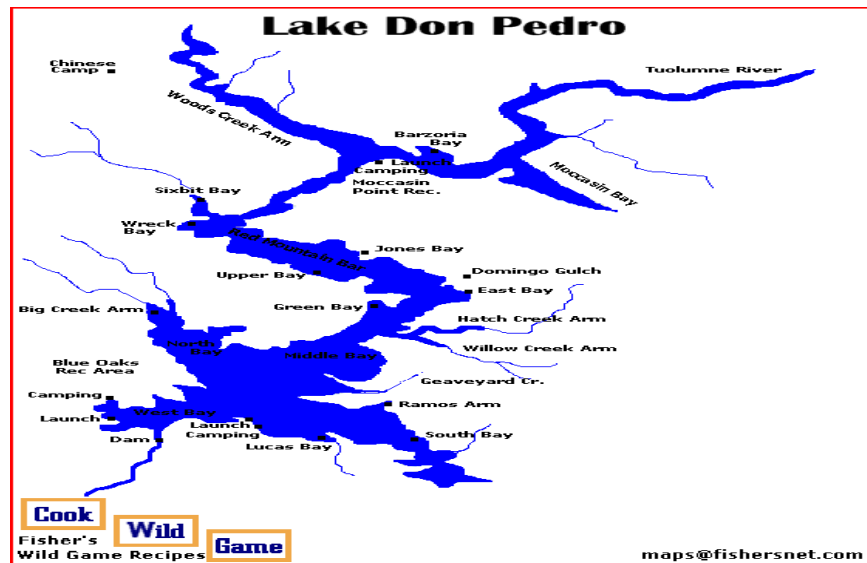


# HERE IT IS-ALL THE LATEST

## March 2023

BK Custom Baits – Bill Kunz  
Creekside Tackle - Ken Eddie  
Dobyns Rods-Gary Dobyns  
G-Money Baits-Tray Williams  
Pro Worms-Sandy Uecker  
Valley Rod and Gun

## Lake Don Pedro March 2023



## FRESNO BASS CLUB MEMBERS,

The second stop for the 2023 Fresno Bass Club was Lake Don Pedro. Pedro is normally gin clear and warming this time of year which usually means the beginning of the spawn and sight fishing for big bass. Well mother nature isn't on our side this year and disappointed us again as she was bound and determined to keep the cold wet weather upon us.

Almost every tournament we have fished since November 2022 has been in cold, wet, or even snowing and I'm about sick of it!



A few of us arrived earlier in the week and found surprisingly optimistic weather conditions with daytime highs around 70 degrees and nighttime lows in the mid-50's. The water temperature was around 53 in the mornings and warming to about 60 degrees in the afternoons.

The water levels were very high for this time of year. The water in the main lake was clear, the creeks were dirty with the river above the bridges was like chocolate milk. The river and Moccasin Creek were blocked with log booms to prevent large pieces of wood from being washed into the lake which eliminated one of the best spring-time places to fish.



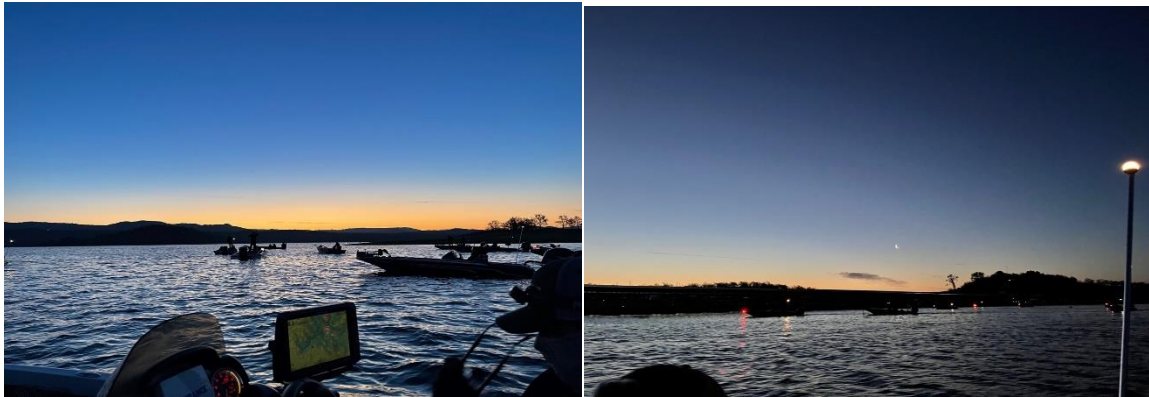
Recent team tournaments had been won with weights in the 13–14-pound range and the big swimbait anglers were not doing well. The water levels were very high for this time of year which made it convenient to launch but dangerous to navigate around all the floating pieces of wood throughout the lake.



The warmer daytime temperatures had the fish starting to move up and they were biting. The numbers of 1.75-2.5 lb. fish kept it interesting, but those bigger fish over 3 lbs. were

difficult to locate and catch. My pre-tournament estimate was that it would take 12-13 lbs. a day to win this event.

Day 1 of the tournament started off with clear skies and beautiful weather.



At the Day 1 weigh-in only 17 out of 33 anglers brought five fish limits to the scales and only six of those fish weighed over 3 pounds, which is unheard of this time of year at Pedro. But of those fish, only one was truly a Pedro “Piggy” and that fish belonged to Brian Botu. Brian brought in a five fish limit for 15.83 pounds anchored by this 7.89 toad which gave him the Day 1 lead.



Tim Turner did not have any “big fish” on Day 1, but he brought in a limit of quality largemouth that tipped the scales at 14.78 pounds with a big fish of only 3.08. Tim said he had a small limit at 1:00 PM but pulled into an area and culled out all his fish with quality largemouth within one hour.





On Day 1, Bill Kunz came in with a five fish limit that weighed 11.88 lbs., keeping him in the hunt for Day 2 but with lots of ground to make up.



Day 2 was an entirely different story in terms of weather. At about 1:30 in the morning the winds gusted to over 30 MPH which woke-up just about everybody in the campgrounds. The forecast for Day 2 was calling for lots of rain and wind as well as a 15-20 degree drop in daytime temperatures. It was going to be ugly!



Mother nature did not disappoint! The rain started early Sunday morning at about 5:00 AM and continued throughout the day finally letting up at about 5:00 PM. If you haven't invested in a good set of rain gear hopefully you've learned your lesson at Pedro. Its expensive, but it is worth its weight in gold when the weather is cold, wet and windy!

Day 1 leader Brian Botu did not have any "Piggies" on Day 2, but he did have a solid bag of 11.61 to retain the lead and get the WIN with a total two-day weight of 27.44 lbs. Congratulations Brian!!





Brian said on Day 1 he fished wind blown banks with crankbaits targeting 3-5 foot of water in the morning before transitioning to cranking mud lines in 8-10 foot of water. Brian hooked the big fish on one of his very first casts of the morning and then a few casts later his magic crankbait's bill was shattered against some rocks. But don't worry, Brian sent his wife to the tackle-shop and she personally drove up to the lake Saturday night to hand deliver five new baits to him just in time for Day 2.

On Day 2 the weather was completely different causing Brian to change tactics. The weather forced Brian to fish a slow presentation targeting laydowns in areas protected from the wind.

Tim Turner who was in Second Place after Day 1 stumbled on Day 2 when the weather put a hurt on his shallow water largemouth bite. Tim only came to the scales with four fish weighing a "Whopping" 4.91 lbs. dropping him to 9<sup>th</sup> place after Day 2 with a total weight of 19.69.

Sneaking quietly into second place was Ron Red Sr., who was sitting in 4<sup>th</sup> place after Day 1 with 11.55 lbs. Ron brought another five fish limit to the scales on Day 2, but he also had the Day 2 big fish of 4.52 lbs. that catapulted him from 4<sup>th</sup> into 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ron finished with a two-day total of 25.19. Way to go Ron!



Ron said he stayed on the main lake both days throwing Keitechs and worms in 15 feet or less.

Third Place went to Bill Kunz who had consistent weights on both Day 1 and Day 2. Bill's Day 2 weight was 12.12 lbs. giving him a two-day total of 24 lbs. even and enough to hang onto third place.



Bill fished the middle bay area of the lake. Most of his fish came on four baits, an under-spin with a Keitech, a Keitech on a swim jig, a drop shot and shakey head. He caught fish all day between 0-30 feet but could never cull after the first hour of each day.

Fourth place went to Rusty Baron. Rusty was sitting in 6<sup>th</sup> place after Day 1 with a solid bag of 10.74. On Day 2, Rusty brought in the second biggest bag of 12.71 giving him a two-day total of 23.45 lbs. and enough to move him into 4<sup>th</sup> place. Good Job Rusty!



Rusty said he fished the main lake with reaction baits (ripbaits) and jigs to 30 feet.



Rounding out the top five was Justin Barton. Justin was sitting in 5<sup>th</sup> place on Day 1 with 11.17 lbs. Justin backed up his Day 1 weight with 11.13 lbs for a two day total of 22.30. Nice job Justin!



Justin said he fished creeks (warmer water) with spinnerbaits, under-spins and super flukes.

### **A THOUGHT FOR NEXT MARCH.....**

The March Don Pedro tournaments over the last few years seem to be a hit or miss. We used to call it March Madness, but over the years, it seems like spring on Don Pedro has transitioned from March to April. Maybe in the future we should look at moving the Don Pedro tournament to April and moving Tulloch to March.

For the last 2-3 years, Tulloch has been kicking out 25-30 lb. bags consistently in March. It may have to do with the lake being much smaller and warming quicker or it may have to do with Tulloch not getting a lot of direct snow melt water, but whatever the reason Tulloch has become the March Madness type of lake we need to fish.



## **DON PEDRO RESULTS**

<b>LAKE:</b>	<b>Don Pedro</b>		<b>BIG</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>GRAND</b>
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>NAME</b>		<b>FISH</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		<b>50pts</b>	<b>Tourny</b>				
1	Botu, Brian	50	<b>7.89</b>	15.83	11.61	27.44	<b>27.44</b>
2	Red, Ron Sr	49	4.52	11.58	13.61	25.19	<b>25.19</b>
3	Kunz, Bill	48	2.90	11.88	12.12	24.00	<b>24.00</b>
4	Baron, Rusty	47	2.62	10.74	12.71	23.45	<b>23.45</b>
5	Barton, Justin (NM Jan'23)	46	2.57	11.17	11.13	22.30	<b>22.30</b>
6	Perez, Jesse	45	3.00	10.41	10.74	21.15	<b>21.15</b>
7	Kerber, Cory	44	2.76	8.90	11.28	20.18	<b>20.18</b>
8	Albidrez, John	43	3.32	7.77	12.23	20.00	<b>20.00</b>
9	Turner, Tim	42	3.08	14.78	4.91	19.69	<b>19.69</b>
10	Reynolds, Kyle	41	0.00	9.27	9.58	18.85	<b>18.85</b>
11	Avedikian, Amy (NM Jan'23)	40	0.00	8.69	10.10	18.79	<b>18.79</b>
12	Rowe, Seth	39	0.00	10.46	8.07	18.53	<b>18.53</b>
13	Duncan, A.J.	38	1.95	7.43	10.41	17.84	<b>17.84</b>
14	Corrente Mark	37	3.34	5.84	11.81	17.65	<b>17.65</b>
15	Guzman, Jose	36	2.68	10.48	6.30	16.78	<b>16.78</b>
16	Paris, Chris	35	3.10	7.09	8.95	16.04	<b>16.04</b>
17	Taylor, Ted	34	2.13	7.19	7.90	15.09	<b>15.09</b>
18	Eddy, Ken	33	0.00	8.76	6.20	14.96	<b>13.96</b>
19	Jones, Bob	32	2.73	8.90	4.47	13.37	<b>13.37</b>
20	Heirendt, David	31	0.00	5.01	7.43	12.44	<b>12.44</b>
21	Shafer, Paul	30	2.06	6.01	6.12	12.13	<b>12.13</b>
22	Arnold, Jimmy	29	0.00	8.50	3.07	11.57	<b>11.57</b>
23	Perez, Jesse Jr.	28	3.66	7.83	2.05	9.88	<b>9.88</b>
24	Rowles, Bill Sr	27	1.53	6.36	3.54	9.90	<b>9.40</b>
25	Duncan, Kelly	26	3.59	3.88	4.53	8.41	<b>8.41</b>
26	Smith, Ryan	25	3.31	8.27		8.27	<b>8.27</b>
27	Gomez, Marco (NM Mar'23)	24	0.00	1.65	4.57	6.22	<b>6.22</b>
28	Smith, Jennifer	23	0.00	5.50		5.50	<b>5.50</b>
29	Rowles, Anne	22	0.00	3.92	0.00	3.92	<b>3.92</b>
30	Calderon, Lazaro	21	0.00	3.19		3.19	<b>3.19</b>
31	Curtis, Walter	20	0.00	2.74		2.74	<b>2.74</b>
32	Lopez, Christian	19	0.00	1.22		1.22	<b>1.22</b>
33	Ruacho, Jerry	18	0.00	1.12		1.12	<b>1.12</b>

PLACE	NAME	TOTAL	BIG FISH
AOY STANDING YTD 03/23			
1	Kerber, Cory	100	3.97
2	Albidrez, John	98	3.64
3	Turner, Tim	96	3.57
4	Perez, Jesse	95	3.00
5	Baron, Rusty	95	2.62
6	Kunz, Bill	93	2.90
7	Reynolds, Kyle	93	2.42
8	Barton, Justin (NM Jan'23)	87	2.57
9	Red, Ron Sr	83	4.52
10	Avedikian, Amy (NM Jan'23)	83	1.73
11	Rowe, Seth	79	2.66
12	Taylor, Ted	78	2.13
13	Guzman, Jose	74	2.68
14	Rowles, Bill Sr	74	2.36
15	Corrente Mark	73	3.34
16	Arnold, Jimmy	71	2.37
17	Jones, Bob	70	2.73
18	Duncan, A.J.	69	1.95
19	Paris, Chris	66	3.10
20	Duncan, Kelly	65	3.59
21	Shafer, Paul	60	2.06
22	Eddy, Ken	59	0.00
23	Smith, Ryan	57	3.31
24	Heirendt, David	57	2.15
25	Lopez, Christian	56	2.03
26	Calderon, Lazaro	56	0.00
27	Smith, Jennifer	52	0.00
28	Mendes, Mathew	51	2.68
29	Jue, Gary	51	2.22
30	Botu, Brian	50	7.89
31	Austin, Walt	49	2.44
32	Ruacho, Jerry	45	0.00
33	Perez, Jesse Jr.	28	3.66
34	Rowles, Anne	28	0.00
35	Hass, Harold	25	1.16
36	Gomez, Marco (NM Mar'23)	24	0.00
37	Placentia, Sal	24	0.00
38	Curtis, Walter	22	0.00
39	De La Fuente, Javier	11	0.00
40	Pena, Irwin	7	0.00
41	De La Fuente, Javier Jr.	5	0.00
42	Short, Jeff	4	0.00
43	Uecker, Rick	4	0.00
44	Agtang, Timothy (NM Mar'23)	2	0.00
45	Gutierrez, Alfred	2	0.00
46	Lutz, Larry	2	0.00
47	McGovern, Rick	2	0.00
48	Munoz, Sal	2	0.00
49	Pitts, Jeremy	2	0.00



## ADDITIONAL PEDRO PICTURES



















### **APRIL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

**When:** April 16, 2023 (One Day Event)  
**Where:** Lake Tulloch (South Shore)  
**Check-in:** South Shore Ramp TBD  
**Blast off:** Approx. 0605  
**Weigh-in:** South Shore @ 3:00 pm (Exact Location TBD)

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**The next meeting for the Fresno Bass Club will be Wednesday April 5, 2023, @ 7PM at the Yosemite Falls Café located at 4020 N. Cedar in Fresno**

**Until next time...Tight Lines!**