

# NEWSLETTER



## *Inside this Newsletter*

### **Tournament Schedule**

This includes your entry form.

### **Tournament Rules**

This includes your membership form and will be the last form included in the newsletter. If anyone needs an additional form please contact a club officer.

### **Points System**

Correction to Tournament Director Points section.

## Launch Fees

**P**lease remember it is the boaters responsibility to pay launch fees at any Corps of Engineer public boat docks. You will be subject to ticketing if you do not comply.

## Now We Are Ready to Fish!

**M**arch is here and we are ready for our first tournament. Get those entry forms in the mail. We'll see you at Clearwater. Everyone concentrate - we will have good weather!

## Weigh-in Bags

**E**ach member will be issued one weigh-in bag that is his/hers to keep through the '99 tournament schedule. If for any reason a member needs a replacement bag they are available at the cost of \$1.00. Contact a club officer.

## Tips

### Bass Lures

#### **JIG OR WORM**

Water temperature often dictates whether to use a jig-and-pig or a plastic worm. The jig when it's less than 70 degrees and exclusively when it's below 55 degrees. Cold water bass seem to react better to jigs with a slow fall and less action, whereas warm-water bass prefer more action, which a worm provides better than a jig.

#### **JIGS FOR SPOOKY BASS**

In clear water or when bass are edgy because of heavy fishing pressure, use transparent jig skirts and transparent crawfish-type plastic trailers. The traditional bulky, dark-colored jigs are threatening to spooky bass, yet the transparent combination casts less of a silhouette and gives the bait a more subtle appearance.

#### **TRICKING SPAWNING BASS**

The pre-spawn and spawn are good periods to use floating soft plastic lures. Bass often suspend or cruise the backwaters that are first to warm up, looking for an easy meal. Use floating lizards, worms or soft jerkbaits like the Mann's SHADow over submerged brush. As the water temperature rises in the afternoon, bass suspend in bushes and prefer a bait that stays in the strike zone longer.

#### **THE FLOATING WORM**

The floating worm is ideal for fishing matted grass in shallow water because it is so weedless. You can work it in the same areas where rubber frogs or rat-like baits are fished, but the worm can be more versatile because it sinks into holes. To enhance that option, insert a small piece of roofing nail into the mid-section of the lure to make it fall slowly and seductively.

# HAWG HAWLERS BASS CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

## Tips (cont.)

### CAROLINA RIG

When fishing open water areas such as long points or off-shore structure, use a Carolina rigged worm and swim it as much as three feet above the sinker. The Carolina rig consists of a heavy sliding sinker on the main line, followed by a barrel swivel which is attached to a leader. Use a Mann's pre-rigged Limit Finder worm for this technique because the two hooks increase chances of catching light-biting bass.

### CATEGORIZE CRANKBAITS

Stock your tackle box with a variety of lures that have different characteristics. Carry crankbaits with and without rattles, crankbaits with tight wobbles and some with wide wobbles. Include lures that run at various depths, ranging from 1 to 30 feet. By carrying lures with slightly different features, you are prepared for any crankbait situation that develops.

### SELECT BLADES SENSIBLY

It's important to understand the performance of spinnerbait blades and choose those that best suit the job. The Colorado design puts out a lot of vibration while willow leaf blades produce a lot of flash and come through vegetation better. Indiana blades offer a good compromise of both designs. Vibration is good in dirty water or thick vegetation, yet smaller willow leaf blades are best for fishing weedbeds during clear, calm water conditions.

### SLOW ROLL A SPINNERBAIT

A one-ounce spinnerbait is a favorite for winding a lure slowly over the top of deep vegetation, down river ledges or along large logs in deep water. Turn the handle just enough to keep the blade thumping, and fish it as close to the cover or bottom as possible. You'll be surprised how many bass you catch with this technique when other anglers come up empty handed.

### TANDEM VS SINGLE SPINNERS

A single spin spinnerbait may produce more vibration, but the tandem blades help insure that at least one blade is rotating when pulling the lure through brush. If the blade of a single spin stops turning, the bait has a tendency to fall on its side and snag in the brush. Also, the tandem produces more flash and can be fished slower because the two blades give the spinnerbait more lift.

### MODIFY TOPWATERS

You can reduce short strikes or misses that occur on topwater lures by modifying them. Add an extra hook to a buzzbait by sliding a large single hook over the barb of a buzzbait hook. On Zara Spooks, remove the treble hooks from the lure's body and re-attach them with split rings. Replace the split ring on the nose of minnow plugs with a Berkley Cross-Lok snap so that the lure swings more freely.

### TEST NEW LURES

Don't put a new lure in your tackle box until you test it in a swimming pool where you can see precisely how deep it runs, the kind of action it offers and other subtle characteristics. Once it passes that test, take it to the lake and test its performance around brush or grass. Once the lure's characteristics and limitations are determined, use it more effectively in a fishing situation.

## Flyers

We will have flyers available at the Clearwater tournament for any members that would like to post Hawg Hawlers Bass Club information on bulletin boards at work, school, church, etc. We all want to share with others the good fishing, good times, and good friends we enjoy as Hawg Hawler members. Gary envisions a fifty boat tournament in the clubs future and this could help increase our membership.

Contact Pam Wakim 839-7509 or [pamwakim@aol.com](mailto:pamwakim@aol.com) if you have anything for the newsletter.

## For Sale



Bass Pro Shops Pro Qualifier  
Baitcast Reel Model # PQ1000  
5:1 gear ratio. Like new, only used a few times. List price: \$70.00  
Asking: \$45.00 Call Tom McGraw  
895-4566

Hawg Hawlers Bass Club Hats now available. Price: \$6.00. Contact any club officer to place your order.

## Humor



Donna's husband Mike died suddenly one day. Donna was taking care of the funeral arrangements with the undertaker when she was asked how she wanted Mike's obituary to read. Donna asked the undertaker, "How much does an obituary cost?" The undertaker replied, "One dollar per word." Donna then said, "I want the obituary to read - MIKE IS DEAD." The undertaker was an old fishing buddy of Mike's and he was a little disturbed by such a curt obituary, so he offered, "I'll make you a special deal since I knew Mike so well. I'll pay for half of the obituary out of my own pocket." Donna's face lit up and she replied, "Great. I want it to read - MIKE IS DEAD, BOAT FOR SALE."