

NEWSLETTER

Hawg Hawlers Bass Club of St. Louis

April 2 1998

<http://members.aol.com/HawgHawler/HHBC.html>

HH-9804b.doc

Ozarks Results

It is difficult to try to come up with a humorous antidote here. We had a problem at Lake of the Ozarks. It is addressed later in this newsletter. Please read it, and if you have any questions, please call me or one of the other officers.

Lake of the Ozarks Totals (breakdown on attached sheet)

Year	# of fish	TOTAL weight	# of boats	1 st place	BIG Bass SAT	BIG Bass SUN
1998	31	74.05	28	9.31	4.15	4.44

1st Place Bob Ray/Greg Heinz
3 fish - 9.31 lbs
prize: \$ 220.00 (7 points each)
pattern: Jerk Worm & White spinnerbait.

2nd Place Larry Berry/Chuck Elders
4 fish - 8.81 lbs.
prize: \$ 180.00 (6 points each)
pattern: Crawdad Wiggle Wart.

3rd Place Jim Fanter/Brian Walker
3 fish - 8.71 lbs.
prize: \$ 136.00 (5 points each)
pattern: Red Wiggle Wart, Spinnerbait.

4th Place John Ketcherside/Kelly Nolie
2 fish - 6.30 lbs.
prize: \$ 102.00 (4 points each)
pattern: Chartreuse spinnerbaits.

5th Place Steve Rhea/Mark Tomasiak
2 fish - 5.65 lbs.
prize: \$ 82.00 (3 points each)
pattern: Rattle Traps.

6th Place Tim Jett/Dave Jett
2 fish - 4.33 lbs.
prize: \$ 66.00 (2 points each)
pattern:

7th Place Brian Robinson/Tom O'Connor
2 fish - 4.13 lbs.
prize: \$ 54.00 (1 point each)
pattern:



BIG BASS (Sat) 4.15 lbs - Bob Ray
prize: \$ 140.00 and 2 points.
pattern: White Spinnerbait

BIG BASS (Sun) 4.44 lbs - Kelly Nolie
prize: \$ 140.00 and 2 points.
pattern: Chartreuse Spinnerbait

Smallest BASS Award

1.72 lbs - Larry Berry
Nobody cares what he caught it on.
But it was worth a point.



Coat-tails Award

...or the "Netter of the Month"...

Brian Robinson

Not to rub it in, but that's two months in a row for our 1996 Angler of the Year.



Next Tournament - Truman Lake

Our next tournament is Truman Lake on May 16/17. Hopefully things will go a little better than last month. We haven't fished Truman in May for quite a while. It ought to be fun. The tournament will take out of Long Shoal Marina (see schedule for phone numbers).

Hawg Hawler History (Truman Lake)

YEAR	Mo	Boats	Fish	TOTAL Weight	1st Place	BIG SAT	BIG SUN
1989	6	5	12	29.93	9.35	3.91	
1989	8	5	18	44.70	16.16	3.83	
1990	5	6	8	16.10	7.99	2.42	
1990	7	3	15	31.39	16.71	3.88	
1991	6	7	11	23.69	9.88	3.10	
1991	7	8	4	7.78	4.36	2.23	
1992	6	7	3	8.38	4.64	4.64	
1992	8	11	15	38.38	7.59	4.79	
1993	5	13	36	97.82	29.36	3.85	
1994	5	12	7	16.06	6.82	2.61	
1994	10	16	10	26.68	7.60	3.98	
1995	8	20	22	53.13	12.80	4.00	
1996	8	13	10	22.48	6.50	3.66	
1997	9	18	12	31.86	8.20	4.46	3.74

Defending champs are Carmine Valenti and Jim Binsbacher. They weighed in two fish for 8.2 lbs. Carmine's 4.46 lb'er was Big Bass on Saturday, while Jim's 3.74 lb'er was Big Bass for Sunday. These guy's also won the side pot, for one of the biggest hawls of the year. Their fish were caught on 11" Red Shad or Black worms.

Lake Record is 4.79 lbs, by Ray Burns in August of 1992.

Truman Top Weight is 29.36 lbs in 1993, by Mark Henry and Dan Price. They used blk/blu salt craws in shallow water.

We had a problem at Lake of the Ozarks.

There is no easy way to say this, so I'll just report on what happened. On Sunday morning, there was some very thick fog that rolled in about 5:15am. Our scheduled take off time was 6:30am. Due to safety concerns we delayed our take off until the fog lifted. We actually took off around 8:30am. The officers got together about 6:35am and determined that anyone not present at the **scheduled** take off time, would be disqualified for Sunday. It was a difficult decision, but the decision was made. Over the next 2 hours, a total of 7 boats came in to the "take off" area. Each was told that they were not going to be allowed to weigh in fish on Sunday, because they were not present at the "take off" site by the **scheduled** take off time. Needless to say this created some hard feelings.

A couple day's after the tournament the officers realized that we had made a mistake. According to the way our Tournament Rules are written, there was **NO VALID REASON** to disqualify those 7 boats. The following is an attempt to try to answer some very tough questions that we have been asking ourselves since then.

What was the Problem?

Rule 2c says that one team member must attend the pretournament meeting (held 15 minutes prior to take off). The penalty for a violation of rule 2c is penalty #2 - *loss of take off POSITION for the day.*

Rule 3c says that the team must be present at the designated take off point (with boat in the water) at least 5 minutes prior to the designated takeoff time. The penalty for a violation of rule 3c is also penalty #2 - *loss of take off POSITION for the day.*

Rule 3c continues to say that a team must be present prior to the take off of the Tournament Director. The penalty for a violation of this portion of rule 3c is penalty #1 - **TEAM DISQUALIFICATION** for the day.

In other words, a team is disqualified if they arrive at the take off area **AFTER** the tournament director has left. If they arrive anytime prior to the departure of the tournament director, they only loose their take off POSITION.

How did this misinterpretation occur?

The principle reason for the problem is very simple. We, as officers, assumed we knew the rules, and DID NOT CHECK the Tournament Rules wording prior to the determination being made to disqualify the teams that were not present.

How do we make it right?

Each team can choose one of the following options:

- 1) A full cash refund of their boat entry fee. Return the certificate given to the boater at the lake. Loose any points earned for the tournament.
- 2) Not take the refund. Return the certificate given to the boater at the lake. RETAIN the points they earned on Saturday.

Whichever option they choose, it must be done as a TEAM, to keep our bookkeeping straight.

What steps will be taken to prevent this from happening again?

- 1) The officers will reread the tournament rules and re-familiarize ourselves with each and every one.
- 2) A rules committee will be formed at the end of this year to rewrite and/or reword the tournament rules.
- 3) The officers will implement a procedure to follow if there is a situation requiring a ruling to be made. The procedure will require that **PRIOR TO A DECISION BEING MADE**, the officers will physically read the rule directly from the Tournament Rules Form, and **DISCUSS** how the rule applies to the situation. It will require that the officers read the associated penalty directly from the Tournament Rules Form, and **DISCUSS** how the penalty applies. It will also require that when the accused team is notified of the violation, the rule and potential penalty will be presented with the written Tournament Rules and the offense and penalty will be noted. Assessment of the penalty will be in accordance with guidelines set up in the "INFRACTION AND PENALTY PROCEDURES" section of the Tournament Rules.

What assurance do we have?

The steps taken above, should eliminate, or at least greatly reduce, the possibility of another Tournament Rule and/or penalty being misinterpreted, or applied incorrectly. This is an unfortunate situation for the members that were wrongfully disqualified, and an embarrassing one for the officers. We can only offer our apology, right what was wronged, learn from our mistakes, and promise that we will do everything possible to prevent this from happening again.

NEW Disqualification Procedure

- 1) READ and DISCUSS the Rule in question from the current Tournament Rules Form.
- 2) Discuss how the rule applies to the particular situation.
- 3) READ and DISCUSS the penalty associated with the violation.
- 4) Determine if the violation is justified (using procedure set forth in the Tournament Rules).
- 5) Notify the offending team regarding the rule they are accused of violating. This notification will be done by showing the accused team the Tournament Rule and potential penalty directly from the Tournament Rules Form.

A couple of other items of note:

CLARIFICATION #1: The one boat that did not show up by the time the tournament directors left, WILL STILL BE DISQUALIFIED. This is in violation of the second part of rule 3c as defined earlier, and the penalty is, team disqualification for the day. Since this disqualification is for Sunday only, all points earned Saturday will be retained by the team members (they will be offered NO OTHER COMPENSATION).

CLARIFICATION #2: There was a boat that arrived in the Rod & Reel area at approximately 6:20am. This boat was legally in the tournament. No matter if you use the correct interpretation of the rules or the misinterpretation that we mistakenly used....this boat was legally part of the tournament. Any other opinions are incorrect.

CLARIFICATION #3: Apparently there was a statement made that someone saw one of our boats, with the gasoline engine running, and the anglers were not wearing their life jackets'. Please remember that all protests must be made prior to weigh-in. It's kind of like the marriage ceremony, "speak now or forever hold your peace" (with "hold your peace" being the key statement). From now on, we will be asking at the start of weigh-in if there are any protests.

Our rules exist for one of two reasons. First, to provide a safe tournament for all participants and spectators, as well as anyone in the general area at our takeoff and weigh-in time. And second, to provide for the most fair tournament possible, with only the anglers skill, equipment and luck as the defining points between teams. No other advantages are allowed.

Please keep in mind that if a rule is broken, and it goes unreported, it hurts everyone in the club. It could create an unsafe or unfair situation. If you know of a rule that has been violated, and you want to protest, PLEASE DO SO. In the long run the club will be better for it. If you choose not to protest, or you cannot POSITIVELY identify the team involved, please **don't say anything**. It only starts rumors and causes bad feelings among our members.

I don't like writing this kind of newsletter, and I'm sure no one likes reading them, but occasionally it must be done. Let us put this behind us and look forward to some good fishing at Truman, Stockton and beyond.