



Angler Profile

Bob Bullen

Virginia Beach, VA



Key Point to Live By:

Dedication to the sport, fishing every opportunity, learning from anyone that's willing to impart knowledge and living by the Bass-Jon's Motto of "Share the Knowledge".

Sponsors:

Dashiell's Hunting & Tackle, Alluring Baits & CB's Hawg Sauce

Primary Co-Angler:

Any and all Bass-Jon's Members and for the Boot'Legg Trail Tim Ackal

Years fishing tournaments:

Six (6) – But I have been fishing for as long as I can remember which started back with my Dad and Grandfather and I have never stopped.

Career Highlights:

- 11 Bass-Jon's Wins
- 2003 Bass-Jon's Classic Winner
- Founder, President and Web Master for Bass-Jon's

Tournament Clubs/Trails Fished:

- 2002 - Present: Bass-Jon's Club
- 1999 - 2000: Bill's Marine Team Events
- 2000 - 2001: Bobby Kinsey Team Events
- 2004 - Present: Boot'Legg Team Trail Events

Personal Record Catches:

Largest 1-Day Tournament Stringer: 17lbs 8oz (5 fish) on 30 Apr 2005 – Bass-Jon's / Western Branch
Biggest Bass – 9lbs 3oz Lake Cohoon

Tournament Preparation:

I used to pre-fish all the time, but I found that I relied on the pattern I found the day of pre-fishing, which didn't always work for me. So now I go into a tournament knowing I have to figure out the pattern, and starting off with what works best that time of year. Between my back seat partner and me, we try different baits until we key on something we can use. I check all my reels and rods prior to tournament day and I tie on what I anticipate fishing from the get go! Then I check over the boat; get



everything loaded into the truck the night before. Pretty much the only thing I got to do the morning of is get up, hook up the boat and go.

When did you get starting fishing tournaments?

I got back into fishing after retiring from the Navy and after a few months I realized, I needed a boat. I started fishing the Bill's Marine Team events after I purchased my boat from Bobby Kinsey, that's when he turned me onto their local trail. I was fishing some small jelly jar tournaments down at Lake Whitehurst and Smith, with a few of Bill's Marine events thrown in. Then one cold March day in 2001 I was fishing a Bill's Marine Team event at Burnt Mills with Rob Brewer. We headed out that morning and I caught a 7.05- and 6.07lb hawg within the first 30 minutes of the tournament. We came in with a heavy five fish limit going over 18lbs and thought we had it all in the bag. That was until Lenny Shane came in with five nice fish all looking like 4 plus pounds and beat us by a 1 pound. That was the first time I was in the big money and I was hooked; there was no turning back. I also founded Bass-Jon's the following year to help promote tournament fishing, to learn more about the lakes and the help others in sharing what I learned.

Favorite and worst fishing location:

My favorite location has to be Burnt Mills the lake has everything as far as cover and structure and big bass to boot. I really like the back forty. My least favorite lake would have to be Western Branch for the majority of the year, except during the spawn at which time it quickly becomes the lake I want to be on the most.

Favorite lure(s):

The Texas Rigged Worm or any type of soft plastic.

What is the best part of fishing?

Not knowing how the day is going to end; any day can produce a monster fish or a huge sack at the weigh in. Or you could come in with nothing; plain skunked. It's the anticipation of day of, what could be!!! Every cast is a chance for a record fish.

What's your best "Fish Story?!"

When fishing a Lake Smith tournament with Mike Cooper, on 17 April 2004. The boat talk revolved around how I won this Lake Smith Tournament two years in a row, and then I mention my Lunker of the Year prior of 7lbs 12oz during a Burnt Mills event. Mike remarked how he wish he could just catch a fish over 5lbs and I told him, "Just wait it will happen when you least expect it," and on his very next cast Mike connects with the Bass-Jon's 2004 Lunker of the Year that went 7lbs 14oz. I was happy for him, both for his Hawg and myself, since that fish made three wins in a row on Lake Smith for me.



What advice do you have for people who want to fish tournaments?

Start off with smaller local clubs like Bass-Jon's, which caters more towards learning and not losing a lot of money. Then there are other tournament trails out there that are a few degrees above smaller clubs that allow anglers to test their talents against others. Once you have successfully competed well against

your peers locally and feel that you need another avenue for competition or would like to step up your game, find some of the larger federated clubs and compete against the Region and State.

What is your opinion about the future of tournament fishing?

I think tournament fishing future needs to tee off into different directions. The major tours, FLW and BASS, pretty much have it going on for the Glass Jocks, but I would like to see a JBF (Jon Boat Federation) for small impoundments, reservoirs that can only handle a Jon boats or restricted HP.

