

Rod Bates Biography

Rod Bates was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and by his name alone you know he was born to fish. Although he doesn't remember the times his parents took him river bank fishing when he was in diapers, the photos cannot be denied.

At the age of sixteen and with the independence that comes with a driver's license, Rod began spending much more time on the Susquehanna River. With his flat bottom boat and his 9.9 Johnson Outboard he spent many hours exploring this great and awesome fishery. Rod's love of the battling Smallmouth grew as his experience and knowledge grew.



Rod decided he needed a better "Bassin Boat" if he was going to pursue his desire to gain more knowledge of the Susquehanna River. He needed a boat that was better suited for the shallow water of his favorite river. In 1998 Rod purchased his first Jet Drive shallow river boat and he continued to hone his skills on catching Smallmouth Bass. Today Rod has upgraded to a Tom Snyder Custom Built Jet Boat that was built to Rod's specifications and is powered by a 200 HP Evinrude E-TEC Jet Drive. This is one of the premier Guide Boats on the entire Susquehanna River.

In 1999 Rod started his Guide Service. Rod realized how blessed he was to have the ability and opportunity to enjoy Gods wonderful creation the Susquehanna River and to share it with others. As he thought of a name for his business he remembered that Koinonia is the Greek word for fellowship and he knew at that moment that he was going to call his business Koinonia Guide Service. He also knew he wanted to build his business on biblical principals and he wanted clients to know that they can have a wonderful wholesome day enjoying Gods creation while fishing with Koinonia.

Rod's love of fishing is not limited to the Susquehanna River. For more than a decade Rod has taken groups to Alaska on fishing trips. He has also expanded his business to include trips to the Bahamas and Costa Rica.

Rod is currently on the Pro Staff for Winco's Custom Lures, Bass Pro Shops, PLANO Tackle, PRADCO Fishing and Team Catfish .The aforementioned pro-staff positions gives him many opportunities to try new products and do instruction and demonstrations at Bass Pro Shops Stores and and at outdoor shows.

I met Al Winco in August of 2014 and he introduced me to his lures. I did not start fishing these lures until mid-November and I should have started fishing them sooner. One of our guides fished with Al previously and told me how the Winco Swim-bait out produced the Swim-bait that we had been fishing. Notice I said had because I have since switched to the Winco Swim-baits. I also have been using the Winco Tubes and Krinkle Cut Worms on Guide Trips with much success. I am now a dedicated user of the Winco Products and look forward to using some of the other Winco Product lines when the ice is off the water.

Al makes it easy to understand, rig and use his baits by watching the videos he has posted on the Winco website. You can also see how our clients have had success using the Winco lures by going to our web site at www.koinoniafishingguides.com and watching some of the movies we have posted. At our home page click on the "Watch Movies" icon and select the movie you want.