



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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Scott 'Curly' DiBella – River Salmon Fishing Extraordinaire

- Trophy salmon caught from the Central Valley rivers as well as the ocean
- Proven techniques for tackle rigging
- 'Hippy Hole' - Sacramento River hot spot

It must be river salmon season for the members of the Rooster Tails Fishing Club and their fishin' buddies for the highly anticipated **River Salmon Seminar by Scott 'Curly' DiBella, owner of Curly's Guide Service, Grass Valley.** Scott's famous moniker 'Curly' will become obvious to the uninitiated when they meet this fun and knowledgeable fishing guide. Curly's reputation is famous for putting his clients onto trophy salmon caught from the central valley rivers as well as from the ocean. The Rooster Tails breakfast meeting is open to members as well as non-member visiting guests to hear an entertaining and educational River Salmon Presentation **on August 16th being held at the Auburn Elks Lodge building, 195 Pine Street at Lincoln Way, Auburn, 95603.** Reservations are not necessary, but attendees are encouraged to arrive when the doors open at 7:00 a.m. to get a good seat and close parking for the anticipated large crowd.

Curly will provide breakfast attendees with proven techniques for tackle rigging and strategies to score quality salmon and locations of traditional salmon hot spots. Learn where fellow fishing guides fish a special Sacramento river hot spot called the 'Hippy Hole' that Curly made famous for catching a 65 lb.

salmon! Curly enjoys sharing his non-traditional fishing secrets that have made his guide service in high demand. Some angler's may find his fishing strategy a little unorthodox from traditional methods but effective. Breakfast attendees will see the modified 'Silvertron Curly Lure' and techniques for using it and hear about the jarring explosion of monster salmon slamming this hybrid spinner.

You can book a memorable guided salmon trip by contacting Curly at 530-559-1443



Curly & client with trophy salmon

Inside this issue:

What You Should Know About the Salmon Highway	2
Jigging for River Salmon	3
Leadcore Line to Fish for River Salmon	4
Jackpot Contests	4



Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Calendar of Events

July 19
Speaker—'Curly' DiBella
Curly's Guide Service

August 16
Speaker—Craig Newton
Will Fish Tackle
Fishing the Central Valley rivers for salmon, tackle rigging and strategies

August 2019

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

What You Should Know About the Salmon Highway

The 400 mile long Sacramento River has been called by some as 'the big ditch' that provides a watery-highway connecting the San Francisco Bay and Delta for salmon migrating to their natal spawning grounds. Like a California highway, the Sacramento River-bottom has many seams, undulating surfaces, and of course pot-holes created by centuries of rushing water.



Chinook salmon moving upstream

But unlike us humans that despise all the cracks and crevices in our road-ways, migrating salmon often use the river bottom's irregularities as aids to navigation. The river bottom topography provides protection from predators, moving colder water is more oxygenated, and they use deep holes for resting. Determining the location of the variations of the river bottom goes a long way for salmon anglers to find moving schools of salmon and where they are holding. The obvious key to finding these areas requires prospecting time using your boat's fish finder electronics that can be done before, during, or after the various salmon runs.

The ultimate purpose for salmon to return to their home streams and rivers is to reproduce and ensure the survival of their offspring. Simple enough... But why is returning to the natal site part of the process? Consider the alternative: swimming upstream to just any old river could have some pitfalls. A random river might not have suitable sites for spawning, but a salmon's birthplace is already a proven success for spawning. It may not have mates of the same species. Or conditions might not favor that type of salmon. For all these reasons, we can see why salmon navigate their way home.

In recent years, studies have shown that in the open ocean environment, salmon use the magnetic field of the Earth to guide their migration. This helps them move from the coastal areas near their spawning grounds to rich feeding areas, and then back again toward the end of their lives.

Salmon use both the intensity and the inclination of Earth's magnetic field to orient themselves in the ocean. Unlike their navigation by sense of smell, this ability appears to be genetically inherited by a salmon, not learned along its migration.

Young salmon learn the smell of their home stream, possibly even memorizing it at various points along the way, as they migrate

toward the ocean. As adults returning to freshwater, when they encounter that familiar smell, it stimulates them to swim upstream. So there may be some 'testing of the waters' as salmon migrate home. If they swim up the wrong river, that memorized scent of their birth stream will fade, decreasing their drive to swim upstream. Then they may travel downstream for a bit, until they encounter that home stream smell again.

The more they sense the smell of their birthplace, the more they swim upstream. It's a bit like playing that child's game of "hot and cold."

There are still many unknowns in the famous story of the salmon swimming upstream. Evidence exists that salmon from different reaches of the same river will tend to migrate to the same stretch where they originated. But do they return to the very same nest site where they were hatched? How close do they get? At some point, that urge to return home will be up against other factors: selecting a nest site, selecting a mate, using remaining energy stores.

Four distinct runs of Chinook Salmon spawn in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system, named for the season when the majority of the run enters freshwater as adults. Fall-run Chinook Salmon migrate upstream as adults from July through December and spawn from early October through late December. The timing of runs varies from stream to stream. Late-fall-run Chinook Salmon migrate into the rivers from mid-October through December and spawn from January through mid-April. The majority of young salmon of these races migrate to the ocean during the first few months following emergence, although some may remain in freshwater and migrate as yearlings.

Fall-run Chinook Salmon are currently the most abundant of the Central Valley races, contributing to large commercial and recreational fisheries in the ocean and popular sport fisheries in the freshwater streams. Fall-run Chinook Salmon are raised at five major Central Valley hatcheries which release more than 32 million smolts each year. Due to concerns over population size and hatchery influence, Central Valley fall and late-fall-run Chinook Salmon are a Species of Concern under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

JIGGING FOR RIVER SALMON

The fall run river salmon season is open on our Central Valley major Rivers with an anticipated large run of quality King Salmon. Most salmon anglers will be trolling or back-bouncing traditional salmon plugs such as the Flat Fish or Kwik Fish with a sardine or herring wrap. Others will be trolling various spinners such as Silvertrons, Blue Fox, and GVF Salmon Spinners. Pulling plugs or running spinners fishing for salmon is to elicit a strike by taunting the fish into attacking a menacing object.



Common jig-spoons are Gibbs Minnows, Hopkins spoons, Crippled Herring jigs, and even large Kastmasters. Most of these jigs come with treble hooks which should be switched-out to a barbed Siwash single 2/0 to 4/0 hook.

Jig colors are a matter of choice, however on cloudy days, deep or muddy water use dark colors. On bright sunny days or clear shallow water, use bright colors including silver or white.

Many anglers are skittish about a fishing technique called jigging because they are concerned that they may snag a nice fish which by law must be released. Jigging is a finesse fishing method of getting a mouth-hookup and requires some basic techniques to avoid foul-hooking the fish. The key to successful jigging is to illicit a strike by causing the jig to mimic a 'fluttering-fall' of an injured bait fish. Spawning salmon do not feed when they enter fresh water, but when jigging is done properly they are still 'programmed' to strike at crippled forage. The salmon angler that masters a proper jig presentation capitalizes on salmon ocean feeding habits with greater results than other fishing methods.

Just to be sure you are legally jigging, it is important for you to check 2019 DF&W regulations, but for this article, here are some guidelines:

- No person shall use a single hook with a gap of greater than one-inch or any multiple-hook with a gap greater than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- It is unlawful to use any hook which is directly or indirectly attached closer than 18 inches to any weight exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.
- It is unlawful to use any multiple hooks or more than one single hook on non-buoyant lures exceeding one ounce.
- It is unlawful to use any weight directly attached below a hook.
- It is also unlawful to use any tackle in an attempt to deliberately snag any fish, including radical ripping of the rod and lure.
- The bottom line is that if the hook or hooks are designed to snag a salmon... it is illegal!

Some jiggers will put a slight bend to the body of the jig to increase the 'flutter' as it sinks.



Gibbs Minnow spray painted white, slightly bent in the middle, with a Gammakatsu Siwash hook

Basic jigging technique involves continually vertically raising the jig and allowing it to slowly settle (flutter) towards the river bottom. Remember, it is important to keep the rise and fall of the jig vertical and not allow it to swing-back on an angle. The boat can be anchored over a river-seam/ridge to wait for traveling fish, or from a 'dead drift' boat on slow moving deep water. Start by touching the tip of the fishing rod to the surface of the water slowing releasing line until the jig settles on the bottom. Retrieve some line with a couple of turns of the reel, then repeatedly raise the rod tip about two feet and then lower it again keeping the jig as close to the bottom as possible. It is important to minimize slack in the line as the jig descends which is necessary to detect a 'tick' or interruption of the fall. Salmon will strike as the jig falls, if the jig 'stalls' on the way down, set the hook and hold-on!

"In Memoriam"

Barney Gruber, RT Life Member
October 13, 1924 – June 29, 2019

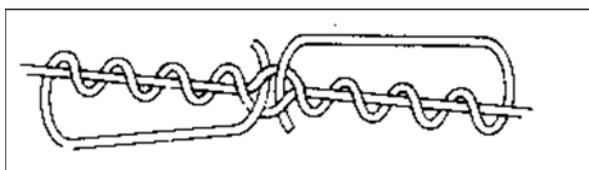
Tug Miller, RT Founding Member
November 8, 1935 – July 23, 2019

LEADCORE LINE TO FISH FOR RIVER SALMON

Once the bastion of coldwater anglers who have used weighted line as a technique to reach deep-loving trout, kokanee, and landlocked salmon, **leadcore line can be an effective tool to fish for shallow water Central Valley Rivers and the Delta for salmon.** Leadcore allows the salmon angler to fish completely unencumbered by such extraneous bottom-snagging devices as lead-weights or divers to present sardine-wrapped plugs and spinners to the proper depth. Either anchored or trolling, leadline allows a more precise depth lure/bait control not achieved with other methods. Leadcore is a thin, pliable, 'round core' of lead wire (or an environmentally lead-substitute) that is wrapped in an outer braided 'skin' of Dacron or nylon sheathing and rated as with other fishing line by pound test. Leadcore is commonly sold in 12#, 18#, however 27# to 36# pound test is recommended for salmon fishing.

The core of lead wire material itself provides no tensile strength with the sheath bearing the load strength performing much like regular braided line. Leadcore is usually sold in spools of 100 yards and is color-coded in increments of 10 yards per color. For example, to pay-out 'four colors' is to let out 40 yards or 120 feet of line. Sink-rate varies due to trolling speed, moving water, water temperature and resulting density, lure weight, and leader length. Albeit a rough formula, 27-pound leadcore sinks at approximately 6' to 9' per color.

Leadcore is best loaded onto an oversized level wind reel with a few feet of 20#- monofilament backing to prevent it from spinning on the reel spool. When winding the leadcore onto the reel, keep the supply spool containing the leadcore up-right and in line with the reel being careful to prevent any kinks. Also, keep a steady pressure on the line as it is wound onto the reel. To tie the leadcore to monofilament backing or a leader, peel back approximately four inches of the sheathing and pinch-off the lead. Using only the lead-free sheathing, use a blood knot to tie the leadcore to the backing and to ten feet of 20 pound monofilament leader. Adding a couple of small drops of super glue ensures the knot.



Blood Knot

Jackpot Fishing Contest

JACKPOT CONTEST						
2018	2019	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
				WHISKY TOWN	6-7	B. MIERKEY
				FOLSOM	4-18	R. CORRAO
			28lb	SACTO RIVER	10-18	M. McKEWDREE
				AMERICAN RIVER	5-20	C. NEWTON
			5lb 14oz	ALMANOR	6-5	M. McKEWDREE
			8.32lb	SHATA LAKE	5-4	BEV MIERKEY
				AMERICAN RIVER	1-12	J. LAMPKIN
				DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORSTAM
			3lb 2oz	DELTA	6-27	R. CORRAO
					6-11	D. HAFELFINGER
				SACTO RIVER	6-14	E. LISKE
				CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN COLLAN
				SF BAY	5-15	R. CORRAO

2019 names in Red — 2018 names in Black

KOKANEE—**Bev Mierky**, 17", Whiskey Town, 6/7/19
 LANDLOCKED SALMON, - **Ray Corrao**, 23 1/4", Folsom Lake, 4/18/19
 STRIPED BASS—**Craig Newton**, 24.5", American River, 5/20/19
 RAINBOW TROUT—**Mac McKendree**, 25", 5 lbs. 14 oz., Almanor, 6/5/19
 BROWN TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 28.15", 8.32 lbs, Shasta Lake, 5/4/19
 STEELHEAD, **Jerry Lampkin**, 30", American River, 1/12/19
 LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Ray Corrao**, 16", 3 lbs. 2 oz., Delta, 6/27/19
 LINGCOD, **Dale Hafelfinger**, 22.5", Ocean, 6/11/19
 SHAD, **Eric Liske**, 19.5", Sacramento River, 6/14/19
 PACIFIC HALIBET, **Ray Corrao**, 32", 14.8 lbs., S.F. Bay, 5/15/19

It is also recommended to tie a ball-bearing swivel to the end of the leader to prevent any twists to the leadcore. Leadcore rods tend to be on the short sturdier side. They should have a sensitive tip to read the bait action, but have enough strength and backbone to be able handle the drag of the leadcore and the hookup of the fish.

New to the fishing line market is a product called Sufix 832 Advanced Leadcore and the first leadcore to combine both Dyneem and GORE high performance braided fiber sheath that sinks 30 percent deeper and is a whopping 70 percent stronger. Sufix 832 Advanced is infinitely more sensitive and available in 12 pound test with a .022 diameter and 18 pound test with a .027 diameter. It is accurately metered in ten foot colored sections and resistant to UV sunlight. Besides being thinner than ordinary leadcore lines, Sufix 832 Advanced has three times the abrasion resistance preventing wear down of the line.



TUF LINE
 Western
 Filament
 Lead Core
 Trolling



Sufix
 832 Ad-
 vanced
 Lead-
 core