

Chasing the Iowa Bass Trail

With Team Iowa Sportsman, Jeremy King and Thomas Allen

Finally, open water has become more available across the state. I don't know about you, but it seemed to me that Old Man Winter just wouldn't let go this year! I am going to take some time and discuss a very important yet often overlooked aspect to competitive fishing. While there are many guys who do Pre-fish, there are just as many that don't. I really feel a tremendous aspect of successful tournament fishing is knowing the water you are fishing and understanding the pattern the fish are on!

Take a day or two prior to the event, fish the areas you have previously selected and keep a tally on how the fish are

responding. I would even recommend keeping a journal to record how things are taking place. Once you catch a few fish on a certain location and have their pattern understood, move on to the next spot. The more fish you get hooks into, the less likely they are to bite the day of the tournament. So be efficient and move quickly from spot to spot. Spend the time practicing on the water prior to the day of the tournament and I know your productivity will increase as well as your final weight!

As mentioned last month, we are planning on attending quite a few of the HAWGZ events. This Team Fishing Series is in its first season and is shaping up to be one of the hottest circuits in the state. With the amount of support and response the organization is already receiving, that end of season check could be quite nice! I recommend checking it out and getting involved!!

HAWGZ Bass Series-
Tournament Director:
Joe Winkler 515-297-2501
www.hawgzbasseries.com

Tri-County Bass Club-
Tournament Director:
Todd Reed treedbass@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/tricountybass/club.html



Jeremy and Thomas share a combined 39 years of bass fishing experience. Together they bring passion, knowledge and awareness to the professional bass fishing circuit. Both anglers have careers in the industry and are living their dreams. Thomas is the Editor of The Iowa Sportsman magazine, and Jeremy is State Conservation Officer for Marshall and Grundy Counties.



'08 Scheduled Events

This month Team Iowa Sportsman will be fishing in the following events: Hope to see you there!

- Wednesday, April 23rd- Rock Creek, Tri-County Bass, WFL
- Sunday, May 4th – 3-Mile (HAWGZ)
- Wednesday, May 7th- Lower Pine Lake, Tri-County Bass, WFL
- Saturday, May 31st- Brushy Creek (HAWGZ)

We would like to thank those companies who have elected to join us on this venture and support our efforts. Team Sponsors include: Berkley, Abu Garcia, Fenwick, The Iowa Sportsman, Kemna Auto Fort Dodge, and especially our families and spouses! Without all of you this passion driven objective wouldn't be possible!



King's Korner

Often I get asked, when am I suppose to have my boat's navigation lights turned on?

The law requires that a motorboat while underway between sunset and sunrise to display proper navigation lights on front and back. On the stern (back of the boat) there should be a bright white light that can be seen from all 360 degrees. This light should be bright enough to be seen for a distance of 2 miles (on a dark night with clear atmosphere). In addition to the stern light a bow light is also required. The bow light consists of green on the starboard side and red on the port. This should be bright enough to be seen a distance of 1 mile under the same conditions as above.

When in doubt of exact sunset or sunrise times, play it safe and turn on your lights. You should do this not because of a potential violation, but rather to protect yourself and others. I compare this to driving your vehicle at the dawn and dusk hours. Is it easier to see someone with headlights on or off? If you are more visible that reduces your chance of a boating occurrence.

Be safe and enjoy the open water!!