

# West Valley BassMasters of Tracy

## Items discussed at last board meeting & actions taken by the board.

- U Membership dues are due @ May's meeting or no fishing till they are paid.
- U FLW membership, this is our insurance through the club, you must sign up, there is a Link on our web-site westvalleybass.com. Also check out the forums on our Web-site & feel free to participate in the forum.
- U Hats or Shirts: This will be decided at the next meeting by the members please come To the next meeting to have your voice heard.
- U Board Shuffle, Chris Bartling has stepped down as Vice President, & we need to fill The position.

## Upcoming tournament Clear Lake, May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

This has been the tournament of the year for some time now, the one you do not want to miss. If you can go please try to come, it's a blast. There is a special boat check required before launching, be sure to have your boat checked before putting it in the water. There are several check points around the lake & signs posted around the lake telling you where to get checked.

Tournament Results for April: (Ladd's Holland)

Boat		# of Fish	Total Weight	Finish
10	Steve G/ Cliff R	5	17.03	1
2	Brittyn W/ Solo	5	14.1	2
7	Steve H/ Camryn W	4	9.47	3
8	Brent V/ Joe (Guest)	4	9.24	4
3	Brad E/ John (Guest)	4	8.5	5
4	Jesse O/ Juan (Guest)	3	6.99	6
5	Mark B/ Mike L	3	6.57	7
9	Ron W/ Chris H	4	6.31	8
1	Jim G/ Arron B (Guest)	2	3.9	9
6	Jeff H/ Troy (Son)	0	0	10

## **Steve's Corner**

Whew! Lots of stuff going on this month. I just read in the Bass Times (BassMaster's newsletter) that they were one vote short of banning fishing tournaments on Clear Lake in an effort to stop the mussels from entering the lake. There's even talk of closing the lake entirely. (Ya best fish Clear Lake while you still can) This represents \$Millions to that areas economy. There also an article in there about the lawsuit to eliminate the striped bass from the protected species list and start looking at it as an invasive predator. They also note that the largemouth and smallmouth are also not native to the area. All it takes is one judge. So, so you really want to fish a carp tournament?

Some time ago I mentioned that there've been people lined up on the dock at River's End, stringing up bass that they've caught that have likely been released in tournaments there. I'm not opposed to people trying to provide table fare for their families. Couple that with the fact fishing still remains an activity that bonds generations and gives kids a healthy alternate activity and introduces them to the outdoors. It's not all a bad thing, but we need to give the fish a chance.

The fact remains that 80% of the fish are caught by 20% of the anglers. I'd like to think that our club members are among those 20%. As bass anglers, we take pride in keeping our live release rate at near 100%, taking care of our resource. It might be a good idea in the future to release our fish away from the dock area so they have a little better chance of a long (re)productive life.

**On a personal note:** Chris H and I recently fished the "Take a Special Person Fishing" event with the Modesto Cast Masters at Kelsey Lake. It was an amazingly fun event on an amazingly productive body of water. They didn't have quite enough boats, so several had to take 2 people out with them. We fished for 3-hours (about 9 to noon) and boated about 50 fish between the 4 of us. Needless to say, I spent a lot of time netting and culling.

We were treated to BBQ'd hot dogs, chips, soda, cookies, etc. after the weigh-in while the totals were being tallied. There were about 25 or so contestants and our boat was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy. There are a lot of plaques hanging on my wall and still more stuffed away in closets. None carry the pride and fun of the Kelsey event. Wow.....