

West Valley Bass-Masters of Tracy

Your new officers for 2008 are,

President	Steve Hunger
Vice President	Chris Bartling
Treasurer	Mike Lofstedt
Secretary	Camryn Wiggins
Tournament Director	Jim Gondal
Member @ Large	Jessie Ochoa
Conservationist	Cliff Rich
Awards Coordinator	Brittyn Wiggins
Event Coordinator	Cameron Cardoza*

*Subject to change

Next officers meeting will be Tuesday Jan. 15th @ Steve Hungers House 7:00 pm

Reminder to all that signed up to go to the holiday party, it is at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Livermore Saturday Jan. 19th at 7:30 PM.

Our 2008 Schedule is completed & will be available at the next meeting Jan. 9th at Perkos.

Date	Place
01/13/08	Rivers End
02/17/08	New Melones Res.
03/30/08	Holland Riverside
04/13/08	Ladd's
05/17-18 08	Clear Lake * 2 day Sat. & Sun. " BBQ " ?
06/14/08	Rivers End * Sat 6 hour Tournament "AM"
07/13/08	Tracy Oasis * Sun. 6 hour tournament "AM" " BBQ " ?
08/16/08	Orwood * Sat. Night tournament 4:30-10:30 PM
09/28/08	Rivers End

* NCCC 10/12/08 Russo's Marina *

10/26/08	Sugar Barge
11/09/08	Holland Riverside
12/08 "TBD"	Tracy Oasis "Turkey-shoot"

It has come to the Board of Directors attention that we need to implement a point system for selecting NCCC participants.

This said we are currently looking into options from other clubs & input from the board to come up with a fair system to select our 2008 NCCC team. More info to come as the Board finalizes their decisions.

Since several members have not provided their FLW membership numbers, we are investigating the cost of finding insurance from an independent agency. Initial estimates are \$400-500.

We are getting close to starting our new year & everyone needs to be paid up in full by Wed. April 9th to fish the April 13th Tournament. The Board of Directors have is also reviewing the possibility of reducing dues to \$150, by doing this the club may not have the funds to pay for it's members to have a holiday party dinner, which means everyone would have to pay for their own dinner. If we do well in the fund raising dept this year, that could change & the club may still be able to pay for its members. Keep this in mind we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Results for our 8 Boat December Tournament were as follows:

1st Place went to Brittyn Wiggins & Ron Webb with 10.84 lbs & Big Fish of the Tournament with a 4.75 lb Big Fish. "4 fish "

2nd Place went to Jim Gondal & Chris Hunger with 6.51 lbs for 4 fish.

3rd Place went to Jessie Ochoa & Brad Estes with 5.30 lbs for 4 fish.

4th Place went to Brent V. & Guest with 1 fish for 4.14 lbs.

Steve's Corner:

On January 6th, the respective presidents of NCCC participants will meet at Country Kitchens in Lathrop to discuss the future of this event and the NCCC as an organization. It appears there is some demand that the NCCC take on the duties of the BBAC. Regardless of how you feel about the BBAC, it's important that you recognize the significance of this organization and the importance of representation of this type. The articles at the end of this newsletter are a good indication of what a "voice" can do and why we need it.

There are a lot of guys in this club that just want to fish, but I assure you, if we don't stand together on some of these issues, we'll be spending a lot more time in our vehicles driving to MotherLode Lakes. The other clubs in Northern CA are very aware of this and are in strong support. I'm asking that you take an interest as well.

I'm also very concerned about the direction and attitude this club has taken. I'd like to see the fun and camaraderie that we once enjoyed return as the foundation of why we do this. In conversations with a recent fishin' partner, it's occurred to me that since so many of us fish Tracy Bass, that we no longer share information or have an interest in helping the next guy out. Coincidentally or consequently, I'm seeing fewer WVBMoT guys on the top of the money list from Tracy Bass.

I'm not necessarily asking that you share specific water, but you can certainly discuss patterns, colors, depths, techniques, and other things that make you a successful angler, and why you feel they work. You can also stop by to say "Hi" when you see a fellow member on the water.

More and more local "Pro's" are charging clubs to stop by and lay a little of their wisdom on them. Given the price of fuel, I can understand this to a certain extent. As a result, we've not had many speakers in the past year. Willingly sharing this kind of information will make this a much stronger club.

Every once in a while the good guys win one:

CSPA Advisory - Court Orders Delta Export Reductions!

12-28-07

Below you will find a summary of the recent court ruling that mandated a reduction in Delta exports at certain times of the year to better protect Delta smelt from the impacts of the state and federal water projects. The court's ruling was based on the best science available, a principle the Interior Department neglected to use.

You will also find a statement by Congressman George Miller regarding this decision. Miller's legislation, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, when passed in 1994 endeavored to prevent fishery populations from ever declining to point where extinction was imminent. By supplying water and money to fix serious problems, it aimed at helping to restore the estuary and doubling anadromous fish populations. While some positive action were taken, a good deal of the water dedicated to the fish and the estuary found administrative escape routes to the agricultural contractors following the G.W. Bush administration's take over of the Interior Department.

Under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) once a species is listed, either the National Marine Fishery Service or the US Fish & Wildlife Service prepares a "biological opinion" that describes the biological status of the specie and the actions necessary to protect it from extinction, based on their best scientific knowledge. HOWEVER, there are the other agency administrators who, knowing this requirement, look for ways to minimize such protections so natural resource development and business activities can continue as usual. They think they are helping the country and campaign contributors, but their actions only make the forces that result in extinction worse. Unfortunately, the Delta smelt have become a clear example of what's wrong with politics trumping science.