

A Legacy of Innovation
Since 1969

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MACK'S ROCK DANCER – OLD RELIABLE FOR BIG RIVER STEELHEAD

by John Kruse



Take a drive along the Snake or Upper Columbia River between October and March and you'll likely see a number of fishermen, both on shore and in boats, trying their luck for the summer steelhead that return to these waters every year. Look a little closer and you'll see most of these anglers staring intently at the bright orange or chartreuse tips of their slip bobbers, just waiting for the bobber to dip below the surface indicating the presence of a nice fish.

What's not so obvious is what these anglers have below the bobbers. If you could get a fish eye view you find the majority of them are using a Mack's Lure Rock Dancer® jig, usually tipped with a shrimp tail. In fact, it would be fair to call this combination "Old Reliable" because of its popularity and long time effectiveness at drawing bites.

There are three reasons this lure works so well in these big rivers. First of all, the bucktail on the jig remains lively even with shrimp or other bait on the hook. Try that with a marabou jig and you'll get little more than a bunch of colored feathers globed onto your bait.

Second, you can take some of that scent from your bait and put it right on the bucktail. Better still; on the Rock Dancer it features a scent collar right below the jig heads big glow in the dark eye; which creates a perfect place to apply a healthy dose of shrimp oil as an additional attractant.

Last but not least is the hook on this jig. Best described as sharp and stout, you won't have to worry about it breaking off or bending straight while fighting a fish. When it comes to landing the fish that took your bait; there are few things more important than a good hook.

Looking for a few more tips about catching steelhead with a Rock Dancer? Well, as mentioned earlier, most anglers tip the jig hook with a dyed shrimp tail,

with purple, pink or red being popular colors. The colors of the jig vary as well. Purple and black has been a long time favorite on the Columbia near the mouth of the Wenatchee and Methow Rivers, though you will also see red and black, skunk (white and black), chartreuse and black, and for those who prefer not to think too deeply about their choice...just plain black. Finally, on days you find the fish are biting short, and you are missing strikes, you can trim back the bucktail on the jig so that it ends just below the hook. It's a favorite tactic of Dave Graybill, a well known angler known to many as The Fishin' Magician.

Fishing a Mack's Lure Rock Dancer® under a slip bobber is a popular and proven way to hook into summer steelhead, some weighing over twenty pounds. It's also an easy way to fish too. After all, what can be easier than watching the bobber go down and setting the hook? Get geared up today!

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Smile Blade Colors In Certain Conditions

by *Dane Stanaway*

Anyone who fishes for walleyes or any other species always hopes that the blade or lure they are using that day will produce a stringer of fish. Unfortunately if you're not fishing in a fish pond, that isn't always the case.

While I am out on the water there are some factors I take in mind before selecting one of the many Mack's Lure Smile Blade® colors. The two main factors I have found to be the most important are weather and water conditions.



Weather conditions can change in a blink of an eye. While the skies are sunny and clear I found that I get a few more hits on silver Smile Blades® or any blade that puts off a flash. The mirror



and sparkle Smile Blades® are my favorite for sunny days. On a cloudy dark day I tend to lean more towards a dull colored Smile Blade®, such as a purple, dark blue, and red. On a partly cloudy day I will stagger my lines with

bright and flashy Smile Blades® to more neutral colors.



Water conditions are what I feel is the most important factor. My main rule with water clarity is if I can not see my propeller I move to the next spot. Sometimes every spot is like this so you have to adjust. In muddy water I will



put on a gold Smile Blade® or a dull color. I will also stack the blades with at least three beads between each blade. Stacking the Smile Blades® will put out more vibration and in muddy water you want as much vibration as possible.

If you can adjust the colors to what mother nature throws at you - you just might have a better chance of putting more fish in the boat.

Take Your Fishing To The Next Level and Check Out All Of The Colors, Patterns & Sizes Of Smile Blades® On Our Web Site At: www.mackslure.com

Cookin' Your Catch

Walleye and 'Kraut Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 1 cup cooked, flaked Walleye
- 1/2 cup well drained Sauerkraut
- 1/4 cup chopped Dill Pickles
- 1/4 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 Tablespoon Horseradish
- 12 slices Party Rye Bread
- 4-1 ounce slices Swiss Cheese
- 2 Tablespoons Margarine

In mixing bowl, combine fish, sauerkraut, pickles, mayonnaise, and horseradish. Mix well. Portion mixture evenly on half the bread. Top with cheese. Top with remaining bread. Melt margarine in skillet. Place sandwiches in skillet and grill on each side until golden brown. Serve with chips or relishes and a cold drink. Makes 4 servings.

A Legacy of Innovation for...

40 Years!

Yes it's true, Mack's Lure will be 40 years old in 2009.

Watch for more info in upcoming editions

of the

Mack Attack Newsletter!

You Gotta Get There With Your Gear

By Hall-of-Fame Angler Stan Fagerstrom

Part 2 of 2

When your fishing adventures require travel by air there are other things to remember besides your rods.

If you read Part 1 of this three part series on air travel you know it dealt mainly with transporting rods. These days you've got to be concerned about everything from nail clippers to your toothpaste.

Don't, for example, hang a Leatherman tool on your belt and try to get through security. It ain't gonna work. Stick it in your luggage. I recall once flying out of Guadalajara, Mexico. I had some spare camera batteries in my carry-on bag. They wouldn't let me take them aboard the aircraft. I had no place else to put them because my luggage had already been processed and our flight was soon due to leave. Adios batteries!

How much sense did this make? None! The digital camera I carried had four batteries identical to those I had to give up. I was allowed, as were all the other passengers, to carry our battery loaded cameras with no questions asked. Mine not to reason why--mine but to sigh and fly!

Another time here in the United States I forgot to remove some small scissors I use to trim my beard from time to time. I should say I once used to trim my beard. Just how those teeny scissors could have been considered a weapon I still haven't figured out, but they were taken away from me at the security checkpoint.

As I've mentioned, last time around I talked mostly about hazards of transporting fishing rods by air. This trip let's take a look at how best to pack some of the other gear you'll need when you get where you're going.



Here' another good way to transport your reels by air. Get a small but sturdy plastic box to place your reels in. Be sure the box is small enough to fit into your luggage carrier. See next photo.

It's easy to find small, hard plastic boxes. They provide ideal storage for your reels. If you don't have the cloth bags that new reels usually come with, simply place your reels inside a wool sock before putting them into the plastic box. I also often use extra socks I'll be wearing on the trip inside the box to provide additional cushioning.

Place the plastic box containing your reels inside one of your large suitcases. When you reach your destination, check all of the screws on your different reels. Sometimes they loosen during air travel. You don't want an important screw dropping out when you're miles back in the boonies.



Cushion your reels with the socks you'll wear on your trip. I can easily pack four or five reels in the box you see here and I've been using it for years.

There are also cushioned type containers made especially for transporting reels. Shimano markets a dandy that zips off the top of one of its tackle packs. Note the illustration that accompanies this story. I've used this handy reel carrier on several trips into Mexico and also for one of my trips into the Amazon. It has worked out just fine.



Be careful when you pack your reels for travel by air. Be sure they have sufficient cushioning to take care for the bumps they are certain to get in your luggage. This padded box marketed by Shimano is one way to go.

Nothing beats flat sided, satchel style tackle boxes for transporting a variety of lures and angling accessories. If you don't have these flat boxes already, you can find them in any well-stocked tackle store. Such boxes come in all sizes. They are extremely tough. They come with plastic dividers you can use to shape compartments to your specific needs. These boxes can

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be tipped upside down but in the good ones the tackle remains in the compartment where it was placed even when that happens.



A flat, satchel style box is a good way to carry your lures if you're flying. Your baits stay separated even if the box is turned up side down and that's certain to happen.

If you're carrying made up leaders, rigs, or for that matter most any small items like hooks, weights, etc., the Pip's Boxes marketed by Mack's Lure come in really handy. These boxes are available in different colors so you won't have to guess what's where, provided you remember that chartreuse holds pre-tied leaders and that the red

shade has an assortment of hooks.

Sometimes my memory is about as long as my big toe. I find it convenient to simply put a small label on the outside of the box to identify what it contains. The Brother Company markets a dandy little plastic label maker I use to identify the contents of my Pip's Box containers.

Something else it's wise to do is to tighten the caps of liquid containers you're packing with things like fish scents, reel oils, etc. If you're concerned that the caps on these containers might loosen, seal them inside a plastic bag.

A word is in order about plastic bags. You'll probably get along all right with Zip-loc freezer bags. I like something a bit sturdier. I buy heavier 4-mil bags from the G.T. Bag Company in Novato, CA. These dandy little bags are available in a variety of sizes. If you're interested in taking a look at them, visit the company's web site at www.GTBAG.com. The company's toll free number is 1-800-735-3950.

Photo of the Month

We want your photos! Send your photos to bob@mackslure.com.



Rob Fuentes of Alaska's Bearclaw Lodge with a beautiful silver.

Question of the Month

Have a question? We'd love to answer it! Contact us at bob@mackslure.com if you have a question you would like to see featured!

Q: What product was the first, and which was the latest, in the Mack's Lure product line up?

A: The first was the Wedding Ring® Spinner introduced in 1969. The latest is the HummBait® released during 2008.

The Mack Attack is a free service provided to anyone who is interested by Mack's Lures Inc. We need your input!

If you know of anyone who would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Mack Attack, please forward their e-mail address to al@mackslure.com.

**Photos, stories and comments are welcomed and encouraged. Please forward all content materials to bob@mackslure.com.
THANK YOU!**

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