

NEWSLETTER

Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis

(February, 1995)

It's here again!

Just exactly when is "before you know it"? Remember last year, when everyone was saying that it will be spring "before you know it". Well.....here it is! It may not quite be spring just yet, but it is time to dust off the ol' Snoopy tackle, get some really cheap K-Mart line and clean the rust off some of those waterlogged lures.

The overnight low (last night) was 14 degrees. That doesn't sound too appealing to go fishing. But, what are we? Are we wimps who want to stay home in front of the fireplace, with our feet up, watching "pretend" baseball players. Of course not! We want to get out there and wet a lure on the chance that we may get our poles bent (on something other than a snag or an iceberg).

On a (slightly) more serious note; Clearwater is our first tournament of the year. As you can see on the enclosed schedule, it will take place on March 11th. This will be a one day tournament, that will run from 9am to 4pm. It marks the beginning of the tournament year and the first try at accumulating those valuable "Angler of the Year" points.

You will also note that the tournament rules acknowledgement form is included. This has the membership information area on it.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE AN UP TO DATE SHEET ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB, WITH YOUR SIGNATURE, EACH YEAR!

Please fill out, AND SIGN, your tournament rules acknowledgement form and send it in with your \$15.00 dues to STEVE RHEA, 15 SOUTHWOOD, ST. PETERS, MO. 63376.

Tournament directors needed!

Dan Durbin, our new Chief Tournament Director, is looking for a few good men/women, to be tournament directors for 1995. All you have to do is review the schedule, pick your lake and call Dan at 846-6578 to reserve your spot. Remember, there are 2 points awarded to each team member functioning as tournament directors. This will be on a first come, first served basis, so call early. Limit 2 points maximum per year.

DON'T FORGET!

Be sure not to forget to get your 1995 fishing license. For those with boats, don't forget your plates. Clearwater has been very special to some of us over the years, because of the very dedicated Conservation Agents there. They are very concerned about our safety, and check boats regularly, so, it would be a good idea if you, check your fire extinguisher, throwable life preservers, paperwork, etc. before he does.

Constitution and By-laws....

To keep the cost of mailings down, we have decided not to mail everyone a copy of the Constitution and By-laws. There were some minor changes to the By-laws' to include:

- Name change to "Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis".
- Membership dues \$15.00.
- Removed membership packet section.
- Removed Membership Chairman (most duties now fall under the treasurer).
- Penalties section moved to Membership section.
- Big stringer of the Year section removed.
- Reference to scale fund added.

If anyone would like a copy of the 1995 By-laws, please call Mark Sylvester at 939-4410, and he will send you a copy.

1995 Officers....

Now that I have mentioned three of our 1995 officers, it may be a good time to list them all.

Greg Heinz	President	398-4081
Terry Haynie	Vice President	453-0408
Mark Sylvester	Secretary	939-4410
Steve Rhea	Treasurer	970-1542
Dan Durbin	Chief Tourn Dir	846-6578

If you have any questions, please feel free to call any of us.

WHAT IF IT SNOWS ? ? ? ?

In the event of Snow, lake ice-over, unsafe conditions or other reasons, the officers will make a determination by Thursday (after the 6pm news/weather), if the tournament will be cancelled. If it is necessary to cancel the tournament, all boaters will be contacted by phone. If the boater cannot be contacted, the non-boater will be called.

This is why it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY that we have complete MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION on all members of the club.

If a team is planning to leave for a tournament on Thursday, and there is a possibility of cancellation, that team should contact one of the officers, to verify if the tournament is on or off. Anyone leaving prior to the Thursday night decision is on their own (with the understanding that the tournament may be cancelled).

PAYOUT CHANGE.....

There have been times when our team weights were very close. But we have never had a placement tie. We have been recording each teams big bass for tie breaking purposes. In an effort to speed up weigh-in, we have decided that if we ever do have a placement tie, the teams that tie will split the points and the prize money for the positions that they tied for. We will still weigh any bass in contention for big bass, but only record the biggest.

CLEARWATER FACTS....

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>
TOTAL FISH	100	14	52	56
TOTAL WEIGHT	84.79	11.62	36.02	39.73
# BOATS	15	9	11	8
# ANGLERS	30	18	22	16
FIRST PLACE	16.85	7.33	14.77	11.00
BIG BASS	7.00	2.11	6.56	1.64

Club/Lake Record = 7.00 lbs. (Ron LaGarce - 1994)

Last years accomplishments.....

- All time Hawg Hawler Record Big Bass (shad rap)
- Some of the Bass caught 7.00, 6.13, 5.30, 4.89.
- Defending Champions - Gene and (son) Teddy Reim, 11 fish for 16.85 lbs
- lightest stringer = .61 lbs. (nameless)
- pattern: varied, shad raps, white beetle spins, wiggle warts, crankbaits
- 28 of 30 anglers caught fish
- Top point getter was Ron LaGarce with 7 big bass points, 8 second place points, 2 participation points and 5 creel points for a total of 22.

1995 Schedule Notes....

We took the survey responses into consideration when we compiled the 1995 schedule, and you will notice some changes this year. Some notations and reasonings.....

March - CLEARWATER. Changed to a one day tournament. Early in year. We will fish during the warmest part of the day. Provides option of driving to tournament, fishing, and then driving home, same day (but it makes for a long day).

April - MARK TWAIN. Mark Twain was moved to April allow Table Rock to move to May (to improve production). It may be a bit early for Mark Twain, but fish will be caught.

May - TABLE ROCK. Always a popular tournament. Should have better fish production this year.

June - OZARKS. We will be fishing around the Big and Little Niangua cross (hopefully not a great deal of boat traffic). New area this year. Tournament site has not yet been determined. It will be announced in future newsletters.

July - POMME DE TERRE. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This lake has been superb in July. The only change is that we shifted the hours on Saturday a little later, to try to avoid the hottest part of the day.

July - MISSISSIPPI. Hey, this is new! There is a new ramp at Ellsbury, and plenty of slues and channels to fish. We have checked with the Dept of Conservation (Illinois), and they say that we can fish the Illinois side of the river, with a Missouri fishing license. The off limits areas are COVES and TRIBUTARYS. If anyone goes INTO a COVE OR TRIBUTARY, they had better have an Illinois license. Don't count this out before you look at a map. It's close, it's one day, it looks like there is a lot of good area to fish, and we fish prior to the heat of the day.

August - TRUMAN. Saturday hours shifted later, and Sunday ends at 11 to allow for some additional driving time, and to avoid the hottest part of the day.

WAPPAPELLO - If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Again this lake was very good to us in 1994. It provided us with a number of all time club records. So....NO CHANGES!

Additional Comments....

A number of people (6) suggested that the club impose our own size limit on Clearwater, Wappapello (where there are no size limits).

These two tournaments are placed at the beginning and end of the year, because of their potential for accumulating points. A size limit would diminish that potential. It was decided not to impose size limits this year. We will address this issue on our year end survey to see how the rest of the membership feels.

One of the more popular suggestions to avoid the summer heat was to have 3 weigh-ins (Sat morn, Sat even, Sun noon).

Again, we checked with the Department of Conservation, and they clarified the "possession" limit. It seems that you are only allowed to "possess" 6 bass per day, and that would encompass our two Saturday weigh-ins. Short of imposing a 3 bass weigh-in limit, there was no way around this. So we scrapped the idea and shifted the hot months hours as previously noted.

Someone suggested that we organize Bar-B-Que's in conjunction with a tournament.

If someone (or a group) wants to provide A Bar-B-Que, please let me know (date, time, price) and I will announce it ahead of time in the Newsletter.

Final Note....

March 11 and Clearwater will be here....BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! Don't get caught napping, your reservations are due to Steve by the Wednesday prior to the tournament, to avoid the \$10.00 late fee. Don't forget your (and your partners) tournament rules acknowledgement forms.