



To Book a trip call 270-703-6133 or visit our website www.kicknbass.net

October 13th, 2011

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are approximately 3.5 feet below summer pool, give or take a few inches and in the midst of a steady drawdown to winter pool levels.

Water Conditions ... The water on both Lakes is in great shape for fishing.

Water Temps ... Surface temps on both lakes are in the low 70's.'

Open Dates ... I have just a few open dates left in November. So if you want to fish send me an email and let me know when you want to go and we'll look at when we can put together a trip. **Night Fishing ...** I'll be fishing at night during the full moon on the 8th, 9th & 10th so if you want to get in on some night action let me know.

Try a Double Streak(Z) Rig for Shallow Water Bass!



In the fall, here on Kentucky & Barkley Lakes, there are scores of bass in the back of bays feasting on shad and at times they can be difficult to catch. Like everyone else during the fall transition, my clients and I have experienced some challenges competing with Mother Nature and consistently catching fish. Nothing's more aggravating than watching a nice bass bust a shad on top and have him ignore your artificial offering. A Double Streak Rig can up the odds in your favor and be just what the doctor ordered ... with emphasis on the "Z"!

What is a StreakZ? The StreakZ is a minnow imitating soft jerkbait made by **Zman** that will draw strikes when other baits fail. **Why choose the StreakZ?** The ElaZtech material in the StreakZ won't tear like ordinary soft plastics and the buoyancy of the material gives the bait a built in natural action that entices a strike even from a stubborn bass. Think of it this way ... added action and more fish caught on the same bait = a WIN WIN for the angler.

What is a Double StreakZ rig? The rig consists of two soft jerkbaits that work in harmony to imitate baitfish under duress. The idea is to create the illusion of a school of baitfish trying to escape a predator or one shad chasing another. To make this rig work you will need one barrel swivel and two 4/0 EWG offset hooks and two SteakZ soft jerkbaits.

How do I assemble the rig? Start by threading the main line from your pole through the top eye of the swivel barrel and tie a hook on the end of the line. Tie an 18-inch leader to the bottom eye of the swivel and then add a hook to the end of that line.

Attach the weightless soft jerkbaits on each hook weedless style by pushing the hook thru the fold in the bottom and thru the back of the bait so the hook lays flat in the slit on the top of the bait. Now you have a set up where one StreakZ is about 18 inches ahead of a

second one. For those of you that are thinking about a longer leader, just remember, the longer the leader is the more erratic behavior the bait will have however it can be very difficult to cast and land a fish on.

Line choice is an important factor! This set-up calls for a braided main line for a couple of reasons; the braid casts a long way and it sinks along with the leader which is 100% fluorocarbon. Also the swivel slides up and down the line and braid resists abrasion better than other lines. I also choose this line set up because of its versatility. If a subsurface presentation is required, when the baits are jerked there's little or no line stretch and the baits will dive more naturally. If you use mono or fluorocarbon, the main line floats a little too much and the mono has too much stretch which will result in missed strikes. A good choice for the main line is Green 15lb Power Pro and a 10 lb P-Line 100% fluorocarbon for the leader.



Working the bait ... The rig casts extremely well and, when rigged properly it won't tangle or twist. Also you can make long casts and cover a lot of water with this set up. Some things to consider when working the bait; keep your rod tip on the surface or slightly below, this will pull the baits under and allow the StreakZ to slowly return to the surface. This is especially effective when the water is slick and the fish are skittish. The buoyancy of the ElaZtech material allows the StreakZ to slowly return to the surface rather than lie motionless or slowly sink. This built-in action provokes many strikes and herein lies the beauty of this rig. It's the natural action of the StreakZ as it floats to the surface that the bass seem to like. Generally speaking I employ a jerk, jerk then pause retrieve if it's a slow

bite. It's the quick jerks and the subsequent float to the surface make the baits appear as injured shad. If the fish are super aggressive and chasing bait big time, raise your rod tip and work the rig as fast as you dare but keep it on top. It's important to match the action to the mood of the fish. It's a good idea to wait until you feel the fish before you set the hook. If not you'll most likely be singing the blues about the one that got away. On occasion we have caught two at a time and some big ones too! *(Photo- Kick'n Bass with a good one caught on the StreakZ Rig).*

With all the new baits, presentations and techniques being developed and thrown at us on a daily basis, sometimes it's hard to pick one out that you can be effective with. The Double Streak rig has saved my rump on several guide trips this fall and is fast becoming one of the go to baits for Kick'n Bass clients when fishing the back of bays or skinny water for bass. There's going to be a lot of great fall action before the winter sets in and ample time for you to try out the Streak Rig. So, give it a try!

Fishing Report

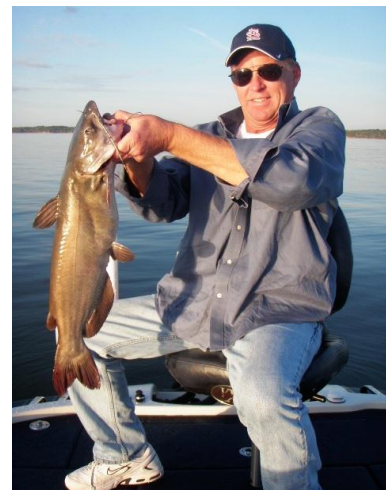
Talk about being at the right place at the right time ... Earlier in the week a couple of clients and I were running south and saw a school of bass busting shad on top. We pulled up and caught a fair number of fish on the Double Streak Rig, including a couple of pretty good ones. When the surface action subsided we went to a Steel Shad blade bait and a

Shakey Head to extend the bite on fish that were suspended. Upon further investigation we found that the bass were relating to an underwater bar that extended pretty far out into the main lake. The bar extended out some 300 yards shore. Checking the electronic topo map for areas of the lake that were similar, we found several others and found them holding bass also. Finding the longest underwater bars that were attached to the shoreline was the key. The fish weren't relating to the ledge or drop off; instead they were working the schools of baitfish that were roaming along the bar. Areas like this are not the ones that I had been keying on the last few weeks to catch fish. Either this is as far as they needed to go or the bass were using this as a transition route. Time will only tell if this pattern will hold up. **Ledge Fishing** ... If you find a ledge with some fish on it they are pretty cooperative. It could be with most anglers fishing shallow, these fish are probably the least pressured and most willing to bite. Generally speaking, these fish do not show signs of being caught like fish taken in other areas of the lake. Best areas seem to be 8-12 feet deep where the ledge transitioned into deeper water. Most productive baits were a mixture of a Steel Shad blade bait, a Shakey Head and a Rapala DT 10. **Mid Bay Action** ... Bass are following schools of baitfish and are being caught along chunk rock banks, next to deep water, secondary points (6-10 feet deep) and on mid-bay shell beds 10 to 13 feet deep. A Rapala DT 10 and a Steel Shad blade bait produced a few good fish. We're finding this pattern to be waning considerably. I suspect fishing pressure and the full moon phase to be a factor in the slow fishing in these areas. **Top Water** ...the Best action is occurring in the very early morning or late evening hours along chunk rock banks and in the very back of the bays. The most productive baits have been the Double Streak Rig, Gunfish and a Rapala Skitter Prop. There are a lot of anglers churning up the water and I'm sure someone somewhere is catching a good fish or two on top but our experience has been mostly short fish.

To sum it up, bass fishing is a typical for this time of year; schools of baitfish are roaming and the bass are in hot pursuit. With the bass being spread out a lot of different patterns are working and the constant movement makes bass to hard to pattern day after day. Remember to keep your options open and be flexible. If you hit it right you can turn a slow day into a respectable one.

White and Yellow Bass (Stripes)

Both species are in the bays, on main lake flats and secondary channel points chasing baitfish and we caught some really nice fish this week and plenty of them. Now is the perfect time to be after these fighters. If you're throwing a **Steel Shad** or a **Ken's Hybrid Spinner** you can't help but catch some Whites & Yellows.



Jake Richards from TN

Kaki Beasley from Missouri

Steve Vogt from Illinois

Catfish ... I think the pictures speak for themselves. Catfishing is HOT! Now's the time to catch some really good ones on live shad or shiners fished on the bottom in 10-15 feet deep. Best locations are flats or ledges at the mouth of the bays. The big cats in the photos above were caught on a Steel Shad blade bait no less! These Big Cats put up a heck of a fight too! *Who said Girls can't fish!* Congratulations to Kaki Beasley for wrestling her two big cats.

Crappie, Bluegill & Redear ... We didn't fish for these species this week therefore there is no report.

Sonar Tip of the Week



Finding the remains of a submerged bridge ... We had a general idea of where the bridge remains were but in down-scan mode we just couldn't pinpoint them. Having the ability to side-scan got the job done. Using the HDS in the right view mode provided us the proper angle to pick up on the shadows from the pilings. We zoomed in on the shadows and as a result we were able to identify the location of the bridge. Looking from left to right you'll see rubble on the bottom as well as the old bridge pilings. On the far left you'll notice game fish surrounding the pilings and a school of baitfish between the pilings and the surface. Without the side-scan ability locating this structure would not have been possible. We spent a lot of time looking for this spot and decided to assign a waypoint to the bridge remains and fish it at a later date.

Kick'n Bass can help you get more out of your electronics and become a better fisherman. Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do to make your units more user friendly and in turn help you become a more productive angler ...

"Here's How On the Water" Training Benefits YOU!

- **Make sure your HDS unit(s) has the correct settings for the type of fishing you do. In a lot of cases the units are set for "general use" not specific.**
- **Install the overlay data on the screen that you want. Example: Depth, Water Temp, Time, etc.**
- **Arrange the screens so they display what you want them to show and make going from page to page orderly and non-confusing.**
- **Eliminate unwanted, non-practical on screen data that clutters your screen and gets in the way of using your unit to its maximum potential.**
- **Demo the unit for you to help you be familiar with the screens and commands, so you'll have a good understanding of how to use the unit and take advantage of its fish finding capabilities.**
- **If needed, install the most recent updates.**

As a bonus Kick'n Bass will help you learn to read an electronic topo map and find "places of interest" that could be potential fishing hot spots.

Kentucky Lake Pontoon Tour



A Pontoon Tour is a great way to enjoy Kentucky Lake! Leave the boat driving to us and sit back, relax and enjoy the beauty of Kentucky Lake. Our tours offer local knowledge, interesting tidbits and history about Kentucky Lake and the surrounding area. Sit back and enjoy the large, comfortable pontoon boat with adequate shade while your tour guide

navigates the waters! Bald eagles, great blue heron and other wildlife abound. Don't forget your camera!

- Family Fun Outings
- Fall Color trips
- Girls or Guys day out
- A great way to relax and enjoy Indian Summer

We can customize our tour if you have something special in mind, just be sure to contact us well in advance for your reservations. For more information call (270)703-6133 or email rk@kicknbass.net

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens

