

**VOL 25 ISSUE 10**

**NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER**

### **HEAD HOOKER'S MESSAGE**

**PAUL WELLS**



Hi Guys

The months keep ticking away. At the October meeting, the main two agenda items will be "Election of Officers for 2022 and the Auction". There won't be a speaker this month due to the time required to address the

agenda items.

We have the Christmas Dinner coming up on December 10th (second Friday). Don't forget to mark this date on your calendar. I hope everyone will be able to attend.

Every year, I look forward to the Salmon Season. This year, from the onset, the season has not looked promising. A handful of very few fish have been caught by avid Salmon Fishermen who spend much time on the river. Clyde Wands put in at Brannan Island last week and went down the Sacramento River quite some distance, probably in brackish water. Although, they were targeting Stripers, they hooked a Salmon. The Salmon was already turning red and had a large hook. The Salmon was released.

Thursday, September 30th, I had some time to kill around Folsom so I went down to the Nimbus Hatchery to see what it looked like. No gates in place and it looked like the water was only a foot or two deep. Not

a Salmon in sight. I have been hearing of quite a few Stripers being caught, so far, I have not been included.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Till then, "Keep your lines tight and your nets ready".

### **ACTIVITIES REPORT**

#### **ANNUAL AUCTION DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**



This is always a fun event so be sure to come to the October 8th breakfast meeting and bring in those gently used treasures to auction off. Not all items need to be fishing gear, but please limit your items.

This year we will have two table areas. One area for general live auction items with all proceeds going toward club operations. Another area will be for a silent auction for high end gear where the owner will provide a minimum starting bid and donate 20% of proceeds to our club. A silent auction bid sheet is attached at end of this newsletter. If you are able to, please download and print for your own use to save time at the meeting.


And remember the money raised at the Auction provides funds for the overall operational costs of running the Club for the entire year. The funds are used to pay monthly bills for the Elks rental, breakfast extra, prizes, and miscellaneous items. So be generous with your donations and purchases.

## THANKS TO CLYDE WANDS (By John Kinslow)

I would like to again thank **Clyde Wands** for being our September Guest Speaker. Clyde passed on a good deal of his vast experience of fishing for Stripers in the Delta. I do hope some of you have been able to get out fishing and able to try some of the info Clyde presented to us.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**BEN LASALA**

	
<b>Treasurer's Report By Ben LaSala September 2021</b>	
<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$1,970</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Breakfast	528
Non-eaters	24
Hat Sales	30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>582</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Breakfast	462
Raffle Prizes	0
Derby Pot	0
Guest Breakfasts	14
Monthly Bank Fee	16
Insurance	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>492</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,060</b>

## FISHING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**BOB SCHMIDT**

Greetings everyone! It's been nonstop and an emotional roller coaster for our family since my mother-in-law took a fall in July. My wife's parents are doing fine now after being placed into an assisted living care facility

I don't know about you but I have not heard of any good fishing reports lately. All the mountain lakes are closed due to the shutdown of the National Forest and due to the fires and smoke. The SMUD Crystal Basin area lakes were heavily stocked with fish just before the Highway 50 closure. They should really be good when

area reopens. A few lakes are still open in the valley foothills. They are Camanche, Pardee, Berryessa, New Melones, and a few others. Folsom Lake boat ramp is still open (no docks) at Granite Bay and will be closing when the lake drops a few more feet. Fishing around the dam only and the in-river channels.

Berryessa is doing ok on nice size kokanee 16"-17" and trout mostly just outside Markley Cove and dam area. You have to use the lower boat ramp at Markley Cove.

I made it to New Melones on Tuesday 8/24 and was surprised at how much the lake has dropped since July 8. There are islands everywhere and you now have to launch from the third ramp. There are still 2 docks in place and close parking. It won't be long before the dirt ramp will be in use. The island at Glory Hole area is now tied to South shore line and there is no passage to the 49er bridge on the South side of the island. You must now go around the North side of the island in the river channel. Fishing was not that great and it came with a cost \$\$.

I worked hard for 2 -17" fat kokanee and 2 nice rainbows 3-lbs+, lots of Bass to 4 Lbs. and also a few small kokanee (dinks). The use of GPS is a must to know where the river channel is located around the 49er bridge and beyond. Get outside the channel and you'll get snagged on trees. The river channel has its own challenges, the bottom comes very fast and trees 30 to 40 feet above the bottom come out of nowhere. When going under the 49er bridge using my down scan I was able to see the old bridge and foundation of buildings at 120 feet. Fishing was the best at 70 to 80 feet down using Speedy Shiners at 2 to 3 mph even for the kokanee. Most the fish were taken 1/2 mile to 1 mile below the second bridge. It comes with a cost. I lost 5 Speedy Shiners and 1 downrigger ball snagged in the trees.

I talked to **Rene** and he took 8<sup>th</sup> place at the Kokanee Power Derby at Pardee. He is now in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall with one derby left at Shaver Lake on September 11th.

I have been stopping and checking for Salmon 2 to 3 days a week when I cross over the Hazel Av. Bridge on my bike ride to Beal's Point. I have not seen any fish so far. The birds are also there and they are also waiting and watching for the arrival of the salmon and steelhead. Reports on the river from Sacramento to Freeport have been slow with only a few boats out there. The Verona area is doing much better. My next fishing trip will be either the Sac River at Verona or in the Delta for stripers.

Life is like your favorite golf ball or lure. Enjoy it while you can. For someday you are going to lose it. Good Luck Fishing and be Safe

Bob

PS: Latest update...The Crystal Basin Area will be open October 1st for day use only. Ice House Lake will be open but no word on the condition of boat ramps. Union Valley is closed due to construction. Mormon Immigrant Trail is closed. Jenkinson Lake is open. Folsom Lake is closed.

## **FISHING REPORTS**

### **“COMBAT FISHING”**

**BY: Ben LaSala**

**Steve Paulick** and I, along with **Pedro Contreras** and **Stan Wong** (area 16 SIR's fishing group) departed from Danville around 6 am on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> to go fishing on the **Red Rooster 3** on a 6-day long range trip out of San Diego. Pedro drove his pick-up truck stuffed with sleeping bags, fishing tackle, rods and reels, and 4 extra-large coolers. When we arrived in San Diego and checked in our motel, we had to pack most of the gear up to our room for the evening. It required several trips up and down stairs. Sunday, we lugged the gear from our room, and loaded it onto the fishing boat, about a block away. Then the “fun” began.

We were headed for Guadalupe Island in Mexican waters off the Baja coast. It was going to be about a 24-hour boat ride, with a stop in Ensenada to clear Mexican customs. Guadalupe Island is located 150 miles off the west coast of Baja, and is about 250 miles southwest of Ensenada. It can only be fished by special permit issued by the Mexican government. When I mentioned that we were going to be fishing around Guadalupe Island, my brother Leo said that it would be the trip of a lifetime.

The next day, Monday, we started to get our fishing gear rigged. We matched the reels to the right rods, and then put on the correct pound test of fluorocarbon leader and hooks. We had brought set-ups for 30, 40, 60 and 80 pound test. While our anticipation was building, it took some time to get everything ready. The captain did not stop at the first place he came to. He finally stopped and anchored at the extreme southern end of the island about 1pm on Monday.

Have you ever heard the term “combat fishing?” When you hear that term, what comes to mind? What follows is a recollection of my experience. There were 30 of us fishing, all with different degrees of expertise,

and of various ages. I was among the oldest, and it showed. We initially fished with live sardines. You had to compete with the other guys to catch one, hook it, and then cast it out so that it would swim away from the boat. I had trouble with all three. The lively bait was hard for me to catch. Once I finally did catch one, I would try to hook it on its back, in front of the dorsal fin, in its belly right near its anal fins, or through its nostrils. The deck hands made it look easy, but when I tried, the bait would jump out of my hands. Then I would have to start all over again. If you hooked your bait too deep, it would not swim right. If everything went right, you would try to cast it as far from the boat as you could. But being a novice, I could not cast a light bait, with a casting rod and reel with heavy line (60# test). The result would be a major backlash, so my bait could not make it to the strike zone away from the boat.

In the meantime, guys started to hook up with large yellowfin tuna from 80 -130#. There were 4 deckhands and the captain helping guys with their fish, chumming with live bait, and untangling lines. Most fish that were caught, were caught in the back of the boat. Once you got a fish hooked up, you would have to go up and over or under everyone else's lines. It was mostly controlled chaos, at times it became uncontrolled with major line tangles. Most guys were able to land their fish with the help of one of the deckhands, other times they would not. At one point, I saw that Steve Paulick had a fish on. After some time, I noticed that he had another fish on. Meanwhile, I was still trying to cast my line out. Then the great white sharks started to show up, and some fish were lost to the sharks.

When we got a minute, I commented how well Steve was doing with two fish. He then corrected me. What I thought was the second fish, was actually his first fish which gave him the battle of his life. Later on, Steve hooked up again. After a lengthy, exhausting battle, a great white got his tuna, leaving only the head. The sharks were huge. Occasionally, you could see them swimming under or near the boat. The ones I saw were about 15 -20 feet long and two to three feet in diameter. The first day did not go well for me...I got skunked. The captain, Andy Cates, told us that catching our first Yellowfin could turn out to be an adventure. How right he was.

The next day started around 3am in the morning as we were summoned to catch bait. We knew this was going to be the case, and we were all prepared with a variety of “sabiki” rigs. We were fishing for small baitfish like the “Spanish Mackerel” around 8-10” in size. This local

bait was larger than the sardines we had been using making them easier to cast, and they were stronger swimmers.

After breakfast, we went back into “combat.” On the previous day, the deck hands had told me that my 40# set up was undersized, and I thought I was better prepared with slightly larger gear (60-80#) which Pedro had loaned me. Instead of trying to catch the bait, hook-it and cast it, I enlisted the help of the deck hands whenever possible. On one occasion, the captain obliged, and hooked me up. When he handed me the rod, I could feel the bait swimming strongly, away from the boat. Moments later, I felt a surge and the line on the reel started getting stripped at an extremely fast rate. I counted to five, and then engaged the reel to the “strike position.” The fish was hooked, and it was taking line. It was a strong fighter. My drag was set at the right tension, so now it was just a question of getting the fish to the rail. After several runs, and going over and under other fishermen, one of the deck hands gaffed what turned out to be a 37# yellowtail. Yellowtail are a gamefish, common in Mexican waters. They are a member of the Amberjack family, and they were the predominate fish caught on this trip. The 37 pounder was larger than most caught, it was a nice fish! Still, no yellowfin for me.

Wednesday again started at 3am making bait. It was tough for me to get back to sleep, so I just stayed up. When thinking back over our trip now, it like a blur. For me, it was exhausting, but I still wanted to catch at least one tuna. So, I went back into combat. Sometime that afternoon, one of the deckhands, Justin, who had made it a personal thing to help me catch one, hooked me up, literally. When he handed me the rod, it was fish on. There were times during the battle when I could not feel anything, and I would have to reel like crazy to get some tension back onto the line. Apparently, Justin had already engaged the low gear on the two-speed reel. Other times it was a standoff, I could not take in any line, but the fish was not running. Then it took off toward the bow of the boat. Justin had to take the rod and go under the anchor line, which is easier said than done. I am not sure how long this whole thing took, but the deck hands were finally able to gaff the tuna. When they put it on the scale, it hovered between 95# – 105#. It settled at 99 pounds, cool. After that, I was kind of done for the day, wishing I was about 20 years younger. Oh well!



**BEN DOING ‘COMBAT’ WITH 99 LB. YELLOW TAIL**

That evening we made a move to an undisclosed island chain. We started fishing around noon or so, catching smaller yellowtail one after another. This time we were drifting, so there were not as many tangles. There were no great white sharks, but sea lions followed us everywhere we went. I ended up catching five yellowtail, two sea lions, and three gulls on this stop. We made one last move while headed back toward Ensenada. We stopped at a ridge in about 200’ of water to fish for rock cod and ling cod. We got there around 9:30 am and fished until 1pm or so. I tried a couple of times, but I was having trouble feeling the bottom. While some were still catching fish, I quit.

Out of our group, Pedro Contreras caught 3 yellowfin and 13 yellowtail, Stan Wong ended up with 2 yellowfin and 4 yellowtail, Steve Paulick had 2 yellowfin and 6 yellowtail, and I finished with 1 yellowfin and 6 yellowtail.



**STEVE PAULICK WITH ONE OF HIS CATCHES**

Overall, our jackpot winner, Charles caught the “big fish” a 130# yellowfin. He donated the proceeds to the crew as did the second and third place finishers. He also caught the most fish including 6 yellowfin, one on 35# test on a long rod, 15 yellowtail and three rock fish. There was no doubt he was the best fisherman on this trip. I also have to mention that there was one young lady on this trip, Jacklyn, who I thought out fished most of the guys. She never seemed to get tired, and in that regard, she earned my respect. Many on board thought she was too aggressive...I told her that she reminded me of my daughter in some ways, but 29 guys and one woman? When I asked her if her dad had taught how to fish, she said no, she learned on “You Tube”. Great! Our second-place jackpot finisher, John, a very soft spoken small, elder gentleman gave up his space, so Jacklyn could have her own room.

As I mentioned earlier, my brother said fishing Guadalupe Island would be the adventure of a lifetime, and for me it was. I am not sure I will ever return, but I will never forget.



**RICHARD SEARS**

**NEWEST JOLLY HOOKER MEMBERS**

Please welcome our newest Jolly Hooker members.



**JIM MONICAL**

**MISC. PICS**



**JOLLY HOOKERS SEPTEMBER MEETING SPEAKER CLYDE WANDS PROVIDING A WEALTH OF STRIPER FISHING TECHNIQUES.**

**Jolly Hooker Fishing Club**  
**Gene Pearson**  
**3536 Rolph Way**  
**El Dorado Hills, CA 957**

## **2021 Steering Committee**

<b><u>Head Hooker</u></b>	<b>Paul Wells</b>
<b><u>Asst. Head Hooker</u></b>	<b>John Bergman</b>
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	<b>Ben LaSala</b>
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	<b>Gene Pearson</b>
<b><u>Activities Chairmen</u></b>	<b>Rene Villanueva/John Kinslow</b>
<b><u>Fishing Chairman</u></b>	<b>Bob Schmidt</b>
<b><u>NDO Chairman</u></b>	<b>Walt Summers</b>