

NEWSLETTER

Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis

(January 1997)

1996 October CLASSIC (Ozarks)...

The last tournament of the year for the Hawg Hawlers was not something to write home about. A total of 11 boats, fishing for 2 days could only produce 4 fish. A look at the tournament totals will tell you how bad it was. This was our modified draw tournament, so the results below will list weigh in partners, not boat partners.

Tournament Totals (breakdown on attached sheet)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u># of Fish</u>	<u>TOTAL Weight</u>	<u># of BOATS</u>	<u>1st Place</u>	<u>BIG Bass</u>
1996	4	8.44	11	2.52	2.52

1st Place Lankin/J. Valenti
1 fish - 2.52 lbs
prize: \$ 148.00

2nd Place Cullen/Sona
1 fish - 2.1 lbs
prize: \$ 112.00

3rd Place T. Creamer/Gagnor
1 fish - 1.91 lbs
prize: \$ 76.00

BIG BASS Don Lankin
points - 2.52 lbs
prize: \$ 64.00

1996 Thanks due ...

It took more people to run the Hawg Hawlers last year than ever before. Between officers, tournament directors, and other volunteers quite a few people made the club run smoothly for another year. They all deserve our heartfelt thanks. Terry Stanek is retiring as President and Steve Rhea is retiring after quite a long Treasurer stint. Dave Sona and Mark Tomasiak will return in 1997, in different officer positions. We owe all of these guys a great debt of thanks for a job well done. Thanks, guys!

Club Officers for 1997

At the Classic Dinner, the nominees for the 1997 Officer positions were announced. Nominations were opened to the membership, and with no other nominations being presented, and no objections to the nominees, the 1997 officers were elected by acclamation. YOUR 1997 officers are:

President:	Dave Sona	586-7951
Secretary:	Greg Heinz	398-4081
Treasurer:	Mark Tomasiak	397-4457
Tourn Dir:	Tom O'Connor	938-3160

Please note that the tournament registrations, membership forms, dues, and all other mailings will be mailed to Mark Tomasiak (address listed later).

Classic Dinner

The Classic Dinner was held at Concord Trinity Methodist Church on south Lindbergh Blvd. It was attended by 44 club members, family and friends. We had a great time, good food and plenty of attendance prizes. The following attendance prizes were awarded:

BOB TREADWAY	HILTER COMBO COOLER
TERRY STANEK	TACKLE TOTE BOX
MARK TOMASIAK	KUFE SHARPENER
NECK TOMASIAK	HALOGEN SPOTLIGHT
DAVE SONA	GAZCIA CASTING REEL
STEVE RHEA	STORM LURE KIT/HOTSPOTS MAP BOOK
GREG HEINZ	QUANTUM SWAPSHOT SE3 EXPRESS
MARY ANN HEINZ	GAZCIA 6 1/2 FT SPINNING ROD
MARK SYLVESTER	PLAYMATE COOLER KIT
TED REIM	DIAWA 5 1/2 FT CASTING ROD
TEDDY REIM	HALOGEN SPOTLIGHT
MCKEY SEASE	FLUORESCENT FISHING LIGHT
PAM WAKIM	ROAD RUNNER SOFT PAK
ED GAGNOR	DUCKS UNLIMITED PAINT
TOM P'CONNOR	LEWS RIB3115 REEL
BRIAN ROBINSON	GAZNER MOUNTAIN GIFT CERTIFICATE
JAY PETERO	PLAYMATE COOLER KIT
DAVE REIKEN	LEWS RIB3115 REEL
GREG VALENTI	STORM LURE KIT - LIZARD KIT
CARMEN VALENTI	ALLADIN THERMOS
RON CULLEN	TRAVEL BAG
JERRY PRAEBECK	STORM LURE KIT
CHRIS PRAEBECK	DIAWA 5 1/2 FT CASTING ROD
SCOTT MEATZ	DIAWA REGAL \$2505B SPINNING REEL
TOM MCGRAW	STORM LURE KIT/HOTSPOTS MAP BOOK
STEVE MEATZ	STORM LURE KIT - LIZARD KIT
DAN DURBIN	DIAWA SPINNING REEL
MIKE DURBIN	BEAKLEY 1M7 ROD

Yearly Awards for 1996

The 1996 "Angler of the Year" award was presented to **Brian Robinson**. In this effort Brian attended all 8 tournaments, weighed in 20 fish, finished first once, second twice, fourth once and fifth twice. He also caught the second heaviest bass in club history, for which he received an additional 7 points. With his 2 tournament director points, he finished the year with 79 points and a 16 point lead over second place. For his efforts, Brian was presented with the "Angler of the Year" traveling trophy, a Sweatshirt and Tee Shirt with the Angler of the Year logo, and a G. Loomis Rod.

The 1996 "BIG Bass of the Year" award also goes to **Brian Robinson**. Brian weighed in a Hawg that tipped the scales at 7.12 pounds at the Lake of the Ozarks tournament in April. For this achievement, he receives another traveling trophy, another Sweatshirt and Tee Shirt, and another G. Loomis Rod.

Club Survey Results . . .

The survey that was completed at the Classic Dinner provided us with some very interesting points. Some of the suggestions have been incorporated into the schedule, tournament rules, point system and other areas of the club. Some of the changes are briefly described here. The upcoming newsletters will offer more detailed explanations. If you have any questions please call one of the officers.

1997 Schedule Changes . . .

-Table Rock Lake has been replaced by Kentucky Lake on the schedule. The Kentucky Lake tournament will be held on a **FREE fishing weekend**, when NO fishing license is required. Before you ask . . . Kentucky Lake is about a 3.5 hour drive (same distance as Ozarks) for most of us.

-To try to escape the heat, the July and August tournaments will still be 2 day tournaments, but they will be morning fishing only. With tournament hours of 6am to Noon on both Saturday and Sunday.

1997 Rule Changes . . .

-**Late registration** will require an additional \$10.00 late fee and the tournament fee to be paid prior to the teams participation in a tournament, last takeoff (both days), NO attendance prizes.

-**Lifejackets** must be worn whenever the gas engine is running. This is the standard for most all organizations running tournaments.

-**Short fish:** Due to the number of Short fish presented last year, and the fact that this is a pretty serious violation of the Missouri Department of Conservation, the penalty for presenting a Short fish at a Hawg Hawler tournament will now be **2 pounds** against the teams tournament weight, **AND 2 points** against the "Angler of the Year" point total of the angler presenting the short fish.

1997 Points Changes . . .

-Big Bass will be a fixed 2 points, regardless of weight.
-There will be Big Bass points and prize money awarded for both SAT AND SUN. One day tournaments will disburse the 2nd day's payout money into second and third place money awards (NO points for 2nd & 3rd).
-First place will get a number of points equal to the amount of places paid.
-Maximum number of Tournament Director points has been raised to four (4).

1997 Misc Changes . . .

The last time was in 1992. That's 5 years ago. It doesn't happen very often. And, hopefully it is for the better. What is he talking about(?), you may ask. Tournament Entry Fee's. At the end of 1991 we raised the fee to \$40.00 per boat. Now, it seems, it is time to do it again.

It was suggested, on the survey, to increase the amount of payout at our tournaments. One way to do this is to have a BIG Bass payout for each day of the tournament. That seemed like a good idea, and we incorporated it. But, unlike the government, we must fund any additional payout we create. So, we need another \$5.00 per boat to offset the cost of providing the additional payout. But, this payout only benefits one person. How do we get more money back to the members? It didn't seem right to reduce the number of positions paid in order to increase the dollar payout for each position. So, it was decided that we would increase the boat fee an additional \$4.00 and spread the increase throughout the paid positions. That way **all paid places receive more money than last year**. Lastly, to offset 5 years of rising costs of attendance prizes, postage and liability insurance, the club will require an additional \$1.00, per boat, to go to the treasury.

So, the Registration Fee for 1997 will be \$50.00 per tournament. That is an increase of only \$5.00 per angler. That's not too bad, considering, all of the money goes back to the members anyway, in Tournament Money Payouts, BIG Bass Payouts, Attendance Prizes, Awards, Newsletters, Club Liability Insurance, and the October Classic Dinner.

By the way, we have anticipated future rising costs, and we project that no further increases should be required for another 5 years.

The next Newsletter will be mailed the first part of February. So get ready to go fishin' in March.

Last minute items: Due to the fungus problems at Mark Twain Lake, the schedule may be changed. We will see what develops.

Terry Stanek is looking for an Ambassador 521 LEFT hand retrieve reel. If anyone has one and would be interested in parting with it, call Terry at 928-2286.