



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Northern California, Inc.
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Captain Bill Clapp—Sturgeon Specialist

- Science of bait fishing for Delta sturgeon
- Tackle, rigging, and baits to use
- Strategies to hook hard-fighting Diamond-backs

Attention

There will be new 2018 badges for you at the Jan. 19 breakfast for those who have paid their dues. Don't remember if you paid??? Call or email Judy Miller at 530-823-1370 or judyot@sbcglobal.net

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is honored to host Captain Bill Clapp as their Friday, January 19th breakfast guest speaker. Bill is one of the true fishing guide legends with more than 30 years fishing Northern California's fresh and saltwater species. He holds US Coast Guard Master License and fishes all twelve months of the year for multiple species of game fish.

Over his many years he has put his clients onto quality and often trophy-size fish especially sturgeon. Bill will conduct a seminar for club members and guests on the science of bait fishing for Delta sturgeon. His presentation will include explanations on what tackle, rigging, baits to use and strategies to hook into hard fighting diamond-backs! Breakfast attendees are encouraged to arrive at 7:00 a.m. when the doors to the Auburn Elks Lodge open to enjoy free coffee and speak one-on-one with Bill before the meeting starts. Interested anglers can find out more about Captain Clapp by logging onto www.billssportfishing.com.

White Sturgeon are native to the delta. Their size, weight, and just the sheer strength of sturgeon puts them at the top of the list of northern California sport fish often putting on an air-show during the fight. The best

months to fish for Delta Sturgeon are December-March. However, sturgeon can be caught year-round in the lower stretches of the Delta including Suisun Bay and San Pablo Bay. They are one of the largest and most primitive fish in the world as they move into San Pablo Bay and throughout the Bay-Delta Estuary to feed and prepare to spawn.

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Bill Clapp with a quality Delta sturgeon

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Calendar of Events

January 19
Rooster Tails Breakfast
Bill Clapp
Bill's Sportfishing & Guide Service

January 18–21
ISE Show
Cal Expo

March 21
Members Only \$1,000
Spring Tournament on Lake Camanche

January 2018

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			

Telltale Signs That the Used Boat or Truck You're Considering Buying Could be a Storm-Damaged Lemon!

Boats damaged by major hurricanes, such as this vessel that fell off its lift and submerged the engine, are entering the used boat market. Buyer Beware!

While many of the more than 63,000 boats damaged as a result of 2017 hurricanes will be repaired and have more years of life on the water, some used boat buyers in 2018 could end up with storm-damaged lemons. The nation's largest advocacy, services and safety group for recreational boaters, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), cautions used boat buyers that some boats affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are beginning to hit the market, and that getting a pre-purchase survey (called a Condition and Value survey) is very important.

"It's not that you don't want to buy a boat that's been repaired, but you should have full knowledge of the repairs and know they were done correctly. It's a transparency issue that will help you negotiate a fair price," said BoatUS Consumer Affairs Director Charles Fort. The boating group offers eight tips to help you spot a boat that might have been badly damaged in a storm:

- **Trace the history.** When a car is totaled, the title is branded as salvaged or rebuilt, and buyers know up front that there was major damage at some point in the car's history. But only a few states brand salvaged boats – Florida and Texas do not – and some states don't require titles for boats. Anyone wishing to obscure a boat's history need only cross state lines to avoid detection, which can be a tipoff. Look for recent gaps in the boat's ownership, which may mean that it was at an auction or in a repair yard for a long time.
- **Look for recent hull repairs.** Especially on older boats, matching gelcoat is very difficult. Mismatched colors around a repaired area are often a giveaway and may signal nothing more than filler under the gelcoat, rather than a proper fiberglass repair.
- **Look for new repairs or sealant at the hull-to-deck joint.** Boats that bang against a dock during a storm often suffer damage there.
- **Evidence of sinking.** Check for consistent corrosion on interior hardware, such as rust on all hinges and drawer pulls. You might be able to spot an interior waterline inside a locker or an area hidden behind an interior structure.
- **Corrosion in the electrical system.** Corrosion on electrical items, such as lamps, connectors and behind breaker panels might mean the boat sank recently. Does the boat have all new electronics? Why?



- **Look for evidence of major interior repairs.** Fresh paint or gelcoat work on the inside of the hull and engine room is usually obvious. All new cushions and curtains may be a tipoff, too.
- **Look for fresh paint on the engine.** It may be covering exterior rust as well as interior damage.
- **Ask the seller.** In some states, a seller isn't required to disclose if a boat was badly damaged unless you ask. If the seller hems and haws, keep looking.

- **Visit BoatUS.com/marine-surveys** to learn more about marine surveys and access a free online boat-buying guide from BoatUS.

While on the subject of storm damaged boats, this also applies to the thousands of tow vehicles that suffered damage and will be on the market to the unwary truck buyer.

Used Truck Buyers Beware

There are some precautions a used-truck shopper can take to minimize, if not eliminate, the chances of buying one of these future rust buckets. Depending on whether the seller is a licensed dealer or a private owner, duped buyers may have some legal recourse if, after purchase, their used truck turns out to be flood damaged, but that's not guaranteed. Avoiding a flood-damaged vehicle ultimately falls to the used-truck shopper, and the most effective way to avoid being scammed is to be alert to the danger and look for a few tell-tale signs. Aggressively inspecting any used vehicle being considered for purchase is the most effective prescription for dodging one with terminal water damage.

This is best accomplished by a qualified mechanic; however, if a mechanic isn't available or you want to avoid the expense of a professional, you may be able to identify a problem vehicle yourself with a preemptive inspection.

Although you won't be able to peek into every nook and cranny, there are some areas where obvious signs of damage lurk. Here are a few places to inspect and what to look for:

- **Check under the vehicle's carpets** or floor covering for mud or rust, and don't forget the trunk.
- **Give the underside of the carpets a sniff test.** Do they smell like mildew?

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Bill Clapp—continued from page 1

Often referred to as diamond-backs or the dinosaurs-of-the-Delta! This species is of another world, with a skeleton of cartilage and bony plates instead of scales. It is adapted for preying on bottom creatures that are detected with a row of sensitive barbells on the underside of their snout and fed upon when they extend long lips from their mouth and suck up the food. Since sturgeon are scavenger-feeders, flooding and rain turn on the bite. Dirty or even muddy water is usually good for sturgeon fishing. During heavy runoff from rain, fish move closer to the bank. A break in a storm is also a good time to fish. Sturgeon are especially attracted to San Francisco Bay by the winter herring spawn and a bank of mud shrimp located in San Pablo Bay near the famed "Sturgeon Triangle," formed by the quadrants of the Pump House, China Camp State Park and Buoy 5. It is truly the "sturgeon hot spot."

More about White sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) They are anadromous, meaning they move from the salt and brackish water to freshwater to spawn. Sturgeon reach sexual maturity at around 15 years old, and can live to be 100 years or older. Mature females spawn every 2 to 4 years. Large females produce many more eggs than their smaller counterparts. Very high flow years lead to sturgeon spawning success. The recreational sport fishing is for white sturgeon only. The daily bag and possession limit is one fish that must be between 40 inches and 60 inches fork length. The annual limit is three (3) sturgeon per person. For that reason, the IGFA world record for a white sturgeon stands at only 468 pounds. However, the largest white sturgeon caught by a fisherman is believed to be the estimated 1,100-pounder measuring 12 feet, 4 inches caught in July 2012. It was released on the Fraser River.

Sturgeon Length/Age/Weight Chart

Length (Inches)	Weight (Pounds)	Age (Years)	Length (Inches)	Weight (Pounds)	Age (Years)
37"	15	9.4	75"	126	27.3
39"	17	10.1	77"	137	28.6
41"	20	10.8	79"	148	30
43"	23	11.6	81"	159	31.5
45"	27	12.4	83"	172	33
47"	31	13.1	85"	185	34.7
49"	35	13.9	87"	198	36.4
51"	39	14.8	89"	243	42.3
53"	44	15.6	91"	227	38.2
55"	49	16.5	93"	243	42.3
57"	55	17.4	94"	259	43.4
59"	61	18.3	96"	276	?
61"	67	19.9	98"	294	?
63"	67	19.9	100"	312	?
65"	82	21.4	102"	332	?
67"	90	22.5	104"	352	?
69"	98	23.6	106"	372	?
71"	107	24.8	108"	394	?
73"	116	26			



2017 Jackpot Contest Winners from L. to R.
Shawn Conlan, Greg Hicks, Bev Mierkey, Russ Williams,
Mel Takahashi, Tom Hyde, Mel Ewing



2017 Grand Slam Fishing Challenge Winner
Greg Hicks















Tell-tale Signs of Storm Damage— continued from page 1

- **Mud and debris collect** in hard-to-clean spaces, such as under the hood and in the trunk.
- **Rust on the heads of any exposed screws under the hood**, around the doors or in the trunk indicates exposure to excess moisture.
- **Mud and debris on the underside of panels and brackets** is another good sign the truck has been under water. If you suspect you are looking at a flood-damaged vehicle, the smart move is to just walk away. If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. The alternative is to spring for the cost of having a mechanic give it the once over.
- **One More Thing**
Autotrader always recommends obtaining the history of every used car being considered. A number of online sites, such as CARFAX.com and AutoCheck.com, provide such reports for a nominal cost. Pay special attention to the vehicle's title history. CARFAX has a link to a dedicated "flood damage" site (<https://www.carfax.com/press/resources/flooded-cars>) that can be effective in rooting out flood-damaged vehicles.



This truck may have been setting in water for weeks before being cleaned-up and put on the market.

Jackpot Contest

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST							
	2017	2016	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
			17 1/2"	26.7oz	WHISKEY TOWN	8-5	BEV MIERKEY
			21"	36.4oz	DON PEDRO	4-28	SHAWN CONLON
			39"	22.6oz	SACRO RIVER	10-11	SHAWN CONLON
			34 1/4"		FEATHER RIVER	4-25	TOM HYDE
			25 1/2"	86.4oz	BLAIR LAKE	5-14	GARY ROBERTS
			19"		LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CHUCK MIERKEY
			27 1/2"	96.7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
			20 1/2"		DONNER LAKE	6-23	SHAWN CONLON
			23"	6 lbs	LOP	7-2	RUSS WILLIAMS
			19"	36.8oz	BERRYESSA	5-4	RICHARD COX
			31 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
			19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
			16 1/4"		CAMANACHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
							

2017 Entries in Red

KOKANEE, **Bev Mierkey**, 17 1/2", 2 lbs 7 oz, Whiskeytown Lake, 8/5/17

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Shawn Conlon**, 21", 36 lbs 4 oz, Don Pedro, 4/28/17

RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, **Shawn Conlon**, 39", 22 lbs.6 oz., Sacramento River, 10/11/17

STRIPED BASS, **Tom Hyde**, 34 1/4", Feather River, 4/25/17

RAINBOW TROUT, **Gary Roberts**, 25 1/2" Blair Lake, 5/14/17

LAKE TROUT (Mackinaw), **Shawn Conlan**, 20 1/2", Donner lake, 6/23/17

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Russ Williams**, 23", 6 lbs., LOP, 2/14/17

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 19", 3 lb. 8 oz., Lake Berryessa, 5/4/17

SHAD, **Greg Hicks**, 19 1/4", American River, 6/23/17

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

Rooster Tail Member's 2018 Grand Slam Fishing Challenge

The **Grand Slam Fishing Challenge (GSFC)** was created for club members with a higher degree of fishing skills, to focus on specific fish species, and to compete to win one large single cash prize. The 2017 winner was Greg Hicks, winning \$250. This contest is based on contestants catching and submitting the lengths of only four (4) predetermined fish species.

The 2018 designated four species are: King Salmon (ocean or river), Kokanee, Largemouth Bass, and Striped Bass. During the contest time-frame, contestants submit successive entries of increased lengths over their prior

catch in any of the four (4) predetermined fish species. The final combined total length of the four species by November 30th determines a **single winner of the GSFC**. However, the winning-length contestant must have caught at least one of all four species.

The standing of each contestant's on-going length tally will be displayed on a GSFC score board at each breakfast meeting and published in the club's monthly newsletter. The \$50 entry fee and sign-ups start at the January 19th breakfast meeting. Contest Chairman is Board Member Mel Ewing, 916-759-3665.