



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

Volume 8, Issue 11 — November 2018

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Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass

- Thousands of striped bass teeming in the Delta
- Bill Clapp—over 30 years plying the Delta waters
- Catching trophy size striped bass
- Understanding the tides

Announcement
No RT breakfast in Dec. Come to the Cowboy Christmas lunch instead on Dec. 7
Awards will be at Jan. 18 breakfast

Bill Clapp—Trophy Striper Fisherman

The California Delta is teeming thousands of striped bass just waiting to attack most anything that moves they can fit into their mouths! Fall season stripers are fattening-up and preparing for their winter time of low metabolism providing an exciting special time to fish for this hard fighting species!

Rooster Tail Members and non-member guests are invited to hear a detailed presentation by striper fishing specialist and professional fishing guide Bill Clapp on Friday, November 16. Bill has over thirty years plying the Delta waters as owner of **Bills Sportfishing and Guide Service (916-947-6441)**.

He will be discussing the ever-evolving striper hot spots, understanding and maximizing optimal tides to fish, how to use updated tackle rigging, and more. He will give you an insight about the sloughs and how to drop your hook

among the grasses for great results. I also hear about heading to Suisun Bay, Broad Slough, Decker Island, and the West Bank or the river mouths to hook hungry stripers. If you are looking to catch that trophy striped bass, don't miss the Rooster Tails breakfast meeting on Nov. 16th Reservations are not necessary, doors to the Auburn Elks Lodge open at 7:00 a.m. for a good seat for the anticipated large audience. Arrive early have a free cup of coffee, talk with other striped bass anglers, and see the latest in striper lures on display.

For more information about the meeting, contact Jim at 530-887-0479.



Calendar of Events

November 7
Turkey Tourney—Eaglebright Lake

November 16
Speaker—Bill Clapp
Bill's Sportfishing & Guide Service

December 7
Cowboy Christmas BBQ Party

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	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	

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Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass

The California Delta is teeming with thousands of striped bass just waiting to attack most anything that moves that they can fit into their mouths! Knowledge about this special sports-fish will give you an edge over the guess-by-gully striped bass angler. The following is a special Rooster Tails Fishing Club newsletter edition consisting of Delta Striper articles and data well-worth the time to read.



Stripers are very prolific

Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) begin spawning in the spring when the water temperature reaches 60 degrees. Most spawning occurs between 61 and 69 degrees and the spawning period usually extends from April to mid-June. Stripers spawn in open fresh water where the current is moderate to swift. The Delta, especially the San Joaquin River between the Antioch Bridge and the mouth of Middle River, and other channels in this area, is an

History of California Striped Bass

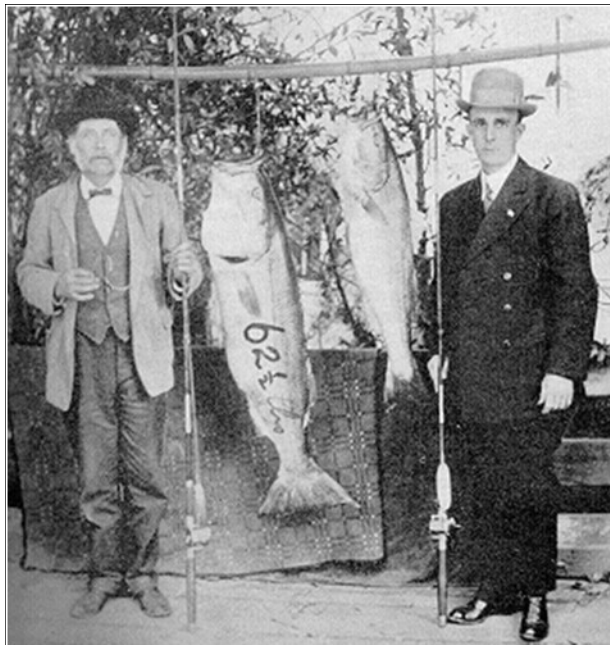
There were originally no striped bass in California. They were introduced from the East Coast, where they are found from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Alabama. The initial introduction took place in 1879, when 132 small bass were brought successfully to California by rail from the Navesink River in New Jersey and released near Martinez. Fish from this lot were caught within a year near Sausalito, Alameda, and Monterey, and others were caught occasionally at scattered places for several years afterwards. There was much concern by the Fish and Game Commission that such a small number of bass might fail to establish the species, so a second introduction of about 300 stripers was made in lower Suisun Bay in 1882.

In a few years, striped bass were being caught in California in large numbers. By 1889, a decade after the first lot of eastern fish had been released, bass were being sold in San Francisco markets. In another 10 years, the commercial net catch alone was averaging well over a million pounds a year. In 1935, however, all commercial fishing for striped bass was stopped in the belief that this would enhance the sport fishery.

important spawning ground. Another important spawning area is the Sacramento River between Sacramento and Princeton. About one-half to two-thirds of the eggs are spawned in the Sacramento River and the remainder in the Delta. Female striped bass usually spawn for the first time in their fourth or fifth year, when they are 21 to 25 inches long. Some males mature when they are 2 years old and only about 11" long. Most males are mature at age 3 and most females at age 5.

Stripers are very prolific. A 5-pound female may spawn 180,000 eggs in one season and a 15-pound fish is capable of producing over a million eggs. This great reproductive potential and favorable environmental conditions allowed striped bass to establish a large population within a few years after their introduction in California. Striped bass often spawn in large schools. On one occasion, CDFW biologists observed a school of several thousand bass at the surface along the bank of the Sacramento River above Knights Landing. Small groups of three to six bass frequently segregated from this school and

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Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass—*continued*

splashed and churned in the main current of the river in the act of spawning. At times, five or more groups of bass were observed spawning at once. Usually, a large female was accompanied by several smaller males. While the eggs are still in the female, they are only about 1/25 inch in diameter, but after release, they absorb water and increase to about 1/8 inch in diameter. The eggs are then transparent, making them virtually invisible. During the spawning act, eggs and milt are released into the water. The milt contains microscopic sperm cells which penetrate the eggs and cause them to develop. Striped bass eggs are slightly heavier than water, so a moderate current is needed to suspend them while they develop. Without adequate water movement, they sink to the bottom and die. The eggs hatch in about two days, although the length of time may be somewhat shorter or longer depending upon temperature; hatching is quickest in warm water. The newly-hatched bass continue their development while being carried along by water currents. At first, the larval bass are forced to subsist on their yolk, but in about a week they start feeding on tiny crustaceans which are just visible to the naked eye. By August, they are about two inches long and are feeding primarily on mysid shrimp and amphipods, both bottom-dwelling crustaceans. At this time, they are most numerous from the western Delta to Suisun Bay.

The age of striped bass is recorded on the scales by a series of growth marks. The winter is a period of slow growth, during which a series of closely spaced rings form around the edge of each scale. The age of an individual bass can be determined by examining a scale under a microscope and counting the number of such closely spaced bands of rings, called annuli. Examination of many thousands of scales has provided a basis 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. You can estimate the age of an individual striped bass if the length or the weight is known. The largest striped bass on record weighed 125 pounds and was caught in a seine net in North Carolina in 1891. Another very large one, weighing 112 pounds, was caught in Massachusetts many years ago. No stripers over 100 pounds has been caught on the Pacific Coast. There is an authentic record of a 78-pound bass from a San Francisco fish market in 1910. The current California sport record for striped bass is a 67-1/2-pound fish caught in O'Neill Forebay, Merced County, in May 1992.

Striped bass are voracious feeders. They generally feed on the most available and abundant invertebrates and forage fish of the appropriate size. Initially, small bass feed on tiny crustacean plankton, but, after a few weeks, the favorite food becomes the mysid shrimp and amphipods. Mysid shrimp are

most numerous where salt levels are 1–20 percent of sea water. Young striped bass are most numerous in the same area. Larger stripers tend to prefer larger food items. In San Francisco Bay, anchovies, shiner perch, and herring are important in the diet. Anchovies, sculpins (bullheads), and shrimp make up the bulk of the diet in San Pablo Bay. In the Delta and upriver areas, larger bass feed mainly on threadfin shad, young striped bass, and other small fish.

When Stripers Migrate

Sublegal striped bass, fish under 18 inches long, are found all year in large numbers above San Francisco Bay. It is not known whether they have a definite migratory pattern or just wander about in response to environmental cues, such as food availability. Most adult bass, after spawning in the spring in the San Joaquin Delta and upper Sacramento River, move downstream into brackish and salt water for the summer and fall. Many bass spend this period feeding in the bays, particularly San Francisco Bay. Some fish enter the ocean, but the actual number doing so varies considerably from year to year. Some of the larger bass move up and down the coast and are occasionally caught as far south as Monterey and as far north as Bodega Bay. During late fall and winter, some fish move back upstream into the fresh water of the Delta and lower Sacramento River. While this general migration pattern applies to most bass, there are always exceptions. For instance, some fish remain in the American and Feather rivers during the summer and good fishing sometimes occurs in San Francisco Bay in the spring. Therefore, many striped bass anglers have had the experience of catching fish at unexpected times and places.

Striper Tackle

Almost any rod and reel heavier than a light spinning outfit is suitable for striped bass fishing. The lighter the tackle, the greater the sport, of course. Under certain conditions, however, fairly heavy tackle is desirable. For example, heavy tackle is generally necessary in charter boat fishing to prevent undue fouling of lines, and in certain types of deep-water fishing involving the use of heavy sinkers.

The novice should consult one of the bait and tackle stores in the striped bass fishing area for information about the types of leaders, hooks, and sinkers used by striped bass anglers. To avoid catching too many undersized stripers, it is advisable to use hooks at least half an inch between the point and the shank. Fewer small fish will swallow the large hooks, so serious injuries will be reduced. Remember, for successful bait fishing, it is generally necessary to keep the bait near the bottom. Strong tidal currents are usually present on striped bass fishing grounds; therefore, it is particularly important to have a varied assortment of sinkers, so the amount of weight can be adjusted to match the changing strength of the current. Striped bass may be caught either by bait fishing or trolling. In the Delta, threadfin shad are probably now the most common bait. The

Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass—*continued*

shad are usually placed on the hook split and folded with the flesh side out. Sardines, anchovies, bloodworms, and pile worms are also popular baits in the Delta. Drift fishing with live bait - usually shiner perch or anchovies - is popular in the San Francisco Bay area. Sculpins (bullheads) and oriental gobies (mudsuckers) are frequently used in San Pablo and Suisun bays, either alive or dead. Trolling methods are specialized and it is advisable to observe this method of fishing in operation before attempting it. Many types of plugs, including Yo-Zuri jointed 3-D Minnows tipped with 6" white plastic trick-worms have been successfully used in trolling.

Striper Seasons

Striped bass angling is done all year, but fishing localities vary seasonally in accordance with the striped bass migratory pattern. During the winter, striped bass are spread from San Francisco Bay throughout the Delta and fishing is generally poor because stripers do not feed actively when the water is cold. However, good catches of large fish still are made occasionally. Fishing success improves as the water warms up in March. Stripers that winter in the bays start moving upstream to fresh water for spawning. During the spring, the bulk of the legal population is spread throughout the Delta and as far north as Colusa and Princeton on the Sacramento River.

Good fishing can be expected throughout the spawning area at this time. Occasionally, some good catches of either early spawning, or late migrating, bass are made in the bays during the spring. By mid-June, most legal-sized bass have left fresh water and returned to the bays. During the summer and fall, striped bass fishing is at its peak in San Francisco Bay. Trollers and live bait drifters make good catches with regularity in Raccoon Strait, at the south tower of the Golden Gate Bridge, at submerged rocky reefs in central San Francisco Bay, and off Alcatraz and Treasure Islands. In some years, large numbers of bass migrate into the Pacific Ocean and many are caught just off the beach by charter boat anglers. Summer surf casting from the San Francisco beaches is occasionally very successful. Shore angling is sporadically good in some areas of South San Francisco Bay during the spring and summer. The fall migration of bass to the Delta may start as early as October, even though fishing may still be excellent in San Francisco and San Pablo bays at this time. The beginning of the fall migration is marked by good fishing in Suisun Bay. Bait fishing in the Delta improves gradually with the movement of bass into the area, and then declines as the water temperature drops and the winter rains begin.

Charter Boats Fishing for Stripers

Many charter boat operators in the bays and guides in the Delta and on the upper Sacramento River make a business of taking anglers striped bass fishing for a fee. Each individual usually brings his own fishing tackle, although rental tackle is often available. A trip on such a boat provides an excellent opportunity for inexperienced anglers to learn how to fish successfully for striped bass. Generally, the average

catch per angler on such boats is high because of the experience of the operator in locating schools of bass and in knowing how best to fish at a particular time and place. Reservations are desirable for trips on charter boats and they are usually handled by phone through a bait shop. The classified sections of telephone directories should be consulted under "Fishing Parties" to obtain more information or make reservations. The preceding section on fishing seasons should be consulted to determine the general area to select for a fishing trip at any particular time of year.

Private Boats for Striper Fishing

Many anglers prefer to fish from private boats because they provide greater privacy and more freedom than charter boats in selecting fishing spots. In San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun bays, anglers should only use boats that are large enough to withstand the rough seas that develop when strong winds come up. Smaller boats are well suited to the more sheltered fishing grounds such as the Napa River and its marsh, the Suisun Marsh, the sloughs of the Delta, and the upper Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. A few resorts rent skiffs and outboard motors. Locations where boats can be launched or rented are indicated on the map.

Shore and Pier Fishing

Fishing from shore is generally less productive than boat fishing, but is practiced by many anglers and sometimes is highly rewarding. Numerous favored bank-fishing spots are scattered throughout the fishing area. During spring, the Sacramento River from Courtland to Colusa is one of the most popular areas. The San Joaquin River near Stockton is popular during spring and fall. San Francisco Bay also produces some good shore fishing during summer and fall. Favored locations include the Berkeley Fishing Pier, the shoreline near Ashby Avenue in Berkeley, and in south San Francisco Bay around Candlestick Park. Summer surf fishing off San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin County beaches sometimes provides fantastic sport. Pacifica Pier is a popular fishing location along the San Mateo County coast. Action is also spectacular on the beaches when schools of anchovies draw hungry bass within range of anglers casting heavy metal lures. If the anchovies are not close to shore, fishing is generally at a standstill. Surf fishing in Monterey Bay can also be good at certain times of the year.

Tips for catching trophy stripers

- Try a stop and go retrieve
- If a fish is hooked near the boat, put the reel into free spool with your thumb on drag
- Water temperature below 57 degrees will congregate the shad
- Use sonar or birds to locate bait balls of shad in the delta
- Use more scents when the water is cold
- Clear water means a bigger strike zone

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Farallon Ocean Trip

The fall ocean trip on October 24th was very successful. Some left Auburn as early as 3am, and arrived in Emeryville just before 5am. Nineteen club members were on board the Sea Wolf with Captain Jon Yokomizo and two deck hands. Just before reaching the Farallon Islands the Captain had us catching sanddabs to use for lingcod bait. The seas were flat and no one on board got sea sick. Numerous stops were made for drifts in 120-180 feet of water. Most fished with two shrimp flies and a one pound weight. Many rockfish were

landed with a mixture of reds, blues, blacks, olives, canaries, and quillbacks. All went home with a limit of ten rockfish. A total of 28 lingcod were boated. Some were caught on the sanddabs, sardines, or other jigs. Mike Steer landed the biggest lingcod at 24 pounds, and won the \$95 jackpot for the largest fish. A large sunfish (Opah) was spotted near the boat and also some sightings of whales. It couldn't have been a better day. We will be planning another trip on the Sea Wolf next fall. Hope you can join us. Thank you. Mike Walker



Mike Steer—Winning 24 lb. Lingcod



Mike Walker, Director & Host - Red Rockcod



Left — Mike Gulliford & Tom Reeves with their Rockcod



Right — Gary Johnson with his Lingcod

Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass—*continued*

- Big fish feed in shallow water and on the surface
- Ambushing prey uses less energy, so big fish like top water lures
- Move around until you locate active fish. You may travel several miles per trip just looking for fish, you can't catch fish that aren't there...
- Big fish feed while the other fish aren't active. From 11:00 am to 3:00 pm is a good time to catch a trophy fish. Night is also a good time for catching huge fish.
- Adjust your lure color based on the current light conditions and water clarity
- Use dark colors in dirty waters
- Use bright colors on cloudy days or early in the morning
- Use chrome or shiny lures on sunny days

Release Large Stripers!

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 25-35 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 and 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 a soft mesh net, until ready, than 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 their 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 Tails 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!

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Rooster Tails Special Edition - Striped Bass—continued

2018 Jackpot Contest

The following are some of the reasons why large striped bass are lost...

You fought! You fought! And you lost that trophy striper! You've fished all the best tides, night and day, you've landed some nice fish in the past but are still looking for that trophy and you get a solid whack on a sub surface swimming plug, line melts off the spool, you can't remember if you "reset" your drag after the last fish, so in a desperate move you tighten the drag... the line goes slack, the line parted or the plug pulled loose.... sound familiar?















Reason #1: Too little line on the spool, this is probably the main reason that large fish are lost, all spools should be filled to 1/8 of an inch from the lip of the spool, having less than that affects the drag in several ways, (A) by having too little line, the starting drag is increased from what the factory designed it to be, a violent strike often ends in a broken line because the drag cannot slip as designed unless too loose, (B) the running drag is affected because the drag coefficient INCREASES as the spool diameter DECREASES, often exposing any weakness in the system, usually in the form of a erratic, jerky drag or broken line...

Reason #2: Improper drag settings, how many people really know how much drag tension they have versus the breaking strength of the line? Set all drags with a spring scale, 1/4 the breaking strength of the line is the recommended setting by most line and reel manufactures. This leaves a solid safety margin. Some anglers go as high as 1/3, some anglers prefer to "thumb" the spool on a "runaway" fish, if you feel that you need a little more pressure on the fish...to do this, your index finger can be LIGHTLY applied to the edge of the spool to add additional drag, thus preventing "monk-eyeing" with your original drag setting on a running fish; same applies to using your thumb on a conventional reel, but you must make sure you don't allow your thumb to get pulled into the cross brace...it hurts!

Reason #3: Rod position, some anglers fail to use the rod as a tool for fighting a fish, if a fish makes a long run, keeping the rod at about 1:00 position will maintain maximum pressure and also give a "spring like" cushion to the line, once the fish is close to the boat the rod should be lowered to the 2:00 position to relive some of the pressure, if the fish should make a surge, drop the rod tip (maintaining

slight pressure, this is called bowing to a fish, a tactic also used for "jumpers") pointing the rod at the fish, as the fish gets further away bring the rod tip up to maintain control.



ANNUAL JACKPOT CONTEST						
2018	2017	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	18"	1.75	WHISKYTOWN	9-8	B. MIERKEY
	Landlocked Salmon	22 3/8"		OROVILLE	6-10	R. CORRAO
	River or Ocean King Salmon	38"		SACTO RIVER	10-18	M. MCKENDREE
	Striped Bass	34"		S.F. BAY	6-20	O. SOUDERS
	Rainbow Trout	24 1/2"	5.43	DON PEDRO R.	3-15	B. MIERKEY
	Brown Trout	27	7.69 lbs	DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORTHAM
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	9.67 lbs	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	22"		DONNER LAKE	8-22	R. NORTHAM
	Large Mouth Bass	23"	4.83 lbs	PRIVATE POND	8-28	Rik COX
	Small Mouth Bass	19 1/2"	4.43 lbs	BERRYESSA	2-15	Rik COX
	Catfish	28 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-18	MEL EWING
	Shad	19 1/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
	Croppie	14"		CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLON
	Sturgeon	34"		SACTO DELTA	11-18	MEL TAKAHASHI

2017 entries in red — 2018 entries in black

KOKANEE— **Bev Mierkey**, 18", 51.75 lb. Whiskeytown, 9/8/18

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Ray Corrao**, 22 3/8", Oroville Reservoir, 6/10/18

RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, **Mac McKendree**, Sacto River, 38", 10/18/18

STRIPED BASS, **Olin Souders**, S.F. Bay, 34", 6/20/18

RAINBOW TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 24 1/2", 5.43 lbs., Don Pedro Res., 3/15/18

BROWN TROUT, **Richard Northam**, 27", 7.9", Donner Lake, 8/22/18

STEELHEAD, **Peter Zittere**, 27 1/2", 9 lbs. 7 oz., American River, 1/17/18

LAKE TROUT (MACKINAW), **Richard Northam**, 22", Donner Lake, 8/22/18

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 23", 4 lb. 8 oz, Private pond, 8/28/18

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 19 1/2", 4 lbs. 4 oz, Berryessa, 2/15/18

CRAPPIE, **Shawn Conlon**, 14", Camp Far West, 5/21/18

Reason #4: Pumping in the fish... OK your fish is whipped; she's laying out there, now what? Slowly, methodically "pump" the rod so the drag slips while you are "pumping" the fish, applying pressure between the 1:00 and 3:00 positions. NEVER reel if the drag is paying out line. This will lead to twisted line, tangles and lost fish. Lift the rod from 3:00 to the 1:00 position, reel down, keeping slight pressure on the fish. If the weight of the fish make slight finger pressure to the spool with an 'educated' finger will provide the needed resistance to get the fish close...if the fish makes a sudden surge, point the rod right at it, this will give you the best chance of keeping the fish from breaking the line.

