



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 10 Issue 3, March 2020

Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
PO Box 7441
Auburn, CA 95604
www.roostertailsfishingclub.org

"Bones" Fishes for Stripers

- "It's All About Fishing"
- 'Bones' has been guiding for 22 years
- By the first of April stripers are spawning up the Feather & Sacramento Rivers
- To catch striped 'Bones' uses live and cut bait as well as lures

Inside this issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 Things You Probably Didn't Know about Striped Bass | 2 |
| Catch and Release Striped Bass | 3 |
| Jackpot Fishing Contest | 4 |



Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club is very proud to have club member and professional fishing guide, **Brett 'Bones' Brady, Bare Bones Fishing Guide Service** at the Friday, March 20, breakfast guest speaker with an informative presentation on fishing for Stripers. His seminar will be held at the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Doors to the lodge open at 7:00 am with free coffee and the opportunity to speak with Brett one-on-one before enjoying a wide selection \$15 buffet breakfast that is served at 8:00 am. Reservations are not necessary but RT members and non-member guests are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat.

Brett has been guiding for 22 years, working the waters of Northern CA chasing trout, kokanee, landlocked king salmon as well as river salmon, sturgeon and of course striped bass. All of this takes place throughout the year on his top of the line equipment including a fully equipped 21' Design Concepts Jet Boat powered by a fuel-injected 350 hp Chevy engine cranking out 330 horsepower to get his clients to where the fish are in a hurry.

Using state-of-arts electronics, 'Bones' locates holding-fish and provides quality gear including Gloomis and Lamiglas rods, Pflueger reels, and variety of lures and baits.

"Bones" holds licenses issued by the California Department of Fish & Game, Coast
continued on page 4



Calendar of Events

March 16
Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 pm—Lyons Real Estate office

March 20
Friday breakfast
Brett Brady, *Fishing for Stripers*

April 16
Emeryville—Bay Trip
Members & Guests

April 22
RT Members Only Fishing Outing
Folsom Lake

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	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				

Five Things You Probably Didn't Know About Striped Bass

#5. Aquaculture Accounts for Over FIFTY Percent of Stripers Sold - In fact, it's closer to sixty percent.

Hybrid striped bass production is one of the fastest growing forms of aquaculture (farm raised fish) in the United States. Annual production has increased over two-hundred percent in recent years as scientists refine efficient and highly productive ways to raise stripers. Commercial fishing for wild striped bass has a long history but don't let anyone fool you into thinking you shouldn't eat stripers if they weren't caught in the wild. In fact, you'll eat better if you eat farm-raised stripers. Those of us who catch and eat fish right off the boat are used to great-tasting fish, but hybrid stripers have a slightly sweeter flavor and a more delicate texture than wild-caught fish. And you don't risk the contamination of high levels of mercury and PCBs found in larger stripers. Striped bass aquaculture is a sustainable method for providing healthy, high-quality fish to restaurants, grocery stores, and seafood markets, check them out at Costco, Walmart, and other big box stores.

#4. Stripers Have FOUR Nostrils – Look closely at the next striper you catch. Unlike most fish, linesiders have a pair of nostrils on both sides of their nose through which water enters. Each nostril has two openings separated by a thin membrane of skin. Water circulates continuously through these short passages where tiny hairs detect odors and transmit them to the brain. Stripers can smell a lot better in the water than you can in the air, maybe even a hundred times better. Many researchers believe that striped bass develop an even better sense of smell as they get older. Some studies suggest that bass are repelled by smells they don't like such as sun block, bug spray, or petroleum or smoking products. If you add scents to your lures you'll attract more and bigger fish and you'll mask the bad smells stripers don't like.

#3. At Least THREE 100+ Pound Stripers Have Been Documented - When left alone, striped bass can generally grow to lengths of up to 59 inches with weights in the 55 to 77 pounds. Oh, but there are occasional monsters. The largest striped bass on record is a 125-pound female caught off Edenton North Carolina in April, 1891. A striper of 112 pounds – said to have been at least 6 feet long – is recorded from Orleans, Massachusetts. A striped bass of 100 pounds was taken in a herring weir in Casco Bay, Maine in the 1880s.

Are big stripers unusual? You bet, but in 1876, a haul-seine off the beach of Avoca, North Carolina netted 350 striped bass averaging 65 pounds each. The world record for hook-and-line is 81.88 pounds taken by Greg Myerson fishing off the coast of Westbrook, Connecticut. In the Chesapeake Bay, the striped bass record is just under 68 pounds but bigger fish have been caught and released by both hook-and-line and nets. A 92-pound striper was netted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at the mouth of the Patuxent River during a research project in 1995. In May of 1992 Maryland Charter Boat Captain Ed Darwin boated a 56-inch striper that the experienced captain estimated to be more than 80 pounds. Because it was a pregnant female, he let her go (Thank you!).

#2. A Scale Can Reveal TWO Important Things About Striped Bass - Examined under a microscope, a striper scale can reveal the age and size of your fish. The winter is a period of slow growth for stripers, during which a series of closely spaced rings form around the edge of each scale. Similar to counting rings in the trunk of a tree, the age of an individual fish can be determined by counting the number of rings, called annuli. The examination of many thousands of scales has provided a reliable database for determining the rate at which striped bass grow. On average, bass are four to five inches long at the end of the first year, 11 inches at the end of the second, 16 inches at the end of the third, and 20 inches at the end of the fourth year. A striped bass that is 36 inches long normally is about 12 years old. A bass 48 inches long, and weighing over 50 pounds, is over 20 years old. The oldest documented striper was 31 years old. The next time you catch and release a large striper, keep a couple of scales and look at them with a magnifying glass as proof of their approximate age.

#1. Stripers Are Responsible for the FIRST Fisheries Management Law in America - Yup, in 1649 the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony banned the use of striped bass as fertilizer. Stripers were once that plentiful. For 362 years we've been struggling to manage the harvest of striped bass. In 1770, the New Hampshire government declared "fishing hath almost extirpated the bass in the Piscataqua River."

CATCH & RELEASE STRIPED BASS TODAY - To Help Build Our Delta Fishery For Tomorrow!

Releasing a striped bass is more than just yanking the hook out, and throwing it back into the water. Many factors determine whether the fish survives or dies after they swim away often several days later due to poor handling actions of the angler.

Although striped bass inhabit the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary year-round, in fall and winter months they move from coastal San Francisco Bay waters by large numbers into the Delta. During this time of the year as the Delta cools, they hold and feed preparing for their spring migration up-river to spawn. Especially in March, the stripers are hungry, aggressive, and an exciting hard-fighting fish to catch.

Some mature female stripers ('hens') can reach thirty-pounds or more and are the most-in-need to be carefully released since they produce the largest number of eggs. Based on California DF&W guidelines, stripers eighteen-twenty five inches long, are about three-years old, and weigh approximately 8-10 pounds. Stripers less than eighteen-inches in length ('shakers') are the most prolific but fun to catch but must be released by regulations. A 30" striper is approximately seven years old and may weigh approximately 25 to 35 pounds and the future of the Delta striper fishery.

What determines how many caught stripers survive release depends on tackle, hookup, fight, handling, and how quickly they are released back into the water. The use of circle hooks, treble hooks replaced with a large single hook, or hooks with flattened barbs allow for easier removal and faster release. Stripers caught on natural baits such as sardine or herring fillets, squid, or minnows, tend to ingest the bait deeper and are more apt to die from hook removal or related injuries. Stripers that are caught on plugs and other hard-baits with modified hooks survive the longest since most are apt to be lip-hooked.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL STRIPER CATCH & RELEASE - START BY BEING PREPARED

- Stripers released in early spring or late fall/winter colder water have a greater chance of survival when the water is less than 70F.
- Use heavy-action stiffer rods, 20 pound+ line (braided is a good choice) to land a fish quickly to minimize stress and injuries.
- Use circle hooks; replace treble-hooks with large single hooks; hooks with flattened barbs; or barbless hooks for easier hook removal.
- Use artificial lures instead of natural baits to reduce the chance of deep hooking. If the striper is 18" or longer, but bleeding heavily, keep it since its survival is poor.
- Once the striper is subdued, don't bring it out of the water! Do not bring it on-board the boat if possible!
- Carefully remove hooks with a de-hooker tool, long-nosed pliers, or with large hook-removal forceps. If the hook is too deeply located in the throat or gut, cut the line as short as possible and leave hook in place. The hook will eventually deteriorate as long as it is not made of stainless steel.
- Do not allow the fish to thrash-around; stripers can be calmed-down by carefully covering their eyes with a wet rag or turning them on their back. Another reason to leave the striper in the water is that their dorsal fins as well as a plug's spinning hooks can cause some significant injuries to the angler.
- If the fish must be body-handled out of the water, use wet gloves, wet rag, or last-choice of well wetted hands. Never pull the striper out of the water via their gill plate/mouth, a favorite black bass angler's TV tactic pose...
- If weighing or measuring the fish, keep it submerged in soft mesh net, until ready, then using a lip-grip-type scale or handy ruler to quickly calculate its weight and length.
- Promptly take photographs with the striper still in the water if possible. Return it as quickly with the least amount of handling.
- Resuscitate a slightly submerged striper by holding it by its tail and gently pulling it back-and-forth so water flows through its gills until it pulls-away from being held.

Catch & Release striped bass today will ensure a bright, fun, and successful day on future Delta striper Rooster Tail Member fishing trips! Enjoy the fight and the fact that some-day, the striped bass you released will once again give you the fight of your life of still a stronger, bigger fish in the future!



“Bones” Fishes for Stripers—*continued*

Guard, CPR and First Aid Certificates issued by the Red Cross, U.S. Forest Service Beckworth Ranger District, Tahoe Ranger District, special use permit and State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Lake Oroville special use permit. These certificates and permits allow Brett the ability to guide from the valley rivers, like the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, to the foothill and mountain lakes chasing Salmon, Striped Bass, Sturgeon, Kokanee, Trout and land locked King Salmon.

From www.fishbarebones.com

“Most of the Striper fishing occurs on the Sacramento River between Grimes and Colusa and on the Feather River from Verona to Yuba City. By the first of April the Stripers are well into their spawning migration up both rivers. The majority of the fish will make their way up the Sacramento River but on good water years we'll see really good numbers up the Feather River as well. The run generally peaks in May with good fishing well into June/July. To catch these guys Bare Bones uses live and cut bait as well as lures.”

You can find out more about **Bare Bones Fishing Guide Service** by visiting www.fishbarebones.com. You can also reach Brett ‘Bones’ Brady directly at 530-263-4451 to find out why his motto is **“It’s All About Fishing!”**



Jackpot Fishing Contest

10/25/20














10 DATE

Fishing Club

OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST

2020 2019

	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
 Kokanee	12"		BULLARDS BAR		M. MCKENDREE
 Landlocked Salmon	22 1/2"		LAKE OROVILLE	1-18	B. MIERKEY
 River or Ocean King Salmon	33 1/2"		SACRO RIVER	10-20	C. MIERKEY
 Striped Bass	25 1/2"		SACRO RIVER	10-23	C. MIERKEY
 Rainbow Trout	25"	5lb 14oz	ALMANOR	6-5	M. MCKENDREE
 Brown Trout	28.15	8.32lb	SHASTA LAKE	5-4	BEV MIERKEY
 Steelhead	30"		AMERICAN RIVER	1-12	J. LAMPKIN
 Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	27"		DONNER LAKE	9-12	M. EWING
 Large Mouth Bass	22"	7lb 14oz	BULLARDS BAR	1-17	G. ROBERTS
 Codfish	28 3/4"	5lb 3oz	OCEAN	8-1	R. CORRAO
 Shad	32 1/2"		CLERALAKE	11-25	K. LANDENBERGER
 Croppie	19 1/2"		SACRO RIVER	6-14	E. LISKE
	32"	14lb 8oz	SF BAY	5-15	R. CORRAO

2020 names in Black - 2019 names in Red

KOKANEE, **Mac McKendree**, 12", Bullards Bar

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Bev Mierkey**, 22.5 ", 3.7 lbs., Lake Oroville, 1/18/20

RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, **Mike Walker**, 30", Feather River, 10/11/19

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

LAKE TOUT (MACKINAW), **Mel Ewing**, 27", Donner Lake, 9/12/19

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Gary Roberts**, 22", 7 lbs. 14 oz., Bullards Bar, 1/17/20

LINGCOD, **Ray Corrao**, 28.75", 5.3 lbs., Ocean, 8/1/19

SHAD, **Eric Liske**, 19.5", Sacramento River, 6/14/19

PACIFIC HALIBET, **Ray Corrao**, 32", 14.8 lbs., S.F. Bay, 5/15/19

Burt Jansen with a nice stringer from Folsom Lake practicing for next month's "Members Only" April 22 Tournament on Folsom Lake.

