



# Crappie CAT

A Newsletter By and For the Crappie Anglers of Texas

## From the Editor



I got to thinking today about how the CAT sorta reminded me of raising my son, who is now a 6'2" senior at the University of North Texas, carrying a 3.9 GPA. When he was first born, he was small and helpless and I loved him to death. As he grew into a pre-schooler, it was great to watch him learning about things that he didn't know. Later when he went into middle school, it was fun to watch his awkwardness, knowing that he would soon master all those skills that now eluded him. But at 17 when he totaled my showroom condition '95 Mustang Cobra, I looked for ways to kill him....and luckily didn't find any. He's now growing into a good man that will face the coming years head on, and change them into something better than I've known. But in the end, I still love him.

In my mind, the CAT is now stuck somewhere between those middle school years and the 17 year old. It's fun to watch, but sometimes you just want to step up and shoot something. We're having growing pains, and at 180 members strong (in seven months), I guess you'd expect some. The large majority of you are being very patient with the Board, and for that we thank you, because after all, we don't have all the answers, and Lord knows we're learning as we go. Those of you that aren't quite as patient; we thank you too, because as I learned with my son; challenges make you a better person, and you're making us a better Board, which in turn is making the club a better organization to be a member of. And while the Board may not love you as much as I do my son, we promise not to try to find ways to kill you either.

Later,  
Guy

## President's Message



Here we are half way thru our first year and five tournaments and most of us still speak to each other. That alone could be considered a successful start. We have 179 members and are still growing each month. Thirty teams entered at Ray Roberts. I know a lot of you are just getting your first taste of tournament fishing and are learning a lot; some things that you wish you didn't have to learn....like how to fish in a gale. At the meetings we try to prepare everyone for

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"How to", "Where to" & "What with" as best we can, but all the things we tell you are for "Ideal" conditions. The most important tool you have on your boat is not your graph or GPS or the "Right lure". It's your BRAIN. It seems that we never have ideal conditions. You have to constantly make adjustments. Try what should be working first and constantly think, try different depths, different presentations, etc. Just because we (I) say fish docks, if it's not working, try something else. If we suggest 10', try 12' or 14' until something works and be aware of what works. Catching one fish can sometimes clue you in but only if you are aware of what you were doing when you caught it. Thanks again to John Wester and his helpers for the fish fry. GOOD JOB.

Good luck to all the club members fishing the Texoma tournament.

Ernest

#### If You Think Gasoline is Expensive.....

Here's a few things that we all can relate to, but I bet you never figured it out by the gallon.

Gatorade -- \$1.59 for 20 oz equals \$10.17/gal

STP Brake Fluid -- \$3.15 for 20 oz equals \$33.60/gal

Evian Bottled Water -- \$1.49 for 9 oz equals \$21.19/gal **FOR WATER** and by the way Evian spelled backward is **NAÏVE**. Sorta makes tap water seem really tasty, huh??

#### Word for the Month

In an effort to bring a little cultural to our club, we're gonna have a word for the month from now on. This month's word is **Cohort** (noun) 'koh-hort'....meaning "a band or group of individuals". I guess you could say that guys like Paul and Jerry, George and Gary, or James and Eric are all 'koh-horts', but please don't tell their wives or girlfriends, cause we wouldn't want them to know that they are out there koh-horting around on them.....now would we??

#### Clarity of the Newsletter

Some of you have commented that your copy of the CAT newsletter isn't as sharp and clear as it could be, and you're right. The reason for the slight blurriness of pictures, header, etc is that I develop the newsletter in a Microsoft Word 2007 format, but because some of you (if not all of you) have the 2003 version of Word, I have to have it changed over to an Acrobat .pdf format. When we do that, it degrades the clarity of quality somewhat. Now if I'm wrong and most or all of you can open Word 2007, let me know, and the newsletter will be a little better looking. And if you ever want a copy of any of the pictures, just let me know and I will email it to you.

#### Tips and Tricks

Well, last month I started this column thinking that we would generate some interest from some of our more "seasoned" anglers, so that we can share some tips and tricks with some of our newer fishermen....and I still think that, so lacking the input that I had hoped for, here I go again.

The only thing that is between you and that record crappie that you just stuck, is your line. So it goes without saying that it is new, quality line that you just put on your reel, right?? Please don't tell me that you're one of those "twice a year line changers, whether you need it or now" type guys. Or that it just cost too much to change your line often. If you are, this will make you change that thinking. First, fill your reel half way with whatever you have handy. It makes no difference what the line test is, or how old it is (good way to get rid of that old line), or whatever. Next go buy a new spool of quality line. Tie the new line on to the 'filler' line by using a surgeon's knot (I'll demo it

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again at next month's meeting), then reel on about 30 yards of new line (stop about 1/8" from the spool edge). Now you have enough line to fish whatever, you have new line so that record crappie won't break off, and you've only spent less than \$.50. Whatta deal!!

How often to do chase your needle nose pliers around your boat?? Never know where they are when you need them, huh?? Bass Pro sells a blue and green (nice color combo...**not**) rubber pliers holder for about three bucks. After you go buy it, get two 1/2" stainless steel metal/wood screws and place it on the console of your boat, facing forward. That way, the next time you need pliers, all you have to do is turn around, grab them outta the holster, remove the jig from that 2# crappie and replace the pliers where you know they will be the next time you need them. Keeping your pliers in this holder will also allow them to dry each time you use them, which will keep them from rusting.

**Rogues Gallery - June Edition**



**Doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs. Who said we ain't got no talent.....**

**Gone With the (Frickin') Wind - June 7, 2008**

...and this wind had nothing to do with Tara's theme.

The wind had been blowing strong all week prior to the Ray Roberts tournament, but Friday night, channel 5 said south at 18 mph for Saturday. After battling a steady 25-30 mph on Friday while pre fishing, I thought "cool, it's finally gonna be fishable". Saturday morning found Ernest and I sitting securely hooked to our best tree, waiting for 0700. The wind was not bad. Ten to fifteen mph out of the south and the morning was idyllic.



**Tranquility...but for a beer can**

Of course we were alone, as we were on the west side of the lake, where we had found 30 or so very good fish the day before (and had never hit the same tree for more than 3 minutes), all before 1100.

Finally 0700....jigs in the water and two keepers in two minutes. This is gonna be good. Next tree...nothing. Next tree...nothing, and so on. Turn the side scan on and see if they are still there. Yeap, still there. Next tree...nothing. Gotta go to a brushpile (where Cliff and Bill were wearing the crappie out on the west side)....nothing on that one either. Finally about 1030 Ernest said we had to go the 3002 bridge (man, it looks a little rough for an open water run), and away we go. Good thing I had all 'wash-and-wear' on, as Ernest was determined to get there quick....3' rollers be damned. We get to the bridge only to find that it can't be fished (looked something like 'the perfect storm' had just hit). So we decide to go around the corner where there would be no wind, and there wasn't, but what there was, was a 'swarm' of small kayak style boats, looking for all the world like a swarm of water beetles everywhere, so couldn't fish there either. Ernest says it was a bad decision to come north and we had to go back south (really great since my clothes had just dried out). Now the wind was really starting to blow. The engine throttle is set at 3000 rpm, and we're going 10 mph against the wind....and it's starting to rain. About that time I was thinking, "my mama wasn't suppose to have raised a complete fool....so what am I doing here"?? We finally get back to where we started about an hour ago, still have only two fish, it's 1300, the wind is now blowing a steady 35-40 mph (with gusts over 50 mph), we're soaked to the proverbial bone, and we only have one hour to fish (you see, we were 35+ minutes from the weigh-in). After knocking over a few trees with the bow of Ernest's boat, we finally get tied to a tree big enough to hold us, and the fish are biting. I swear that I heard something whisper in my ear at that point, "you've been tortured enough today...now fish". So we proceed to finish out our limit and go to weigh-in.

When we get to the Buck Creek Store, there is a lot of rigs already there with guys leaning against their boats, all appearing to be trying to regain their equilibrium. As predicted, there were a lot of fish being brought in to weigh. But the most noticeable common denominator, was the look on everyone's face....one of total and complete exhaustion. The usual guys were well up in the weight category (Paul and Jerry) with some very refreshing (and new) faces just ahead and just behind them. And then there was those of us that usually bring up the rear (me) looking on in awe of all the big fish.

**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS** goes out to John Wester and his entire "crew" for the fish fry afterwards. Also a special thanks goes out to the Buck Creek Store for allowing us to take over his entire lot with trucks, boats, and people. And while this tournament will probably go down as the toughest conditions (we hope) that we had to fish in 2008; it should also go down as the one that showed the best get-together and friendship that our club has to offer. We need more of that type of thing; whether fishing is involved or not.

Congratulations to all the winners, thanks to all that participated, thanks to all the cooks, thanks for being a member of the Crappie Angler of Texas. See you next month.....

Ray Roberts Result

1	1.650	8.740 Nelon - Simms
2	1.640	8.550 O'Bier - Hancock
3	1.280	7.695 Worthington - Worthington
4	1.350	7.660 Dyer - Law
5	1.415	7.655 Anh Nguyen
6	1.370	7.180 Conatser - Merriman
7	1.370	6.995 Carroll - Freeman
8	1.190	6.650 Cao - Hall
9	0.995	6.560 Carr - Spindle
10	1.020	6.225 Leonard - Broadway
11	0.925	6.130 Housewright - D Martin
12	1.325	6.040 Mouw -Mouw
13	1.125	5.930 Paty - Skinner
14	1.250	5.645 Oidtam - Walker
15	1.120	5.585 Turner - Vinson
16	0.865	5.470 Bradshaw - Lussier
17	0.925	4.880 Hill - Hill
18	0.590	4.850 Rick Crilley
19	0.915	4.680 Budish - Gray
20	0.820	3.920 Whyte -Villegas
21	1.005	3.680 Wester - Rodriguez
22	0.750	3.235 P Martin - Abercrombie
23	1.360	2.805 B & E Shivers
24	0.750	2.765 Rains - Poppell
25	0.865	2.650 Reeves - Reeves
26	1.035	2.230 Myer - Williams
27	0.740	1.925 House - Wilson
28	1.100	1.680 Leard - Lavas
29	-	- D & M Kelsey
29	-	- D & B Pescatore



L to R George Nelson and Gary Simms 1<sup>st</sup> place, Jerry Hancock and Paul O'Bier 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Alan and Trevor Worthington 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Rhonda and JayDon Reeve Top Couple. Congratulations folks...you deserve every penny and kudu for winning that tournament. And thank you Rhonda for adding some class to this picture.....



Gary Simms - Big fish 1.650# Congratulations Gary

**Year to Date Standings**

And now we get to the "read-it-and-weep" section, of course, all except Paul

1	PAUL	O'BIER	110	105	110	90	105	520
2	JERRY	HANCOCK	110	75	110	60	105	460
3	GUY	SKINNER	95	65	50	95	50	355
4	JAY DON	REEVE	100	110	85	35	10	340
5	ERIC	POPPELL	105	10	100	100	10	325
5	JAMES	RAINS	105	10	100	100	10	325
7	GARY	SIMS	100	0	75	0	110	285
8	BILL	CARR	0	70	40	95	70	275
9	TRACY	LAIRD	100	80	0	50	10	240
9	PAT	MARTIN	0	90	95	45	10	240
11	ERNEST	PATY	10	10	50	105	50	225
12	JAMES	ABERCROMBIE	10	70	95	30	10	215
13	ANH	NGUYEN	0	10	0	110	90	210
14	GEORGE	NELON	0	0	75	20	110	205
14	KURT	WESTENHOEFER	85	85	35	0	0	205
16	TREVOR	WORTHINGTON	10	0	10	80	100	200
17	JAMES	COFFMAN	10	90	0	90	0	190
18	JIMMY	LEONARD	10	10	60	40	65	185
19	RON	CONASTER	10	0	0	85	85	180
19	CHARLES	HOUSE	10	100	45	15	10	180
19	TY	STEED	0	95	0	85	0	180
22	GREG	OIDTMAN	10	110	0	10	45	175
23	BUCK	HOUSEWRIGHT	10	10	90	0	60	170
24	PHIL	BRADSHAW	95	10	0	20	35	160
24	DANNY	MARTIN	10	0	90	0	60	160
26	MACKEY	WHYTE	85	10	35	10	15	155
27	JASON	LYONS	0	100	0	30	0	130
28	MIKE	WILSON	0	0	0	110	10	120
29	JIM	BARNES	0	0	105	10	0	115
29	KATIE	BARNES	0	0	105	10	0	115
29	TOD	FRIDGE	0	75	30	10	0	115
29	TIM	LAVAS	10	10	0	80	10	110
33	DON	LAWRENCE	0	65	0	40	0	105
33	FAITH	PATY	0	0	0	105	0	105
33	ALPHONSO	TIPPIE	0	105	0	0	0	105
33	PATRICK	VILLEGAS	10	10	60	10	15	105
37	CLIFF	DALTON	90	10	0	0	0	100
37	DANNY	SALAZAR	90	10	0	0	0	100
37	ALAN	WORTHINGTON	0	0	0	0	100	100
40	?	DYER	0	0	0	0	95	95
40	?	LAW	0	0	0	0	95	95
40	DOMINICK	PESCATORE	10	85	0	0	0	95
40	KENNETH	SOUTHARD	0	95	0	0	0	95
44	BERT	BROWN	0	10	0	80	0	90
44	FLOYD	FREEMAN	10	0	0	0	80	90
44	BILL	SHIVERS	0	0	0	80	10	90
44	EVIN	SHIVERS	0	0	0	80	10	90
44	KELLIE	WORTHINGTON	0	0	10	80	0	90
49	TOM	CAO	10	0	0	0	75	85
49	JARED	HALL	10	0	0	0	75	85
49	JERRY	HOPKINS	0	0	85	0	0	85
49	JOHNNY	MERRIMAN	0	0	0	0	85	85
53	MATT	CARROLL	0	0	0	0	80	80
53	J	JENNINGS	0	0	80	0	0	80

53	EARL	SCHWARTZLANDER	0	0	80	0	0	80
53	JOE	WILLIS	0	80	0	0	0	80
57	DOUG	BROADWAY	10	0	0	0	65	75
57	BOBBY	GOFORTH	10	0	65	0	0	75
57	MAX	GRAHAM	10	0	65	0	0	75
57	SCOTT	SOLIS	10	0	0	65	0	75
61	TOBY	GRAY	10	0	25	15	20	70
61	FRANK	MALDONADO	0	0	70	0	0	70
61	FRANKLIN	MALDONADO	0	0	70	0	0	70
61	SHELDON	SHEPHERD	10	60	0	0	0	70
61	CLIFF	SPINDLE	0	0	0	0	70	70
66	JON	BAGNALL	10	10	45	0	0	65
66	JEFF	SCHWIETERMAN	0	0	0	65	0	65
66	JOHN	WESTER	0	0	0	55	10	65
69	JARED	KASPER	0	0	0	60	0	60
69	BRIAN	SPAGNOLA	0	60	0	0	0	60
71	BILL	MOUW	0	0	0	0	55	55
71	(SON)	MOUW	0	0	0	0	55	55
71	BRUCE	TAYLOR	0	0	55	0	0	55
71	(WIFE)	TAYLOR	0	0	55	0	0	55
75	KEVIN	KUBIAK	0	0	0	50	0	50
75	TERRANCE	STEELE	10	0	40	0	0	50
77	BRAD	BUDISH	0	0	25	0	20	45
77	RICK	CARVER	0	0	0	45	0	45
77	RICK	CRILLEY	10	10	0	0	25	45
77	RHONDA	REEVE	0	0	0	35	10	45
81	EDDIE	TURNER	0	0	0	0	40	40
81	JOHN	VINSON	0	0	0	0	40	40
83	ROD	LUSSIER	0	0	0	0	35	35
84	JOE	BRYANT	0	0	30	0	0	30
84	TOBY	HILL	0	0	0	0	30	30
84	JAMES	HILL	0	0	0	0	30	30
84	ANDY	RODRIGUEZ	0	10	10	0	10	30
88	DON	KELSEY	0	0	0	25	0	25
88	(WIFE)	KELSEY	0	0	0	25	0	25
90	LINDA	BROWN	10	0	0	10	0	20
90	RODNEY	LOOS	0	10	10	0	0	20
90	ERIC	WALKER	0	0	0	10	10	20
93	SCOTT	BATLEY	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	JIMMY	BRUMMETTE	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	KEVIN	ELY	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	(WIFE)	ELY	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	LARRY	HARDIN	0	10	0	0	0	10
93	JIM	HENSON	0	10	0	0	0	10
93	RAY	MITCHELL	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	JASON	MYERS	0	0	0	0	10	10
93	JEFF	NEIGHBORS	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	BILL	PESCATORE	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	JIMMY	PHILLIPS	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	CLAY	RUSSELL	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	FABRICIO	SALAS	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	DEAN	STEWART	10	0	0	0	0	10
93	GARY	SWEET	0	0	0	10	0	10
93	JIMMY	WILLIAMS	0	0	0	0	10	10
93	JOHN	WILLIS	0	10	0	0	0	10

EVERYONE ELSE HAS 'ZERO'

**Remember, next meeting is Tuesday, July 15 and the next tournament is at Richland-Chambers on July 19. See you all at each event.....**

Well, that's it for another month. Thanks to everyone for the help in putting this rag together, and thanks to all of you for being a member of the best fishing club anywhere.....

**THE CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS**

