

Kansas State Troopers Make KHP Reel Deal Youth Fishing Club a Reality



By Tom Spencer
Trooper, K-241

On January 27, 2008, six youth and their parents met with me in the basement of my residence to go over bylaws and form a junior bass club through the Kansas Bass Chapter Federation Nation and Bass. The adult sponsoring club is the Chisholm Trail Bass Club. All of the youth agreed they wanted to represent Kansas Troopers and thus the name KHP Reel Deal. For these club members, youth fishing started in January.

There are five other Bass Clubs in Kansas, some with more than 40 members. As I have told these six, we are not going to dazzle the other clubs with numbers, we are going to dazzle them with talent. With such a small

group it means more one on one time and a quicker learning curve. I believe our club will learn rapidly to represent us well in 2008. Therefore, our club will grow by reputation in 2008 and eventually numbers. As luck would have it, the Bass Federation National Championship will be held this year in Kansas, which is good news for all Kansas Clubs.

The purpose of this bass club is to promote and encourage youth fishing through education of fishing ethics, sportsmanship, fishing techniques, and conservation of our natural resources. We also want to fulfill our responsibilities we have to our communities, our state, and society in general by

giving something back. At the conclusion of this meeting, we had signed our bylaws and set in motion a youth fishing club that very much wants to proudly represent Kansas State Troopers. Secondly, there are several in this club who have a great opportunity to advance through state and make it to the Junior World Championship while representing us.

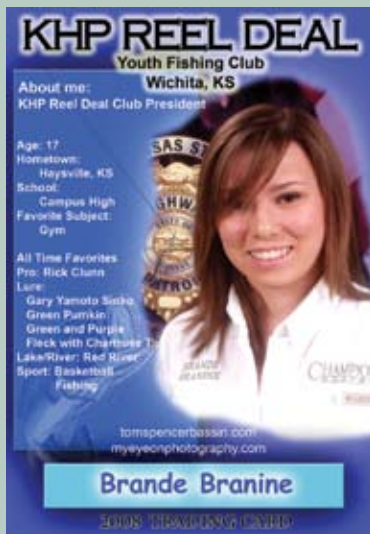
The age span is from five years of age to 17. Most kids that fish competitively start fishing at a young age. I think having the age span is a great benefit for us and will allow us to do some different things as a club. Now, let me introduce you to the members of the KHP Reel Deal.



Club Member Profiles

Brande Branine

Brande Branine is the KHP Reel Deal Club president and Kansas Bass Chapter Federation Nation Youth Director Assistant. She is 17 years old and is a student at Campus High School in Haysville. Brande joined the Wichita Junior Bass Club (WJBC) at age five and was a member of this club from 1995-2007. She won her first tournament and big bass at age five. Her club record is three 1st place finishes, five 2nd places finishes, four 3rd place finishes, three big bass awards, and four times as runner up for Angler of the Year. She made the Kansas State Team in 2002, 2003, and was an alternate in 2004. She placed 1st in 1998 at Grand Lake in the Fall Bass Masters Youth Tournament. In 1999, she placed 2nd in the same Tournament. Brande volunteered at the Special Olympics basketball tournament at Campus High School in 2007 and 2008. Brande volunteers at CAST for Kids events and gives blood regularly at the Red Cross.



In the off season, Cale spends his free time hunting big game, waterfowl, and upland birds. He has worked at a local meat market since he was 14 to support his fishing hobby. Cale lives in Newton with his mom and older sister. Cale says he owes grandpa for taking him fishing all these years and giving him the fundamentals to succeed in the world of bass fishing.

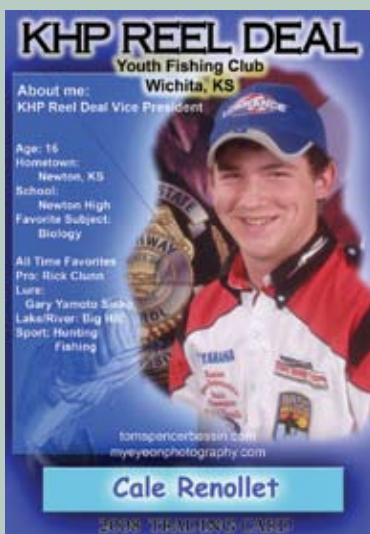
Jared Spencer

Jared is secretary of the KHP Reel Deal. He is 11 years of age and attends Maize School. Jared has been fishing for catfish, crappie, and white bass since he was old enough to hold a rod. Bass fishing will be a little different, and he knows there will be a learning curve. Jared is looking forward to competitive fishing and plans to fish the state tournaments this year. He is active in swimming, baseball, basketball, and tennis. He also is a trumpet player and my nephew.



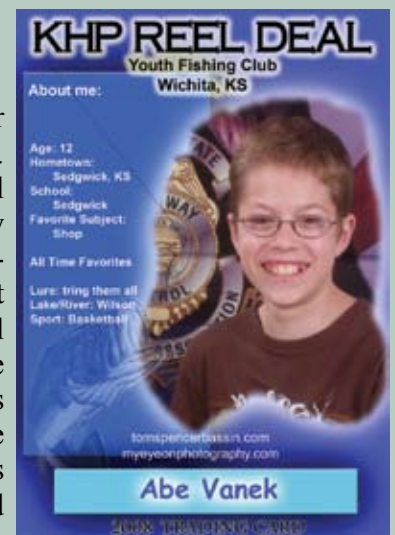
Cale Renollet

Cale Renollet is vice president of the KHP Reel Deal. He is 16 years old and attends Newton High School. Cale started fishing at age three and joined the Wichita Junior Bass Club when he was six. Since that time he has won numerous club tournaments. He has competed in four Kansas State Championships and has earned the title of Kansas State Champion in 2004 and 2005. This allowed Cale to fish in two Jr. Bassmaster Classics with the Bassmaster pros. In 2004, he fished with Mike Reynolds in Pittsburgh, PA and in 2005 he was paired with Ish Monroe in Kissimmee, FL.



Abe Vanek

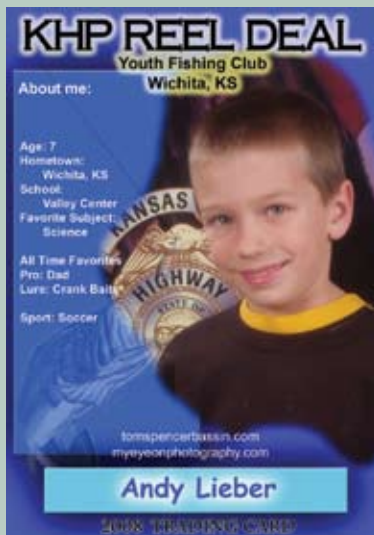
Abe is the treasurer of the KHP Reel Deal. Abe grew up in rural north Sedgwick County on five acres. He currently is a 7th grader at Sedgwick Middle School and is 12 years old. Abe started fishing with his grandpa at an early age at farm ponds. He has fished at El Dorado and Wilson Lakes. This is his first time to join a fishing club, and he is looking forward to learning what bass fishing is all about. Abe also plans to compete at the state level. Abe's mother Elizabeth works out of Troop F in Wichita.



Club Member Profiles

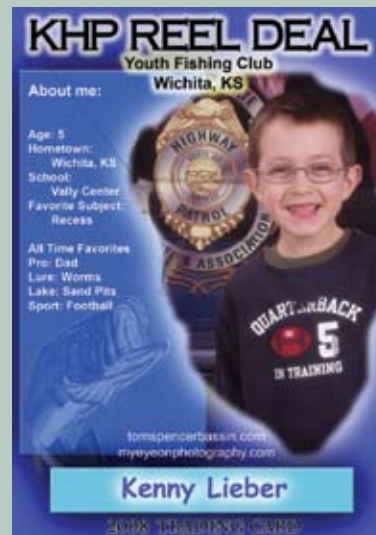
Andy Lieber

Andy is seven years old and attends Valley Center. Andy has been fishing with his dad a couple of years now and they want to learn more about bass fishing by gaining experience from fishing in the club. Andy is also looking at competing at the state level. Andy Sr. is a Kansas State Trooper assigned to Troop F and is also the Troop KSTA director.



Kenny Lieber

Kenny is five years old and is starting at the right time. He is following in his brother, Andy's footsteps, and wants to learn about bass fishing. Kenny is a football player when not fishing, and his favorite movie is "Underdog."



The 2008 Kansas State Tournament Schedule is as follows:

April 5, 2008 - Lake LaCygne

April 26, 2008 - Eureka Lake

May 17, 2008 - Yates Center Lake

The divisional will be in Yankton, South Dakota and the Bass Federation Nation Championship will actually be at Milford Lake, Kansas this year in November.

Our club photographer is Mike Briley who owns www.myeyeonphotography.com. He also is a Motorist Assist with the Kansas Highway Patrol in Wichita. He volunteers to take pictures for our CAST events and also has taken our club photos for us. Mike does an outstanding job and puts forth a lot of effort to make things special for our youth. Thanks Mike!

As many of you know, I have said all along it doesn't matter what you do but, do something to make a positive impact on the children of Kansas. I choose fishing mainly because that's what I know. I challenge you all

to do something to help Kansas youth, set an example, and make a lasting positive impression. Maybe they will follow in your footsteps and become future Kansas State Troopers. If not, we have still passed on the secret.... Kansas Youth Are Important!! They Are The Future Of Kansas!!

As Always, Tight Lines!!

