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Friday October 11th, 2013

**Fall Crappie Fishing is HOT on the Kick'n Bass Pontoon.  
Book Your Trip NOW!**



*(Photo Left) The Bill Morgan Group from Louisville, KY, with some nice crappie caught from the Kick'n Bass Pontoon. (Right) Jimmie Greer & Ron Shebik caught some nice fall crappie trolling on the Pontoon.*

**If family fishing is your thing or just getting a group together to fellowship then the Kick'n Bass Pontoon is for you! Have a Kick'n Good Time and catch some fish. Pictures tell the story. Check out the smiling faces. These folks had a BLAST!**

***Get Your Family or Friends Together. Corporate or Company Trip Packages Available Too!  
Book Your Trip Now!***

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## New TV Show Featuring Kentucky Lake

### Feel-n-Reel TV



Feel-n-Reel is a new show dedicated to showcasing Kentucky Lake and all it has to offer.

Feel-n-Reel TV is fun to watch and offers something for everyone. If you're new to the game of fishing then this show will get you hooked. If you're an old hand it'll get your juices flowing. You'll even gain a little knowledge and become a better angler by checking out the Feel-n-Reel weekly Fishing Tips and Tech Tips on things like High Definition Electronics and Trolling Motor repairs. Feel-n-Reel TV keeps it real. The show is fun to watch, yet realistic. Experience firsthand what it is like to spend

a day on the water in search of those fishing hot spots. Feel-n-Reel is produced by Time Warner Sports and available on your local Time Warner affiliate so check your local guide for times and showings. Also if your local affiliate doesn't carry the show it is available weekly on Youtube TV.

Here's a link to our latest episode **Cranking for Crappie ...** <http://youtu.be/itdTVSgSnKk>

### Try Blade Baits for Fall Bass ...

This week I received a phone call to book a trip and during the conversation the subject of fishing Blade Baits for bass came up. My client explained to me how he had caught some really nice bass on Lake Erie using a blade bait and was excited about the prospects of using one when we fished together in a few weeks. He also wanted to know how I fished the lure and what rod & reel and line I used. I thought others would like to know that too so now would be a good time to share that information with you.

Blade baits come in many forms but a couple of the more productive ones are the Silver Buddy, Venoms Vibra Maxx and my personal favorite the Steel Shad (*right*). Choosing the right size lure and fishing equipment for this type of fishing is not too difficult. A 1/2 or 3/4 oz. size bait is your best bet as it most mimics the size of the baitfish this time of year. Either your favorite spinning combo or bait casting outfit will work; just remember that the rod needs to be about 7', can handle the weight of the lure and has an extra fast tip to get the distance on your cast. The line choice is much more important for a lot of reasons. Since you will be making extra long casts you'll want a line that will launch the bait a great distance and doesn't have any line stretch. A combination of a braided main line and a fluorocarbon leader is just what the doctor ordered. The braid and fluorocarbon leader allows one to feel the bait vibrating and, with no line stretch, the hook sets are true. This line set up has proven to be far superior to just mono or fluorocarbon. My personal choice is a 10 lb. Power Pro braid and a P-Line 100% Fluorocarbon 10 lb leader. The two lines are joined using a double uni-knot. Experience has shown that more fish will be hooked and landed on the braid combo than any other. Make sure you use a line ring on this type of lure. It not only enhances the action of the bait but it will keep the lure from fraying the leader line. A line ring is standard on the Steel Shad.



Bass, this time of year are notorious for roaming and following schools of baitfish. With baitfish moving into the bays, look for shell beds or deep water flats in the 10- 13 ft. range near a ledge.





This is a great place to start. I especially like these areas if they're located close to the mouths of main lake bays. Using your electronics or a good topo map to find these likely spots will offer you a better chance at finding bass this time of year. Also you can use these baits anywhere you'd use a Rat-L-Trap type bait; secondary points, shallow flats in the back of bays, etc.

*(Photo) Tim Fulton of Mayfield, KY with a pair of Kentucky Lake Bass caught on a Steel Shad blade bait.*

Catching fish on this bait is not as difficult as you might think. Actually working the lure is pretty simple. There are several ways to use this bait but it's most important that you match the retrieve to the mood of the fish. Two of the most effective methods are

either the yoyo retrieve, which works well on aggressive fish, or a slow steady retrieve for those fish that are not so aggressive. Cast the lure and let it fall to the bottom. You'll know it's on the bottom when you get some slack in your line. Using the yoyo retrieve you'll want to take up the slack and give your rod a little jerk to get the bait started. Pull the lure off the bottom but not too quickly and reel it about 5 cranks and then let it fall to the bottom. Drop your rod tip, take out the slack and repeat the process all the way back to the boat. A lot of the strikes will come as the bait is falling. The steady retrieve is just what it says it is. Make a long cast let the lure drop to the bottom. Then take up the slack and reel in at a slow pace, just enough to keep the bait off the bottom and vibrating. You'll know it when you get a fish on the braided line will transmit those strikes and you'll have a better than average chance at landing the fish

*(Photo) Robert Lowe of Murray, KY with two good ones caught at the same time on a Steel Shad.*



Blade Baits are fun, productive and easy to use. Don't be surprised when you catch a mixed bag either. Crappie and White bass love these baits too!

### **\*\*\* FISHING REPORT \*\*\***

## **Lake Conditions**

**Lake Levels ...** Both lakes are about 3.75 feet below summer pool and on a slow drawdown. For additional info, including generation schedule for Kentucky Lake, visit the TVA website: [http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh\\_r.htm](http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh_r.htm)

**Water Clarity and Temperature ...** The water clarity in both lakes is ideal for fishing. Some areas are clearer than others but overall water quality is looking real good. Surface water temps fluctuate during the day starting in the high 60's after a cool night and warming to the low 70's by the afternoon.

## **Weather Outlook**

**Friday...** Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday Night...** Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 5 mph.

**Saturday...** Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

**Saturday Night...** Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows around 60.

**Sunday...** Partly sunny with a slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

**Sunday Night...** Partly cloudy. Lows around 60.

**Monday...** Partly sunny. A chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 70s. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

**Monday Night...** Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows around 60. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

**Tuesday...** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 70s.

**Tuesday Night...** Partly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening...Then a slight chance of showers after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

**Wednesday...** Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

## Prime Feeding Times for Gilbertsville, KY

Date	Temps	Sun Data	Moon Data	Moon Phase	Major Times	Minor Times	Prediction
Friday 10/11/13	H: 78° L: 56°	Rise: 6:57 AM Set: 6:21 PM	Rise: 1:34 PM Set: --:-- Overhead: 6:51 PM Underfoot: 6:23 AM	50% First Quarter	6:23 AM - 8:23 AM 6:51 PM - 8:51 PM	--:-- - --:-- 1:34 PM - 2:34 PM	Average
Saturday 10/12/13	H: 79° L: 58°	Rise: 6:58 AM Set: 6:19 PM	Rise: 2:20 PM Set: 12:10 AM Overhead: 7:47 PM Underfoot: 7:19 AM	59% Waxing Gibbous	7:19 AM - 9:19 AM 7:47 PM - 9:47 PM	12:10 AM - 1:10 AM 2:20 PM - 3:20 PM	Average
Sunday 10/13/13	H: 77° L: 61°	Rise: 6:58 AM Set: 6:18 PM	Rise: 3:02 PM Set: 1:16 AM Overhead: 8:40 PM Underfoot: 8:13 AM	70% Waxing Gibbous	8:13 AM - 10:13 AM 8:40 PM - 10:40 PM	1:16 AM - 2:16 AM 3:02 PM - 4:02 PM	Average
Monday 10/14/13	H: 75° L: 61°	Rise: 6:59 AM Set: 6:17 PM	Rise: 3:41 PM Set: 2:22 AM Overhead: 9:32 PM Underfoot: 9:06 AM	79% Waxing Gibbous	9:06 AM - 11:06 AM 9:32 PM - 11:32 PM	2:22 AM - 3:22 AM 3:41 PM - 4:41 PM	Average
Tuesday 10/15/13	H: 71° L: 61°	Rise: 7:00 AM Set: 6:15 PM	Rise: 4:16 PM Set: 3:28 AM Overhead: 10:22 PM Underfoot: 9:57 AM	88% Waxing Gibbous	9:57 AM - 11:57 AM 10:22 PM - 12:22 AM	3:28 AM - 4:28 AM 4:16 PM - 5:16 PM	Average
Wednesday 10/16/13	H: 64° L: 56°	Rise: 7:01 AM Set: 6:14 PM	Rise: 4:51 PM Set: 4:32 AM Overhead: 11:10 PM Underfoot: 10:46 AM	94% Waxing Gibbous	10:46 AM - 12:46 PM 11:10 PM - 1:10 AM	4:32 AM - 5:32 AM 4:51 PM - 5:51 PM	Better

## \*\*\* Fishing Report \*\*\*

**Bass Fishing ...** I think my clients would agree with me when I say that bass fishing is only fair but steadily improving. We are catching fish but we're forced to try multiple techniques until we find something that works. Now is not the time to be hard headed or stuck in your old ways. Being flexible is what I suggest.

**Fish the Mini-Flats ...** A pattern that we stumbled on this week and seems to be pretty consistent is to fish mini-flats at the mouth of the bays with Shakey Heads and jigs. A **mini-flat** is an area where a creek channel swings back and forth from the bank forming an underwater flat. One spot in particular

we found on the north end held a nice school of bass in the 14-17 inch range and we caught a good mess. Shakey Heads with **Z-Man** finesse worms on a PJ's 3/16 oz. bass extractor jig head caught a fair share. A 5/16 oz PJ's jig tipped with a **Z-Man** TurboCrawZ was a pretty hot combo for a couple of my clients too.

**Shallow Water Pattern ...** Some of the best action has come from the back of the bays. Baitfish are roaming in huge schools and the bass aren't far behind. A Steel Shad or SPRO lipless crank bait is your best bet on locating schooling fish. Once the school gets wary or the bite wanes, try a weightless ZMan StreakZ which is a Fluke type bait but a lot more buoyant and durable. Twitching it twice and letting it sink resembles a dying shad and an easy meal. It's been a good choice especially when the fish are ultra-shallow. We've caught fish so shallow at times that the trolling motor is churning up mud. Shallow running crank baits and a moderate retrieve caught a few fish along gravel banks mid-way in the bays but was the least productive method this week.

**Boat Dock Pattern ...** skipping a weightless tube under the docks has produced some decent fish. Anything resembling a shad color is your best bet. We used spinning gear for this application and 6 lb. line. This made for easier casting and allowed the lure to fall naturally in the water. A twitch or two would usually entice a strike if bass were present. Best docks, hands down, are the ones with spud poles on the corners or have a boat lift which provides cover for baitfish and fry. A good back up plan is to cast 2" curly tails on a 1/16 or 3/32 oz. jig head and work them slowly. Ken's Blue Pearl is your best color for this application.

**Offshore Fishing ...** This pattern is feast or famine. We've caught some fish on the ledges on a Steel Shad blade bait, a Shakey Head and a Drop Shot. Best depth was 10-15 feet on the break. Something we tried again this week was to **Drop Shot** offshore humps in 18-25 feet using a double bait rig. By placing two plastic baits about 24" apart, with one about a foot off the bottom and the other about 3 feet off the bottom allowed us to keep the baits in the strike zone and catch a number of fish. Once we found the fish on our HDS System we hovered over them and kept the lures in their face. A lot of fish were caught suspended off the bottom about 3 feet deep.

**Stripe Bass Fishing ...** We've caught a fair amount of fish at the mouths of the creeks and bays and trolling on the main lake flats adjoining the Tennessee River Channel. A pretty good indication that fish are in the area is the presence of white gulls. These birds like to take advantage of feeding on wounded shad left behind by the schools of whites. A **Steel Shad blade bait or Ken's Hybrid Spinner** are the best lures for this type of fishing. Also stripes are schooling along main lake ledges. We used our Lowrance HDS System to find these schools and when we did we really caught them sweeping the lures sideways off the bottom.

**Catfish ...** We didn't fish specifically for cats this week but we did catch more than we should have. Every day we caught several on Steel Shad blade baits when we were fishing for bass. I can't imagine what it would be like if we concentrated our efforts on just cat fishing. Over the last two weeks at the cleaning stations, I've seen more folks cleaning catfish than any other species. We've caught them shallow fishing for bass, on crank baits trolling for crappie and when bass fishing the ledges. It must be a cat fish world right now. Kind of wished I had a few more folks that wanted to catfish.

**Crappie ...** fishing has been a real bright spot for us this week and each day we've managed to catch a nice mess of fish. Best method has been trolling crank baits from the *Kick'n Bass Pontoon*. One thing I will mention is that we've managed to catch a few Black Crappie shallow, 6 feet is a good number. These fish were caught primarily when we were bass fishing with small grubs. Maybe we should have crappie fished and hoped to catch a bass instead of the other way around !!!

***Kick'n Bass Sonar Tip of the Week ...***





## Kick'n Bass Guide Service Photo

### **Using Technology to Become a Better Fisherman!**

We had several productive Crappie trips this week and our High Definition Sonar System played a real important part in placing us in a position to be successful. The screen shows a secondary ledge and stump field holding crappie. We trolled the location multiple times and caught several fish. Without the use of our Lowrance HDS System, featuring an electronic topo map and structurescan, finding a high percentage location like this would not have been possible.

Participate in Kick'n Bass "On the Water" sonar class and you'll learn how to use modern technology to find fishing hotspots like this. Having your system professionally programmed by a member of Lowrance's Pro Staff assures you that it's done right the first time. For your "On the water Sonar Class" contact Lowrance Pro Staffer Randy Kuhens at [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net) you'll be glad you did!

### **Here's what some of our clients are saying about Kick'n Bass' "On the Water" Sonar Class ...**

Randy, I contacted you initially because I was having problems with my system. Your advertisement states that you do an inspection to see that the system is set up to factory specs. Unfortunately I didn't realize it at the time but after you looked the system over it became painfully obvious to me that most of my issues were self-inflicted since I was the one who installed it. I want to thank you for taking the time to diagnose my problems and see that they were corrected. To me the class was icing on the cake. I would highly recommend to others that if they're not familiar with installing these type of systems that they seek out professionals who are. The cost of the installation is minimal compared to the aggravation and skinned knuckles I wound up with. Thank you very much for turning a bad situation in to a positive experience for me.

Canaan Collins - Kirkwood, Mo.

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

**Remember ...** *The first step in our "On the Water Sonar Class" is to perform an inspection of your system to make sure the installation has been done to factory specs and all components are installed in the proper location. If adjustments are needed we can have them made prior to beginning your class. Doing so assures you that your system will perform at a high level and you'll get the most out of your time on the water.*

**The "On the Water Sonar Class" is a one on one, hands on, in your boat using your electronics instruction that will take your understanding and know-how to another level. We get it and you will too!**

## ***Kick'n Bass' 7 Essential Steps to Simplify Using Your HDS System.***

***Kick'n Bass will perform the following ...***

- 1. Complete a detailed inspection on your system to certify the installation has been done to factory specs. (If adjustments are required technicians are available to fine tune your system prior to beginning your class. Doing so assures you that your system will perform at an optimum level and you'll get the most out of your time on the water).***
- 2. Check all network settings for compatibility and make adjustments if needed.***
- 3. Program the individual screens and install the overlay data that is best suits the type fishing you do. Example: Depth, Water Temp, Time, etc. Eliminate unwanted, non-practical on screen clutter that hampers using your unit to its maximum potential.***
- 4. Arrange the screens so that going from page to page is orderly and non-confusing. You'll become familiar with the screens and commands and what they'll do for you.***
- 5. Dial in Sonar and Structure Scan Graphics and choose appropriate Palette for the lakes you fish.***
- 6. Demonstrate the art of waypoint management. No more cluttered maps with useless or unproductive waypoints. You'll learn to identify which locations are waypoint worthy and how to go back to those locations without ever assigning a waypoint. You'll assign a waypoint once you are satisfied the location is worth saving.***
- 7. Demo the unit so you'll be able to take advantage of its fish finding capabilities. You'll learn to identify shell beds, submerged stumps, brush piles, ledges, game fish species and more.***  
***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.***

