

HERE IT IS - ALL THE LATEST!

DECEMBER 2019

FRESNO BASS CLUB MEMBERS,

December is the time for holiday cheer, but its also time for this year's top anglers in the Fresno Bass Club to duke it out for bragging rights as the 2019 Fresno Bass Club TOC Champion.

There are two routes to qualify for Fresno Bass Club TOC. The first route is to end up in the top 10 in the points race after 11 regular events minus your two worst finishes. The second route is to automatically qualify by fishing 9 out of the 11 FBC sanctioned events during the current season. This year we had 13 members qualify for the coveted FBC TOC.

To help level out the playing field, the FBC puts the TOC waters off limits for the week prior only allowing pre-fishing on the day before the event. That normally works out okay, but this year's weather put a damper on pre-fishing for this event as one of the biggest storms so far this season moved into the area mid-week and continued to cause havoc throughout the TOC.

Most of the field had fond memories of the November club event at McClure where we enjoyed almost spring like weather conditions and a good bite for quantities of fish. I personally had a campsite reserved for Saturday but decided I didn't want to sleep in my truck in the pouring rain and high winds. Ron Red Sr. and Gary Jue brought their cabover campers and arrived on Friday night only to spend all day Saturday inside their campers counting rain drops and watching videos on how to catch bass in torrential rainstorms. Me on the other hand stayed nice and warm in my bed at home, but that meant getting up very early and driving in the rain to the Lake.

I only know of one person, who will remain nameless, that went out in the storm on Saturday to pre-fish. But since I wont mention *Jose's* name, he said he stayed out for 5 hours and got drenched! Although he got drenched, he managed to catch a few fish. On the morning of the TOC, Jose told everyone that catching fish was not a problem, but catching quality fish was. Jose was still dripping wet from Saturday's pre-fishing, but it didn't matter because it was still pouring rain during Sunday morning's check-in.

After check-in, we all launched our boats and because of the storm, it was still somewhat dark at blast off. We decided to do a 5 mph blast off and start moving toward our starting spots instead of just sitting in the rain waiting for the sun that would never show itself until late afternoon.

Rain, Wind and somewhat mild temperatures were the case until late in the afternoon when the sun finally popped out. Most anglers found that catching fish was not a problem, but the over all size had decreased since our November club tournament. We all knew the weather was going to be horrible and it was going present a challenge, but we also knew no matter what obstacles the field was presented with, somebody was going to emerge victorious.

First place went to Bill “Rain, Sleet or Snow” Kunz who managed to put together the pieces of the puzzle without pre-fishing. Bill weighed in a healthy limit of McClure Spotted bass that tipped the scales at 10.65 lbs. anchored by a 2.80 lb spotted bass.

Bill figured with the weather being so terrible that he might be able to get a kicker fish with a reaction bait early. Bill set out to Piney Creek, which wasn't too far with the 5 mph blast off. Bill threw a white spinnerbait and an ¼ oz underspin tipped with a 3.8 Keitech in White Flash. Bill caught 2-3 spinnerbait fish and 7-8 underspin fish all weighing about a 1.25 each. At 10:00 with 6.25 lbs. in the live-well, he abandoned Piney Creek and decided to go back to the areas he caught fish in the November tournament.

Bill headed to the Main lake and fished three general areas, the mouth of Temperance, the mouth of McClure Point and the mouth of Cottonwood Creek. Bill went back to a finesse approach using Texas rigged 6” worms in both dark brown and dark green. He fished his worms in 35-55 feet on Steep shale rock banks. In a matter of an hour, Bill managed to cull all his fish from Piney Creek up to a limit of about 8.5 lbs. At approximately 2:30 Bill culled two more times bring him to his final weight of 10.65. Congratulations to Bill, the 2019 TOC Champion!



Second place went to Harold "I'm not the bar bitch this year" Hass. Harold fished the main lake and Cottonwood creek. Harold caught his first three fish on a whopper popper 90 in the first 30 minutes of the tournament. After his topwater bite died, he caught fish on a drop shot using a green weenie and the remainder of his fish he caught on a jig. Harold concentrated his efforts in 15 foot of water early in the morning and then followed his fish out to 30 foot as the day progressed. Harold brought in a limit of bass that weighed 9.54. Harold's big fish, a 2.65 largemouth was fooled by the whopper popper early in the morning. Great job Harold! (Not so great for Paul, the new bar bitch)



Third place went to Mark “I still don’t pre-fish” Corrente. Mark brought in 9.36 lbs. of bass to the scales. Mark’s bite on his number one spot dissipated and he had to move around a little more to catch his fish, but the technique remained the same. Mark threw a Texas rigged Pro Gold worm on the main lake in 30-60 feet. Good job Mark!



Fourth place went to Larry “Big Fish” Lutz. Larry was fishing with Gary “the Guide” Jue when he hooked the big fish of the tournament. Larry caught the 3.35 lbs. largemouth with a purple death drop shot rig on the second cast of the day in the back of a pocket with running water. Good job Larry! (Too bad Gary!)



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS





UPDATED BANQUET INFORMATION

The 2019 end of season banquet date was changed to Saturday, January 11, 2020. It will still be at Burrito King located at 319 N. Gateway Drive, Madera, CA. Seating will start at 5pm and food will be served at 6pm with a raffle following dinner.



The banquet is starting a little earlier this year because Madera has an ordinance that any gatherings of over 25 people require security after 9 pm. This way we will have plenty of time to eat, present awards and enjoy the raffle.

MENU

Choice of beef or chicken enchiladas
Chili Verde
Rice and Beans
Chips and Salsa

Members eat free. Each additional adult \$25, Children 10-16 years of age \$10 and kids under 10 eat for free.

See you all at the next meeting and tight lines!!

Please make sure to support our sponsors and tell them you are with our club when you visit them:

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IMPORTANT:

Upcoming:

Next up, Lake Millerton on January 19, 2020. We will be blasting off out of the Fresno ramp. This tournament will take place on the Waning Crescent moon, which is 4 days before the new moon. Sunrise will be at approximately 7:09 am, so safe light should be somewhere around 6:55 am.

Next club meeting is Tuesday January 7, 2020 at the Denny's on Blackstone and Herndon. Meeting starts at 7pm. If you won't be there and plan to fish, make sure you get your entry in.

*******IMPORTANT NOTE*******

All ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE DUE AT THE JANUARY MEETING. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO FISH THE JANUARY TOURNAMENT UNLESS YOU ARE PAID IN FULL.