

WESLEY STRADER

*In this episode: Boat Rigging 101
"The Strader Way"*

Major League Fishing Pre-Tournament LAKE EUFAULA

Blog 1



New Season / New Boat

Let's get this thing ready!



**"I'm getting ready
to be busier than a
one-legged man in a
butt kickin contest"**

Saturday night 10:00: fresh off a 2 day stint talking fishing in Jefferson City TN, somehow I made the arduous drive to an undisclosed location in north Alabama picking up an old buddy along the way to get my much anticipated 2020 Ranger 521; which by the way, I hadn't even seen yet.

Good thing- it was at the shop getting wrapped. Bad thing is I haven't had the chance to get this boat ready yet. You see, I'm the guy that likes and takes great pride in rigging my own boat. So this boat is naked: motor only... no power poles, no graphs and not even a trolling motor. Oh and FYI, I got to get all this done and be ready to compete by Tuesday at the latest!! So..you might say that me gettin this boat back so late in the year has me madder than a long tail cat in a room full of rockers.

Sunday morning 4am - welp the wrapping/ sealing / finishing up took longer than either he and I had hoped for. Boat looks good but it's missing a trolling motor.. (I'll get into that later).

Sunday 11:00am - Frisco sandwich, check. I've chosen this high powered DeWalt drill to be my faithful companion today as I'm rigging this beautiful Ranger boat ... I have a plan, but I'm gettin ready to be busier than a one legged man in a butt kickin contest!

I've been on this trajectory before, so let's get this groove on: starting at the back of the boat and working forward is my best laid plan - the Strader way!

First thing is to check my new Atlas jack plate and the connection to this super powered Evinrude G2 250. Man this thing is gorgeous..I can't wait to hear her growl!



POWER POLES ON AND CHECK. EYEBALL FROM THE FRONT MAKING SURE THEY ARE STRAIGHT BEFORE I TIGHTEN ALL THE BOLTS. EVER SEE A DUDE WITH HIS POLES ALL BENT TO THE SIDE? YEP HE FORGOT TO BRING EM UP BEFORE HE TOOK OFF.



OPTIMA BLUE TOPS - IN PLACE ALONG WITH MY T-H MARINE CUSTOM BATTERY HOLDERS.

ON TO THE HELM. TWIN LOWRANCE HD LIVE 12'S MOUNTED ON MY BASS BOAT TECHNOLOGIES BRACKET. MAN, THAT'S THE BERRIES. THIS BRACKET IS SO CUSTOM AND GETS MY GRAPHS SITUATED EXACTLY THE WAY I NEED EM.



THESE LOWRANCE HD LIVE UNITS ARE SWEET!





OK, MAKIN GOOD TIME BUT HERE IS THE HARD PART. BOAT CAME NO TROLLING MOTOR. IS WHAT IT IS BUT I'M RUNNIN THE NEW LOWRANCE GHOST THIS YEAR. GOOD THING WHEN YOU GET ONE OF THESE JEWELS IT MOUNTS TO THE SAME HOLES AS YOUR MK. BAD THING IS THE RAW BOAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO DRILL HOLES FOR THE GHOST MOUNT. NO TEMPLATE..WHAT DO I DO.. ONLY GET ONES SHOT TO GET THIS THING RIGHT. DON'T WANT TO GO DRILLIN A BUNCHA HOLES IN A NEW BOAT!

ISH MONROE HAS A GOOD INSTALLATION TUTORIAL ON YOUTUBE... I THINK I'LL CHECK IT OUT. THIS REALLY HELPED ME A LOT WITH PROPER ALIGNMENT.

• GHOST MOUNTED SOLID AND ZOOMING PROPERLY/ FOOT PEDAL IN PLACE ; AFTER A QUICK TRIP TO LOWE'S FOR SOME CONNECTORS. ONTO MY FRONT BASS BOAT TECHNOLOGY MOUNT FOR THE HDS 12 AT THE BOW. COMPLETE. HYDROWAVE ON, YES, I'M READY!

**Monday afternoon: 4 days until
showtime, let's drop this baby
in the water.**

**Maiden voyage: All checks
good; and check out this GOOD
LUCK FISH!**

**Ready to head to Alabama on
Tuesday. Now it's Showtime
baby!!**

**Major League Fishing: Lake
Eufaula.. let the 2020 season
begin, lets rock!**

