



Carp

- The French Resistance – Duncan Maclean
- Long Way From Home – Scott Osmond
- Fishing the heat – Wayne Trapp
- Behind the Business – Red Demon
- The Latest American Carp League Captures
- World Carp News

Ronny De Groote's Massive Common



Attractive Hookbaits
Nick Helleur



The Jered Carlson
Interview
Sean Manning



The ACS Regionals
Rick Walker



AUGUST 2007

On The Cover - Ronny De Groote with a massive Italian common weighing 29.3kg (64lbs+)... It is the third heaviest carp on Ronny's list.

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THE AMERICAN
Carper

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Editors Note:

following months... but alliances with the USA's top angling organizations and also tackle manufacturers were solidified to ensure the future of carp fishing here in the USA.

I have received a number of pictures from Junior anglers which is excellent and 2008 will see a special section for the juniors in both the magazine and on the American Carp Society Forum.

This month's edition is full of articles including a much requested interview with California's top light line man Jered Carlson. A man of all seasons, Jered shares with us some insight into his angling here in the USA.

We also have an International flair with US angler Scott Osmond's trip to Raduta, top Belgium angler Ronny De Groote's Morrocon Carp quest and US Carp angler Duncan Macleans trip to France! We take a look behind the business with Red Demon Baits and look into 'Fishing the Heat' with top rod Wayne Trapp of K1 boilies. Wayne's been having some stellar results in the heat of the summer in Tennessee and was good enough to share some thoughts with us here and Rick Walker takes us back to the ACS Regionals in NY through his incredible photography and written word.

We also have the beginning of a series of 'Round Table' discussions with Team Dynamite USA which I hope to be very informative in a very honest open ended discussion ...if this month is anything to go by this will just keep going from strength to strength and a great deal will be learned by all!

Top Rod from the UK Nick Helleur gives us some insight into his ever thinking mind on the subject of bait and getting that extra edge from short sessions and US lady angler Nikki Sprinkle looks into the past and also to the future!

If you are a tackle manufacturer, retail store owner, carp angler or simply a carp enthusiast and would like to contribute or have any questions about US carp angling, the US Carp Industry or would like to be sent the monthly Electronic - Issue of the magazine please email me at sean@americancarpsociety.com.

By reading the American Carper you are supporting our efforts to increase the profile of this great fish here in the USA. Thank You.

Regards,

Sean Manning,
Director: The American Carp Society.
Editor: The American Carper.

Dear Fellow Carp Anglers,
Many thanks to you all for allowing us the month of July to get some technical issues figured here at the magazine for the future. The American Carper is simply getting too big not to be delivered to you in a more professional format each month. It will still be digital and we are working on a hard copy version as we speak, though that will not be a monthly edition. There will be changes that are apparent over the next few months that will be found on the website. www.americancarper.com If you can all be patient while we go through this transition I think you'll find that the end results will speak for themselves! When prompted please fill in all your info to receive the magazine.

August is here and so is the summer finally for many of us! After months of rain here in Texas and many parts of the USA things have finally started to brighten up. It has been a hectic 2 months with the end of the second season of The American Carp League and the ICAST Trade show in Las Vegas. Many Congrats to all the winners of the ACL for some excellent angling over the past few months. It was a run to the finish line and John Bramley came out as top rod in more than one category. Congratulations John! As you would say Sir.... Awesome Hauling!

The final results of season 2 can be found here: http://www.americancarpsociety.com/acs_tacl_2007_s2.html

Prizes will start to be sent at the end of this month to all the winners. Again many thanks to all of our sponsors for the prizes donated for The American Carp League. It's interesting to see the total yearly cumulative weight on the bottom leaderboard that is now updated at the end of each season. I think the results at the end of the year in sheer tonnage will be staggering!

The ICAST tackle trade show was especially successful this year in many ways ... details of which will come in the

Sean,
Just a little one to us? A giant to him. I often look back on times such as these and wonder, it would be a giant to me to when I was his age? Wish I had the mat but the wet moss on the Slick rocks was fine. I had to scramble to take these 2 photos... 2 photos I will never forget!

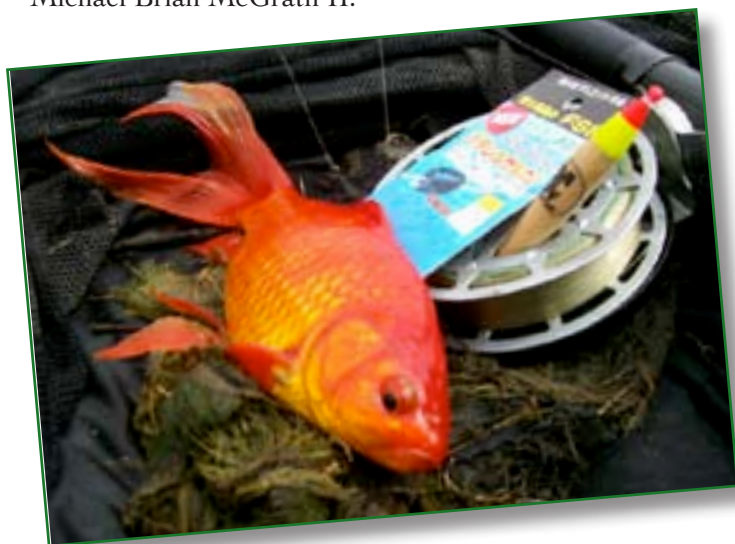
To those who under stand...He now knows why the reels are called coffee grinders. Sean, a child (my son Michael Brian McGrath III.) with autism got glimpse into the world of the scarborough thousands of miles away on a different type of shore.

One day, he can tell his children of a dance he witnessed of scale & spindle...Say no more. Let the photos speak for themselves. We are helping him battle autism through angling. May my son walk in the footsteps of the great anglers..... 'Welcome my little one. Welcome. It's a long road paved with scales of gold...'

As to my mentor Mr. Brian Holland.....Thank you Brian. Your social & angling teachings were, and in many ways are still my cornerstone. I now pass them along to him.

Lead my son in spirit. Show him the principles of the cast in his dreams. Welcome this little one to the shores. Hand on shoulder no mater where you may be. We miss you Holland, we miss you... Thought I heard you say "brilliant" through my sons smile?

Michael Brian McGrath II.



Fathers day Carping

Sean,
Here are some photos of some Domestic Fan Tailed Goldfish my son & I took over the weekend. Dad(that being me) would take care of the tackle, cast set the hook and then let him bat the spool & beach the fish. From Friday through Sunday we caught and released over 15 to 20 domestic Goldfish.



My 10 year old daughter Ashley was on the other side of the pond. She used her whip, float and maggots and to take 12 panfish.

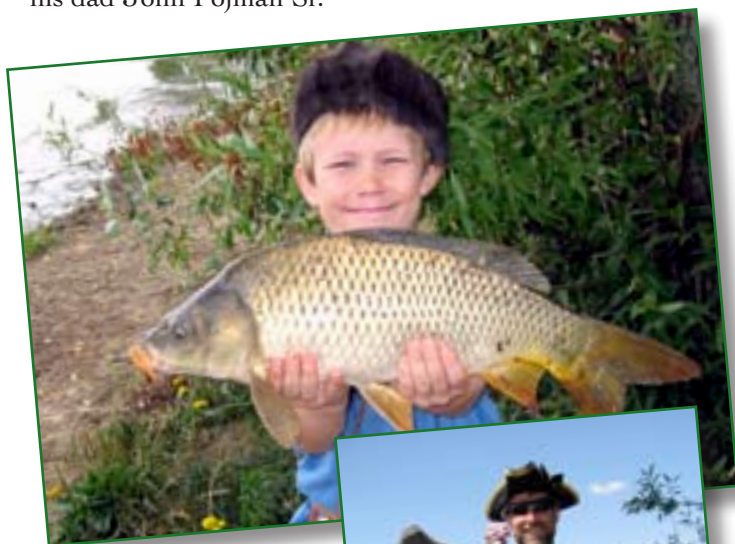
I had a GREAT father's day!
Mike & Son.



THE AMERICAN Carp^{er}

Junior Section

John Pojman Jr. (age 5) at Chippewa Lake, Ohio, with his dad John Pojman Sr.



I know for a fact that these two are ones to watch for the future! With mum and Dad's fishing Gene's they're already hauling and at home by the bank! Welcome Team Bramley jr...more than likely future winners of both the American Carp League and The World Carp Championships....

Sean



2007 ACL PRIZES

1st, 2nd, 3rd + 4th Quarter Season Prizes.

Most number of 10+ - 1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups - Pineapple.

Most number of 20+ - 1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups - Source.

Most number of 30+ - 1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups - Monster Tigernut.

Most number of 40+ - 1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups - Scopex + 1 Hi Boat Bait boat.

Biggest Mirror - 1kg Dynamite boilies - Pineapple.

Biggest Koi - 1kg Dynamite boilies - Scopex.

Seasonal Total Weight Winner:

From Dynamite Baits:

1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Pineapple.

1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Source

1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Monster Tigernut.

1kg Dynamite boilies + 1 tub pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Scopex

From Enterprise Tackle:

1 x Rig Resin.

1 x Yellow Tutti Frutti corn.

1 x Yellow unflavored corn.

2 x Yellow Maize.

1 x Tigernut Pack.

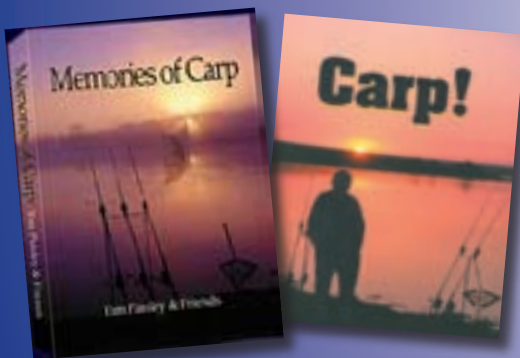
1 x Sweetcorn hair stops.

1 x Luminous corn + UV Torch kit.



From Angling Publications:

Carp! By Tim Paisley and friends.



AMERICAN CARP LEAGUE ANNUAL CHAMPION

2kg Dynamite boilies + 2 tubs pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Pineapple

2kg Dynamite boilies + 2 tubs pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Source

2kg Dynamite boilies + 2 tubs pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Monster Tigernut.

2kg Dynamite boilies + 2 tubs pop-ups + 1 liquid glug - Scopex

1 Hi Boat Bait Boat

1 Carp! By Tim Paisley and friends.

1 Memories of Carp by Tim Paisley and friends.

2 Page Pictorial and Interview in The American Carper Magazine.

ACL Champion Trophy



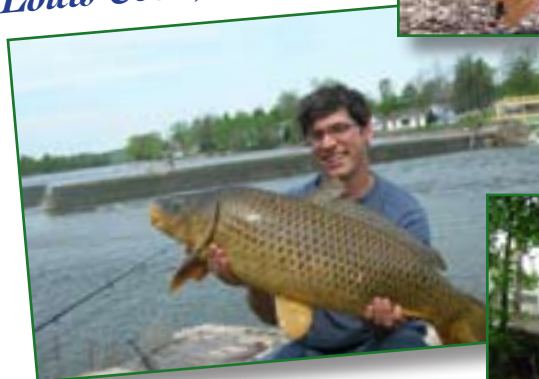
Congratulations to the second season ACL winners!

American Carp League Champion:
John Bramley, NC



10+ Carp
Louis Cook, PA

20+ Carp
John Bramley, NC



30+ Carp
Scott Osmond, MA



LG Koi (19lb 6oz)
Stewart McKenzie, VA

Most Mirrors (33)
Scott Osmond, MA



40+ Carp
(44lb 10oz)
John Bramley, NC



CARP IN THE NEWS USA

The last few months have seen a good number of fish out across the USA. All states seem to be catching well now on a regular basis as you'll see from the below pictures!

Please send details of any special captures such as baits used etc for features.



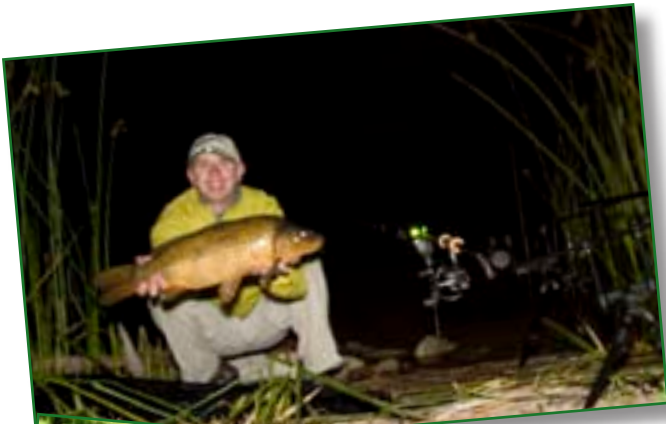
CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA

THIS MONTHS FEATURE ANGLER

MARIUS ALBOTA with his great St. Lawrence carp.

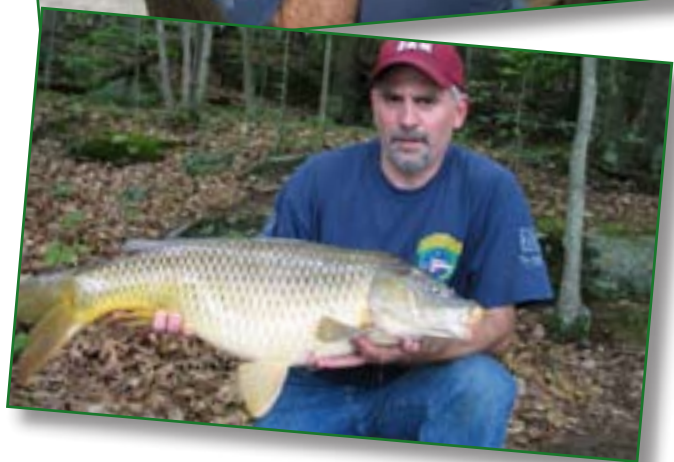
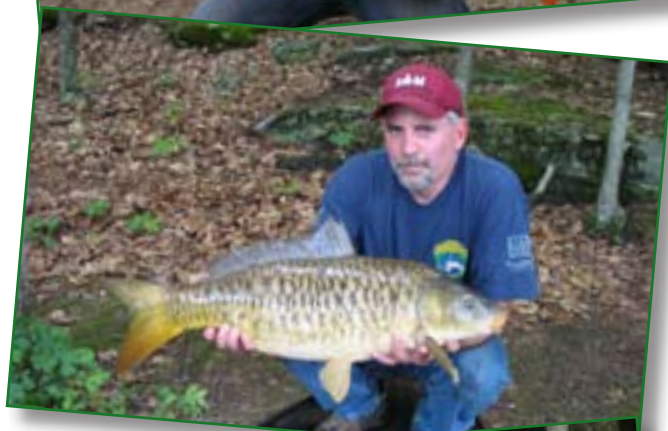


Hey Sean, I was as surprised as you would have been to see his oddly-shaped broad-shouldered Raduta-type beauty come out from a wild US water, where torpedo-like long fish with enormous tails are typically the norm.

This one came from short/medium range on a home-prepared maize + Solar boilie combination, glugged and also coated in that awesome Concept-for-You Super Slimy powder I love (ask Wayne just how much damage we did in Texas on that slimy stuff - he'll tell you :). If I recall correctly, Indian Spice was the exact flavor but they have all worked for me. This time I baited very lightly with particles and a few boilies and the fish was caught slightly off the baited area.



CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA



CARP IN THE NEWS USA

Not carp related, but here's American Carp Society member Krista Byers nursing back a Gar to health at Cabela's in Texas.





The American Carper

Jered Carlson Interview

By Sean Manning

Many months before I ever had the pleasure of corresponding with Jered Carlson I had heard of him from numerous anglers in Southern California. His name had been brought up in conversation a number of times as someone who had vast experience in catching carp with traditional American fishing tackle. Not soon after our first email I think he landed a 40lb plus specimen on 6lb line if I'm not mistaken! This interview with Jered has been requested by a number of anglers whom he has helped over the years... his submissions to the American Carp League have produced some stunning koi Carp resulting in his premier placement for most Koi in the 2006 ACL and the 2007 ACL first season. A natural angler with great instinct and ability he kindly took some time out to answer some questions for The American Carper...so for those of you that have been waiting for a

while...thanks for your patience... here is the Jered Carlson American Carper interview.

SEAN: Jered, first off a big thanks for doing this. I've had a number of requests by Anglers over this last year that wanted to see you interviewed in the mag! I know that you are part of a growing scene of Carp Anglers in Sunny California (my old stomping ground) that fish regularly and I see the sport beginning to grow there. Let's start with a few questions about how this all began... How long have you been an angler and why did you first start fishing?.... Can you recount the very first Carp that you caught?

JERED: First let me thank you for The American Carper magazine. You guys do a stellar job and I enjoy every single issue. It's great to see a magazine devoted to carp fishing here in the states. Long over due! Well, as far back as I can remember I've been trying to catch fish. My dad was far

from an outdoorsman so I don't know where I got the fishing bug from. It was just something fun to try. I wasn't very successful, but it was still fun. I'll never forget that first carp.

SEAN: After that first carp did you get 'carp fever' or did that take a while? Can you recall where you caught it and on what bait?

JERED: I got the fever in a big way. I caught my first carp in a park lake in Huntington Beach when I was sixteen years old. A friend and I were bass fishing, throwing lures all day for maybe half a dozen 2-3 lb bass. There was this guy fishing an inlet with an ultra light set up. Then I hear line ripping off this guys reel. He's laughing and having a great time, then, snap! His line broke. He comes over and asks me if I have a small hook he can buy from me. I told him "I'll let you have as many hooks as you want if you show me how to



catch whatever it was that you were just hooked up to, that looked fun!" He agreed and told me he was fishing for carp. Carp? I thought. I've seen them jump but had no clue how to fish for them.

He said just tie on a small hook, thread on some corn kernels, and toss it out there with as little weight as possible. All I had was my bass rod with 10 lb mono on it and he was pretty sure I wouldn't catch anything because of the heavy line. He assured me you had to use 2-4 lb line. I gave it a shot anyway. After maybe a half hour I was beginning to think he was right when my rod was damn near yanked out of my hands. After about a ten minute battle I landed a 15 lb common. In my eyes it was huge!

SEAN: Who was your biggest influence growing up as an angler to actually get you into fishing? Did you have any relatives that fished or was it someone local?

JERED: Just friends. My family isn't really the outdoors type. Both my brothers enjoy fishing, so we try and head out together a couple times a year, do some ocean fishing in the spring and summer.

SEAN: Can you tell us about your fishing

tackle when you were a boy? What did you use when you first started fishing for carp?

JERED: After that first carp I started using my trout rods for the carp in the local parks. I then made the mistake of trying to use the same rods for carp in the Colorado River. Big mistake! The river carp are much, MUCH stronger. I lost one rod when it got yanked in the river and landing even a 5 lb carp was work with the ultra light set up.

SEAN: And when did you get your very first piece of 'carp specific' tackle shall we say...or do you use any?

JERED: Well, for me, that would be the first rod and reel I bought specifically for carp and that's so long ago I couldn't tell you what it was. But if you're talking about euro type gear that would have to be a couple bite alarms and bank sticks I got from Karl at Scorpion tackle about six months ago. I then bought some bait runners and rods.

SEAN: What about the tackle that you use now, has it changed at all? Do you have any favorite tackle companies whose gear you like to use?

JERED: It all depends on where I'm

going to be fishing. I prefer to use medium to light gear simply because I catch more fish on lighter gear, but there are some places you just can't use light gear. Scorpion tackle was kind enough to sponsor me for the ACL so I use their tackle as often as I can. The Venom 1X hooks are incredibly sharp and strong. When I use my euro gear those are my hooks of choice.

SEAN: Do you have an item of tackle that you couldn't live without? If so what is it?

JERED: Oh yes. My GLoomis UL with an Okuma Med/Light reel spooled with 6 lb Suffix braid. Fighting big fish on this set up is what its all about to me. The feel of this combo is as good as I've experienced with UL gear.

SEAN: What about rigs, anything special that you use?

JERED: No, nothing special. Standard hair rig for the euro gear and with my light gear I like to use as little or no weight, if possible. #8 single hooks with the light set up.

SEAN: Boilies, particles or both? Do you have a favorite bait that you use?

JERED: I haven't had the success with boilies that some do. I have had good success with range cubes on the hair. Sweet corn on the ULs or dough baits. Clam flavors have been getting me a fair amount of fish lately. I do like baiting the swim I'm going to fish with oats, grits, seeds, mixed with cream corn. Then use a method to get it out there.

SEAN: Method or PVA? Do you use them? Explain why if you have a preference Jered.

JERED: A method for baiting the swim. I'm just getting into the PVA system of fishing. Its fun trying new things, and a lot of this is brand new to me.

SEAN: Banksticks or pod...or neither?

JERED: Banksticks right now, but no doubt a pod is just around the corner. But which one? There are so many out there. When I fish with others using pods I usually ask questions and get opinions on what they recommend I look for when shopping for a pod.

SEAN: Do you have any sponsorships by tackle or bait companies...if so who?

JERED: Absolutely. Scorpion Tackle. Karl and Carol Haymer have been so supportive and helpful. I really like when I have the opportunity to fish with Karl. He knows carp fishing inside and out, I learn a lot everytime I have the opportunity to hang out with him. Wayne Boone too. So helpful and so much experience.

SEAN: Do you have a favorite Carp water Jered?

JERED: That changes all the time, but if I had to name one, right now I would say Puddingstone Reservoir here in So Cal.

SEAN: Are there any waters or places within the USA that you would like to fish that you haven't yet had the opportunity to do so?

JERED: Without a doubt, the St. Lawrence River.

SEAN: What is your most memorable Carp that you have caught to date? Some of those koi you've caught are incredible!

JERED: That would have to be the 42 lb 4 oz common I caught on 4 lb line. I'll never forget that night. Numerous times if that fish would have changed direction it would have found its way into structure in the water. Every thing just fell into place.



SEAN: Do you have an angler that has inspired you specifically in your carp fishing Jered....if so who would that be?

JERED: Not one person specifically, but a group of people for sure. Everybody at the SoCal Carp Club. There is a small group of us there that are always trying new things and bouncing ideas off each other. Very inspiring. I've made some great friends there and met some incredible people at the monthly carp derby's.

SEAN: What about competitions? Are you a 'competition' angler or more of the solitary angler who fish's competitions for the social aspect do you think? (I'm definitely the latter though haven't been able to do much of either!). What if anything about competition angling do you enjoy?

JERED: I really like the social aspect of it. Haven't done a serious competition as of yet, but I hope to soon.

SEAN: What qualities do you think make a great angler Jered?

JERED: The ability to adapt to a situation. To notice and learn the little things that can make a big difference. Sometimes it's the subtle things that can make a so-so day, a great day. You have to try new things. As much

as you think it won't work, give it a try anyway. Most everything I've learned has come from trial and error. Most things might not work, but when it does you've made a big leap forward.

SEAN: How often do you get to go fishing?

JERED: I try to go at least a couple times a week. In summer most of the lakes around here weed up real bad so I do a lot of ocean fishing when that happens.

SEAN: Do you fish for other species, if so which ones?

JERED: Not so much in freshwater except for Striper, fun fish to catch, great fighters. I love shark fishing in the ocean and of course Yellowtail and Tuna, though that can get expensive.

SEAN: What is your favorite time to fish for carp?

JERED: Sunset and into the night. I catch a lot more fish at night.

SEAN: How do you approach a new water, what goes through your mind?

JERED: That's a good question. I'll



always look for carp jumping. I'll also try to find a local angler and ask them if they often see carp in a particular area and go from there. If not, just find a place that looks good and start from there. At a new lake I'll try and move often, try to find the fish.

SEAN: What's your Personal Best Carp?

JERED: 42 lbs 4 oz common. I have caught a grassy that looked about five feet two inches and I would guess over fifty pounds. I didn't even get it out of the water because of how berserk they go when netted. This thing could have hurt me! Hahaha!

SEAN: Are you a member of any angling organizations? I know the SCCC is growing...any others?

JERED: CAG, but I joined so I could join friends at one of there fish-ins.

SEAN: What methods or styles of angling do you use to catch carp Jered?

JERED: I usually start with the light line. Unless there are a lot of snags, then I'll go right to the heavier gear.

SEAN: Have you ever tried fly fishing for them? It's catching on!

JERED: No I haven't, but it looks fun!

SEAN: What's the longest carp fishing session that you have fished?

JERED: Three days, and it was 110+ degrees! Made for a long three days. I've done quite a few two day sessions. Usually because I have to get back to work.

SEAN: Do you prefer long or short sessions?

JERED: I'm thinking short, but I've never done a long session so I can't really say.

SEAN: Do you have a particularly memorable session that stands out in your mind?

JERED: Yes, but not because it was good. Sco (Owen Mikasa) and I did an overnight trip at a lake about an hour from here. But the hike into our swim was long and rough terrain so we took minimal gear. It ended up raining on us and was freezing cold. We did catch a few fish but as a whole we were miserable.

SEAN: Do you have a favorite Carp Angling book or magazine?

JERED: The American Carper without a doubt. It relates to a lot of the fishing we do compared to the over seas magazines.

SEAN: What goals do you have as a carp angler that you would like to achieve?

JERED: Topping personal best's of course, but every year I try and take my nieces and nephews fishing for carp. They don't really have the patience for it right now, but I'm hoping one day it will click. Also to keep it fun, if it ever becomes a pain to go fishing I won't do it anymore. So keeping it fun is a biggy.

SEAN: Which anglers in the USA would you most like to share some bank space with given the chance?

JERED: Oh man, there are to many to list. Every time I read an article about an angler I want to fish with them. I consider myself lucky to have fished with as many great fishermen as I have. All the guys at the SCCC, Karl, Keith Thompson, Mike (Ketamine) Wayne Boon, I could go on and on.

SEAN: How do you see the sport or pastime of Carp Angling progressing here in the United States? Have you seen many changes over the last 5 years?



JERED: Huge changes. People are actually getting interested in carp fishing. They used to just turn up there noses and scoff, I would just laugh. If they only knew what they were missing. Now there seems to be a lot more interest in it.

SEAN: How is the popularity of the sport in CA...are you seeing it grow?

JERED: Yes, it's growing. The problem we're having in CA is there are a lot of people catching carp and taking them home to eat. A couple small lakes close by here are all but empty now because of people repeatedly not returning any fish to the lake. It's frustrating to watch.

SEAN: Where would you like to see carp Angling in the USA in five years from now?

JERED: I would like to see carp treated like a prized game fish. They need the respect that all other game fish enjoy. That way there will always be carp populations for future generations to enjoy.

SEAN: If there's one piece of advice that you could give an angler who is just getting into carp fishing what would it be?

JERED: Be patient and take the time to learn the basics. Then have a lot of fun and teach others to respect carp for the great fighting fish they are.

SEAN: Jered Carlson thanks so much for supporting The American Carp Society and taking the time to share your thoughts with the American Carper readers. The very best of luck in 2007.



THE CARPONIZER



the lethal weapon for carp fishing



- Twin independent hoppers with patented hopper release system
 - excellent for all baits including particles
- Twin independent rig holders with patented hook release system
 - Built-in fail-safe ensures the boat remains within reach
- Certifications: CE, RoHS, FCC
- Stainless steel weed guards
- 10 Ultra high-intensity LEDs
- Tri-coloured battery meter
- Remote lighting control
 - all lights can be turned on and off from handset at range
- Bait capacity: 4kg approx
- Range: 500 to 1000m depending on environmental conditions
- Running time (at max speed): 2+ hours
- Free instructional video included

Optional accessories

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- Waterproof handset pouch • Solar panel charger
- Spare batteries • Lure hopper
- Wireless fishfinder (coming soon)



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'The Round Table Discussions' with Team Dynamite USA



As many of you may know Dynamite Baits, the Worlds leading manufacturer of specialized Carp Baits, has recently sponsored some of the top US Carp Anglers to help promote and educate anglers about their product range here in the United States. Pat Kerwin, Tommy Riley, Louis Cook and Al St. Cyr are all excellent Carp Anglers from varying backgrounds across the US and were chosen by myself to represent the USA for Dynamite Baits.

We recently got together in New York to share some thoughts and ideas on the future of Carp angling here in the USA and decided to have a monthly round table discussion that would be published in The American Carper Magazine for people to see. The anglers giving their thoughts and viewpoints on various aspects of carp angling with yours truly bringing up the occasional question. This is a bit of an experiment for us all so bear with us....as this could get interesting!

Sean: Gents, first off thanks for all agreeing to do this and thanks Pat for the excellent suggestion of 'The Round Table Discussions...' I think the free exchange of thoughts on these subjects will be helpful to many anglers, including myself. We'll ease into this and as things get going choose some slightly broader subjects as well....The first topic I'd like to bring up this month is the great 'boilie' debate that's been going on for years. There's no doubt about it,

they do seem to sort out the bigger fish don't they? What have you guys found in your experience on the best ways to fish them and what do you look for in a good bait....your thoughts on boilies and particles?

PAT:

I guess since this was my suggestion I'll have the first go!

My feelings about bait are always evolving. Nonetheless there are a few basic "truths" that I've developed over the years that guide my bait choice and application.

I tend to look at "bait" as simply another fishing tool. Similar to a rod I look for the right tool for the right job. For example, last week I fished a creek

that in all seriousness I could probably spit a watermelon seed across. Now obviously I'm not going to fish the creek with a 3 1/2lb test curve rod with a big pit reel and an oversize boilie. I ended up taking my float rod, a small reel, and a can of sweetcorn.

So where do boilies come in? Let's look at the advantages and disadvantages and then I'll note which situations I tend to use them in.

Advantages:

- Somewhat nuisance fish resistant (except for catfish!)
- They are dry so they are great to use with PVA
- They aren't messy
- They are hard so they won't come off on a big cast
- Can come in all shapes and sizes



- You can throw them a long way
- If you make your own you can customize the ingredients
- In some situations they are attractive to bigger than average fish

Disadvantages:

- Expense
- Catfish love certain types of boilies
- Not always very instant

Most of the points are pretty obvious but I should explain my theories on why they are not very instant and why they seem to catch a better stamp of fish than average.

Before I explain though I should point out that I believe fishing is an inexact science, there are just too many variables to say something with 100% certainty. I've caught 4lb carp on 30mm boilies, and I've fished waters that I'm certain have never seen a boilie before and I've caught within minutes of casting one out!

BUT, these are exceptions and what I look for are long term trends. I don't know anyone who would show up to a new water and stalk carp with boilies; I'd opt for a more instant bait like sweetcorn or bread. Conversely I don't know anyone who would show up at a mixed fishery (big and small fish) and target the bigger fish exclusively with sweetcorn unless they were stalking. I come to these conclusions based on my own experiences. I've fished the Potomac River more than any other water, and the Potomac is carp factory, it's stuffed with fish of all sizes. At some point I eventually tired of just catching any carp and wanted to start catching bigger than average carp.

Prebaiting does seem to help catch bigger than average carp and once I discovered prebaiting my catch in terms of numbers and size increased pretty dramatically.

But I wanted something more and thought that boilies might be the answer.

Like many people my first experiences with boilies were not very positive. They are often touted as some sort of miracle bait which they are not. At first I hardly ever prebaited with them, and rarely put many freebies out when fishing. I often just fish a single boilie away from the main baited area and more than once it produced the biggest carp of the session for me.

I've got a couple of theories as to why boilies seem to select bigger than average carp while at the same time not being very instant. Carp can adapt to a variety of habitats and in a river the size of the Potomac there's a huge variety of habitats that they can occupy. The backwater areas of the river have resident populations of silt feeding carp, which are almost always small darker looking fish, some of which look quite old. These fish readily take smaller baits such as corn but are resistant to boilies.

There are also shoals of larger, lighter colored fish that I believe feed on larger foodstuffs like crayfish, Asiatic clams, and other shellfish. These fish have a much larger frame due to their diet and are extremely healthy looking. The more nomadic fish are much more readily caught on boilies. I believe that this is because they are used to feeding on larger food and they are also more competitive feeders than the silt feeders.

I also think that larger carp are generally much more greedy than their smaller counterparts. I think in a pond that hasn't been fished before, if you had ten 2lbbers and ten 30lbbers that the 30's would be easier to hook simply because they have to eat more to maintain their weight.

Another method I use to catch bigger than average carp is to fish a single hookbait away from a baited area. A lot of people think this is a successful technique because bigger carp are more cautious but I don't think this is the case. I think smaller carp need a baited area to get interested in feeding while bigger carp are greedy enough that they'll start feeding outside of the baited area.

Look at a water like Town Lake; it's not uncommon at all for its biggest residents to come out on single hookbaits (usually boilies). In fact my PB from Town came on a single Dynamite Pineapple pop-up fished as far as I could chuck it.

Looking forward to hearing others thoughts on this topic. I'm sure we'll all differ a bit.

TOMMY:

Sean, that's a tough question. There's more to that one than appears. Both particles and boilies, when used in the right situation and presented correctly are good catchers. At the Northeast Regional in Baldwinville, NY, I started with boilies and caught well with them. But after a little trial and error in our swim, majority of our carp were caught with Tigers.

I personally depend on boilies for the majority of my fishing and have done so for around the last ten years. As I've said before, corn is corn wherever it's fished. However boilies have many different faces. Although particles work well, a boilie can be a complete, customized package of carp attraction. Confidence plays a large part of bait selection. Anglers are going to choose bait; rather it is particles or boilies that have brought them their most success in the past. They understand these baits as their

reliable, go to bait. I understand this type of thinking, as you have to start somewhere when it comes to bait selection. But watch out and keep an open mind, as this can be a trap.

As for boilies, there are good boilies and there are boilies that are absolute junk. So when you spend money on ready-mades make sure you are buying quality. The best way to sort these out is experience. You can use your personal experience or the experience of other good, reliable anglers. I have found that there are basically two different types of baits. One bait is made with good, nutritious ingredients that offer the carp a complete food source. These are baits that a carp will feed on for the entire season. And the other offers extremely high attraction with different Aminos and Betaine. These also are colored very brightly. And along with the feeding stimulates, these temp the carp into a quick, positive take. Both of these work well in different situations.

As for the 'Great Boilie Debate', I believe the connection between catching large carp and boilies is no coincidence. And I will continue to use boilies in my arsenal as the major part for my fishing.

LOUIS:

Thanks Sean, this is a great topic to start with. First of all, I wouldn't say it's without a doubt that boilies sort out the bigger fish. In fact there is quite a bit of doubt and debate from a great deal of anglers I have spoken with. Many carpers think the biggest fish can be more readily caught on natural baits such as crayfish, or worms; and others insist that there is no "big fish bait," rather that catching your way through every fish in the lake is the only real key to getting the big one. Moreover many of the



biggest fish captures I know of from others have come to the simplest baits, such as bread, sweetcorn and night crawlers.

For the sake of this discussion, I looked back at some of my biggest fish and thought about what they were caught on. My top 10 biggest fish were all caught on boilies. And although my records aren't exactly perfect, I am pretty sure the next 10 were also all on boilies. I honestly never thought about all these fish as a group and had no idea that they all came on boilies until now. I could just jump to conclusions about it and say that this is because boilies catch bigger fish, but is it really that simple?

There are lots of other factors to consider. First off, all of these catches come from big fish waters like the St. Lawrence and Town Lake. When I'm lucky enough to visit a special place known for big fish, I do my research. Different baits do better on different waters at different times of the year. I'd be a fool not to take local advice seriously. If I'm going to spend 20 hours in my car driving to some lake where a friend of mine has caught multiple 30's in the last

few weeks and countless other fish on huckleberry zagnut boilies, you can bet your bottom dollar that I'm going to have some in my bag. You know what they say, "luck favors the prepared." And thinking back to all of my best fish, most came on baits that were the prescribed "hot bait" for that water. Conversely, I can't think of any occasion when I was told by someone I would consider a local expert, that the hot bait to use was sweetcorn; although I'm sure no one would deny that it catches pretty much anywhere. All of the hot tips that I have collected before a big trip have pointed to boilies. Whether pineapple, essential opal, or tiger nut, it's always been a boilie. Would I have caught as well on maize, or tigers while on those trips? Perhaps, but I was catching enough, or out catching others enough not to tamper with a successful strategy. That is a strong case for why all of my biggest fish were caught on boilies.

Thinking of Town Lake, the idea of hot local baits and their effects can be taken even further. I truly believe that long term baiting campaigns are the most effective for consistent catching, and especially for catching the nomadic giants in any water. While chucking a single

bait at the horizon is a fine strategy for waiting out a big fish, it may be a long, long wait. Bigger fish are older than the rest, and here in the US they have made it this far in life because they have a successful natural feeding pattern. Getting them to break their habits isn't easy if they have a lot to eat already. The hoard of anglers who have visited Town Lake from near and far have been participating in the greatest long term baiting campaign in US history. For years now, mere hours after arriving in the states, Mainline Pineapple boilies have been swept off the shelves by anglers destined for Austin. I had been trying for months to get some of these elusive baits for months leading up to the 2005 Austin Team Championships with no success. Although I was prepared with an arsenal of other baits, I was overjoyed when Matt Coll visited my partner Donnie and I the night before our flight armed with a tiny sandwich baggie of mainline pineapples in hand. We fished them in PVA with our own mix, to conserve. We tried other baits using the same presentation, but caught most of our fish on the pineapple. I can't say for sure that so many pineapple boilies have gone into Town Lake for so long that the fish to consider them a natural food source, but it's worth thinking about.

Another factor that I think more concretely points to boilies as a good bait to get bigger fish is the order in which fish choose individual food items out of a variety in a field of bait combined with the idea that bigger fish take their time entering a swim. A few years ago, Tom Brooks said something like "if you give the fish a choice, they'll make it." I do a lot of stalking, and while I'll usually just fish with single kernels of sweetcorn or bread, I frequently make a large bed made of several kinds of bait, that I can see in the water, as to observe

how the fish react to the choices. Most often, when given several options, fish will choose one or two favorite items out of the mix and ignore the rest until the favorites are all gone. I have heard other anglers talk about how they watched fish eat every single hemp seed before moving on to other bits of bait. Frankly, most commercial boilies I have tested in this manner aren't eaten until most or all the particles are gone. In fact the only time this hasn't been the case was a few months ago testing Monster Tiger Nut. For the first time in my experience, the carp ate these boilies as quickly as sweetcorn, and actually finished the boilies first. Just to be silly, I buried the size 14 hook from my stalking outfit into the side of a boilie and even caught a few fish like that. And this was in the last weeks of December! That flavor has since become a great confidence bait for me. Back to the point, I believe there is some truth to the idea that bigger fish are cautious and move into a baited area more slowly than their spry young cousins. I think in many cases, over a long session, boilies are simply what's left for the big fish when they finally lumber into the swim.

There is also the idea that you can roll

50mm or bigger baits that small fish simply can't fit in their faces.

There are only a select few places that I have fished, where I felt the luxury of so many fish, that I needed to exclude many of them to choose only big fish. And in those places, the fish are usually so competitive and so hungry, that I have many times ended up hooking an eight pound fish in the nose or the cheek before a fat 25 found its way to my gargantuan bait. I am not saying this strategy doesn't work, but it is definitely not fool proof.

So despite the fact that I have caught so many of my biggest fish on boilies, I still wonder why. Is it just a coincidence set up by confidence borrowed from the locals? A long term baiting campaign I didn't realize I was a part of? Timid fatties that only get what the small fish left behind? One solid piece of advice I can offer to all those who debate the effectiveness of boilies as a big fish bait: keep debating.

Sean: Thanks guys...all thought provoking answers....we'll pick this up again next month!



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"It's A Long Way Home."

By Scott Osmond

I have always loved this song (Vanessa Williams). It was funny to hear this on the radio on the way to Boston Logan International Airport on the way to meet my 18:00 flight to London. Never heard the song on the radio before this; it seemed fitting. Little did I know just how very fitting it would be.

I met Gennady Medvedev a little less than 2 years ago at Akwesasne Casino near Massena NY. He needed a partner for the World Carp Championships, and I interviewed for this part. Seems I struck a chord in him, as he chose me to fish with him for the 5 day "Enduro" on the Mighty St Lawrence River. Having never really fished such a large event like that one, Genn and I fished well together, and realized that we are a lot alike in many ways, even if totally different in social aspects. Fishing

a 5 day event like the WCC means you will need to have a partner that you get genuinely get along with. I guess we did, as I earned the moniker "peckerhead" from him from then on.

We kept in touch over the next year and a half. Then this past February, I received an e-mail from him saying "Peckerhead, come fish Raduta with me". I almost instinctively wrote back that "Genn, it would be nice, but unfortunately I can't", adding some reason why. This time, however, I might actually be able to swing this....yes, fish the famous Raduta!

Arranging tickets through a good friend from the UK, I was able to (barely) afford this, so wrote back that I would. After all, I followed last year's event which he put on at this very venue, and was also invited, and through pictures, really wanted to.

Now, picture this; I have never gone outside the USA before this (besides Canada one time), so it was something I would have to really plan for. Yeah right! With my life as hectic as it was the last few weeks, I found myself very unprepared for such a trip. Problem was, even though I knew this in the final day or two before I was to leave, I could not get out of going, as my friend already spotted the 500UK pounds for my tickets!

I was going whether unprepared, unready, or willing or not. Making matters worse, I hadn't received any e-mails from Gena for over 2 weeks prior to leaving, so my questions remained unanswered. Thursday came, and after spending the morning with my 8 yr old son, I was heading to Boston.

Something needs to be said for

proper timing. I was 3+ hours early for my flight, misjudging traffic. Terminal “E” was new for me, being the terminal that International flights depart from. I clutched my newly purchased passport as I waited in line to check in. An hour and a half later, with my itinerary and passport dented from being clutched, I got to the check in desk. Seems my mid sized bag would need to be checked below. Not good, but what could I say?

After a bite to eat, I waited at Gate “7e” for the remainder of the time. One thing I noticed was that there were a lot of people waiting near the same gate as I was; hundreds of them. Surely they can’t be all waiting for the same flight. While my flight was scheduled for an 18:00PM take off, boarding started at about 17:15PM. Seems all these people were indeed going to London!

Getting through the gate and into the plane, first thing that struck me was the immense size of the place. Boeing 787, 244 passengers! Like a double-decker bus with wings! OK, so flight leaves, dinner served, and flight path puts us over the southern tip of Greenland. I decide to put on the music from the headset, and what was the very first song I heard? Yup, Vanessa Williams’ “Long Way Home”!

Arriving in London at about 5:00AM, I casually walked around Heathrow and marveled at all the numerous shops, of course all closed. Getting tired (still on my local time), I found a bench to sleep until the next leg of my journey leaves at 9:55. Waking up on the bench about 8:00, I must have looked like a bum to the now many people buzzing around the airport; what a sight that must have been! Doing a money exchange at the airport means getting kicked in the nuts, literally. I found this out after changing \$1,150 into a mere 500 UK pounds, and \$275 into 165 Euro. At

times like this, I find myself wishing I had done this exchange earlier. I also remember thinking that I should have also done a lot of things for this trip earlier. Hindsight can really suck when you’re waiting for your flight to board some 4,000 miles from home!

Boarding the much smaller Air Bus Plane (about 50 people), I now was getting nervous wondering whether Gena would be at the airport waiting for me. Here I was, a total stranger to international travel, going to a country some 6,000 miles from home, with just the hope that my contact will be there. After all, I hadn’t heard from him in over 2 weeks, despite numerous, albeit last second, e-mails. When the small plane, rocking in the winds, began to descend down to Bucharest, the nerves started straining. This is when you really start to go over things in your head, if you’re like me; a procrastinator!

Plane lands, I notice a whole new world outside than any I’ve ever seen before. Usually, when people (especially myself) go on vacation to places they’ve never been, they generally try to envision what the place looks like in their head. This was far different than my mind’s picture of Otopeni Airport! Customs were a breeze. No smiling faces behind the counters, very stern. I guess I posed no significant worry to them, great! Now it’s time to get my luggage and hope Gena is there waiting for me. If so, then the trip will be, in my eyes, a good one. If not, well, I’ll be stuck 6,000 miles from home with only a cell phone and about 165 Euro. About 50 people crowd around the luggage retrieve, and the whistle sounds, signaling bags moving out. Included in this crowd are a couple of the most beautiful women I’ve ever seen! Then, a big plastic bag comes out. No one seems to take interest, and it passes everyone by. Since I was at the end, I only took

a quick peek, as I was waiting for my bag. I notice the “LON” on the tag, and right next to it another tag reading “BOS”. Inside this plastic bag was, you guessed it, MY remains of a luggage bag! It had broken along the way, so instead of walking through the airport anonymously, which I was hoping to do in this new land, I had to drag around a big, frigging plastic bag. Great!

Then, my fear was realized. No Gena! No sign saying “peckerhead” which I’d dearly hoped to see. Just strange faces in a very strange land! Waiting for an hour, I noticed that there was an overabundance of gorgeous women walking around in high stilettos, awesome! I think I’d have enjoyed it much more had I not been fretting about my ride. The worst feeling I had was when I finally decided to get my phone from my remains of a bag, and it (along with my camera, rubber boots, and long underwear) was gone!! What the hell was I going to do now? So, a lone traveler, 6,000 miles from home, with no ride, no contact, and no knowledge of local area....with no phone!

Waiting another half hour, I decided to ask one of the many taxi drivers about a possible ride, and the cost. Problem was, very little English was spoken among them. PLUS, trying to tell them exactly where I was going, when I wasn’t exactly sure myself, was very tough! I had to spell out “Sarulesti”, which was the only thing I knew. Problem was, there was another place NW of town with a similar name. After a bit, I overheard a guy speaking English. Not just any English, but American! After talking with him I found out that he was a missionary from Tennessee, and had been doing missionary work in Bucharest for 15 years. I can’t begin to describe the amount of help both he (Martin) and his Romanian friend Florin were to me when I needed

it most. Let's just say that they not only helped sort out a reputable taxi, found out where to send the taxi (all I knew was Sarulesti), but called several times along the way to make sure everything was OK! A complete stranger no less!

The drive from the airport was something I can't really describe. Being totally culture-shocked at that point, I found myself driving through rush hour traffic on roads not meant for such volume, through some rough places I dearly hoped lead the right way. Along the way we drove past a pair of prostitutes who couldn't have been more than 16 years old. The cab driver got a good laugh at this, telling me the word for them in Romanian. I countered "hooker", to which he rolled down the window and yelled this. It broke the tension, if only for a small time, especially when I told the cabbie to yell "How much?,".. to which the girl signaled "5"...

Eventually, we neared Sarulesti, and the landscape started to look familiar to what I've seen in the magazine articles, and out of the blue, a sign told to turn right to "Sarulesti"! A relief was an understatement, but now the fun part of trying to find Hotel Raduta. After several stops for the cabbie to ask directions, it was clear we were being led on a wild goose chase. It took another

hour, while catching the occasional glimpse of the Sarulesti watershed, to finally go through the gates into the beautiful Hotel Raduta. The song "Long Way Home" was in my head once again.

We (Martin, Florin, cabbie, and I) agreed beforehand that the ride would be 80 Euros. Price went up to 90 due to the 3 hours of travel, down pot-holed dirt roads. Once I opened the door into the place, I saw a picture of Christian Baldemier's 82+lb monster, I knew I was finally there! Letting Florin know I had safely arrived, I found Gena, who informed me that one of Robert Raduta's workers, Pako, had actually gone and had a sign saying "Scott" for me to drive! Problem seemed to be that this sign was written in Romanian. What a nice 90 Euro mishap.

By this time, there were a lot of contestants, helpers, Gena, and even the famous Robert Raduta running around. The hotel was in a stark contrast to the surrounding area, definitely a big signal of the drastic, 2-tier society that is Romania. I was shown my room, and invited down for evening dinner. Trying to remember the many names of the fellow contestants was impossible, but the one thing I knew from the start was how very nice everyone was to me. I don't know if it was me

being a sort of novelty of if they were genuinely welcoming, but it felt good and quickly me angst of the day's travel melted away.

Waking the next morning to a lot of foreign talk outside my room, I took myself down to the docks behind Hotel Raduta. So, THIS is the famous water? Of course, I was looking out at just a 200 acre section of this 2,000 acre lake, but it didn't seem like much. About a dozen contestants were milling around, some spoke English (especially the Israeli teams), most not, but all seemed to approach me to introduce themselves to me, and attempt to talk. Very appreciated indeed.

Gena, along with Vlad and Mishell (and other Marshals), were exceedingly busy. Still not quite sure of what was going on around me, and really of no use to help, I wandered to where the opening ceremonies would be held. It was then that I saw the event banner, and the country flags represented. Several country flags on each side of my own! It took a few seconds for this to hit me, but the reason that flag was there was due to me! This was kind of a cool feeling, one in which temporarily took away my jet-lagged, and culture shocked mind.

Opening ceremony time came, and



the crowd gathered. After helping peg (the only real useful thing I could do that morning to help) the entire north bank, I had some idea of which pegs I wanted to draw. Pegs 12-14 were on the north shore of the famous Gypsy Bay, and 14 (Becker's Point) was really mouth-watering. Pegs 21-27 were in Record Bay, and 28-33 were in the upper bay. Many of the other ones I really didn't know too much about, so was hoping for picks from 10-17, 21-30, and 37-40 (Shepard's Cottage area).

Teams and Countries announced, and I took a lot of pride and was given a warm welcome. Peg draw comes, and my team was set to draw. I told Gena that I was having a bad year, I think the word "cursed" was used, so he should pick the peg. Problem was, he was hosting the ceremony, so I was forced to pick. Peg 4, not good. I think my face showed it.

Much is said about the peg draw determining one's fortunes in any major event like this. Of course, angler ability can turn an impossible peg into a fair one. This is what we faced now. It was tough to describe my feeling after going 6,000 miles, and not having a shot at the win. Took a little while to come to grips that it was now time to put that aside, and do our peg justice.

I guess my goals changed, as now they were to:

1. Catch any carp from Sarulesti.
2. Work hard for my partner.

I got the opportunity to start on #2 right off, as I was off to the peg in Gena's Land Rover to set up our home for the next 120+ hours. He had to tie up all loose ends that night, and I was to have it all ready to go for the 10:00AM start time the following morning. This included setting up a lot of gear that I never

seem to use here, but is necessary in fishing such water as Raduta. Our peg was the opening of the Dam Bay, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up from the dam. It was about 250-350 yds across at our peg, and in front to our left was a shallow (4-5') plateau stretching out to the main channel, which got to 25+' deep. This is a decent place later in the year, but with how cold and unpleasant weather Romania's had over the previous 2 weeks, the fish were not quite ready to feed shallow. We still banked on warmer weather to get them shallow and on the feed. We also banked on a W-SW wind to push fish into this bay and shallow to our bait. So, of course, 4 of the 5 days found cold, windy, unsettled weather and predominant N-E winds, effectively hurting any chance to remain competitive.

Still we fished hard. Problem was, for me, I was taught rigs which I rarely need to use here in the USA and with the trip being tough as it was, having the occasional bout of severe home-sickness. Gena remained cool, and was not only putting up with me, fishing hard, and trying things anew, but running the event. He also taught me a lot about fishing places like this, from rigs, to techniques. Carp behave like carp all over the world, but the venues change, as the means for catching. Gena remained the teacher.

Rigs were usually double 20-24mm boilies (any combination of Dynamite's Source, Halibut, and Leon Hoogendijk's Tiger Nut/Peanut), mounted on a Fox #4 long shank in several fashions. The rigs have been used successfully by Tim Paisley and Ardy Velkamp on this great lake in the past. Several times sweetcorn pop-ups were used, and once a single pineapple pop-up, some 5" from the bottom, to try and entice a grass carp frenzy. In hindsight, the rigs and bait were the correct choice, but when the fish are not in

the area, it's hard to come to grips with this fact, and we found ourselves experimenting.

Leads were from 175g to 275g, depending on the distance from shore we placed the rig. When placing a rig 350yds away from shore, with the famous Raduta wind blowing, you really didn't want a lead that would move from the chosen spot, especially after going 350yds in a boat and placing the rig onto the perfect place! 10+yds of shock leader, usually Kryston, was then attached to about 10' of leadcore, to keep the line pinned to the bottom due to wary fish. This was attached, loop-to-loop, to the leader, usually 12" long. Very thoughtful rigging, and had the fish been present, would have been the best choice.

It took until Day 3 until I felt "into" the current situation, and I managed a small, 7lb common in an unusual fashion. Having not had any runs all night in the rain and wind, one of the rods was stuck. I went out in the boat to try and retrieve the 30' of shock leader, along with the lead core and rig, when all of a sudden a fish was on the line. It was wrapped, about 50' from the rig, around a snag of wood with tons of mussels on it. While trying to unwrap it, the line finally cut on the mussels, leaving me with an angry little carp on the other end of a hand line!

Thursday was the only day in which the weather cooperated with what we needed, and it's no surprise we landed a couple real nice commons. Peg 5, the only peg close to us, was still blanking. When it was all said and done, and the 10:00AM on Friday came, we had a few fish on the board and sat around 2/3rds down the list. Keeping tabs on the rest of the lake, things were slow even where the fish remained. Fish size was decent, averaging about 22lbs,

with some good fish taken, including a 51lb 3 pegs from us (but over a mile), and a 43+lb mirror. But, top team landed 14 fish in 5 days. Tough fishing was an understatement. Top baits seemed to be Leon Hoogendijk's line of baits, which teams received upon entering. Most of the grass carp caught (especially from the dam area and "Record Bay") were taken on his Maize boilies, and some very good fish were reported on his Crab #1 and Tiger Nut/Peanut brands. Richworths seemed to fish slow, and Dynamite's Source and 24mm Halibuts also scored well. But, I think the Hoogendijks were really involved with some of the best catches. Great bait!

Some interesting happenings went on during the event. First off, the vast majority of the event was incident free, which, in itself, is amazing. Many TV and media crews, from Italy, Romania, and Ukraine, did loads of interviews and informational pieces. One of the TV guys from Romanian TV, Victor, managed to basically, on TV, tell me how bad we suck because 1 ½ years ago the team pegged right where we were got 4th place. Rather insulting, considering this happened in autumn, and the conditions were totally different. I'd think an outdoor TV personality would know this.

The man from Italy, Massimo (one of Italy's best anglers) was there asking info, and taking pictures for his Magazine. I must say we got along very good, and I hope to fish in Italy one day! I believe we were able to do better than most in our area because of the quality baits Gena had with him. Dynamite's "The Source" is a well known favorite on Raduta, but not many people had them. Leon Hoogendijk (one of the event's great sponsors) has a line of baits out that really impressed me, especially the



Tiger Nut/Peanut brand, excellent stuff. After 4 days of feeding this bait into the area, what few fish were present, took a liking to these quality baits. It makes all the difference in a place like this. The team next to us in #5 had low quality baits, and was piling them in by the tens of kilos, even though they had no runs going!

It was an odd feeling, at about noon, when Gena and I drove back to the Hotel after packing up. A mixture of wishing I'd fished this place on my own terms, knowing this part of my trip was over, and wanting to do it all over again (but better) went through my mind as we drove alone this historic lake. I was reasonably happy with the few fish I got considering the situation, but I felt like I was leaving just as I finally came to terms with the swim. These thoughts went through my head as the acres and acres of yellow flowers and flat farmland went by, but instantly left my head when Gena proceeded to run over a chicken on the way into the Hotel!

After a hurried shower, and Gena and the boys going over serious calculations, we all gathered in the

parking lot to organize the drive to Confort Inn in Otopeni, about 5 minutes from the airport. Everyone gathered about 2:30, and somehow were all leaving the parking lot before 3:00. This many people, and this much chaos, leaving, organized, in 30 minutes? I was impressed.

Leaving the gates I felt a twinge of regret for not quite "getting it right". Feeling like you needed to come back for "closure" on such a great lake, thoughts race through your mind about when/how to come back and find it. It wasn't until we neared the highway (only autobahn in Romania), that the surrounding life that is Romania hit me once again. It was much easier to view this from a friend's vehicle, with no worries (like my first cab ride), to truly take in this strange land.

As the landscape shot by (with Gena traveling at about 175 KM/hr!), the stark reality of Romanian life really sunk in. Then, once off the autobahn....traffic, lots of it! During this section of the trip, I was actually getting quite ready for the evening's festivities. The group of anglers all made me feel like a friend,

and tonight's party was gonna be the last time I'd see many of them. Plus, partying with Ukrainians and Russians meant loads of Vodka!

The hall and ceremonies were spectacular. The hard work put in by the boys was impressive in itself, but the fact that the entire evening was like a celebration of fishing, more than just a closing of a competitive tournament, was fantastic! Loads of food, drink, and happy people, all celebrating whether catching or no, was refreshing. The payouts were made, and surprise!! I managed to win a great bivvy, just for being the furthest traveled!

All the fun and general happiness and content shown from the 100+ or so folks who took part in this event not only echoes the total success of the event, but underlines it with an exclamation point at the end! It basically shows what is necessary to have a completely successful major event like the "Monster Carp 2007" was; excellent and hardworking folks running it, great coverage from media, solid and guaranteed payouts (over 30,000 Euro!), top notch sponsorship (this part was key!), and total dedication from everyone to make the event a celebration of fishing. This event had all these elements in excess, and it was a thrill to be part of it. I know full well the sponsors of this event were happy



with their devotion to it! Much more information about this event, and future events, can be found at www.sportfishing.com.ua, along with many other great business viewings from Ukraine and worldwide.

Saturday morning came, and many of the folks were off early to drive back to their respective homes. I had a 15:50 flight out to London to look forward to, so I was late in waking, with a headache no less from the partying. Lesson learned, an American cannot go shot-to-shot with a Ukrainian with Vodka! The shuttle came for me at 12:30, and my poor

excuse for a bag, which was a taped up ball, was loaded into the van.

Sitting in the airport, seeing the local police patrolling it with automatic assault rifles, once again brought back the stark reality of this new place. Sitting over the next hour and a half, reflecting on the week's events, a song suddenly popped into my head. A song, which was the most fitting song for such a time and place, and one in which will always remind me of this fascinating week.

It's A Long Way Home!





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Bruisers from the Atlas Mountains.

By Ronny De Groot

Go back just ten years and you will see that carp fishing was concentrated in the United Kingdom and Europe. During the last decade Canada, several states in the U.S., Romania and South-Africa have proven to be hot spots for adventurous angler as carp fishing became a sport practiced more and more all over the world. Nowadays, a new destination seems to have appeared on the carp scene. The grapevine is buzzing with news about big carp catches in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The first anglers, mainly Belgians, have recently returned home with tons of heavyweight carp under their belt.

Until a few months ago Morocco was still an undiscovered place for anglers in general, but northern Africa is really racing to catch up with the well-known big fish producers. Less than three months after I had an

unbelievable black bass session, I was once again on a plane heading to Morocco, but instead of the aforementioned acrobatic predators, big carp were my target.

Over the years I have been lucky enough to fish many waters before they became known to the general public. I have also made some less popular decisions upon hearing about a new carp angling destination. In 1997, for example, I was invited to join either the first group of French anglers to plan a trip to Sarulesti Lake in Romania, or an angling trip targeting America's biggest freshwater fish, *Acipenser transmontanus*, the white sturgeon.

I went to America and even today, although I have never fished the world-record producing Romanian lake, I still not regret my choice. The toothless giants had been on the top

of my most wanted list for a very long time. The moment that everybody and his dog walks in one direction you may be sure that I will go the opposite way. I always like to do my own thing, and following the crowd is not really my way of thinking. Maybe, one day I will fish Raduta Lake, who knows? Until then I will walk (mainly) on new grounds.

In early June 2006, I enjoyed an unforgettable black bass session near the Moroccan city Agadir. In just two and a half day fishing Charles De Coninck and I caught more than 400 of these predators. Some of them weighted more then six pounds but more important than their weight was the method we used. All of these predators fell for surface baits after stalking. I am quite sure that even diehard carp anglers would enjoy the excitement of catching these black bass from the top. I did, anyway!

(Top Photo) As soon as the sun rises above the mountains the first feeding spell of the day is nearby.

The moment I arrived home from this trip, my phone was ringing continuously. Everybody was convinced that I had been carp fishing during those couple of days, at a just-discovered lake in the Atlas Mountains. The Belgian carp scene was buzzing about multiple catches of big carp in Morocco and I was excited to find out more about this destination. A few phone calls later and I knew where all rumours had come from. Belgian angler, Marc Vergauwen, had already fished more than fifteen carp sessions, all over Morocco, and he caught carp from almost every water he fished. Sometimes they were just small but last year he discovered a very promising lake. During his latest sessions on that lake he had gained an impressive track record of Moroccan carp up to more than 55 pounds.

I spoke to him on the phone and his stories made me eager to go back to northern Africa as soon as possible. As I was in full preparation for a Venezuelan expedition later on in the year, lack of time could be the spoilsport. A couple of days after our conversation I spoke to my French friend Numa Marengo. We had to make an immediate decision about this South American trip, but the latest news we had from there was not positive and a cancellation was imminent. Our local contact seemed to have disappeared from the globe so, straightaway, I had all the time I needed to go and fish for carp at Bin El Quidane.

Early September

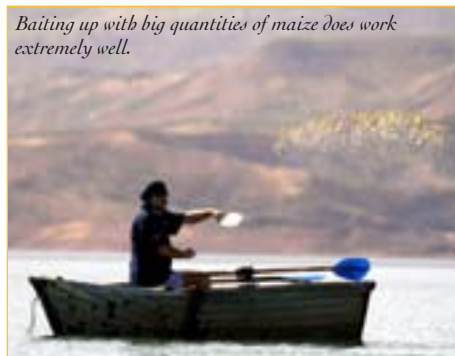
Marc and Slymane, the local teacher, were waiting for me at Casablanca airport. "Ron, yesterday we had an enormous thunderstorm. The waves at the lake were more than one meter high, but more important is that many carp were jumping in the area we will concentrate ourselves on.



The extra attraction of boilie crumb will defiantly bring some extra carp on the bank



The majority part of the Bin El Quidane carp are commons.



Baiting up with big quantities of maize does work extremely well.



"From now on I am a real carp angler." Said Hussain.

The first four days I will fish together with you and then I will have to start the preparations for the first group of anglers that will arrive at the end of the week," chattered Marc.

After a coffee in the bar at the airport we were off and heading in the direction of Bin El Quidane. This barrage has, depending on the water level, a minimum size of 6000 acres to almost 8000 acres. Two rivers, the Qued La Bid and the Assif n'Ouhancol, feed this lake which is 800 meters above sea level.

During the 200 km long, three and a half hour trip, from the airport to the barrage, we talked about the big carp I had located during my first Morocco trip. Several carp had jumped at long distance, from my observation post, I was convinced that many of them were without any doubt, forty pounds plus. It is clear that the Moroccan waters still hold some secrets and I am sure that in the years to come their real carp potential will be unveiled.

Four hours after our departure at Casablanca airport, Ali, Marc's local right-hand, welcomed us with a delicious couscous. Every time I visit, I am pleasantly surprised the moment the Moroccans serve me my meal. Their harira pea soup, their tasteful tagines and the colourful couscous dishes ensure that I always go into conflict with the bathroom scales when I arrive at home.

The time taken by the long drive and the meal meant that night was approaching very fast. Luckily, Mohammed and Hussain had already done all the preparations so, straight after our arrival at the lake, Marc was baiting up the swim with 20 kg of maize. As we still don't know which depth the carp population was feeding at, we fished in depths ranging from 3 to 10 metres. We also



Not the heaviest carp at all, but beautiful it is.



'Hey mate. Do you want to fight?'



With these baits you will come a long way.



Size doesn't matter all the time.

like to give the carp in front of us the opportunity to become confident in our bait and this was also the reason why we decide not to start fishing immediately. Instead we waited until the early morning. That Saturday night I was given a privileged view of the most beautiful scenery. A million stars were shining in a black sky. They produced enough light so that we could rig up our rods for the following morning.

Seven o'clock in the morning and several carp were jumping in the area. Marc and I had our rods in position within seconds. I fished the shallower part of the bay while Marc presented his bait in depths from 7 to 10 metres. We could always concentrate our efforts later at a certain depth later if we noticed some patterns during the feeding spells.

Marc was convinced that it was just a matter of time before the first group of carp would be on our bait. "Keep it simple Ronny. As soon as they find our bait the action will start." Those were Marc's wise words. But, that day only four carp, up to

about 22 lb, passed by. Most of the Bin El Quidane carp hadn't seen maize before and I guessed that this, together with the ever changing wind direction, must be the reason that we had to be happy with only four runs at the end of the day.

On Monday morning I visited a group of local anglers. Within seconds I was invited to drink some mint tea. "You are always welcome." they told me several times. Nevertheless, these guys are very poor and, regardless of the fact that their belongings are limited to a few elementary things, their hospitality was heart warming. They were prepared to share their goods with a total stranger. Also, it seems that the poorer the guy is, the greater his generosity. These people will always have my respect. That day we caught six carp up to about 25 lb. Five of them were commons, but the sixth was a heavenly scaled mirror. These beautiful carp are the main reason that many carp anglers want to fish Lake Bin El Quidane. Since our arrival the wind had been coming from all directions. One moment it



These fully scaled carp made that many European carp anglers want to fish Bin El Quidane lake.

was blowing in our direction, less than an hour later it had made a 180 degree turn. It was obvious that this might not work in our favour.

Madhouse

The sun just rose just above the mountains on the opposite bank and the lake was painted in a yellow-gold colour. As if controlled by a computer this was the sign for the carp to start their feeding spell. Minutes later, one of Marc's buzzers burst to life. Within the next thirty minutes two more carp passed by. Hussain was following this action from nearby and Marc decided to hand his rod to Hussain. While we were coaching our Moroccan friend he managed to bring a carp to the net. So proud, he said "From now on I am a real carp angler." Bless him!

At eight o'clock another group of carp passed by our baited area. At the same time, both Marc's and my buzzers let us know that two carp had made a mistake, both common carp of 22 and 25 pounds. A couple of minutes later, one of Marc's rods produced another carp. It seems that this morning the carp were entering our area from the deeper water.

While I was preparing my rod Mohammed and Hussain called to me. "Ronny, come quickly! There is a black scorpion over here!" I had told them that during my stay I wanted to photograph some of these poisonous creatures if it was possible. Straightaway, I was taking more the fifty pictures. My little target went into defensive mode as if to say "Come on coward! Do you want to fight?" Despite the fact that it was much smaller than I am, I treated it with respect. A healthy person won't die from a scorpion bite, but you can be sure, you will suffer some fever for a couple of days. I believe Marc when he said that the amount of poison that

this one could produce would knock you out for a couple of days.

While I was nose to nose with a venomous curved tail, another carp made the mistake of having too close a look at my artificial maize. I was yelling to Marc to take care of that run, but a hook pull made it the first lost carp of the trip. After this lost carp I had to wait an hour and a half before another feeding spell started. Then, in a period of 20 minutes, all three of my rods produced a run. One was lost because of another hook pull, but the two other runs produced common carp of 22 and 24 lbs.

Two hook pulls in one day made me start doubt my hook choice. I decide to upgrade the size of my hooks from size 4 to 2. Just increasing the size of the hook meant that I would fish with a complete different one. The most important factor was that it was much stronger and normally it should have been enough to tame these extremely hard-fighting Moroccan carp. The first carp introduced in the Moroccan waters came from Hungary and big tails are typical. Tackle is tested to its limits while playing one of these gladiators.

After days of unstable wind it finally came from a south-westerly direction. At 6 pm I caught a beautiful, heavily scaled mirror. At the right moment of the year this carp would definitely weigh 32-33 pounds, now, it missed the thirty-pound barrier by just a few ounces.

That evening I was privileged to witness a most beautiful thunderstorm. I am sure I will never see such an amazing sight again. Lightning seemed to be painted on the sky. Thor must have had too much energy; he was definitely in very active mode. While the valley was lit up I was at one, and active, with camera and tri pod. I was completely overwhelmed by this



September is the time of unstable weather in the Moroccan Atlas Mountains.



Some of the greatest thunderstorms I have ever experienced.



Dirk 'UCP' with his first Moroccan carp.



Heavenly scaled carp from a previous session.

natural light show and I didn't know where to start photographing. At one moment, horizontal lighting, at least 10 kilometres long and with almost twenty forks, turned the night sky into bright daylight. If you have never experienced this do you not really know what a 'proper' thunderstorm is. I didn't know it until then, anyway.

On Thursday, September 7, the first group of well-known anglers arrived at the lake. The atmosphere was superb and as ladies already know, grown men still are playful children at heart. Before they started fishing they wanted to cool down a bit from the long journey and very soon they were having a water fight. Obviously, they were also going to try to catch some carp and with about 200 runs in a week they definitely didn't complain although the carp here are not really of a calibre that would make you wax lyrical.

The average size of the carp they caught was between 25 and 30 pounds, the biggest carp of the week is a 42lb linear. Had they lost some heavier ones? This is possible, but it is also possible that the ever-changing weather conditions were the main reason that the bigger carp of El Bin Quidane were not particularly active during the period we were there. Maybe we should concentrate our efforts later in the year.

It is not really a secret that I have already fished many carp sessions in Italy. I have noticed that the better moments of the year, for the real leviathans, are concentrated during late autumn, winter and early spring. I think that Morocco and Italy, and maybe some of the warmer United States, are in the same league.

Whatever, everyone who has been at this lake wants to return as soon as possible. I am quite sure that very soon a few El Bin Quidane giants will pose for the camera.

Lessons

This first Moroccan session taught me a few important lessons. One of the things we noticed was that the carp population seemed to feed mainly by sight. On virgin waters, like Bin El Quidane, maize is the ultimate bait to fish with if you encounter this phenomenon. Very often we baited up the swim with a large quantity of these yellow seeds and, straight afterwards, one of our bait indicators started to protest. On many waters over the UK and Europe, a large quantity of bait would put the carp population on their guard, but here they still haven't made the connection between a large amount of bait and danger.

On the other hand, large quantities

of visual baits normally attract the smaller members of the carp population into the swim and, because of this, I am quite sure that the bigger carp of this lake still haven't made the switch between feeding on naturals and the anglers' baits.

During a session in the spring of 2006 Marc and his angling companion, Stefaan Bleyenbergh, caught several carp up to 48-50 lb, but this still isn't the top of the carp hierarchy. The biggest carp ever caught by a local angler weighted a stunning 68lb. I am quite sure that as soon as the total carp population makes the switch to anglers' bait, the upper layer will come on the bank as well.

This visual feeding syndrome also means that bait that stands out of the rest will be eaten earlier than the one they have to look for. All our takes came on Dynamite Baits fluoro pop-ups and Alien Baits artificial pop-up maize. To give our artificial maize some extra attraction we soaked it in Pineapple Plus liquid attractant. Marc fishes only these artificial baits in combination with the method, I opt for a PVA bag with Monster Tiger nut boilie crumb. We have noticed that as soon carp started to show themselves above our baited area, a rod did not stay out for a long time. Sometimes, within seconds a buzzer burst into life. If we had to



A colossal common carp from the spring.



Very poor, but their hospitality is heart warming.

As soon as the carp arrive in the swim will the action start.



wait longer than 10-15 minutes, it meant that we had presented our rig in the middle of some weed and, as the local weed is very strong smelling, it was much more difficult for the carp to find our bait. It was mostly just a matter of reeling in that rod where some carp had shown itself, refreshing the bait and recasting, to be in action a few seconds or minutes later. Sometimes carp fishing can be so simple.

Well, it can be that way if you combine it with some sense-appealing attraction like a smelly method mix or a PVA bag with some boilie crumb. With a PVA bag I like to put the lead on one site and the pop-up boilie or maize will be mounted on the other site of it. As the lead has the highest weight in that PVA bag will it be on the bottom of the lake and, your bait will automatically be straight above it.

There is one more technical item that I want to talk about and this is the rig. Once more 'keep it simple', but be sure that every item is strong enough to withstand the highest pressures. Ninety-five to ninety-nine percent of the carp hooks that are

on the market are rubbish. Nothing more, nothing less! Tails to 40 cm, from tip to tip, are not uncommon when a carp weights 40lb or more. All of us have lost carp because we didn't believe Marcs stories. Several of our stronger hooks have been bent open with a lost carp as result. As soon I switched over to a Fox series 2XS size 2 and to PB Products (a Dutch terminal tackle company) Bridge Beater Hooks size 2 this problem was solved. You have to experience it to believe it. The Bin El Quidane carp belong to the hardest fighting carp I have ever caught in my live. There must be some natural anabolic in that lake.

Organised Trips

Recently Marc Vergauwen started to organise full board angling trips to Bin El Quidane. He will pick you up at Casablanca airport, or Marrakech, and from there one he will take care of everything. You just have to take your reels, buzzers, swingers and a small tackle box with you. A bivvy, bedchair, sleeping bag, rods, net, etc will be ready on your arrival together with some of pearls of the Moroccan kitchen, great scenery, a hospitable environment and last but not least some of the hardest fighting carp you will ever encounter. This location will be one of the 'must go' destinations of the future.

More info is available at www.moroccocarpfishing.com.



Not a giant, but a real peach



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鯉釣り

Magazine

2007 Autumn Vol.12



ジュニアからシニアまで
コイ釣りを楽しみたい人のための

よくわかる

コイ釣り入門

アオウオに
魅せられた
釣り人たち

ビギナー講座
エサ作りのコツ

全国コイ釣り場レポート
鯉ヶ浦パーフェクトガイドマップ

これって
コイ釣りに使えるかも
こんな
便利タックル
知ってる?

基本徹底
マスター 若林幸雄の
コイ釣り教室
「知っておこう常識と基礎」

Mike McGrath from NY on the cover of a Japanese carp magazine, CONGRATULATIONS Mike!

PODCAST #2

EXTREME-CARPE-COM

CLICK LINK BELOW

http://www.americancarpsociety.com/podcast/teaser_xtrem-carpee.wmv

****STOP PRESS** Even more news from ACS!!!**

The old (866) 518 4227 number is now disconnected. The New ACS message center number is 1-(818) 240-4842 please call and leave all your questions and suggestions, we'll call you back just as soon as is humanly possible!

The ALL NEW American Carp Society message board forum is now open and can be found by clicking on the "New ACS Forum" link on the ACS home page <http://www.americancarpsociety.com:8080/ACS/home.jsp>

There is a "Podcast Sneak Peek" section of the new Forum, check it out regularly for up-dates at <http://www.acsdatacenter.com/index.php?showtopic=121>

ACS members will be able to vote on who should receive the "2006 Angler of the Year" award at the following link address... <http://acsdatacenter.com/index.php?showforum=57>

The ACS new & renewal membership packages are now even more valuable!! We've now got more bait & tackle manufacturers on board supplying you Carp related freebies... Even more to come very shortly!! Please see present details elsewhere in this edition of the American Carper. The new season (Jan-Mar'07) of the American Carp League is now in full swing! You can check out the leader board either via the link on the ACS home page or by via the new ACS forum at <http://acsdatacenter.com/index.php?showforum=19>

There are now 4 seasons to fish each year where you can compete to win fantastic prizes!
Its not too late to register for the 1st 2007 season Jan-Mar! Please see application form at the following link:
http://www.americancarpsociety.com:8080/ACS/american_carp_league.jsp

A scenic view of a town across a river, with a large sculpture in the foreground. The town features several buildings with red roofs, and the river reflects the scene. The sculpture in the foreground is a large, dark, abstract piece, possibly a reclining figure. The title 'French Resistance Part Deux' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters.

French Resistance Part Deux

By Duncan Maclean

On Monday I woke up early and decided to look at some decent reels. The more I thought about it the only way around it would be to replace them. Euro Peche had some nice looking Daiwas in stock and I was pretty sure they'd do the job, but I wanted to go to David's shop just in case he had something better.

The drive to Saint Jean de Trezy is a beautiful one and only fifteen to twenty minutes away from my hotel. It's on the wine trail and the main town in the area that's very famous for its red wine is Mercurey. It's a very pretty town, which is somewhat unusual with 12 pedestrian crossings. After meandering through several more small towns, I arrived at David's business, Via Carpes.

His shop is basically a garage on the rear of his home, which like his business is very new. I was most surprised to find about four other carpers inside. Something that is common in the tackle trade back in England is the amount of time that owners will talk with customers, as they were talking about bait. David immediately came across to greet me with a firm handshake and asked if I'd like some coffee. Naturally it would have been impolite to say no, so I gladly accepted the invitation. After spending a while looking at various items it was time to get to talk with David and I got three kilos of boilies, tutti fruiti, garlic and robin red and banana.

Since there were no reels to my liking, I made the drive back to Chalon Sur Saone to get the Daiwas.

The next objective was to spool them up and get ready for the next session,

April 24th

14:27 - Today is really hot, it's pushing mid 90's F. These new Daiwa reels are a 100% better than the Sert bait-runners. After getting in from work I went to bed at 9am and I was wide-awake at 13:30 with no chance of sleep. My initial plan is to fish until 16:30 then rest for an hour back at the hotel, then back into the routine of nightshifts once again. The left hand rod has tutti on it and the right has banana. I am fishing the swim where Manuel fished, then David and Jeremy a few days later. The sparrows continue to chirp and the other birds are in full song. The grass is a sea of dandelions, and my friend, Le Duck is close by. Solitude



is a wonderful thing especially when civilization is on the opposite bank.

14:45 - I can't help but marvel at the cheap alarms, for 16 euros the Ron Thompsons perform well. For the nominal investment and the functionality they are well worth the minimal investment. Now that I am using quality reels I feel a lot more confident and much happier than before. 10 ball bearings beat the little coffee grinders that once sat on my new rods.

15:12 - Just re-baited and got garlic robin red on the left and banana on the right. Forgot to turn the right



alarm on earlier. More than likely I will get nothing but it's better than staying in the hotel room, especially as the a/c is not running. There's a nice gentle breeze blowing upstream. If I didn't have to work tonight I would have a power nap about now.

16:05 - No activity at all. One solitary beep in the last 45 minutes or so. There seems to be a dead period between 13:00 to 17:00 more or less. The wind has changed direction, blowing downstream now.

16:10 - Just had a 12lb common, nice fight and the new reels done well. I am really happy with them, nice and smooth. Robin Red and Garlic done the business, on the left hand rod using a running rig.

16:25 - Just saw a very nice fish crash over my left rod. This is typical as I have to leave in five minutes.

April 26th

14:00 - Stopped off at Euro Peche. Gave Christophe the broken coffee grinder of a bait-runner. He exchanged it without any hassle at all. Still not sure if it's a good idea to get another one especially as I really dislike them!

14:15 - Bought a cheap net from Carre Four, a French equivalent to

Wal-Mart so to speak. They sell rod pods, alarms, boilies etc! Somewhat amazing considering back in the USA no such thing exists. Like the coffee grinder bait-runner, it's okay but not what I really want.

14:30 - Got both rods out now! Tutti is on the left rod with a running rig and banana on the right with a Fox safety lead clip rig.

15:15 - Run! After seeing some small fish crashing I land a 5lb common on a 20mm tutti fruiti. All things considered these small carp are not having any trouble at all with a large bait. Just for information only, flip-flops and silty bottoms do not work.

15:30 - Re-baited. This time banana is on the left and robin red garlic is on the right.

15:55 - I am sitting in the shade, it's a very nice day although there are a few thunderheads lurking around. Am I going to be rained on? Bloody hope not.

16:00 - Re-cast and this time around robin red and garlic are on the left with tutti on the right. Fish are around as the rod tips are showing fish playing with the baits.

16:05 - A screamer of a run! This fish feels like a decent one but not as good

as the one I lost a few days ago.

16:15 - Now I have my biggest mirror carp in the sack. She weighs 24lbs 4oz. Sweet. At this moment happiness is on my mind and also I am somewhat curious as to the size of the fish that was lost several days ago.

16:20 - My mirror swims off after a photo session. This is the first time using my camera/bank stick thread adapter. The pictures are okay, and I suppose could have been worse, my head is in the shot.

16:30 - Had a twitch on the robin red garlic rod again. I should have let it develop properly but I was a little hasty and tried to hit something that was no there. Oh well.

16:45 - Now it's time to break down the rods. I cannot complain at all though, just over 2 hours on the bank and almost 30lbs to show for it. Now these Daiwas are the business, 3 runs and three fish. Sert reels 12 runs and four fish.

17:05 - Took the landing net back to Carre Four. The lady there exchanged it without any problems at all. C'est trop petit took care of it, it's too small!

17:15 - Exchanged the reel at Euro Peche, Christophe let me change it for some leads, hanger and a smaller baiting needle. I also mentioned that next week I would be back for another Daiwa reel.

17:30 - Time to pick up the laundry, go back to the hotel, shower, dine and go to work.

April 27th

No fishing today as it more or less classed as a rest day. Fishing every other day is enough as work can be quiet demanding at times and it may

not be prudent to burn out totally. So James and I had decided to drive out to see David, as I wanted to get another kilo of bait, a net and some odds and ends. The drive out was beautiful as always and like the time before we were made to feel very welcome. David took us into his home and shown us the manufacturing operation. It really is special and worth a look at. He doesn't use machines to produce his boilies, but rolls them by hand on the larger rolling tables. His wife was busy bagging and labeling bait when we entered and immediately asked if we would like some coffee. Naturally I accepted the kind invitation. David had a bag of poisson boilies ready for me, so we then retreated back into the shop. Considering the size of his premises he has done very well, every item is presented well and a decent supply of stock. I casually browsed at an assortment of items ranging from hooks to landing nets. He had three nets in stock and demonstrated all of them. One fold down once the fish is in for safer handling, really nice apart from the \$300 tag! I decided to play it safe with the nice cheap one for

30 Euros, a rig wallet for my travels, hooks, some stops, and some amazing stiff rig material. It is called Lexa anti ejection hook length, made by Carp Spirit. It is highly maneuverable and always goes back straight.

We spoke at length on the subject of bait and what quantities to put in. He uses around 20% Robin Red in his favourite base mix. Since using it, I have had a couple on the bank with it outscoring everything else. Sometime during the week he will have some of his special flavours for me to take home, which is rather exciting considering they are not available anywhere. He even got into detail of what months certain mixes and flavours do best. Already at this point in my trip I feel a lot more confident in making my own baits with some of the tips and hints given to me so far, and I get the feeling more will follow. Tomorrow will be a long tiring day because as soon as the shift is done at 8am, it will be breakfast, a shower and out on the bank for 12 hours, minimum.



The sleeper pimp, James resting after his trip to Lyon!



Olivier with a 9 kg common



A small common on a 20 mm garlic robin red boilie!

April 28th

09:30 - Well out on the bank finally, James dropped me off around 08:45 as he is off to Lyon for the day. Today I am sitting at my original swim.

The water is a little cooler and up a touch. It has a little extra colour to it and the breeze is coming slightly from upstream towards the east bank where I am sitting. The birds are active the town is bustling. Maybe I will catch today, who knows. A man I met at David's shop earlier in the week is here his name is Olivier. He has had eight fish up to 9kgs. His friend who is downstream has had fish 12kgs and 14kgs, I am not sure how many he has had but obviously doing well. Olivier had a Bream of a 11lb on two 20mm boilies.

10:05 - Just recast and I have banana on the left and poisson on the right. Within two minutes the banana had a slow take, I should have left it, but no got anxious and tried to hit fresh air. Must have been a Bream.

11:00 - Doesn't time fly when you are catching nowt? I have had a couple of twitchy bites that must have been Bream. Currently I have David's garlic and robin red on the right hand rod and his secret new bait DS1 on the left rod.

11:05 - Olivier just had a fish around

8-10lbs on garlic robin red.

11:25 - Finally I am off the mark with a small fish of 5lbs on garlic robin red. C'est tres bon!

12:15 - I have garlic robin red on the left and poisson on the right. Saw a big fish crash over where Olivier is fishing. There are a few more ducks around today, lots of quacking going on, must be mating season.

12:18 - Had a few beeps on the left rod. It is probably Bream and is still happening. There's a big difference in temperatures today, certainly a few degrees less than the last few mornings out.

13:10 - I have just watched the photo shoot of three very decent fish, a couple of commons and a mirror pushing 12kgs. Their son who I would guess is around 12 years old had a hell of a time trying to hold them. They'd been sacked up for a while and were very lively as you can imagine. The wind direction has not changed and it is somewhat refreshing.

1330 - I have just released a 10lb common caught on poisson on the left hand rod. It put up a decent fight, which was most agreeable.

14:35 - A duck flew into my line, this time he managed to get out without

needing any assistance.

15:25 - I have just recast with DS1 on the right rod and banana on the left. This time the baits are a wee bit further out. The wind has changed direction and now its coming from the downstream direction. I have just had two beeps on the banana, probably Bream again. They seem to be more prevalent today than ever before. I wonder if it has anything to do with the water being a little colder, slightly more colour and a touch higher water level?

16:35 - I have just woken up and re-baited the hooks. I have DS1 on the left and garlic robin red on the right. I like the a sleepy time, especially after working a nightshift and coming out to the lake right afterwards. The wind has dropped off again.

17:35 - There has been a couple of boats out after cats all day. At the moment there are two people in the boat after Wells. They are working the clonk. This device seems to be a very popular choice for attracting them as everyone's using them.

18:05 - The Catfishers have one in the boat. It looks to be in the region of 40lbs plus. Finally someone has caught a fish from this area!

18:30 - James has just arrived after

his day in Lyon. The fish are moving again but no signs of life on the bait. One or two beeps again, more than likely Bream!

19:05 - The weather has changed remarkably in the last hour or so. There are thunder clouds that were around have moved away and the atmospheric pressure improved. The air feels much fresher and the wind is blowing downstream at the moment. It's nice outside, very nice indeed. James is sleeping in the back of the Renault!

April 29th

08:25 - I slept late and struggled to get out of my bed this morning at 07:30. Because of the real estate issues on the bank and people being way too close for my liking, I decided to fish to the far right out of the way of everyone. The spot is opposite the TV repair shop on the other bank. The current baits out there are DS1 on the left and garlic robin red on the right. It's a little deeper out there compared to the other spots by the time it takes the lead to settle. Maybe next time I cast I will drop one a little shorter, this tactic paid off and brought me an extra fish to the bank yesterday. It is easy to understand why no-one bothers with this spot as it is difficult to get to the waters edge, a little bit of care is required or you will end up on one's arse. The wind is blowing upstream and it looks like

another great day in France!

09:30 - Re-cast with banana on the right and poisson on the left, plus half a shop bought tutti fruti. Olivier is packing up his stuff and he has just taken a picture of a beautiful mirror and a nice common. I am still waiting for a run!

09:50 - The breakfast of champions, salt and vinegar crisps. Brilliant. Now that should teach me to sleep through my alarm and not have the hotels fantastic breakfast.

10:45 - I have just woken up with a wet nose on my leg! Someone camping or bumming around owns him and he has been around off and on for a day or two now. He likes boilies so I feed him a few every now and again especially as he is a little on the scrawny side. Just re-baited with garlic robin red on the right and tutti fruti on the left.

11:20 - I don't think it's going to happen today. Maybe too many rods out and too much bait or the fish are just not interested. They are here as I have seen them jumping and rolling. Olivier had two fish after I left, and last weekend there were about a dozen caught. There's a bird in the tree to the right of me singing away, it's wonderful.

12:30 - I had my first run at 11:55 and it was a fight and a half. It ripped

a lot of line off the reel at the very get go, and continued to for quite sometime, again the garlic robin red done the business. As I was laying in my Renault Megane bedchair car pondering on whether to reel in and leave the beast decided to hit. She weighed in at 22lbs and fought hard all the way to the net. I had some help from Olivier's friend, and after I landed the fish his friend offered me a beer. How could I refuse and I would not like to offend them. Maybe I will stay until two pm now. Boy she's a pretty mirror.

14:00 - In the car going back to the hotel as nothing happened.



The owner of the wet nose!

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We have received some requests from other anglers requesting names of other ACS members who might live near them so that they may fish together. So as you purchase a new membership or renew your existing membership to the American Carp Society we will be asking you if you would like to share your contact information with other ACS members. The contact information (name, address, phone and email) will be on a database located on the American Carp Society web site. The database will only be able to be accessed by ACS members. What a great way to meet new friends who might live near you.

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Fishing the Heat

By Wayne Trapp

The spring of the year brings the carp angler heavily laden pre-spawn fish and the chance at some fast action. In the fall we find cool breezes and the fish ravenously feeding to pack on weight before the long winter freeze. And winter brings about some of my favorite kind of carp fishing ... a productive time if you can get to the right spot. But the heat of the summer is something different altogether. While my 3 season tactics are quite effective I don't let the dog days of summer slow me down ... I simply switch gears and keep on hauling.

In this article I am going to cover my summer time fishing methods to include ... Locations, Weather, Daytime and Night time tactics.

Weather: Hot, humid, muggy, and sticky are a few words for this time of year. But there is a jewel in all of this summer heat ... cold fronts. A cold front can spawn massive storm systems and some awesome carp

fishing. Fishing the storm fronts is one of my favorite times of summer. Yes it is hot when you arrive but cooler breezes and rain are on the way.

On June 8th 2007 a storm front was predicted to arrive in East Tennessee around 5PM. I told the Wife to pack up and we rushed to get everything in the car. At 2:30PM we put our rods in the water and the action was non-stop. In the next 2 ½ hours we had a tough time getting 2 rods in the water at the same time ... and when we did we usually were doubled up and battling 2 fish to the net. The largest for this session was a 25 pound common that I nicknamed Horse. The front arrived loaded with lightning and strong winds and we packed out at 4:58PM before it hit. In less than 2 ½ hours we had landed 300+ pounds of carp to include 2 – 20+'s. A smoking hot short session literally!

This is my favorite short session tactic of summer and I get excited with anticipation when hearing of an

impending front. There is the rush to load the car ... listening to the car radio for weather reports while on the highway ... quickly setting up the gear at the swim ... and finally the mad dash to tear it all down before the storm hits.

Keep an eye on the weather, and do your best to fish as many of these storm fronts as you can. This will go a long way towards adding many fish to your photo album for the year. Play it safe and keep track of the weather while at the swim and pack out before you wished you had. Storm fronts are the shining jewel of a long hot summer.

The Dog Days:

High pressure systems develop into long hot dry spells that can last for weeks or even months. The dog days are here and the fishing is tough. It's time to switch tactics and get right back into the fish. On June 14th a sweltering time in East Tennessee in



Keep an eye on the weather!



Wayne with a nice mirror



31 lb 5 oz common!

2006 I picked up the current CAG record mirror for my State on a Pineapple Ice Cream boilie at 1:30 am.

Night fishing is one way to find the fish in the heat of summer but take a look at this 31-3 caught in sweltering high pressure conditions just a few days ago. This fish was caught during the daytime and was my second 30+ that week under the same conditions.

If you know what to look for you can find the fish day and night and catch some impressive fish. The fish are there ... they are feeding ... now let's show you how to find them.

Daytime:

My first rule for daytime fishing in the heat of the summer is moving water. This puts you fishing on a river or below the dam at a lake.

Second rule is 20 feet of water or more. Slow moving deep water is ideal and if I can find a location that allows me bank access in the shade I will take it. Being comfortable in these conditions is tough and you need to take care of yourself to prevent heat injuries. If shade is absent from an ideal spot then bring some with you. A portable canopy or beach umbrella will go a long ways towards protecting you. A cooler full of ice cold water and Gatorade is in order and a portable battery powered fan set up on a folding camping table can really improve your ability to stay and fish in the heat.

Just any deep water location won't do ... look for a well defined channel. An outside bend of a river where the channel swings up close to the shore is my favorite location. Locate

one of these and you have found the highway that the carp will use to travel back and forth on their daily patrol routes.

In the topographical map above you see a great location for fishing the dog days of summer. This is a spot that I wouldn't give a second look at in the winter time ... but hold onto your hats in hot weather conditions ... this is a big fish haunt. The combination of the outside river bend and the close proximity of the deep channel to shore mean that you can cast into the deeper and cooler waters. Long straight featureless sections of the river will produce fish but seeking out structure like bridges and bends in the river will make your fishing time more productive.

If you would like to find the perfect





spot for carp fishing in the summer heat the second topographical picture shows you what one looks like.

This is a magical combination that produces very nice fish all summer long. This location has a combination of features and it will produce fish 24 hours a day. First off we have a well defined deep water channel that swings up close to shore. Second is that this is an outside bend on the river and third there is a shallow water slough nearby.

During the day fish the deep water channel in front of the shallow area.

Put your baits in that 20 foot zone and you can absolutely get worn out with nice fish. As night approaches move your baits to the shallower water or put them right into the entrance to the slough. Carp will visit the shallows at night and when the bite in the deep water subsides it is time for you to move your baits. This action in the shallows may only last for 4 or 5 hours a night.

Yesterday was the 2007 CAGI a ten hour long summer event. I fished this event with John and Angela Bramley and Dennis Money Penny. We

targeted an outside river bend with a well defined 20 foot deep channel close to shore. The cloudless sky, 95 degree heat, high humidity, and lack of breezes made the day almost unbearable. But the weather wasn't the only thing that was hot. The fish action was almost non stop and we were able to record 469 pounds of fish for the event in some sweltering hot conditions.

I recently had a visit from Andy Phinn of Resistance Tackle. I met him at one of my favorite summer time locations and showed him the water features. Andy wasted no time in catching some really nice fish in the June heat.

While there are inside river bends, long straight sections of river, and of course lakes ... my favorite summer time tactic is to fish the outside river bends. This of course narrows your choices of where to fish in the heat ... but it also pinpoints a specific water feature for you to target that is very productive. Find those outside river bends, fish deep, and try to stay cool.

While it may be the dog days of summer ... there is no reason for you to stay on the porch with the other dogs.

Good Luck !



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ACS Regionals Week in Review

By Rick Walker

“I blame Sean Manning!” That was the thought that played a recurring theme in my head as I drove south down Interstate 81 towards Baldwinsville, NY and the great unknown. At the behest of Mr. Manning I had taken the entire week off of work to cover the ACS Regional as the event photographer for the UK based Dynamite team.

Event Photographer.....me? I don't think so. Let's take a moment to review my extensive credentials and resume.... there, that was quick! Zero, zilch, and zippo! Other than taking an interest in photography to compliment my outdoor lifestyle, I certainly wouldn't qualify as the commercial type of professional required by this, my first assignment! I was nervous to say the least! My vacation had started the previous Saturday when I left Albany, NY and drove two hours into the Adirondack Mountains to meet my Dad and brother-in-law Rod. From there we had an easy two hour drive to the friendly accommodations of Ed Sheffield's Bait & Tackle shop in downtown Waddington. Rod had carp fished with me last year at local bay called Stumps, and landed fish to 29 pounds so he was an old salt to the carp scene. My Dad, who is a very knowledgeable fisherman in his own right, was a carp newbie and I was determined to rectify that!! We trundled our gear up to the apartment and then went back downstairs to lay out the plan of attack with Ed. He suggested a spot that would allow us drive up access

and a level shoreline. I was thrilled at the opportunity to fish a new spot and we headed out immediately. My Dad really seemed to enjoy the whole process of watching me spod and use the boilie stick to bait the area. I turned over the boilie stick immediately and the boys had quite a time making 'em fly! I'm sure we laid down a good bed of boilies; it just happened to be a VERY big bed with VERY loose covers... but a good time was had by all.

A steady wind kept the bugs to a minimum but that would be the only advantage we would enjoy that day. No crashes, no line bites, no drops, and no carp to be seen though we did a lot of looking! I took my kayak to explore the shoreline of Leischman's Point but couldn't locate carp anywhere. Ed was very surprised when we gave our report later that night. He had seen carp crashing there just the night prior to our arrival and felt sure we would connect.

Sunday morning would see Dad and Rod head back home as my sister had a Honey-Do list that just couldn't be denied. (Rod was coming off his own week's vacation – a five day canoe/camping trip for brook trout) He had used up all his get out of jail free cards and it was time to settle up. My father was scheming to stay but it just wasn't going to work out. He was very disappointed but vowed to return again. I plan to hold him to it! Another executive meeting with Ed and I was back on the road headed for a favorite spot by the Iroquois

Dam. Within thirty minutes of the method feeders hitting the bottom I was graced with a 27 pound bar of Saint Lawrence gold. My joy was tempered with the knowledge that my Dad would certainly have enjoyed it as well.

Warm weather and bright blue skies combined with a fair amount of catching (as opposed to merely “fishing”) and I was about as happy as this kid can be! Could there be anything better? All in all I would total some fifteen fish in that glorious session. None would better the mark set by the first, but two would make the grade as firsts and PBs to boot. My only mirror carp to date, Lilly, (named for the single lily pad shaped scale that graced her right flank) was an 8 pounder that had come from the turbid waters of the Hudson River last summer. The carp that fell to my ever patient net that day was a mirror of a different sort. She owned not a single scale that could be called large by any means and they were sparse to begin with. The digital read 16 pounds 4 ozs and I had just doubled my personal best!! I was thrilled and worked hard to capture the moment with the camera on self timer. She was back in the water just in time to for the alarm to announce the arrival of another run! A short battle brought this split tailed common to the bag. After getting my gear sorted out and reset, I settled in for a short respite that would be over before it even got started. My DAM alarm has a quite powerful blue LED on the top and even in the bright sun shine



I could see it go as the alarm sang my favorite melody. Imagine my delight when mirror number TWO flashed broadside in the crystalline clarity of the Saint Lawrence flow! She would break my thirty minute old PB by four ounces at 16 pounds 8. My day was made and truly I couldn't have imagined better. I fished until the stars lit up the sky and the loons started singing soul stirring lullabies that had my chin searching for a solid rest. Regretfully I loaded the car and drove carefully out on the deeply rutted path back to the asphalt.

I left for Baldwinsville at 3pm Tuesday after a lengthy exit interview with Ed. We talked about my getting a chance to fish again later in the summer. So many carp and so little time! Of one thing I am certain, I will absolutely be back to have another go at the world famous fishery that is Waddington NY. So here we are, back where this tale started, heading down 81 towards the ACS Regional and a date with my first photography assignment. Nervous? Nah... not me.

The Red Mill Inn sits on an island created by a Barge Canal lock on one side and the Seneca River on the other. This newly renovated historic landmark was once a flour mill that provided the commerce necessary to make Baldwinsville a pillar of the Syracuse community. I

was very impressed by the upscale surroundings and the obvious attention to every detail that makes this wonderful hotel the attraction that it is.

If was hard to miss the pallet of Ziegler's fish food by the front door of the hotel. There were three French teams in the competition and this feed would become that bulk of their baiting efforts. A large group of carp anglers stood nearby and discussed, at length, the virtues of slow sinking Ziegler's pellets vs. fast sinking. Everyone had an opinion but all agreed that Zeigler's represented the best of the commercially available fish foods and that the French had spent some serious cash to have that pallet shipped in. Any doubts about their intentions as regards the winner's podium were quickly erased. After finding my room and getting settled in I went back downstairs to the "control room" located just off the lobby. Kathy Kelly, the ACS event coordinator, was the woman in charge and it was downright impressive to watch her work! I had no idea how many volunteers and different agencies were involved but Kathy made it look easy as she answered questions and provided the direction required to make it all go. I took head shots of arriving competitors, then promised to get photos of the Opening Ceremonies

for her as well. Then I promised to take pictures of the sponsors' signage, and it quickly became evident that my role as a team photographer had just expanded to Event Photographer! With a couple hours to kill before the festivities, a large group of people had gathered on the front lawn for an impromptu carp handling seminar put on by David Moore. As the event organizer he had put in hundreds of hours prior to the event, to make it all come together and it was obvious from the passion he demonstrated as he bagged, weighed, and released that carp that he had lost none of his initial desire to promote the sport to its highest level. He answered every question, no matter how random, with an ease that delighted the crowd.

The Red Mill Inn hosted a pre peg-draw cocktail hour with some fantastic hors d'oeuvres, and icy cold libations that put a smile on everyone's face. The local Rotary attended the event and it was a pleasure to see the international students carry the flags of their nations in a procession to the Budweiser amphitheater located behind the hotel. All the anglers were introduced and given the mic for brief statement. These statements ranged from Aww-Shucks non-verbal to downright eloquent (Dennis Moneypenny, you know who you



are!) to an open challenge that was received with the same good humor with which it was issued.

After the pegs were all drawn everyone disappeared to go scout out their territory for the coming morning. I went across the street to the Lock 24 to dine with the Dynamite Team and get to know the crew. It was an immense pleasure to share a table with Pete Chandler: Sales Director for Dynamite Baits, Sean Manning & Wayne Boone: ACS Co-Directors, and the Dynamite sponsored team led by Frank Warwick of UK carp angling fame. The Dynamite team would be rounded out by Pete Castle a UK based writer, photographer, and experienced angler, and the Americans: Louis Cook, Tommy Riley, Pat Kerwin, and Al St. Cyr. A more talented group you would be hard pressed to gather! I was more than thrilled to just sit quietly and listen to the banter of this superbly accomplished group.

The tournament started promptly at 9AM with blue bird skies and a warming sun that took the chill morning dew off quickly. Frank Castle and Pete Warwick had drawn a rather tight peg that had their bivvies right tight to the road. A short angled bank ended in a muddy morass with standing water between

the mud and the low rock wall that served as a bank enclosure measure. The luck of the draw had not favored their comfort but they set to work to make the best of it. It should be noted that the owner of the property was kind enough to bring pallets for the competitors who had drawn pegs in this section. It was a wonderful gesture and greatly appreciated by all.

Pete spent the better part of an hour preparing their method mix of crushed boilies, particles, and flavoring. This was Euro carp angling at its best and it was an education to say the least! Pete wouldn't hesitate to answer any questions I might have and I'm quite certain I may have asked more than a couple! Pete is a very patient man. Frank was equally engrossed in getting his rigs assembled so I was never at a loss for camera

fodder and techniques to acquire. Mr. Warwick is the kind of chap who plays with an easy smile and a quick joke, but brings an intensely competitive nature to bear on the subject at hand.

Over the course of the day I began to explore the shoreline and introduce myself to the competitors at each



station. This was certainly to become one of the highlights of the week for me! Within walking distance of Frank's swim I could go from full-euro to modified-euro to paylake and even the brand new classification.. Euro-laker!!!! This disparity of techniques was to be the hot topic at most swims and I was able to participate in a way that would have been virtually impossible as a competitor.

By evening of the first day it was evident that two teams were into fish at slightly higher pace than the rest of the field. A French team, Frederique and Numa, were located on a tiny little bay, an indentation really, that afforded them an eddy off the main river. They baited heavily with method balls (hand packed balls of carp food used to draw and hold carp in the area) thrown underhand about 15 yards from the shore. They used snowmen rigs (two boilies on the same hair) with a traditional quick release set up. Standard big pit reels on 12 foot poles a very European approach, and devastatingly effective given the steady stream of carp coming up the steep bank to be weighed.

The other team in the hunt for high honors was paylaker Tom Brooks and his partner Colin Peters. Tom used a traditional paylaker rig that consisted of a fairly large J hook, maybe a #2 or so, on a four inch

doubled up hook link. The lead was a two ounce egg sinker to finish the slip rig. Again, this appeared to be the standard setup for all the paylake teams competing. I should also mention that Tom used fairly soft seven foot poles that were quite forgiving, and needed to be, given the ferocious hook sets Tom was laying down. Colin merged the two styles to create a "euro-laker" approach. His big pit reels and long poles sat on a very smart pod set up with bite alarms.... and that is where he left the Euro approach standing. His end tackle was 100% paylake right down to the grits pack bait he was molding around the 2 oz slip sinker.

I may be grossly over simplifying here but this was my take on the scene before me. Paylakers are not interested in "feeding" carp and then blending a hook bait into a bed of look-a-like freebies as is the standard Euro technique. The ubiquitous grits pack bait is merely the vehicle with which the flavor of food is delivered. The grits swirl around in a great billowing cloud of scent but gives the foraging carp nothing to fill their bellies with, except the breakfast cereal corn puff squeezed onto the curve of the hook. Paylake professionals live and die by the flavors, scents, and essences that make up their ultra-secrete recipes. You would have a better chance of

winning the Irish lottery than getting a straight answer out of a Paylaker when pack baits are in the discussion. By contrast, the European style of carp angling is designed to allow for baiting and fishing at great distance if needed. The 12' rods with big pit reels can allow a competent angler a 200 yard field of play and all the additional options that would allow. Euro anglers routinely throw method bombs with bolt rigs and hook baits that can weigh almost 3/4's of a pound! Quick release leads are standard as a safety precaution when fighting carp through vegetation mats. Hook links vary but can certainly be up to three times longer than the paylake standard.

Using Colin's example we would then be able to deliver the paylaker baiting strategy at tremendous distances with the euro hardware.. Pretty clever Colin! Given the successes of the lowly grit (second & third on the winner's podium) I think we will be seeing more of the "Euro-Laker" in tournaments across the country and maybe even farther.

A section of swims was located five minutes out of Baldwinsville in the opposite direction from where I had started out. I didn't make it down there till the second morning but it was certainly worth the wait! Angela and John Bramley were situated



on a channel off the main river and it quickly became evident that they just simply didn't have the numbers of carp available to challenge the leader board. Their answer? Catch ONE carp that just happens to be the biggest. At thirty-two pounds 6 oz s they did just that! The \$1000 fish fell to a grits pack bait with two kernels of K-1 Juicy Tutti-Frutti maize on the hair. Pack baits and hair rigs? Yup, John and Angela are also disciples of the Euro-Laker approach. It was an absolute pleasure to sit back and watch Family Bramley in action. Oldest son Matthew is already an accomplished angler and wanted desperately to help mum Angela reel in one of her many fish until Dad had to explain the rules of tournament fishing. Matthew and Nathan will both have the opportunity to land their own fish as the family continues their vacation with a road trip to Waddington immediately after the close of this tournament.

The same section contained the Howlands, a mother/daughter team that fought hard from the opening bell but just didn't have the numbers of fish in front of them to do real damage. A luckier peg draw next year and I think these ladies certainly have the determination and skills to be the first all female team to ascend the podium. I will be rooting for them!

Val Grimley and Nigel Griffin were located on an inside corner where the main river moved past a channel entrance. Val, whom I have had the pleasure to fish with many times, had a slab of concrete overhanging his swim like a giant pedestal. I begged him to fight a carp from up there so that I could immortalize him as one of the Greats. He politely declined with a wry smile. Nigel fished down a small bank with heavy

trees lining his casting lanes. I think many people would have retired from the competition at that point but not Nigel. He figured the angles, located his target (eighty yards to the opposite point), and let fly with a mighty cast that removed more than a bit of the encroaching foliage. The cast? Right on the money.

It occurs to me at this point that if I tried to introduce you, the gentle reader, to every character I met that week it would have the makings of a fairly substantial book! Instead, I can only suggest that next year you consider attending the event yourself! Compete at a location where the success of catching is almost inevitable, while surrounded by a pretty fair cross section of some of the best carp anglers in North America and beyond. The town of Baldwinsville went into this "carp thing" with tremendous enthusiasm but perhaps a bit of justifiable skepticism as well. Any hesitation they may have had was erased by the tremendous turnout and boundless curiosity of the many spectators. Everyone was talking about next year and a tremendous shout of approval met Dave Moore's announcement that next year's event was a done deal! After the final results were tallied, the total weight of the captured carp would exceed 14 TONS! This tally represents a new tournament world record that still has many international fans of the sport buzzing. Keep in mind that a carp had to weigh 10 pounds, minimum, to count on the tally sheet. How many tons of carp were not scored? In my estimation, uneducated as it is, the total weight could easily have exceeded 24 tons, or 48,000 POUNDS of carp! Incredible!

My last observation of the

tournament was seeing the French teams after the awards ceremony. Did they go up to their rooms in the Red Mill Inn and take a well deserved rest after fifty sleepless of hours of grinding out a great victory? Maybe they went across the street to Lock 24 for an excellent meal and a celebratory toast.... nope. As I loaded my car to start the long trek home I looked towards the sunset hanging over the Seneca River along the side of the Red Mill Inn. As usual, the grassy lawn was full of people casting for shad, bass, or pike at the close of the day. I squinted against the glare and sure enough, I recognized every member of the three French teams. They had chosen to "relax" with light weight spinning rigs doing what they enjoy most... fishing. Perfect!

Oh, what about that scoundrel Sean Manning you ask? I still blame him. I blame him for pushing me out of my comfort zone and meeting new challenges. Thanks for everything Sean! This sport is lucky to have you as one of its ambassadors.

Hope you enjoyed the tellin'

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RED DEMON BEHIND THE BUSINESS

By Sean Manning with assistance from Krista Byers

Red Demon Baits is a US-based specialty carp bait company that has become increasingly popular over the last year. Frank Aldrich, owner of Red Demon, started publicly selling bait in 2006 due to friends requesting bait. Since then his company has grown from a small-scale boilie producer to one of the hot new bait companies in the U.S. Red Demon baits have accounted for some nice fish over the past year.

Red Demon now makes several types of boilies and glugs and has even come up with a specialized carp pellet for US anglers. Based in upstate New York, Frank is close to one of the premier carp waters in the U.S., the St. Lawrence. Frank

has been kind enough to give us a “behind the business” look at his bait company how it got started and his thoughts for the future.

SEAN: First of all, thanks for taking the time to do this interview. I know you’ve been busy, but have you been able to spend any time on the bank trying out any of your products?

FRANK: Sean, thanks for this interview. I have been quite busy with now going international with my products, and orders are now gearing up for Spring (finally). I have been on the bank just a handful of times this year, trying a few things, the fish have taken to most of my tricks quickly. I also have employees in the US and

abroad to help in research and development.

SEAN: How did you get into carp angling in the first place, and how did that lead you to start a bait company?

FRANK: Well I grew up fishing a spot on Oneida Lake, using a normal hook and worm method. Always seeing these golden monsters, and always wondering how to get them to eat the bait. I hooked a few decent fish, but the tackle was wrong for the job. Fast forward several years to 2002, I met Mike McGrath (a local Carp guide here in NY), we had gotten together and fished on several occasions using normal maize which was yielding mostly smaller fish to



50 lbs of 14mm boilies



75 lb of bait packaged and ready for a Memorial weekend session!

just about 22lbs.. I started reading and doing research on baits and methods that brought bigger fish. I then found out about the boilie, a round boiled bait ranging in sizes from 8mm to 30mm, with special additives in it that are healthy for Carp specifically. I then started the wrong way buying someone else's base mix that was less than ideal for my use. A lot more reading and questions on forums and countless hours on the internet brought me my first halfway decent base mix, which now is my Dead Set range mix, (a HNV basemix). I worked from there to create my full range of mixes and sizes. I started making some baits and sending them to friends, and they worked surprisingly well. I then started getting on carp forums to see who would want to try them free and had a few takers who also caught extremely well on them. So I decided to release my products March of 2006 commercially. Here I am today with 5 base mixes and seven sizes including our Predator Elite 30mm baits!

SEAN: Many people may not know this, but you make all your boilies from start to finish yourself don't you? That has to take a toll on you. How do you make so much bait by yourself, yet keep the quality of everything so great?

FRANK: Sean, yes I do everything here in house from cracking the eggs to mixing to extruding and rolling the baits. It does take a massive toll on me especially seeing as I usually work 10-12 hours daily just to keep up. I try to run about 75lbs minimum daily. Here's another little secret about the company, we do NOT use a commercial mixer. I treat every batch of boilies the



exact same from start to finish. I find that method keeps every bait the same quality and nothing is left lacking. If you do the same thing day in and day out you get into a groove, basically I got one hell of a groove for banging out boilies like a mad man so says one of my staff members Adam Vanhooose, who recently saw what it's like to roll boilies for a few hours. I think we ran 35lbs. in just maybe 3 hours time from start to finish. Needless to say he doesn't like rolling much with the Demon!!

SEAN: Frank, you're located in one of the premier areas for carp angling in the U.S. Has that helped you develop your baits?

FRANK: Sean, I live right on the Oswego River here in Phoenix, NY. Yes it helps in development of baits and can test fairly easily most times in the Spring and Summer. We did use the St. Lawrence River for testing, but prefer Oneida Lake, and Oswego River for close to home testing. Although my primary

testing is done in Texas via Mark Villanova. Nothing leaves here without catching a decent amount of fish and having the attraction to it that we are looking for. We have so many projects currently that cannot be released due to less than adequate results and or lack of testing. After meeting up with Adam Vanhooose, he has began helping out with testing some products in a few areas of 3 separate waters. Local guys are great help, especially when they love what you do the same! Although Kev Abbot in Michigan helps a lot with testing as well on his lakes!

SEAN: In regards to that do you find that any of The Red Demon range is more popular in particular states?

FRANK: Oh absolutely. The 14mm Dead set range is quite popular if not famous in Indianapolis thanks to the person who got me setup with a few bait shops Kevin Tharp. Texans love the Blood range, a lot



Additives



Custom rolling!



A 28 pounder on a 50mm pineapple pred elite boilie



Adam with a nice 25 during testing of the Squid/Plum



Axel with a nice 29 lb
12 oz carp caught on
Pineapple mini demons!

of places crave our Crunch range as the St. Lawrence area has done extremely well on em. As of this Spring our Predator Elite 30mm boilies have truly exploded into fame very quickly, as they are the absolute biggest commercially available boilie here in the USA.

SEAN: You've expanded from making boilies to making glugs, and now pellets. Do you have any plans to expand your line of baits?

FRANK: I want to have a full line based bait company. We are moving a little slow at the moment due to the increase in customs halting packages for months on end. Most everything comes from the US, but everyone knows some things need to be purchased from abroad. I have started selling some of our base mixes as well as additives for mixes such as high protein powders, and additives to give buoyancy to bait that you would normally have to buy in other countries for a ridiculous price. We want to have the best boilie additives and ingredients available at the very best prices. We still have a lot of room to grow. We have come a long way in a year commercially.

SEAN: Your company has really expanded over the past year and the name is definitely getting out there. What would you attribute that to?

FRANK: Firstly a massive thanks to TEAM RED DEMON Kev Abbott in Michigan, (responsible for our posters) Mark Villanova in Texas (buffs, carp, grassers), Adam Vanhooose in Syracuse, NY (Carp and haulin fish during testing) and Axel Boy in Virginia (catches Carp well on bait in Dc). Without these guys this job would be a lot harder

than it already is. The biggest attribute is that the bait works. It has caught big fish in a lot of places. To this day biggest carp is 39lbs – Oneida Lake, NY. The biggest buffalo is 46.12lbs from Texas, as well as biggest Grass carp is 30.10lbs. That gets the word spread quickly when you catch big fish on a bait!

SEAN: I think the website is growing in popularity as well isn't it? Any plans on a physical location at all? I know that there must also be a number of companies wanting to sell or distribute?

FRANK: The website has grown massively, to several thousand hits weekly from all over the world. A dream we never thought possible to tell you the truth. In all honesty I see no purpose in a physical location, a possible partnership in a specialty bait shop is not out of the question though some day. We supply several shops in the US and we are always looking to make our customers happy stocking other shops as well!!

SEAN: What bait is most popular with your customers currently Frank? Do you have a personal favorite?

FRANK: Right now the biggest seller is the 30mm Predator Elite boilies. They are the biggest commercially rolled boilies here in the US!!! My personal favorite is hands down my Pink-Pineapple/ Birdseed boilies in 22-24- or 30mm!!!

SEAN: What states do most of your orders come from?

FRANK: Texas and Indiana are the bulk of my orders.



Frank's son Trent
with first carp on
a 18mm Banana
crunch



The Oswego River...

SEAN: Do you have many local customers and 'regulars'? I would imagine that you have some loyal followers from the fish that are being caught on your baits?

FRANK: I have a few local guys who buy regularly. I have gotten hundreds of return customers for baits. We are able to see what is working easily by what customers purchase and how frequently they purchase.

SEAN: What about new anglers coming into the sport. Do you get orders from new carp anglers that are just getting into it who have heard about this 'boilie' thing?

FRANK: Yes I get some orders from new anglers, but also a lot of questions as well that we love to answer and help out where we can. Most people have an idea of what a boilie is, a boiled bait. We try to let them in on a few other deciding factors about boilies, such as some additives and the how to idea of baiting with boilies.

SEAN: There are several big tournaments on the St. Lawrence each year. This is obviously a phenomenal resource for carp anglers in the USA. Has that helped your company at all regarding awareness?

FRANK: We have not really

seen any results from the St. Lawrence tournament, but we did see quite a bit of business for the ACS northeast regionals in Baldwinsville, NY.

SEAN: What do you see for the future of your company Frank any plans for expansion at all?

FRANK: We will continue to grow and create top quality products at the best prices in the United States. We are currently working on a no-egg boilie. Which has massive potential, but needs lots more research and testing to be possibly released in late Fall of 2007 or more likely Spring 2008. We continue to help promote the sport locally and globally, and possibly start our own Carp tournament trail within a few years time!

SEAN: What's in the current red demon range Frank?

FRANK: Our current range offers basically anything you could want in any type of boilie. Sizes currently available are 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, and 30mm. We have several basemixes to suit most carp anglers needs, and all are HNV (high nutritional value). Our Max-Attract range is a top notch range

that contains a high protein rating of over 65% all time, this range has the inclusion of our all new Opal flavor. Our predator elite range is for anglers fishing big fish waters, or if you simply wanna stop catching smaller fish as these baits are 30mm's in diameter and are packed with all the goodness Red Demon offers.

Our crunch range fits and suits most anglers and waters, with several types of high quality birdseeds, and a top-notch base mix. We will eventually have a pop-up range, but another project we need to finish testing on to see how things go. Another quick note for anyone who is curious as to our methods here, I do NOT use machines to roll the boilies!!! We also welcome custom orders, if you do not see it, do not think we do not have it, or can not make it. We can do just about anything within our size range. Just ask us!

SEAN: What are your thoughts about new products on a yearly basis? How many new flavors or types of bait do you think that you'll introduce each year?

FRANK: That is a great question. It is necessary for a company to come out with new products annually in

order to keep the public interested in the company itself. I would like to release at east 2 new products yearly. That number is hit or miss. Our chemist has been great with us, dealing with our vigorous testing methods and accepting dozens of phone calls a week.

SEAN: If you could sum up the Red Demon philosophy regarding carp bait what would it be?

FRANK: Our philosophy is simple. We make Carp bait for the American carp angler. We make a bait that works everywhere it is used, and we are not afraid to show

you how well it can work just for you! We tell it like it is, love us or hate us we are here to stay!

SEAN: Where do you see this sport in 5 years from now?

FRANK: Hopefully with over 50,000 carp anglers!!!! Hey we can dream, but we see the sport growing over time.

SEAN: Any advice for those people out there looking to get into the bait business?

FRANK: Make sure you think about how much time and effort this costs you. It takes time away

from family, and you NEVER fish!! Good luck to anyone who is interested in the business. A great marketing strategy can sell very well, but you need a confident team behind you in order to succeed!

SEAN: Frank, thanks again for your time and for giving us a look into Red Demon Baits. Could you let everyone know the best way to contact you?

FRANK: The best way to contact me is through our website www.reddemonbait.com or e mail frank@reddemonbait.com. Thanks!!

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Attractive hookbaits

By Nick Helleur

To us carp anglers, upping attraction around the hookbait offers the best chance of receiving action in situations when the baits may only be in the water for as little as a few hours. Of course given the time, it is easy to create an attractive baiting situation which allows the angler to sit back and wait for the fish to move into the swim and find the hookbait in their own time... which is fine, .if you have the time! For ninety percent of you out there however this simply isn't an option as you may only be able to find a few hours to pop out for a quick fish before or after work if your keen, or at best fish a short day or overnight session at the weekend to try and tempt a bite or two and under these restraints introducing any amount of bait to attract fish into the swim isn't really an option given the time available without prebaiting before you turn up to fish that is, and on

most busy waters nowadays this is invariably capitalised upon by some one else before you arrive, albeit unwittingly in most cases.

In these situations you need to pay extra attention to the attractiveness of your hookbait itself if you want to put yourself in with the best chance, in other words you need to try to force the issue and "make it happen" in the time available by actively trying to attract fish directly to the hookbait. There are several ways we can do this but we must be careful as many of the attractors available to us are artificial and therefore highly concentrated, making them far too strong unless diluted and used in very small quantities. It really is all too easy to overdo it when using strong attractors to the point that far from being attracted to the hookbait fish may actually be repelled by it once they get near, or even worse get confused

by smell that may be saturating too big an area of water which makes homing in on the hookbait very difficult for the carp, increasing the odds of one finding the bait quickly.

Of course we can steer clear of added attractors or as I prefer, use more natural forms of attraction that are difficult to overdo and also rely more on the addition of colour to help attract and lure our quarry directly to the hookbait itself and this is without doubt a very effective tactic. My personal preference is a combination of the two for much of the year when short session fishing to ensure I have all the bases covered.

I think that rather than going through all the options available to the angler, I'll touch on my personal favourite ways of boosting up my hookbaits for short session fishing which will hopefully give you an insight into



my thinking on “making it happen rather than sitting and waiting for it to happen”.

In this respect I’m best known for the dynamite stick method that I first came up with when fishing in the winter on the busy oxford waters in England six or seven years back. The method quickly proved to be far more effective and instant than I ever hoped it would and I experienced some incredible fishing while those around me struggled to get so much as a bite through much of the cold weather, proof that the attraction was unrivalled.

To put it in perspective I literally went from one bite in every four or five days fishing to ten plus bites a day from all manner of species, proving just how instant the method could be with the right ingredients and attractors. As we know it offers many more benefits than just the superb attraction properties such as fantastic rig presentation, it’s totally tangle free and guarantees the hook is presented cleanly which is of course invaluable if fishing over weed or other bottom debris. Now while the method itself can’t really be improved upon any further, I’ve always carried on playing with the mixes and attractors used to make up the stick itself and these have evolved considerably following lots of experimentation.

Initially I concentrated on the use of oils in an attempt to draw fish down to the bait that were spending most of the winter held up high off the bottom over deep water and this was going against everything that had been written before. Once mixed in with fine ingredients that soaked up the oil I found I could get it to escape from the mix and rise towards the surface in a constant stream of tiny beads regardless of low water temperatures, these would rise to the surface through any groups of semi dormant carp sitting well up off the bottom over many hours and

still retain enough oil in the mix to kick off the whole process again once disturbed by any fish movement nearby however slight.

Hopefully the rising oil as the stick broke down would spark their interest enough to drop the odd one down directly onto the hookbait. Although a relatively crude form of attracting fish down directly to the rig area this approach really did work during prolonged cold periods when other methods failed dismally and after it became known about through the magazines countless anglers enjoyed terrific sport when adopting the approach...and still do of course, year round! Of course over time I reverted to experimenting again with different bits and bobs as is my way once I feel I’ve got the measure of something and started looking for something even better. I began dabbling with more soluble attractors and ingredients and this proved to be more effective, especially in the warmer months when the fish spent more time close to the bottom and a spread of attraction in the immediate area triggered a response and got them grubbing about. Over the next year I tried many likely ingredients and a few shone through as worth including.

Most of these however proved far too expensive to realistically use despite being very effective so I turned to cheaper natural ingredients that I knew I could afford and obtain with ease. I mainly concentrated on additives and liquids used when making boilies, some of these I felt were massively inhibited once boiled into conventional baits but would be much more attractive not to mention instant when exposed directly into the water alongside the chosen hookbait. I chose several of my all time “certs” and these I fished compressed in stick form or made up into a soft paste with lake water for moulding around the hookbait itself. Now I’m not going to list all the most effective as I put in

a lot of time and effort to identify them and it seems that often nowadays too much is handed out on a plate! After all, half the enjoyment in finding a winner is in the experimenting and success is very rewarding ...so experiment!

If you're stuck for ideas however have a look through the range of additives available at your local tackle shop for likely products, there are loads out there to inspire you. If however your looking for something really different pay a visit to your local supermarket for a look, some of most effective ingredients if ever used came have come from one of the major outlets or the Chinese supermarkets that can now be found in most major towns such as belechin, fish sauce, tamarind paste, various chilli products and coconut milk for example which are rarely used but very effective indeed, perfect for personalising your mix if you want to be a little different or are unsure about the more highly concentrated fishing flavours.

Of course there are several ways other than the stick we can employ to aggressively pull fish directly to

A february Walthamstow wacker



the hookbait and one of these is by soaking hookbaits in a liquid. Of course we need to be careful exactly what type of attractor we use to do this for several reasons. Firstly many liquids will soften the bait itself so when soaking baits it is advisable to air dry them fully beforehand so that they draw in more attraction but do not become too soft and open to

attacks by nuisance species which could result on you sitting behind rods with no hookbaits attached. Secondly strong attractors could result in an overload of flavour resulting in fish being repelled from the hookbait, to avoid this I like to use a carrier liquid such as liquid liver or other more natural liquid like corn steep liquor for example as these are natural and very weak compared to a concentrated carp attractor. Often I'll pour out a small measure of say twenty millilitres of liquid liver and add a couple of drops of my chosen attractor and then add this to a pot of hookbaits.

As this makes them very attractive without overpowering the hookbait itself.

Alternatively, I dip the hookbaits in a sticky substance like liquid yeast for example which is another fantastic and easily available natural attractor and then dunk the hookbaits in a powder attractor before casting, this leaks of not just the liquid around the bait but also releases the dry outer particles towards the surface giving

Yet another corker on the new bait!



the attraction another dimension.

There are several powders I use for this job such as green lipped mussel extract which as we know is a fantastic carp attractor but I also like cheese powder which can be obtained easily anywhere and comes in a myriad of types but I also like to experiment. This year I did well on dipping wet boilies in ground baits such as dynamites fantastic method mix, this contains high levels of krill powder which we know carp love.

Another great method and one I touched on earlier is wrapping hookbaits in paste. This is very easy and very effective and can be done in several ways. My favourite is to use the same base mix and attractors that make up my boilies themselves or if you only have boilies you can mash up a handful of these. I mix a little of the base mix with a small amount of lake water and then bulk it out with a little liquid liver or similar and mix it into a stiffish paste which is moulded around the hookbait and hook leaving just the point of the hook exposed. Within seconds of casting the paste starts to break down because of the high liquid content and the fact there are no additional binders used. Of course you don't need to use the same base mix as your boilies and I often use groundbaits to personalise my approach. One of my favourites is a very simple mix of dynamites crushed hemp and amino black groundbait with a small amount of the dynamite source liquid and this has caught me a lot of carp in recent years in both winter and summer.

Another favourite of mine is to soak a few boilies in dedicated liquids and this helps your hookbait to stand out from the freebies. My favourite liquids for this are dynamites spicy shrimp and prawn glug and the Source liquid and I always carry a

few pots of soaked baits in my bag as these often produce the goods in double quick time.

Good luck out there!

A big oxland linear



A big fully scaled mirror from under the rod tip



A nice common stalked on my first visit to a new water

(Background Photo) A cold weather corker

PODCAST #3

'CARP ON THE FLY'



Since returning to the UK, Carp on the Fly columnist Paul Sharman has been very busy at his new job with one of Europe's largest fly fishing websites at www.fishandfly.com. One of his tasks involves gear testing every now and then and he recently was sent a 3 weight outfit by Loop, and well-known European fly fishing manufacturer. This weight of rod is usually used on small creeks for little wild trout so to liven things up he decided to take it over to his local carp fishery to see if it would cope with both large flies and large fish! There was nothing subtle about this as being a commercial fishery the fish were used to cruising the surface looking for floating bread and dog biscuits and we also

had some flies by Rainy that happened to include a floating artificial dog biscuit fly. Only a couple of casts were needed before a hungry carp was hooked and the battle began. You'll see that the rod coped well despite being bent nearly double a few times, with the key being to use side pressure when possible to tire the fish quickly but it does prove light tackle can be used.

Paul says he has been returning to the fishery and using more normal flies such as nymphs and has been experimenting with 2 and 3 fly rigs with some success. Look for more on this in his Carp on the Fly column over the coming months.

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CONGRATULATIONS RONNY DE GROOT!

'Den Grooten', the former Belgian record carp(caught in January 1995) was until Sunday May 28, 2007 the heaviest (33.8kg - 74lbs+) and the longest (109cm) carp Ronny had ever caught.

During a carp session on a 4000ha+(9000acres+) volcanic lake in Italy, Ronny broke this (for him) long lasting length record. Ronny estimated this Italian giant at 115cm+. While checking pictures from previous catches from this lake our man found out that one of his friends had caught the same carp two years previously. Marco Fiorucci, Ronny's friend, confirmed the length at 118cm. Weighing 29.3kg(64lbs+) is it the third heaviest carp on Ronny's list.

So far as we know is Ronny only the second angler in the history of modern carp angling that has caught a 60lbs+ (27kg+) carp from three different countries. Ronny tamed this beauty on a 12' 3 1/2lbs Century NG rod, a size 2 Super Strong PB hook and on a 15cm long 35lbs X Stiff Green Hornet PB Products hook link. This giant carp could not resist a 20mm Dynamite Baits Fresh Fish pop-up fished over a carpet of 20 and 26mm Fresh Fish boilies. It was only the second session Ronny fished with this new and exciting Bait.

CHECK OUT MORE INFO ON RONNY HERE:

<http://www.ronnydegroote.com/spotlight.html>



NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CARP EVER CAUGHT ON ROD & LINE IN THE HISTORY OF SPORT FISHING!

A 265 LBS SIAMESE GIANT CARP CAUGHT BY FISHING ADVENTURES THAILAND PRO GUIDE KIK!



Jean-Francois Helias' Fishing Adventures Thailand team is known internationally to be the most professional pro guides for freshwater sport fishing in Southeast Asia.

That team of pro guides has accomplished numerous angling achievements, including up to today racking up an amazing total of 129 IGFA world records (114 homologated + 15 currently pending an homologation), or setting several non-official records such as the record of the Southeast Asian biggest fish ever caught on rod and line they still hold up to this day for the catch on August 26, 2001 of a gigantic 185 Kg Arapaima .

Very recently, on July 2, 2007, Jean-Francois Helias' Fishing Adventures Thailand team did it again in a very impressive way!

This time with the catch by Fishing Adventures Thailand pro guide "Kik" of the world's biggest carp ever caught on rod and line in the history of sport fishing. Kik who has been guiding in Jean-Francois' team since its inception is known locally as the most complete local angler of the country. He is also Thailand's top rod builder and top handmaker of top water lures. Though he does not fish much as he used to do in his younger days, preferring guiding visiting anglers

nowadays and making them catching our Thai fish species, he still has it under his skin.

On July 2, 2007, while guiding an American client at Bung Sam Lan Lake, Kik had brought with him a brand new fishing rod he had just finished to custom build. His intention was only to hook up and to play one or two Mekong giant catfish so he could test his rod. His karma on that day was gonna turn in a way he would have never expected.

Instead of a hardfighting Mekong catfish, Kik hooked up instead the kind of catch of a lifetime some anglers would sell their soul to the devil for. A Siamese Giant Carp or *Catlocarpio siamensis* we estimated weighing just over 120 kg (265 pounders). She may be a tiny bit bigger but 120 kilos is already very fine with us. On the opposite of lots of anglers we have always preferred estimating the weight of our fish catches at the minimum rather than exaggerating or hyping it.

Even with a bunch of kilos missing from her real weight, Kik's catch is anyway the biggest Siamese carp ever caught here in Thailand on rod and line, and on top of it, the world's biggest carp ever caught on rod and line!



NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Isn't that catch twice bigger the size of the current IGFA All Tackle world record for that species? Yes it is!

Has the fish been caught according to the IGFA rules? Yes!

Does it qualify then for a new record? No!

The only scales we had that day at the lake were our usual certified 100 kg scales. No way we would have thought we were gonna catch that gigantic carp. Knowing she was weighing well over the 100 kg mark there was no need for us to bother with the weighing procedure. We had no other option than accepting losing the opportunity to submit that exceptional catch with the IGFA for a record. By the way I have bought last month from the USA a set of 500lb digital scales specially because I thought we may have to weight fish catches over the 100 kg mark some of these days. The 500lb digital scales are still at my home.... waiting for me to find free time so I can bring them to the calibration institute to have them certified. Too busy guiding and fishing, as usual not enough time to do everything I would or I should!

Kik's gigantic carp catch is the second carp ever taken at Bung Sam Lan Lake from the 5 "super biggies" stocked at the lake 23 years ago. These 5 carp coming from the wild, exactly from the Chaopraya River in the Ratchburi province where they got netted, were already all weighing above the 90 kilos (almost 200 pounds) mark when sold to the lake owners.

In over two decades, only one of them has ever been landed by an angler. It is the estimated 110 kilos Siamese giant carp caught by our local friend Lung Dam. Any dedicated European carp angler knows about that famous photo showing Lung Dam with a straw hat posing behind his capture. A picture which has been published in almost every European fishing magazine.

For the anecdote, that very giant carp caught by Lung Dam was so close to be caught a second time last year. We were guiding a return client from England, Nicholas Dean, a lovable guy and a very experienced angler as well. Nick hooked up Lung Dam's over 200 lb carp - no mistake about it - it was her 200 % with her very unique pattern of dark brown scales nuances on her body. Nick played her the right way all along the fight. He did not let the powerful carp entangling his line around the close neighboring structures. He was doing very fine. The carp got finally tamed, almost ready to be netted.

Apparently, the gigantic size of the carp appearing at the surface in front of him had Nick losing his focus for a few seconds....enough for the carp to play the usual Siamese giant carp trick which is to play tamed, and all of a sudden doing a last and unexpected rush towards the angler, passing

just under his rod and his feet, and escaping under the bungalow by running through its wooden stilts. Next the line is entangled around the stilts. The carp got free by either getting unhooked or breaking the line....

Nick had lost in a split second a catch of a lifetime, his rights to be proud of his achievement, to deserve fame and exposure in the angling press media. Sad, very sad situation. We were all sad about it. Having someone you like losing an exceptional fish is not only mentally painful for the angler but for his guide too. It was the kind of day you wish everything you had just experienced did not happen....

Though Kik had no problem to land successfully the grandma carp, we had to cope next with a bunch of difficulties to manage a proper photo session. For such a catch of a lifetime no need to say how much one wants to immortalize both the fish and the moment of life at its best. We are in the monsoon season. It was raining and a heavy storm was coming. So we had to be fast and to hurry everything. Also when like us you are totally into conservation and into catch and release you do not want to keep that kind of exceptional fish too long. You want a few good pics and release next the fish in the very best conditions to assure its survival.

Let me tell you the task did not go easy. Kik had called an employee of Bung Sam Lan to help him handling the mammoth carp for the photo session. But the duo were not enough strong to lift and keep the carp out of the water while my wife Lek & Kik's wife Pim were taking the photos. The boys were struggling in the water to handle the powerful grandma carp, getting slapped a few times by her powerful tail. Almost all the pics taken by Lek & Pim sadly turned out bad. A pity for such a catch of a lifetime! I had to delete almost all of them except for about a dozen of almost decent ones I saved.

Our Fishing Adventures Thailand team has now three non-official but first class records: a 185 Kg Arapaima catch which is still today the Southeast Asian biggest fish ever caught on rod and line; that 120 kg Siamese Giant Carp, the world's biggest carp caught also on rod and line; and a 100 kg freshwater giant stingray we fought for 6 hours which is from my knowledge the biggest of its kind ever caught in Thailand on rod and line.

You know what? The Fishing Adventures Thailand rocks & is here to stay!

So don't be surprised if in a near future you receive an email informing you we have finally succeeded to land a Mekong giant catfish over the 100 kg mark.....



NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

PRO LOGIC FISH

Here is an amazing report from Finland.

Finish Prologic consultant, Jussi Ruissalo and his fishing partner Jouni Salmi (Stig Dog) recently had an amazing night. 1-2.6 2007. They had 7 runs, and landed 5 fish. Jouni caught 2 fish (17,4kg mirror and 17,4kg common) Jussi caught 3 fish (16,5kg common (pictured), 14,8kg common, and a 12,6 common). All fish was caught on DDBait F4 Musselmeat and F4 Banana & Crustacean 20mm pop-ups, fished over a bed of crushed boilies and tigers.

Pictured is Jussi, with a perfect 16,5kg common - WOOOOOOW!!!

Incredible to see real big and stunning fish from such Nordic latitude.

With few hours to fish, planning and timing is everything – after having spotted a big Grass carp eating of the surface, Mads knew time was just right, the grass carp of the chosen water, very rarely seen.

Mads placed chunk's of French toast freebies, sprayed with DDbait Kiwi, in the perfect drift direction, down towards the big fish. The result was instant, and the freebies was engulfed silently piece by piece. Mads then placed a big Chunk of French toast, with a Prologic C1 size 2 hidden inside, tied to 1,20m 12 lbs Spectrum FC, Using a small surface controller



and the new Adrenaline braid as mainline, to get best possible drifting control. As the hook bait, entered the hot zone, it was engulfed instantly. Mads set the hook, and the water erupted with a huge splash. A good 10min later, the fish was in the net!! A great specimen and new Danish Grass carp PR – 103cm and 14,5kg !!

Just now the carp fishing in Europe seems incredible. We receive reports daily, with big and beautiful carp from all regions. Pictured is a stunning 27,3kg mirror carp, caught by French carp angler Vincent Damon on a big lake in South West France using DDbait 24mm F4 Elips Readymades, fished over a carpet of readymades & DDbait 20mm Halibut pellets.

Another big Carp, has just been caught by our Hungarian Prologic Consultant, Christian Schlotti, see the fish and many others in the gallery.

The Month of May, saw yet a new record of visitors, here on our webpage. The amount visitors is massive and still increasing! Unfortunately, not all good news this time. From the Danish carpangler association er received a short press release: "a major fish-kill has occurred at the Danish Harte Dons lakes at least 200 dead carp are found, there has also been found dead fish in Danish lake Nordborg. Fish has been sent to analysis and meanwhile we recommend not to fish these lakes and if you have



NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

been fishing there during the spring and winter get all your gear disinfected. We will post a guide to disinfection at www.danskekepefiskere.dk as soon as possible”

Now the fishing is incredible, Carp fishing, Tench & Bream fishing is really worth a go - See all the great reports, we had during the week in the gallery! And keep the pictures and reports coming, whether it's big predators, carp or any other great specimen fish - we cannot get enough!

The reports are coming in every day to our webpage – see the many great pictures & stories on www.prologicfishing.com

Regards, Mads Grosell.





NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



Hi Sean

Here are the pics mate of Grahams 88lb 6oz mirror (40.2kg) and his 69lb common (31.3kg) and the story of the captures. All the best mate.

Cheers, Steve Briggs

The World's first 40kg carp

For the first time in the history of carp fishing the 40kg barrier has been broken with an absolute monster mirror carp of 40.2kg from Rainbow Lake in the south of France. The fish was caught by Graham Slaughter from England on the final day of a two-week session. Only hours earlier Graham landed a common carp of 31.3kg and besides the bigger fish becoming the new world record the two fish together also form the largest brace of carp ever caught. For some time now anglers across the globe had been considering the possibility of a 40kg carp being caught at some stage and the big Rainbow fish looked the most likely to achieve this. Finally it all became a reality for Graham on the 18th May.

Commenting on his outstanding achievement, the 42-year-old brand manager of Venture revealed: "I can't believe I've caught it! I never expected to catch it as I

just came away for a couple of weeks break after not having fished properly for quite some time. I shared the two weeks in swim 19 with Mark Blacket, and halfway through, it was very tough going. We'd planned to fish one week each on both sides of the swim. The first week was very slow for me in the left-hand side whilst Mark tempted seven or eight up to 49lb from the right. Then on the Saturday it was my turn on the right and things just went from there.

"I ended up with 17 takes, losing three fish. I landed eight commons on the bounce up to 69lb including fish of 47lb, 44lb and 42lb. The funny thing is, all of the commons came whilst I was using Solar's Carp Head common carp bobbins. I thought the 69lb was my 'fish of the trip' so just as a bit of fun I decided to switch over to the mirror carp bobbins. Amazingly, that evening I went on to land a 42lb mirror, which made me laugh. Then, the very next day at 8.30am the same rod was away again.

"I knew straight away that it was a big fish as it flattened the rod almost instantly as it pulled that hard. I managed to coax it back until I had it into an open water area in the middle of the bay before I took to the boat. I played it over 24ft of water and it just went where it wanted to. I knew it was big because it was pulling me around even when I had the boat in reverse thrust on full power!

"Eventually I saw the leader knot as I began to gain line and then it broke surface! I looked at its back and it was huge, so big in fact that I didn't know what I'd hooked. It didn't look like a carp it was that





NOTABLE CAPTURES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

big! I played it for another 10 minutes before I managed to get it sideways on so that I could scoop it up with the net. I got it first time, then knowing I had a biggie, perhaps a mid seventy.

"I tried to lift it into the boat, but ended up making my way back to shore with it over the side as I couldn't lift it. When on shore, Mark and I took the mat and placed it in the boat as we didn't want to lift the fish in case it ripped the net or damaged itself. The easiest way to describe what happened next is we kind of rolled it onto the mat and then carried it up the bank. "By now, word had spread around the lake about what had been caught and Paul Hunt came over with his scales. I left it to the lads to weigh it. One set of scales read 88½lb and the other showed 88¼lb so

we took the middle reading and decided on 88lb 6oz. It was a special moment, not just because of the fish or its weight, but also because I shared the moment with a group of mates who then proceeded to chuck me in the lake... thanks guys!"

The big mirror fell for a 20mm Solar BYT snowman hookbait topped with a 12mm Winter Secret pop-up offered on a size 4 Solar Long Shank hook, 25lb Kik Bak hooklink and and 8oz Korda Grippa lead. This was fished over a kilo of mixed BYT Wedges, CC Moore's Betaine Pellets, Rainbow Pellets (sold on site), Dynamite's Frenzied Hemp, BCUK Parti-Blend and tinned tuna. Graham completed his setup with 30lb Fireline and a Venture VXR-2 Carp Rod.

Here's Jon Greenwood with a nice one from his recent trip to Rainbow Lake in France!

Jon says; "Weight 56 lb 2 oz. Caught on Mainline Pulse fished over Pulse Pellets and Mixed particles on the new Solar Longshank hooks. Fished at 100 yards down a margin to a spot 4 feet deep tight to a fallen tree in the water.

The trip was amazing. Between 10 of us we managed 10 x 50's, 3 x 60's and more than 25 x 40's! Paul Hunt on his own managed 7 x 40's, 4 x 50's and a 69 lb Mirror. There were also 2 x commons of 64 lb and 62 lb!"





ACS Membership Latest news

ACS New & Renewal Membership Packs up-grade...

Resistance Tackle (www.resistancetackle.com) have been generous enough to supply ACS with a great package to add to the ACS membership packs...

The Resistance Tackle Package contains:

4 x Size #6 hooks, 2 x Safety Clips and Rubber Tails, 2 x Ring Swivels
2 x Swivels w/Quick Change Clips, Baiting Needle, 5" of Bait Stops

Thank You Resistance Tackle!!!

Red Demon Baits (www.reddemonbait.com) have been generous enough to supply ACS with a sample packages of their bait to add to the ACS membership packs...

The Red Demon Package contains: 14mm Strawberry Boilies (Yellow)...

Thank You Red Demon Bait!!!

DAM International (www.daminternational.com) have been generous enough to supply ACS with various samples of their tackle and merchandise to add to the ACS membership packs...

Thank You DAM International!!!

ACS are in constant negotiations with other fine tackle & bait companies to add even more value to being an American Carp Society member!!

Please contact Wayne at wayne@americancarpsociety.com for further details.





Review by Krista Byers

Chub Vantage Folding Landing Net

Finding the right landing net is a challenge for the carp angler. There are several options out there, from inexpensive to costly. There are nets with a single-piece handle, and nets with a two piece handle. Another factor to consider is net width. When I decided to buy a new net, I looked at all the factors, and chose the Chub Vantage Folding Landing Net.

Chub is a relatively new brand in the U.S. Owned by Hardy & Greys, Chub has gained a good reputation throughout the UK. Going off this reputation, I decided to try their version of the landing net, and I have been very satisfied with its performance.

The first thing that got my attention when I opened the net was how solid it was. The two piece carbon handle is much more solid than my previous net. The grip on the handle is comfortable when holding it in my hand, or under my arm to net a fish. Even when my hands are wet, the grip allows for my hands to stay in place when holding the net. The two piece handle not only allows for smaller, more compact storage, but it is also very helpful when netting fish in tight spaces. The net is still solid, even when using the short handle.

Another positive attribute of this net is the spreader block. The block has a quick release, which is very tight at first, but perfect after a few uses. The arms swivel in, to allow for a quick and easy release of the net from the handle. It is very easy to get a fish from the water to the mat using this net. Another bonus is that the arms are reinforced, providing a much stronger net than my previous one. I've purposely put this net to the test, and nothing has broken on it.

This net also comes with its own carry bag. This is very handy when you catch a fish 10 minutes before packing up, and don't have time to dry your net before packing it in with the rest of your gear. The bag shuts tight enough to keep the fish smell to a minimum on the drive home.

The only negative about the net is the dual mesh system. I've found that the hard rays of the dorsal fin of a carp tend to get caught in the larger mesh. The fine mesh is deeper than most dual mesh nets, but I've had to cut my mesh in order to free a snagged dorsal fin.

Overall, this net is well worth the price. It is more expensive than the lower end nets, going for about \$160, but the upgrade in quality is well worth the price. The Chub Vantage Folding Landing Net is a great value for the money, and I am confident it will last me for many sessions.



World Carp Specimen Tour 2007

**SAVE!
100€**

Cabanac-Aveyron

1-9th Sept 2007

"The ultimate carp fishing experience in Europe !"

Booking now a unique event ...

Discover during 8 days and 7 nights a magic lake completely wild. You will find the biggest common carps of Europe...

**Common record:
32 kilos !**

>15 kilos frequent

Registration/information :

Worldcarpspecimentour@gmail.com

Contact : Jocelyn Dupré 00.33.6.64.20.21.10

DYNAMITE BAITS

ACS is now going to start a National Year round tournament for carp fishing....titled "The American Carp League".

FULL DETAILS ON THE NEXT PAGE!!

Lake Database & American Carp League Report Form

Name:	Vinson		Date:
Surname:	Solomon Majors		
Surname:	Solomon Majors		
Moniker:	Solomon Majors		
Moniker:	Solomon Majors		
Water Temperature (degrees F)	Air Temperature (degrees F)		
Surface	8 AM		
5 ft	None		
10 ft	4 PM		
15 ft	8 PM		
20 ft	Moon Phase		
Water Clarity:	Clear	Stained	Muddy
Water Level (ft)	High	Normal	Low
Swim Location (State Coordinates)			
Ph Level (ft)			
Fish Seen?	YES	NO	How Often?
Fry-Bait	YES	NO	What Was Used?
Groundbaiting	YES	NO	What Was Used?
Red Numbers	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8
Depth (feet)			
Temperature of Water			
Structure R/W/N/M			
Blue/Red Numbers	1	2	3 4 5 6 7 8
Time:			
M / T / F / L / C			
Sky Conditions C/P/C/D			
Wind Force C/L/B/V/W/S			
Wind Direction N/S/E/W			
Precipitation N/L/W/H			
Barometric Value (in Hg)			
Bait Flavor			
Bait Type B/M/S/C/P/D			
Rig Type (ft)			
Line Length (m)			
Type of Carp C/M/S/L			
Weight			
Length (inches)			
Girth (inches)			
Picture # (on camera)			
Rig Type #1			
Rig Type #2			
Rig Type #3			
Rig Type #4			
Rig Type #5			

www.americancarpsociety.com ©2004 American Carp Society

BECOME AN ACS MEMBER

Check out the ACS Membership link on
www.americancarpsociety.com and

JOIN TODAY!

CARP PICTURES

Please continue to send us your Carp pictures for the member gallery and not just the monsters either folks! The more Carp piccs we can get on the ACS web site the better it is for everyone... so please keep on sending them in with your ACS T shirt!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?

Is there a book you've read that ACS members might enjoy? A website or documentary you've found particularly informative?

Please let ACS know. Email at:
info@americancarpsociety.com;
 Subject Line: What Do You Like?

ADVERTISE IN THE E-NEWSLETTER

...GET YOUR WORD OUT TO HUNDREDS

The E-Magazine is a great place to tell others about your business services.

We will be sending out the E-Magazine to all four corners of the globe by the end of 2007 to retail tackle stores as well as Carp Anglers the World over. Please contact us if you have an interest in advertising for rates.... sean@americancarpsociety.com

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

We always want to hear from our members. Send us your fish tales and pictures (JPEG pictures required) and we will put your name in lights. Don't forget to include the important details: name, weight of fish and where it was caught.



'The American Carp League' is a National year round tournament for Carp fishing held in the USA.

The purpose of 'The American Carp League' is to bring attention to the many anglers fishing for Carp across the United States and provide a place where the everyday angler can obtain exposure for legitimate sponsorship opportunities while building recognition for their catches throughout the year. In 2006, the inaugural year for the ACL, we saw a total of seven US anglers picking up sponsorship.

Every US carp angler can participate and everyone is eligible to participate. The ACS tournament will be based upon a point's system, 1 point per pound. The 'American Carp League Champion' will be announced once a year every January, to clarify January 2008 will be the month that the 2007 American Carp League Champion will be announced.

The leader board on the ACS website is visible for people across the globe to visit to see the poundage and number of fish caught and safely released per angler, here in the USA. This leader board will be updated on a regular basis for people to see the results of the participants. You can also view the anglers biographies and see our featured sponsors and prizes for the year.

'The American Carp League' is the first step to creating a legitimate National Carp League here in the USA. The points system levels the playing field, as an angler who is catching 10lb fish all day has just as much chance of winning the event as the angler fortunate enough to be fishing a lake containing very large fish. This gives the everyday carp angler committed to the sport a chance to get exposure for legitimate sponsorship from both here in the USA and abroad. The leader board will have a photo & short bio page on each angler that participates and an opportunity for their personal sponsor(s) to display logos and links to their individual web sites etc.

'The American Carp league' will be based on an honor system as there is no physical ACS Marshal present at the time of weighing the fish, if your fish weighs 15lb and 12oz then that's the exact weight that we need you to submit, not an ounce more or less. The ounces will be

carried for you until they make a full pound etc. Each Angler participating shall have a folder denoted to them at "ACS" with documentation of their fish captures and submissions. Each fish that you wish to be counted to your total weight has to be submitted to ACS with a clear photograph of the fish preferably with captor, but not mandatory. Though it isn't compulsory in the American Carp league to wear your ACS member T shirt (Unlike the Big Fish Competition) we do encourage ACS members to do so.

It is our intention to make 'The American Carp League' known throughout the angling community both within the USA and around the globe and appreciate all of the support and confidence that you show in us by your participation.

The Seasons

In 2007 the American Carp League will be split into four seasons:

1. **January – March. (First Quarter / Season)**
2. **April – June. (Second Quarter / Season)**
3. **July – September. (Third Quarter / Season)**
4. **October – December. (Fourth Quarter / Season)**

The reasoning behind this is to give every US Carp Angler an opportunity of placing within the League be it sectional, seasonal or as the overall American Carp League Champion.

Each Season will have an overall winner for 'total weight' as well as winners for the individual sections that will be based upon the highest 'number' of fish caught; for example '28' 30lb+ carp in one season would win that section for the '30lb+' category if the next runner up had '24' etc. The individual sections are based upon numbers and not weight.

This gives those anglers that have limited time throughout the year to fish the opportunity to participate for a concentrated amount of time if they wish to do so and still have the opportunity of winning an individual section for that season as well as qualifying for the American Carp League Champion.



All sections within the League, within each season will be recognized:

1. Highest number of 10lb+ Carp
2. Highest number of 20lb+ Carp
3. Highest number of 30lb+ Carp
4. Highest number of 40lb+ Carp
5. Highest number of Mirror Carp
6. Highest number of Koi Carp
7. Overall Total Weight – This will denominate the season's winner.

'The American Carp League Champion' title goes to the angler that has the highest total weight at the end of the calendar year. To qualify for 'The American Carp League Champion' you must enter all four seasons of the league, though in theory all fish could be caught in one season only.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Parties interested in sponsoring 'The American Carp League' should contact ACS Director Sean Manning at the following e-mail address:

sean@americancarpsociety.com

Application Form

If you would like to participate in 'The American Carp League' please download the application form below and either e-mail (after filling out and scanning) to:

events@americancarpsociety.com

Or hard mail to:

American Carp Society

Attn: Wayne Boon

960 East Glenoaks Blvd,

Glendale, CA 91207

Entrance Fees + Payment

All anglers residing in the USA are eligible to participate. Entrance fees are as follows:

ACS Members - \$5.00 per season

Non-ACS Members - \$15.00 per season

1. January – March. (First Quarter / Season)

2. April – June. (Second Quarter / Season)

3. July – September. (Third Quarter / Season)

4. October – December. (Fourth Quarter / Season)

Paypal - www.paypal.com

Please send payment to "sales@americancarpsociety.com"

Mail payments - If you would like to mail a check or money order for payment please send to:

Wayne Boon,

960 East Glenoaks Blvd,

Glendale, CA 91207. Wayne Boon

Fish Submissions

To submit a fish towards your American Carp League total please e-mail a clear picture to the following address with documentation of weight in pounds and ounces.

events@americancarpsociety.com

Please make sure that all pictures submitted electronically are in Jpeg format and under 500 kb in size.

We strongly encourage you to download and use the ACS Excel submission format on our website for submissions to the American Carp League. It is very simple to use:

Simply enter your name and ACS member number, if you have one.

Enter the number 1 (One separate submission per row per fish, so if you are entering 10 fish you will fill out 10 separate submission rows with the same date and the submissions 1 through 10) in each row in the appropriate column 10, 20, 30 etc) the date, the state caught and whether the fish is a Common, Mirror or Koi and then add the weight. This must be done in the denomination for ounces as sixteenths of a pound.

For example a common carp that weighs 12 pounds and 08 ounces would be entered 12 8/16 as follows:

1	01/01/07	Texas	12 8/16	common
2	01/01/07	Texas	18 4/16	common
3	01/01/07	Texas	28	mirror
4	01/01/07	Texas	15 2/16	koi

Then add your next fish caught on that session. You will see that the spreadsheet automatically adds the



cumulative weight and number of fish per category (common, mirror, Koi) for you.

You can then save this spreadsheet and submit it along with your photographs. For the next submission simply add the new date following on from the last and carry on as before, save and resend etc.

There is also a section where you can add the name of the corresponding Jpeg file to the spreadsheet.

We highly encourage all electronic submissions to follow the above format. Both parties will then have an accurate total of weight.'

Unfortunately ACS Directors cannot be responsible for human error if other formats are used.

If you wish to submit hard copy photographs or many fish captures on a CD via the US post please send to the following:

American Carp League
Attn Wayne Boon,
960 East Glenoaks Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91207

Rules

1. To be eligible for the title 'American Carp League Champion' all 4 seasons must be entered however individual season titles may still be won without the participation of the entire year.
2. The State that the Angler resides in shall be the State he/she officially represents.
3. Fish from all States, not just the Anglers 'home' State shall count.
4. Only Carp caught in the USA shall count.
5. The minimum weight of a Carp to be accepted is 10lb.
6. Only Cyprinus Carpio species will count: Common, Mirror, Leather & Koi Carp.
7. 1 point = 1 pound. Ounces will be carried and accrued until 16oz are reached which will then add a pound to the overall weight.
8. All fish that the angler wishes to be included in the competition must be photographed and submitted

with Anglers name, State of residence and weight of each individual fish clearly marked to ACS as outlined in 'Fish Submissions'.

9. Although we encourage anglers to take trophy shots with all their fish we understand that this is not always practical so a clear shot of the fish on a mat will be acceptable. 2 Fish maximum per photograph only please.
10. As per all ACS tournaments we encourage the use of soft mesh nets and unhooking mats.
11. Single hook use only.
12. Snagged and foul hooked fish will not be accepted.
13. Fish must be returned alive and in healthy condition.
14. All fish need to be weighed on a scale for weight verification and not 'eyeballed'. The use of weighing sling/net is encouraged.
15. The laws and rules of the State being fished by the Angler should at all times be obeyed.
16. In the event of a tie all Anglers shall be recognized. The Prizes available will be split equally between the winning parties.
17. The ACS Directors decision is final.
18. The American Carp League is open to all Anglers across the United States.
19. As this competition is non-marshaled the ACS directors and sponsors reserve the right to request a lie detector test from the winners.

One last thought... Lets all have a lot of fun with this while bearing in mind that as 'The American Carp League' evolves over the coming years it'll surely help prove to the other popular U.S. fishing communities and the Carp Angling fraternities worldwide that Carp fishing in the USA is not only a fun, ecologically sound sport but one that will lead the way in the 21st century!