









West Valley Bass-Masters of Tracy

The Dinner at Cattlemen's Restaurant was much better than the previous years, especially the cocktails, but I wish we had a little larger turnout. The club was able to give away some money at the dinner like in years past sorry you weren't there to have a chance at winning any of it but those drinks sure did taste a lot better when they were paid for by the club raffle money. It seemed everyone had a good time & we are all looking forward to next year's party. Thanks again to Steve "The Glue" Hunger for all your hard work & dedication to the club & taking on the daunting task of pulling off a highly successful NCCC tournament, "we appreciate all you do" Thanks WVBM of Tracy members.

At last months meeting we decided to donate \$100 to the NCCC for start up fund for the website, letterhead & general fund to start making arrangements for t-shirts food & other miscellaneous expenses, until they are able to get sponsors onboard.

Topics discussed @ last board meeting.

-  BBQ'S for 2008 are tentivilly scheduled for our May Clear lake Tournament, after our 6hr am June tournament out of Rivers End, & again in September at Rivers End Marina.
-  Personal Info & Boat insurance, I need everyone to get this turned into me as soon as possible or by the latest the April meeting. My email is coolcam21@aol.com or you can fill out personal info at the next meeting. Boat insurance I need a copy of, that shows company insured with policy# & expiration, also please write down your make, model, year & engine type & hp on the bottom please.
-  Club Jackets are available to order at \$65 each please e-mail Brittyn with your size at, brittynwiggins@comcast.net .
-  Adopt a charity, this is a big deal with other clubs & also is going to be implemented with this NCCC, we need to get on board with this. Steve will talk a little on this in regards of what we need to do & how this will be affecting the NCCC.
-  The issues with the delta & our water that's being taken away & what we can do about it. Please take time to visit, www.water4fish.org read what is going on & click on the sign the petition & letter to get involved in saving our delta & rivers.
-  Membership Dues for 2008 are due by the April meeting but will be accepted anytime before, if anyone's dues are not paid in full by the April meeting they will not be allowed to fish until they are paid in full.
-  Dues for 2008 have been dropped to \$150 & anyone who has credits from the 2007 season for top 3 finishes can use them & settle up with Mike L. The sooner everyone pays up the sooner we can budget out our year of events "BBQ'S-Raffle prizes-Trophies-Plaques-etc."
-  NCCC website is up and running please check it out at, www.fishnccc.com. There is also a link at, www.Westernbass.com.

Point system for NCCC qualifying will go as follows.

The Board has determined a system for selecting our team for the NCCC, 10 members of our team will be decided by our new point system & the board will select 2 members.

1st place will receive 30pts plus their weight, we will round up to the next lb for .50 & above & round down for .49 & below, the points decrease by 2 for each place. 5 Points will be awarded for attending monthly meetings & 5 points will be awarded for volunteering at a **Club sponsored events** “fundraisers-conservation-charity event”. Since there are conflicts of schedules & everyone cannot make every meeting & or tournament we are going to drop everyone’s lowest 3 tournament scores. Since the NCCC is on Oct 12th thus far as we know, that gives us only 9 tournaments to come up with our team, this means January’s tournament was our first for qualifying & if you didn't make it I'm sorry but we have to move on & I hope everyone can make at least six of the next 8 events.

Results for our January 13th Tournament out of Rivers End Marina,

1st place went to Jessie & Cameron with 2 fish for 6.35lbs, with a 4.07lb kicker

2nd place & big fish was taken by Doug & Brad with their 4.61 pounder

3rd place with 1 fish for 4.17lbs was Brent & Camryn.

4th place. Grabbed by Brittyn & Steve G. with one fish for 3.94lbs.

5th place goes to Jim & Mike L. with 2.33lbs for one fish.

6th place rounded out by Ron & Steve H., with we'll get them next time.

Just another slow cold January day on the delta, let's get ready for New Melones & go catch some spots.

We would like to get pictures into the newsletter & on a website of all the big fish we catch so if you have a camera please bring it & take some pictures & e-mail them to stevessoap@sbcglobal.net.

We are looking into having someone help with putting together an excel spreadsheet that will calculate our points & we will have them posted in the newsletter or on our website so everyone sees just where they are in the standings.

Speaker for this month will be Terry Flowers owner of Tracy Oasis Marina & founder of Tracy Bass 100% pay back amateur tournament circuit.

Steve's Corner

I have a confession. Some of you might already know this, but this time of year the guilt lies heavy on my heart and, as I approach the autumn of my years, it's time to come out of the closet and expose what is probably my innermost weakness: I'm a Cubs fan.

There, I said it. It's like this huge weight has been lifted and the clouds are beginning to part. It's all getting so clear to me. As a Cubs fan, I've endured tremendous highs and unbelievable lows; learned to take the good with the bad. I've lived the frustration, swallowed the tough pill and yet lived to tell about it. But it's been a character builder as these kinds of lessons aren't taught in the California School system, or anyone's school system: they're only available courtesy of University of Wrigley at Addison and Clark in Chicago.

The most important of these teachings can be summed up in one sentence – The score is never bigger than the game.

Baseball is life, it's individual achievement and failure; skill, and challenge; streaks and slumps; victories and defeats. At the end of the day it's all tossed in a bowl we call "team". We're Fans, short for Fanatics. We scream, yell, cheer, and wear our colors. We boo the opposition. It's our job. But as much as we hate St. Louis, or the Mets, or Philthydelphia without the opposition there would be no game. No score. No reason to buy tickets or watch it on TV. If every time we took the field the score was 10-0 for the home team, there would be no challenge, without the challenge there is no game.

In the end, we're Cubs fans. We've learned to appreciate the game for the game, the strategy, for the individual accomplishments regardless of who made them, regardless of whose team.

The same holds true for fishing. Albeit small, January's tournament brought no limits and few fish, and in fact was won by 2 fish in a tight race. There was indeed one good 20-pound limit, but it took the efforts of the entire club to achieve it. Yet I've heard from more than one person that it was one of the most enjoyable events in recent memory. What changed?

I think that on that day, we appreciated the game for what it is: the game, the personal challenge and individual achievement, the vulnerability of your best effort - combined with the realization of being subject to the simple balance of a scale. We enjoyed the camaraderie of "the team" along with some terrific burgers courtesy of our marina hosts. We did not let the fish get in the way of the fishing. We were ambassadors for our sport. We were all winners. Nicely done!! The score is never bigger than the game.