



# Carpenter

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## Ladislav Vaskor remembered



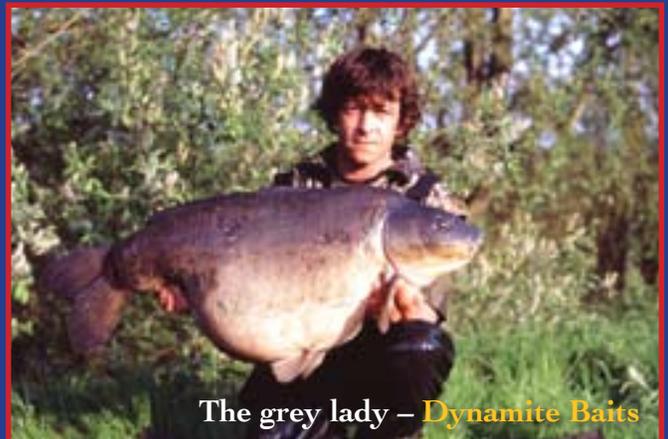
Winter Baiting

– Duncan Maclean



The Kenneth Keene

Interview – Sean Manning



The grey lady – Dynamite Baits

WELCOME TO  
WILLOW GROVE AIR RESERVE STATION



*An ACS Interview with*  
**Kenneth Keene**

I first heard of Kenneth Keene when he joined ACS last year and started entering fish into The American Carp League. It soon struck me that Ken was out there as often as he could be, catching carp hand over fist at every opportunity. The first fish he submitted were around 12 to 15 pounds, but soon that started to increase. He recently picked up some U.S. sponsorship, and also increased his PB by an ounce or two (which is now above the 40-pound mark, though I'm sure it will be broken again this year!).

Ken took some time to discuss his carp fishing, his approach to The American Carp League, and how he finds time for all this whilst serving as a crew chief in the Air Force with the 913th Air Lift Wing at Willow Grove, Pa.

*SEAN: Ken, thanks so much for taking time for this interview. Let's start at the very beginning: when and how did you start fishing, and where did this take place?*

KEN: The first time I ever went fishing

was on a "party" (or charter) boat in Wildwood, New Jersey with my father, when I was 12 years old. That was my first real exposure to rods, reels, baits, etc. The experience left no real impact on me, although I do remember that the rods and reels were huge and the lines were getting tangled every 15 minutes. I'm guessing there were too many people on the boat.



*SEAN: How did you hear about carp, and when did you catch your very first one?*

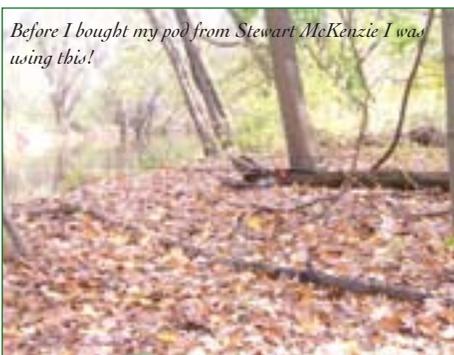
KEN: I caught my very first carp not long ago, in August of 2005. Surprisingly, I had never accidentally hooked a carp while bass fishing. I was always aware of carp—I just never had the urge to try to catch one. I think negative influences from non-carp anglers had something to do with that. Sometimes you don't know what you are missing until you try it—I certainly had no idea!

*SEAN: When did you first catch "carp fever" (that's when other styles of fishing and many other aspects of your life take a back seat to carp fishing)?*

KEN: I would say I caught carp fever before I even caught my first carp. For weeks I tried to catch one, but was having no luck. My carp desire quickly escalated to carp fever. Before that first fish was hooked, I was already hooked. I still have carp fever. I just have a little more control of myself now, I guess.



Flight station



Before I bought my pod from Stewart McKenzie I was using this!



I even cherish the small ones ... bebe



My brother Shawn officially for the first time releasing a carp with care. It was his very first carp caught.



More fishing in the mud ... during the winter.

But it's still very exciting!

*SEAN: Who inspired you when you were just learning to fish?*

KEN: There are a few guys that I can think of, but the one person that comes to mind is Tommy Robinson. He shared his knowledge, fishing spots, equipment, and even his home with me. Tommy is a great guy and a very humble angler.

*SEAN: Why do you find carp more appealing than other fish?*

KEN: Just seeing a carp in the water is exciting. Their power and size is incredible. I've heard people say they are not the most visually appealing fish. I disagree. They are beautifully scaled, symmetrical, and colorful fish.

*SEAN: Do you still fish for other species?*

KEN: I fish for bass about twice a year. Part of the reason is to remind myself why I don't fish for them as much anymore. Well, it's obvious—it's just not like fishing for carp.

*SEAN: What about The American Carp League? What prompted you to sign up for that? What about it appeals to you as a carp angler?*

KEN: Carp fever prompted me to sign up for that. The American Carp League was appealing because I could compete in a tournament and do it locally: no travel, no entry fee, and no obligations to my partner.

*SEAN: I noticed that you were out there every chance that you got. Your submissions were becoming a very regular part of my week!*

KEN: I'm glad to hear that, Sean. I had a lot of fun catching, weighing, and photographing the fish.

*SEAN: How does that fit into your life, given your job and other commitments? How often do you get to go fishing?*

KEN: In 2006, I was able to do most of my fishing after I was deactivated from the Air Force in late August. I fished less often when November arrived. Now I am concentrating on work and holidays. I will occasionally hit the warm-water discharge when it's very cold out. Last year I was fishing on Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. I was going through serious carp fever then.

*SEAN: What about your tackle? Do you have any favorite tackle companies whose gear you like to use?*

KEN: I really like my ACS MIA 2 rods. I used the hell out of them in 2006 and they seem very dependable. I also like Shimano reels, Fox products, Specialist Tackle, and Resistance Tackle.

*SEAN: What about bait? I think you picked up a sponsorship last year, didn't you?*

KEN: Yes. Wayne Martin and Bill Dowler from the Boilie Shop were more than kind to put me on their team. What I really like about these guys is the passion they put into their bait. That's the kind of passion I put into my fishing, and that's the type of bait I need. It definitely works for me.

*SEAN: Congrats on that, and plaudits to Bill for stepping up to the plate and supporting you. I am extremely happy that so many American Carp League participants have obtained sponsorships—and in just the past six months! I think that says something.*

KEN: I must say, in August 2005 I never would have imagined being in the position I am now. I was relentless in my short time as carp angler, and it was because of my passion for catching carp that all this has happened. Also, I fish

*The perfect partner! ...Rob Nappi and Ken with a brace of 20's*



with a guy who has been the perfect partner. His name is Rob "NJROB" Nappi. He has been a major part of a lot of my success in 2006.

*SEAN: Do you have an item of tackle that you couldn't live without? If so, what is it?*

KEN: My alarms. If I forgot my alarms once, I could live with that. If I could never use my alarms again, I would be very upset.

*SEAN: What is your favorite carp water and why? You don't have to actually mention the name or location if you wish. Wherever it is, what about it is special for you?*

KEN: Hmm. There are five spots, each a favorite for different reasons: one for winter, one for big fish, one for mirrors, one for quantity, and one for memories.

*SEAN: Are there any places within the USA that you would like to fish, but have not yet had the opportunity to do so?*

KEN: The St. Lawrence River and Town Lake.

*SEAN: What goes through your mind when you approach a new water?*

KEN: First, I like to just stand in one spot for 10 to 15 minutes and look around, taking notice of any splashes, ripples, or bubbles—that sort of thing. Depending on the time of the year, I will seek out certain spots on the water. When the sun is at its highest point in the summer, I search for cooler, shady areas. I also look for overhanging trees, inflows, structures, weed lines, etc. During the autumn and winter months,

I try to find deep water, which seems to stay warmer longer than the shallows.

*SEAN: What is the most memorable carp that you have caught to date, Ken, and why?*

KEN: That's tough. I know you asked for one, but I have to give you two: one is the very first carp I caught, and the other is my personal best, which is 40 pounds, 9 ounces. Very memorable!

*SEAN: Is there an angler who has inspired you specifically in your carp fishing? If so, who would that be?*

KEN: Tommy Robinson helps me hone my skills, and Rob Nappi has introduced me to new ideas, different approaches, and new methods. Rob is innovative and a madman on the banks. We work well together.

*SEAN: What qualities do you think make for a great angler?*

KEN: Patience and Optimism. These are very important to me.

*SEAN: What is your favorite time to fish for carp?*

*Here is my old PB I had for a little bit... weighed 26 lbs... Was pretty slippery there on the bank in the mud.*



*While fishing for carp, I caught my largest Flathead catfish which weighed 29lbs... Just thought I throw it in there.*



KEN: I love the spring. It's like a breath of fresh air.

*SEAN: There's nothing quite like that alone time by the water, is there? Sometimes in this day and age I think Mother Nature may be the closest thing to God that we have. In regards to that, do you prefer to fish alone or with some friends?*

KEN: If the session is short—a day or so—I like being alone. If the session is long, I definitely like fishing with my partner Rob.

*SEAN: Do you like competition angling, or do you prefer just the competition between angler and fish?*

KEN: Competition angling is nice, but I really like the competition of angler and fish.

*SEAN: Are you planning to attend any tournaments in 2007, or will you stick with The American Carp League?*

KEN: I have my eyes on the ATC and The American Carp League, but I am undecided on other tournaments. There is definitely one more that I would like to get into.

*SEAN: What is your Personal Best carp?*

KEN: Mine is 40 pounds, 9 ounces.

*SEAN: Many congrats on that! That likely won't last long at the rate that you're going!*

KEN: It would be nice to do better than that. But, if it never happens, I am content. Many anglers have not caught a 25 pounder yet.

*SEAN: What methods or styles of angling do you use to catch carp?*

KEN: I love my ground bait, which can also be used with the Method. Overall, I like using boilies on top of ground bait. The relationship between the two is key—the flavor of the boilies and the ground bait must be the same.

*SEAN: What's the longest carp fishing session that you have fished?*

KEN: I believe it was 8 to 10 days. At the end of that time I looked like a caveman.

*SEAN: Do you have a favorite carp-angling book?*

KEN: I don't have a favorite book. I usually watch videos.

*SEAN: How do you see the sport (or pastime) of carp angling progressing in the United States? Where do you think it is heading?*

KEN: I am 34 years old, and I think that in my lifetime we will see carp fishing become as popular as bass fishing, if not more.

*SEAN: Do you think that the perception of carp will eventually change in the USA?*

KEN: Absolutely! Fresh-water sport anglers like to fish because they enjoy the size and the fight of the fish. No other fresh-water fish grows to a very large size and has the fight of a carp. Because of this, perceptions will change in the future.

*SEAN: Do you have any words of advice to young anglers who may be thinking about getting into carp fishing?*



KEN: Be patient and learn to appreciate the carp. Research is good, too. Be optimistic and open-minded, and don't expect to catch a Personal Best every time you go fishing.

*SEAN: Kenneth Keene, thank you for your support of The American Carp Society and the very best of luck in the Dynamite Baits 2007 American Carp League.*



*Nice Potomac River carp*