

FREE



LAKE OF THE OZARKS *Fishing News*



IN THIS ISSUE

- Featured Angler Fishing Guide Jack Uxa
- Use an Engine Cut-off Switch
- Clays Corner
- How-to Select the Best Trolling Motor Battery (Type and Size)
- Featured Cove
- And More . . .

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FROM THE FOUNDER

Bob Bueltmann
Founder, BassingBob.com

Wow, how time flies. My journey to Bassing Bob, now 9 years old, having started in 2013. However, that journey started 5 years earlier in 2007 when I leased a condo at Lake of the Ozarks travel from St. Louis on weekends with the intention of fishing as much as possible. I basically knew nothing about fishing for bass on Lake of the Ozarks. Trust me, I am still learning every day.

I wanted to learn as much as possible for fishing Lake of the Ozarks, which is a bit overwhelming, a big lake seasonal patterns and baits. Keep in mind that Bassing Bob was not even a thought I had at that time. Just wanted to learn how to fish this lake and catch some bass.

I searched the internet for a fishing guide to help me out and found Jack Uxa, Jacks Guide Service, this months, Fishing News Featured Angler. My journey to Bassing Bob flowed through my relationship with Jack.

I hired Jack 5-6 times per year to take me on guide trips to learn seasonal patterns to catch bass as well as teaching me the right baits and techniques to catch them during different times of the year. I'm sure like many beginner anglers that fish the lake with the hope to learn, we fished with a lot of "guide baits", stick baits, wacky rigged worms, finesse jigs and finesse worms, Texas rigged worms and varying top water baits. I recall that I did not even know what a shaky head was, who Crock-o-Gator was or how to work a stick bait. I had no clue about the seasonal patterns or migration of the bass through-out the year. Jack taught me all of that. I also recall, during a guide trip with Jack in the winter time, that we pulled up on a spot and Jack, looking at his graph, saying to me, "where did these bait fish go". He actually went out on the lake for a guide trip but the days before the guide trip, he went out on to the lake, in the winter to practice and looked for bait fish. We did find those bait fish and we caught bass and we went to 3-4 other spots, where he found bait fish and bass in practice and we caught a bunch of winter time bass on the stick bait.

I always observed Jack on these guide trips. He would usually suggest I work a particular bait and he would instruct me

on how to fish that bait, I would catch fish, but he always was experimenting with other baits

to see if there was another bait that could get me bites. It was not at all about him getting bites, it was all about helping to teach me.

Over the course of those 5 or so years, Jack and I created a friendship that was very close, including with his and my families. I pinch myself to have such a wonderful friend here at the lake. We are always sharing fishing information and like a son, he checks in on me when I've had heart or health issues.

So, back to the journey to Bassing Bob. One day Jack and I were in his truck traveling to a guide trip and I suggested to Jack, that he should keep a journal everyday about his fishing experiences with baits, patterns, areas of the lake. Write some articles, create an annual Fishing Lake of the Ozarks publication with statistics, seasonal patterns, new baits and areas of the lake to either put on a pay for website or sell the annual publication. There is no one back then or now has more experience fishing this lake for the past 20 years. I have no idea if he ever really considered my suggestion.

Fast forward to early 2013. I retired from my software business in St. Louis and moved full time to Lake of the Ozarks. Being a serial entrepreneur, I knew I wanted to create a business here. I wrote a few business plans, window washing, concierge service, trivia entertainment business for companies and groups coming to the lake and a fishing website. I met with Jack to see if he was planning to do a fishing publication/website and he said no, so I settled on that for my new business venture.

Jack and I met to discuss an experts panel, as I knew that I did not have the credibility to launch a bass fishing web site "who is this guy from STL launching a fishing website. Jack and I created a long list of anglers for the expert's team, some said no, which was fine. I wanted the team to be small but known. Obviously Jack was going to be on that team, I reached out to Wayne Fitzpatrick, Founder of Fitz Fishing, 40 years fishing the lake and successful tournament angler and James Dill, at the time owner of Crock-o-Gator Bait Company, tournament angler and guide.

Over time the experts group has grown quite a bit with Marcus Sykora, Dion Hibdon and his sons, Dennis Berhorst, Roger Fitzpatrick, Casey Scanlon, and the young guns, my son Rob, Ben Verhoef, Michael Harlin, Andy Newcomb, legends Bill Davenport and Vern Jaycox and many others.

All of this started with my relationship with Jack. Bassing Bob has now evolved into this Fishing News Magazine and national expansion nationally under the brand of Fish-Intel. Jack continues to help me with Bassing Bob, the magazine and talking to prospective Fish-Intel partners.

Not only has he taught me how to fish this lake, in the early days, he provided me with some words of wisdom. Early on with Bassing Bob, I would wear a hat cam to video catches, etc. Jack suggested that the videos were showing too many spots with obvious background identifiers and that a lot of anglers would not like to see that specific of information on the internet. Second, I had always fished with a spinning rod, I was terrible with a bait caster. Jack told me, that if I wanted credibility with anglers, I needed to learn how to fish with a bait caster, which I have done since then.

Jack and I are great friends, my journey to Bassing Bob flowed through Jack. I appreciate him so much. I hope you enjoy the featured anglers article in this magazine about Jack and his journey to becoming widely recognized as the number one fishing guide at Lake of the Ozarks.

We have many other great informational articles in this edition, including Clays Corner, Featured Cove, Vincent Ramsey favorite baits and patterns for fall and winter, new products, boat safety and maintenance and much more.

I want to thank all of you for reading this magazine, please let us know if there are any topics that you would like for us to publish.

I greatly appreciate all of you Bassing Bob members, your support helps us to provide the content for the website and magazine. I also, encourage you all to make your best effort to patronize the advertisers in this magazine and on the website. They are all supporters of fishing here at Lake of the Ozarks, so let's be sure the support them.

Tight Lines All,

- *Bob Bueltmann*

How to Tune a Crankbait

In a couple steps, you can have your crankbait running true, and that can help you catch more fish



by Mercurymarine.com

Tuning a crankbait is a simple process that every angler who uses artificial lures should learn how to do. There are only a couple of steps, and it generally only takes about a minute. Skip the tuning, however, and you might be missing out on putting more fish in the boat.

What is Tuning?

Crankbaits are designed with a careful balance of body profile, dive lip shape and angle, weighting, and pull point. The pull point is the eye on the nose or bill of the crankbait, and it can occasionally get knocked out of alignment while fighting a fish, if the lure bounces off something hard like a dock post or after it repeatedly bangs into rocks while fishing. Misalignment typically causes the crankbait to run off to the side the next time it's trolled or retrieved. Tuning brings the eye back into alignment so the crankbait will dive straight down and run true, allowing it to reach its maximum depth and produce its original fish-catching action.

Why Tuning Matters

Tuning is important for a couple of reasons. First, if you're trolling with a crankbait that's well out of tune, the lure could swim far enough out to the side to tangle with other crankbaits that you're trolling. Second, if you're trying to hit a specific depth while trolling – whether targeting suspended fish or trying to reach

bottom – being out of tune will keep the crankbait from diving accurately to that depth, and it will keep it from reaching its max depth.

The same factors are in play for casting situations. A deep-diving bass crankbait might miss the intended target if not in tune. In shallower applications, a properly tuned crankbait will quickly right itself after deflecting off a stump or other piece of cover, while a crankbait that's out of tune could roll or “blow out” after contact and ruin the presentation.

The Tuning Process

Here's the good part: To tune a crankbait, all you need is a set of needle-nose pliers. Here are the steps:

1. Check the tuning – First, determine how the crankbait is running. Pitch it out a few feet from the boat and wind it back quickly, or drop it in the water beside the boat and pull it along the gunwale. If the crankbait runs straight, it's in tune. If it veers to one side, it's not. Be aware that some crankbaits are designed to “hunt,” meaning they erratically swim side-to-side in addition to the standard crankbait wobble. If your crankbait is designed to hunt, give it a little extra space while checking the tuning to see if it generally follows a straight course even while tracking back and forth.

2. Gently adjust the eye – If your crankbait is out of tune, you can bring it back

to center by gently tweaking the eye in the direction you want the crankbait to go. If it's running to the right, tweak the eye to the left. If it's running to the left, tweak the eye to the right. **DO NOT** apply heavy pressure when making this adjustment. And **DO NOT** clamp down hard on the eye with the pliers. Open the plier jaws, put one jaw on the side of the crankbait's bill and the other jaw on the side of the eye. Then gently squeeze to move the eye ever so slightly in the correct direction. You can see this process in the video below, along with tuning advice from Tommy Kemos, a veteran professional walleye angler and one of the hosts of “The Next Bite TV.”

3. Test and adjust again if needed – Check the crankbait to see if it's running straight. If not, make additional micro-adjustments until you get it just right. The lure should track straight back to you, no matter how fast or slow you retrieve it.

Catch, Check and Repeat

Check your crankbait every so often while fishing, especially after landing a hard-fighting fish, or anytime the crankbait gets snagged or makes hard contact with an object. A couple of minor adjustments will usually get it running true again and will have your crankbait right back in the strike zone, so you can catch more fish.

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Lake of the Ozarks

The Boating Safety Seven



1. Wear your life jacket
2. Take a boating safety class
3. Carry all required safety gear
4. Use your engine cut-off device
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others

Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

OCTOBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
10/01/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRandIvyBnd	1400	Big Bass Bash	314-591-4578
10/02/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRandIvyBnd	1400	Big Bass Bash	314-591-4578
10/08/2022	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Alhonna Resort	50	Iron Workers Local #396 Buddy Bass	314-341-2127
10/08/2022	06:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	Owensville Moose Lodge 878	573-578-5082
10/08/2022	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Robin's Resort	12	Dan Tiefenbrunn Memorial Fishing	636-219-8494
10/08/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	75	Warrior William Project	636-357-5874
10/08/2022	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Lazy Dayz Resort	30	Int'l Fed. of Black Bass Anglers	423-254-4572
10/08/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	StartAnywhere/EndTheWetSpotBar&Grill	10	Ivy Bend Rod Benders	816-985-0387
10/08/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area	573-346-5673
10/08/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/08/2022	06:45 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/09/2022	06:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	Owensville Moose Lodge 878	573-578-5082
10/09/2022	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131
10/09/2022	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	30	EM Outdoors Fishing Tournament	314-805-1474
10/09/2022	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Lazy Dayz Resort	30	Int'l Fed. of Black Bass Anglers	423-254-4572
10/09/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	StartAnywhere/EndTheWetSpotBar&Grill	10	Ivy Bend Rod Benders	816-985-0387
10/09/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/09/2022	06:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/14/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	130	Major League Fishing/College & HS	270-205-5155
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	50	Sage Rovenstine Benefit Tournament	417-410-5964
10/15/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	12	Bassaholics KC	816-935-9963
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	25	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	McCubbins Point Access	8	Central Missouri Bassmasters	573-465-1896
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	100	"Dupo Marine Center, LLC"	618-286-5252
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Boondockz Bar & Grill	37	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-280-3604
10/15/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Mid States Bass Club	314-578-1989
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	45	Just Fish Open Team Trail	573-619-3074
10/15/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	130	Major League Fishing/College & HS	270-205-5155
10/16/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	100	MO State Fishing Team	660-563-1284
10/16/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	12	Bassaholics KC	816-935-9963
10/16/2022	07:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	25	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/16/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Boondockz Bar & Grill	37	Mid-Lake Bass Club	573-280-3604
10/16/2022	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	15	Mid States Bass Club	314-578-1989
10/16/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	45	Angler's Choice	573-619-3074
10/19/2022	06:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	40	Pro Firefighters of E MO Local 2665	314-220-8345
10/20/2022	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	40	Pro Firefighters of E MO Local 2665	314-220-8345
10/21/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	15	St. Louis County Bass Masters	314-330-2907
10/22/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Windemere Cove	50	"Encounter Ministry, Inc."	417-718-0606
10/22/2022	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Ozark Anglers Club Tournament	314-713-3407
10/22/2022	06:30 AM - 04:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/22/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	20	MO/KAN Bassmasters Club Tourn	816-536-1702
10/22/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Drake Harbor	25	Premier Anglers Tournament Trail	913-461-7198
10/22/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/22/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Bass Point Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300

Listings only available until December 2022 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit BassingBob.com

2023 SEASON SCHEDULE

BIG BASS BASH - ANGLERS IN ACTION TOURNAMENT TRAIL



2023 BIG BASS BASH SCHEDULE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: APRIL 15-16

GRAND LAKE, OK: JUNE 3-4

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: OCTOBER 7-8

2023 ANGLERS IN ACTION SCHEDULE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

March 5 | April 2 | May 7

GRAND LAKE

March 11 | April 30 | June 10

TABLE ROCK LAKE

March 18 | April 29 | May 21



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Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

OCTOBER (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
10/22/2022	07:30 AM - 05:30 PM	Lakeview Resort	15	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-2192
10/22/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	80	Ozark Mountain Team Trail	417-861-2983
10/23/2022	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	20	Camdenton Castaways LLC	573-832-2065
10/23/2022	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Ozark Anglers Club Tournament	314-713-3407
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Drake Harbor	25	Men of Honor Bass Club	816-517-3234
10/23/2022	06:30 AM - 02:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	20	MO/KAN Bassmasters Club Tourn	816-536-1702
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Eldon Bassmasters	573-480-2640
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/23/2022	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bass Point Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300
10/23/2022	07:30 AM - 02:30 PM	Lakeview Resort	15	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-2192
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	35	Show Me Crappie Open	573-619-3074
10/23/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	80	Ozark Mountain Team Trail	417-861-2983
10/28/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Buddy Bass Tourn	573-365-2634
10/29/2022	07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Buddy Bass Tourn	573-365-2634
10/29/2022	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Coffman Beach Access	30	Central Missouri Catfish Tourn.	660-651-2408
10/29/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	East Kansas Bassmasters	913-424-8285
10/29/2022	07:00 AM - 04:30 PM	PB #2	150	Missouri B.A.S.S Nation	314-941-6616
10/30/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	East Kansas Bassmasters	913-424-8285
10/30/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	PB #2	150	Missouri B.A.S.S Nation	314-941-6616
NOVEMBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
11/05/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Start/End Anywhere	250	Eco Fishing Shop	573-873-8010
11/05/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	20	American Bass Anglers Division 49	417-718-2036
11/05/2022	05:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
11/05/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/05/2022	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/06/2022	06:30 AM - 02:30 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131
11/06/2022	05:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Bledsoe Ferry	25	Kansas Buddy Bass	785-393-2144
11/06/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/06/2022	07:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/12/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Start/End Anywhere	50	MOYak Fishing Tournament Series	417-499-1043
11/18/2022	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	15	St. Louis County Bass Masters	314-330-2907
11/19/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/19/2022	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	35	Show Me Crappie Open	573-619-3074
11/20/2022	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Linn Creek Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn	573-723-1020
11/20/2022	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/20/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	45	Angler's Choice Open	573-619-3074
11/26/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	200	Midwest Fish Tournaments	314-327-4771
11/27/2022	08:00 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	60	Bassingbob.com	314-650-6812
11/27/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	45	Just Fish Championship	573-619-3074

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DECEMBER

Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
12/03/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	50	Fish Tales Tournament	417-689-4066
12/03/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
12/03/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	25	Tri-County Bass Club	573-762-2668
12/04/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Robin's Resort	50	Fish Tales Tournament	417-689-4066
12/04/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
12/11/2022	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131
12/11/2022	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	35	Show Me Crappie Open	573-619-3074



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OFF LIMITS:

*Left / right points and inside of PB2
cove and bank leading to Pa He Tsi
along with left / right points and
inside of Pa He Tsi. All of Alhonna
Cove (aka Workmans Cove).*

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 27, 2022*

Saturday, December 10, 2022

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Saturday, February 4, 2023

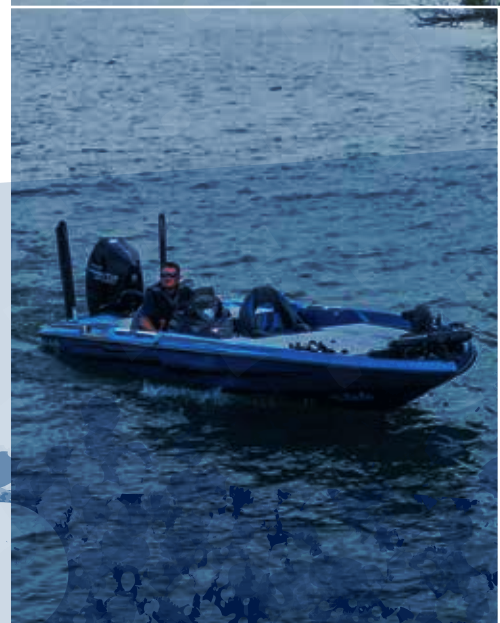
***Note: Nov. 27th out of PB2**

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How to Navigate No Wake Zones

Knowing how to operate your boat in no wake zones will help keep you safe and out of trouble.



by *Mercurymarine.com*

Travel your local waterways on a busy summer weekend and you'll see people handling no wake zones in all possible ways. Thankfully, most people observe them closely and maintain an appropriate speed, but others plow through at the fastest possible off-plane speed or suddenly come off plane right at the buoy, either of which will inflict a sizable wave on the no wake zone and anything it was created to protect.

You can't control what others do, of course, but you can do your part in maintaining a safe and pristine waterway by knowing exactly what's required of you in no wake zones. In the short video at https://www.mercurymarine.com/en/us/dockline/how-to-navigate-no-wake-zones/?article_type%5B%5D=on-the-water, Mercury Pro Team member Barry Stokes, host of "Let's Fish TV," will show you what a no wake buoy looks like and demonstrate how to operate your boat when you see one.

No wake zones are often found around marinas, bridges, environmentally sensitive areas and more. It might not even be obvious why a particular no wake zone exists, but that doesn't matter – it's there for a reason, and you are still responsible for adhering to the directive. Failure to observe a no wake zone can not only result in a hefty fine, it can also endanger people, wildlife and property.

But what does "no wake" actually mean? Many boaters operate under the assumption that no wake speed just means traveling off plane in such a way that the wake – the wave created by the movement of a boat in the water – is minimized and non-destructive. That's not far off, but the actual definition of no wake speed, according to the United States Coast Guard, is the slowest speed at which the driver can still maintain steerage of the vessel.

This speed can vary a bit for a given vessel, depending on outside factors such as wind and current, but generally speaking no wake speed for recreational boats means that the engine is just in gear with absolutely no additional throttle applied. Most boats will have a throttle detent (or natural stopping place) that you'll feel right after the engine goes into gear but before the rpm start to climb. When done correctly, your boat will scarcely leave a ripple behind you as you traverse the no wake area.

A few other things about navigating no wake zones to bear in mind:

- Don't wait until the last second to back off the throttle and come off plane as you approach a no wake zone as this can cause a substantial wake that will pass your boat and disturb the water far into the restricted area. Instead,

ease the throttle back gradually and far in advance so that your boat is well settled and your wake dissipated before you pass the buoy.

- It's always a good idea to take a quick look over your shoulder before you slow down, but especially approaching no wake zones. The driver behind you may not know there is a no wake zone ahead and therefore might not notice you coming off plane, so if there's someone behind you make sure they know your intentions.
- As long as you have enough thrust to steer, don't be tempted to inch the throttle forward while navigating a no wake zone. Increasing speed while off plane can quickly create a substantial wake, which is the very thing you're required to avoid in such an area.

For a more thorough understanding of the rules of navigation, boating safety and more, visit the United States Coast Guard Navigation Center website at www.navcen.uscg.gov



MEGA Live Imaging TargetLock Gives Anglers Seamless Integration of MEGA Live and Spot-Lock

article from www.minnkotamotors.com



Humminbird MEGA Live TargetLock gives anglers the ability to use their Minn Kota Spot-Lock and Humminbird MEGA Live independently of each other.

Minn Kota Spot-Lock® changed the way anglers fished, giving them the ability to hold boat positioning on a specific spot and fish it to its fullest. Humminbird MEGA Live Imaging® gives anglers an unprecedented view of the underwater world around them. Anglers have been given the power of these two tools but have not had the ability to use them both simultaneously...until now.



Now adding to Humminbird's best-in-class sonar technologies, MEGA Live TargetLock™ provides anglers the ability to control their MEGA Live transducer with either their Minn Kota Ultrix® foot pedal or independently using a stand-alone foot pedal, wireless remote or Humminbird fish finder.

To give anglers the best possible experience on the water, these two groundbreaking technologies can be used in tandem – allowing users to make the most of their MEGA Live Imaging without sacrificing their Minn Kota's Spot-Lock.

Humminbird MEGA Live TargetLock Key Features

- MEGA Live TargetLock is independently mounted of the trolling motor shaft, providing full and simultaneous use of MEGA Live Imaging and all Ultrix features.
- Wireless foot pedal provides control of left/right steering, TargetLock and programmable One-Boat Network button
- Control MEGA Live from the included wireless foot pedal, Humminbird fish finder or optional hand remote
- Backed by a Two-Year Warranty

With the Ultrix and MEGA Live TargetLock combination, anglers can receive a new arsenal of capabilities to take their fishing to new heights. With modes such as MEGA Live TargetLock, MEGA Live Sweep, Minn Kota Steer, and a One-Boat Network button – efficiency with your Ultrix and MEGA Live imaging is at an all-time high.

MEGA Live TargetLock

This will maintain the live sonar view in its current direction, adjusting for changes in boat position, and will work at the same time and independently of and Minn Kota Ultrix's operation, including Spot-Lock.

- Can be used while sitting still, while using a Minn Kota Ultrix to move around the structure, or while holding in place using Spot-Lock™
- Can be activated from the wireless foot pedal, Humminbird fish finder, or option hand remote
- Two ways to activate TargetLock
 - Set TargetLock in the current direction of MEGA Live with the touch of the button
 - Move the cursor over an object or position on a sonar or chart view and engage TargetLock at the cursor. MEGA Live will automatically adjust to focus on the selected target.

MEGA Live Sweep

MEGA Live Sweep is designed to provide automatic real-time feedback in a 120-degree view in front of the boat regardless of where the trolling motor is pointed.

- Automatically sweeps 120-degrees in front of the boat (60-degrees left, 60-degrees right)
- Maintain control of the trolling motor while MEGA Live Sweep does the searching
- Required connected AS GPS HS or Minn Kota heading sensor connected to a Minn Kota Ultrix trolling motor with i-Pilot Link®

Minn Kota Steer

Minn Kota Steer allows for simultaneous control of both the Minn Kota Ultrix and the Humminbird MEGA Live using the i-Pilot Ultrix foot pedal.



- Steer both the trolling motor and MEGA Live while using the Minn Kota Ultrix foot pedal
- Quickly see structure or fish without taking your foot off the trolling motor pedal
- Required connection to a Minn Kota Ultrix trolling motor with i-Pilot Link®

One-Boat Network Button

The One-Boat Network Button is a programmable softkey that allows the angler to activate MEGA Live Sweep mode, Minn Kota Steer, set waypoints on the Humminbird charts and more.

- Mark waypoint at the boat
- Turn on and off MEGA Live Sweep
- Turn on and off Minn Kota Steer
- Turn on and off MEGA Live pinging
- Return TargetLock to home position

To learn more about the capabilities Humminbird MEGA Live Imaging TargetLock adds to your Minn Kota Ultrix and Humminbird MEGA Live, visit humminbird.com/targetlock.



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Selecting the Best Trolling Motor Battery [Type & Size]

Choosing the best batteries to power your marine accessories can be one of the most daunting experiences in boating. With so many options available it can be easy to end up confused by manufacturer recommendations, specifications, and what really matters in battery selection.

Here, we'll outline how to select the best trolling motor batteries for your boat in easy-to-understand terms so you can get out on the water with confidence.

Marine Battery Types for Trolling Motors

The first thing you'll notice when selecting batteries is how many options are available and what the benefits and drawbacks of each might be. The Three most common marine batteries you'll find are Flooded Lead Acid (sometimes called wet-cell), AGM or absorbed glass mat, and Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄).

Flooded Lead-Acid

In one way or another, all batteries use a chemical reaction to create electrical energy. The oldest and most common example of this is the flooded lead-acid battery. As the name implies, lead plates

are housed within this battery and are submerged in acid (sometimes called electrolyte).

These batteries are easily the most common -and least expensive- of all the battery options. They are easily found in big-box retailers and the less expensive options can readily be found for around \$100 or less.

You can expect a battery like this to last a minimum of 2-3 years, which can be extended by maintaining electrolyte (acid) levels with distilled water and using a Minn Kota Precision charger's deep equalization mode to combat sulfation.

AGM (Absorbed Glass-Mat)

In recent years the comparative cost of AGM batteries has come down quite a bit, but they will still end up costing as much as twice what a flooded lead-acid battery of the same group size will. The defining feature of AGM batteries is that they are completely sealed and instead of liquid acid, the electrolyte used in AGM batteries is "absorbed" into mats that contact the plates within. This makes them comparatively easier to transport without the risk of spills.



From a weight perspective, AGM batteries are roughly on par with flooded lead-acid options, if not slightly heavier.

AGM Batteries are commonly called "maintenance-free" batteries as their sealed nature prevents the need to maintain the acid level within them. They also tend to last slightly longer than Flooded Lead-Acid batteries if properly maintained because of the lower likelihood of falling victim to sulfation. AGM batteries, however, have the potential to be more permanently affected after being drained completely than lead-acid batteries.

Lithium Iron Phosphate / Lithium Ion / LiFePO₄

If you've been in the market for new trolling motor batteries recently you may have noticed some changes to what's available in the market. Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) marine batteries are becoming a more common option

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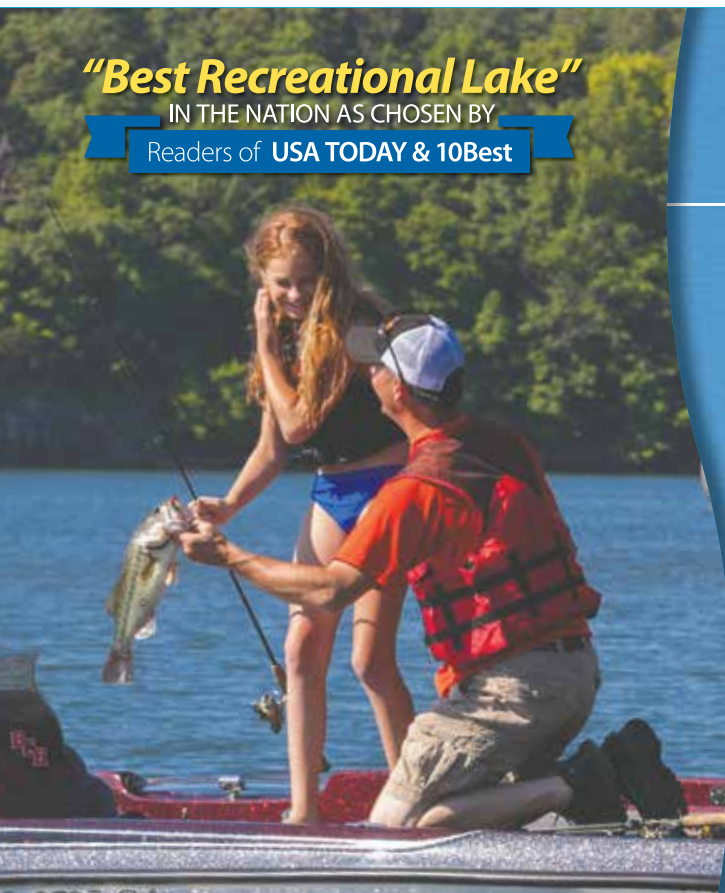
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for powering trolling motors, fish finders, and other accessories. You can learn more about lithium marine battery and their advantages in our recent blog.

Lithium marine batteries are by far the most expensive option of the three common battery types, but as more and more manufacturers introduce Lithium options the price of these battery types will continue to fall.

If you plan to keep your boat and trolling motor system long-term, Lithium could prove to be a smart investment. With some manufacturers offering up to 10-year warranties the total cost of ownership may come out to be a wash vs. re-buying flooded batteries in the same time period.

While still out of the price range of most budget-conscious anglers, Lithium boat batteries' main advantage is a significant reduction in weight from the other battery types, which can help make your boat more nimble, get out of the hole quicker, and modestly increase top-end speed. These battery types are also known for their ability to output higher voltage levels over long periods of time and have the potential to last several years longer than traditional battery types.

Anglers may have a hard time determining the compatibility of their trolling motors and chargers with Lithium batteries, so it's important to note that all Minn Kota Trolling motors and chargers are compatible with 12 volt Lithium (LiFePO4) marine batteries.*

Deep Cycle Marine Batteries

It's important to note that no matter what battery type you choose, you'll want to make sure you find a "deep cycle" battery. This will be clearly labeled and all it really means is that the battery was designed for using smaller amounts of energy over longer periods of time.



The alternative to a deep cycle will be a common cranking battery – these are designed to use a lot of power all at once, like when you power the starter to turn over the engine of your car. These Battery types are also commonly found in marine applications but are generally used to start outboard engines and power auxiliary accessories.

"Deep Cycle" isn't terminology you will always find when shopping for Lithium marine batteries, but essentially all LiFePO4 batteries are designed to operate this way.

Can I use a Dual Purpose Marine Battery for my trolling motor?

Another battery type you may find during your search is a hybrid cranking/deep cycle battery commonly referred to as a "Dual Purpose" or "Dual Purpose Deep Cycle" battery. You may wonder if these battery types are suitable for use with your trolling motor, and the short answer is yes.

Dual purpose batteries have both the reserve capacity to power accessories long-term as well as the cranking amperage to start outboard engines. These are a versatile battery type and as long as the amp hour rating falls within the guidelines of the below chart these batteries are a great choice for powering trolling motors or other accessories.

Important note: is that when powering a 24 or 36-volt trolling motor system, it is not recommended to use a single battery in the 24 or 36-volt series as a starting battery as it can draw current unevenly from the system and over time lead to battery damage.

What is Marine Battery Group Size or GCI Group Size?

When shopping for trolling motor batteries you will find quite a few ways batteries are identified. One of those is called group size. Though there are a wide variety of sizes, the most common you will see are 24, 27, and 31 in marine applications.

While this size nomenclature might be confusing at first, it's merely a way to identify the actual physical size of the battery (Length x width x height) apart from its amperage or voltage rating. This is important for determining where batteries will fit in marine and automotive applications and is an industry-standard. The

approximate size in inches for batteries in each of these group sizes is listed below:

BATTERY GROUP SIZE			
	24	27	31
LENGTH	10.25	12.06	13.00
WIDTH	6.81	6.81	6.72
HEIGHT	8.87	8.75	9.44

APPROXIMATE SIZE IN INCHES

Amp-Hour Rating

Ampere (Amp)-Hour rating is another consideration and method of comparing similar marine battery styles. It is the rating used to tell consumers how much amperage a battery can provide for exactly one hour. Said another way, the Amp-Hour rating is how long the battery will be able to maintain a charge while outputting a given amperage.

For a battery that has a 100 amp-hour rating, powering a trolling motor that is drawing 20 amps, the battery will last 5 hours if constantly running (100 amp hour battery / 20 amps drawn = 5 hours of run time).

A Minn Kota trolling motor will operate with any lead-acid, deep cycle marine 12-volt battery/batteries. For best results, use a deep cycle, marine battery with at least a 110-ampere hour rating, usually a Group 27 or higher. If amp hour rating is not available, select a deep cycle battery with a minimum of 180 minutes of reserve capacity.

DEEP CYCLE AMP-HOUR RATING			
RUN TIME	VOLTAGE	GROUP SIZE	AMP-HOUR
GOOD	12	24	70-85
BETTER	12	27	85-110
BEST	12	31	95-125

A good starting point for judging amp hours can be found in the table above or you can learn more by checking out our Trolling Motor Battery & Wiring Install Guide.

Cranking Amp Rating

Another rating you might stumble across in search of the perfect battery is a cranking amp rating. Usually found on cranking/starting batteries for outboard engines and are less applicable to powering a trolling motor, because they focus on quick, strong burst of power to start your outboard engine vs long-lasting power for trolling motor use.

Cranking amps can usually be found rated as either CCA (Cold Cranking Amps) or MCA (Marine Cranking Amps). The rating outlines the number of amps a battery can deliver for 30 seconds while maintaining a voltage of at least 1.2 volts per cell – or 7.2 volts total for common six cell batteries. CCA is this measurement at 0° F and MCA is measured at 32° F to simulate a more realistic marine environment.

As previously noted, this is something you will need to check with your outboard manufacturer since cranking amps are a consideration more for starting batteries than for trolling motors.

Tips for Trolling Motor Battery Selection [Summarized]

Finding the right batteries for your fishing boat can be a daunting task, but when armed with the right information it doesn't have to be. Some additional guidelines for trolling motor power are listed below to help make sure you can supply clean, safe power to your trolling motor.



- **Battery Type and Group Size**

- Select the battery type and group size that best suits your budget, performance desires, and space limitations.
- **Do not** mix battery types in 24 or 36-volt systems (i.e. Do not connect a Lead-Acid and Lithium in a series to create a 24-volt system)

- **Battery Capacity - Amp Hour Rating**

- We suggest selecting a 12-volt deep cycle marine battery with at least 110 amp hour rating. Usually Group 27 size or larger.
- The higher the amp-hour rating, the more run time your trolling motor will receive.
- If an amp hour rating is not available, select a deep cycle battery with a minimum of 180 minutes reserve capacity.

- **Deep Cycle Batteries**

- No matter what battery type you choose, make sure it's a "deep cycle" battery.
- When shopping for Lithium marine batteries, you may not see "Deep Cycle", but essentially all LiFePO4 batteries are designed to operate this way.

- **Cranking / Starting Batteries**

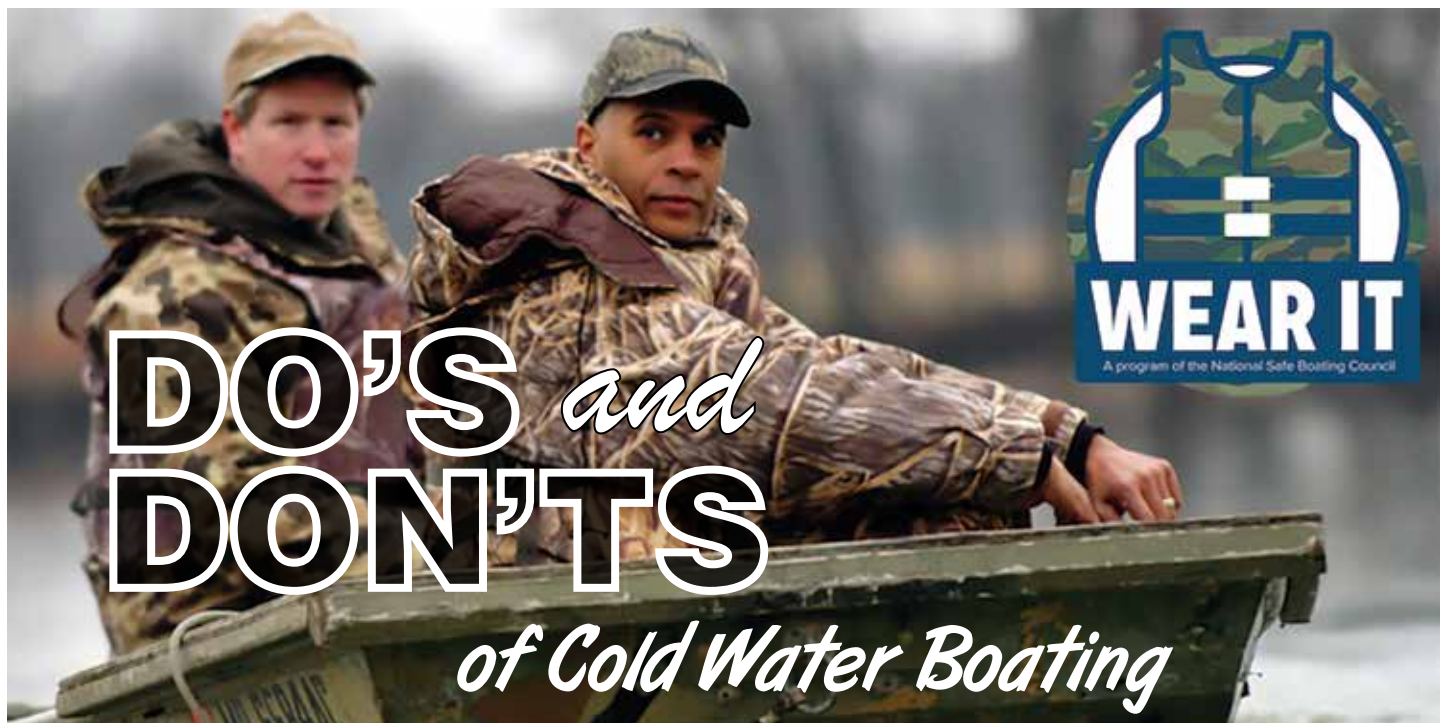
- A cranking battery is not suitable for use with an electric trolling motor because they focus on quick, strong burst of power to start your outboard engine vs long-lasting power for trolling motor use.
- We recommend that you use separate deep cycle marine batteries for your Minn Kota trolling motor.

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Cold-water immersion is the cause of many boating-related fatalities. The danger increases as water temperature decreases below normal body temperature (98.6° F).

Do's and Don'ts of Cold Water Boating

- Do make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket. Even experienced swimmers will experience shock within one minute in the frigid water and lose muscle control within 10 minutes.
- Do file a float plan with someone you trust that includes details about the trip, boat, persons, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment and emergency contacts. Download a free float plan template at www.floatplancentral.org.
- Do dress properly for the weather, always wear layers, and bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet. Remember, dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature.
- Do use your navigation lights to alert other boaters of your presence in dark and/or foggy conditions. Recreational boats operating at night are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise.
- Do catch your breath. A sudden, unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. It takes less than one-half cup of water in your lungs to drown. If you remain calm, you have a greater chance of self-rescue.
- Don't panic if you fall into the water.

Stay afloat with the help of your life jacket, regain control of your breathing and keep your head above water in vision of rescuers.

- Don't keep heavy boots on if you're in the water. Look for ways to increase your buoyancy. If you're in the water with others, huddle together with everyone facing inward to help everyone stay afloat and keep warm.
- Don't apply heat to extremities like arms and legs of a rescued victim. This sudden change in temperature could cause cardiac arrest.

Stages of Cold-Water Immersion

- Cold shock. You have one minute to adjust to the cold shock response – don't panic.
- Swimming failure. You have 10 minutes of meaningful movement to get help and get out of the water.
- Hypothermia. You have about one hour before you become unconscious from hypothermia.
- Post-rescue collapse. You "give up" and collapse after or right at the time of rescue.

The Boating Safety Seven

1. Wear your life jacket
2. Take a boating safety class
3. Carry all required safety gear
4. Use your engine cut-off switch
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others





STATE PARK MARINA

LOTOspmarina.com

Located at the park's two public beaches, the marinas have everything you need for a memorable day on the water - whether you want to cast a line, kayak in a secluded cove or motor across the lake. Along with watercraft and slip rentals, each marina has a general store where you can find boating and fishing supplies. We also offer gift and keepsake items.

Boat ramps allow access to the park's aquatic trail. Campers and day-trippers alike can benefit from our newly-merchandised campground store!

Ortega National Parks is excited to announce our partnership with Missouri State Parks by bringing you a fresh experience when it comes to spending time with your family at Lake of the Ozarks!

Marina Amenities:

- Slip rental
- Boat rental
- Stand-up paddle boards
- Kayaks
- Snacks and hand-dipped ice cream

Grand Glaize Beach Marina (573) 348-1233

711 Public Beach Road, Osage Beach, MO

The Grand Glaize Marina has covered and open slips for rent. Boat rentals, a fuel dock and a pump-out station are also available. There is a paved four-lane boat ramp at the adjacent beach. The marina is located in the Grand Glaize area of the park, off Highway 54, west of the Grand Glaize Bridge.

Public Beach #1 Marina (573) 302-1044

257 Public Beach Drive, Brumley, MO

Stop by the Public Beach #1 Marina to rent a boat, stand-up paddleboard or kayak. Nightly open dock slips are available for rent and a paved two-lane boat ramp is available seasonally. There is also a fuel dock. The marina is located along Hwy 134.

Campground Store (573) 302-7940

53 Lakeview Bend Trail, Brumley, MO

Forgot essentials for your trip to the Lake? Not to worry! Visit our campstore for camping supplies, snacks, drinks and clothing.

Use an Engine Cut-Off Switch

It only takes a second for something to go wrong when operating a powerboat. Whether taking too sharp of a turn, hitting a wave or wake, running into a submerged object, or steering failure, there are significant reasons to keep you and other boaters safe by always wearing an engine cut-off switch.

An engine cut-off switch (ECOS) works by cutting power to the engine when the captain, or even passengers, go overboard. There are many different options when deciding what ECOS works best for your style of boating. You can use a wireless system or the classic lanyard. The wireless device offers different options such as a key fob or wristbands for all passengers. A



wireless ECOS can sound alarms, track the boat location, track the overboard passenger, and even call search and rescue assets in emergency situations. The lanyard attaches the boat operator to the powerboat's installed ECOS. When the lanyard is disconnected to the power, it will cut the engine off.

It is important to ALWAYS use an ECOS because if the boat operator or a passenger falls overboard, they can be struck by a boat propeller. Without an operator, the boat could hit other boaters, damage the boat, or continue circling and strike the passenger(s) who went overboard.

But, there's a chance you already have an ECOS on your powerboat. In 2019, it was mandated that all boat manufacturers, dealers, and distributors ensure that boats less than 26 feet and with engines capable of more than 115 pounds of thrust have an ECOS. In addition to the mandate, starting in April of 2021, all individuals operating vessels required to have an ECOS must be using them. The one exception is if the main helm is within an enclosed cabin, or the vessel does not have or is not required



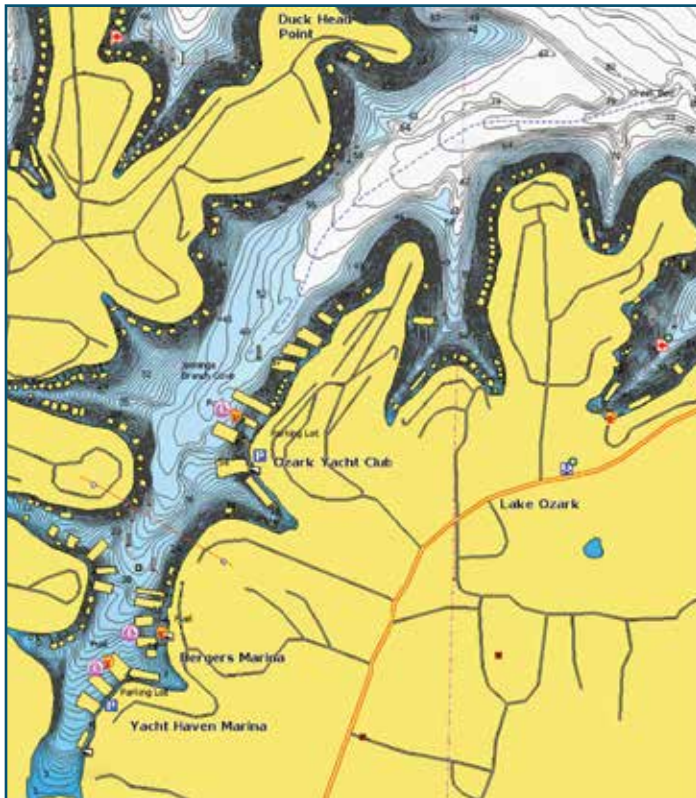
to have an ECOS. Always check the boating laws for your state before hitting the water.

Remember to...

- Always "WearIt" when on or near the water
- Take a boating safety class
- File a float plan
- Double check your equipment
- Check the weather forecast and stay alert when on the water
- Never boat under the influence
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Have fun!

Jennings Branch is a 1.3-mile-long creek that feeds into the Lake of the Ozarks. Located on the 1 mile marker of the Osage Arm, it is the first large cove on the lake. Jennings Branch is considered a deep cove, with its average depth around 50 foot. Because of

its location on the Osage River Arm, and the deep water surrounding it, you can often find a clear-green water color in this cove. Since the water is often clear, the vast majority of the bass in this arm will live around deeper cover year-round.



Spring

Spinnerbaits, shallow diving crankbaits, and jerkbaits are excellent choices for catching big fish in the springtime on this part of the lake. Look for shallow cover and brush piles in pea gravel pockets that have access to deep water nearby.

Summer

Typical summer baits, like 10" worms, deep diving crankbaits, and dropshots excel here in the summertime. The deep bite is great on this area of the lake since the water remains relatively clear. Look for fish to be on the main lake points at the mouth of the cove.

Fall

Fall is one of the best times to fish this area. Since the cove is mostly deeper, deep diving crankbaits and heavy jigs will work good on deep structure. For shallow fishing, target shallow wood and docks on the flats in the backs of the pockets.

Winter

During the winter months, you can target bass grouped up along the deepest holes of the channel banks towards the back of the creek. Finesse jigs, Wiggle Wart crankbaits, and jerkbaits are going to work best on these banks.

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CLAYS CORNER

With the changing colors of the leaves comes some of the best bass fishing of the year if you understand what's going on. The most important thing that is happening is water temperature is changing and with that change the shad begin to move from deep and open water summer locations to the back of long extended coves and creeks. When the shad make this move the bass naturally follow. Ultimately the shad get caught in the back of these creeks as the temperature falls and as millions of these shad begin to die the bass will feed heavily on this easy meal in preparation for the coming winter.

If you can be at the right place at the right time when this happens it can be some of the best bass fishing of the year... including some really big bass.

In my opinion the first key temperature is when the water reaches 70 degrees. When that happens the shad will start moving back into the long coves and creek arms. As the water temperatures hit the low 60's (62 to 64 degrees) they will really be back there and you need to be back there with them.

TIP 1

If you don't see shad in the back of a long cove or creek arm then don't spend any time fishing it. I promise you that this time of year, more so than any other time of the year, you may find shad without bass but you will NOT find bass without the presence of shad!

One big change in the fall is where to fish in these long coves and creek arms. In the summer it's normal to concentrate on channel swings and channel banks...particularly high percentage areas like where that creek channel first intersects with the bank and where it leaves the bank. That's not true in the fall.

Changing of the Leaves Means Changing Your Approach

TIP 2

Concentrate your efforts more on the "flatter" banks...those that are usually found on the opposite side of the creek arm from where you would normally fish.

What to look for? Look for any type of cover they can use as an ambush point where the shad are most vulnerable like a brush pile, a lay down, rocks and of course boat docks. **Look for targets that produce shade and focus your attention on fishing that shade.** In the summer the focus is usually on the deeper sides and outside points of a dock...in the fall your focus needs to move to the backside of the dock near the shore and fish the more shallow shaded areas instead of the outside deeper areas.

TIP 3

When conditions are right those bass will set-up in the shade on the backside of docks in water so shallow it might only be 1 to 2 feet deep.

In determining lure selection I tend to break fishing this time of year into three categories. First is early morning till 11:00 am, second is the afternoon from 11:00 am to 4 pm and third is late afternoon from 4 pm to dark. Early morning and late afternoon it's all about the top water bite. Under the right conditions top water can be great all day as well. Focus on lures that mimic a dying shad. (Think jerkbait & Zara Spook style lures). Another great bait is a buzzbait!

TIP 4

In the fall, ALWAYS have a buzzbait tied on all day long!

As mid-day arrives, and with it the sun, it's time to change to a more vertical fishing approach. For me that's usually a jig with a plastic trailer. The focus becomes much more pin pointed to those shallow deeply shaded areas on docks and deeper into the brush piles. The key is "silent entry" so "flipping & pitching" (or as my southern friends say, "flippin' & pitchin'") are my go to presentations.



TIP 5

Remember, you are fishing really, really shallow so stealth is critical when it comes to boat control and lure entry. Put your trolling motor on low, use your power poles if you have them and turn off your electronics because you don't need them.

How shallow? When the water temperatures are in the lower 60's if your trolling motor isn't kicking up dirt you may not be fishing shallow enough! I know...that sounds crazy right? Trust me...you will be shocked how shallow these fall bass will get if the presence of shad and the cover conditions are right.

Last fall I caught 4 bass on 6 casts ranging from 4 to 6 pounds. All came at the very backend of a cove in less than 18 inches of water!



TIP 6

The lesson? Keep at it because in the fall...when it happens...it can happen fast!

Until next time...take a kid fishing...or take me...my wife says it's the same thing...!

Clay Dixon

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AN INSIDE LOOK INTO

LAKE OF THE OZARKS FISHING GUIDE

Jack Uxa



Widely regarded and respected as the top fishing guide on Lake of the Ozarks is Jack Uxa, Jacks Guide Service. Jack shares in this article what he feels are his keys to success to have such a distinction. Jack does not claim or profess this himself; this is the view of him from many anglers, bait and tackle stores and other guides here.

Uxa now 41 years old, was born and raised in St. Louis, attending Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Grade School and St. Mary's High School.

Growing up, Uxa was always wanting to fish. When he had time, he would fish at area park ponds/lakes, he really did not care what he would catch, just go to the places to get bit and catch fish. While he mostly enjoys catching bass he was just fine catching catfish, crappie, carp, whatever would bite. Several of these spots he fished also stocked trout in the winter, he loved that too. He mostly fished around the lakes and ponds close to his home, Carondelet Park, Suson Park, Bee Tree Park and Busch Wildlife lakes in St. Charles. Jack would also go to regional rivers to catch small-mouth bass.

At age 16, Uxa scored a job working at Paul's Bait and Tackle a very popular bait shop in St. Louis. While he was only 16 years old, he already had a lot of fishing experience from fishing the local lakes and rivers and he would also read every article in Bassmaster magazine as well as engage with anglers that came into the bait shop, always picking their brains to learn more about fishing. It did not take long before anglers of all skill levels were coming into the bait shop to pick his brain. Uxa said he loved to learn more about fishing and loved to share his knowledge with others too. What a great foundation and character to be a great fishing guide.



After high school, Uxa attended Southwest Missouri State College (now, Missouri State University). He selected that college to get a job at Bass Pro Shops and to be close to many fishing lakes in

Southwest Missouri, including Table Rock Lake. While attending college, he worked a lot of hours at Bass Pro Shops and fished as often as possible, primarily at Table Rock, continuing to learn more and more about fishing and having a lot of success tournament fishing at Table Rock. His first boat was a 16' aluminum boat.



At age 20, Uxa had literally 4 years of experience in the fishing industry working at bait shops and fishing whenever he could when in high school and college.

After college continuing to explore to broaden on his fishing experiences and to expand on his love for fishing, Uxa, though some mutual contacts, moved to northern Minnesota on the Canada border to be a guide at the very popular, Gun Flint Lodge, www.gunflint.com. Jack became one of the most sought after guides for Walleye, Lake Trout, Smallmouth and Pike, now that is versatility, moving from Ozark Lakes to northern lakes an achieving success.

After Uxa's guiding in Northern Minnesota fishing glazier cut lakes, he moved to back to Missouri.

Jack picked up his fishing career job working for U.S. Reel, doing a bit of everything, customer service, working trade shows and building reels, whatever it took to get the job done.

After 8 months working for U.S. Reel, in 2003 (yes, 21 years ago) at still a young age decided to move to Lake of the Ozarks, with a singular focus to be a full-time fishing guide. No side businesses, just be a full-time, year-round fishing guide.

Move to Lake of the Ozarks

Before his wife, Angela and he decided to move to Lake of the Ozarks, Uxa was seriously considering a move to Table Rock and starting his guide business there. However, after careful consideration, as he knew many of the guides there, from his time fishing Table Rock and relationships built at Bass Shops in Springfield, he did not want "step on toes" to be a competitor of those guys and friends. So, in 2003 Angela and he decided to move to Lake of the Ozarks and start his guide business, Jacks Guide Service.

I've taken a lot of guided fishing trips over the years. I think Jack is probably the best one I've fished with. He knows the lake, he knows what techniques are working, and he's a just a great guy to spend a day with. I've done a lot of bass fishing over the years – but I never pitched around docks before. He taught me the tricks and was very patient. If you're on vacation, go for it. If you are thinking about a "customer trip" – even better! I know I'm going back next year.

Signed – Matt, South Dakota

Uxa Early Years as a Guide and Promoting His Business

Uxa reported that the first few years were average, financially, then things really picked up for him in 2008. Jack and Angela held off from having children until his business was stable financially. It took time to promote his business. Keep in mind that his goal is to have his guide business as his primary source of income for him and his family, but he was steadfast in that goal, which he has now achieved. Jack and Angela now have two wonderful daughters, Lilly, 9 and Daisy, 5 years old.



To promote his guide business, Uxa attended boat shows in KC and STL, Collinsville Fishing Show, often teaming with local Convention Visitors Bureau, his



sponsors or just having his own table at those shows. He also created a relationship with Tan Tara (now Margaritaville) He continues to work those opportunities, has lots of word of mouth referrals and is often found on the internet through his two websites. www.fishinglakeoftheozarks.com and www.lakeoftheozarksfishingguide.com.

Many of his guide customers are now repeat customers that come back to hire him for guide trips each year.

Winter Still Slow Time but Great Fishing on Lake of the Ozarks

While his guide business is very steady throughout the year, averaging 200 plus guide trips per year and being on the water at least 270 days per year, he reports that the winter is a still a little slow for trips. However, according to Uxa, winter is exciting time to catch many 3–6-pound bass and no boat traffic. Some days may be a bit chilly, but there are so many days during winter that are quite comfortable

Hey Jack – thanks for the great day on the lake! I really enjoyed learning how to fish deep water. I've been bass fishing for years and never really learned this technique until now. Also, thanks for taking some "time off" from the bass fishing to go get some white bass "for the pan." They were excellent! I'm already planning my trip for next year.

Mike – Cedar Rapids Iowa

on the water and the big bass bite can be really good. He also said that the economy can also be a factor in his guide business as when the economy is down, many people do not spend money on recreational sports and travel.

Being a Guide, Likes and Dislikes

Uxa said that what he likes most about being a fishing guide is enjoying helping people learn and get better at fishing. He also enjoys figuring out the fish, putting together the fishing "puzzle". Uxa spends so many days a year on the water which keeps him in-tune with the movement and migration of the fish as well baitfish, patterns, and areas of the lake that he feels he can get his customers bites.

What Uxa dislikes about guiding is the number hours required to prepare rods, reels and baits as well as taking care of boat, electronics, and trolling motor maintenance.

Considering his guide trips are during the day which requires him to prepare for upcoming trips at night in his garage. In addition to the number of hours, he has a lot of guide trips on weekends. So for Uxa, it can be up to 7 days per week and 10 hour days with no weekends off.

What Differentiates Uxa from Other Guide Services

When asked, what he feels differentiates him from other fishing guides, he was quick to point out that there are a number of exceptionally good guides on Lake of the Ozarks. He also responded that he has a lot of versatility to accommodate any skill set and the patience to teach. In addition to that versatility, he can fish confidently for any species of fish in Lake of the Ozarks, while bass and crappie make up most of his guide trips, he is good with catching catfish, gar, bluegill, and varying other species. Having fished this lake since 1989 he is knowledgeable of all the areas of the lake from dam to dam. He also practices for guide trips. On days he does not have a guide trip, he gets on the water and practices and scouts the fish to prepare for upcoming trips.

He indicated that he is always researching and testing new baits and will check varying patterns and areas of the lake, so he does not just fall into a routine of fishing the same spots and patterns over and over. He said, he must do that as Lake of the Ozarks is so big, has lots of fishing

Alot of people come to the lake for various reasons, but I am one of the people that came to the lake to fish. I consider myself a novice and always tried to fish but rarely caught much. So I decided it was time to hire an expert to show me the ropes. It was great! Jack took me out and with in minutes we were catching fish. Instead of calling Jack "Captain" we should call him "Coach". For those interested in honing their skills I would highly recommend Jack's Guide Service.

Roger – Peoria, IL

pressure and the fish have gotten smarter so at times he said, he just needs to think outside of the box.

Profile of Uxa's Guide Business Customers

When asked about the profile of his guide trips, he said that about 5% are with tournament capable anglers that are comfortable with a bait casting reel, 5% are anglers that what to learn about patterns and baits close to their homes, 50% are visitors and/or pond fisherman and 40% are people that want to catch fish to eat them, crappie and catfish.

Uxa's Favorite Area of the Lake

Uxa's favorite area of the lake is in the Osage Beach area. Its central to everything and its where he lives. From Osage Beach he can cover most of the lake in about 20 minutes whether trailering his boat or running.

What Uxa Likes the Most about Lake of the Ozarks Fishing

What Jack likes the most about Lake of the Ozarks is the wide variety of species and different areas of the lake that can all fish a bit differently from dam to dam. If a bait and pattern is going good in one area of the lake that does not mean that same pattern and baits will be working fifteen miles away.

Future and Sponsors

Uxa indicated, while being a successful guide is hard work, he really enjoys it and plans to continue doing what he is doing.

Uxa asks all of you to please support his sponsors. Berkley, E-Factor, Crock-o-Gator, Tackle HD, Chompers, Abu Garcia, BassingBob.com, Fenwick Rods, Mercury Marine, Point Randall Resort, Margaritaville and Fitz Fishing Tackle and Supplies.

Favorite Baits

Spring	Tournament Anglers	Guide Trip Anglers
	<p>E-Factor Spinner Bait mostly 3/4 oz with big willow blades, silver and gold or single Colorado Gold Blade, mostly white and chartreuse skirt, but will mix it up depending on water clarity. In dirty water, spinner bait with painted blades.</p> <p>HD Tackle Crank Head Crank Bait, cranking against shallow to mid depth rocks and main lake bluff rocks.</p> <p>Wacky Worm in later spring for spawning and pre spawn bass cruising the banks.</p> <p>Small 1/8 oz Shaky Head with 8" or smaller worm.</p> <p>Stunna Stick Bait and Alabama Rig, depending on conditions.</p>	<p>Stunna Jerk Bait.</p> <p>Ned Rig.</p> <p>Wacky Worm.</p> <p>Spring is tricky, there are so many possible condition changes and is a transition time on Lake of the Ozarks.</p>
Summer	Tournament Anglers	Guide Trip Anglers
	<p>Main lake points and secondary points in early summer when the dam is generating water.</p> <p>Chompers Shaky Ledge Hopper with Magnum Trick Worm.</p> <p>5" Swim Bait.</p> <p>E-Factor 3/4 oz Football Jig.</p> <p>Points and brush throughout the summer with same baits and 10" Texas Rigged Worm in Brush Piles.</p> <p>Creature baits and jigs behind and under docks during blue gill spawns.</p> <p>Down size jig at times to 1/2 and 3/8 oz. Depending on how deep the fish are.</p>	<p>Flukes along side docks.</p> <p>Bullet Pop, Pop-R.</p> <p>Drop Shot worm.</p> <p>10" plastic worm, Texas Rigged.</p> <p>Summer Bagnell Dam to the Glaize mostly.</p>
Fall	Tournament Anglers	Guide Trip Anglers
	<p>Shaky Head with Tackle HD Stix Green Pumpkin Worm on points, brush and shallow.</p> <p>1/2 oz Crock-o-Gator Zapper Jig flipping docks.</p> <p>Finding shad is important in the fall.</p>	<p>Berkley Choppo Top Water in backs of coves or main lake banks.</p> <p>Drop shot with Tackle HD Needle Worm in June Bug color.</p> <p>Ned Rig.</p>
Winter	Tournament Anglers	Guide Trip Anglers
	<p>Alabama Rig, off shore, over brush and covering water.</p> <p>Berkley Stunna Stick Bait with wind secondary points and creek channel banks.</p> <p>Berkely Fritz Side 5 Crank bait on sunny days fishing rocky banks with a warming trend.</p> <p>Dirks Finesse Jig with small trailer working it on steeper creek channel banks, along side docks and brush piles.</p>	<p>Berkely Stunna Stick Bait over open water on points and secondary points. It's easy to work and the Stunna has really good good hooks and is already weighted for a slow fall. A variety of colors of the Stunna are especially good on Lake of the Ozarks, Stealth Shad, Hanky Panky and Northern Lights.</p> <p>Ned Rig.</p> <p>Alabama Rig depending on the casting skill level of his guide trip customer.</p>



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Baughman Triumphs at Truman Lake Toyota Series

PHOTOS BY: MATT BROWN / BRENDEN KANIES



WARSAW, Mo. (Sept. 18, 2022) – Pro Hunter Baughman of Judsonia, Arkansas brought a limit weighing 19 pounds, 1 ounce to the scales Saturday to win the Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. at Truman Lake. Baughman's three-day total of 15 bass weighing 48-10 earned him the win by a 1-pound, 10-ounce margin over second-place pro Brad Jelinek of Lincoln, Missouri and earned Baughman the top payout of \$32,429.

Baughman moved into the top five on Day 2 before bringing the biggest bag of the tournament to the stage on the final day to solidify the biggest win of his career.

"I'm tickled about this win," Baughman said. "I've been doing this for a long time

at this level and I've fished nationally with another league for two years, but I've never won anything outside of a statewide tournament. I'm just absolutely beside myself."

Having never fished Truman Lake before, Baughman said he leaned heavily on the 100-plus waypoints he logged during three days of practice. He targeted bass in offshore brush and rock piles, ranging from 5 to 15 feet in depth.

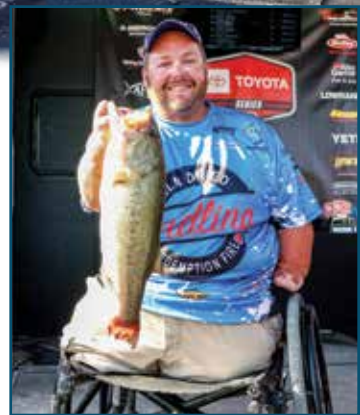
"Everyone else was graphing, but when I'd find several piles, I'd go 700 or 800 yards graphing with the LiveScope and find little stumps no one was seeing on their side imaging," Baughman continued. "I might catch one on every tenth stump, but it would be a good one."

Baughman said he caught the majority of his weight from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. every day and caught all his fish on a 3/4-ounce Brazalo football jig and a 5/16-ounce Brazalo finesse jig.

Baughman, who lost both of his legs below the knees, his left hand and digits on his right hand to

bacterial meningitis as an infant, said he counts the win as another huge blessing and an additional opportunity to show others that with hard work, they can do anything they put their mind to.

"God is so good and has just blessed me in my life," Baughman said. "I got sick at 9 months old, and the doctors said I wouldn't make it, so to just be here is amazing – and to have the ability to catch some fish every once in a while on top of it, is just awesome."



Top 10 Pros

1. Hunter Baughman – 48 – 10 (15) – \$33,929
2. Brad Jelinek – 47 – 0 (15) – \$13,566
(includes \$1,000 Phoenix Bonus)
3. Brock Reinkemeyer – 46 – 8 – (15) \$9,729
4. Kyle Schutta – 46 – 1 (15) – \$8,107
5. Michael Harlin – 39 – 1 (15) – \$7,697
6. BJ Miller – 38 – 3 (14) – \$6,486
7. Drew Gill – 36 – 0 (15) – \$5,675
8. Nicky Parsons – 35 – 8 (15) – \$4,864
9. Chris Bridges – 35 – 7 (14) – \$4,554
10. Greg Proffitt – 35 – 2 (14) – \$3,243

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Engaging Newcomers with the 4 F's of Fishing

by **Stephanie Vatalaro**

When you think about fishing, what stories come to mind? For me, it's things like... Watching an octopus escape unassisted from the livewell, the Bahamian bonefish that got away, and seeing my daughter experience first-hand the joy of zipping across the flats in Capt. Grandpa's boat. Certainly, there are some "big fish" memories too, but it's not always about catching. Remember Walter from On Golden Pond or the Catfish Hunter from Grumpy Old Men?

At ASA's 2021 Sportfishing Summit, keynote speaker Joey Coleman presented a framework he called "The 4 F's of Fishing" that really resonated with me as it relates to engaging and retaining fishing newcomers. Below is my interpretation of the 4 F's as a great lens through which you can view your outreach to new audiences.

1. Family – If your outreach focuses on time spent with family, you're on the right track. RBFF research shows newcomers were motivated to fish for relaxation and family time. And they enjoyed it as "quality time spent with kids and loved ones."

2. Friends – Newcomers were inspired (and invited) by their friends to go fishing. And they cited social connection, camaraderie and nostalgia as key benefits of participating. Make sure in your outreach to use imagery of friends – not the lone angler on a dock – to engage new audiences.

3. Fame – Who doesn't love a good selfie? Ok, you might hate them. But fishing newcomers are avid users of social media. Inspire them to participate by showing them all the incredible Instagram-able moments they can participate in such as collecting



bait, speeding over the water on a boat, holding (and releasing) a fish, and enjoying sunset.

4. Fun – If you've been fishing all your life, you might be hard pressed to remember a time when you weren't targeting a particular species or using high-tech lures and equipment. But chances are, you started fishing for the pure fun of it. For that adrenaline rush you get when you feel a tug on the line and the ensuing chaos of excitement when you land even a small panfish (or maybe that's just my family). Focus on those fun moments in your outreach and you'll connect better with new anglers.

FIVE TIPS TO CATCH MORE FISH

by **L.L. Bean**

SIMPLE TRICKS FOR FISHING SUCCESS

No matter what anyone tells you, you don't need years of experience to catch more fish. In fact, all you need is a rod and reel, some bait or lures, and these tips for increasing your odds. Oh, and a body of water... you'll definitely need that.

1. CHOOSE THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY

Fish are more active in low-light conditions, when they feel less threatened by predators. This means you'll have more luck in the early-to-mid morning, as well as the early-afternoon to evening hours. That said, if the only opening in your schedule means casting under the noonday sun, don't pass on the opportunity. Instead, look for shaded water, take advantage of cloudy skies, and remember that fish don't always do what we expect.

2. CHOOSE THE BEST SPOT

Fish like to hide under overhanging banks, around submerged rocks and trees, and in broken water, which helps them blend into their surroundings. These features offer your best bet for a strike, so seek them out and start casting.



3. CAST PAST

Once you've chosen your favorite spot (or, better yet, actually seen a fish), try to place your cast just beyond it, and reel into the zone, rather than dropping your bait directly on top of your prey. Otherwise, the fish will startle, and a scared fish is generally not a hungry fish. Plus, more lures take a few cranks of the reel to find their natural rhythm, which is key to getting a fish interested.

4. WEAR POLARIZED SUNGLASSES

Not only do polarized glasses protect your peepers, they also allow you to see through the glare on the water so you can scope the submerged features that increase your odds of success. Polarized sunglasses might even help you spot the very fish you're about to get on your line.



5. STEADY DOES IT

If you see a fish chasing your lure, it's ok to get excited... just don't stop reeling! In fact, don't even change your rhythm too drastically; it'll only alert the fish to the fact that something's not quite right. And if you're worried that your fish isn't fast enough to catch your bait, don't be: You might be fast, but you're not fast enough to out-reel a hungry fish.

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you going to want to know what it means when someone says they need to hit the head, but it's also an issue of safety. The more you know, the better prepared you are in the event of an accident — or to avoid one. Read below for 100 terms you should know before taking your boat out for its next spin.

Abaft	Behind the boat, or toward the rear
Abeam	On either side of the boat
Aft	Back (or stern) of the boat
Aids to navigation	Artificial markers indicating safe or unsafe waters
AIS	Automatic identification system that allows you to identify any vessel in your immediate area that is broadcasting an AIS signal
All-round light	A light shining unbroken over the horizon at an arc of 360 degrees
Anchor light	A light that must be shown when anchored at night
Astern	Back of the boat
Autopilot	Self-steering devices that can steer your vessel on a preset course or heading
Aweigh	The position of an anchor when it is raised above the bottom
Bathymetry	The measurement of underwater depths, usually shown as contour lines and depth soundings
Batten down	Secure loose objects and hatches on the boat
Beam	Widest part of the boat
Bearing	The direction of an object, either shown on the chart as a true bearing or relative to the heading of the boat
Bight	The part of rope or line on which a knot is formed
Bilge	The interior of the hull below the floorboards
Bilge Pump	Clears standing water from the boat

Bitter end	Last part of the rope or chain
Boat hook	A tool used as a docking and undocking aid, usually with a blunt tip for pushing during undocking and a hook for docking
Boat switch	A panel used to control the vessel's electrical functions
Boot top	The area between the water lines of a ship when fully loaded and when unloaded
Bow	Front of the boat
Bowline	A knot that forms a loop at the end of a line
Center console steer	Boat steered via a steering wheel located at the console at the center of the boat
Chart datum	The baseline of tidal height in tide tables
Chartplotter	A device that integrates GPS data with electronic navigational charts; most chartplotters also offer sonar support
Cleat	A fixture used to secure a boat to a dock
Cockpits	The area on a vessel where the main consoles are located
COLREGs	Collision regulations, or the laws that prevent collisions on the water
Come to	Point up closer to the wind
Currents	The horizontal movement of water
Docking light	Headlights on a boat that are meant to be used in close quarters
Draft	The minimum amount of water a boat needs to be able to float
DSP	Digital signal processing is the technology that is built into Fusion's premium stereos that ensures optimized audio reproduction by minimizing distortion, customizing audio profiles based on specific speaker locations and protecting speakers from being overloaded with excess power
Ebb tide	When the water goes back away from the shore (opposite of rising tide)
EPIRB	Emergency position indicating radio beacon
Fishfinder	A device that uses sonar waves to detect fish and other objects underwater
Flood tide	When water comes to the shore (rising tide)
Flybridge	An elevated open deck above the main bridge of a boat, usually equipped with duplicate vessel controls
Forward	Toward the direction of the bow
Four-cycle motor	Internal combustion engine in which the piston completes four separate strokes while turning the crankshaft
Freeboard	The distance from the waterline to the deck of the vessel
Galley	The cooking area of a vessel
Gib	A metal fitting that holds a member in place or presses two members together
Give-way	To slow down, stop or alter course to avoid the path of another boat
Go astern	To go backwards, or reverse engines
Gunwale	The top of each of the sides of the boat
Head	The toilet on a boat
Heave to	Steering into the wind
Helm	The area from which you steer the boat
Hull	The part of your boat that rides both in and on top of the water
Impeller	Part of the boat's engine cooling system that pumps cold water into it to cool it down
Inboard motor	An engine enclosed within the hull of the boat
Knots	A unit of speed — one knot is one nautical mile per hour
Lanyard	A small line joining an object to the boat
Leads	Markers used in channels or bar entrances that indicate the middle of the channel
Lee shore	The shore the wind is blowing toward
Leeward	The downwind side of the boat
Live sonar	Technology that allows you to see what's happening around your boat in real time
Lower unit	Part of the outboard that takes the power and rotation from the engine and transfers them to the prop shaft and the propeller
Magnetic north	The direction in which all compass needles point
MFD	Multifunction display— typically a chartplotter at its core with support for multitudes of capabilities, like sonar, radar, autopilot, vessel data, audio control, etc.
Nautical chart	A type of map used by mariners that shows detailed water and shoreline features, such as depths, aids to navigation, obstructions and other features essential for navigation

Nautical mile	Historically defined as the meridian arc length corresponding to one minute of latitude; today the international nautical mile is defined as 1,852 meters (1.15 miles)
Navigation light	A light affixed to a boat that shows everyone the size and type of vessel, whether you're underway or at anchor and what direction you're traveling
On the quarter	Toward the stern
Open waters	Waters that are not enclosed
Outboard motor	Motor designed to be affixed to the outside of the hull on the transom
Outriggers	Long poles mounted to a boat that are swung out to the sides and are designed to hold fishing lines
PFD	A personal flotation device, like a life jacket
Planing	When a boat moves over the top of the water rather than through it
Port	Left (when facing the front of the boat)
Port-side	The lefthand side of the boat on which a red navigational side light is displayed
PWC	Personal watercraft
Quartering sea	When water comes in on a boat's quarter
Radar	Uses radio signal to detect objects and their positions
RMS power	The term used to describe the continuous power handling for a specific speaker or subwoofer; this is also used to describe the continuous power output of an amplifier
Scanning sonar	ClearVu/SideVu: Sonar that uses a thin, wide beam to provide clear images of structure and fish below the boat, as opposed to the cone-shaped beam used by traditional and CHIRP traditional sonar
Scope	The length of deployed anchor rode relative to the depth of the water
Side console steer	Boat steered via a steering wheel located at the console on the starboard side.
Sonar black box	A depth sounder that helps to find fish
Spring line	A pivot line used in docking, undocking or preventing the boat from moving while docked
Stand on	Continue with the same course and speed
Starboard	Right (when facing the front of the boat)
Starboard side	The righthand side of the boat, on which a green navigational side light is displayed
Stern	Back of the boat
Thruster	A transversal propulsion device built into, or mounted to, either the bow or stern of a ship or boat to make it more maneuverable
Tides	The rise and fall of water levels due to the attraction of the moon and sun
Tiller steer	Boat motor that is steered and throttled up/down via a lever/handle attached to the motor
Transducer	Turns electrical energy into a high frequency sound wave, serving as an antenna for a boat's sonar system
Transom	Stern cross-section of the boat
Trim	Fore and aft balance of the boat
Trolling motor	Electric outboard motors that push or pull small boats
Two-cycle motor	Internal combustion engine that completes a power cycle with two strokes of the piston during one power cycle; this power cycle being completed in one revolution of the crankshaft
Underway	Another word for drifting; not at anchor
VHF	Very high frequency radio
Windlass	Anchor winch
Windward	The direction the wind is blowing from



Tournament Strategies

Pre-Fishing Tips from BassingBob.com Expert Advisors

All of the BassingBob.com experts agree that the week before the tournament, it's very important to spend time checking Lake of the Ozarks fishing reports. Start by visiting the BassingBob.com website to see what's happening in the bass fishing world at the Lake of the Ozarks, and to take advantage of the many resources available to members, especially the daily fishing logs and links to some very useful maps and articles. These logs and reports will provide you with information about water levels, temperature and clarity as well as what the fish are doing that week and what their feeding habits are. "Visiting the BassingBob.com website will help you take the 55,000 acre lake and shrink it down to places that meet the needs of bass relative to the conditions," suggests James Dill, a successful Lake of the Ozarks guide and tournament fisherman. Jack Uxa, who is also a Lake of the Ozarks fishing guide, likes to check the results of recent tournaments to find out what the winning bass weighed and if the information is available, what lure was used, what the fishing conditions were, and what part of the lake the bass were caught.

"Recent weights tell you a bit about what's been happening out there," says Uxa. "Also, check the information on the BassingBob.com website to find out what other tournaments are going on at the same time. This will give you some idea about what the fishing pressure will be on the day of your tournament. If there are a

lot of people out fishing, it may make sense to plan on staying in one spot where you're comfortable instead of moving around a lot."

While it isn't always possible to get out to the lake the week before the tournament to pre-fish the lake where the tournament is being held, if you can, it will be invaluable in helping you perform better the day of the competition. This is, of course, particularly important if you've never been to the tournament lake before.

If you can afford to hire a guide, this is one thing all our experts suggest you do. A guide knows the lake far better than you'll be able to in a short pre-fish. They'll be able to tell you what's been going on, where the fish have been found, and what lures they've been taking. The guide will be able to give you a basic orientation to the lake, particularly around the take-off point, and maybe go to an area of the lake with which you're familiar if you've spent time on the lake before. "History and time on the water is the most important preparation," says Uxa. The guide will also be able to pre-fish the lake for you so that the time you spend with them is more valuable. Uxa gives some tips on what you should try to accomplish when you pre-fish a lake. You can accomplish a lot of these goals with your guide to get a head start on going off on your own, especially if it's a lake that's strange to you. "Try to establish a plan of attack for the tournament, and have a back-up plan," says Uxa.

"Nail down the details, identify subtleties and specifics. Talk with your guide about why he's choosing one area over another, even if the areas look similar.

"Your goal should be to narrow things down, eliminate strategies, and clear up misconceptions. A good guide will be able to help you with all that, and more." Dill suggests taking what you've learned from your guide and relating it to what you're good at. "Most people have favorite patterns and go-to baits that work for them. You usually don't have to abandon your comfort zone to find a strategy that works for you."

Wayne Fitzpatrick, also suggests fishing what works for you. "Even if people are saying they're catching on a certain pattern, or you're working with a guide who suggests a particular kind of bait, if you're not good with that pattern, you won't catch fish," counsels Fitzpatrick. "You'll have better luck using what you're good with. Share this personal knowledge with your guide so they can help tailor a plan that will work for you." Fitzpatrick says you need to work with a variety of baits. "The fish will respond to different things, and the changing seasons and conditions pull different patterns. If you're out a couple days before the tournament pre-fishing, the first day can sometimes be a long frustrating day.

"It's good to talk to someone who fished the week before, especially in the fall when big changes happen from week to week."

BASSMASTERS 2023 OPENS FEATURE LAKE OF THE OZARKS IN DIVISION 2

On Tuesday, B.A.S.S. unveiled a slate of nine Opens — three each in three divisions — covering eight states from March into late October. Anglers fishing all nine events will be vying for an invitation to the Bassmaster Elite Series. The Top 9 anglers in the Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers standings will earn an invitation to join the prestigious Bassmaster Elite Series in 2024. Individual event winners — including those who only fish one, three-event division — will be eligible for a berth in the 2024 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic.

2023 Bassmaster Opens Schedule

Division 1

March 2-4, Lake Eufaula, Eufaula, Ala.
May 18-20, Wheeler Lake, Decatur, Ala.
Oct. 12-14, Harris Chain of Lakes, Leesburg, Fla.

Division 2

April 13-15, Toledo Bend, Many, La.
June 15-17, Lake Eufaula, Eufaula, Okla.
Sept. 21-23, Lake of the Ozarks, Osage, Mo.

Division 3

May 3-5, Buggs Island Reservoir, Clarksville, Va.
July 20-22, St. Lawrence River, Waddington, N.Y.
Sept. 13-15, Watts Bar Reservoir, Kingston, Tenn.

The organization has been to Lake of the Ozarks 11 times, but not since the 2001 Missouri Central Open.



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Catching Bass in March – Fishing the Different Sections of the Lake

LOWER LAKE

In March, try fishing the coves on the North Shore because they warm up more quickly than the main channel, making this a great place to fish. In the clear water of those big creek coves be looking at the deeper banks, rocky shorelines, and places where ditches flatten out.

MID LAKE

This section of the lake is always a popular place to fish any time of year, largely because anglers know that a lot of big fish are released here following tournament weigh-ins. If you fish in the Glaize, you're around fish. From Tan-Tar-A to the end of the Niangua to about the 60 MM of the Osage, you're going to find all types of fishing opportunities. On the Osage, try throwing the Mid Wart and a spinnerbait, and flipping a jig on 20-25 lb. test. In clear waters on the Niangua, it would be a spinnerbait, crankbait and a Swamp Bug. Around Tan-Tar-A, fish the barren

channel banks and parallel the big creek coves throwing a crankbait or a jig.

UPPER LAKE

It can be more challenging to fish the lake from Hurricane Deck Bridge up to the Truman Dam at this time of the year because of the low water levels. Make sure you use a deep water ramp like Warsaw or Wigwam ramp. In March, the water will be cold and dingy, so your approach has to be different. You'll probably need to move around a lot more to find places where you'll catch fish.

Try a jig or a crankbait, fishing the coves from the backs out, hitting the secondary points and channel banks and trying to establish a pattern of some kind. If settled on a crankbait, throw something red and brown in a crawfish pattern. For a jig, go with a brown and orange skirt and a bigger trailer, and maybe a jig with a rattle. Also black and chartreuse, maybe with a little blue for the skirt, and a trailer in bright or electric blue.

QUICK MARCH FISHING TIPS

- Hit the little pockets just off the main channel because in March, the bass will often be suspended in these pockets feeding.
- If there's a cold, heavy wind that kills the bite, fish the leeward sides of docks and coves instead of the windy sides. If it's a north wind, position yourself so you're tucked away near the north shore.
- Watch your graph or use your lake map to find the narrow contour lines that swing into a bank and come back out again. This means you've found a channel swing, and that's a great place to find fish.
- The general belief is that in March, the afternoon is the best time to catch fish, but you can catch some big bass first thing in the morning because of the low light conditions.
- If jig fishing in cold March waters, try a Crock-O-Gator Swamp Bug on a 3/8 oz Crock-O-Gator green Shaker Head jig.

Big Bass Bash Winning Strategies

An Interview with James Dill

Bluffs and docks could be a winning combination for Big Bass Bash contenders this fall. "I would start in the morning and hit as many bluff-end docks as I could because those big fish will come up and suspend under those docks in the fall," says Dill. "I have caught a lot of big fish on an isolated dock that other people just blow by."

Quality bass that usually hang along the bluff drops during the summer start suspending when the shad move to the surface in the fall. The bass suspend under the bluff-end docks sitting over depths of more than 50 feet and use the boat-houses as ambush points to pick off shad. Dill notes this pattern works best when the water temperature drops into the 70-degree range from mid-September to November.

The local guide tempts these suspending bass with a black 3/4-ounce Crock-O-Gator Head-knocker Buzz Bait with a gold blade which he retrieves on 17-pound fluorocarbon line along the sides of the

dock all the way to the front ends. "I will start out reeling it pretty fast and then I will slow it down until I catch a couple," says Dill. "You may hit a bunch of docks and not catch too many but sooner or later when you do catch a fish doing that, it is going to be one to take to the Big Bass Bash weigh-in." Most of the strikes occur on the front corners of the docks although Dill occasionally catches some fish midway down the sides of the docks.

The bluff pattern works for Dill on the whole lake, but when he's fishing the lower end he usually throws a Zara Spook on 14-pound monofilament around the docks in the clearer water. Dill advises any angler practicing for the Bash should run the lake and search a 15-mile stretch for isolated docks on the bluff ends. "See how many of those docks you can find in a certain area," says Dill, who warns anglers to avoid fishing those docks during practice.

Another main lake pattern that produces quality fish for Dill in early October involves stair-stepping a jig down bluff shelves, a structure that big bass live on

year-round. Dill opts for a 3/4-ounce Crock-O-Gator Reaction Jig or a 1-ounce football jig in dark colors (brown, green or black-and-blue) tipped with a bulky plastic trailer in the same color. He keys on shelves in the 15- to 18-foot depth range where he pops the jig off a shelf and lets it fall quickly to the next shelf. The local guide repeats the process until the lure drops off into the channel.

Dill would make his milk run of bluff docks before 10 a.m. and make about five to eight casts per dock. Once the sun rises higher in the sky and starts casting shadows around the docks, Dill moves to the back of creeks and coves to target shallow docks. "If it is quiet and nobody has been back there you can catch big fish out of a foot of water," says Dill.

The buzz bait still produces later in the day for Dill if he throws it to the shady areas of the docks. Then he likes to flip the buzzer into the wells where the lure's buzzing sound echoes off the boat hoists. "It sends a whole different sound in there especially on those shallow docks," reveals Dill.

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Fish Intel Update – Mark Twain Lake Fishing Intel



Jason Kiser is the newest member of the Fish-Intel family of website fishing businesses. He is a retired Major League Baseball umpire and is now a bass and crappie fishing guide on Mark Twain Lake. He has a YouTube channel with almost two thousand followers on social media. His fishing website (www.marktwainlakefishingintel.com) went live on August 7, 2022, and he has several advertisers and members on his site.

He said it is a great business for a fisherman that wants to earn extra money from the thing they love to do. I just started visiting and talking to the local businesses and telling them what I was going to do. They all want fisherman to see what they have to offer.

His advertising customers include restaurants, motels, campgrounds, fishing

tackle stores and hunting suppliers.

He had enough advertising clients signed up even before the website went live to pay for his Fish-Intel investment. With only a month under his belt, his membership and advertising revenue is growing daily.

Jason fishes about 25 days a month and has a team of friends / guides that are helping with the website fishing reports. Even his wife is going to help with the business at the Mark Twain fishing tournaments.

Jason said, I will be fishing the Bass tournaments and my wife will be manning the hospitality at tournaments, ala Bassing Bob at Lake of the Ozarks, giving out refreshments before takeoff and at weigh-ins.

Jason said that he is not a computer wiz but just a guy with a laptop, the Fish-Intel platform has everything already set up and ready to go. Needed just a few hours of training and a few phone calls to Steve Heitman, Fish-Intel's expert and responsive support person.



Jason will be soon, giving away fishing tackle to his members for fishing reports and/or visiting his advertisers.

Jason will be looking at other lakes in Missouri when he gets the Mark Twain Lake business up and running.

If you ever fish Mark Twain Lake or just want to keep up with the bass bite and crappie bite, be sure to check out; www.marktwainlakefishingintel.com

Fish-Intel continues to grow at lakes around the country. We pay a \$500.00 referral fee if you know someone regionally or around the country that you feel might be interested to own their own revenue generating fishing website. Just reach out to Steve Hollenbeck, steveh@bassingbob.com, 314-378-8510 or contact us through, www.bassingbob.com or www.fish-intel.com.



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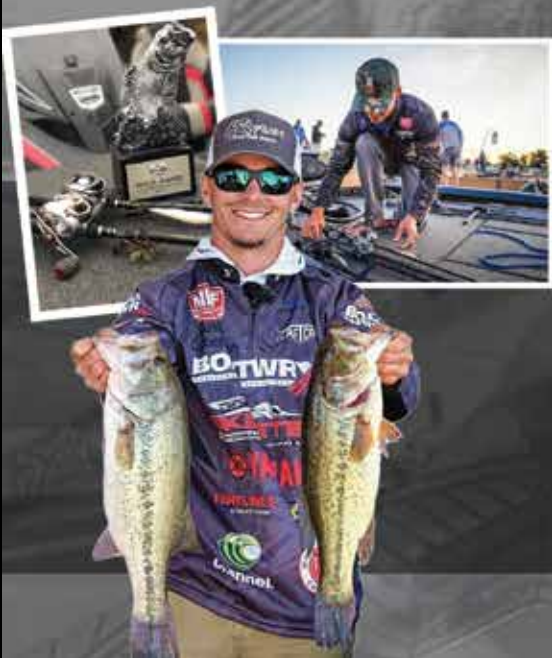


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Fall and Winter Crappie

by Capt Dave Dzurik

The days are getting shorter and the water is getting cooler. This transition from summer to fall brings crappie from their deep water summer haunts to coves and docks near baitfish. Their urge to start feeding for the winter is just starting to turn on.

Before you hit the lake do your homework

Check the weather to find the wind direction. Shad are weak swimmers and the wind will blow them around. It's a good place to start looking for crappie by following the wind. Also stop at your local bait shop for intel on baits and colors of jigs and crank baits that are hot.

Shad, the primary forage fish for the crappie, hatch mid summer. By fall the hatch is prime food for the hungry crappie.

The schools of shad tend to go to the backs of the coves and feeder creeks. The crappie will be sure to follow. Find the bait and the crappie will be close by.

When I go into a cove looking for crappie that's where electronics are key. Start on the wind blown side. If you have side imaging idle down the shoreline in front of all the docks. I set my unit at 60' and I stay about 30' away from the docks. If I find crappie I note the dock and keep scanning the area. I then come back in stealth mode with the trolling motor not to spook the fish.

Now to catch them. Crappie will usually be in the shade or under cover of the dock or lift. They will sometimes suspend around a cable or a rope. You can pitch a minnow with a split shot on a cork. Also a jig and cork can be successful. Dock shooting can also do the trick. Pick your jig color based on water clarity. If the water is clear try blue ice or monkey milk if stained to dark try darker colors like black and chartreuse or red and black or blue and black. And lastly,

Scent on your bait works. Try Capt Daves Hawg Jam for a garlic/anise blend fish attractant for those finicky slabs.

Fall will eventually turn to winter and the water temperature will drop into the 40s and even 30s. The crappie will school up in large groups usually around some type of cover over deeper water. They will still bite but their metabolism is slower so

you will have to have a real slow retrieve. I like a hi-vis 4lb test line. Become a line watcher.

Many times you will see the line jump or swim sideways but not feel the bite. If it jumps give your rod a quick flick. You will soon become a better angler.

Lastly, winter fishing safety. Always wear a life jacket or a flotation jacket. It's better to wear ice fishing or wind proof rain gear and lighter clothing than heavy carharts. If they get wet they will add a 100lbs to your weight and you may not be able to get back on your boat. I also recommend slip on boots that you can kick off verses heavy hunting boots. One slip and a fun trip can go south fast. Be safe and tight lines to all.



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