

Bass Techniques for all Conditions

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

By Bob Diebold



If you haven't noticed, fishing for smallmouth bass can change on a lake from one day to the next (if not one hour to another). The equation gets more complex if you throw in all the other variables like time of year, weather (air temperature, wind, barometer), water temperature, etc. How can you possibly synthesize all these variables into a plan that will result in a successful smallie outing?

At the Arlington Angler's January meeting, Jim DeRosa laid out his techniques that could help improve your next search for that bronze back. Jim emphasized the importance of keeping it simple but using all of the information that you may have available to you.

- Get some good maps of your lake. Talk to locals or the bait shop to help mark up the maps initially.
- Use your fish finder to look for structure. Record GPS waypoints on subtle structure not found on the hydrographical maps.
- Get out on the lake right after ice out when the water is gin clear. Locate those boulders that will be SM magnets for all of the summer.
- Match retrieve speeds with the water temp and resulting metabolism rates. If it is cold, slow it down. If the water is warm, try some quick retrieves or darting lures.
- If the fish out of this lake have crawfish in their stomachs, start off with crawfish colored crank baits or tube jigs.
- Keep the line as thin as you can. Jim suggests using an 8 lb fluorocarbon leader with an 8 lb braid. Use a very visible color on your main line as some strikes are very subtle and may be only recognizable as the line moving in an unusual direction.



Radio show host and guide Jim DeRosa shares his smallmouth techniques with the Arlington Anglers. PHOTO BY: ARLINGTON ANGLERS

Lastly Jim keeps a detailed log on every fishing trip recording all the variables that I mentioned above. He also includes sketches of spots/structures that worked well that day. If Jim is going out on an early June day, he searches thru his old logs looking for a day or two with similar variables and uses that log info to formulate a plan for the day.

Jim DeRosa fishsmallmouthbass.com is an experienced fishing guide, writer and radio host. His "Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show" has been on the air since 1983, making it one of the longest running outdoor radio shows in the nation. The show is heard simulcast on five stations throughout Chicagoland. The show airs on WCSJ AM 1550, WCSJ FM 103.1, WSPY FM 107.1, WSPY AM 1480, and WSQR AM 1180 live every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Jim spends his summers guiding for small mouth on Mille Lacs in northern Minnesota.

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Arlington Anglers Fishing Club

February is a great time to seek out and try out a new club after you hit the big fishing shows. You have a no-risk opportunity to see first hand what a club can do for you. Attend our Arlington Angler's meeting on February 21st. Our speaker will be writer and guide Corey Yarmouth legend-outdoors.com providing a seminar on Slip Bobbers, Lines, Hooks, and Rigs. Don't miss this opportunity to learn new techniques and tips to improve on your angling skills.

Dates to remember:

Feb 21 – Meeting – Speaker Corey Yarmouth, Seminar on Lines, Hooks, and Rigs

Feb 25 – Club Dinner at the Bavaria Hof in Roselle at 6pm

Mar 3-4 – Great Outdoor Expo at Woodstock N HS, stop at our booth

Mar 10 – Fishing Flea Market at Rolling Meadows HS, stop at our booth

Mar 20 – Meeting – Tribune Columnist Don Dziedzina on Cooling Lakes

Apr 14 – Outing at Lake Shabbona

Apr 17 – Meeting – Speaker Jim Kaske, Seminar on Lake Michigan
Salmon and Perch Fishing Tactics

Apr 26-29 – Outing at Rend Lake

Come to one of our meetings to find out more about our club, activities, and outings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Check our website below for the February meeting location. Door prizes, speaker, raffles, fishing reports: Give it a try!

For further information call our President Tom Curtin at 312-560-9876 or visit our website at:

<http://arlingtonanglers.com>



Artist Jim Tingey shows his northern pike trophy painting to Gene Schamberger. Jim memorializes fishermen's big catches through his watercolor artwork.

See more at Catchandreleaseartwork.com . PHOTO
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