

Eureka City Lake - April 26th, 2008



Thursday April 24th the rains came in during a typical spring front that passed through on Friday. This time of year can really be hit or miss fishing. We missed the clean water and normal pool levels on this trip to Eureka. A few of the homeowners were out on Saturday cleaning up debris from the influx of water (about 4 inch rise). Our tournament day begin with the water falling slowly and the temperatures rising from the mid 50's to the lower 70's by day's end. The winds had been out of the north on Friday, but turned and began to blow from the south on Saturday.

The boat captains began to arrive at 5:30 am. Many were already talking about the tough conditions the youth would face. As the youth started to arrive and check in, the mood was high as the expectations. We hit a little bump with the pairings as some youth and boaters weren't able to attend as planned. I was able to complete the last minute changes with some support from the other boaters and parents. Somehow we still had an additional boat or two on site, much to my relief!!!

With the 32 kids in boats and the 16 boats on the water, I asked Kent Craft to say a prayer. I was filled with joy as he lead us in prayer, not only because of his words, but because we were all together again doing what we truly love to do. FISH!!!

The boats begin to head in all directions and once they cleared the ramp area I turned my attention to setting up the shelter area with sponsor banners, prizes and awards. Terri Branine and Lisa Starr helped lay out the food prep area and ice down the drinks. Joe Spencer was the lead cook for the day and was assisted by Marcy's friend (I didn't get his name). They had additional support from Marcy Renollet, Lisa Starr and Dana Young. Peggy McAtee of the Puddle Jumpers helped with the raffle sales.

Vince Craney from the McPherson Bassmasters and I went out on the water to check on the progress of the tournament. We found that many were not catching fish due to the passage of the front and the muddy water conditions. All the youth were in good spirits and all continued to fish. I also saw firsthand the commitment of the boaters to assist the youth who were struggling. Through their own experiences with these types of fishing conditions, boat captains were able to suggest and demonstrate the how, when and where to locate and catch these stubborn fish. It was neat to see them working so closely with the youth. Vince and I traded “fish stories” and talked of his son Cody’s progress over the past few years.

At 1:00 pm the boats returned with the junior anglers, and the word spread that Brande Branine caught a big one 30 minutes before weigh in. This was good news to some and not so good news for others. Brande was all smiles as we gathered around to take pictures of her and her monster bass. A 21.5” beauty! Cole Bowen was the other contender in her boat that was driven by none other than Mr. Kent Craft. Cole had broken his arm in the hurdle event at school on Tuesday and still managed to be in the boat and FISH the event with his right arm in the cast. To say that he is determined would be a gross understatement. Cole has tremendous drive.

While the group was fed some good eats, I made a few announcements and recognized our supporting sponsors: **Quantum Performance Reels, Plano Tackle Storage, Kistler Custom Rods, Smelly Jelly, Exide Battery, Mercury Motors, MotorGuide, Berkley, Vicious Fishing, Bass Pro Shops and Lowrance Electronics!**

We gave a round of applause to the boat captains: Kent Craft, Ed Young, Larry Fralick, Matthew Smoot, Tom Spencer, Skip Hutchinson, Shane Pickett, JR Pickett, Sam Smith, Chad Curl, Joel Porter, Bruce Almquist, Larry Brumley, Johnny Starks, Brad Van Riette, and David Branine!!!

While I calculated the score cards, boat captain prizes were drawn and passed out to the lucky guys in the crowd. Prizes included were Bass Pro Shops 1.5 million candle power marine cordless rechargeable spotlight, XPS culling beam, travel coffee mugs, T-shirts, MotorGuide TM Props (Hydrilla Hacker and Tour Series Machete III), and Mercury 2 cycle plus Synthetic Blend outboard oil. The winners were Brad Van Riette, Joel Porter, David Branine, Matthew Smoot, Chad Curl, Johnny Starks, Larry Fralick, Kent Craft, Skip Hutchinson and JR Pickett. Much thanks to you all for the support.

Dennis Forbes of Forbes Auto Supply provided the plaques for this event and will also provide the champions’ plaques at the conclusion of the May 17th Yates Center event.

Results of the tournament follow:

SR age group 15 – 18 YTD Points

1st Brande Branine KHP Reel Deal 300 points 560

2nd Nathan Snyder McPherson 295 points 560

3rd Tyler Regier McPherson 290 points 560

4th Cale Renollet KHP Reel Deal 285 points 565

5th Brady Sherman McPherson 280 points 330

6th AJ Wenzel Puddle Jumpers 275 points 515

7th Harold McAtee Puddle Jumpers 270 points 555

Ties with 50 show up points:

Alec Reberry (KickBack)295, Josh Butler (Puddle Jumpers)100, Terry Reed

(McPherson)100, **Joe Orsi (KHP Reel Deal)100**, Chandler Young (KickBack)350, Sam Starr (McPherson BM's)345, Kolby Martin(McPherson BM's)50, and Daniel Wornkey (Sandhills)325

No Shows:

Brandon Deaton(KickBack)290, Jared Smith(KickBack)255, Dorian Rossback(Puddle Jumpers)250, Aaron Dix(McPherson)50, Tim Umscheid(JR Hawgs)50

JR age group 10 - 14 YTD Points

1st John Jay Ryan JR Hawgs 300 points 600

2nd Victoria Kirk KickBack 50 points (cast off) 345

3rd Cody Craney McPherson 50 points (cast off) 100

Ties with 50 show up points:

Brian Brallier (Puddle Jumpers)335, Daniel Wiens (McPherson BM's)325, Cole Bowen(Puddle Jumpers)330, Jayden Bowen (Puddle Jumpers)340, Chris Brallier(Puddle Jumpers)100, Ryan Burkhart(McPherson BM's)100, Chase Curl (McPherson BM's)100, Dalton Frank(Sandhills)100, Craig Brallier(Puddle Jumpers)100, Brooklyn Graham (Sandhills)100, Emmie Lohr (Sandhills)100, **Jared Spencer(KHP Reel Deal)50**, Brett Hutchinson(Puddle Jumpers)50, and Taylor Almquist (Sandhills)50

No Shows:

Benny Deaton(KickBack)50, Joe Van Riette(Puddle Jumpers)50, Garrett Evens(JR Hawgs)50

Both Victoria and Cody caught short fish and entered into a cast-off to determine the place winners. Plaques were awarded for both 2nd and 3rd based on results of the cast-off and a crowd vote to give out the plaques to them.

JR anglers 1st – 3rd place each age group picked up some nice prizes.

1st place each received one Kistler Helium LTX II 6'6"MH rod, Vicious sticker packs, Bass Pro Shops tackle storage boxes, BPS Lure Wrap, BPS Rod Socks and plaques provided by Forbes Auto Supply

2nd place each received Plano tackle storage boxes, Power Pro Visor, Vicious sticker packs, Bass Pro Shops rod sock and lure wrap and plaques provided by Forbes Auto Supply

3rd place each received (2) Plano 3700 tackle trays, Vicious sticker packs, Bass Pro Shops rod sock, and plaques provided by Forbes Auto Supply. In addition to the above items, all youth received 1 jig and spinner bait from the free box!!! The remaining items in the box were given to the host club, KHP REEL DEAL!!!

We held a drawing for the following items to raise money for the youth fund: 2 BPS travel mugs, 1 expandable rolling cooler, 6 BPS tackle storage boxes, 1 Power Pro cap, 1 XPS culling beam.

Bass Pro Shops shirts were also passed out at random to the crowd.

Thanks again to the boaters, parents, youth and sponsors! Without any one group, none of these great events would be possible!

Brad Burns

KBCFN YD