

# News - December 2004

## From The President's Boat

12-09-04

Hello Hawg Hawlers,

Well, I guess it's technically only been a few months since we finished up the 2004 season...in dramatic Ozarks fashion I might add, but it seems like an eternity between seasons. To keep you all up to date, the officer group has been working, meeting, emailing, calling, and emailing even more to get things set for our 2005 season.

The work is finally starting to pay off and we have completed the . This year will take Hawg Hawlers back to some familiar locations as well as some new spots on familiar lakes. Working with some resorts we are finding some deals and working on club member lodging discounts. In some cases we have procured "One Free Night" donations from our resort hosts to be given away as attendance prizes. We even manage to add a first to the schedule by including Kinkaid Lake in Illinois for the free fishing weekend when no license is required. We'll have more information about Kinkaid as it approaches. Notably, some lakes have been omitted this year. After either a light turnout of fish or anglers ... in some cases both, we have opted to let those waters recover for the year. Regarding fishing hours, as everyone that attended the banquet knows, there was a substantial call for some longer tournament hours. To accommodate this without leaving our members out to fry in the summer sun or weather the cold of the earliest tournaments, we have added two Saturday hours to a spring and fall outing. This year it will be early at Table Rock and at the final competition at Ozarks. We ask everyone to remember this schedule is only tentative and depends on Missouri Water Patrol approval. Special thanks go here to Bob Treadway for the work he does every year getting the permits the keep us all legal. Historically we haven't seen much in the way of alterations from the water patrol so the dates should be correct. Only minor adjustments in take off times are likely if anything.

Another area we have updated is the . For 2005 we have adopted a new payout formula that Rob Cook has spent a lot of time and work on. Overall the change is minor but still allows the same amount of paid places and also keeps our final paid place as break even. In other words, the final paid place gets their entry fee back, a great idea that Terry Stanek came up with some time ago. The goal was to help boost top position payouts in respect to the increase in overall tournament participation costs (Gas, Food, and Lodging). In other words, make it possible for a win to better cover weekend costs without depleting other payouts or decreasing places paid. I think we have done it. So where does the money come from? Well, the secret is in a new graduated percentage award for Big Bass. The payouts for Big Bass is a little less depending on the size of the tourney but the club is continuing the big bass side pot which continues to help the club cover insurance costs and adds cash to the pockets of those who Hawl in the Hawgs. The end result.... All you members get rich or richer whichever the case may be.

Other updates are on the way. A new improved host for our web information is on the way giving us some space for history and stats. Scale and weigh station changes are being looked at also.

Lastly, Rob Cook is putting a lot of work into this year. When I say a lot folks, I mean it. I think this guy was born for this. Let's just say that as the membership, you don't want miss being around for the attendance prizes this year. We have some surprises for you.

Hope your all getting out to the lakes when you can. I want to hear some off season hawg catching stories on the message board so get out there. We look forward to sending more club updates your way soon.

Fish On

Teddy