

From The President's Boat

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!

Hope Santa left something in your stocking you wanted for Christmas this year. If not, maybe you should just try to be nicer next year!

As the club president, my goal has been, and will remain, to provide you, the members, with more return than what you put in. The attendance prizes and the banquet prizes have gotten better over the years. This has been mainly due to the strong efforts of the club officers, the people who volunteer to work behind the scenes to put things together. And this year is no different.

We plan to hold two fund raiser BBQ sales this year, which should generate a large addition to the funds used to provide attendance prizes and banquet prizes.

Also on the agenda for this year are more activities after a day out on the water. There will be 3 main events - a BBQ dinner, a fish fry, and the annual chili super. In between these main events, there will be bonfires with a weenie roast and marshmallows. These events provide a chance for us to sit around and get to know each other better and have a fun time.

Did I mention that in a time where the price of everything is going up and what you buy keeps getting smaller than it used to be, we have not raised membership dues or the cost to enter a tournament this year? Yet, you are getting more for your buck.

Now for the part we need your help on. I think we will all agree that it's getting harder and harder to find extra money to spend on every tournament you want to fish. As the 6 people elected to over-see your club, we have looked at ways to encourage more people to fish with our club. We also know that the cost to attend these tournaments can out-weight the payout you can win. One way you, the members, can help with this is to invite new people, friends, coworkers or just people you know who share the common interest of fishing. If you normally fish only a few of the tournaments, try and make it your goal to fish just one more tournament than you might have fished in previous years. The more teams we have at each tournament, the higher the payouts are and the more nice attendance prizes are given out. Who knows, you could win a free night's stay at the next event or win a free entry for the next tournament.

With all the stresses that life throws at us these days; use these tournaments as a mini vacation. Bring your family, friends, or just yourself, and be prepared to have fun.

Now for the part you all want to see: The Schedule

First up is Clearwater. This lake is a good first of the year lake because it is small and for most of us, it will be the first time this year our boats will be in the water. If you have problems someone in the club will know about it and help can be given.

Second, is the ever popular Lake of the Ozarks. This year we will be coming out of Red Oak. We wanted something near the Niangua arm but couldn't find a resort that could hold us and

wasn't too expensive. Dan got us a good deal at Red Oak which isn't too far from the area we wanted.

Next is Table Rock out of Schooner creek. This lake ranked third on the survey and, in the past, we have brought in good numbers of nice fish. Where else can you have a chance to catch a four pound spot, largemouth, or smallie?

Pomme is in May of course. This year, we are trying a Saturday afternoon time slot. Andy and I will be camping here and we encourage anyone who wants to, to camp with us. We will be having a bonfire party Friday night. Also, if you wanted too, you can save some money by coming down on Saturday morning and be out room money for only one night.

Mark Twain is next and hopefully we will get Mother Nature to cooperate this year and not have more water than needed. Also, we will have our BBQ dinner at Southfork as usual.

Wappapello is in July this year. It's hard to pick a lake that will produce during this time of the year but Wappapello will, but remember to think shallow. The fish fry was such a big success last year that we decided to hold it again this year. But for your convenience, we will have it at Miller's Motor Lodge.

We go back to Pomme again in August. This was the number two lake from the survey and it always gives up fish.

We wanted to try Table Rock in the fall, so this September, maybe the hurricanes will stay down south and we can get in some great fall fishing. This time we will be coming out of Holiday Hideaway Resort up on the Aunts Creek area.

Lake Of The Ozark is always the lake to finish out the year with, and Runaway II Resort just seems to be the place to do it. They have the room and have always tried to help us with whatever we need. Again this year, Runaway will be the place for the chill supper. The resort lets us use their restaurant for free. They have also agreed to give every team that stays there a free night's boat slip this year and their prices are not supposed to go up from what they were last year.

There you have it, your 2011 Schedule. I know it's not perfect but it would be impossible to make every member happy, even though we give it our best shot. One thing I love about this club is the fact that we do fish different water around the state at different times of the year and with various weather conditions. In the long run, it makes us all better fishermen. I hope to see all your smiling faces at Clearwater in March and remember to invite as many new people as you can find to come out and be a part of the greatest bass fishing club in the mid-west.

Greg (CUZ)