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**Feb. 9, 2012**

## Lake Conditions

**Lake Levels ...** As of this morning both lakes are approximately 1/2 foot above winter pool. Below is up to date and projected lake level forecast. For additional info on Kentucky Lake visit the TVA website: [http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh\\_r.htm](http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh_r.htm)

### Predicted Data

Day	Average Inflow	Midnight Elevation	Average Outflow
2/09/2012	84,965	355.11	103,650
2/10/2012	79,555	355.17	81,350
2/11/2012	59,020	355.26	60,000

### Water Conditions ...

**Barkley** - main lake is lightly stained with the clearer water on the LBL side. Water is very fishable

**Kentucky** - Water is very fishable and in real good shape

### Water Temps ...

Surface temps on both lakes are in the low 40's warming to the mid 40's on sunny afternoons.

### Weather Outlook

**Today...**Cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds 5 mph in the morning shifting to the west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Tonight...**Mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. West winds 5 mph in the evening shifting to the south after midnight.

**Friday...**Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday Night...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the evening. Lows in the mid 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday...**Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday Night...**Mostly clear. Lows around 19.

**Sunday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 30s.

**Sunday Night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s.

**Monday**...Partly sunny. A chance of snow in the morning...Then a chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 40s. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

**Monday Night**...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain and snow. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Tuesday**...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s.

**Tuesday Night**...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

**Wednesday**...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s.

## Fishing Report ...

Sorry there will be no Kentucky Lake fishing report this week. As you know I only report what happens in my boat, so since I'm not on the lake I'm gonna let you know what I've been up to this week. My good friend Bill Hurle and I have been on the road this week in Sunny Florida. No, this is not a vacation but an educational trip for me. Specifically I'm fishing with several of my good friends that are top notch guides that specialize in advanced crappie techniques. Below is an article I just finished this morning that will appear on crappie.com detailing the last two days fishing with Jared Leverette at Lake Talquin. I think you'll find it pretty interesting and informative. I'll be on Kentucky Lake early next week and I'll give you a report then.

## "Long Line Trolling Nets More Crappie"

By Kentucky Lake Fishing Guide  
Randy Kuhens



Like his father Rusty before him, Jared Leverette wears many hats at their family owned fish camp located on Lake Talquin, a super crappie fishery in Northern Florida near Tallahassee. Make no mistake about it, at Leverette's Lake Talquin Lodge fishing is a serious business. Here at this fisherman friendly camp the emphasis is on crappie fishing and southern hospitality. When he's not guiding for crappie you'll find Jared overseeing the family's other business, Troll Maxx Rod Holders (*Formerly River Road Rod Holders*) which makes in my opinion, the best rod holders on the planet but more

about them later. Jared's specialty is teaching anglers the fine art of *Long Line Trolling*. Since I do a fair amount of trolling for crappie in my guiding business on Kentucky Lake, I wanted to see firsthand how another guide approaches this technique, so I jumped at the chance when I was invited by the Leverette's to spend a couple of days fishing on Talquin with Jared. *(Photo – Jared Leverette and my good friend Bill Hurlle from Louisville, Ky with Lake Talquin Slab crappie caught while Long Line Trolling)*

Long line trolling is becoming increasingly popular because it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to locate and catch crappie. You can catch several fish at once and have lots of fun in the process. In February on Lake Talquin and in March on my home water Kentucky Lake, crappie will start staging in the deepest areas they can find adjacent to spawning areas. If you're going to catch some good ones, February and March is the time you're going to do it. The big ones will be the first to arrive and will congregate in the deeper water. Long line trolling can be a very productive way to catch pre-spawn crappie.

**What is Long Line Trolling?** This method of fishing requires having a boat that is equipped with a trolling motor, fishing rods and holders. The trolling motor is particularly important because it will keep you moving at a consistent speed while trolling. You need



a motor that will move the boat slowly because the slower you move the better your fishing will be. *(Photo – Jared Leverette preparing the rods for our initial troll)*. Long line trolling uses multiple rod holders and a series of rods of various lengths to cover a wide area and depths. The rod holders in the front of the boat are positioned on both sides between the bow and console. Using multiple rod holders, a 16' rod is positioned to the outside, a 12' rod in the center and an 8' rod is placed closest to the boat. In the rear, rod holders are located port and starboard with 8' rods extending directly behind the boat. I grew quite fond of the rods we were using for this type of fishing. They were made by Ozark Rod

Co. ([www.ozarkrod.com](http://www.ozarkrod.com) or 573-378-2220) Not only did they telegraph the most sensitive bite, they handled several Lake Talquin brute crappie as well. A 1/16 oz curly tail jig is the lure of choice and in most cases your favorite color will work. However, don't hesitate to experiment with different combinations of colors and sizes until you find one that seems to be getting the results you are hoping for. Line sizes vary but 6 pound monofilament seems to be the overall best choice. If crappie are located in deeper water or you're fishing in windy conditions, you may want to consider using a #5 or #7 split shot between two 1/16 oz lures placed about two feet apart. This will help keep the lures in the strike zone.

### **Trolling Speed is more important than weight of the lure ...**

"When long line trolling, maintaining accurate and constant speeds is the key to constantly catching crappie," stressed Leverette. "My boat speed controls the depth of the lure, not the weight. Relying on GPS speed, Leverette trolls .8 to 1 mph using a Minn Kota Terrova Auto Pilot which allowed hands free operation and kept us at a good steady speed and course. When he makes a turn Leverette speeds up to keep the lures off the bottom. On a couple of occasions when we sped up we picked up a couple of fish on the inside rods. This can be significant since the inside lines tend to drop on the turn

and getting a hook up signals a slower troll speed or depth change might be required to increase the odds in your favor. However, if you pick up a fish on the outside lines when the turn is made, remember that those lines are rising on the turn and you may need to increase the troll speed or shorten up the lines in order to decrease your depth.

**Keeping the lure in the strike zone ...** (Photo – Bill Hurlle from Louisville, KY with a couple of pre-spawn crappie caught long lining out of the back of the boat) When long line trolling on Kentucky Lake I get asked quite often by my clients, when you do get a hook up how do you consistently return the lure back to the proper depth? One trick I



learned a few years back is, once you hook a fish and before you reel it in, wrap a thin rubber band around the spool of the spinning reel. Doing so will mark the length of line that was out when the fish hit. When the jig is cast back out, the rubber band will stop the line on the spool and the jig will be exactly the same distance behind the boat and ride at the same depth. Make sure to use a small thin rubber band so the line will flow off the spool smoothly and not hinder the drag. This trick will work equally well for those of you that like to "spider rig" too!

**Some Do's and Don'ts ...** *Don't* overextend yourself by trying to use too many rods all at once. If you're by yourself four is plenty at one time. If you have other fishermen with you to help out you can troll as many lines as it is practical. *Don't* stop trolling if you get hung up, if you do all the lines will get hung up. *Don't* stop when you catch a fish ... keep trolling. *Do* use a long handle dip net like the extendable *Cummings C-120 fish saver net* ([www.cummingsnets.com](http://www.cummingsnets.com)). This net is very lightweight, extends to about 10 feet and with the opening being about the size of a drywall bucket, it's perfect for reaching out and netting crappie before they're able to tangle the other lines. *Do* keep your rod tip up when playing a fish; this will keep the fish coming heads up and away from the other lines. *Do* use light wire hooks in shallow weedy, snag infested waters so if you hang up all that is needed is a steady gentle pull and the jig will come free. *Last of all but certainly not least, when sharing an area with a lot of boats be sure and work with others and DON'T CUT OTHERS OFF or obstruct their troll. Be courteous and most likely they'll reciprocate.*



**Quality Rod Holders are the single most important accessory in this type of fishing!** Since you will be using multiple rods and hopefully getting multiple hookups, I cannot over emphasize how important it is to use the best possible rod holders. The only rod holders I'll use are the ones made by Jared (Photo) and his family, Trollmaxx Rod Holders (formerly River Road Rod Holders 850-627-3822). These rod holders are hand-made the old fashioned way. The reel holders and T-Bar support post are all stainless steel. The welds are flawless and the collar swivel

attachments are allen-wrench adjustable so you can align the direction of the rods to

meet your needs and then lock them into place. The base plate is high quality aluminum and the rod holder itself locks into the base plate using a stainless steel bolt and lock washer. All said and done you've got one tough and smart system that can be used in a variety of conditions and applications. There's several sizes and styles to choose from and you can check these out online at [www.laketalquinlodge.com/gallery/tackleshop/](http://www.laketalquinlodge.com/gallery/tackleshop/) I've used these rod holders a LOT while guiding on Kentucky Lake and quite frankly I don't know how I'd ever do without them.

Long line trolling is becoming increasingly popular because it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to find and catch crappie. You can catch several fish at once and have lots of fun in the process. If you haven't tried Long Line Trolling you're missing a real opportunity to put fish in the boat. With a little seat time you'll soon be catching fish like a veteran.

## Sonar Tip of the Week



You just never know who you're going to run into. A Lowrance owner from Florida that had been following our **Sonar Tips of the Week** approached me and asked if I would fine tune his sonar. Once we updated and fine tuned his system we went scanning and look what we found ... a sunken sailboat downstream from the Astor drawbridge. Pretty cool Huh! If you want your High Definition System to perform like this contact [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)

## ***What is Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class"?***

**Kick'n Bass offers a one on one, hands on, in your boat using your electronics class that will take your understanding and know-how to another level!**

**IF YOU'RE CONFUSED, FRUSTRATED, AND NEED ANSWERS then Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class" is for YOU!**

Read the owner's manual or watched a DVD and still baffled? Let's clear up your Sonar confusion. Have your unit(s) programmed by someone who depends on the HDS technology daily. Together we can make your system more user friendly and help you become a better angler.

**Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do for YOU!**

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- Program the individual screens and 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.
- Learn how to assign a waypoint to a fishing hot spot and find it again.
- 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.

**You've Made a Significant Investment in Electronics. Learn to Use Them to Their Full Potential.**

**Don't Wait ... NOW is the time to get it done. Spend this winter using your system and be ready for Spring Fishing!**

**Call Now! (270)703-6133 or email [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)**



## New for 2012 ... Kick'n Bass Guide Service Offers Pontoon Trips for the Whole Family!

That's right, nobody gets left behind! Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa and the kids can go too! Catch fish from our newly acquired state of the art fishing machine and have fun doing it! Crappie, Bass, Bluegill, Redear, Stripes or Catfish ... the choice is yours. Don't want to fish, rather relax and chill out? No problem, we can customize your trip. If you have something special in mind just let us know. Contact us well in advance for reservations. email [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)

## Our June Canadian Fishing Adventure is **SOLD OUT!** Now taking reservations for our **July Trip**.



Come on and go with us ... you'll be glad you did! You don't have to have a partner, you might not know the person but by the time the trip is over you'll feel like old friends. Canoe Country has a way of doing that to you. We use our 30 years of experience in the Northwood's and wilderness skills to make your trip a memorable one. We do it all for you ... pre-planning, permits, transportation, gear, etc. Our clients young and old alike say it's a can't miss trip and "Cadillac Camping" in the heart of the Great Northwoods.

For more info call (270)703-6133 or email [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)

*(Photo) Kenny Dement from Missouri, with another big Canadian Smallmouth Bass.*

Don't take our word for it. Click on the link below to find out what our clients had to say about their once in a lifetime experience. [http://www.kicknbass.net/archives/canadian\\_trip\\_recap\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://www.kicknbass.net/archives/canadian_trip_recap_july_2011.htm)

The spring fishing season will be here before you know it and it promises to be the best ever. A lot of fishermen are making their plans ahead of time so consequently we guides are beginning to get booked. I still have several days available if you book now. Thanks to those folks from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Michigan that booked trips this week with Kick'n Bass. Don't forget ... book your Spring Fishing Trip **NOW** and get the dates you want!  
[rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

*Randy Kuhens*