



March 23, 2006

Member count as of this newsletter: 56

27 people showed up for our March 20th meeting. Thanks everyone for showing up and participating!

Troy Roberson started the meeting. He told the club that the fishing project with children from single parent backgrounds was still a possibility, that he would keep pursuing the project with Jack Murphy from 107.5 WKZL radio station in Greensboro.

The first tournament of the year was held on March 18, 2006. 21 teams with 41 anglers fished in the tournament. Results were:

- 1st - Mark and Chad Edmunds - 2 fish: 19.27 lbs. + Big Fish 10.88 lbs.
- 2nd - Michael McKinney - 2 fish: 17.77 lbs.
- 3rd - Mike and Chris Clegg, Bill Goodrich - 1 fish: 10.65 lbs.
- 4th - Chris and Paris Harris - 1 fish: 8.93 lbs.
- 5th - Buck Buchanan, Timmy Price - 1 fish: 8.07 lbs.
- 6th - Bobby and Amy Workman, Thomas and Andy Allen - 1 fish: 7.84 lbs.
- 7th - Jay Childress - 1 fish: 7.35 lbs.
- 8th - Mike Mize, Ronnie Cook - 1 fish: 7.10 lbs.

Congratulations to everyone who caught fish and thanks to all who participated!

Our guest speaker was Steve Stephens from Hot Spot Charters, who gave a very informative presentation on trolling for stripers. Among the highlights:

- Trolling speed should be between 1.8 and 2.8 miles per hour. Slower in the colder months, faster in the hotter months. If your boat will not go this slow, drag 5 gallon bucket(s) with holes behind your boat to slow you down.
- Stripers feed looking up, target your lures to run two feet above where you are marking stripers on your fishfinder.
- A very economical, simple way to troll is to use a 2-ounce trolling weight in conjunction with a 1-ounce bucktail. Let out 60 feet back, with 20 lb Stren mono line, it will run approx. 10 feet deep, depending on boat speed.
- An improvement on trolling sinkers is the use of leadcore line. Cabela's leadcore line is excellent quality, use 36 lb. test leadcore line. At 2.3 miles per hour, one color in the water will sink 4 feet, the second color 4 feet, each color after that gives diminishing returns – the third color may only give an additional 3 to 3.5 feet.
- A way to determine lure running depths is to remove the hook from a bucktail and troll it in a known depth area, say 15 feet deep. Determine how much line out is required for the lure to start bumping the bottom and record. Repeat this process for various depths and keep notes.
- A third way of depth control is the use of diving planers, such as the Luhr-Jensen Double Deep Six.
- The fourth and most accurate method of depth control is the use of downriggers. Cannon HP Uni-Troll is a recommended model. Make sure your downriggers are attached to the boat with through bolts, not just sheet metal screws. A good distance behind the boat to run your lures is 30 to 40 feet back. Note that the lure may drop an additional 3 feet due to this distance.



- A good tactic is to run double rigs. Place the heavy bucktail (1 oz) on the short line and a lighter bucktail (3/8 oz) on the long line. This will appear to a striper like a small fish following a larger one. Most strikes will come on the smaller bucktail. You can also run 1 bucktail and 1 spoon. Your spoon should be flashy (hammered finish or reflective tape) and flutter.
- Steve uses Stren 17 lb mono for all his leaders and 20 lb mono on his downrigger rods.
- A good rod and reel combo for leadcore is a Penn FathomMaster 388 8.5 foot MH downrigger rod, coupled with a Penn 320 GT reel. Reels should hold at least 320 yards of 20 lb line. Drags should be set to 4 pounds off the end of the rod (not from the reel.)

Our next tournament is scheduled for April 15, 2006. Our next meeting is May 15, 2006.