



TACKLE ROOM By Brandon Hayward

Broken guides

Have you ever had guides break on your rods? You know, how the ring pops out all of a sudden and you're left with just the frame and a useless ring that slides up and down against the top and bottom guides after you break it.

It's happened to me a bunch. Back when I worked on boats the season would start with the crew rods being in "decent" shape (actually what most anglers would consider beat up), but halfway through the season there would invariably be some casualties to go along with the daily use. The vast majority of the time it was broken guides in the form of a ring that popped out of the frame.

We used to just make a makeshift guide by tying a little section of mono over the top of the guide. Sure, the edges of the frame were rough and burred up, but that's not stuff you worry about when you work on boats...nor are things like what's a better bait rod a 270 or 800L, or what color your jig is, or whether ringed hooks make a difference or not.

Somehow I got to be a bit more meticulous about gear after getting started in this writing thing. Rods with busted guides that have got the mono treatment or replaced with a new guide and a shot of electrical tape don't cut it anymore.

I busted four guides this summer, three of which were on the Tady 1097 jig stick that I got into using for small jigs like the A1 and AA with a Newell 322 or Trinidad 16N loaded with 30-pound XXX Izorline on everything from calicos to albacore.

Between the trips I did for WON assignments and the 15 or so trips I worked as a cook or second captain on my friends' boats this season the rod probably got 40 days or so on the water. In other words the guides got some use. Not gnarly everyday use, but enough to test their mettle.

The guides, like most guides that break, were just your run-of-the-mill stainless steel boat guides. In this case they were Pac Bay XBG stainless-steel boat guides. They're great guides, guides that the guy that wraps my rods uses more times than not for local stuff. But they do break.

"They're good guides (the Pac Bay XBGs). But they're just stainless-steel guides that are soldered," said Rob Cohn, who does all my rods and piecework for shops like Bob Sands. "Lots of ocean air and a little bit of corrosion and BOOM, they break sometimes."

Cohn knows a lot about rods, guides, wrapping, etc., but then again he's a rod wrapper — he's

supposed to. Often times I'll call him with a question about blanks, or what type of guides I should get, or handles, and he tells me all I need to know (and more) about how I'm thinking about getting my next rod done.

If you have many custom rods done, you should have rapport with the guys doing your stuff. It's kind of, to a lesser extent, like talking to a shaper before having a board done. For example, Cohn knows that I like Swifty's Nu-Skin Rod Armor and light graphite reel seats put on 13 inches up from the butt on all my local bait rods. In other words,

he does stuff that I can't get off the racks. Anyways, getting back to the topic at hand, I went on a little search to find guides that are a little less apt to breakage recently and found a candidate. American Tackle Company makes a guide called Ring Lock that were designed to "reduce weight while increasing guide life," according to the company. They've got a quad leg design that was designed to reduce ring-popping lateral torque due to the frame's strength and stability. Whenever I get guides I always make sure they can hold up to Spectra seeing how almost everything's rigged to fish green Spectra with four or so feet of fluorocarbon when fishing locally for yellows, seabass and even albacore these days. Ring Locks are good to go for fishing with braid. So what does rod wrap Rob say about them?

"They're good guides for graphite rods and local bait fishing with 25- or 30-pound. They lend themselves really well to those parabolic graphite rods you like for Spectra since the guide forms to the blank a lot better than stainless guides," according to Cohn.

The guides have hung in there so far, so we'll see what happens when they get a thorough workout next season. If you're having some bait rods or light jig stick done up in the near future you might want to check the Ring Locks out. Go to www.americantackle.us to find out about them. I'm not sure what local shops have them, but B.C. Distributing in Cypress has them. Or you can order them at mudhole.com or through Cabelas.

If you have any rod wrapping questions or need a rod done, Rob Cohn can be reached at rodsbyrob@msn.com. He's the man.

As always, if you have questions, comments or column ideas send me an E-mail: brandon@wonews.com.



AMERICAN TACKLE COMPANY'S RING LOCK GUIDE.

Central Coast boats battle weather, beat up on rock-fish

MORRO BAY — Stiff winds out of the northeast and gail warnings aside, there was still rock-fishing to be had off the Central Coast last week. While it wasn't the limits all around for every run style fishing that has been common this fall, there was still anywhere from 8 around to limits on tap for boats fishing in the breeze.

All the wind meant that Patriot Sportfishing didn't get one of its long range trips that run on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday away from the docks last week. The only full day "long range" trip to make it out for the week was a Friday trip on the *Fiesta* out of Virg's that ran above the most recent MPA closure to cash in on some great fishing for big reds (vermillion rockfish).

"We fished up around White Rock Two for pretty much straight reds. White Super Flies (shrimp flies that are sold at Virg's tackle shop) tipped with squid were working best, but the heavy 12-ounce jigs, ling bars, irons, whatever you want to call them, were getting them, too," said Michele Leary, skipper of the *Fiesta* out of Virg's. She added that the action was in 240 feet of water. An 8-pound cabezon caught by Jerry Santoro was also part of the catch.

Close-to-home action was also good, as seen by the *Admiral* getting near limits on Saturday's local trip that had 29 anglers bag 74 reds, 206 rockfish and a ling.

On the albacore front, all the wind and swell put a hold on most private boaters efforts, although there were some brave souls that ventured out. Leary said the last private boater to head offshore was on Wednesday. He had a single jig strike 18 miles from the Morro Rock and then turned around because it was too rough.

Over at Patriot, the lingcod derby is still in full swing, even though the leader board didn't change last week. Jason Dewett is holding down first place worth \$3,000 with a 17-pound, 7-ounce ling. Brent Wood is in second with a 14-pound, 8-ounce ling worth \$2,000 and Jim Locke is in third worth \$1,000 with a 14-pound, 4 ounce.

While there weren't any long range trips or monster lings for the week, the half- and all-day runs did find some 5- and 6-pound reds in the mix.

A half-day on the *Patriot* on Saturday scored 161 assorted rockfish for 18 anglers in windy conditions that had plenty of swell to go with it. A all-day on the *Pacific Horizon* had 163 rockfish for 20 anglers Saturday.



Southern California

OUTDOORS ON THE AIR LISTINGS

Radio

Let's Talk Hook-Up: Mighty XX 1090 AM & 105.7 FM, Saturdays and Sundays 7-9 a.m. This week: 10/27, Mark Pisano and Paul Strasser; 10/28, Bob Fletcher and Steve Crooke. Call-ins (877) 792-1090; e-mail: pete@hookup1090.com. Check their Web site: www.hookup1090.com.

Ronnie Kovach's Radio Fishing University: *Corrected station/phone number!* KLAAM830, Saturdays, 5-7 a.m. Hosted by Ronnie Kovach. For more information, call toll-free (877) 883-0830, www.fishingexpeditions.com.

Rod & Reel Radio: AM540 (New station, new time): 6-8 p.m. Sunday evenings, hosted by "Big Tuna Bill" Ghiselin, Stan Vandenburg, "Hopalong" John Cassidy and Wendy Tochiara. Saltwater, freshwater and tournament fishing information featuring an all-talk and special guest interview format. Listen on the Internet and to past shows archived at www.rodandreeleadio.com. Call (619) 252-3890.

All Outdoors Radio Network: KCBQ 1170AM Sundays from 4-6 p.m. Hosted by Captain John Grabowski, San Diego *Union-Tribune* Outdoors writer and WON contributor Ed Zieralski, and Captain Ron Baker. Weekly guests and timely topics. Be a part of the show by calling toll-free at (888) 344-1170. Web site: www.alloutdoorsradio.com.

Boathouse Radio: Saturday noon-1 p.m. on 1170 AM or online at KCBQ.com.

Western Fishing and Boating Radio: KLAAM, 830 AM, Thursday evening from 8 to 10 p.m. (*New hours!*) with breaking information for your upcoming weekend. Hosted by Steven Fukuto, Gayle Johnson, Dan Fink and Jim Klark. Web site: www.wfbradio.com, toll-free telephone (877) WFBR101 or email at hotline@radio.com

Television

Sportfishing with Dan Hernandez: KDOC (Channel 56) Saturdays at 6:30 a.m., in San Diego on Fox (Channel 6) at 12:30 Saturdays, also on SiTV Network at 7:30 a.m. (EST), and on La Familia Network, AmericaONE Network, Familyland Network and Sportsman's Channel — check your local listings for times. Hosted by Dan Hernandez. Questions: call (562) 221-1278; Internet: www.sport-fishing.com; e-mail: dan@sport-fishing.com.

Ronnie Kovach's Fishing Ventures: FSN West and FSN Prime Ticket five times weekly. Visit www.fishingexpeditions.com for complete listings and times. Produced by Telly Award-winning Danny Jackson Television Productions, Inc.



Get the scoop on hoop netting!

SoCal Hoop Netting Report

Santa Barbara/Ventura Report

Frank at Sterns Wharf Bait & Tackle on the Santa Barbara Pier reports dirty water and slow hooping.

Mike from Fisherman's Industry Supply in Ventura reports slower hooping this past week. More skunks to report than anything else. Good hooping lately means 2 or 3 bugs. He says the bugs have been molting and that one reportedly molted its shell into the hand of a DFG warden upon measuring.

L.A. County Report

Phil from Ric's Tackle in Long Beach reports good bug action along the inside and outside of federal breakwalls but things have slowed down a bit since the opener. With that being said, many hoopers are still getting 1/2 to 3/4 limits in just a few hours.

Dick from Purfields Pro Tackle in Los Angeles reports slow bugging in and around Marina Del Rey. Plenty of shorts with the legals being few and far in between. Dick urges hoopers to lighten up, get along with one another, and to enjoy themselves.

Orange County Report

Mike from Mako Matt's Marine in Huntington Beach reports spotty results locally. Some quality bugs have been plucked off the Federal breakwall but most of the reports he's been getting are of hoopers scratching a few here and there. Fresh mackerel has been the ticket.

Ron from Hogan's Bait & Tackle in Dana Point says the hooping lately has been excellent. So good so that a customer dropped off a flopping souvenir for him at the shop. No complaints there.

San Diego County Report

Gene at Dana Landing in San Diego reports most hoopers are having decent success in the shallow water off Point Loma and La Jolla. There have been many shorts but also a far amount of keepers. Inside the bay has been good along the points in close to the rocks.

Luc at Anglers Choice in San Diego reports decent hooping in 30ft of water between Point Loma and "the College". Lots of shorts with legals in the mix, the larger ones running between 2 - 4lbs. Salmon heads mixed with sardines has been working really well for bait.

Islands Report

Behdad from Pacific Edge Tackle in Huntington Beach reports good hooping at Catalina. The East end of the front side has been especially good at the shallower depths. The crowds have been real light during the week.

Mike from Jig Stop Tackle in Dana Point says the bugs are still crawling pretty good at the Islands. No shortage of hoopers at Catalina—the entire front side was lit up with floats and light sticks. There's been a high ratio of shorts to keepers but they're still catching enough to make dinner.