

# CALIFORNIA BASS FEDERATION

May 2010

Volume 1

Scott Sweet  
President-California Bass Federation



March, 2010

We have begun our 2010 season for the California Bass Federation and we are in full swing. Some regions are nearly done and a few are half way through. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Federation for 2010 and welcome the many new members; especially those new to the tournaments.

2010 has some more changes for the CBF. Our website is in the process of being redone. It will be created and hosted by the national office of the The Bass Federation (TBF). Tisha is our author and she is nearly completed with the first pass on the website. Stay tuned for the announcement.

Our new newsletter is being authored by one of our members, Lance Karafelas. He is out of our Region 7 and did a great job with the first newsletter. What do you think about those graphics folks...thanks Lance for the great work! He will be continuing to do our newsletters for the 2010 season.

Pure Fishing has rejoined the TBF. In my first announcement, Presidents needed to contact me for the details of how to take advantages of the great discounts. Guess what, we have a better way now! Simply go on to the TBF website ([www.bassfederation.com](http://www.bassfederation.com)) and sign up on the TBF Store. You will need your TBF membership number to join. Once you are on the site, you can select from the five Pure Fishing websites that are available. The discount and the special code will automatically be applied. That is it...so visit the site and get your special deals today! The participating companies are Berkley, Spiderwire, Stren, Abu Garcia and Fenwick.

The 2010 State Championships have been announced. We will be holding the 2 day event at Lake Havasu on October 1-2. We hope you qualify in your respective region so you can fish this amazing fishery. October can produce some great numbers and I look forward to seeing you!

Scott Sweet





George Fedor  
Conservation Director



Conservation is a word that has many sides. Most people relate the word to natural resource protection or environmental action to preserve endangered species. I believe the word has more potential. Conservation can apply to all the things we love to do. Bass fishermen and women are naturally conservationist who love nature and enjoy all the natural beauty that exists around us. For the most part we are an environmentally conscious group who has been concerned with our waterways and many fishing issue. We split our garbage into waste and recyclables. We pick up our own trash. So what else is there to conserve?

Let's conserve the values and traditions that are important to us. Conservation means that someday you can show a grandkid how to dropshot on a beautiful lake with fish to catch. Conservation means that the sport we love will be available to future generations. While we need to conserve the environments we fish in, it is just as important to protect our freedom to fish. What matters the most to YOU is what you need to conserve. My job as the conservation director will be to help you protect and pass on to the future those things that matter to you.

There are many challenges facing fishermen and women across the state and country currently. There are legal proceedings currently happening that have the potential to impact the future of fishing and DFG management of our water resources. There are political struggles that will shape our immediate and long term futures. Each of us can have an impact on that future. You matter. We all get inundated with so much information about so many different things that it is often difficult to sort out key issues so we can determine what the future may hold. My hope is that each of you can remember that first fish you ever caught and pass that feeling along. I will do my best to help us protect that future.

I will be meeting with other Conservation directors at the National Championship so that we can share ideas and plans. I will be forming partnerships with other angling associations so that we can present a unified front to preserve our sport and the waters we love. Your Federation cares about our sport as much as you do. I urge each of you to take an extra moment to preserve our sport. Take a moment and talk to a newcomer to the sport about the Fed. Teach a kid the importance of catch and release. Dispose of your fishing line properly. If you are politically inclined, register to vote and follow the issues. A letter to your elected representatives can do a world of good at times. Go fishing and reflect on how lucky we all are to be able to enjoy this sport we love. Finally, drop me an email at [littleluk@live.com](mailto:littleluk@live.com) and let me know how I can help you conserve the sport we love.



# Youth

Sal Gervasi  
Youth Director



The California Bass Chapter Federation will be hosting this years Junior State Championship at Lake Millerton. The event will take place on May 30th. Junior clubs from up and down the state will send there top six anglers to compete for a the opportunity to go to the National Guard Junior World Championships. Each club can send three competitors in each age group. 11-14 and 15 -18 the winner in each age group will then get to compete for scholarship money and other prizes. This year's N.G.J.W.C. will take place in Atlanta, Georgia on August 4th through the 8th.

Any adult club can start there own Youth club. Actually a youth club must have an adult club to be affiliated with. The only cost involved is 5 dollars per angler. That 5 dollars is for FLW membership and goes to pay for insurance. A youth club must have a minimum of 6 members. So if you are interested in starting your own youth club please give me a call and I will point you in the right direction. It really isn't that difficult and takes very little time.

Real Kids casting competition kits are now available. For those clubs wishing to run a Real Kids event please contact me so I can get you every thing you need to run tour event.

Sal Gervasi





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# R1



Ben Willis  
Tournament Director  
Region 1



What a way to start off the 2010 season. Our first event had many new faces along with ones from many years past. Anglers were ranging from 18 to lets just say over 65. I love seeing all ages come together for the sport of fishing. Everybody may be out there competing against one another but they help, teach, and learn along the way. The sportsmanship is always there and everybody has a great time.

This year our schedule is March 7th, April 11th, May 16th, and June 13th, which will be a dual with the Mother Lode region. The top 20 will continue on to the State Championship that will be held at Lake Havasu.

The March 7th event brought out 55 anglers. There are lots of new non-boaters this year looking for boaters. It was a tough bite for most as twelve anglers had empty bags and fifteen of them only weighed in one fish. That's almost half the field. However, Mark Daniels Jr. knew where to find them. His boat brought in an amazing total of 36.40 lbs. Needless to say, Mark took 1st place weighing in 22.13 lbs and also had the big fish that was 7.58 lbs. Brian Carpenter was 2nd place with 18.69 lbs and in third was Deacon Fernandes with 15.14 lbs. Jamond Andrews, new to the federation this year, finished in 4th place with 14.27 lbs which was just enough to beat last years Angler of the Year John Martin who finished in 5th with 14.24 lbs.

I'm looking forward to another exciting year and close race for the AOY position. I'm always open for questions, comments, suggestions, or just to talk fishing. Feel free to call me anytime. Get a friend to join the federation and lets make it grow. See you all on the water.

Kelly Willis





# R1 Angler Spotlight

Tom Shimabukuro grew up in Oakland California. He started fishing at an early age from the Berkeley Pier with his Dad. When school was out for summer break, Tom and his brother would get dropped off with their float tubes at either San Pablo Reservoir or Lafayette Reservoir almost every day. He started fishing tournaments in high school and throughout college with his local club. His first boat was a 1979 Ranger 374 purchased during his junior year in college, he had been saving for years. Tom now owns a newer Ranger boat with a brand new 2010 225 Mercury Pro XS. His favorite way to catch bass is flipping tules with a jig in the early spring. His biggest bass weighed 11.81, which he caught on a crankbait. However, Tom is well known as being a jig fisherman.



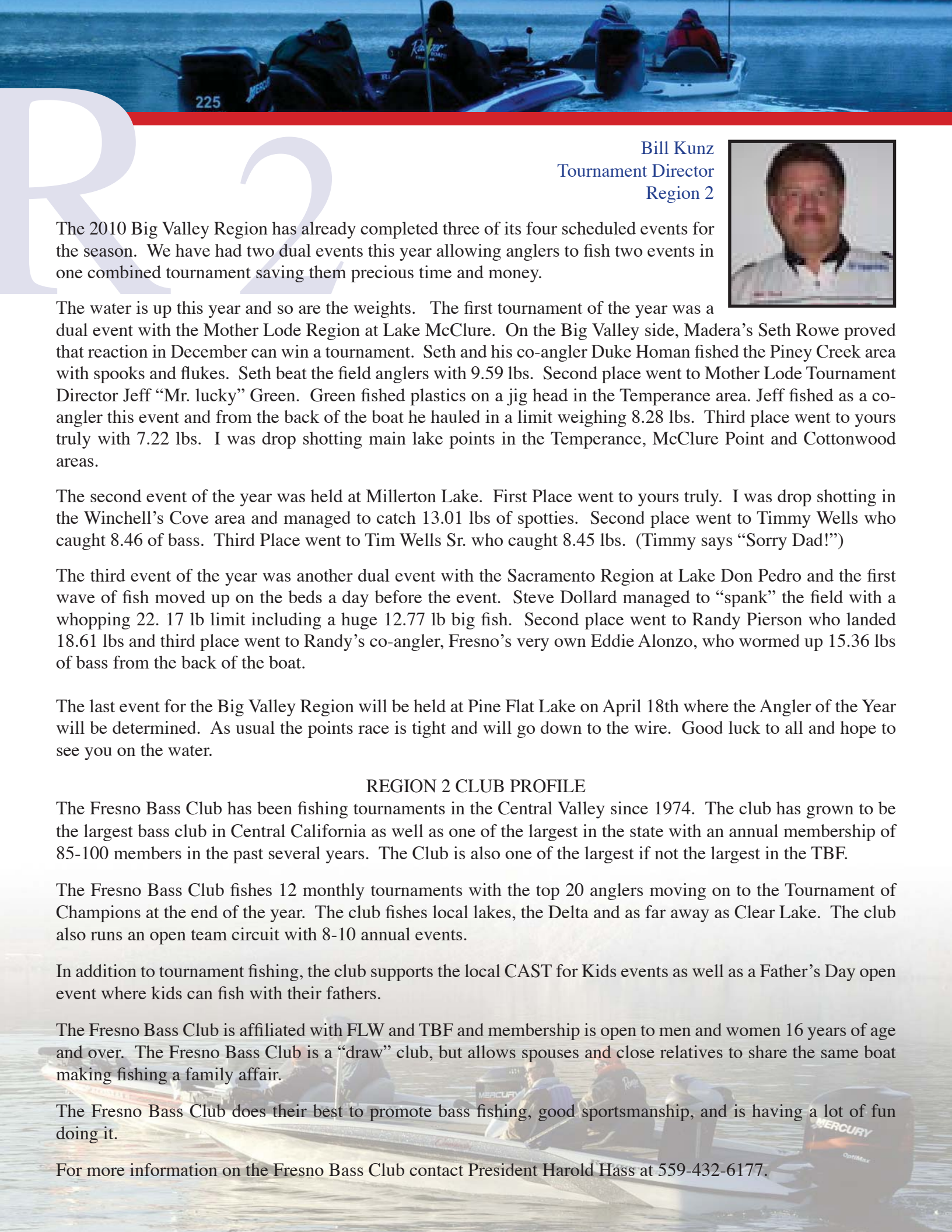
Tom fishes on average, once a week while working full time as a Foreman Electrician. He has been an Electrician for 7 years. He is a devoted Father of two, Sam (2) and Devon (9 months). Tom has been married for 4 years to Kelly, who supports Tom's passion for fishing.

Tom has been fishing the Federation tournaments for 3 years now, and he states that, "The Federation has a great group of guys and Ben Willis does an excellent job of running the tournaments." He plans to fish the Federation Western Regional Championship tournament on the Delta in May, as he has qualified for the 2009 California Federation State Team. Tom also mentioned that he has had many opportunities to fish with other members of the Federation and has made many new friends that share the same passion for fishing. Tom would like to thank Dobyns Rods for their support.

Good Luck at the Western Divisional Federation Tournament Tom!

By Brian Carpenter





R2

Bill Kunz  
Tournament Director  
Region 2



The 2010 Big Valley Region has already completed three of its four scheduled events for the season. We have had two dual events this year allowing anglers to fish two events in one combined tournament saving them precious time and money.

The water is up this year and so are the weights. The first tournament of the year was a dual event with the Mother Lode Region at Lake McClure. On the Big Valley side, Madera's Seth Rowe proved that reaction in December can win a tournament. Seth and his co-angler Duke Homan fished the Piney Creek area with spooks and flukes. Seth beat the field anglers with 9.59 lbs. Second place went to Mother Lode Tournament Director Jeff "Mr. lucky" Green. Green fished plastics on a jig head in the Temperance area. Jeff fished as a co-angler this event and from the back of the boat he hauled in a limit weighing 8.28 lbs. Third place went to yours truly with 7.22 lbs. I was drop shotting main lake points in the Temperance, McClure Point and Cottonwood areas.

The second event of the year was held at Millerton Lake. First Place went to yours truly. I was drop shotting in the Winchell's Cove area and managed to catch 13.01 lbs of spotties. Second place went to Timmy Wells who caught 8.46 of bass. Third Place went to Tim Wells Sr. who caught 8.45 lbs. (Timmy says "Sorry Dad!")

The third event of the year was another dual event with the Sacramento Region at Lake Don Pedro and the first wave of fish moved up on the beds a day before the event. Steve Dollard managed to "spank" the field with a whopping 22.17 lb limit including a huge 12.77 lb big fish. Second place went to Randy Pierson who landed 18.61 lbs and third place went to Randy's co-angler, Fresno's very own Eddie Alonzo, who wormed up 15.36 lbs of bass from the back of the boat.

The last event for the Big Valley Region will be held at Pine Flat Lake on April 18th where the Angler of the Year will be determined. As usual the points race is tight and will go down to the wire. Good luck to all and hope to see you on the water.

### REGION 2 CLUB PROFILE

The Fresno Bass Club has been fishing tournaments in the Central Valley since 1974. The club has grown to be the largest bass club in Central California as well as one of the largest in the state with an annual membership of 85-100 members in the past several years. The Club is also one of the largest if not the largest in the TBF.

The Fresno Bass Club fishes 12 monthly tournaments with the top 20 anglers moving on to the Tournament of Champions at the end of the year. The club fishes local lakes, the Delta and as far away as Clear Lake. The club also runs an open team circuit with 8-10 annual events.

In addition to tournament fishing, the club supports the local CAST for Kids events as well as a Father's Day open event where kids can fish with their fathers.

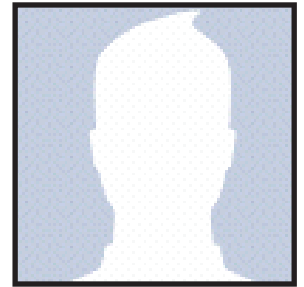
The Fresno Bass Club is affiliated with FLW and TBF and membership is open to men and women 16 years of age and over. The Fresno Bass Club is a "draw" club, but allows spouses and close relatives to share the same boat making fishing a family affair.

The Fresno Bass Club does their best to promote bass fishing, good sportsmanship, and is having a lot of fun doing it.

For more information on the Fresno Bass Club contact President Harold Hass at 559-432-6177.

# R3

John Lake  
Tournament Director  
Region 3



Region 3 kicked off its 2010 year at the beautiful Lake Don Pedro on March 21st. This was a dual event with Region 2. We were greeted with a warmer than average week bringing the fish alive and into the shallows. In the end it was Steve Dollard with a 22.17lb bag anchored by a giant 12.77lb largemouth he saw roaming the spawning areas. 2nd Place went to Randy Pierson with 18.61lbs rounding out the top 5 were Ryan Voorhees, Bill Kunz and 2009 R3 Angler of the Year Rick Kendrick.

With the other NorCal regions coming to an end. Region 3 is the perfect opportunity for anglers to gain more travel points or qualify for the State Championship through Region 3.

The next stop for Region 3 will take us back to Lake Berryessa on April 25th. All 3 species of bass should be in full swing. Expect a lot of limits with a handful of big largemouth to show up come weigh in time. The last 2 events will be at Oroville on June 6th and Clear Lake on July 18th.

-John Lake





Jeff Green  
Tournament Director  
Region 4



Welcome back anglers to the 2010-fishing season. I look forward to seeing and fishing with you all again. This year should be a great year for us all. In the off season we did some recruiting of the college guys that fished out here in the delta event so you will be seeing some new faces this year in my region as well as the Delta region, so guys lets introduce ourselves to these new comers to the Federation!

The 2010 season for the Mother Lode region is up and going strong. We have a great schedule this year. We started with a dual with the Big Valley region at McClure. The bite was good but the size was small. The top 5 spots went to 1st Jeff Green 8.28 lbs with big fish of 2.45 lbs. 2nd Bill Kunz 7.22 lbs, 3rd Ron Red Sr. 7.20 lbs, 4th Ryan Vilmur 7.08 lbs, 5th Jim Elsea 6.74 lbs. All in all a good bite with worms and jigs being the bait of choice.

Then we moved on to New Melones in February and it was another good bite. Got to love those spotted bass! We had rain most of the day but that seemed to turn on the bite. Top 5 spots went to 1st Jeff Green 11.60 lbs, 2nd Deacon Fernandes 11.57, 3rd Bryan Strombom 10.23 lbs, 4th Ryan Voorhees 9.98 lb with big fish 4.33, 5th Steve Marino 9.36.

April 18th will be our next event at Camanche and it should be another good bite again. I hope to see all you anglers at Camanche. In closing I would just like to remind everybody that we all must be in an affiliated club and a member of FLW. If you need help joining one, or have any questions, please feel free to call me anytime.

-Jeff Green





# R

# 4

# Angler Spotlight

Randy Pierson 38 of Oakdale, California is a great competitor when it comes to fishing. Not only is he a fisherman he also is a great father and husband. When he isn't fishing he is a coach for competitive soccer and baseball. Randy has been married for 14 years to his wife Jan and has two children Jacob 11 and Megann 9.

Randy runs a 520 Ranger VX with a 225 Mercury Optimax motor, with Lowrance electronics HDS 5, and his trolling motor is a Minnkota Fortrex. His sponsors are St. Croix Rods and (G.A.S.) Gun Accessories and Supplies.

He has two favorite techniques, Jigs and Dropshot. The question was asked, "Why are these your favorite techniques"? Randy replies " I have confidence day or night and I always catch fish no matter what lake I am fishing".

Randy's biggest fish he has caught was a 13.23lb Largemouth at Lake Tullock on a watermelon candy big brushhog in Black Creek. His heaviest one day weight was in 2008 at Lake Don Pedro with a total of 30.41lbs using Swimbaits and Jigs at a team tournament with his father Glenn.

Randy's most memorable moment was winning the Western Classic in 2002 at Clearlake. He won a 520 Ranger on that tournament using a LV 500. His total weight for the two days was 45.26 lbs. He is now on his way to the 2010 TBF Divisional Championship in May on the California Delta. We wish you luck.



*Randy Pierson won the SW Division on the Co-Angler side and fished the final day where he finished 3rd place overall! Winning his division also landed him a spot in the BFL All-American May 27-29, 2010 in Hot Springs, AR.*

-Shelly Gentry  
Mother Lode Regional Director





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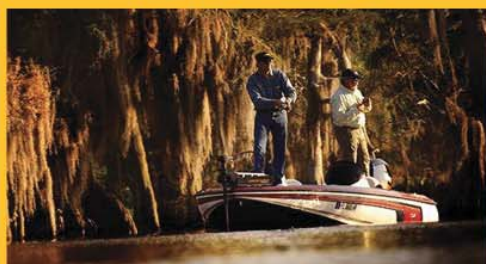
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Joe Kopp  
Tournament Director  
Region 5



The Shasta region season is 1/2 way over with 2 early events on Lake Shasta completed. This year's participation has been less than expected, and is a disappointment for all of us. We tried to limit the travel and expenses by holding 3 tournneys on Lake Shasta this year, but it has not had a positive effect on turnout. There are many veteran fisherman of the Bass Federation that are missing this year. The current state of the economy explains some, but not all of the missing participants. We are continuing to introduce new fisherman to the Bass Federation, but we are losing many others. We hope to expand our lake selections for next year in hopes to increase our draw and participation. Clear Lake will be a prime target again for 2011.

This year's race for AOY is bunched up at top with non-boater Gunnar Hobbs leading all contestants; showing that he is consistent from the back of the boat. Gunnar is followed closely by a strong field of veterans (Gordon Gienapp, Phil Garcia, and Tony Thomasy) and some relative new comers to the Bass Federation (Aaron Agner and Sean Kimble). With just 2 events left, every point is really important; so good luck to everyone.

Our 3rd tournament of the year will take place in March, again on Lake Shasta, but contestants will be faced with a new challenge this time – water. Yes, there is water everywhere at Lake Shasta. The lake has filled up to within 30ft of full and there is more water in the lake than most contestants have ever seen. When asked, local resident and longtime Federation fisherman Tony Thomasy said “The lake is fishing big. There is so much more bank to fish now; guys are not going to recognize the lake or their favorite fishing spots. I haven't fished the lake at this level in over 5 years. It's going to be a challenge.” Good luck to all those fishing the event; it should be a great bite.

Our 4th and last event of the season is going to be a really exciting tournament. We will be on Trinity Lake on June 13th. This is going to be a slug-fest with quality smallmouth being caught and large black bass for kickers. Region 5 seasoned veterans are already planning and expecting to go fish all week, just for the expected fun of it. We typically all camp out with RVs and cabin rentals; having a fishing experience unlike most other tournaments. 5lb smallmouth are common here and 7lb largemouth kickers are routine, if you know how to target them. Winning weights are expected to exceed 25lbs. The excitement for this tourney comes from the fact that this is the only weekend of the year (except the winter months) that you can fish Trinity for 5 fish and fish all day in a tournament event. Trinity is a lake with a 2 fish limit thru most of the spawn, and once the limit is over, the state regulations kick in for summer events, this is the only weekend that straddles these two restrictions and allows R5 to fish a full event. If you have never fished Trinity and want to experience a great fishery with arm-jerking bites from smallmouth, come fish with us. You won't be disappointed. Good Luck to everyone in the remaining 2010 season.

**Cottonwood Bass Team** is a north state club that has been alive for more than two decades. This is a club rich in tradition. Over the years they have worked with various organizations enhancing habitat, hosting benefit tournaments, “ take a kid fishing”, supporting the handicap. Most of the club members have been around Bass fishing for a long time, some even mentioned the old WestCoastBass days. Most of these gentleman are Grandparents or Great Grandparents. Many of their current and past members have or still do fish Federation tournaments. I have visited with this club a hand full of times over the years in a futile attempt to get them involved with the Bass Federation. Recently there was a restructuring of the club officers and the club disbanded. The senior members wanted to restart the club which allowed me another opportunity to pitch the benefits of the Bass Federation. We now have another club to add to our family.

# R 6



Larry Wilson  
Tournament Director  
Region 6



I want to thank our armed forces personnel for their dedication, hard work and sacrifice so that we all may have our freedoms that some take for granted. I also want to thank FLW Outdoors and The Bass Federation and all our sponsors that allows us to maintain our state and local affiliations.

We just completed our first tournament of the year. It was held at El Capitan. We had 23 anglers competing for points, trophies and monies. We had fifteen boaters and eight non-boaters competing. The top six receiving points, trophies and monies was Cameron Smith, Dan Conner, Andy Morita, Larry Wilson, “Chip” Gilbert and Mark Smith. Our second tournament is at Lower Otay on March 21, 2010. The third and fourth tournaments are at Hodges(April 18, 2010) and Lower Otay(June 20, 2010) respectively. As you can see there is usually a shortage of people willing to fish as a non-boater. Anyone who would like to fish please call (858-748-9459) or email (LarryWLcck@aol.com) for additional information.

The San Vicente dam raise is mostly on schedule. Due to the quagga mussel infestation make sure you inspect for vegetation, clean and dry all areas of your boat before leaving the lake. One of our anglers found a small piece of grass on his trailer that had two small mussels attached to it, one about the size of a flea and the other slightly larger. It pays to do a quick walk around checking the trailer and boat surfaces.

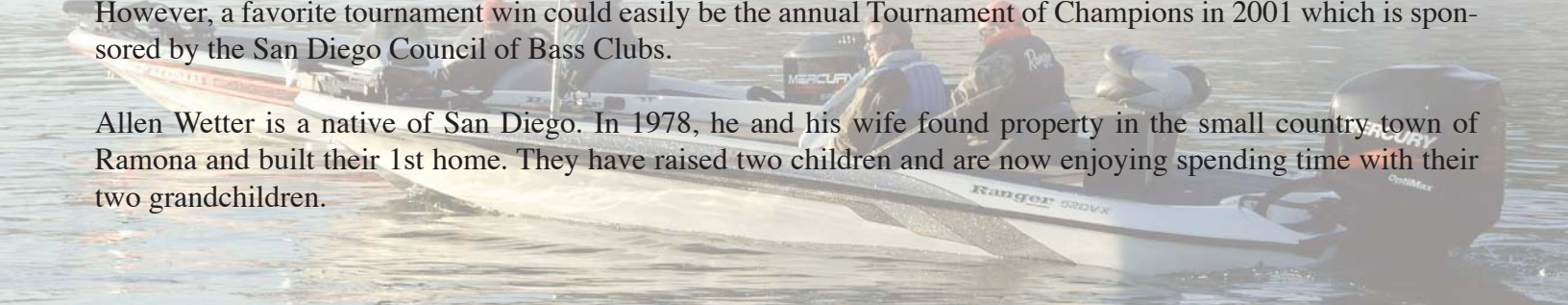
Thanks,  
Larry Wilson



Allen Wetter  
Regional Director  
Region 6

Allen Wetter has served as the regional director for the Bass Federation’s region #6 in Southern California for the last 5 years. In addition to his duties with the Federation, he is also the Vice President of his local bass club, the Ramona Bass Anglers, and is the club’s representative to the San Diego Council of Bass Clubs. He joined his bass club in 1998 and began fishing local tournaments. He participates in the Federation tournaments and has qualified to compete in the State Classic on several occasions. However, a favorite tournament win could easily be the annual Tournament of Champions in 2001 which is sponsored by the San Diego Council of Bass Clubs.

Allen Wetter is a native of San Diego. In 1978, he and his wife found property in the small country town of Ramona and built their 1st home. They have raised two children and are now enjoying spending time with their two grandchildren.





# R7

Ray Leyerly  
Tournament Director  
Region 7



Rain was in the forecast for the March 6th. Tournament, at Lake Piru. The forecast was correct for a change and some anglers were able to take advantage of this and catch the bigger pre spawn fish that all the anglers were after, at this the second event of the 2009/2010 season for region 7 of the California Bass Federation.

As weigh in time approached rumor was going around on the water that many anglers had at least 1 fish over 5 pounds to go with a limit in the livewell. As usual the scales would tell the truth and a winner would be decided after the scales were closed. One of the first anglers to weigh in set the mark high for big fish as well as overall weight for the day. Walter Kondrecki set the scales on fire with a 5 fish limit total weight of 12.81 pounds good enough for 4th place after all was finished. Included in his limit was a nice pre spawn 6 pound even bass. Many other anglers tried but could not bump him from the top spot until Lance Karafelas came up to the scale with a 5 fish limit weighing 15.61 pounds.



Lance had all nice 3 pound fish in his limit but just no big fish to carry him to the top spot for the day, Lance ended the day in third place. Not long after Lance weighed in, Tony Capparelli came to the scales with 3 bags in tow. This brought the crowd alive and interest perked up. Tony ended the day with a total weight of 16.86 pounds and a big fish of 4.72 pounds. That put him in first for the moment with 1 more angler to weigh in. That Angler was Jerry Ballesteros. Jerry was bringing 4 bags to the scales and 3 of those bags had 1 fish each in them. The crowd massed around the tub and scale to get a peek at what was going to be weighed in. Jerry picked out his big fish and once it was put on the scale the crowd congratulated Jerry for catching a 10.10 pound fish.

That is the first fish over 10 pounds to be weighed in during a region 7 tournament in over 3 years. Jerry's other 4 fish were added into the bag and his total weight was an astounding 27.57 pounds. That total weight was good enough for first place and Big Fish of the tournament.

The award ceremony followed not too long after weigh in and thanks to 2 of our Anglers, Whitney Uyeda maker of Rock Hopper Buzzbaits and spinnerbaits, and Troy Lindner donating Rapala and suffix product, First and Second out of the money were able to get some great goodies for there time on the water.

Ray Leyerly



# *On the water with Region 7 angler*

## *“One punch Proctor”*



At an early age Dan Proctor knew that bass fishing was going to be one of his life long passions. He reflectively mentioned to me one day that “I remember getting up real early to watch Bassmasters on TV, but I never thought that bass fishing could teach so many lessons about life.

Dan started fishing as soon as he could hold a rod. Spending time with his father and brother on the water are amongst some of his fondest childhood memories. In the early 90’s, Dan and his brother started renting aluminum boats, going to various lakes and mimicking techniques that he saw guys in bass boats do including standing up on the seat and shaking a worm. “I remember standing and loosing my balance a lot, but I knew someday, somehow, I was going to get a real boat.”

1997 was a monumental year for Dan. He and his brother managed to save enough money to purchase a Bass Cat Pantera 2. In the same year Dan met Brian Bailey. Together they pushed each other in friendly battles on the water, and as a result the competitive nature in Dan and Brian blossomed. This bond and mutual respect would continue for many years to come.

The year 2000 was a pivotal time for Dan both good and bad. The good was that he married Charise, his sweetheart of 7 years which many considered to be his “rock”. The bad was the realization of what he had yet to face, it wasn’t about worm colors or water temps, but his health. At the age of 25, standing only 5’6” Dan weighed in at a staggering 375 pounds. With the prospect of heart attacks, diabetes and high blood pressure in the near future, Dan decided to seek help. Thanks to the encouragement from his wife, friends and family, Dan joined a weight loss program and over the next 2 years he lost 210 pounds. His example has led many anglers in Region 7 to take an active roll in their personal well being by enacting change for the better.



As the weight went down his confidence went up as an angler. He started fishing the TBF as a co-angler in 2007 only breaking into the top 10 once, but with his new found confidence he became a boater in 2010. With multiple top ten finishes this year alone, he’s secured a position at the State Championship at Lake Havasu. Dan is looking forward to having a chance at qualifying to represent California at the Western Regionals in 2011

One of the most memorable experiences for Dan would have to be the Top Stick and Top Stick Joe’s Pro Am’s this past September. He fished as a non-boater in Top Stick and took 3rd, a few weeks later he and partner fished the Top Stick Joe’s as a team and won the 2 day event. “I learned so much during those two tournaments because of two great mentors, Region 7 tournament director Ray Leyerly, and professional fisherman John Barron, both teaching me valuable lessons about fishing and the importance in believing in yourself. “I’m very lucky to have them as friends,” Dan commented.

I’ve known Dan since 2005 and when asked to describe him as a person many words come to mind. Driven, dedicated, humble, funny, inspirational, a great competitor and fishing partner. He’s a great father, husband and friend as many will attest to this. Few have the courage to take the road less traveled, with insurmountable odds-who could blame them? However, Dan will agree, that dreams are but mere illusions if you don’t act upon them. Good luck at Havasu Dan

By L. Karafelas / J. Fike




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