



HARRODS CREEK FIELD & STREAM CLUB

P.O. Box 22592
Lyndon, Kentucky 40222



APRIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21
NORTH OLDHAM LION'S CLUB
7:30 PM

BASS TOURNAMENT: This letter is being mailed Friday, so you'll get it Saturday. You still have time to come out to the tournament. It will start at 7:00 AM SHARP at the Chowning Lane ramp on Taylorsville Lake. You can register at the door. If your plans have changed, come on out.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER: This month we are fortunate to have Sherrill Baker of B&J Trolling Motors to explain the whys and wherefores of trolling motors. B&J is the largest trolling motor sales and service shop in the state. Bake really knows how to get the most out of your trolling motor. If you can't mount your MinnKota, your Motorguide malfunctions or your Thruster is busted, come on out. Bake can probably answer your questions.

THE LAST WHINE: You have one last chance to pay your 1993 dues. I will have the official roster for the League of Kentucky Sportsmen at this meeting. After the meeting, it will be mailed to the League. Keep your Kentucky Afield coming and stay a League member in good standing. If you haven't paid up, do so at the meeting. I can whine no longer.

LEAGUE CONVENTION: The 1993 League of Kentucky Sportsmen convention will be held in Owensboro on June 11 and 12. Our official delegates are Brad Hobbs and Bill More. All members are welcome to attend. A lot of interesting stuff happens at the convention. Owensboro has some of the best barbecue ever made. If you're free, you ought to come on down.

MUZZLE LOADER TEAM: The Third District is going to have a muzzle loader tournament, which will consist of teams from participating clubs. We will have tryouts for our muzzle loading team in the not too distant future. Watch for details.



In Cooperation with League of Kentucky Sportsman (3rd District),
National Rifle Association, National Wildlife Federation



ON THE MEND: One of our numbers, Bill Morrow recently had quadruple bypass surgery. The early reports are that it went well. Attaboy, Bill, hang in there! Your fellow 'Creekers are pulling and praying for your speedy recovery!

STRIPER OUTING: Our annual striper outing will be at Lake Cumberland on the weekend of May 21-24. In addition to the good time we always have chasing rockfish, this will be Kevin Foote's last event as a bachelor. Let's help Kevin ring out the old and ring in the new. Last year he caught 3 stripers in 15 minutes during this outing. Let's see if his upcoming wadding will distract him so that we have a chance at the fish.

CATFISH DERBY: The CATFISH DERBY will be the weekend of June 18,19 and 20. Mark your calendar.

MAY MEETING SPEAKER: In May, we will have a bassin' guy, Billy Mitchell to tell us about fishing for bass on the Ohio river. This is an especially good topic, in that we all live close to the river. With such a large fishery within 15 minutes of all of us, it would pay to know how to use it. Billy is going to tell us how. Be there!

LOTTO HCFS: The lotto jackpot is \$60.00. You know how to win. Be here Wednesday for your shot at the pot.

HCFS PROTESTS: A resolution was read and approved at the last meeting decrying the animal display ordinance in Devondale. This ordinance has been sent to the city fathers in Devondale. A resolution was read against the proposed City of Louisville waiting period ordinance. This resolution was tabled pending formal introduction of the ordinance. We'll whip it on them when they formally introduce the ordinance.

ROSTER: Enclosed with this letter is the 1993 HCFS roster. If I have made an error, change, let me know, and I'll update this roster. Your 1993 membership card is also enclosed.

BULLY PULPIT: I have just finished preparing my 1993 income taxes. I am so angry that anything that I might write in this month's Bully Pulpit would be full of hate and venom. After all, I just coughed up my hard earned dough to a government that could not see fit to buy the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife a video camera. I just spent hours poring over forms for a government that has closed off massive sections of Ft. Knox to deer hunting. I just consorted with the enemy, and I'm not happy. In light of my foul humor and because I have to re-balance my karma so that I can fish with a pure spirit on Sunday, I'm going to postpone a long winded Bully Pulpit editorial until next month. Keep the faith, I'll mount my soap box once again in May. Maybe one of you folks could cough up a My Turn column. Another column would take away some of my performance anxiety.



HARRODS CREEK FIELD & STREAM CLUB

P.O. Box 22592
Lyndon, Kentucky 40222



MAY MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

7:30 PM NORTH OLDHAM LION'S CLUB

SPEAKER: This month's speaker is Billy Mitchell of the East End Bass Club. Billy's topic is fishing on the river for bass. Billy's quite a river rat. Since the river is a fishery that is available to all of us, this is a topic which should be of great interest. We have invited the members of the East End Bass Club to join us. Let's come out and give them a warm HCFS sportsmen's welcome.

CATFISH DERBY: Well, it's about time for the premier fishing event of the entire angling world...THE CATFISH DERBY. Forget your Walker's Cay billfish tourneys. The Bassmaster Classic? For weenies! This is it. The alpha and the omega of sport fishing. The DERBY will be held the weekend of June 19, 20 and 21. It will be held at the hallowed ground, the O'Neil wildlife sanctuary in Westport. Applications and information will be in the next newsletter. Bring your friends and plan to spend the weekend. Will Leonard Hoskins and Company walk away with all of the awards again in 1993, or will they become Leonard's Losers? Will you achieve the fame and glory of being the best of the best? You'll never know unless you try.

CATFISH DERBY WEAR: The official CATFISH DERBY T-shirts will be available at this meeting. This year, we've added something new, the official CATFISH DERBY cooking apron. All of these items have the now famous CATFISH DERBY emblem prominently displayed. Bring your check book.

CATFISH DERBY CLEAN UP: The annual clean up for the DERBY will be held on June 5. We'll start early and finish early. This is the day that we mow the lawn, whack the weeds, stash the trash and generally spiff up the hallowed grounds for the sacred ritual. We need your help. Remember the children's story about the red hen baking the bread. You'll only get out of this what you put in.

STRIPER OUTING: The annual club striper outing will be held the weekend of May 21-23 at Lake Cumberland. This is in conjunction with the Louisville Striper Club's tournament. Our unofficial headquarters for this event will be the Foote ranch. This will also be Kevin Foote's last event as a single guy. Let's send him off proper. With any luck, these monster fish will be hitting surface baits. Bring your magnum redfins, your big rod, a huge net and a good attitude.

LEAGUE CONVENTION: The League of Kentucky Sportsmen's convention is June 12-13 at Owensboro. We will be ably represented by Brad Hobbs and Bill More. We have a resolution for presentation to the league. This resolution is enclosed and will be discussed at the May meeting.

IMPORTANT BOATING TIP: I'm probably not the greatest boating expert in the world, but I've recently come across some important information for those of you who use outboard motors. Because of the reformulation of gasoline to squeeze more gallons of gas per barrel of oil, the quality of gasoline has diminished. This low grade gas leaves a lot of carbon deposits in your engine. These deposits can lodge behind your piston rings, forcing them out against the cylinder wall farther than the manufacturer intended. Marine engineers call this phenomon "ring jacking". You'll call it something else if it happens to your kicker. I have personally seen powerheads which fell victim to this disease. One OMC powerhead I saw was toasted with less than 100 hours of service. Is this a slam against OMC? No, this poor motor was just a victim. This problem is easily solved. The marine industry has created a new classification of outboard oil designated as TW-C3. This oil will eliminate these carbon deposits. You can feed your motor a healthy diet by using oils in labeled TW-C3. Keep your kicker kicking longer!

BASS TOURNAMENT: All of this talk about outboard motors turned my mind toward bass boats and then to the bass tournament. The tournament at Taylorsville was well attended. The winner was Ernie McKinney's buddy Cecil, who weighed in a 4 lb 13 oz bass. Barry Sullivan brought in the small fish honors with a 15" bass. The hybrid jackpot was captured by Bruce Goodman. The whole event was well run and fun. It also dispells Taylorsville's image as the Dead Sea. Many thanks to Barry Sullivan and Ray Frye for putting on this event. They've done a great job both times they have chaired this tourney. I guess that they will have to hold one in the summer time if Mother Nature is to ever let them hav a warm day for the tournament. Great going, guys. We all really appreciate it!

LOTTO CASH: The jackpot is \$80.00. You know the rules!

DAMN GOOD IDEA: Gary Artman recently hit me with a good idea for the newsletter. Gary suggested that we add a section of the newsletter for swap or sale goods. Face it, we all have some sort of fishing or hunting stuff that we don't need any more. Why not turn it into cash or swap it for something you do want? I'll be happy to run your advertisement for such items in the newsletter each month. Call me before the Wednesday before each meeting, and you can turn your white elephant into someone else's prize. Let's limit our ads to sporting stuff. The first ad is:

Boat, 14' aluminum vee, steering console, 18 hp Evinrude w/ elect. start, 6 gal tank, battery, trailer, excellent condition, call Carl at 636-2782.

POLITICAL STUFF: I just received a call from Moondawg Ulmer. He wanted me to include in this newsletter that one of his associates, Bill Ryan is running for sheriff. 'Dawg states that Ryan is flatly opposed to additional gun control in Jefferson County. Mind you, the club nor I have an official opinion in this race regarding any candidate. Since 'Dawg brought this to my attention and since this is an issue of interest to our club, I am including it here for your consideration. Check 'em all out and use your best judgement.

BULLY PULPIT: If you have read the enclosed proposed resolution, you now know that we intend as a club to support a rule that will hopefully improve the striper fishery in Kentucky. Such a rule would be controversial at the very least. The board of directors proposed this resolution after a great deal of discussion and debate. It is proposed with the intent of bettering the fishery for this species.

With this in mind, I would like to examine the larger issue of who's fish are they, really. Not just stripers, but all fish. Unlike hunting, where the quarry is harvested permanently (killed), in most instances, fishing allows the fisher to release the fish. Also, unlike hunting pressure (which by most accounts is declining), fishing pressure is increasing. The law specifies creel and possession limits for fish. Does that mean that you're entitled to the specified limit if you are skillful enough or lucky enough to get the limit? Legally, I presume that it does. Ethically, it's another ball game entirely. In the case of our proposed resolution, we feel that because stripers undergo such stress when caught and played that the bulk of all released stripers do not survive, that catch and release fishing in this instance is a poor practice. What's the sense of releasing a fish if it's going to croak? Prudence would dictate that when you have your limit for the day, you're finished, whether or not you released the fish.

Such is not the case with black bass. Survival rates for the catch and release of black bass are very high, provided the fish is correctly handled. Unlike stripers, black bass reproduce successfully in Kentucky waters. It has also been shown that certain genetic strains of bass grow larger than others. This makes the release of bigger bass important, in that they are the brood stock which possess the best genetic potential for breeding large fish.

Consider another issue, the bluegill, shellcracker and croppie. These fish reproduce rapidly. Unchecked, they can quickly overpopulate a lake or pond. Catching and keeping these fish can often benefit a fishery. Still, circumstances exist where the predator population is too great for the prey and keeping panfish may be a poor plan because of the potential for decreasing needed brood stock for prey.

What I am trying to do with these examples is to confuse you. My purpose in trying to create confusion is to illustrate a point. That point is in order to be a truly ethical sportsman (woman), one must take the time to learn something about their quarry. Laws are definite guidelines, but they may not be doing the best thing for each particular fishery in each particular case. No, I'm not saying that you should ignore the law. The ethical sportsman always obeys the letter and intent of the law. What I'm saying is that you have an ethical responsibility to learn as much as possible about the resource so that you can make informed decisions about what to keep and what to throw back. The Germans recognize this issue. In order to get a hunting license in Germany, you must pass a test which, among other things, tests your knowledge of the species you hunt. The Germans recognize the importance of the hunter's (and I suppose the fisherman's) understanding of how his quarry fits in the big picture and what impact the hunter has on the big picture. The same is true with our fishing. Every time you catch a fish, your decisions have an impact on the ecosystem from which you caught the fish. Your decisions will impact that lake, pond, stream or river for good or for ill. The answer is not always clear. This is why an ethical sportsman learns about his quarry and it's surroundings.

I know that we are not all going to become fisheries biologists. We just want to have a little fun. We can preserve and improve this fun by taking a little time to think about what we should do with our catch. Whose fish are they really? They belong to all of us.