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Collins Lake Map Feature



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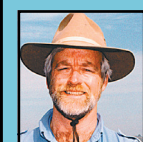
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STAFF TACKLE

What We're Using



Ernie Marlan managed to catch a few schoolie sized striped bass on the California Delta. He used a Lew's 5XD 7'6" rod teamed up with a Lew's Tournament Pro Speed Spool LFS Baitcast reel. He used a variety of baits including topwater, swimbaits, and glide baits.



Paul Kneeland - fished Lake Camanche with Gary Caruso and Brian Garcia in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught rainbow trout to 17 inches using a Lamiglas 7 1/2 foot ultralight graphite rod with a Daiwa Lexa low profile line counter reel loaded with 6 lb test P-Line fluorocarbon line.. They trolled Speedy Shiner and Big Jakes spoons in red/silver off the Big Jon Sideplaners and Canon Downriggers on the surface and 10 feet deep at 2.5 mph.



Dan Bacher - fished for rainbow trout at Collins Lake. He used a Berkley Ugly Stik GX2 6' 6" medium action spinning rod, teamed up with a Shakespeare GX235 spinning reel filled with 6 lb. test P-Line CX Premium Fluorocarbon Coated Line. He fished with rainbow glitter Berkley PowerBait and nightcrawlers on sliding sinker rigs with Size #4 and #6 Gamakatsu baitholder hooks.

Suisun Bay Adventure Yields Big Stripers and Diamondbacks

Each winter, Foundation Sportsman's Club in Bay Point hosts the 'Original Sturgeon Derby' during Super Bowl weekend. Like clockwork, I do my annual mulling over the options of either: A.) Tougling it out on the water all weekend or: B.) Sleeping in and eating heavily salted snacks on the couch. This year, the decision was made easy, as fellow Fish Sniffer Roland Aspiras agreed to join me for the derby.

Roland has a lot more experience fishing Suisun Bay than I do. Since this is where most of the action usually takes place, I've always struggled to have a solid weekend. With Roland's knowledge onboard, I figured that we could at least make a decent showing. Joining us for the derby was Jason Carlisle of Elk Grove.

With the crew set, I started making preparations on the boat like off with the downriggers, and on with my



WHAT'S
HOT
by
Jack Naves



The author hoists a 46 inch, 30 pound sturgeon on the brackish waters of Suisun Bay. This fish sucked up strips of lamprey and pile worms pinned to an 8/0 Gamakatsu octopus circle hook. The fresh fillets were portioned out and quickly claimed by friends and family.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Naves

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Delta Fishing Icon and Conservationist Barry Canevaro Passes Away

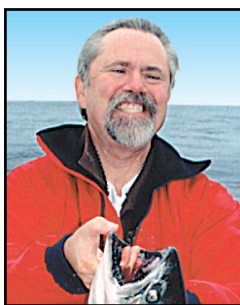
RIO VISTA - Barry John Canevaro, a longtime Delta striped bass, sturgeon and salmon charter boat captain and fishery conservationist, passed away at 79 on December 31, 2021 of heart failure.

Barry, the owner of Fish Hookers Sportfishing, was known for his acerbic, deadpan wit, his fishing expertise and the hundreds of hours of volunteer time he spent helping United Anglers of California (UAC) and the California Striped Bass Association (CSBA) fight for the preservation of striped bass, sturgeon, salmon and other fish species for over four decades.

His favorite fish to target was striped bass on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, but he also was an expert on fishing for sturgeon in Suisun Bay and the Delta, trolling for king salmon outside of the Golden Gate and fishing for albacore in the ocean off Fort Bragg.

"He was a passionate fisherman,"

said his wife, Diana, who after getting her captain's license, fished in a second boat that the couple bought. "He made his avocation his vocation in the end. It was not a huge money maker, but it was what he loved to do."



GONE
FISHING
by
Dan Bacher

I fished with Barry many times since my first trip with him for striped bass on December 24, 1986 on the San Joaquin River. Fellow outdoor writer Bud Neville and I bait fished with threadfin shad to catch our limits of quality stripers.

Since that first trip, I fished with Canevaro on San Francisco Bay for leopard sharks and for stripers and sturgeon on the Delta many times. I caught limits of stripers on most of my trips with him and landed my first double limit of striped bass and sturgeon on Canevaro's boat in 1997.

Canevaro and I also went to numerous board and fundraising meetings for United Anglers and helped to organize fundraisers for the



Barry Canevaro, shown here with his granddaughter, Ashlee Weller, and his wife, Diana, was a legendary Delta charter boat captain and conservationist.

Photo courtesy of Diana Canevaro

group. On one day while driving to the UAC board meeting in Berkeley, I accidentally spilled much of the

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huge landing net. The day before our trip, I was able to secure some live ghost shrimp, pile worms, and frozen lamprey at GHOST Bait & Tackle in Sacramento. With our provisions set, it was one of those nights where you keep waking up and checking the time before the alarm finally goes off.

There wasn't too much patchy fog during my trek through darkness down to the Sherman Island launching facility. Once Roland and Jason's gear was loaded, we launched and headed west out onto the Sacramento River. As twilight lit our path, we started marking sturgeon just above Pittsburg in 35 feet of water.

The plan was to fish the end of the outgoing tide, and then run west to Suisun Bay to prospect for actively feeding sturgeon on the incoming tide. While we found plenty of sturgeon, actively feeding they were not. A stop near Port Chicago yielded one undersized sturgeon and some keeper striped bass. We didn't see anything landed amongst the dozens of boats that were anchored within view. As the afternoon dragged on, we ran Jason back to the dock. Roland and I would be slugging out the evening-shift on the water as a two-man crew.

Roland guided me to a spot in central Suisun Bay near the convergence of 'Big Cut', 'Little Cut', and 'The Creek'. Unfortunately, there were dozens of boats already anchored around his spot. We slowly zigzagged downstream looking for fish on the sonar. We were in about twenty feet of water when I noticed three marks right on the bottom. "Here we go!" I related to Roland, and doubled back to see more of the same. I quickly threw the motor into reverse and deployed the anchor.

We had an amazing view of the western-half of the bay as the sun dipped towards the horizon. The vista was briefly interrupted by some nice bites that yielded another undersized sturgeon on ghost shrimp. Lights twinkled in the cities of Benicia and Martinez long before total darkness blanketed the bay. We enjoyed the view with grilled tri-tip on my gas-powered Weber. By the time we were finished scarfing down meat and Hawaiian rolls, it was time to set up the lights.

It was totally dark now, and the outgoing tide continued to drain the bay. Another undersized sturgeon was landed on the ghost shrimp rod, and we knew that it was just a matter of time before the big ones would start to show up. After landing a few more stripers and yet another undersized sturgeon, we layered up for the cool winter's night.

It was around 11:00 PM when Roland hooked a nice sturgeon on cured salmon roe. The fish ran straight at the boat and came off after a few seconds. Only a few minutes later, I noticed some action on my ghost shrimp rod. The light mounted to my transom illuminated my two rod tips, and the rod on the left side



This massive 20 pound striped bass fooled the author into thinking that a derby-winning sturgeon was on the end of his line. While Suisun Bay is known as a solid sturgeon fishery during winter months, there are a lot of stripers hanging around as well. This fish was hooked in the corner of the mouth using an 8/0 Gamakatsu octopus circle hook. It was released immediately after the photo.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Neves

had something going on.

PUMP-PUMP. I jumped to the back of the boat and readied my hands on the reel. PUMP-PUMP-PUMP...I was reeling like crazy, and this time I could feel the drag slipping on a nice fish.

The two-day derby is a target-length affair, where the seven closest fish to the target on each day qualify for cash payouts. The target is drawn at the beginning of the derby, and this year it was set at 50 inches. While I've been close before, I've never come within an inch of the target, which is usually needed in order to place in the derby. By the tug on my rod, I knew that the fish on my line was at least a keeper, and possibly close to the target!

Suddenly, a loud SPLASH shot out the darkness. Somewhere on the starboard side of the boat, the fish had gone airborne! It got our adrenaline flowing enough to fend off the late evening sleepiness that had been creeping in. Next, the fish dove under the boat and wrapped my line around the trolling plate. As it ripped line and jumped again, Roland trimmed the motor up I was able to clear the line. The fish then went straight down only to rocket to the surface and jump directly into my rod tip!

My headlamp dimly illuminated the view of my pyramid sinker and empty hook whirling in a circle above the whitewater. The fish was gone, and so were our hopes of weighing in a fish on the first day of the derby.

Midnight arrived quickly, and it wasn't long before sturgeon made their presence felt. At about 1:45 AM, my rod baited with two strips



This image illustrates the effectiveness of the often overlooked use of circle hooks for sturgeon. An 8/0 Gamakatsu octopus circle hook snelled to an 80 lb test P-Line original mono leader can yield you keeper sturgeon like this. Just be sure to slowly reel when the fish takes the bait, instead of using a jerk-type hook set.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Neves

of lamprey and a pile worm loaded up on a nice fish. I was using circle hooks at that point, and the fish was solidly pinned at the end of my line. Once again, chaos ensued as both Roland and I were weary from the late evening. We stumbled into position at the back of the boat, and this time we were finally able to land a keeper-sized sturgeon.

While the fish was not a derby-quality prize winner, I decided to use one of my sturgeon tags and tap out for the night. I tag and harvest a sturgeon about once every three years, and the prospect of sleep made this decision much easier. However,

the plan The plan to sleep didn't exactly work out, as I was called to net duty when Roland landed yet another sturgeon that ended up being barely undersized!

Once the sun appeared, the sturgeon disappeared. Sturgeon took the day-shift off, while only striped bass kept the rods busy. Despite the lack of derby success, we were more than satisfied with a full weekend of fun fishing and tranquil weather. When all was said and done, we were able to land six sturgeon and five keeper striped bass while losing two nice sturgeon. The memories already have me looking forward to next year.