



Crappie CAT

A Newsletter By and For the Members of the Crappie Anglers of Texas



From the Editor

I hate Spring. I know, the birds and the bees are doing their thing and so are the crappie, but why does it have to be at the time of year that a front comes thru every other day, and the wind blows constantly. I mean, why couldn't Spring happen in the summer time when fishing is good and so is the weather??

In case you haven't been keeping count, the CAT is now 155 members strong. Is that cool or what? And in only four and one half months. I bet BASS didn't do that good. But I do have a question. If we have 155 members that evidentially joined for the benefit of learning from and fishing with some of the best crappie fishermen anywhere.....why are we consistently only drawing 40+ members to our tournaments?? I mean, it's only costs \$25 to get in a tournament (plus a few expenses), so where the heck are the rest of you. Ahh, I know; you're all waiting for summer, cause you hate Spring. OK, I'll accept that, but come next month, you better start showing at Cedar Creek, otherwise you're fresh outta excuses. Later,
Guy

The President's Corner



Well folks we're one quarter of the way thru our first year and I'm happy to report that the club is a great success. We started out hoping for 50 members and as of today we have 155. It now appears that 200 may be possible. Dare I dream?

We have had three very successful tournaments (considering the weather and crazy fishing) and had 79 different members participate. We also had our first lady angler among the winners, so come on out ladies and join us. The more stable and hopefully, better fishing months are just ahead and I would like to see a lot more members in the next few tournaments. May's tournament is at Cedar Creek and it should be a dandy. It's a draw tournament for you anglers not fishing with your wives or kids. A great chance to fish with one of the better fishermen in the club. The fish should be settled down to a more consistent pattern and should be easier to catch. Bridges, docks and brush piles will all be holding fish. These tournaments are a great place to learn. You would not believe the info freely given out at the weigh-ins. I've learned a lot this year (for example, 38 members including women and kids have out fished me so far.) At least I don't have to worry about anyone following me around to find my good spots. Obviously I don't have any. We have been averaging 21-24 teams at each tournament. Let's try for 30 this time. I promise you it will be worthwhile. At the next meeting I will give out the location of some of Guy & Jay Don's best spots along with some of mine if anyone wants them.

Good fishing.

Ernest Paty

For Sale or Trade

1 year old AT&T Blackjack mobile phone. Excellent condition. Includes all manuals, disc, leather carrying case, two (2) wall chargers and a computer cable link. This is the phone that runs Microsoft Windows and is in fact a mini computer/phone. Asking \$125. Contact Guy Skinner at 214-886-7752 if you're interested.



WANTED - DEAD OR ALIVE

These two guys have been seen capturing and imprisoning our moms, dads, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts. We never see our loved ones again once these guys "stick 'em", and can only imagine what happens to them. They are considered armed and dangerous, as both dip snuff and can spit 20' and knock a grasshopper off a tree. Approach with caution. Shoot first and ask questions later. Reward is now up to 1000 shad...and climbing.

Thank you,
Black Crappie
White Crappie
PS...show them no mercy!!!!

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Richland Chambers Tournament -- Apr. 12, 2008

Hello, my name is "Joe Average" Skinner, and I suck at crappie fishing. (Group) Hello 'Joe' and welcome to our group...we're here to support you and help you overcome this addiction.

Saturday morning, wind blowing like h@#%, and where did all these bass boats come from?? Ernest and I arrived at the lake 'early' thinking we would be ahead of most to launch. I think we were about 43rd in line, with another 27 behind us....and most of the CAT group hadn't even arrived yet. And to compound this already bad feeling, Jerry was pacing up and down beside his boat with a chew in his cheek that looked like a golf ball, hollering for Paul to hurry up (understand, Jerry doesn't get nervous unless he knows something that the rest of us don't). Finally we're in the water waiting for all the bass boats to launch, and I notice that neither my front graph or GPS is working. So I start pulling wires out, as all the CAT member boats are leaving. Yeap, pretty typical tournament start I'd say.

Did anyone else notice; that's a BIG lake, and once I left the marina, I was totally lost, but I had my trusty 'guide' on board, so not to worry. Our first stop was a cove south (?) of the marina. Must have been a good one too, cause about 8 boats were already in it when we arrived. But we fished it anyway, and fished it and fished it. Finally we gave it up and started out, only to notice an osprey eagle flying toward us carrying his breakfast. As he got closer we noticed that he was carrying a crappie, and not just any crappie, but about a 1½# crappie. So I slow down to look, and Ernest grabs the net and starts hollering for the eagle to drop it (did I mention we were getting desperate). Well, this eagle does a couple of passes overhead so that we would get a real good look, and then lands in a lone standing timber about 30' away from us. He then very slowly turns his head toward us as if to say, "fetch this chumps". And you know, I suddenly had the strangest feeling. I never before thought much about birds, but at that instant, I realized I hated them. And if that wasn't enough humiliation; as we started to idle away, a group of four buzzards started circling us.

I knew we were in trouble at noon....no fish and hadn't seen another CAT boat for two hours. Finally we pulled into another cove and recognized a couple boats. To say that Ernest was in a panic mode would be like saying don't play with dynamite cause it's dangerous. Two and a half tournaments so far, and he hadn't seen a crappie yet (except at the scales). Then I finally connect with one, and I think....oh my God, he's gonna kiss me. I have got to find this guy a crappie to catch, otherwise he is gonna become real unstable. He then connects with a good one at 1.755#.....and has to sit down from exhaustion. Five small fish and one decent one; time to go to the weigh-in.

As is becoming all too familiar, Jerry and Paul dominated with almost 12#'s of crappie, but no doubt, they deserved to win cause they targeted big fish. Someday the rest of us might get it figured out, but we better hurry before it's too late for this year. I think a good time was had by all that competed. Lots of good laughs and smiles at the weigh-in. Only a couple of teams were unfortunate enough to not weigh in. Certainly the best tournament so far for fish count. I think we need to do that lake again, but if I see that eagle next time, he's toast.



My 'friend' with his breakfast

Photo courtesy of Pat Martin

And Here's How We Finished

<u>Place</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Big Fish</u>	<u>Team</u>
1	11.215	1.930	O'Bier/Hancock
2	9.735	1.565	Barnes/Barnes
3	9.055	1.685	Rains/Poppell
4	7.220	1.775	Martin/Abercrombie
5	6.995	1.480	Martin/Housewright
6	6.860	1.510	Reeve/Hopkins
7	6.850	1.385	Schwartelander/Jennings
8	6.555	1.880	Nelon/Simms
9	6.255	1.310	Maldonadof/ Maldonadof
10	6.070	1.120	Graham/Goforth
11	5.885	1.615	Villegas/Leonard
12	5.650	1.145	Taylor/Taylor
13	5.225	1.755	Skinner/Paty
14	3.995	1.230	House/Bagnall
15	3.425	1.500	Carr/Steele
16	2.650	1.400	Westenhoefer/Whyte
17	2.165	1.430	Fridge/Bryant
18	2.055	1.180	Budish/Gray
19	0.000	0.000	Rodriguez/Loos
19	0.000	0.000	Worthingal/Worthingal
21	DNF	DNF	Pescatore/Pescatore

We finally got some weight on the board. Congratulations to all that fished.



Jerry Hancock/Paul O'Bier Big Fish 1.930 (hard to tell that these guys just walked away with about \$400,huh). Hate to see them get mad.....



Lined 'em up right this time...from left to right, Jerry Hancock & Paul O'Bier, 1st place, K & Jim Barnes, 2nd place (sorry K, don't know your first name) and James Rains & Eric Poppell, 3rd place

Year's Standings

FNAME	LNAME	Lavon	Lewisville	R.Chambers	SUB TOTAL
PAUL	O'BIER	110	105	110	325
JERRY	HANCOCK	110	75	110	295
JAY DON	REEVE	100	110	85	295
Eric	Poppell	105	10	100	215
James	Rains	105	10	100	215
GUY	SKINNER	95	65	50	210
KURT	WESTENHOEFER	85	85	35	205
PAT	MARTIN	0	90	95	185
TRACY	LAIRD	100	80	0	180
James	Abercrombie	10	70	95	175
GARY	SIMS	100	0	75	175
CHARLES	HOUSE	10	100	45	155
MACKEY	WHYTE	85	10	35	130
Greg	Oidtman	10	110	0	120
BILL	CARR	0	70	40	110
Buck	Housewright	10	10	90	110
JIM	BARNES	0	0	105	105
PHIL	BRADSHAW	95	10	0	105
TOD	FRIDGE	0	75	30	105
ALPHONSO	TIPPIE	0	105	0	105
K	BARNES	0	0	105	105
CLIFF	DALTON	90	10	0	100
JASON	LYONS	0	100	0	100
Dan	Martin	10	0	90	100
Danny	Salazar	90	10	0	100
DOMINICK	PESCATORE	10	85	0	95
KENNETH	SOUTHARD	0	95	0	95
TY	Steed	0	95	0	95
JAMES	KAUFMAN	0	90	0	90
Jerry	Hopkins	0	0	85	85
JIMMY	LEONARD	10	10	60	80
Patrick	Villegas	10	10	60	80
JOE	WILLIS	0	80	0	80
EARL	SCHWARTZLANDER	0	0	80	80
J	JENNINGS	0	0	80	80
BOBBY	GOFORTH	10	0	65	75
Max	Graham	10	0	65	75
GEORGE	NELON	0	0	75	75
ERNEST	PATY	10	10	50	70
SHELDON	SHEPHERD	10	60	0	70
FRANK	MALDONADO	0	0	70	70
FRANKLIN	MALDONADO	0	0	70	70

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JON	BAGNALL	10	10	45	65
DON	LAWRENCE	0	65	0	65
Brian	Spagnola	0	60	0	60
B	TAYLOR	0	0	55	55
C	TAYLOR	0	0	55	55
TERRANCE	STEELE	10	0	40	50
Toby	Gray	10	0	25	35
JOE	BRYANT	0	0	30	30
BRAD	BUDISH	0	0	25	25
James	Coffman	10	10	0	20
RICK	CRILLEY	10	10	0	20
TIM	LAVAS	10	10	0	20
RODNEY	LOOS	0	10	10	20
ANDY	RODRIGUEZ	0	10	10	20
TREVOR	WORTHINGTON	10	0	10	20
Scott	Bailey	10	0	0	10
DOUG	BROADWAY	10	0	0	10
Linda	Brown	10	0	0	10
BERT	BROWN	0	10	0	10
Jimmy	Brummette	10	0	0	10
TOM	CAO	10	0	0	10
Ron	Conatser	10	0	0	10
FLOYD	FREEMAN	10	0	0	10
JARED	HALL	10	0	0	10
Larry	Hardin	0	10	0	10
JIM	HENSON	0	10	0	10
Ray	Mitchel	10	0	0	10
Jeff	Neighbors	10	0	0	10
AHN	NGUYEN	0	10	0	10
Bill	Pescatore	10	0	0	10
SCOTT	SOLIS	10	0	0	10
DEAN	STEWART	10	0	0	10
JOHN	WILLIS	0	10	0	10
K	WORTHINGTON	0	0	10	10

Everyone else has **ZERO**

Revised 2008 Tournament Schedule

At our Board meeting earlier this week, the Board took a long look at our remaining tournament schedule, and decided that it needed some "tweaking". So starting with our next tournament, here is where and when we will fish:

- May 17 Cedar Creek Draw
- June 7 Ray Roberts Partner
- July 19 Richland Chambers Draw

- August 16 Lewisville Partner
- September 13 Tawakoni Draw
- October 4 Cedar Creek Partner
- October 25 TBD Draw This will be our 'classic' and only the top 40 point anglers will compete

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Earlier this week the CAT Board of Directors met to discuss the business of the club. Following are the minutes of that meeting:

- It was determined and agreed that the club will work toward having a total of \$1500 in our treasury at year's end in order to start off the next year
- It was determined and agreed that we will have a 'classic' tournament for the top 40 anglers at year's end and that tournament will be held in October and the entry fee will be \$30/person
- It was determined and agreed that the club will add \$1000 to the 'classic' tournament winnings and that the top 10 places will be paid
- It was determined and agreed that the Angler of the Year (determined by the greatest number of tournament points throughout the regular tournaments) will receive a trophy and \$500
- It was suggested that a committee be formed (non Board members) to coordinate and hold a fish fry in June at Ray Roberts following our tournament there. The club will donate \$150 for this event
- It was determined and agreed that 100% of the tournament entry fees will now go to the tournament winners payout (club previously held out \$7.50/team), and the payout will now be "one pay-place for each five teams entered"
- It was determined and agreed that the sale of club merchandise bought and stocked by the club will be sold for profit. Hats will now be \$10/ea and club decals will be \$10/ea. Items ordered from the catalog and paid in advance will not be increased

On the Water with Backseat Bob

Well I finally got a ride with a good fisherman last Saturday. Only thing was, he didn't catch many fish. We got to weigh in some, but we didn't do to good. Dang wind blew us all over the lake cause his trolling motor wasn't no good, so that's my excuse for not catching any. I seen more fish last Saturday than I seen all year though, so I'm kinda jazzed. I first thought that the bass fishermen were gonna get in our way, but that didn't happen, in fact I didn't see one all day, so they musta gone a different direction than we did. One thing that impressed me Saturday was just before we started. Everybody was millin around in the little marina, kinda playin bumper boats, then all of a sudden I heard some music, and it was our national anthum playin. Most everyone turned off their engines and stood up and took their hats off until it was over. I sorta liked that. I guess fishermen are OK after all. God Bless America.

Remember, the next club meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m.** and the next tournament will be at **Cedar Creek on Saturday, May 17th.** So plan on being at both, and thank you for being a member of the best fishing club anywhere.....the

Crappie Anglers of Texas