



Luck of the Deuce

Kathie Morgan

Fishermen have their superstitions. No whistling aboard the boat, for example. No women. You never change the name of a boat, and you never ever start a trip on Friday.

In those careless days of living with my feet set in constant motion by the sea that rolled beneath me, who knew on what day a trip began? You offloaded the catch, restocked the galley and the bait tank, then took to sea again.

Mike Reed was captain of the Fisherman II, affectionately nicknamed Deuce, a charter boat based in Long Beach. But more money might be made chasing albacore, so owner Eddie McEwen swapped her stern rail for a rack and sent her up to Morro Bay. This closed my business as galley operator, so I drove up to Morro Bay looking for work. And found it right away – aboard the Fisherman II.

Gary Lamont skippered her then, and she carried two deckhands, never the same two twice. I cooked and chummed. To chum you dipped a net into the bait tank on the rim of which you stood, bringing up live anchovies and flipping them by ones and twos into the water off the port corner.

The men stood in the rack with what are called lift poles, or bait poles, and would swing single hooks at the end of six-foot lines into the water. These barbless hooks were baited with either an anchovy or a white feather lure.

When we got into a school, the men in the rack – which was right at sea level – would swirl their lines in the sea and when the tuna bit would swing the fish up onto the deck. Of course it came right off and back they went for more. A canopy overhead offered protection from hooks that sailed wildly past my face.

A good chummer could keep the school around, in theory, or so said the guys in the rack. Fact was, the schools we found were not that big, and we often broke out sport fishing gear and caught our fish like a charter boat would, with rods and reels.

The daytime skies were dark with high overcast. When night came, I'd serve dinner, then Gary would put out the sea anchor and we'd all sack out except for whoever had watch. I was not in the watch rotation so I didn't pay much attention. Gary's bunk was in the wheelhouse just behind the wheel. We three others shared the passenger bunkroom, I choosing the aftermost bunk just ahead of the hatch where the air was fresher.

One night I woke up needing to use the head. Now the head was on the starboard side while the bunkroom hatch was on the port. I could clearly distinguish two different snores trumpeting from the forward bunks. Good. I needed not to dress. Furtively I snuck up the ladder and stepped into unexpected brilliance. Fog enveloped the Deuce, illuminated by the bright lights aboard a vessel just several hundred feet away.

No exhibitionist, I jumped back down until I could clearly see that no one was out on deck there. Then I hurried to the head..

How did they manage to close the distance between us in such a short time, I

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wondered as I scurried back. I dived down the hatch and into my bunk, pulling up the blanket just in time to hear the crash of two boats meeting in the dead of night at sea.

Then I did have to dress.

Bad luck! Although the Deuce escaped severe damage, suffering little more than a shattered windshield and a broken pole, we had to cut short the trip and head back to Morro Bay for repairs. That's how we missed the storm that blew up the next night and took the lives of two crewmen out where we had been. Was our luck bad, then, or good?

April Orcutt named TravMedia Travel Journalist of the Year at ONE Travel Conference's SASI-ONE 2016 Awards

<http://travmedia.com/Pressrelease/ViewPressrelease/100029249>

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. – U.S. freelance journalist April Orcutt has been named the 2016 TravMedia Travel Journalist of the Year at the SASI-ONE Awards Breakfast, Friday, September 7 during the ONE Travel Conference at the LeMeridien Delfina Hotel in Santa Monica, California. Ms. Orcutt was chosen from several thousand media subscribers to TravMedia, an international news distribution and media event company serving the public relations industry worldwide. The award recognizes excellence in travel journalism in partnership with Shop America Alliance and the U.S. Cultural & Heritage Tourism Council.

Ms. Orcutt writes for National Geographic Traveler, TravelandLeisure.com, the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Dallas

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April Orcutt cont.

Morning News and more. Her stories have been published on Yahoo's MSNBC's and the BBC's travel websites and in three AAA magazines, the Saturday Evening Post, Global Business Travel, National Geographic Traveller India, Australia's Vacations and Travel, and many other American and overseas print and online publications.

Ms. Orcutt adds this year's TravMedia Journalist of the Year Award at the ONE Travel Conference to an impressive list of accolades: the Gold award in the Society of American Travel Writers' Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition, best newspaper feature in Visit California's Eureka Travel Writing Awards and best American travel destination article in U.S. Travel Association's IPW Travel Writing Awards. She writes destination pieces, journey articles, round-ups and essays and emphasizes nature, environment, road trips, independent travel, local cultures, women's travel, voluntourism, quirky subjects and humor. Favorite: quests with compelling characters in intriguing places. She is based in Northern California and can be reached at april@aprilorcutt.com and www.aprilorcutt.com.

TravMedia CEO and Founder of TravMedia and TravTrade, Nick Wayland, provided details of the company's choice of Ms Orcutt. "April Orcutt is our idea of a 'complete' journalist. She uses tools like TravMedia plus her vast contacts to gather information and get stories placed. She's generous with her time, encouraging to public relations professionals, and a gift to travel destinations. Whether we see her at IPW, the Australia Tourism Exchange, at the annual Society of American Travel Writers conference, or in her own backyard in the San Francisco Bay Area, she is always working and always smiling."



Morro Bay does it again for OWAC

Meade Fischer

October can be the best time of year on the coast, and Morro Bay is delightful in the fall. The Inn at Morro Bay hosted OWAC for the second time, and the accommodations were outstanding. What's not to love about having breakfast with the morning light shining on Morro Rock right outside the window.

Naturally fishing was a major draw, Morro Bay being a great place for ocean fishing, even though I'd heard that the wind was a bit of a problem. I know it was slightly annoying on the whale watch trip, one person close to getting seasick.

There was also a discovery tour of Highway One, the stretch near Morro Bay being one of the most scenic on the central coast.

A short hike up Black Hill afforded a sweeping view of the bay, rock, town and miles of the coast.

Tuesday evening's Progressive Wine and Food Sampling was perfect way to finish sampling Morro Bay. Starting with MCV 2013 red at 456 Embarcadero Inn and moving to Estero Inn for more MCV 2014 Voignier a clam chowder, and then to LaRoche for Pistolero "Cold Steel" Chardonnay, and one to MB Wine Seller for gourmet cheese and wine pairings. The evening ended with a wonderful meal at Windows on the Water.

For those who are not familiar with the town, besides great fishing, Morro Bay is a surfing area, a great place to kayak and the jumping off point for several outstanding hikes, including in Montana de Oro, Point Buchon and Cerro Alto.

Finally the Suite One Gallery on the Embarcadero is the place to see outstanding photography.

Matching Fund Drive a Success

For the last three months of 2016, one of our members matched donations from our members in an effort to create an endowment fund. It appears to have been a success.

With the help of matching funds from our benefactor, an anonymous long-time member, we have secured nearly \$5,000 to initiate our endowment fund. This fund will remain intact, growing through investment and dividends that will be used to fund programs to further OWAC mission.

The OWAC board thanks all of you who pledged and donated to this fund. In the long run we will all be rewarded many times over.

The Spring conference will be at Bishop.

Bishop offers something for every outdoor lover: The Owens River, lakes, mountains, photo ops and wildlife. Most of us have spent time there and won't miss an opportunity to return. We have a packed schedule this year. Some of the possible activities are going to be:

Drift Boat Fishing with guide on Owens River

Warm water fishing with guide

Trap Shooting/Target Practice at Gun Club

Fly fishing in Pleasant Valley Reservoir/Owens River

Wild Mustang Viewing

Wildlife Photography Outing (Mule Deer, Eagles, Hawks and other birds, reptiles & insects)

Tour of Cerro Gordo Mine/Ghost Town

Horseback ride

Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center and tour local petroglyphs

ATV Adventure

Rock Climbing/Bouldering

Some of the above will be full day, oth

We live to fish, and fish to live.

BY BOB SEMERAU

Western Outdoor News Staff Writer

OXNARD— Few people get the chance to live out their passion for fishing and experience the sport as I have.

For the last 14-years I have had the privilege of working the dream job of a staff writer for Western Outdoor News. As such, the assignments have included such exotic locales

and experiences as pulling on monster 150-pound halibut and huge ling cod while spending a week at Frontier Lodge in Sitka, Alaska.

This past year lodge owner/operator, Mac Huffman, added the uniquely Alaskan experience of a fly-out service, fishing remote

lakes for cut-bow, rainbow and dolly varden, to the long list of action available while experiencing Alaska.

“Fishing remote lakes on our Cessna 185 floatplane will become one of the offerings we will have for our guests next year,” explained Huffman.

Landing on a slip of a lake somewhere in the backcountry, amidst remote and mountainous terrain, is thrilling but catching nearly fifty fresh and wild trout in an afternoon, really makes any angler’s heart skip a beat.

Add to the scene all the excitement of several days spent fishing out of Sitka for chrome-bright king salmon, ling cod that look like something prehistoric, and fat halibut that exceed most angler’s wildest imagination in both size and fight, and this year’s trip to Frontier Charters comes into focus.

As a Field Reporter for the paper working the WON charters is a major responsibility. The opportunity to get to know some of the avid Western Outdoor News readers over the years has been another fantastic part of the job and this past year was full of great trips with some great folks.

A highlight was getting out on Chief after so much work having been done to



FLYOUT FISHING aboard Frontier Lodge’s Cessna 185 floatplane added to the excitement of adventuring to Sitka, Alaska.

the old girl. The 90-foot sportfisher was found to have some serious issues below deck and owner, Joe Greaves, and skipper, Captain Chris Randel, put on the full Monty. The rework took over 100-days, right through the shank of the fishing season.

“We installed all new powder-coated fuel tanks and new bait tanks, along with new deck and deck stringers across the stern,” beamed the skipper during the WON charter. These guys have also brought back “Chef James” to feature some of his specialty meals for anglers on their multi-day schedule.

Covering other stories, like the Operation Anacapa trip, sponsored by Anglers Anonymous, Ventura County, is part of what makes the job so rewarding.

Brian Barber and his group of volunteers worked feverishly to round up the funds and line-up the swag and boats to get 120-military veterans out for a day of fishing with Channel Island Sportfishing.

Just seeing the dedicated soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen

(and women) being able to share the fishing experience with one another, and find some healing in the process, was beyond heartwarming. These people are our line of first defense. Some had given so much, as far back as the Vietnam War in the 1960s, and as recent as just home from deployment to “The Desert” and the wounds needed healing.

“It’s about the fishing” we often hear. Reflecting on the 2016 year, I think it might just be about the people, and the shared experiences on the water.



Bishop, from pg. 2

ers partial day.

The confirmed dates are April 26 and 27. Watch for sign-ups beginning Feb. 1, 2017.

This looks like the conference that will bring our attendance up, which makes for more fun and more networking. You should set the dates aside.

With the weather we're having this year, the mountain passes may well be closed, so make alternative driving plans.



Introducing the Hobie Fold n Stow Kayak Cart

Dec. 22, 2016 by Hobie Worldwide



Hobie's clever engineers have cooked up a new cart: The Fold n Stow. Unlike the standard plug-in kayak carts, this one breaks down in moments into just three lightweight parts – the wheels and the axle. It's just the thing for taking it with you, stashed under a hatch. It saves time and lessens the hassle factor – skip the extra marches back and forth to



your vehicle.

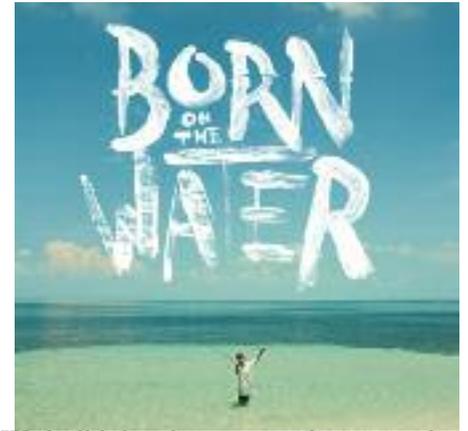
The Fold n Stow Kayak Cart supports up to 175 pounds. It is compatible with all Hobie kayaks except the Mirage Pro Angler 17 and the Mirage Island series.

If you haven't already, click on the video for a closer look. It couldn't possibly be any simpler to use:

Here are a couple more photos of the Fold n Stow cart, assembled and broken down for storage.

It's available now. For more information on the Hobie Fold n Stow Cart or to purchase, click here to find the Hobie dealer closest to you.

Costa Sunglasses



We build the clearest sunglasses on the planet for those who live to be on the water. Born on the water and we're still inspired by it. We want to be on it, we want to protect it, and we want to inspire others to do the same.

In 1983, a group of hardcore fishermen who spent their days exploring the globe and battling extreme elements came to realize that the sunglasses they were relying on weren't as hardcore as their adventures. Seeing the world in absolute clarity and protecting their eyes was a must. So when they couldn't find worthy sunglasses, they decide to build their own. And Costa was born.

After all these years and all these adventures, our mission has never wavered: to create the clearest sunglasses on the planet for life's great adventures. And the patented technology like those found only in Costa lenses and frames are proof that we're succeeding.



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 Northern California • Southern Oregon
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A friend to all who love the outdoors since 2006

OWAC needs you!

Ever considered being on the OWAC board? Patrick Young has resigned from the board, and we are looking for someone to run for his seat.

Help make the decisions that make this a great writers' organization, do some serious networking and get a free night at our conferences. You don't really know an organization until you get involved in planning. If you are interested, contact Tom Martens at

tmartens@tommartens.net

Also, other board seats are coming up, and some of us hope you'll step up and allow us to retire.

Shirley Miller Photo

Contest. We can use help at the conference for the Shirley Miller Photo Contest. Tom, our president, is working on this but could use some help, a few minutes of your time during our stay in Bishoop.

Fall conference

Where will the fall conference be held? You don't know? There's a good reason; we've yet to find a site. Perhaps your town would be ideal. If so contact your visitor bureau and see if there's any interest.

OWAC Facebook page

Post something on our page: a photo, comment or even a like. This is particularly important to our corporate members, as it drives business their way and makes them wish to continue supporting us.

New Ebook

Meade Fischer recently published a new ebook: Stay and Play in Del Norte County.

Go Pro Dec 14, 2016

In September 2015, GoPro launched GoPro for a Cause, a program that gives nonprofits around the world the ability to work with GoPro videographers, editors and producers to create a video to tell their stories. By featuring a different nonprofit on the GoPro for a Cause homepage each month, GoPro brings attention to important campaigns, helps raise crucial funds and activates the GoPro community.

A year later, GoPro has worked with 12 nonprofits, helping to build orphanages, save animals, and empower children and adults to use their passions and voices to better the world.

To celebrate World Rhino Day, GoPro for a Cause worked with The Great Plains Foundation this past September to launch a series of videos about Rhinos Without Borders—a partnership between the Great Plains Foundation and &Beyond. These organizations are working to relocate 100 rhinos from high-poaching areas in South Africa to safer locations in Botswana, where they will be further away from illegal hunters. They have relocated 26 rhinos so far, and with GoPro's help, will progress toward their goal of moving 100 rhinos.

The video created by GoPro and Rhinos Without Borders was a huge hit. It not only received over 1.6 million views and raised critical funds for the cause, but also won the attention of the PURE Awards, earning the "Innovative and Engaging Marking Award." As described by PURE, this award goes to "a clever campaign that uses innovative or unusual methods to encourage personal engagement with a travel product, while staying true to the independent, experiential ethos of the brand." GoPro was honored that the Last of the Rhinos video won this award for 2016.

GoPro for a Cause is excited to continue working with nonprofits to tell their stories and is proud that videos like The Last of the Rhinos have the ability to amplify important campaigns within the GoPro community and around the globe.

Founded in 2009 to create a platform for an emerging movement of mavericks re-imagining the role of high-end, experiential travel to positively impact conservation efforts and transform lives, PURE is a global community of heroes changing worlds by catalyzing adventure, personal connections and conscientious approaches to the environment and local communities. PURE Awards is an annual opportunity to showcase, honor and celebrate how the PURE community is changing the world.



Why PINK? Why not PINK?

Alpen created their PINK Binocular series in 2009 to raise money for breast cancer research. The Alpen family was first touched by breast cancer in 2000



when our 27 year old niece lost her battle with breast cancer and Alpen Pro Staffer, wife and mother of two, Sheri Runge, won her battle with breast cancer in 2009. A portion of each sale goes to City of Hope cancer research team. Every year Alpen finds a matching COH donor and as of January 17th , 2017 Alpen Optics have donated \$58,000 to City of Hope from the sale of the PINK Series.

A big heartfelt thanks goes out to all the Pink Series owners for helping Alpen make these yearly donations possible. The only thing that has changed in our "Focused on a Cure" efforts is that we have earmarked the money to be used to research "All" cancers not just breast cancer.

The folks at Alpen know that getting outdoors and eating the food you grow and the game you harvest are a great start to preventing disease. So get outside and don't forget your PINK binoculars!

Aug. 2016--BUCK KNIVES ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE EDGE OF A LEG- END FISHING SWEEP- STAKES

BUCK KNIVES ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE EDGE OF A LEG- END FISHING SWEEPSTAKES Grand Prize G3 Boats® Angler V185F to be Awarded

Bishop ready for owac

We are so incredibly excited to be hosting an OWAC conference in Bishop. It's been 10 years! We're planning a diverse menu of activities for your members to choose from. Of course there will be fishing, but we're also including ATV riding, snow shoeing, trap shooting/target practice, a 4WD trip to a mining ghost town, a trip to see wild mustangs and much, much more.

You know we know how to throw a party, so you will not be disappointed with the awards banquet or Thursday night dinner. I don't want to spoil the fun by telling you too much just yet:)

Pretty sure we're going to knock your socks off!!!

Tawni Thomson Executive Director

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Buck Knives is pleased to announce the winners of the "Edge of a Legend Fishing Sweepstakes."

Trent M. was selected from over 2.9 million entries to win the Grand Prize G3 Boats® Angler V185F aluminum boat with trailer and Yamaha VF150 SHO outboard, decked out with Raymarine® electronics, a Power-Pole® Shallow Water Anchor, Astral life vests and fishing supplies from Strike King®, Lew's®, Seaguar®, Plano, Frabill®, Lucas Oil, Vicious® Vision sunglasses, an iON camera and of course many Buck knives. Over \$60,000 in value!

When contacted regarding his Grand Prize win, Trent didn't believe it and felt it must be a scam. He then went on to say that he had found out about the sweepstakes after purchasing a knife and reading the note in the box. The note, which has been around for nearly 40 years, is included in all Buck knives and contains a message from the Buck

family that speaks of Buck's growth and the determination to keep God the Senior Partner. After reading the message, Trent was compelled to know more about Buck Knives and while searching the Buck Knives website, ran across the fishing sweepstakes. "Great testimony," said Trent. "How wonderful it is that a company is giving glory where the glory should go."

Edge of a Legend Grand Prize Sweepstakes Winners:

Grand Prize 1: Dream Boat Package
G3 Boats® Angler V185F with Yamaha VF150 SHO outboard: Trent M. of Elk River, MN

Grand Prize 2: Kayak Fishing Package
Loaded Jackson Kayak Coosa HD:
Amber M. of S.Webster, OH

Grand Prize 3: Backyard BBQ Package
Bradley Smoker and Grill with accessories: Robert R. of Griffith, IN

"This sweepstakes was an opportunity to thank all of our customers for their continued support," said Bob George, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Buck Knives. "We were able to provide some great gift packages and items thanks to the help from our partners in this campaign."

"I'm an avid outdoorsman," said Grand Prize Winner #3, Robert R, when he was contacted regarding his backyard BBQ package with Bradley Smoker and Grill. "I love to hunt and fish and can't wait to smoke some venison and turkey this fall."

The sweepstakes began on 11/30/15 and continued through 6/30/2016. In addition to the 3 grand prize packages, various prizes from leading outdoor brands were awarded every month during the duration of the sweepstakes.

Sponsors: G3 Boats® , Yamaha, Power-Pole®, Raymarine®, Lew's®, Strike King®, Seaguar®, Plano Synergy™, Astral, iON, Vicious® Vision, Frabill®, Lucas Oil, Buck Knives, Jackson Kayak, Orion Coolers, Bradley Smoker®.

Contact: Rachel Rogers, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

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(208) 262-0500 x104



Tom Wilmer wins Lowell Thomas Award for third time

Press Release December 1st 2016

NPR affiliate KCBX Travel Show host, Thomas C. Wilmer is a winner in the 2015-2016 Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition, taking the Bronze in the Audio Travel Broadcast category for “Ann Arbor—Arts Culture and History” A National Public Radio Journeys of Discovery with Tom Wilmer three-part podcast series, produced by NPR affiliate KCBX serving the California Central Coast. The annual competition is sponsored by the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation.

Winners of the awards, the most prestigious in the field of travel journalism, were announced Oct. 25 at the SATW convention, held in Wenzhou, China, this year.

The competition drew 1,307 entries and was judged by members of the faculty at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. This year, the SATW Foundation presented 80 awards in 24 categories and nearly \$20,000 in prize money to journalists.

The awards are named for Lowell Thomas, acclaimed broadcast journalist, prolific author and world explorer during five decades in journalism.

In honoring Thomas Wilmer’s work, the University of Missouri School of Journalism judges said: “Many people know Ann Arbor, MI, as a college town, home to the University of Michigan. But this three-part work shines a light on its long cultural and military history. The use of music — from classical, to folk, to patriotic — helps drive the tone and pacing of each segment, and these sounds tie each piece together into a captivating experience to engage listeners of all ages.”

Among other winners, National Geographic Traveler earned eight awards, and The New York Times took seven. The Los Angeles Times was the gold winner for best newspaper travel coverage.

Wilmer was also the recipient of the 2014-2015 Lowell Thomas Bronze Award for a five-part NPR podcast series about the economic rebirth of the island of Montserrat, as well as a 2013-2014 Lowell Thomas Silver Award for a three-part NPR podcast series on the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Arkansas. Additionally, Wilmer won a 1st Place Best Outdoor Radio Feature “Saving Cecil—African Photographic Safaris; and a 2nd Place Best Outdoor Radio Show – Audubon Cranes, Wild Mustangs, and Heartland Shooting Range, Grand Island,

Nebraska from Outdoor Writers Association of California (owac.org)

For more information about the SATW awards, including a full list of winners and judges’ comments, and SATW, visit www.satwf.com and www.satw.org. URL’s to the 2015-2016 Award winning shows:

<http://kcbx.org/post/ann-arbor-michigan-where-live-music-thrives>

<http://kcbx.org/post/yankee-air-museum-willow-run-ypsilanti-michigan>

<http://kcbx.org/post/ann-arbor-s-historic-theaters-cinetopia-film-festival>

KCBX Station Contact: Frank Lanzone, General Manager frank@kcbx.org
805-549-8855

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Morro Bay, California would like to thank all the amazing media and writers who have visited our destination. These visits have resulted in features in National Geographic, Sunset Magazine, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, 805 Living, plus many other printed and digital newspapers, publications, travel blogs and radio and television programs.

If you are a member of the media needing story ideas, area photos, video content or want to experience an amazing place first-hand, look no further because the Morro Bay Tourism Bureau can be your resource. We also invite members of the media to come and be our guest in this awe-inspiring destination on the Central Coast of California. Whatever your media needs, let us know how we can help.

Contact the Morro Bay Tourism Bureau at (805) 225-1570 or via email.

