



Issue Date: May , 2003

Next month we Meet at Jim's Coffee Shop on I-35

The club voted to try Jim's Coffee Shop for the May meeting. The meeting will be at 7:30 on Tuesday May 27th. If there is another place someone would like to try, contact Tim Cook.

Meeting Attendance...

There were 25 members, one junior member, and 13 guests attending the April meeting for a total of 39 people. Jeff Holley, hopefully a future member, attended with his wife Page and his children Karrissa, Keaton, and Madison. Carolyn attended with Bobby, Lynn with Mike R, Becky (she is not a visitor) with Bob J, Nicole with Mike T, and Morgan and Michell with Brian. Curt Schoettle brought his daughter Kacie, and Teresa Roberts attended the meeting with Dick Boling.

It was great to see Bobby in a vertical position after visiting him in the hospital after his heart attack. A special reward should go to Carolyn: Bobby does not make the best patient. It was also good news to hear a positive report on Dave Terre's son.

Gary Swenson gave an update on the club web site. Bob Jett and Gary have really worked hard to make this come together this quick. The club owes them a special thanks. Curt Schoettle brought to the club's attention the fairly steep rate hikes that have been suggested by the TP&W for the next year. Visit the TP&W web site to get more information and to voice your opinion. Updates were also given on the Grass Carp/Lake Austin issue and the shortage of water on the Rio Grand lakes, and club hats.

An amendment was passed allowing the club to buy a canopy to be used at the open tournament. A brief discussion was also held on the open tournament. Contact the head of the open tournament committee, Mike Halfmann, if you want to give suggestions on the open tournament.

Tournament & "BIG BASS" Awards...

1st Place Dean Smith	7 fish	28.36 lbs.
2nd Place Bob Jett	4 fish	18.19 lbs.
3rd Place Gary Swenson	5 fish	15.61 lbs.

BIG BASS OF THE TOURNEY Dean Smith 7.45 lbs.

BIG BASS OF THE MONTH 9 lbs. 7 oz.

by John Beene at Alan Henry Lake

President
Tim Cook

Vice-President
Jeremy Workman

Secretary
Carl Adkins

Treasurer
Milton Thompson

How the top three worked the beds ! or Top Three Go Bed Hopping !

1st Dean Smith

“I had seen some bass in practice, and I knew as the water warmed more fish would come in to spawn. We had found in practice that the water was warmer up near the dam area of the lake. When we got there on Saturday morning, the water had warmed up to the lower 60’s, and there were plenty of fish moving in.” This was Dean’s formula for pulling in the largest stringer of the tournament. There was only one other fisherman, Bob Jett, that had even half of that weight.

Another technique used by Dean, and his partner Eric Evans, was to catch the male off the nest, put it in the live well, and then wait for the larger female to guard the nest. This was a technique that they used several times to double their production. Dean was using a 10” Green Pumpkin Power worm, but he said the key was to make the fish mad. He also stated that he fished for a lot of fish that he could never get to strike. Many of Dean’s fish came in the area of Grape Creek, just of fish. right after the ‘S’ curve in the creek. He said there was a small creek just off to the right that was holding a lot

Dean’s big bass of the tournament was the real challenge. Every time he would throw the worm in on the nest, the big sow would flair her gills and blow the worm off the nest. After watching her do this a couple of times, Dean decided to switch baits. He tied on a medium weight jig and dropped it in the middle of the nest. She tried a couple of times to blow it out of the nest, but the jig wouldn’t move. Finally out of frustration she picked up the jig by the plastic trailer and started moving it out of her nest. A quick wiggle of the rod by Dean, and the fish flipped the whole bait in her mouth.

2nd Bob Jett

Bob, and his partner Stan, decided to go after the bedding bass after all the other patterns they had tried hadn’t worked. They had seen several bedding bass in the cove at the back of the first major bend in Little Grape Creek. One particular large bedding female had really gotten Stan’s attention. Bob caught his bedding bass on Watermelon/Red Flukes and a Watermelon/Red Lake Fork Ring Fry. “Getting the bait in the bed with a heavy enough worm was the key. This allowed you to shake the bait until you really made the fish mad.” Bob said, “I witnessed bass flair their gills and blow the bait out of the beds.”

Bob did catch his biggest fish Sunday off a point in twenty plus water depth. He just threw the fluke out and let it sink. After a while he felt the fish pick up the bait and the fight was on. That was the only non-bedding bass he used in his 18.19 lbs.

3rd Gary Swenson

Gary pulled off his first top three finish by deciding Saturday to go for the bedding bass and by using the young eyes of his son to help him spot the bass. Gary found the bedding bass in Grape Creek before the ‘S’ curve between the two roads that come off the hill. He was flipping a watermelon seed Senk-O rigged wacky style to agitate the fish into biting.

Gary’s best Alan Henry memory actually came in a cove near the mouth of little Grape Creek. At the back of a little cove there was a large overhang where the water went back underneath the rock about 10 feet. Thursday Gary threw back into the cave area, and immediately his worm was consumed by a nice fish. He could tell it was big, but the fish wrapped him under a tree before he could see it. Friday he returned to the cave with his son, and his son hooked the big fish. This time the fish surfaced before she again found the tree, and Gary got a good look at her. Gary, who has a 12 pounder on the wall at home, says the fish was like a football and would have been at least 13 pounds. Saturday they again fished the cave, but no one was home.

Quotes and Notes from the tournament.

Thirty eight keeper fish caught for a total of 125.1 lbs. That is an average of 3.29 lbs. per fish. Dean Smith and Bob Jett beat that average with 4.05 and 4.55 lbs. per fish respectively. There were five people who did not catch a keeper fish in two days. There were 20 people who fished the tournament, 17 members and 3 guests. The guests were Brian and Steven Swenson, Gary's boys, and Jerry Wenmohs, Lance's dad.

The drive wasn't bad, only 6½ hours. The lake was beautiful, and it looked like everywhere was a great place to cast. Unfortunately the fishing was slow. It was the start of the spawn, and the fish were just moving onto the nest. Many of our club members spent their practice days looking for staging fish. In this lake the staging fish were impossible to find. The members who did well in the tournament, fished for the fish on the beds. Another unusual thing about the lake, was that the fish looked a lot smaller in the water than they actually were. A fish that looked about 14" swimming in the water would be a 19" when it was caught and in the boat.

The lake has a lot of big fish. Several people had a large fish on, only to break the line or lose the fish during the fight. John Beene managed to land a nine pound lunger for his personal best.

The lake is a great lake; but if you go, beware of the high fees and over zealous enforcement of regulations on the lake and along the roads by people who want to increase the amount of money that the fisherman are leaving in the area.

Over 70 percent of the fish were caught off the beds.

No mater what you order, Mac's Bar B-Q in Brady will not short you on the meat or potatoes.

It is rumored that a certain restaurant in Post tried to lock their doors when on Saturday night, during their All-you-can-eat Bar B-Q and fried catfish special, they saw the Canyon Bass Club gang lead by David Hoedebeck walking toward the restaurant. It is still not known why there was a closed sign in the restaurant window the next morning.

Brian and Tim claim that a big bearded Tom Turkey flew between the two of them Saturday morning as they fished Grape Creek. Good thing for the turkey it wasn't Bobby and Leonard. Bobby would have thrown a lure at it, and Leonard would have tried to hit it with the paddle.

"I have plenty of room for you to park your boats and trucks." Motel owner's comment when asked about room for the boats and trucks when reservations were being made.

Even though the lake has an eighteen inch minimum length on bass, there were as many eighteen and over bass caught as there were under eighteen inch bass. One fish was caught a total of three times.

When fishing spawning bass on Alan Henry look for the bass not for the beds. The beds are very small and hard to see.

A refrain heard every night, "To buy beer, I take a right at the light and go down past the....."

Stan Miller hooked a bass on two different days that was well over 10 lbs. The first time, his 50 lbs. spider wire BROKE. The second time, the fish simply came unhooked. Stan Miller and a thirteen lbs. bass. Two old wily veterans fighting it out. Final Score: Bass 2 Stan 0

Dean Smith, "I thought I was hooked into an underwater stump, and then the line took off and it began to strip drag." How much did she weigh? Dean wished he knew.

There were so many big bass hooked and lost at this tournament, that it reminded me of a fish tale I heard years ago. My uncle Bob had just returned from fishing when I asked, "Did you have any luck?" "Well I did catch a gigantic bass. I didn't have a scale, and I didn't want to keep it, so I released it back in the water." As I stood there questioned his story, he continued. "I did have my camera, so I took a picture of the fish. I don't know for sure what the fish weighed, but the picture of the fish weighs 3 ½ pounds."

TOURNAMENT Site, Date & Time...

LAKE: Stillhouse Hollow **DATE: May 10, 2003**

WEIGH-IN SITE: Union Grove Park (off FM 2786)

FISHING TIME: 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Bring in your fish, not a paper tournament.

----- CLUB NOTES -----

Pay Your Tournament Fees

Everyone needs to check with Milton Thompson to make sure they are current on their tournament fees. According to the constitution Tournament fees are to be paid at the next meeting after the tournament. In fact, according to the constitution no one shall receive points or awards for tournament results until the fees are paid, and a member shall lose all Tournament Points earned if tournament fees lapse more than three months.

It's simple, if you fished the last tournament, stop by and pay Milton the three dollars. Do that every time, and you will never have a problem.

Halfmann's Alternative tournament

The alternative tournament, run by Mike Halfmann, at Canyon Lake for people not going to the out-of-town tournament had nine participants and raised nine dollars for the club. Curt Schoettle took first, Bobby Whiteside second, and Mike Halfmann third. The tournament produced money for the club and two potential members.

CALENDAR of UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS...

Dates	Events
5-10-03	May Tournament
5-11-03	Mother's Day
5-26-03	Memorial Day
5-27-03	May Meeting
6-14-03	June Tournament
6-24-03	June Meeting

**Good strikes and solid hook sets,
Carl Adkins
Secretary - Canyon Bass Club**

Tournament Committee

(Call these guys to voice your choice for tournament locations.)

Mike Tennant

(Tournament Committee Chairperson)

John Beene

Mike Riley

Gary Swenson

Brian Washburn