and is, simple: a light-wire hook takes far less effort to sink into a fish's jaw compared to a larger, heavier model. The same applied to lures. One step further by placing the hook upside-down in a vice and filing the backside of the point to a razor finish. When a fish clamped down on the hook, the outer edge began cutting into the flesh, thereby facilitating the penetration of the point and barb. Between the light-wire fabrication and outer-edge sharpening, positive light-tackle hook-sets became elementary.

Striking The Iron - Setting the hook on light tackle involves a certain discipline. Instead of instinctively reeling in line, rearing back several times, and hunkering down for a slugfest, your goal is to quickly take up slack and, either by cupping or thumbing the reel spool, apply just enough extra resistance pressure to hook the fish. It's a game of timing and feel, because the pressure must be eased-on as soon as the fish surges, or you'll

break the line. Striking a fish close to the boat enables an angler to apply maximum pressure, as opposed to trying to set the hook on a fish that has taken the bait or lure far back from the boat. It is fun and challenging by the boat handler to chase the fish allowing the angler to keep an excessive amount of line out of the water, subjecting it to less strain and threats from flotsam and structure. If the boat is slow in catching up to a fish that's diving, or the boat remains stationary, the line could fracture on high-profile bottom structure. Staying directly above a sounding fish will keep the angle of the fishing line nearly vertical, where it's less likely to come in contact with obstructions.

The Fight - Most light-tackle drags are set at less than 1/5 of the line's rated breaking strength. For example, a maximum of one-pound of drag for six-pound line, 1 1/2 pounds of drag for eight pound test line, etc. The key is to initially let the fish run and expend its energy, rather than pressuring it from the start. However, the longer the battle lasts, the greater the chances of losing the fish. Even a skilled light-tackle angler with the best equipment has a certain window in which to land his fish before the fishing line and leader deteriorate to dangerous levels. After the hook is set and the fish takes off, and while the boat handler is preparing for the chase, the angler should back off the drag even more. After setting the hook on a hard-charging striped bass, some anglers – particularly those fishing eight or ten-pound line – go into a nearly free-spool mode, relying on water resistance to keep a reasonably taught connection to the fish. Additional pressure from the reel's drag at this stage could break the line. Once the boat is in pursuit and the gap between the angler and the fish is closed, the drag is advanced to its fighting position. At this stage, additional pressure is often applied by holding the line between the thumb and index finger (conventional reels) or feathering the spool (spinning tackle). Hold the line or spool while lifting the rod, releasing pressure to gain line on the down-stroke.

During the battle, and particularly when the fish settles down, you will have established a rhythm. When the fish surges, immediately extend the rod to relieve the pressure and let it run. When the fish slows or stops, apply pressure and take up line. As the fish begins to tire, you'll need to gradually increase the pressure. Eventually, you'll have to flirt with the line's breaking strength if you want to beat the fish. Once again the challenge is a matter of developing a special feel for the line and tackle, and learning to anticipate the fish's movements just before they occur. A fish often becomes lulled by a certain amount of pressure and fighting rhythm, but reacts violently to sudden changes. Depending on the situation, the boat could also be used to lead the fish in. Simply head into the current during the final stages, maintain the rhythm, and the fish should follow right along.

There are countless tricks and techniques associated with light-tackle fishing, many of which are species-specific. Regardless of your experience level, it's a challenging and a fun way to test your fishing skills.

Spend a Day on the Beach Surf Fishing For Striped Bass

California Striped Bass spend most of the time in the San Francisco Bay/ Delta System, however after spawning in the spring they move out into the Pacific Ocean. They travel as far south as Monterey Bay and as far north as Point Reyes. They can be caught along California beaches by surf fishing during the summer months. Popular surf fishing beaches are Bakers Beach, Thornton State Beach, and Pacifica during summer.

A good sign that stripers are feeding along the surf is seeing birds swooping and foraging over the surf-line. Stripers often chase bait, like anchovies, close to the shore and well within range of surfcasters. As the stripers move along the beach most surf fishermen move with them versus staying-put in their original spot.

Surf Fishing Technique & Tackle

Stripers are caught especially between the Golden Gate and Half Moon Bay using surf fishing techniques. Pacific Ocean temperatures are somewhat cold so most surf anglers wear waders for protection from surging surf water and to cautiously follow retreating-waves to increase their casting distance. The most common fishing method is to cast a surf-rig, then set the rod in a rod-holder designed for sand and wait for a bite. When a striper is hooked, fight the fish steadily and time the retrieve with surf so the momentum of breaker-waves skids the fish up onto the shore. No net required for surf fishing. Most longer freshwater or light saltwater rods and higher capacity reels will work, however traditional surf fishing tackle is a 10-12 foot surf spinning-rod with a two-handed grip.

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Striper Fishing on the Feather River

The flooded roaring Feather River water made for some challenging striper fishing. Here are some of the participants.



Top Left - Olin Souders

Top Right - Kathy Souders

Bottom Left - Tom Hyde & "Bones"

Bottom Right - Mel Ewing



Tournament Winners at Lake Camanche



Camanche Tournament winners split over \$1,000 with 1st place going to **Mike Pendleton**, 6.80 pounds; 2nd place to **Mike Walker** (not pictured), 6.20 pounds; 3rd place to **John Hess**, 5.20 pounds; 4th place to **Trudy Liske**, 4.20 pounds. In addition to cash of over \$400, 1st place winner, Mike Pendleton also took home a gift bag with a Camanche hat & shirt, a bottle of champagne and a night's free stay at a Camanche cabin.

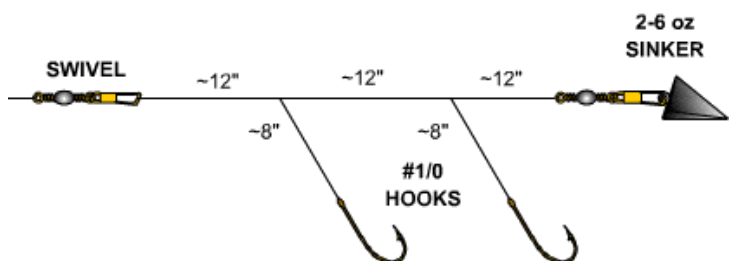
Beach Surf Fishing—continued from page 3

The longer rod allows maximum casting distance to reach past breaking waves. Saltwater spinning reels are most popular, capable of being spooled with 200-250+ yards of 15-20 lb monofilament line. Mono-stretch is desirable versus braided line to absorb the surges of waves while fighting a fish. Some of the best lures to use for surf fishing include large Diawa SP Minnows, Kastmasters with hair, Bucktail Jigs and big Pencil Poppers. However, live anchovies are preferable as bait, just hooked it through both lips.

Other bait possibilities include:

Threadfin shad	Mudsuckers
Shiners	Bullheads
Blood worms	Ghost shrimp or grass shrimp
Sardines (side-fillet if bait is large)	

Basic surf rig such as:



Jackpot Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST					
	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
2017-2016					
Kalamazoo	17'		BOCA	7-7	D. CUTCHFIELD
Landlocked Salmon	29"	36.6oz	OROVILLE	5-16	LARRY THOMAS
River or Ocean King Salmon	36 3/8"		STANSON BEACH	8-16	LONNIE BROOKS
Striped Bass	33 1/2"	136.5oz	DELTA	11-4	TOM HYDE
Rainbow Trout	22 3/4"	5.35	CAMANCHE	2-14	JOHN BERGMAN
Brown Trout	19"		LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CHUCK MIERKEY
Steelhead	27 1/2"	96.7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	36"	17lbs	DOWNER LAKE	9-6	SHAWN CONLAN
Large Mouth Bass	19"	3lbs	BERRYESSA	2-14	RICHARD COX
Small Mouth Bass	18"	3lb 4oz	BERRYESSA	2-23	RICHARD COX
Catfish	31 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
Shad	16 3/8"		SACTO RIVER	4-29	MEL EWING
Croppie	16 1/4"		CAMANCHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
Sturgeon					

2017 Entries in Red

RAINBOW TROUT, **John Bergman**, 22 3/4", Camanche Lake, 2/14/17

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 19", 3 lbs., Berryessa, 2/14/17

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 18", 3 lb. 4 oz., Berryessa, 2/23/17

CRAPPIE, **John Hess**, 16 1/4", Camanche Lake, 3/9/17

MAKE THE CONNECTION!

Rooster Tails Fishing Club – Annual Picnic

Attend the Rooster Tails Annual Spring Picnic for the first time on a **SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH, 11:00 – 3:00, Auburn's beautiful Recreation Park**. One of the many reasons for being a member of the Rooster Tails is to make new friends with the common interest in fishing and enjoying the outdoors. Although our monthly breakfast meetings created many new friendships, due to time constraints, the meeting is fairly structured limiting time to *causally* make new friends. Make the connection by bringing your spouse/partner/guest to this picnic... or better yet, also bring your kids/grandkids and share in some great food and a beverage of your choice. **RELAX**, introduce yourself to our many new members and **MAKE NEW FRIENDS!** Everything is provided, but reservations are requested to help determine picnic food and beverage inventories. We could also use some help with set-up, tear down and folks to bring appetizers. To make reservations and/or volunteer, **call Judy today, 530-823-1370 or Murriel 916-798-6591**. Or you can email your reply to Judy at judyot@sbcglobal.net

