



Crappie CAT

A Newsletter By and For the Crappie Anglers of Texas

From the Editor



They say that time flies when you're having fun.....so I must be having fun, cause the CAT is now six months old. And while not trying to sound like a pessimist; I never thought that we would have anywhere near the support that we're getting from our members. Six months old, 173 members, several registered club sponsors, averaging 75+ members per meeting and approx 50 members per tournament, and no fist fights yet.....amazing. And you guys are supporting the club with not only your participation, but with your wallets. The sales of club logo articles is far beyond what we ever expected. But the biggest thing that I can say for the club is the friendliness of the group. I have belonged to three fishing clubs, and without a doubt, this is the best. We've had growing pains, and that's good, cause we're learning from it. Heck, who knows, in 10-15 years we might even have this thing right. Thanks for your support, thanks for your friendship, and thanks for being a member of the **CRAPPIE ANGLERS OF TEXAS**.

Presidents Message



Folks, it's time I expressed my appreciation to all of you. When I first mentioned the idea of starting a crappie club and holding tournaments I was told by several guys that it wouldn't work out. Texas is just not a crappie state, all the successful tournaments are for bass. Well we now have 173 members and are still growing. We just had our fourth tournament and had 56 members fish. Several of the fishermen came from several hundred miles away to fish this tournament.

As we continue to grow and the members get more experience and start to partner up, we will have even bigger turnouts. I have never been in a group of competitive fishermen and witnessed the sharing of information and techniques that we have. At the weigh-in Saturday we told it all and everyone there came away with something to improve their catch in the future. As has been said in the past, (and will be said again, and again) you will learn more by fishing one tournament than you

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will by attending several seminars or club meetings. This was the first tournament that we paid 5 places and even 5th place took home \$100.00.

As stated in our original charter, we are here to promote, teach and have friendly competition. We have a large number of non-boaters that are getting some good experience. We also have about 50 boat owners that are not fishing the tournaments. I know a lot of you joined the club for the meetings/seminars and may never fish tournaments but I urge you to try it. It's fun, addictive and very educational. So, THANK YOU all.

Ernest

(ED. NOTE—I have got to get a better picture of this guy)

Tips and Tricks

There is no doubt that the "how to" sessions at our meetings is being accepted with great enthusiasm, and will hopefully will be a staple of our meeting in the future, but I thought that we're probably missing out on not putting something in the newsletter that will help some of our members become better at our chosen sport. So in the future, we'll have a 'tips and tricks' section, and hopefully some of you more "seasoned" crappie anglers will want to share some of your knowledge. So I'll start it out this month with some very basic tidbits that just might help some of you.

OK, it's Saturday morning and you've waited all week to get out on the lake. So how do you assure that it will be a good day of fishing, and not a bad day of problems?? Let's look at the boat first. Of course you charged your batteries after last using them, right? A discharged battery left in a discharged stage for even a couple of days will start 'remembering' where it was left. In other words; battery lead plates will start forming a reddish film over the area of discharge if not re-charged soon after use. If that condition is bad enough, you will never be able to charge that portion of the cells again, thereby reducing your battery capacity by whatever percentage of damage that is done to the lead plates. Outcome - you know you charged your batteries last night (albeit you used your boat two weeks ago and didn't re-charge until last night), and by noon you're out of 'juice'. And in fact, you're out about \$200-\$300 cause once you do this to your batteries, (worse case) they'll never recover. Or how about something as simple as the gasoline in your boat (not that that's a mere few dollars anymore). You know that you filled your tank several months ago and you still have more than a half tank left, so why put more in?? Gasoline left to sit goes bad. Now I'm no chemist, but I do know that old gas is NOT better than no gas at all. Old gas can clog up carburetors and injectors, and in the long run, can cost you big bucks left unattended. It's much better to spend a few bucks buying a gas treatment compound than it is spending \$100's letting your local marine dealer clean your engine. I run a LOT of gasoline thru my engine every month, but I still spend the \$3 to 'doctor' it every three months. Better safe than sorry.

So come on.....if you have a tip or trick related to our sport, send it to me and I'll make you famous next month.....

For Sale or Trade

I know for sure that some of you have items that you would like to sell, so why don't you send the list to me so that we can find you a buyer. I guess that I'm the only one so far that wants to sell things.

My wife and I are selling our home in Flower Mound and moving full time to our lake home at Cedar Creek, and we have a large home full of furniture that we must get rid of. So if you're in the market to buy 'mama' that new (slightly used) formal living room set, family room set, antique bedroom set, entertainment center, formal dining room set.....give me a call and I'll make you a deal you can't refuse.

Rouges Gallery



Sorta our version of the "kid on the milk carton". If you've seen any of these guys, don't report it to any of the authorities. You may be found guilty of association.....

Shirt Sales

The shirt sales have begun to be a bit of a problem. My vendor has been, let's see, how can I say this.....flat on it. I know I owe some of you shirts from 2-3 months ago, and I still don't know if I'll have them next meeting (hopefully I will). But to try to curb this somewhat overwhelming task, I've decided that we will sell shirts, or anything else, out of the catalog on a quarterly basis. So the next time you'll be able to order shirts, etc, will be at the August meeting. We will still have hats and decals for sell at every meeting.

Time for a Reminder

I'd like to share some comments that have been told to me by boaters since Saturday. "I'll just fish with my wife from now on, cause I might as well have someone in the boat that I like if I'm going to pay all the expenses anyway". "I'm not too sure that I can take much more of these draw tournaments. He wanted half the money but didn't want to pay half the expenses. Glad we didn't win anything". "I've had it with draw tournaments. From now on I'll just fish partner tournaments".

In each case, I listened; interested in what each of these guys had to say, and being somewhat sympathetic, as I too am a boat owner. But let me stop and say, I have had the great fortune of fishing with some true gentlemen, that evidentially understood the money part. Boats cost a lot of money. We all know that, whether we are a boat owner (actual experience) or a non-boat owner (sticker shock when looking). And the initial cost of a boat is only the tip of the iceberg. With gas approaching \$4/gallon, I can personally tell you that it is very easy to spend \$100 at the pump first thing in the morning, only to know that you burned most of it during the tournament day, and if you wanna go out tomorrow, you gotta do it all over again. For most of us, that can be a tough thing if your partner only dropped a "ten spot" on you at the end of the tournament day.

This isn't intended to imply that anyone is outwardly trying to not pay their part. It is although intended to hopefully make you stop and consider what it cost your partner to put his boat in the water that day. Still not sure if you understand.....then let me throw a scenario at you. Let's take last weekend at CC for instance:

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Non-boater

Gas for the drive to the lake and home from the DFW area -- \$30.00

Breakfast on the way down -- \$10.00

Entry fee -- \$25.00

Misc -- \$20.00

Total -- \$85.00

Boater

Gas for the drive to the lake and home from the DFW area towing his boat -- \$50.00+

Breakfast on the way down -- \$10.00

Entry fee -- \$25.00

Gas for the boat (20 gal @\$3.65/gal) -- \$73.00

Boat insurance, oil, maintenance, etc -- We won't throw that in here, although it can very well run \$1500+/year

Misc -- \$20.00

Total -- \$178.00

The idea here guys is that if we want to continue to have boaters willing to put their boats in the water for the draw tournaments, we have to have non-boaters that are willing to help with their appropriate share of the cost on the draw tournaments. Otherwise we lose the 'open seats' either to a family member, or worse yet, loose the entire boat for the draw tournaments. I hope all of you will take this in the spirit that it is written.....trying to help you, the non-boater. Here's something that might help you understand why we need every boat owner that we can get to fish tournaments. While only 49% of the CAT boat owners have fished tournaments.....60% of the CAT non-boat owners have fished tournaments. Think about it.....

Cedar Creek, May 17, 2008

Prefishing Cedar Creek the week before the tournament, myself as well as several others, were sure that the tournament would be won fishing docks. Every dock had good fish very willing to take your offering. Fast forward to the day before the tournament. I raised the garage door to find several naked birds flitting around, cause the wind had blown all the feathers off them. Undaunted, I went to my local ramp to launch (not an easy thing by yourself in a gale force wind). As my boat slid into the water, the wind abruptly slammed it into the dock, putting my first serious dent in my Lund. I'll get over that I thought. I start hitting the docks and fighting two foot waves....and no fish. I hit a few more....and no fish. Then my electronics decide to go on vacation. So at noon I decide that I've had enough, and go in. That night I get with several other guys that prefished, and no one is getting dock fish. This could get interesting.

Saturday morning my partner, Bill Carr (one of the nicest guys you'll ever fish with) shows up at my home and we're ready to go. No wind, so I hold my breath and say a little prayer. At the stroke of seven, we're sitting at one of the best docks on the lake. Twenty minutes later....no fish. I tell Bill that we're giving up on docks and started for my first condo. One decent fish. Three hours later, we haven't seen another CAT member, but we've caught about 25 crappie, with seven in the box. An hour later, we're sitting on one of my brushpiles and along comes Anh and Mike. Anh says he has seven in the box, but not big. Me too. I then run into Chuck Rollins with his customers and we exchange "hellos" (I'm headed for another really good brushpile). Chuck tells me that they are catching fish on brushpiles and they just came from one that they caught 15 really good fish. I ask

him if it's the one in Cedar Branch...he says yes, and my dobber hits the dirt. I still haven't seen any more CAT members. I'm worried. It's now 1:00 o'clock and I tell Bill that I have another good brushpile that might help us...if nobody has hit it. We pull up and bingo, bigger fish all over it. Thank you Lord, thank you Lord.

It's now time for weigh-in and none too soon, cause I'm beat. Thanks again to Paul and George for putting on another great tournament, if not a seriously challenging one. And the results were:
Place / Big Fish / Total / Team

1..	1.630	8.760	Nguyen - Wilson
2..	1.780	8.440	Paty/Paty
3..	1.130	7.725	Rains/Poppell
4..	1.125	7.570	Skinner - Carr
5..	1.120	7.200	O'Bier - Coffman
6..	1.137	6.635	Conatser - Steed
7..	1.270	6.615	Shivers/Shivers
7..	1.225	6.615	Worthington/Worthington
7..	1.180	6.615	Brown - Lavas
10.	1.210	6.475	Solis - Schwieterman
11.	1.340	6.305	Hancock - Kasper
12.	1.150	5.430	Wester - Rodriguez
13.	0.845	4.940	Kubiak - Leard
14.	0.905	4.555	Martin - Carver
15.	1.295	4.045	Leonard - Lawrence
16.	0.830	3.055	Reeve/Reeve
17.	0.940	2.665	Lyons - Abercrombie
18.	1.185	2.390	Kelsey/Kelsey
19.	1.020	2.105	Nelon - Bradshaw
20.	0.720	1.900	House - Gray
21.	1.050	1.740	Fridge - Sweet
22.	0.875	1.665	Phillips - Russell
23.	0.930	0.930	Whyte - Salas
24.	0.000	0.000	Oidtman - open
25.	0.000	0.000	Barnes/Barnes
26. - -			Tyler - Southard
27. - -			Ely/Ely

Big Fish - Team Paty - 1.780



L to R - Mike Wilson and Anh Nguyen, 1st place, Faith Paty and Ernest Paty, 2nd place, and James Rains and Eric Poppell, 3rd place. Congratulations to all you guys (and girl) for kicking butt in a hard won tournament



And big fish went to none other than our somewhat illustrious president, Ernest Paty with a 1.780 slug. Congratulations Ernest.....but you gotta do something about those "goggles" you call sunglasses

Year-To-Date Standing

It's read-it-and-weep-time, but what the hey; if your name is in this one, at least you've got points toward the big year-end classic.

PLACE	FNAME	LNAME	Lavon	L'ville	RC	CC	SUB TOTAL
1	PAUL	O'BIER	110	105	110	90	415
2	JERRY	HANCOCK	110	75	110	60	355
3	JAY DON	REEVE	100	110	85	35	330
4	ERIC	POPPELL	105	10	100	100	315
4	JAMES	RAINS	105	10	100	100	315
6	GUY	SKINNER	95	65	50	95	305
7	TRACY	LEARD	100	80	0	50	230
7	PAT	MARTIN	0	90	95	45	230
9	JAMES	ABERCROMBIE	10	70	95	30	205
9	BILL	CARR	0	70	40	95	205
9	KURT	WESTENHOEFER	85	85	35	0	205
12	JAMES	COFFMAN	10	90	0	90	190
13	TY	STEED	0	95	0	85	180
14	ERNEST	PATY	10	10	50	105	175
14	GARY	SIMS	100	0	75	0	175
16	CHARLES	HOUSE	10	100	45	15	170
17	MACKAY	WHYTE	85	10	35	10	140
18	JASON	LYONS	0	100	0	30	130
18	GREG	OIDTMAN	10	110	0	10	130
20	PHIL	BRADSHAW	95	10	0	20	125
21	JIMMY	LEONARD	10	10	60	40	120
21	ANH	NGUYEN	0	10	0	110	120
23	JIM	BARNES	0	0	105	10	115
23	KATIE	BARNES	0	0	105	10	115
23	TOD	FRIDGE	0	75	30	10	115
26	BUCK	HOUSEWRIGHT	10	10	90	0	110
26	MIKE	WILSON	0	0	0	110	110
28	DON	LAWRENCE	0	65	0	40	105
28	FAITH	PATY	0	0	0	105	105
28	ALPHONSO	TIPPIE	0	105	0	0	105
31	CLIFF	DALTON	90	10	0	0	100
31	TIM	LAVAS	10	10	0	80	100
31	DANNY	MARTIN	10	0	90	0	100
31	DANNY	SALAZAR	90	10	0	0	100
31	TREVOR	WORTHINGTON	10	0	10	80	100
36	RON	CONASTER	10	0	0	85	95
36	GEORGE	NELON	0	0	75	20	95
36	DOMINICK	PESCATORE	10	85	0	0	95
36	KENNETH	SOUTHARD	0	95	0	0	95
40	PATRICK	VILLEGAS	10	10	60	10	90
40	KELLIE	WORTHINGTON	0	0	10	80	90
42	JERRY	HOPKINS	0	0	85	0	85
43	J	JENNINGS	0	0	80	0	80
43	EARL	SCHWARTZLANDER	0	0	80	0	80
43	BILL	SHIVERS	0	0	0	80	80
43	EVIN	SHIVERS	0	0	0	80	80
43	JOE	WILLIS	0	80	0	0	80
48	BOBBY	GOFORTH	10	0	65	0	75
48	MAX	GRAHAM	10	0	65	0	75
48	SCOTT	SOLIS	10	0	0	65	75
51	FRANK	MALDONADO	0	0	70	0	70

51	FRANKLIN	MALDONADO	0	0	70	0	70
51	SHELDON	SHEPHERD	10	60	0	0	70
54	JON	BAGNALL	10	10	45	0	65
54	JEFF	SCHWIE TERMAN	0	0	0	65	65
56	JARED	KASPER	0	0	0	60	60
56	BRIAN	SPAGNOLA	0	60	0	0	60
58	BRUCE	TAYLOR	0	0	55	0	55
58	(WIFE)	TAYLOR	0	0	55	0	55
58	JOHN	WESTER	0	0	0	55	55
61	TOBY	GRAY	10	0	25	15	50
61	KEVIN	KUBIAK	0	0	0	50	50
61	TERRANCE	STEELE	10	0	40	0	50
64	RICK	CARVER	0	0	0	45	45
65	RHONDA	REEVE	0	0	0	35	35
66	JOE	BRYANT	0	0	30	0	30
67	BRAD	BUDISH	0	0	25	0	25
67	DON	KELSEY	0	0	0	25	25
67	(WIFE)	KELSEY	0	0	0	25	25
70	LINDA	BROWN	10	0	0	10	20
70	BERT	BROWN	0	10	0	10	20
70	RICK	CRILLEY	10	10	0	0	20
70	RODNEY	LOOS	0	10	10	0	20
70	ANDY	RODRIGUEZ	0	10	10	0	20
75	SCOTT	BAILEY	10	0	0	0	10
75	DOUG	BROADWAY	10	0	0	0	10
75	JIMMY	BRUMMETTE	10	0	0	0	10
75	TOM	CAO	10	0	0	0	10
75	KEVIN	ELY	0	0	0	10	10
75	(WIFE)	ELY	0	0	0	10	10
75	FLOYD	FREEMAN	10	0	0	0	10
75	JARED	HALL	10	0	0	0	10
75	LARRY	HARDIN	0	10	0	0	10
75	JIM	HENSON	0	10	0	0	10
75	RAY	MITCHELL	10	0	0	0	10
75	JEFF	NEIGHBORS	10	0	0	0	10
75	BILL	PESCATORE	10	0	0	0	10
75	JIMMY	PHILLIPS	0	0	0	10	10
75	CLAY	RUSSELL	0	0	0	10	10
75	FABRICIO	SALAS	0	0	0	10	10
75	DEAN	STEWART	10	0	0	0	10
75	GARY	SWEET	0	0	0	10	10
75	ERIC	WALKER	0	0	0	10	10
75	JOHN	WILLIS	0	10	0	0	10
75	ERIC	WALKER	0	0	0	10	10
75	JOHN	WILLIS	0	10	0	0	10

If you're name not here, you don't have points, so you better 'get in gear'

**Our next meeting is Tuesday,
June 3rd. We'll be there getting**

there at 6:00. The next tournament is Saturday, June 7th at Ray Roberts. This is a 'partner' tournament, so get out there and find you a partner....and thanks for being a part of the best crappie fishing club anywhere, the

CRAPPIE ANGLER OF TEXAS