



May 23, 2006

Member count as of this newsletter:

23 people showed up for our May 15, 2006 meeting. Thanks everyone for showing up and participating!

There have been two tournaments since our last meeting.

Congratulations to everyone who caught fish and thanks to everyone who participated!

The club voted to buy a digital camera for tournament and event pictures. Troy gave a few tips for the next tournament:

- Use the second set of ramps at Ebenezer – drop your partner off at the docks, then pull your boat out of the water at the second set. This should speed things up.
- Please stay awhile after the weigh-in to congratulate everyone and for a time of socialization.
- Fun Tournament is June 17, 2006. This tournament is for fun only (points will be given for participation.) and will feature random pairings of our veteran fisherman with a less experienced fisherman.

Wayne Beavers and Troy Roberson gave a presentation on live bait techniques. Wayne covered cast netting and bait handling. Troy covered live bait fishing techniques and equipment.

Highlights from Wayne's presentation:

- Bigger nets are better. Wayne uses a 12 foot radius net.
- Calusa brand nets are the best on the market.
- A 3/8 inch mesh is good for Lake Jordan. Any larger and you will get a lot of gilled baits.
- When the water temperature reaches 75-80 degrees, fill up 1/3 of your baitwell with well water, the rest with lake water. Alternatively, use a bag of ice, or pump lake water from 10-15 feet down.
- Use bait saver and foam kill (from Bass Pro shops) to extend the life of your baits.
- Adding rock salt to your baitwell is a cheap way to extend the life of your baits.
- Livestock salt from Tractor Supply may be used, but be sure to use the white and not the brown salt. Brown salt will kill your baits.
- To improve your cast net throwing technique, watch videos from Betts and Calusa. Practice throwing in the yard.

Highlights from Troy's presentation:

- A good rod for downlines is a 7 foot Eagle Claw, Med to Med. Lite action. For freelines and planer boards, you can use a heavier rod. A striper does not feel the resistance of a lighter rod as easily. Ugly Sticks are also popular.
- An Ambassador 6500-C3 is a good reel for livebaiting. At Jordan, use 15 lb test line with your drag fairly loose.



- For freelines and planer boards, use a 5 foot leader of fluorocarbon 15 lb, a Bass Pro ball bearing swivel, and a 2/0 Owner Mutu Light wire hook. Use 4-8 inch baits in the cooler months and 8-10 inch baits in the summer. Use a glass bead in front of your barrel swivel – this prevents the planer board from contacting the fish when it pops loose.
- For downlines, use a 3 ½ foot leader, a standard #10 barrel swivel, and a 2 ounce egg sinker above the barrel swivel.
- Start out by setting the boat speed at 1 to 1.5 mph. Put out planer boards first. Set the bait 25 feet back from the board to start. Set out 2 planer boards on each side of the boat, then set out 2 freelines straight behind the boat. The farthest out set of planer boards can be 40 to 50 yards out. The second set will be half the distance from your boat to the farthest out set.
- Of these six lines out, three of them can have a small amount of weight (1 or 2 #7 split shots) to drop the bait in the water column. If the fish show a preference for either the free or weighted lines, set all of the lines the same way.
- Next, put out 6 to 8 downlines, 3 or 4 on each side of the boat. Set the frontmost two downlines at 12 feet, the next two at 14 feet, the next at 16 feet. Whatever depth gets the most hits, set the rest at that same level for the day.
- Slow the boat down to .7 mph for slow trolling the baits. Any faster than this does not give a natural presentation of the baits – they are pulled through the water.

Our next meeting is July 15, 2006 at 6:30 pm at the Italian Pie. Our next tournament is the Fun Tournament at Jordan Lake on June 17, 2006.