

HERE IT IS-ALL THE LATEST

April 2024

**BK Custom Baits – Bill Kunz
Creekside Tackle - Ken Eddie
Dobyns Rods-Gary Dobyns
G-Money Baits-Tray Williams
Pro Worms-Sandy Uecker
Valley Rod and Gun**

BASS LAKE 2024



FRESNO BASS CLUB MEMBERS,

The fifth stop for the Fresno Bass Club is an oldie but a goodie. This hidden gem is so close to home but is often ignored by most bass anglers. About 15 years ago some of the local anglers started sneaking up to Bass Lake in the Spring and were catching 20-30 lb. bags bed fishing.

Then the swimbait craze started, and Allen Borden of Oakhurst started the ABT Lure Company. One afternoon he got to the lake about 1:30 in the afternoon and started throwing his new trout patterned 7" ABT prototype and landed a 12.8 lb. bass and a short time later a 15.17 lb. which is currently the lake record. Although there are rumors that this record has been unofficially broken twice this year, but those fish have never been certified as lake records.

For the most part this lake is only accessible to bass fisherman in March and April due to snowfall in the winter months and swarming crowds of jet skis and boaters during the warmer months. It does have a \$50 pollution sticker requirement, but it's good for the entire year and the boat launch is only \$10. In my humble opinion this should be one of our annual tournaments stops.

The week before our Fresno Bass Club tournament, several anglers were up pre-fishing for our event as well as the Bass 101 event to be held the weekend prior. The rumors were the bite was good and the bass were moving into spawn.

Jimmy Arnold and I went up to pre-fish on May 9th and found the water was still cold in the upper 50's at launch and warming up to the low 60's by mid-afternoon. Our trip didn't turn out to well and we only landed about eight fish all day for about 9 lbs.

We decided to go back on Saturday May 11th and use the Bass 101 tournament as a pre-fish for our FBC event. The water had warmed up about three degrees, so we headed to the north end of the lake where we had fished on Thursday only because we had seen numbers of cruisers in a couple of coves.

At our first stop we caught a limit by 7:30 that weighed 18.5 lbs. with a 6.36 big fish. We continued to fish the same couple of areas for most of the day catching 30 plus keepers. At 1 PM Jimmy hooked a 5.66 that gave us 22.40 and enough for the Bass 101 win.



Fast forward to May 19th and our FBC tournament. At launch, the water temperature was 67 and it warmed up to the low 70's by mid-day. The water was slightly stained from the Saturday boat traffic, but it was still clear enough to hunt for bed fish before the boating traffic picked up again.

First place went to Bill Kunz who caught a five fish limit weighing 18.59 anchored by the tournament big fish of 6.37 which was netted by his co-angler Paul "the net bitch" Shafer. LOL!! According to Paul, Bill was going to be his "net bitch," but surprise, surprise it didn't quite work out that way!

Also, Paul was sure to remind me that because Bill Rowles Sr. had decided to go to Clear Lake, and missed this event, that Paul was going to be at least 30 points ahead Bill Rowles Sr. who according to Paul was already losing to him in the points as of April's YTD point results.

Bill said he went to the same starting spot he went to the week before thinking there would be more fish since the water had warmed, but that was not the case. Bill and Paul caught three fish at their starting spot, but then had to move on as the fish that were there and visible last week were totally gone.

Bill and Paul moved to the far north end of the lake and fished some docks and grassy flats where both were able to finish out their limits. At about 11:00 Bill saw a clump of grass on his live scope in 10-12 feet of water. Bill threw his drop shot into the clumps of grass and the big fish inhaled his Pro Worm and swam off with it.

Bill and Paul were both drop shotting shallow docks with grass nearby for most of the day. Bill was throwing a custom hand-poured Pro Worm that he had made about 15 years ago specifically for Bass Lake. Paul was throwing a 7" MM III Roboworm on his drop shot.

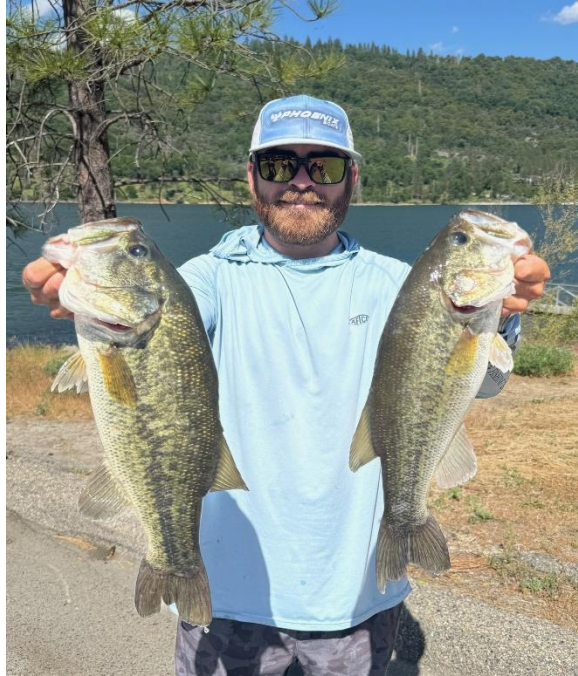


Second Place went to Cory Kerber. Cory's family has a nice "comfy" Bass Lake cabin, and Cory has the tendency to frequent the lake during its prime fishing times and was the local favorite coming into the event.

Cory did not fish the Bass 101 tournament but was there the same day pre-fishing and had a little over 19 lbs. without any big fish. He had been catching his fish around shallow docks and grass. Cory had caught several bed fish while pre-fishing and thought that pattern would continue.

On the FBC tournament day, Cory came to the scales with a five fish limit of 17.24lbs. anchored by a big fish of 4.21 lbs.

Cory said he did not see as many fish that were up spawning during his pre-fish, but he was still able to catch a couple bed fish during the FBC event. Cory said he targeted shallow grass in 2-5 feet of water as the fish were spawning in the openings of the grass. Cory said shallow docks with grass seemed to be the best for what he was doing. When Cory wasn't sight-fishing, he was throwing a drop shot. Congratulations Cory!



Third Place went to Ryan Smith. Ryan and his wife Jennifer had been frequenting the lake a lot this year and they had been catching some quality fish. On tournament day Ryan brought in five bass weighing 12.82 lbs. anchored by a 3.87 big fish.

Ryan said he started the day by fishing a Texas rigged worm around laydowns and brush piles to get a small limit. He then went to fishing docks with a drop shot and skipping senkos for his quality bites. Ryan's baits consisted of a Pro Worm in Pro Gold Red and Pro Gold Purple, a Senko, and a Trick Worm. Congratulations Ryan!!



Fourth place went to Paul “the net bitch” Shafer. Paul fished with Bill Kunz and they both were drop shotting the north end of the lake. Paul was drop shotting a 7” MM III through the shallow grass patches on flats and around shallow docks. Paul’s limit (All flawlessly netted by Bill) weighed 12.48 lbs. and his big fish was 3.20 lbs. Way to go Paul! And YES!!! You are way ahead of Bill Rowles Sr. now.



And rounding out this month’s top five was co-angler Andrew Skyers. Andrew fished with Cory Kerber in the far northern reaches of the lake. Andrew brought in a five fish limit for 12.08 lbs. Andrew said while Cory was fishing the thicker grass patches, he fished out away from the grass targeting rocks in those same areas. After fishing the grass flats, Andrew said he utilized a wacky rigged Roboworm and drop shot near the corners of the docks they were fishing. Great job Andrew!

Unfortunately, I did not get a picture of Andrew at the lake holding his fish, so we all know what that means.... Andrew gets a fishing monkey Pic! Remember to get your picture taken at the Lake or else the fishing monkey will strike! Lol...



1	Kunz, Bill	246	5	7.05
2	Eddy, Ken	237	5	4.70
3	Corrente, Mark	231	5	3.61
4	Duncan, A.J.	222	5	3.62
5	Arnold, Jim	183	5	3.65
6	Shafer, Paul	180	5	3.20
7	Lopez, Christian	168	5	2.39
8	Reynolds, Kyle	152	4	4.29
9	Kerber, Cory	151	3	4.38
10	Heirendt, David	151	4	3.35
11	Wells, Timmy NM Jan' 24	143	3	7.37
12	Red, Ron Sr.	143	3	2.69
13	Jones, Bob	140	3	3.62
14	Jue, Gary	136	4	3.11
15	Navarro, Amber	128	4	3.26
16	Rowles, Bill Sr.	125	3	3.26
17	Avedikian, Amy	117	3	3.92
18	Champ, Jeremy	115	3	2.58
19	Tillman, Chris NM Mar' 24	114	3	3.53
20	Duncan, Kelly	113	3	0.00
21	Calderon, Lazaro	111	3	0.00
22	Paris, Chris	108	3	0.00
23	Ruacho, Jerry	97	3	3.67
24	Smith, Ryan	96	2	3.87
25	Turner, Tim	91	2	2.43
26	Squires, Corey	90	2	4.01
27	Albidrez, John	90	2	2.38
28	Smith, Jennifer	78	2	0.00
29	Skyers, Andrew NM Mar' 24	77	2	3.19
30	Austin, Walt	77	2	0.00
31	Barton, Justin	76	2	2.88
32	Mendes, Mathew	74	2	0.00
33	Taylor, Ted	71	2	0.00
34	Rowles, Anne	62	2	2.14
35	Placentia, Sal	51	2	0.00
36	Privett, Nick	49	1	3.61
37	Short, Jeff NM Apr' 24	48	1	3.05
38	Cantu, Michael	48	1	0.00
39	Privett, Nick	47	1	3.61
40	Baron, Rusty	47	1	0.00
41	Guzman, Jose	45	1	2.86
42	Rowe, Seth	44	1	0.00
43	Agtang, Timothy	38	1	0.00
44	Curtis, Walter	29	1	0.00
45	Botu, Brian	28	1	0.00
46	Calderon, Allen NM Apr' 24	27	1	0.00
47	Austin, Shauna	10	1	0.00
48	Hass, Harold	8	0	0.00
49	Uecker, Rick	8	0	0.00
49	Uecker, Sandy	8	0	0.00
50	Bigler, McKay NM Mar' 24	6	0	0.00
51	Williams, Tray NM Mar' 24	4	0	0.00
52	Barton, Bailey	2	0	0.00
53	Guzman, Joel NM Apr' 24	0	0	0.00
54	Privett, Elijah NM May' 24	0	1	0.00

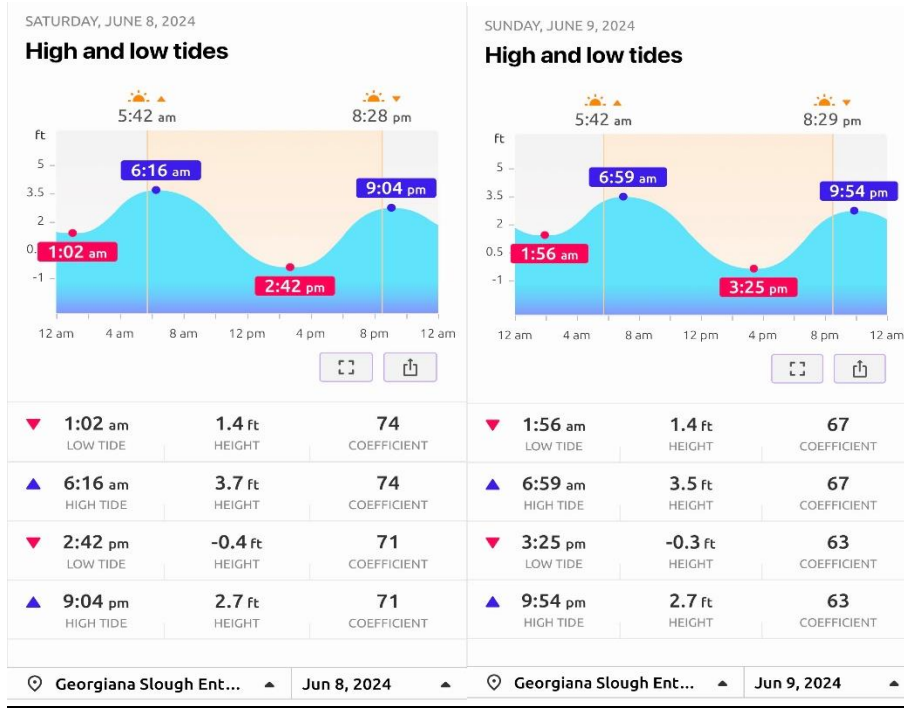
JUNE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

When: June 8-9, 2024 (Two Day Event)
Where: Delta
Check-in: B&W Resort Time TBD
Blast off: Approx. 0520
Weigh-in: B&W Parking Lot Pay Station @ 3:00 pm

NOTE: The California Bass Nation is having its annual TOC on the exact date, time and location as us, so get on the water early to avoid any conflicts. Bass Nation is expecting 25-30 boats for their two-day TOC out of B&W.

For blast-off we will stage at the mouth of Georgianna slough and Bass Nation is going to be staging by the bridge. You will have to use caution at blast off as there will be boats going both directions from both clubs.

DELTA TIDES JUNE 8th & 9th 2024 (Georgianna Slough)



NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting for the Fresno Bass Club will be on Wednesday June 5th, 2024, @ 7PM at the Yosemite Falls Café located at 4020 N. Cedar in Fresno.

Until next time...Tight Lines!