

The Chumline

The official publication of the Ventura County Sportfishing Club December 2023

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NO DECEMBER MEETING

With the holiday party behind us, there will be no general meeting of the Ventura County Sportfishing Club in December

November Meeting

The Ventura County Sportfishing Club held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 6 at the Alamo Bar and Grill, 2311 Borchard Road, Newbury park at 7:00 PM. The November meeting was the annual election of officers.

Current fishing conditions

Shallow water rock fish fishing season has ended. Rock fish now restricted to 50 fathoms (300 ft.) and greater. Currently, boats target halibut and white fish early then off to deep water for rock fish. With depths of 300+ ft, 16 to 24 oz sinkers are the norm, as is 40 lb test or above line.

Club charter schedule

All charters are complete.

Holiday Party

The club held its annual holiday party on Tuesday, November 28. Approximately 50 members and guests attended the annual event, with the Elks providing tri tip and chicken entree's and members providing appetizers, side dishes and desserts. Ira Nepus and his band provided the evening's entertainment. The raffle was a big hit with a tackle box, rod, and two reels as top prizes, with everything from poinsettias to wine in between. Thanks to Rick Lane for handling the Elks arrangements, and to all of the volunteers who made this annual event a big hit.

Bart Hall Show Returns

The big Bart Hall annual fishing and hunting show at the Long Beach Auditorium returns January 25th through 28th. This year promises to be better than last, with more of the regular tackle companies and travel sites represented as well as the retailers.

Fishing on the Red Rooster III

Just got back from a great trip. Last week, Gary London, a VCSC member, emailed me to tell me the Red Rooster III had a cancelled trip and was filling it with two 1.5 day charters. The first one was full with 25, but the second only had 16 and would not go unless they could get 4 more. So, if you remember, I blasted an email out to the club, and so did our charter master Stan. I signed up, and so did three other club members, Jay, Ralph and Ira. The trip was a go with a light load of 20.

The Red Rooster is simply stunning. Ralph and Jay, long time San Diego multi-day aficionados, said it was the nicest boat they had ever been on. The boat has two to a cabin, with four bathrooms and full showers. The meals were outstanding, and all included in the \$550 price. We are talking about prime rib. But enough about the boat.

We left at 12 noon for the 43, where the tuna are. We arrived before dark and got 6, but the deckhand told me not to fish and rest up for tomorrow. Sage advice. We got

up early, had custom eggs and bacon for breakfast, and before the sun was up we were ready to fish. The crew helps with everything, including what setups to use and will even bait the hooks if they do not like the way you do it (haha, guess who needed this). My first attempt I had a #2 hook and 25lb line – mistake! Whammo – the first cast out darned near spooled me. After 20 minutes of so, I got the fish in – probably a 30 pounder. The trip is technically 2 days, so we get to keep 4 fish. In 3 hours, I had reached my limit and was tired! The entire boat had limits, so we went in search of monster tuna.



Ira with a quality blue fin tuna

We did not get another tuna all day, and the weather got very nasty. We talked, ate like royalty, and just waited out the trip on the most luxurious boat I have ever seen. Most of us took a nice hot shower and hit the bunks early and got a restful night's sleep. I decided to not use a fish processor, and Ira and I gave away our tuna to the chef, who said his family was going to can them. We kept 3. That is enough!

Those of you who go to the Christmas party will partake in my smoked tuna. I promise to do a great job smoking the fish.

Fishing on the Royal Star

The annual VCSC open charter on the Royal Star was from Nov. 1st to 10th with club members Art Hernandez, Steve Bernd, Gary Christopher, Dave Hill, Rhany Hufalar, and myself aboard. Many old friends from past trips were there which makes for a

pleasant trip for everyone. We departed the harbor around noon, with the object of being a direct run to the ridge, a typical 2 day ride. Around noon the second day, it was clear, due to an opposing current, we were not going to make the normal schedule so an overnight stop below Cedros at Isla Natividad was called for.

We set up late afternoon on a likely yellow tail spot and were not disappointed, with plenty of 12 to 15 lb yellowtail mainly on yoyo iron. A few more in the early morning and off we went heading south. Late that afternoon as we approached the point a large school of 25-35 lb yellow fin tuna showed. We stopped and it was wide open, they hit everything in the water. After about an hour, we picked up the trip on down to the ridge.

When we arrived, it was like a ghost town. Searches revealed few tuna, no wahoo and limited small dorado. After a full day and overnight stop with little to show for it, a run to Alijos Rocks was called for.



Rhanny with Wahoo on the troll

We arrived there late the following morning. A few wahoo were taken on the troll, so we settled on anchor to let things calm down. I picked up a 35 lb wahoo on bait. Several more wahoo on bait were taken. The real action was 35-45 lb yellow fin tuna, as much as you could handle. I had some already from our earlier stop, so fished intermittently, giving away several fish.

We began trolling late and picked up a few more wahoo. An overnight stay and more yellow fin on anchor and wahoo trolls were the order for the day. In the end, we got down to three without wahoo, at which the mercy trolls began, finally with everyone getting at least one wahoo.

We then headed back to the ridge, with limited success, before heading to a spot where pargo were expected. Late evening, around nine o'clock, the action began. The outfit of choice was a flat fall or knife jig with lots of glow in the dark characteristics on a 30 lb conventional outfit or a slow pitch rod. The jig would fall to the bottom, then 3 to 6 cranks off the bottom, typical jig yoyo action was required to get a strike. For the next 3 to 4 hours, pargo were coming aboard, one at a time, but a steady catch rate.

The finale for the trip was a shot at trophy yellowtail. In the heavy kelp below Cedros, we did our annual calico bass fishing for sandwich lunch the following day. I finally got to catch calico bass on my Candy Bar top water jig, sitting in my tackle box hoping for two years. For you youngun's, Candy Bar jigs were mated to Penn Jig masters and Sabre rods in the mid fifties through late 60's as the go to top water action for calico's, yellowtail, and barracuda at places like Dana Point and the Barn. A trip down memory lane fishing out of Newport! After the calico, a slight move and heavy chumming brought out the big guys. 4 large yellowtail were hooked, two landed, both in the 45-48 lb range. With that, the fishing trip was a wrap.

Cooking your catch

How about an appetizer of Hamachi (yellowtail) ceviche with avocado on fried wonton?

for the ceviche:

1/2 lb yellowtail, diced small

3/4 Tbsp minced red onion

1 Tbsp lime juice

3/4 tsp soy sauce

1/4 tsp Sriracha sauce

pinch of salt to taste

Mix ingredients in medium bowl, cover and refrigerate for 2 hours

for avocado:

1 avocado mashed

juice on 1/2 lemon

1/4 tsp Sriracha sauce

1/4 tsp salt

Mix ingredients in a small bowl, cover and refrigerate

for the wonton:

8 wonton wrappers cut diagonally for 16 pieces

1 radish julienned

Bibb lettuce julienned

Heat small pan with 1/2 inch canola oil.

Drop wonton pieces in a few at a time, and remove quickly as soon as they crisp.

Drain on paper towel.

On each wonton, place 1/2 tsp layer of avocado, top with ceviche, lettuce and radish pieces.