

Fishin' Vachinis strike again.

They set more records, add a new member

Over the past eight seasons, Petaluman Don Vachini and his sons, Chris, Matt and Jason, have attained global recognition with both the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame (HOF) — two organizations which sanction angling world records.

Often backpacking to secluded altitudes above 11,000 feet on their record quests, the Vachinis own an aggregate 35 line or tippet standards for the golden, brook and rainbow trout species.

Previously, the only family members involved in the record-setting activity were the males. Not any more.

Taking advantage of the HOF's newly created Catch and Release Division, 14-year-old Angela Vachini — soon to be a freshman at St. Vincent High — set her sights on a trio of vacancies and made good all the way around.

Joining her dad on a series of day hikes into the snow-enshrouded Hoover Wilderness adjacent to Yosemite National Park, she visited a series of partially frozen lakes near 10,000



The Fishin' Vachinis are (from left) Matt, Chris, Don, Angela and Jason.

feet in mid-July.

There in a connecting stream, Anglea landed a pair of hefty, 17-inch rainbows — one of which claimed the HOF's 25-pound line class, while the other set a new unlimited line class standard — thus securing her niche in angling history.

On a subsequent trip into the

same wilderness, Don and his son, Jason, each established an additional record from a nearby high-elevation lake — setting HOF marks for the 12- and 14-pound line classes, respectively, with a pair of brilliantly attired 15-inch brook trout.

Under that new category, fish are measured in inches rather

than pounds and — as a conservation measure — must be released immediately after catching to reduce death due to stress.

The Vachini family's combined efforts not only increased their impressive collective record to 39, but added a fifth member to the team as well.