



2nd Quarter of 2009 (April, May, June)

The Crews Letter

Quarterly Newsletter of Bass Business

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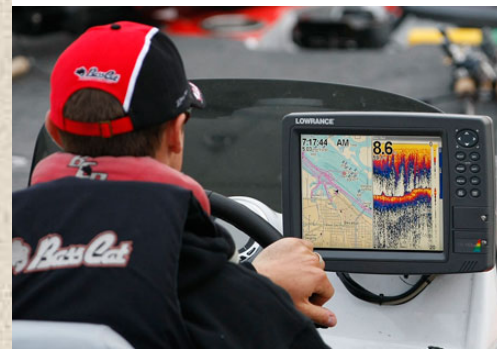
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Arkansas Elite

After a terrible Elite Series start at Amistad, I got re-armed during my week off. A new cast on my hand made it easier to fish in the late March, Elite event on Lake Dardanelle, Arkansas. One 3 pounder on day 1 put me in a hole but a day 2 bag of 14-11 jumped me into 61st place. The **Berkley Fat Dover Crawler** finessed the better fish but was short of the top 50 and a gain of more places.



Wheeler Woes



Straight from Arkansas, the Elites went to Lake Wheeler in Decatur, Alabama. Small fish plagued my efforts once again. 2 small limits put me near the bottom of the field and further behind in the points race. I caught fish shallow, deep, and in-between but no good ones.

PAA at Neely Henry

Neely Henry near Gadsden, Alabama was the site of the 2nd Carrot Stix PAA Tournament Series event. After Wheeler, I wanted redemption. I knew largemouth would win but I could not find the right ones. I ended up catching mostly spotted bass on the **SPRO** McStick jerkbait. It was a fun way to catch those intense fighters. The 6'2" **Fenwick** Elite Tech topwater rod is perfect for jerkbaits.

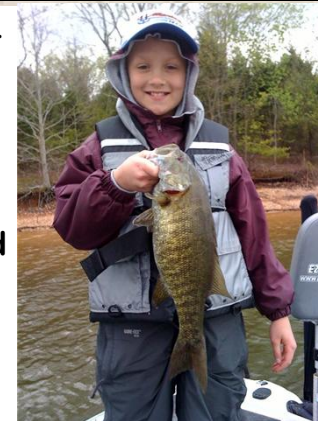
Inside this issue:

<i>Arkansas Elite</i>	1
<i>Wheeler Woes</i>	1
<i>PAA at Neely Henry</i>	1
<i>UMF in TN</i>	2
<i>SML Elite</i>	2
<i>Wheeler Open Revenge</i>	2
<i>G-ville No Thrill</i>	3
<i>KY Lake Rebound</i>	3
<i>PAA President</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Quarter</i>	3
<i>Current Sponsors</i>	4

- **Little John DD** is the deep diver from **SPRO** debuting in 2009!!
- Elected as **PAA** President!!!
- Many exciting products at **ICAST**

UMF in TN

Mid April is a great time to fish in the mid south. I found myself in serious competition during Round 1 of the Ultimate Match Fishing TV show. We competed on Tim's Ford Lake near Chattanooga, TN. My wife and kids got to come to the event, which was a treat. Noah, my 10 year old step-son, got to catch a 4 pound smallmouth in practice (see pic). Fellow Virginian, David Dudley, was my opponent for Round 1. I have known David for a while and the competition was fun but intense. Viewers will have to tune into the action on the Outdoor Channel to see who won the match. I can't wait to see it myself.



SML Elite



Home sweet home was not as sweet as it should have been. The Elite Series came to my home lake, Smith Mountain Lake, near Roanoke, VA. The fish were in the middle of the spawn so my local advantage was diminished. The pattern I thought could win went away during the tournament. I managed to catch enough to squeak into the top 50 but faltered on the 3rd day since I could not settle into an area to fish. Most of my fish came on a variety of **Berkley Powerbait** and **Gulp**. This was another event where it was super important to have the innovative **Power-Pole** on the back of my **Bass Cat Puma FTD**.

Wheeler Open Revenge

After the Elite frustration in March, the BASS Open was back on Wheeler in late April. The bass were mostly done with the spawn and fish were in a number of patterns. 8-8 on day 1 left me down in the pack. However a 14-4 sack on day 2 jumped me into the top 30. Day 3 was back to 8-14 but enough to advance to 23rd place. It was a little revenge for the Elite frustration. I caught a bunch of fish swimming a jig with a **Berkley Chigger Craw** on it but most of my weigh fish came on a **SPRO Little John** crankbait and a **SPRO** mudkicker bucktail jig off shore. That lake is full of fish.



G-ville No Thrill

The first week of May is a bass fisherman's dream come true when you are fishing world famous Lake Guntersville in Alabama. I caught almost 35 pounds of fish in 2 days but still finished in 80th place. I caught fish in a foot to 15 feet deep. The fishing was awesome. Looking back, my better fish came on a pop-r and my new **SPRO Little John DD**. The **DD** is a big, deep-diving crankbait that has it all. I wish I would have only thrown it for the whole tournament week. I am sure I would have found and caught more of the Guntersville pigs.

KY Lake Rebound

After thinking about that **Little John DD** even more, I was foaming at the mouth to fish the Elite Series event on Kentucky Lake in early June. The bass were moving to the off shore ledges in droves that time of year. Armed with my **DD**, **Berkley 10" Power Worm**, and a football jig, I was ready. I caught a 23 pound bag on day 1 but faltered on day 2 with about 13 pounds. I had 17 pounds on day 3 to finish in 33rd. I am still not sure why I was not able to get quality bites on day 2 but that cost me a shot at a really



good event. The **Lowrance** GPS unit in conjunction with old fashioned marker buoys are necessities for successful off shore bass fishing on any lake including Kentucky Lake.

PAA President

During the month of April, the Professional Anglers Association (PAA) elected a part of their Board of Directors. The new Board elected me as the President of the PAA for the next year, which started in May. The former President, Tim Horton, made great strides as the organization's leader. I am set on continuing to advance his progress. We have many exciting projects underway. The PAA will release its 3 year event plan very soon and that will let everyone know where we are headed. It is my duty to the profession of bass fishing, as well as the recreational sport of bass fishing, to be the best President I can be.

Upcoming Quarter

- June 8-14 Elite Series– Mississippi River, Iowa
- June 29 Shoot for Fishing University TV show on Kentucky Lake
- July 15-17 ICAST show for SPRO (promo)
- July 30-Aug 2 FLW Championship for PAA (promo)
- August 10-16 Elite Series– Oneida Lake, NY

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