

TRIBUTE TO RON BARKSDALE

On November 11, 2019, I received an email from Gary Jue informing me that one of our club members, Ron Barksdale had passed away. This was horrible news and I knew that many of our club members would be upset about this loss.

I have fished many tournaments against Ron, but I didn't really know him. I can honestly say that Ron always came across as a guy who would do anything to help you out. As a young fisherman I remember talking to Ron and Walt Austin many times about the various lakes we fish. They were always willing to help.

I specifically remember fishing an FBC night tournament at Millerton. Just before dark there was a horrific boating accident in the river and Ron went to the aid of the injured parties. Ron grabbed one of the severely injured parties, put him in his boat and drove as fast as he could back to the Fresno ramp trying to save this guy's life. Unfortunately, the individual didn't make it, but Ron went above and beyond for a total stranger. That says a lot about one's character. That says a lot about the type of person Ron Barksdale was.

I asked for personal experiences to share with club members at the last meeting. Nick Beck shared this:

"Well Ron was a person that really did not want to stand out in a crowd, so he was most often a bit unnoticed. But he was there, and that he was there really speaks loud to me. Ron loved the Fresno Bass Club, he participated in every aspect of the club's activities. He was there when we made cages for Christmas trees at pine flat, he was there when a kid or a wounded warrior needed a boat, he was there at most meetings, he was there at most tournaments. As many as he could that didn't conflict with another that he and Walt had already paid and made plans for. Ron was there because he understood that participation was key to the success of our club. He understood that if we didn't participate the club would not exist, so Ron was there. Ron was there with his half of a \$20 with Walt to participate in the raffle, not once in a while but every time. Because he understood the power of participation in something he loved. Ron even bought raffle tickets and attended meetings when he knew he was not going to fish on Sunday. He struggled to get in the car to make it to the meeting. He patiently took each step with his walker and Walt by his side to get to the door where someone would hold it for him to enter. He knew that even if he won that rod, he wasn't going to get to use it on Sunday. Maybe the Fresno Bass Club gave him an outing to join friends or perhaps it provided hope that someday I'll be back. Regardless of his personal motivation we as a club gave him something he loved, and we loved him."

"Because Ron was Always There"









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Ron, you are missed by all! Rest in peace our Bass fishing brother!

Sincerely, The Fresno Bass Club Family