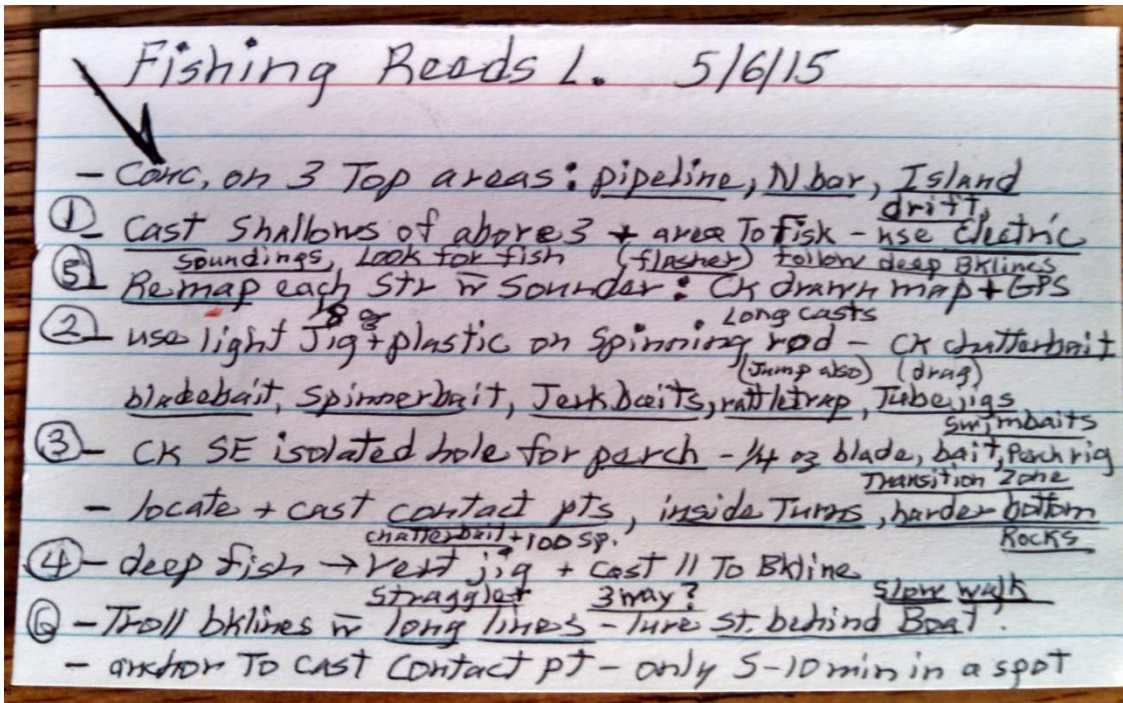


"A 3X5 PLAN"



A plan to fish Reeds Lake

In his study material, Buck Perry emphasized the importance of having a plan for the days' fishing before you get on the water. This included observing terrain, gathering information about the lake, species available, weather, season, structure, lake type, what you intend to do and how you intend to do it. He recommended going over the lake contour map and selecting a few best looking structures to fish and planning your day ahead of time. Most of us are aware of his recommendations but usually fail to do much pre-planning because of the time involved. In reality, planning time will save time on the water, making for a more efficient use of time and a more enjoyable experience. There is nothing more frustrating than getting on the water with just a few ideas and then having them not work out. What to do next? We often end up grasping at straws, trying presentations, and going to structures that may not make sense for the season, species, or weather conditions because we have not thought it out.

Writing down on paper helps to organize a plan and remember it. It is only for your use, so you can put down whatever you wish. This is where Spoonplugging knowledge becomes most valuable. You will get better at it in time. I like to use 3X5 filing cards because they are small and easily carried in a pocket. There is no specific plan or outline that need be put down, just list the things you intend to do on the water and where you aim to do them. Include the depths, speeds, and structures you propose to work on. During the time beforehand, you can be going over the contour map and thinking about the conditions you will be fishing in and picking the best lake for the season and species. In a relaxed manner, you will have time to consider the many possibilities and options you will have on that lake and under the predicted weather conditions. Including the lures and rods intended to be used helps to keep equipment efficient and organized. When we get on the water, there is pressure to produce, and we often don't consider all the possibilities and factors involved. A written down plan keeps us moving forward, even though we may not glance at it.

On Wednesday May 6, 2015, I fished Reeds Lake with Luncker Hunter Dave Cramer. The evening before I spent about 20 minutes planning what we might do. It is a lake that I am familiar with, so trolling was not necessary to learn the structure. Due to the season (pre-spawn), casting the shallows would be a big part of the presentation, and speeds should be a bit on the slow side. 4 of the best structures that have adjacent spawning shallows were selected to drift and cast with the light wind. The fish were scattered and inactive, but we managed to catch 6 bass to 18 inches. Even though faster speeds were briefly checked, the fish were caught on a variety of slower working lures (jig and plastic, chatterbait, slow crankbait, and jerkbait). It was an enjoyable day and we were satisfied that planning ahead had helped our results, even though the entire plan was not implemented.

Chase Klinesteker CSI



Dave Cramer with nice Reeds Lake bass