

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB



June 2026

CHUMLINE NEWS



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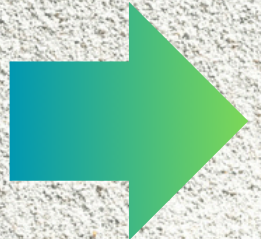
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**Welcome to our “new”
online “magazine style” newsletter**

How to view each page:

“Click” on the right side to go to the next page.



“Click” on the left side to go back. Easy peasy! Enjoy!

***PDF readers, scroll down.**



JUNE 2025

For the June 3 meeting at the Black Bear diner, we are fortunate to have **Merit McCrea**, Staff Writer for Western Outdoor News as our guest speaker. He lives locally, and has a boatload of knowledge fishing local waters and he does a great presentation.

Thanks to those of you who have returned the tickets and checks for the kid's trip raffle, to be drawn at the **club BBQ on Sunday, July 19th.**

We have some amazing prizes, including a **\$500 voucher for fishing the Royal Star** out of San Diego. We also have certificates from local tackle shops, gift cards and lots of other stuff.



Art Hernandez, VCSC president

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

meeting location



take note:

Meeting Venue

“BLACK BEAR DINER”

2401 E Harbor Blvd

Ventura, CA 93001

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

club meeting



MERIT MCCRAE

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 3, 2026

As part of our agreement with Black Bear, all attendees are expected to order at least one food item and one beverage from their reasonably priced menu.

Location:

BLACK BEAR DINER

**2401 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura, CA 93001**

5:30-6:30 – Dinner & Social Time

6:30 – Meeting Starts which includes:

Club Business / Drawing & Speaker's presentation

2026 Meeting SPEAKERS

LINK: [CALENDAR ONLINE](#)

June 3 - Merit McCrae

July 19 - Annual Club Picnic

& FUNdraiser with **Brian**

Nguyen casting with the club!!

August 5 - Phil Friedman

Sept 2 - to be determined

More info on our website:

www.vcsc.info

CHARTER DATES FOR 2026

- Visit our “charters page” > [click here](#)
- All charter info is subject to change.



CHARTER DATES FOR 2026 > [more info](#)

- #4 June 18–19 (12/\$380)
- Kids Trip (Tentative) July 8
- #5 July 16–17 (12/\$380)
- #6 August 1–2 (15/\$350)
- #7 September 9–11 (15/\$500) *
- #8 October 28–30 (15/\$500) *
- #9 November 6–7 (15/\$350)

2026 CHARTER SIGNUPS

CONTACT RICK LANE:

VENTURACOUNTYSPORTFISHINGCLUB@GMAIL.COM



All dates are subject to change” due to weather and captain’s updates

*These trips are 1.5 days.

More info on our website: www.vcsc.info

ALL ABOUT Merit McCrea is a veteran Southern California captain, commercial fisherman, and fisheries expert with deep roots in the region's sportfishing industry. His career blends hands-on experience on the water with decades of involvement in fisheries policy, science, and public communication.

He is widely recognized for:

- Running half-day, three-quarter-day, and island trips out of Santa Barbara and San Diego beginning in the late 1970s.
- Serving more than 15 years on the NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, representing recreational anglers.
- Writing long-running columns and technical pieces for Western Outdoor News, where he provides analysis on fisheries, regulations, and offshore conditions.

Career Timeline & Background

Early Career

- Began fishing professionally as a teenager; earned his 100-ton captain's license at age 19.
- Decked on San Diego boats such as the Sundown and worked alongside well-known captains including Taka Tanaka.
- Fished commercially from San Diego to Morro Bay, including seabass gillnetting and offshore work.

Sportfishing Captain

- Returned to Santa Barbara to run ½-day, ¾-day, and island trips, quickly moving into the wheelhouse.
- Ran iconic vessels including the Condor and Seahawk during the early 1980s, eventually purchasing the Seahawk in 1984.

Fisheries Science & Policy

- Served as the Recreational Fishing Seat (and Alternate) on the NOAA CINMS Advisory Council for over 15 years, where he advocated for balanced access and conservation.
- Engaged in discussions with PFMC and OPC on recreational fishing access and management approaches.

Writer & Communicator

- Longtime columnist for Western Outdoor News, contributing technical insights, historical pieces, and fisheries analysis.
- Known for blending scientific understanding with on-the-water experience, making him a respected voice among SoCal anglers.

Reputation & Impact

Merit McCrea is regarded as:

- A bridge between anglers and fisheries managers, respected for his calm, evidence-based approach.
- A historian of SoCal sportfishing, documenting the evolution of boats, technology, and fisheries.
- A mentor and educator, helping anglers understand complex regulatory and ecological issues.

His decades of service and communication have made him one of the most trusted names in Southern California's recreational fishing community.

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

club notices

Annual dues
are now due.

You can make the \$60 payment at
the upcoming meeting ~ or make
payment via Zelle or mail
a check to: VCSC, P.O. Box 302
Moorpark, CA 93020

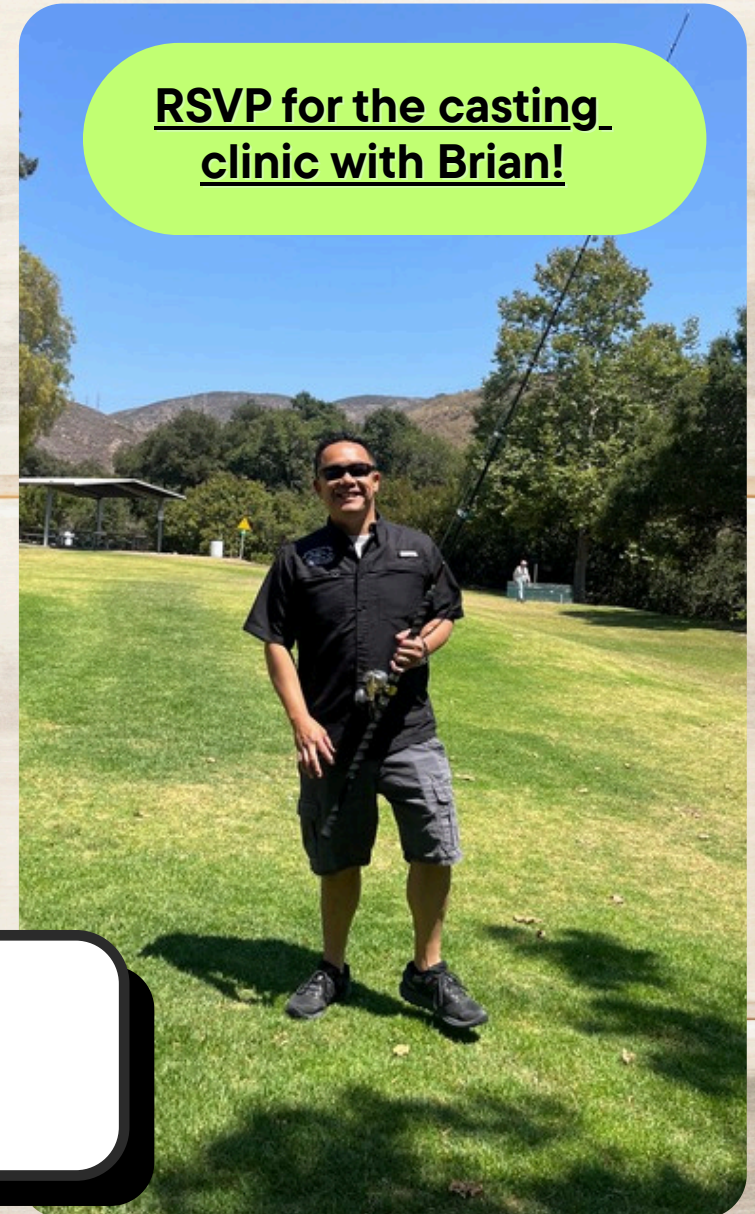
JULY POTLUCK PICNIC & CASTING

As always fun in the park.
Great food. Great fun.
Casting session with
Brian Nguyen!

RAFFLE & PRIZES!!!
Sunday, July 19, 2026
1:00-5:00PM
Camarillo Grove Park

RSVP for the picnic > [click here](#)
RSVP for the casting > [click here](#)
Raffle tix & prizes > [click here](#)

**RSVP for the casting
clinic with Brian!**



AS USUAL, WE HAVE INCREDIBLE FISHING PRIZES OVER \$2,000 IN TOTAL WORTH THAT GOES TOWARDS FUNDING THE “KID’S FISHING TRIP” FOR UNDERPRIVELED CHILDREN!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE OR BUY TICKETS \(\\$5.00 EACH!\)](#)



- Rod and reel combo, Penn 5010TF 6-ft rod coupled with Shimano Tyros 30-II 2-speed reel, \$750.00 value.
- \$500 voucher for fishing on the [Royal Star](#) out of San Diego
- \$250 gift certificate from [Hyun’s Tackle](#) in Ventura
- TWO VOUCHERS for 3/4-day trip(s) on the [CALIFORNIAN](#) (Ventura Landing). Each \$130 (Total Value: \$260) > * Fuel surcharge might apply.
- TWO VOUCHERS for 1/2-day trip(s) on the [ISLAND SPIRIT](#) (Ventura Landing). Each \$110 (Total Value: \$220) > * Fuel surcharge might apply.
- A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE from [Bob Sands Tackle](#) in Van Nuys.
- AND MUCH MORE!!!



REQUEST TO CLUB MEMBERS: TEN RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERS MID APRIL. THE TICKETS ARE WORTH \$5 EACH. TRY TO SELL OR KEEP THEM FOR YOURSELVES – SEPARATE THE TICKETS, WRITE THEIR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER ON THE BACK AS INSTRUCTED. REMEMBER TO KEEP THE “STUB” AND MAIL THEM BACK TO PO BOX 302, MOORPARK, 93020 – WITH A \$50 CHECK, OR THEY CAN BRING THEM TO THE NEXT CLUB MEETING. **TICKETS MONIES MUST BE MAILED, SUBMITTED OR DROPPED OFF TO BE CONSIDERED “VALID”.** IF YOU WANT MORE TICKETS CALL OR TEXT ART HERNANDEZ AT 805-338-4653.

Kid's Trip - Raffle Ticket Sales



Dear Club Members,



Ten raffle tickets will be mailed to all club members in mid-April. Each ticket is valued at \$5. You're encouraged to sell them—or keep them for yourself if you prefer.

Please separate the tickets and write the buyer's name and phone number clearly in ink on the back. Be sure to give the "Keep" the coupon stub to the buyer.

Return all completed ticket stubs by **JULY 13th** along with a \$50 check to:
VCSC, P.O. Box 302, Moorpark, CA 93020

You may also bring your stubs and payment to the next club meeting. Tickets and funds must be submitted, mailed, or dropped off to be considered valid.

If you'd like additional tickets, or have questions please call or text Art Hernandez at 805-338-4653.

*Thank
you*





MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are where we share the technical aspects of sportfishing with speakers who educate and inspire us!

We talk about upcoming charters, gear, line, bait, lures – and have a great social time together with like-minded people!



CLUB CHARTERS

Members have access to book “club charters” with limited loads with our own club Chartermaster overseeing the organizational process of each charter especially for first timers!

[CHARTERS, LEARN MORE](#)



PEOPLE PERSONS

Being on charters with super NICE and HELPFUL people! Have a question while on a charter? Ask any club member for help!

Being on charter with people with good temperaments and manners can “make or break” a fishing trip



BOTTOM LINE We are fishing fanatics!!

WE share our love and passion for sportfishing – you will KNOW that when you see us in action on the deck, lines in the water, fish on, fish on the deck!

[MORE INFO](#)

JOIN THE CLUB, BOOK A CHARTER – AND GET HOOKED FOR LIFE! > [CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE OR TO JOIN!



White Seabass Grow-Out Pens

FRANK SULLIVAN

WHITE SEABASS GROW-OUT PENS

Angler's Club Report | FRANK SULLIVAN

CCA Poker Tournament Results : We had a great turnout for the 3rd Annual CCA Tournament hosted by the CIYC Anglers' Club. The Final Table was almost all CIYC members with Bill Magee winning 1st, Linda Weisfuss 2nd Eric (Warrior)Lindenlaub in 3rd and Phil Woolf 4th. The fundraiser grossed \$17,190; net \$10,625, cleared \$9K after memberships were paid for.

Channel Islands WSB Grow out facility update:

Just in the nick of time, we got most of the reconstruction complete on the Pens. With only a few details to complete. By May 14th all of the 13,000 Juvenile White Seabass had been delivered to our newly renovated Growout Facility in the Channel Islands Harbor. We were able to give tours of the facility at the Safe Boating Day Event on Saturday May 16th we had a large number of interested kids and parent come through and they were informed about the facility history and purpose.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with both the reconstruction and delivery.

A special shoutout to AAA Marine in Ventura the owner is Erith Catlett <http://aaamarine.com>, he donated the labor (3 workers for the better part of a day) and materials to modify our aluminum I-Beams.

We had volunteers working on the pens from; CCA-Channel Islands, Channel Islands Yacht Club-Anglers and Ventura County Sportfishing Clubas well as many nonaffiliated folks.

FRANK SULLIVAN | 805-205-4073
GROW-OUT PEN VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR,
CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR



Thank
You



HSWRI-OREHP releases 3 millionth white seabass

BY MERIT MCRAE

SAN CLEMENTE – Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute posted April 2nd “Today, we’re proud to celebrate the release of our 3 millionth tagged white seabass, a powerful moment in decades of dedication to rebuilding this iconic species.

Through innovative aquaculture and fisheries enhancement, HSWRI scientists have raised and released juvenile white seabass to support wild populations and strengthen the future of sustainable fisheries.

Each fish carries a tiny coded-wire tag, helping researchers track survival, movement, and the long-term impact of this work in the wild. This milestone is a testament to the science, collaboration, and commitment driving healthier marine ecosystems for generations to come.”

This is just one of many outstanding achievements of the efforts your Ocean Enhancement Stamp funds. | [READ MORE](#)



YOUNG SEABASS IN THE CHUTE on their way to freedom in the wild. These hatchery raised stockers were part of the batch that included the CDFW Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program’s 3 millionth fish successfully spawned at Hubbs Sea World Research Institute’s hatchery facility in Carlsbad and reared to release. PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE SHANE AT HSWRI



MULTI-BOAT JACKPOT FOR THE BIGGEST FISH



SHOOTOUT
VENTURA HARBOR SPORTFISHING

JULY 9TH, 2026

		
PACIFIC EAGLE 19 SPOTS \$200	CALIFORNIAN 35 SPOTS \$140	ISLAND SPIRIT 30 SPOTS \$160

RAFFLE & SUPPLY PACK FOR ALL ANGLERS

OFFICIAL **BIG HAMMER** CHARTER!

PAYING OUT OVER \$800*
*PENDING SELL-OUT











WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS

EST. 1953

Channel Islands Shootout Ventura Harbor Sportfishing

JULY 9, 2026

Channel Islands Shootout 2026 SPONSORED BY BIG HAMMER LURES
Come join WON in a 3-boat jackpot for the heaviest fish!
Price includes the \$10 Grand Jackpot entry.

3 boat jackpot paying out over \$800(pending sell out)
and other prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

We will be doing raffles for other prizes!

Every angler will receive a raffle ticket when they check in.

All 3 boat are going for sure!

- Island Spirit (30 anglers - limited load from previous years!)
- Pacific Eagle (19 Anglers)
- Californian (35 anglers - limited load from previous years!)

- Okuma's latest rods & reels available to demo for anglers on board!

Giveaways & Jackpot Prizes! Upon arrival, each angler will receive a Western Outdoor News supply bag packed with Gamakatsu hooks, Izorline, Costa Gear, a free Cancun vacation voucher and more!

Book online or call WON's Landon Thomas for bookings or questions at (949)366-0726

courtesy posts

Richard Campos has reserved two boats for fishing with Kingfisher Charters in Sitka Alaska August 2027

[download the flyer](#)



RINGFISHER CHARTERS

INFORMATION ON VCSC ALASKAN CHARTER

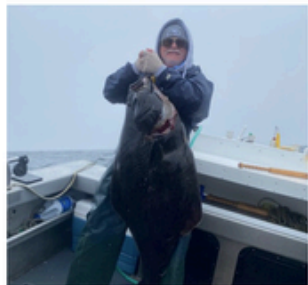
WHEN/WHERE:

- Holding space for a group of 8.
- Arriving Saturday, June 26, 2027.
- Fishing June 27, 28, and 29.
- Departing Wednesday, June 30, 2027.
- 3 days/ 4 nights



HIGHLIGHTS:

- All inclusive Lodge Package.
- Full day guided charters on contracted boats (modern, fast 28 - 34' cruisers, heated and fully equipped).
- First class lodging accommodations each night.
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and soft drinks each day.
- Fish cleaning, vacuum packing, freezing, and boxing.
- All fishing gear, tackle, bait, rain gear, and rubber boots provided.
- Airport pickups and transportation in Sitka provided.



ESTIMATED COST:

\$3,595

PER PERSON + SITKA SALES AND ROOM TAX

*AIR FARE NOT INCLUDED

MORE INFO MID SUMMER OF 2026

SIGN UP NOW!
2027 SEASON



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos



Our members FISH and we like to share their adventures here in our monthly newsletters!

**Email your images, with names and info on your trip to:
vcsc.webmaster@gmail.com**



WINNER

Carolyn won the the
jackpot with this nice
lingcod. Her first
salt water fish ever!



Liza Montefalcon
and Anne Lahue

CLUB CHARTER DAY TRIP:
ISLAND SPIRIT - MAY 28

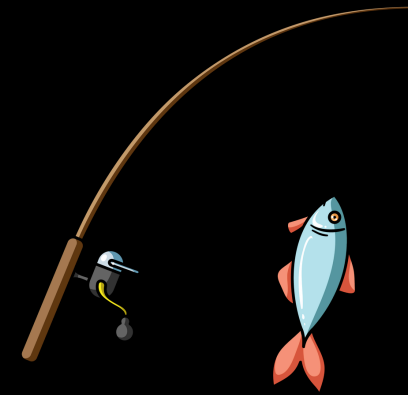


Art Hernandez



Ralph Wilson
and
Donald
Goldsobel

**CLUB CHARTER:
ISLAND SPIRIT, DAY TRIP
MAY 28**



John White
and
Michael StaffordCrane

ISLAND SPIRIT, DAY TRIP | MAY 28

LIKE

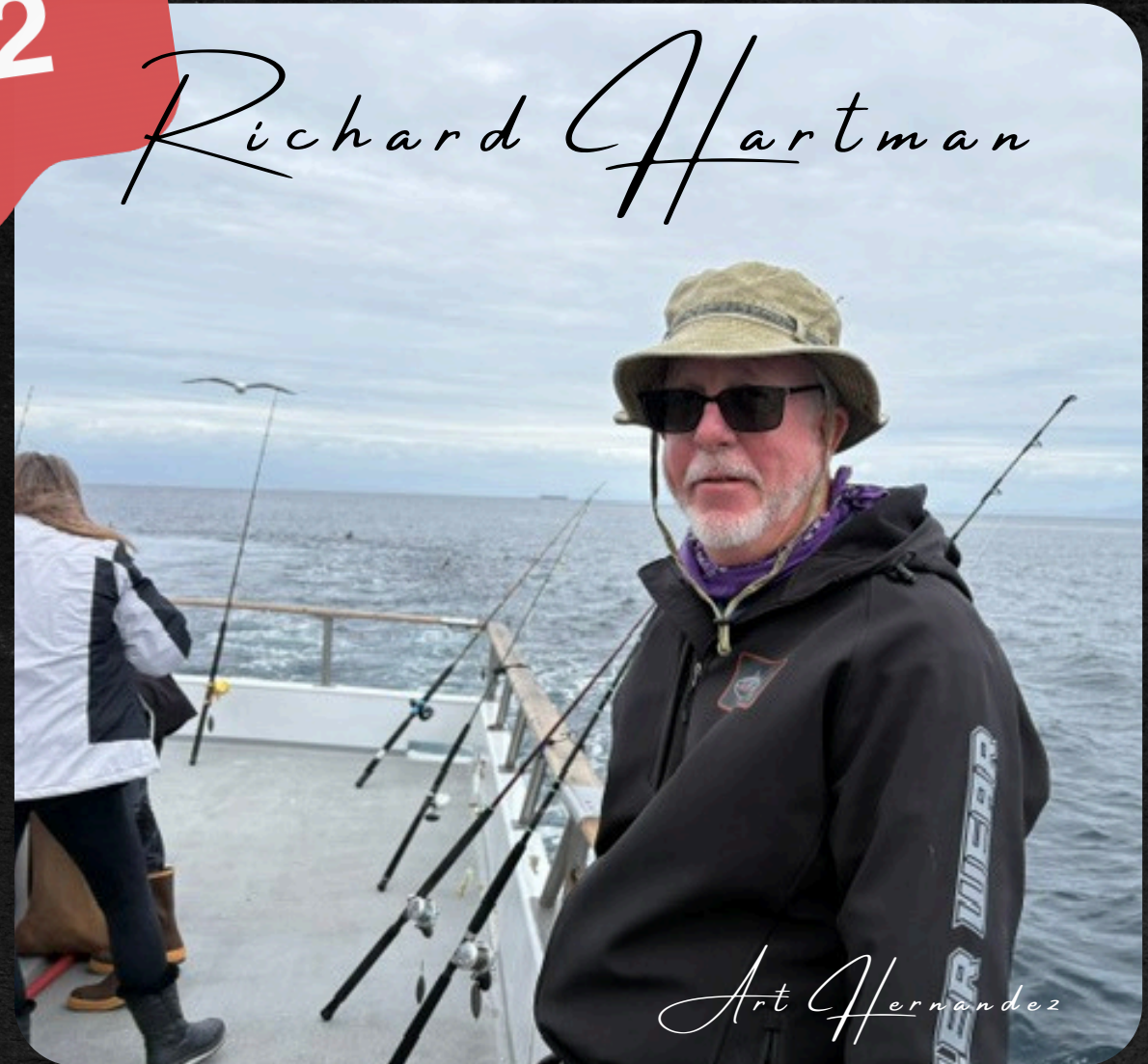
I FINISHED MY 1ST CUSTOM ROD BUILD. IT WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS, BUT I THINK I ENDED UP OKAY!

**ROD ENDED UP BEING: RAINSHADOW JUDGE 8 FT 10 INCH. ML 20-40 LB, 2-6 OZ.
WE ADDED AN EXTENSION. IT'S ABOUT 10 FT 2 INCHES.**

BIG THANKS TO MY FRIEND AT @GRAPHICS SLAYER SPORTFISHING FOR ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE AND STEP BY STEP HELP IN THIS, AS WELL AS ERIC'S TACKLE FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON PROPER GUIDE SIZES! IMPRESSED HOW THIN THIS BLANK IS. ~ KAI LU



Kai Lu



Peyton & Lori Glover



Peter Fern



BOB'S GETTING BUSY!!



A couple great days at Los Barilles. Last week I fished down at Los Barriles for tuna and roosters. Found some willing biters. ~ Bob Semerau / Western Outdoor News



PJ is sooooo proud!

Hey, we heard that little guy was a real fighter! Released to grow and come back to fight another day!



Good afternoon/night
from the Amalfi coast!

We are here celebrating our
40th anniversary and I was
able to sneak in a half day
of deep water squid fishing
and coastal touring with a
great family run operation
of Antonio and Melania
Sportfishing in Maiori, Italy.

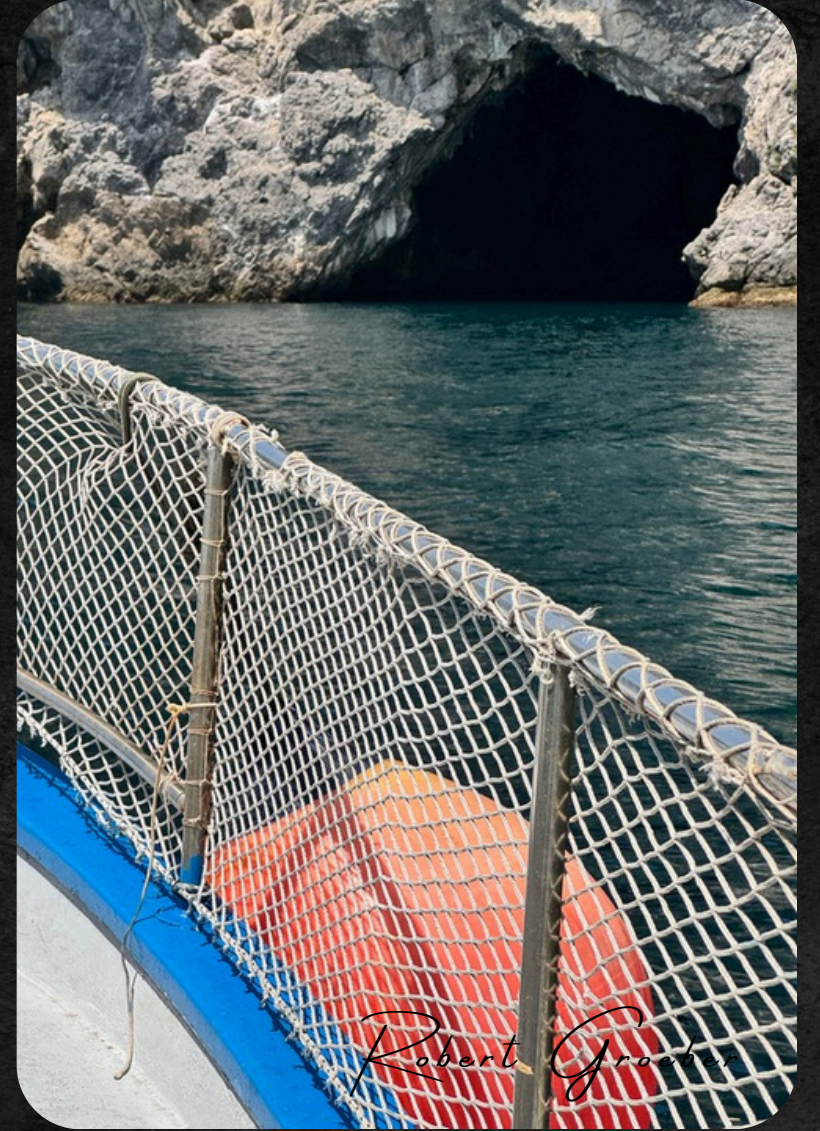
Robert Groeber



Robert Groeber



Robert Groeber





Here is a shot from my recent trip on the Constitution

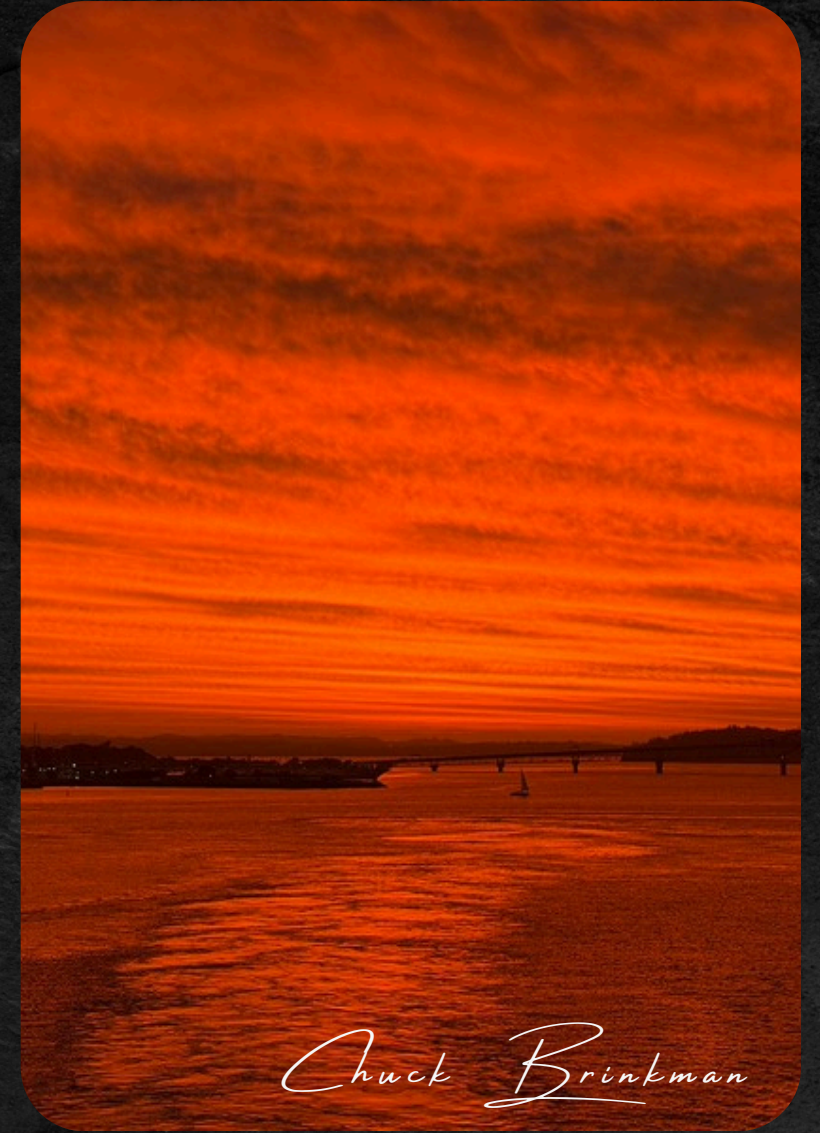


Mike Pruner



Chuck Brinkman

Linda Karabin - under the rainbow in New Zealand.
and sunset at Auckland Harbor, New Zealand.



Chuck Brinkman

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB



May 2026 meeting - speaker Dan Hernandez



Robert Groeber



Robert Groeber

MAY MEETING PHOTOS



Robert Groeber



Robert Groeber

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

IT HAPPENS! DEFINITE "CATCH & RELEASE"



He got the fish and I got the
hook and tackle,
so it worked out for both of us
~ Michael StaffordCrane

** This guy was caught and released unharmed. Lesson learned?
Probably not! Onlookers, fellow pelicans, shaking their heads!





The trip yesterday
was a lot of fun the Island Tak.
Richard Hartman was there also.

It was limits style whitefish fishing.

I was terrible in the beginning,
shaking off the rust and finished stronger.

Club Director ~ Kai Lu



VENTURA COUNTY
SPORTFISHING CLUB

MY LATEST TRIP ON
THE OUTER LIMITS ON
MAY 7-9, 2026

Richard Osuna



Brian Nguyen “the cigar afishinado” & the “medicare guy”

ARTICLE LINK > [CLICK HERE](#)



CALICO BASS FISHING IS STILL MY FAVORITE.

Call it a chance to reflect, call it gratitude and appreciation, but what I've learned fishing for Calico Bass on sportboats in SoCal continues to carry over into every aspect of my fishing. Those lessons?

Casting Proficiency:

- The opportunity to not only learn but be effective casting a wide variety of baits, weights, sizes, and lures with plethora of rods, reels, and line configurations.

Casting accuracy:

- Identifying where and being able to deliver a bait/lure it into the zone.

Attention to details:

- Knowing what they're feeding on and how to adapt and "match the hatch".

Current and Conditions:

- Understanding the effect of current and how to adjust.
- Understanding the effect of water temps and how to adjust.
- Understanding the effect of water clarity and how to adjust.

In-game Adjustments to Presentation:

- Knowing when to finesse fish.
- Knowing when to power fish.

Patience:

- Playing a bass out of the weeds or structure.
- Fishing the swing of the anchor.
- Dropping back down when you miss a bite.
- Dropping in on a follower.
- Winding through a bite

The Feel:

- Your bait on structure.
- Your bait coming through kelp.
- The bite (subtle or not subtle).
- The difference between a perch nibble and bass bite.

With the legal size up'd, and the limits at 5, you probably won't be able to feed an army. In terms of QUALITY, they're delicious. But in terms of the education they've provided me, a lifetime of wonderful experiences from local, to offshore, to long range, to bluefin.

ALL THANKS TO THE BASS.

Follow Brian on Instagram > [click here](#)



Did you know that we send out "promo posters" every month for club meetings to our local "loyal" tackle shops?

Please support all our tackle shops. Where would we be without them!





RICHARD
CAMPOS
ALASKA
ADVENTURES



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!



ERIC'S TACKLE
2127 E THOMPSON BLVD,
VENTURA, CA 93001
805 648 5665

<https://www.wegetbit.com/>

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!



We are here to help

HYUN'S TACKLE
3695 HARBOR BLVD, STE 102
VENTURA, CA 93001
+1 805 639 4131
www.fisherman-hyun.com

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!

BOB SANDS TACKLE

6743 SEPULVEDA BLVD

VAN NUYS, CA, 91411

(818) 994-1822

www.bobsandstackle.com



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!



TURNER'S

C/O MIKE ARMENTA

2051 N ROSE AVE

OXNARD, CA 93036

805-988-2049

[WEBSITE](#)

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!



ANGLER'S DEN

**1810 VENTURA BLVD
CAMARILLO, CA 93010**

805 388 1566

FACEBOOK PAGE

www.vcsc.info

LINKS TO GREAT STUFF



[venturaharborsportfishing](#)



[endeavorsportfishing](#)



[royal_starsportfishing](#)



[brian & bob sands \(aran\)_podcast](#)
“Smokin’ Drags Session”



[bobsands_tackle](#)



[ericstackleshop](#)



[islandspirit_805](#)



[californiasurffishing](#)



[hyun’s tackle,ventura](#)



[Angler’s Den, Camarillo](#)



[Mission Fish USA](#)



Brian Nguyen
President

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Lic OK66784

The MEDICARE Open Enrollment Period is upon us! All the mail you've been receiving, and the calls you've been receiving....it's signature hunters - and I'm not! So what do I do?

First: No charge for conversation... No charge for consultation... Never any obligation...

Let Brian Nguyen, help you either find or create LONG-TERM MEDICARE SOLUTIONS for you, your Medicare eligible friends, families, or loved ones who have been blessed with 65 years or more on this Earth.

I standby ready, willing, eager, and able to assist! Thanks for your time and have a great weekend!
Ask me about MEDICARE! Visit mhlis.com for more information! -

VCSC - 2026 board members

FOUNDING MEMBER

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PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP

ART HERNANDEZ

PAST PRESIDENTS

CHUCK BRINKMAN

NORM RODEWALD

VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN WHITE

SECRETARY

ROBERT GROEBER

TREASURER / CHARTER MSTR

RICK LANE



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