

**Tournament Report  
Mid-States Tournament Association  
Smithville Lake  
Smithville, Missouri  
April 9, 2006  
Camp Branch Marina**

The Mid-States Tournament Association kicked off the 2006 season at Smithville Lake Missouri on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The Mid-States is an interesting format, where a Professional and an Amateur Angler are paired and fish together for the day. The interesting thing is that the Pro and Am get to share the weight as a team, fishing for total boat weight. Unlike other shared weight programs by other tournament associations, this format can benefit both anglers, not just the Amateur.

71 Teams participated on this day, and were greeted with cool mornings, warm afternoons and mild to medium winds throughout the day.

**Air Temps – Upper 30's AM mid 60's PM**

**Water Temps – 51 degrees at 7:00AM to 56+ degrees PM to 60+ in the backs of Coves**

**Water Clarity – Stained Green**

**Water Visibility – 2 Feet**

**Wind – 5-15MPH SSE gusts to 20+**

**Lake Level - 862.83 – Multi Purpose Pool is 864.2 – Outflow of 8 C.F.S.**

**Practice:**

I spent the Saturday before the tournament practicing with my good friend and Amateur Angler Todd Ridenour of Omaha. Smithville has an established reputation of being one of the toughest Bass lakes in Missouri, and is still holding true to that reputation. Throughout an 8 hour practice day, I did manage to catch 1 keeper late in the day, a nice 3.5lb largemouth. This fish was lightly colored, but very healthy and she will make good breeding stock for the lake. This fish was caught on a Lucky Craft Pointer 110 in American Shad. We had several fish throughout the day slash at the suspending jerk baits in chrome/blue.

We did spend about 2 hours fishing the shallows up the river on both the Camp Branch side and on the Little Platte side of the lake. This time seemed to be time poorly spent, as the majority of our strikes from fish came on main lake points, along with our 1 keeper fish during practice.

**Tournament Day:**

Boat 43, I was hoping that was our lucky number for the day as I met up with my Amateur Partner, Dean Silver of Kansas City, a very nice guy, fishing his first Bass Tournament ever. Dean was a pleasure to fish with and proved to be a competent angler and even managed to boat one short fish during the tournament competition.

Dean and I started the day looking in some Main Lake cuts north of the Sailboat Cove area, throwing the jerk bait, Spinnerbaits in glimmer shad and fishing Jigs in 10-12' of water. After several hours of working hard to come up with some keeper fish, I decided we would head back up to the W Bridge area on the Camp Branch side of the lake. We spent some time fishing some very shallow cuts, looking for the warmest water we could find, and noticed several boats in the area. I also witnessed a few boats catching 8-10" fish out of 1-2 feet of water. Not much help in a tournament, but it is a good sign for the health of the fishery that some good spawns and hatches have made it through. I did manage one jig bite in about 18" of water, but I was so stunned to have a fish hit a jig I missed the opportunity.

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Shortly after this missed opportunity, we moved over to fish the riprap around the bridge. Within 5 minutes I had one fish slash at the Lucky Craft jerk bait and 5 casts later I had our first keeper in the boat. Or so I thought. This fish was right at the 15" minimum size limit, but just enough short to be questionable. I put a culling pin in him, and let him relax a bit in the live well, while using some Rejuvinade to see if he would relax enough to be an easy 15" fish. After about another ½ hour of fishing around the riprap with no more interest from the fish, we re-measured the fish in the live well, and came the conclusion he was a short fish, just could not get him to go the 15" we needed.

Winners: Rick Wilson, who I believe is from Smithville, won the tournament with 14.00lbs and reported catching his fish in 4-8' of water on Spinnerbaits. Doing this while the majority of the field was fishing as shallow as possible, in 1-2 feet really paid off for their team. Congratulations to Rick for figuring out these fish and for the 1<sup>st</sup> place finish and for the added \$1600.00 in bonus money for running the right equipment.

My concept during this event was to look for the actively feeding fish, in an area where the majority of the fish would still be, in the late winter/early spring transition on main lake points. I figured that I would Zag while the entire field was Zigging in the shallows, trying to rush the fish to be moved up.

Lessons learned, and time well spent gaining confidence in fishing the early transition period and I can honestly say I am really tired of fishing a suspending jerk bait.

My next event is the Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail – Iowa Division stop at Mozingo Lake in Northwest Missouri. In the last two weeks, Mozingo has given up a 27+lb winning bag and a 20+ winning bag, so I am pretty excited to get to a lake with some more fish.

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Official Results from [www.mstaonline.com](http://www.mstaonline.com)

<b>Pro Division</b>		
<b>Place</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Prize</b>
1st	Rick Wilson	\$1,050
2nd	Shane Voyles	\$700
3rd	Dave Letourneau	\$630
4th	Clint Long	\$560
5th	Bryce Rieder	\$490
6th	Darren Woebke	\$420
7th	Jamie Kenslow	\$350
8th	Nino Scoma	\$280
9th	Jerry McVey	\$210
10th	Burt Sollars	\$210
11th	Mark Malone	\$140
Big Bass 1	Shane Voyles	\$640
Big Bass 2	Dave Letouneau	\$384
Big Bass 3	Nino Scoma	\$256
<b>Amateur Division</b>		
<b>Place</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Prize</b>
1st	Grant Ellison	\$450
2nd	Scott Ventimiglia	\$300
3rd	Jamie Wilbanks	\$270
4th	Chad McVey	\$240
5th	Layton Strong	\$210
6th	Darren Barbee	\$180
7th	Scott Hand	\$150
8th	Jim Benbow	\$120
9th	Tim Green Jr.	\$90
10th	Terry Giltner	\$90
11th	Ronald Maddux	\$60
Big Bass 1	Chad McVey	\$315
Big Bass 2	Bobby Carleton	\$189
Big Bass 3	Scott Hand	\$126