

TRUCKSTOP

Diary of a Walleye junkie...

January 27, 2017, (148 days till 2017 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament)

Perusing thru a week-old pile of mail, I come across entry form for this years' Tournament. Text Becca and Rachael (my real daughters) to see if they're interested in fishing in this years' tournament in the "Old Boat." They agree that it would be a great idea and without hesitation say yes. I tell them that I will start preparing the Old Boat as soon as I remember where I put it, or rather, which snow pile it's under.

April 9, 2017, (76 days till 2017 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament)

Snow finally melts down enough to make it possible to find Old Boat, and I jot a few reminders to myself regarding said boat. It has been sitting idle ever since the day we purchased the new one, and although completely sea-worthy it still needed some attention in the starting and running departments. I must expedite this project as ice-off is approaching and boat needs to be ready for the girls to sharpen their Walleye catching skills...

June 9, 2017, (15 days till 2017 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament)

Finally find time to put Old Boat in the shop to prepare it for fishing. Put brand new battery in it and commence to seeing if it will run. It won't...

June 17, 2017, (7 days till 2017 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament)

Finish installing large box of parts on old boat engine and Old Boat now runs like a top. Make 30-mile trip to Canyon Ferry Dam and back checking for leaks and what not; determined Old Boat is ready for Becca and Rachael to commence fishing in.

June 23, 2017, 7:50 PM (10 hours 10 minutes til start of 2017 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament) Becca and Rachael are finally able to get in the Old Boat. But Tournament rules state that all contestants must be off the water at 3 pm the day before it starts. So, we sit in the Old Boat at the campground and the girls get a crash course on boat operations and such. I leave them with a notebook full of notes and comments on the intricacies of the boat as well as secret maps on the good spots for big Walleye.

June 24, 2017, 5:30 am (30 minutes til start of Day One...)

The girls in their boat, Sheryl and I in ours, we join 136 other boats waiting for the 6:00 am start...

June 24, 2017, 6:00 am (it starts, then stops...) Referring to the Old Boat of course... When 138 boats start out from a small area, even one at a time, it churns a smooth surfaced lake into a 5-foot-high wave frenzy that takes a while to dissipate.

The Old Boat was handling the situation just fine until it was its' turn to "go with throttle up" at the starting line... then, for some strange reason it decided to die.

As Sheryl and I approach the starting line, we look back and see the girls no longer behind us, but rather waving like crazy... so, we give up our position and turn around to go see what the problem is. It didn't take long for Becca to figure out how to start an engine from the "carburetor era" and rather quickly got it restarted.

Day 1 6:17 am. Our two boats have cleared the starting line and have started fishing in one of our hotspots. The New boat catches a couple of fish that we decide to go weigh in and leave the girls on their own, both sporting pink life jackets--we figure if they sink, they at least will be easy to spot...

Day 1 9:08 am. We encounter a few blatant rule violations being performed by a few of the other teams, which is taking the fun plumb out of the Tourney...

Meanwhile, back on the Old boat, the girls have 2 fish and are reading my notes on how to operate the cooler/live well lash-up. "Dad says that the switch hanging down below the steering wheel a ways is the one that turns the water on!" We got water! "Then he says you gotta use the Bilge Pump to get the water out of the boat!" Great! Got It!... What's a Bilge? Never heard of it... Quick! Google it!! (Oh what would one ever do without Uncle Google...)

Day 1 3:00 pm. The first day in the books, both boats back on their trailers and the big scoreboard showing us in 76th place, while the girls are tied for 72nd. Not in the top ten, but not in last place either...

Day 2 Recap (cause I'm running out of room here...)

Well the girls got out of the starting area perfectly this time, but not long after they started fishing encountered a few fellow fishermen that could care less about the rules or other boats. And after a couple of close calls with them, they decided amongst themselves that they were no longer going to fish in the Walleye Tournament, and switched to trout. Sheryl and I had a much better day and ended up in 13th place.

That said, I must close now as there's only 343 days till the 2018 Canyon Ferry Walleye Tournament, and if I start preparing now, I might actually be ready when it starts... Until next time, That is All. Rich Tee