



Meeting Attendance...

The October meeting was attended by 18 members, two new members and five guests. Becky, Lori, Nicole, Michelle, and Morgan were our special guests. Two new members were voted into membership at the meeting. We are glad to welcome Jason Mosqueda of Kyle and Jake Rodriquez of San Marcos as new members. Be sure and add their names and numbers to your calling sheet. This information is found at the end of the newsletter.

A report was given on the open tournament. Most of the reports and feedback were positive, with only one report of negatives. Several members have already started talking with Tim about adjustments to make next year's tournament even better. We had 82 teams, and made a profit of about \$3,900. We voted to make a donation of \$250 to Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area. There were lot of positive comments about the food and drink provided by Re/Max. This was the first year that computers were used on site to help run the tournament. A special thanks, to all the members who worked to make the tournament a success.

A decision was made to order a new supply of hats, and Brian is looking into the possibility of offering some club jackets. He will bring some more information at the next meeting.

Tournament & "BIG BASS" Awards...

1st Place	Andy Labay	9 fish	23.06 lbs.
2nd Place	Tim Cook	10 fish	21.85 lbs.
3rd Place	Mike Halfmann	10 fish	19.58 lbs.

BIG BASS OF THE TOURNEY: Andy Labay 4.98 lbs.

BIG BASS OF THE MONTH Mike Riley 6.2 lbs. at Town Lake

Who ducked the dinks at Amistad?

First Place Andy Labay with 23.06 lbs

Saturday was an unusual day for Andy. He started fishing a little late, but he did manage to catch one keeper before the rain started. He was near the ramp, so when the lighting started, he did the intelligent thing and got off the lake. He loaded his boat, returned to the motel, and dried off.

After having lunch with the locals, and catching up on all the flooding locations, he decided to take his cousin out to see the high bridge over the Pecos. It was a little farther than he remembered, and by the time they returned, about 2:00, it was still raining, but the lighting had stopped. They launched the boat and started fishing again.

He had noticed on the drive back from the Pecos that all the little creeks were running pretty strong, so he decided to try the fishing in the very backs off all the arroyos. The first one he pulled into, he caught a keeper fish and several small fish. "You could see the bream hitting the top of the water. They were feeding on whatever had washed into the water. There were a lot of fish back in there feeding. You could throw the Motor Oil worm back into there and the perch would be all over it. It wouldn't be long before a bass would take it away from the perch. There seemed to be at least one keeper in the back of every canyon.

We spent the rest of the afternoon going from canyon to canyon. We worked most of the canyons, on both sides of the lake, from the Diablo ramp to the bridge. We were still catching fish Saturday, when we ran out of time. Therefore, Sunday morning we started on the same pattern. It was a little slower, but Andy had three keepers before the bite on that pattern seemed to stop. "We were still catching fish, but they were all non-keepers. So we went up into San Pedro."

"I decided to throw a big red rattletrap over the grass, and on about the fifth cast, I hooked a keeper fish." Andy continued to work the grass bed below the houses on the high cliffs in San Pedro, but no more keeper fish. He returned to the spot where he started and threw a Senk-O into the grass, and he caught his fifth keeper, a 3 ½ pounder. Later he returned to the same spot and caught a keeper throwing a Motor Oil worm.

Second Place Tim Cook with 21.85 lbs.

Tim Cook and Stan Miller made a big discovery Friday while pre-fishing. In one area, in a cove on the Texas side around mile marker 18, they caught a keeper fish, and they watched two other nice fish chase a bait back to the boat. They quickly left the area to save it for the tournament, and it paid big dividends. They spent most of their tournament hours fishing two coves, the largest being 100 yards long and the smallest about 25 yards long.

"We would simply work the same area over and over. On Saturday, we fished mostly the grass clumps. On Sunday, the water was up and we found the fish in the flooded salt cedar. All the fish were in five feet of water or less." Tim had exactly five keepers each day. He caught most of his fish on Poppers, Senk-O's, and Flukes. His best colors were watermelon based, but with all varieties of added colors and flakes.

Tim said he thinks the key was finding an area that had some keeper fish, and then staying with the area. "We pulled a lot of dinks out in order to get to the keeper fish. We worked the same bank area dozens of times to catch our fish. We might catch small fish on one trip and go right back and then catch keeper fish."

Third Place Mike Halfmann with 19.58 lbs.

Mike and his crew started off on the south side of the lake just past the railroad trestle. Damien Narviaz, Felix's friend, caught the first keeper. About half way around the bank to the dam Felix had a keeper, but it got off. They caught the fish using a Culprit Christmas Tree worm rigged Texas style.

Everyone knows Mike loves the dams, and with no warning or keep out signs around the dam, that's where he headed. He fished the concrete wall area of the dam from rip rap to rip rap. He even tucked his boat under a concrete ledge of the dam during the storm. "We got a great view of the lighting, and were safe and mostly dry."

His method for catching fish was a deep presentation. "Perch would start tapping it at about 25 feet, and the blacks were below that. Most of our bass came between 28 to 48 feet. We worked our way up and down the dam support columns." They caught a lot of short fish, but about every 6th or 7th fish they would get a keeper. Mike got his 5th fish Saturday around 4:00.

Sunday, Mike went straight to the dam. Using the same method as Saturday, he got his first keeper fish about 9:30. His last keeper came at 1:00. Mike said the best worms were the Culprit Christmas Tree and the Zoom Chartreuse Pumpkin.

Notes and Quotes from the Tournament

The Amistad tournament drew 26 fishermen; 19 members, one junior fisherman, and six guests. We caught 97 fish for 185.5 lbs. plus 2,542 ½ dinks (one of mine was too small to be called a dink, thus the ½). The weighed in fish averaged 1.91 lbs. There was one keeper fish for every 4 ½ hours of fishing. On Saturday, several members caught more inches of rain in their boat than they did keeper fish.

A special thanks to Mike Halfmann for all the hard work buying, preparing, and setting up the food for the social at the tournament. It worked out great. The home made pickles, onions, squash and other secret ingredients side dish was especially good. After the Saturday drenching, many of us didn't have the energy to unhook and go out to eat, and the meal at the motel was a God send. It was also nice to get a chance to talk to other club members.

For John Marshall and Brian Washburn the first six fish were keepers. John and Brian did not get to fish any on Friday, and all they heard at the motel was dink, dink, dink. They started off in the biggest cove between the boat ramp and the bridge, and the first six fish they caught were keepers. They were catching them on Spooks, Poppers, and plastics following up a top water strike.

Harry and Halfmann had heavy hawks hooked, but had heartaches, having had hardships hauling hawks homeward.

Harry Beeman on Sunday, while fishing with Mike Katzer near the old house on Evans Creek, tossed his bait to the base of an old hardwood. He felt something on the line, set the hook, and heard his drag start to sing. This was no dink! The big fish stripped line, but refused to be caught. After a short line stripping run, the line broke. The fish had won.

Mike Halfmann was by the dam, when, while fishing deep, the big fish took his worm. Mike was yelling for the net, as he realized this was a nice fish. Suddenly, as quick as it started, the fish was gone.

Electrical Problems, but no problem catching fish. Jake Rodriguez had electrical problems on Saturday, but he still managed to get to the lake and catch his five bass before 8:30.

Five decided to take a dip in the clear waters of lake Amistad. Usually our members prefer to fish rather than swim, but at this tournament, four members and a guest chose to sample the waters of Lake Amistad.

The first to sample the water was Brian Washburn. He was returning to the dock after parking John Marshall's truck, when Tim yelled, "Brian, John needs the trailer. He forgot to put the stopper in the boat." Brian looked back up the ramp, and decided swimming was better than running. He called John over, went into the water, and placed the stopper in the hole.

Carl Adkins was fishing in 60 feet of water when he went to grab another rod out of his rod box. As he opened the lid, he heard the unmistakable splash of a rod going into the water. It was a Shimano Calcutta on a Waterloo Rod. The reel was given to him by his sister's husband before he died. As he watched the rod sink into the clear water, he suddenly decided to save it. Obviously without much clear thought, he dove head first into the water. With one hand protecting his glasses, he reached out with the other and grabbed the rod. After only a short delay he and the rod and reel were soon back in the boat. Several people wish they had a video of this feat, but Carl assured them that he was like Greg Lugans, scoring a perfect 10 as he dove into the water in perfect form and without a splash. YEA!

Our last group of swimmers were a team effort. Lance Wenmohs had trim problems, and his motor was stuck in the downward position. The decision was made to try to lift the motor to the upright position. Lance, Felix Halfmann, and Felix's friend Damien Narviaz all entered the water to try and raise the motor. It was a valiant effort, but motors are very heavy. Finally Miker Halfmann was able to jump wire the relay and the motor was raised to its up position.

Hair dryers were the tool of the day to help our club members get ready for the second day of fishing. Hair dryers usually used to dry and curl our golden locks, became a great tool for drying rain suits and shoes Saturday evening. No one wanted to get up Sunday morning and slide into a wet rain suit, but a few minutes with a hair dryer, and the rain suit was dry enough to use. Some members with the wettest gear chose the more conventional method. They used the motel's clothes dryer.

Instructions need to be more precise - Mike Halfmann was reminded by a fellow member Sunday morning not to forget to put the stopper in the boat. Mike was glad for the reminder and placed the stopper snugly in the hole. Being a new boat, Mike made one mistake. He placed the stopper in the live well drain hole, not the boat drain hole. This was a mistake that would be discovered later in the morning, when Mike found himself standing in several inches of water. Look at the bright side Mike, your live well was dry.

Quotes from the weigh-in

"Where are these people cathing those keeper fish?"

"Storm, I didn't see any thunder storm!"

"I caught fish all day, just no keepers!"

"Everything I own is wet, including my name."

"I missed one that would have won the tournament."

"We were up at mile marker 15 when it hit. There was no way we could come back to the ramp."

"I was on a seven pounder, but I couldn't get her to hit."

The race for top angler positions is still very tight. The top position seems to be boiling down to a four person race(Tim, Bob, Dean, and Andy). There is still a possibility of a lot of changes taking place in the points rankings of the twenty two members. November and December tournaments could prove very interesting.

The top three fishermen caught over 1/3rd of the total fish weighed by all 25 fishermen. The top two fishermen caught all three of the fish over 4 lbs. There were only two 10 fish stringers. Eleven fishermen averaged one keeper fish a day or less.

The water rose about two feet from the time we left the water Saturday until we launched the boats Sunday morning. By the Saturday following the tournament, the water had risen six feet. The guys who like running the baits over the top of the hydrilla would love it.

TOURNAMENT Site, Date & Time...

LAKE: Lake Austin DATE: November 8th
WEIGH-IN SITE: Ramp below 360 Bridge

FISHING TIME: 6:30 am to 3:00 p.m.

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

Election of New Officers At the December meeting the club will elect new officers. These are important decisions. The smoothness of the club, is a reflection of the quality of the officers. Nominations for officers will occur at the November meeting, with the election following in December. Be thinking about how you can serve the club. Be thinking about who you would like to see run the club. We have a lot of members who have strong opinions on subjects from the open tournament to the tournament committee. By serving as an officer, that passion and concern for the future of the club can be turned into constructive leadership and action.

Special BASS offer BASS is making a special offer to members of Bass National Affiliated Chapters. Any member can join BASS for ½ price. (One year for \$10 or two years for \$20). This gets you several membership advantages including a subscription to Bassmaster magazine. Call Tim Cook for more information.

What kind of Job is the tournament committee doing? There always seems to be questions as to what lakes we should fish. Good decisions or bad decisions? Who knows! Here are the facts.

- In 2003 through the October Tournament 504 fish for 1115.22 lbs.
- In 2002 through the October Tournament 475 fish for 1152.57 lbs.
- In 2001 through the October Tournament 495 fish for 1076.82 lbs.

CALENDAR of UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS...

Dates	Events
11-8-30	November Tournament
11-25-03	November Meeting
12-13-03	December Tournament
12-30-03	December Meeting
1-10-04	January Tournament (Start of a new tournament Year)
1-27-04	January Meeting

New Members

Jake Rodriquez

Jason Mosqueda

**Enjoying Texas Fall Weather,
Carl Adkins
Secretary - Canyon Bass Club**

Tournament Committee

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

Andy Labay

(Tournament Committee Chairperson)

Tim Cook

Stan Miller

Mike Halfmann

Milton Thompson