

Some pictures are better than others. Some images captured with a camera are generic, some unusual. Below I've pasted some of the strange fishing pics I've taken (or posed for) over the years, along with some comments on what I like (or don't like) about them.



I love this one of Bill Garrett, who's attempting to land a decent-sized trout, but the fish isn't quite ready yet. The look of amusement on Bill's face interests me, and I also find significance in the way the trout's presence is so clearly and emphatically indicated, despite the fact it can't actually be seen!



This picture of me attempting to hang on to a super fat trout while it was trying to wiggle free of my grasp as the camera was rolling is funny. It's impossible not to notice and mention the similarity between mine and the trout's gaping jaws. Significantly, this image was shot with the shutter in "continuous shooting" mode, where the camera takes a bunch of pictures in rapid succession while the button is held down.

Using continuous shooting mode is a great way to capture the "right" shot when something is happening, like the release of a fish or the moment it is plucked out of the water for the first time. Unfortunately, when the shutter is set this way, the quality and clarity of the images are lower than when the shutter is set to take one image with the resolution set to the highest level.

Playing with the camera in continuous shooting mode from time to time is a fun way to capture action images where the expressions on the subjects are obviously sincere and genuine, not staged.



The expression on my face here was obviously not staged, at least not effectively! I find this picture hilarious precisely because the look on my face screws it up so badly. Other things in this image are cool and impressive, the color of the trout, the way I'm holding the fish, the look of the bright Corky dangling from its lip. Just the overall quality of the light is good; images captured in "ambient gray" light are always sharp.

HOWEVER, the look on my face reminds me of one we might see on the face of a toddler with a dirty diaper. Add to that the funky-looking swirl of hair plastered to my forehead and you have a real winner. I'm just glad I pulled my cap back on my head so we could clearly see how impressed I was with the catch of this colorful, long and heavy fish.



Now here's a facial expression which adds something positive to the picture. Diane Jans' jubilation is apparent right after the moment she released a solid trout she had worked really hard to catch. I'm not a nurturing person by nature, and it would be disingenuous of me to suggest I get more pleasure out of watching my clients catch fish than I do when I catch one myself. I do find it gratifying to see someone enjoying the act of releasing a fish bigger than what they are accustomed to catching. If more people adopt a mindset where the acts of catching the fish and letting them go become more important than stringing and eating them, we'll have more and bigger fish to take pictures of in the future.



Speaking of big fish, here's a real monster. Sadly, the picture does the fish no justice in terms of accurately capturing its dimensions. This is an honest 10 pounder! Not only that, it was "just" 30 inches long. Everything about this fish was fat, even her lips. To add insult to injury, I've got another one of those "poopy diaper" expressions on my face. You'd think I'd have been able to smile at this moment. I had worked for about 4 hours without a bite when this fish snatched my Corky and took off like Secretariat.

But no, I smirk and sneer, and then fail to check the images for quality before I let the fish go. Attaboy Kev!



This was a big fish too, nearly 30 inches. And at least Randy McMullen smiled when I took his picture. What I find most interesting and unusual about this one is the way I accidentally caught Mark Krenek's image in the right side of the frame. He's hooked up and fighting another fish already. It was big too. Unfortunately, it was a carp! This action occurred during a short and intense flurry of activity which accompanied the arrival of a strong front. Randy had just this one bite all day. The fish completely inhaled the long Tsunami twitch bait, obviously motivated to fill its belly before the big chill.



The weather was somewhat nasty back in 2007 when Waylan Miller caught this 7 pound trout on a Spook Junior. Some would say this picture is of marginal quality. After all, the lens is obviously covered with tiny droplets of rain, creating a kind of confused overall appearance.

I love the purple color on the back of the fish, though, and also the way the water's clarity is captured. This picture is a good one to me because it so accurately recorded the conditions and feel of the moment.



As was the case with the last image, this one well captures the essence of the moment. The central figure looks more like an astronaut in camouflage than a wading angler in some ways. I'm guessing all who see this picture can tell it was cold when Sterling Frank caught his big ol' trout.

I've watched this man catch a few other good trout while we've fished together. I always get a kick out of how much fun he has handling them. The sincerity of his smile is undeniable. I'm just glad he was carrying enough stuff with him and wearing plenty of warm clothing on this wade!



I don't drink Dos X's, but if this picture is any indication, I might be the most interesting man in the world. There's music in the way the brim of my hat curves so elegantly around my head. By the way, I was able to insert the Super Spook into the mouth of this trout vertically, upside down, all while more than fifty feet away, at the other end of a length of fishing line.

Wasn't much of a fight after my quarry's mouth was pinned wide open. I was able to ski her right in across the surface! That's why Unicorns make up legends about ME. Remember, I'm the most interesting man in the....



I may be quite interesting, but I'm not the sharpest hook in the tackle box sometimes. On the day this lovely image was captured, I was trying a new kind of sunscreen, the thick, white, pasty kind. In addition to protecting my skin from the sun's harmful rays, the stuff bleached my goatee an even whiter shade of pale. I was oblivious to the fact until I uploaded the pics into the computer later that evening. Waiter, can you bring another tray?

