

March Newsletter

Written by Greg "Cuz" Shands

22 boats braved the cold weather and rain to attend the kick off of the 2008 Hawg Hawlers season. As members began showing up Saturday morning the weather was still bearable but as soon as the tournament directors began releasing boats the rain began to come down and the wind started blowing. This was the norm for most of the day and the fishing was just as bad as the weather. Many boats reported going all day without getting a single bite but 4 boats did find a fish apiece. Oh well, this tournament was just to get all the cob webs out of everything. The next time out will be better, I promise, but don't hold your breath.

This was also our memorial tournament, where we took a moment of silence to remember those anglers who are no longer with us. Ken Jones also asked that we all have a safe season. Thanks Ken.



Taking first place honors were Greg and Jeff Schwent. Jeff managed to find one fish that weighed in at 3.11 pounds. Jeff said he caught it on a black and blue jig. The team received \$186.00 for their effort.



Second place went to Terry Stanek and Bob Treadway. Terry had one fish which weighed 2.39 pounds. Like Jeff, Terry also caught his fish on a black and blue jig. They got \$152.00 for their work.



Third place was new member Chris Jackson who fished by himself. Chris had one fish weigh in at 2.11 pounds. He caught it on a jerkbait. His fish was good for \$120.00 check.

Fourth place went to Dave Sona and James Gibson. Dave had one fish which weighed 1.80 pounds. Dave said jerkbaits were the trick. They got a check for \$ 88.00.

As you can see, the bite was really tough this time out. I'm sure that as the weather straightens out, so will the fishin!



Big Bass

The Big Bass for this tournament was Jeff Schwent's 3.11 lb. bass. Way to go Jeff! Jeff received \$74.00 plus the side pot of \$95.00, for a total of \$169.00.

New Members

I'd like to welcome all the returning members and the following new members: Steven Gerard, Ron Martin, John Murphy, Chris Ramey, John Ramey, John Salvo, Dan Shepherd, James Gipson, Matt Crittendon, Chris Jackson, and Chris Bergman.

Next Tournament

The next tournament will be back at Lake of the Ozarks coming out of the Flame Resort on April 5-6. Saturday's take off time is at 12:00 noon and weigh in is at 6:00 p.m. Sunday's start time is 6:30 a.m. and weight in is at 12:30 p.m. Tournament directors are: Saturday - Shands & Ray, Sunday – Schwent & Schwent.

Be sure to get your money in to Jim by 5:00pm the Wednesday before the tournament, and remember this year you can send in the optional \$10.00 big bass side pot with your tournament entry form and fee.

Tournament Directors

We still need tournament directors for the upcoming Table Rock tournament at the end of April as well as some others. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan or Dean and they will sign you up. Each angler will receive three points for serving as a tournament director. You can volunteer to be tournament director for more than one tournament but points are awarded only once per year.

Standings

1. Jeff Schwent 17 pts
2. Terry Stanek 14 pts
3. Bob Treadway 11 pts
4. Chris Jackson 10 pts
5. Dave Sona 9 pts
6. Mick Schwent 9 pts
7. James Gipson 6 pts
8. All other members who fished and received 3 attendance points.

CUZ'S BOAT

Well, the first tournament has come and gone and thank God it's over. I thought that 3.30pm would never come on Saturday. Between the cold wind and the rain, it was down right miserable. I had planned on the bad weather and packed extra gloves in the boat but I made the mistake of telling my partner about them. Within the first hour he had gone through three pairs which left me with only the pair I was wearing from the start of the day. Needless to say, my hands were frozen solid by afternoon and that's when the fish decided to bite. When the first one bit, my reel handle got caught on my rain coat and I couldn't set the hook. On the next bite, my hands were so cold that by the time my brain got the message that I had a bite and that message got back down to my hands and arms 2 or 3 minutes had passed and the fish had long since let go and swam off. My partner had proceeded to stay curled up in a ball down in the bottom of the boat. Every 15 to 20 minutes he would stand up and make 2 or 3 casts and then go right back to his fetus position. Things did get exciting for a few minutes when I finally managed to hook a fish and I realized that this was a big fish, at least a 5 pounder! Well it was a 5 pounder but it was all Drum.

I saw Russ Grobe before the start of the tournament and he was already wearing his life vest. When I ask him why , he said it was for the extra warmth and he didn't plan on taking it off all day. I walked past Lori about 5 times and each time she was adding another layer of clothing. Sock tops, coveralls and heavy gloves were the clothing of choice this weekend. It's a shame we couldn't have all been able to have weighed in our clothing 'cause then we could have had a decent weigh-in.

Hopefully it will warm up some before the next tournament.

See you all there Cuz