

A Legacy of Innovation  
Since 1969

January, 2009



## Ice Fishing Tip

*by Dennis Foster*

As we enter the early stages of yet another hardwater (ice) fishing season; many of us with a curious and experimental nature begin to ponder new and improved ways in which to put our intended quarry on the sunny side of the ice. Our thoughts quickly turn to finding a "hot" lure to help us with this quest. Unfortunately, these are truly hard to come by.

Most fresh lure innovations do not necessarily break the mold of existing products-nor are they of the earth shattering or ground breaking variety-but are generally a rather simple tweaking to maximize the effectiveness of known and accepted concepts. Of course, what has worked in the past will continue to work; we just need to be diligent in our evolution as anglers and try to stay one step (or fin) as the case may be...ahead of the fish. The vast majority of useful and productive variations I have seen in my fishing career have landed squarely in the "why didn't I think of that category."

A strong case to validate this point is a slight modification that I have made to the elegantly simple and ultra effective tactic of suspending a large chub below tip-ups along sharply breaking

structure for low light walleyes. These fish will predictably move up into the shallows during feeding forays-particularly at sunset-and the walleyes find it hard to resist strategically located chubs. It's quite common to be fishing an area that appears totally lifeless during the light of day...only to become absolutely wild when the sun starts to dip below the tree tops.

As good as this is...I have always thought it would be beneficial to add some additional triggering cues to the bait without impeding the natural movements that walleyes find so attractive. Flash and flutter is the basis for the majority of ice fishing presentations-but to date-we have not had a viable option with which to incorporate this into a stationary bait set. Anything added in the form a traditional metal flash lure with our bait attached is simply too much. The substantial weight in relation to the chub is overpowering and the poor fellow will quickly tire and hang all but motionless. The end result is no more movement of the lure, let alone the bait...thus we have sacrificed all of the initial appeal we had sought to gain.

The solution to this dilemma is to borrow an attractor that has proven it-

self deadly during tough bites while live bait fishing open water, and putting it to good use under winter's hard shell of ice. Namely, Mack's Lures Smile Blades. If you're not familiar with them; what they amount to is a thin delta wing shaped blade made of extremely lightweight mylar material. Even the slightest movement of our chub will cause them to flip, flutter, and spin-creating flash, coupled with the appearance of an impaired minnow (easy meal) to the fish.

They come in numerous colors so you can easily find one that suits your personal preferences. I tend to go with the more metallic patterns as they reflect light well and create the impression I'm looking for. As for size, I would stick to the smallest model, a .8 inch version that couples perfectly with a large chub. Simply tie a four foot leader of 10 to 15 pound monofilament and slide on a Smile Blade concave side down, directly above a large bead and a premium number 1 hook. Pinch on a size 3 or 4 split shot 12 to 18 inches above and you're all set. Remember, keeping things uncomplicated often times dictates success.

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# Conquering the Ancient Sea

by *Jim Grassi*

*Mack's Lure's Junior Pro-staff member hooks some ancient fish in Israel.*

Most modern-day fisherman can not comprehend the amount of energy and logistics needed to be a good fisherman during the first century. We take for granted our GPS units, ball bearing reels, and composite rods. Most of us have 200-500 lures in our tackle boxes and closets.

To the first century fisherman on the Sea of Galilee in Israel, he was most familiar with one style of fishing – net fishing. The woven net was the customary way to capture fish. According to scripture there were three styles of nets: drag net, gill net, and throw net. Each had its purpose and was primarily utilized at night.

Today, as in ancient time, fishermen on the Sea of Galilee use nets for about 95% of the fishing. The exceptions in biblical days were notable and described in scripture in Matthew 17:24-27 when Peter was directed by Jesus to throw his hook into the Sea and catch a fish holding a coin for their Temple tax.

In the early 1990's I was asked to come to the Sea of Galilee to produce a documentary on fishing the waters of this land with a rod and reel. Upon arrival, I was informed that there were no tackle stores, little modern equipment, and fewer rod fishermen. The head of their Fish and Game Department indicated that the 20 species of fish in the Sea of Galilee were primarily algae-eating fish and would most likely refuse any modern lures.

After some experimenting, I found that some small gold spoons were ac-

cepted by the tilapia (also known as the St. Peter's fish) and the barbel (one of the five most ancient fish). Upon a second trip to this historic land with my good friend Jimmy Houston, we completed an ESPN program about the ancient fisherman found on the Sea of Galilee. On that trip Jimmy and I had a hard time scoring any fish except on the Red Sea.

I recently had the privilege of directing another group to Israel that included Bryson Mort, a ten-year old boy, who is a passionate fisherman and the newest member of the Mack's Lure Junior Pro Team. Despite poor fishing conditions, the new Mack's Lure HummBait was of interest to the fish. Bryson was able to hook two fish using an assortment of spoons.

Two barbel's (similar to a black bass) were hooked and released in the evening on an ultra-light spin-cast outfit. The largest was estimated to weigh about 4 pounds. Bryson is among very few Americans to ever catch a fish on a hook and line in the Sea of Galilee and perhaps the youngest foreign lad to ever do so.

Cliff Mort, his dad, assisted Bryson in landing and releasing the fish. We, at Mack's Lures, are very proud of Bryson and his accomplishment.



*Bryson and his dad Cliff.*

## *Cookin' Your Catch*

### Honey-Dijon Salmon

#### Ingredients

- 4 Salmon Steaks
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tbs. Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 tbs. melted butter or margarine
- 4 sheets of aluminum foil (12 x 18 inches)
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbs. cornstarch
- 1/8 tsp. white pepper
- 1 lb. fresh asparagus
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Blend honey, mustard, butter, Worcestershire sauce, cornstarch and pepper; set aside. Center one-fourth of asparagus on each sheet of foil. Top with salmon steaks. Drizzle with honey-mustard sauce. Sprinkle with walnuts. Bring up foil sides. Double fold top and ends to seal packet, leaving room for heat circulation inside. Repeat to make four packets. Bake 17-23 minutes on a cookie sheet in oven.

*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 1 of 2*

It's the trip you've dreamed about ever since you saw somebody else do it on a television fishing show. Now you're finally going to get to do it yourself.

The adventure you've signed on for is a trip into the Amazon to fish for peacock bass. You've talked to friends who have been there. All of them say the same thing—the way those fish hit and fight almost defies description.

If all you had to do was climb on a plane and go, there wouldn't be much of a problem. But that's not how it works. You've got to bring your rods, reels and tackle. Therein, friends, lies a passel of potential problems. Getting fishing tackle from here to there never was easy. With the security and restrictions in place today throughout the world it's even more difficult. As someone who has done a million plus miles of air travel, I feel qualified to share some thoughts about it.

Traveling by air these days is a big enough pain by itself without having to worry about the tackle you want to bring along. I know anglers who never carry fishing gear. They fish with guides when they reach their destinations and depend on these guides to provide adequate tackle.

That approach may work all right sometimes here in the United States. If you travel out of the country, it's another story. If, for example, you go to Mexico to sample the tremendous fishing in that country, you'd darn well bet-

ter bring your own gear. Don't expect Mexican guides to provide the kind of tackle you're accustomed to using. They often won't have it.

For that matter, I'd rather have my own tackle wherever my travels take me. Part of the fun of fishing is having familiar equipment to work with. Using familiar gear also means more fish in the boat. I for darn sure want a selection of Stan's Spin spinnerbaits if I'm off on a bass fishing adventure. No knowledgeable trout angler is going anywhere without an assortment of Mack's Lure Wedding Ring spinners. Experienced walleye fishermen, and an ever increasing number of other anglers,



*This durable rod case that can be extended to accommodate long rods has served me well for years. If your rod case comes with straps, be sure to remove them before they are checked as luggage.*

will feel that way about packing a variety of sizes and colors of Smile Blades.

Let's look at some of the other things it's well to remember next time you travel with tackle staring with rod cases. Some commercially made rod cases, for example, aren't all that trustworthy. It's not difficult to build your own out of plastic pipe. That way you can make it the length you require. You can obtain everything you need at a plumbing supply store. Get substantial pipe. Don't waste time with thin walled stuff that won't take a pounding.

Don't put fancy straps or handles on your rod tube. If you must have them, use the kind that can be un-snapped and put in a bag while the rod case is being transported. The airlines will figure a way to bust anything on the exterior of the tube. Worse, those straps make it easier for the case to get caught on something as it is moved from place to place. Then it's your case itself that may get busted.

When you check in at the airline ticket counter, ask the attendant if their conveyor belt can handle the case without damage. Conveyors are bad news. I've had more than one rod case—and the rods inside—ruined by them. The clerk may grumble a little, but don't hesitate to ask for special handling of your rods.

Some years ago I stuffed my two best fly rods, four casting rods and a spinning rod into a homemade rod case and headed for Argentina. The plastic I used in that rod tube was so strong you could have whacked it with a sledgehammer without undue damage. Even so, when I went to pick up my rod case at the baggage area in Buenos Aires I darn near cried. There was my heavy-duty rod case bent almost double. Only one rod, the spinning rod that was the least valuable of the bunch,

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survived. All the rest were broken beyond repair.

I had looked forward to that trip with so much anticipation. Not having anything to fish with was not a good way to start. I did manage to borrow a rod and reel from some friends, but losing my own equipment was a big time bummer.

Another way around the traveling rod problem, depending on the kind of gear you'll need where you're going, is to get sectionalized rods that you can take aboard a plane as a part of your carry-on luggage. I did this often prior to 9/11.

It's not nearly as easy to use the carry-on cases today as it was prior to

that terrorism attack. Sometimes the airlines won't let you do it. Here in this country most airports now can check rod cases without you having to open them for inspection. That's sometimes not true in other countries, Mexico is an example. On more than one occasion I've had to open my bags as well as my rod case both going in and coming out.

Be prepared for tight security and close inspection of anything you want to take on board. Be just as certain your rods are securely packed in event they have to go as luggage.

In my next column I'll share some additional thoughts regarding tackle & travel.

-To Be Continued-

*Photo of the Month*

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



*Jerry Brown with a nice Triploid from Rufus Woods Reservoir caught with the Mack's Lure HummBait.*

*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:** How many years after Alaska became a state, did Mack's Lure introduce the first Wedding Ring® Spinner?

**A:** Alaska became a state in 1959 and Mack's introduced the Wedding Ring® in its first year of business 1969; making the answer 10 years. Now 40 years later, Mack's plans to introduce another new Wedding Ring design to catch Alaskan Salmon.

**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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