

BAI News

By Ed DeVries

Muzzy/Flourspar Ohio River Championship at Rosiclare

The BAI held its first annual Muzzy/Flourspar Ohio River Championship last month on the Ohio River out of the town of Rosiclare. Anything that could possibly happen did at the shoot and



Big Fish Winner
Jerry Johns



Todd White and Ladies Division Winner Cassandra Ertel

it will be one to remember for a very long time.

At 6pm the tournament participants began to gather for a pizza dinner and rules meeting before the shoot. The weather looked perfect, bright sunshine and hot with only a slight chance of rain in the forecast. At 8pm the teams took to the water in search of bighead and silver carp.

This tournament was a dual format of numbers and weight. In the weight division only ten silvers and ten bighead carp could be entered. As the sun set bowfishing boats could be seen up and down the river flashing their lights in search of schools of Asian



Weight Division Winners Team Strut & Rut

carp. My partner Bill Runchey and I headed downstream to a big bend we found early in the day. Soon, using nothing but a bow mounted light, we started finding and harvesting good sized silver carp. Around 10:30 we started seeing more bighead carp and took a 42 and 32 pound fish each.

We also started seeing flashes of lightening in the distance but heard no thunder. We decided to keep bowfishing and see if the lightening was just heat lightening or a storm coming closer. About 45 minutes later the wind picked up and the lightening quickly began to increase, it was time to head in. But we couldn't! The motor re-



Numbers Division Winners Team Slew Rat

fused to start and the storm was bearing down on us. All we had was the troller and we were close to the middle of the river. We started to troll toward the Ky. side of the river hoping to make it before the storm became too bad.

Another bowfishing boat was headed to the dock and saw our signals for help. As they arrived on the scene we tried the motor one more time. It started! But the storm was on us and large blue bolts of lightning were crashing just behind us as both our boats headed for the dock in a blinding rain.

About half way in several huge bolts

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**Team Chicago Influence
42 & 32 lb Bighead Carp**

struck the water very close to it and we decided to head for the shoreline and beach the boats. To our left we saw a private dock and made a run for it as the wind and rain blinded us and lightning crashed all around. We made it in, tied off the boats and scrambled away from the water just as the storm reached a peak, air filled with blue/orange bolts of lightning.

On shore we chatted with our new friends from southern Illinois as the rain toughly drenched us. An hour later it was over and we headed back to the dock. As we were pulling into the Rosiclare ramp we heard yelling from a pontoon boat closing

in on the ramp. Its left pontoon was filled with water and the boat was sinking. Sometime during the storm the pontoon was punctured. The pontoon made it to the shoreline but was still a couple hundred feet from the ramp and listing badly.

Bowfishers jumped into the water to add support to the sinking boat while others on shore got a rope to it and pulled it toward the ramp. Deck chairs and coolers could be seen washing across the flooded deck as the boat was pulled to the relative safety of the ramp. Once there the chore of lifting the flooded pontoon high enough to get it on the trailer had begun. And after a lot of sweat and strained muscles the boat was finally loaded onto the trailer, just as the second storm of the night closed in on us.

Bowfishers took cover under the shelter or in their cars as the second storm hit. After an hour and a half the rains stopped and bowfishers were able to head back out in search of Asian carp. Only to be hit by a third storm a couple hours later that lasted until morning.

Was the shoot a washout? NO WAY!

Many good sized fish were shot between the rains and we all made some great memories and some great friends as we huddled and talked thru the rain. The bowfishing was fantastic and we look forward to the 2012 Rosiclare shoot!

HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

Numbers Division:

1st place - Team Slew Rat - 73 fish

2nd place - Team Pokaho - 65 fish

3rd place - Team Old River - 45 fish

Big 20 Division:

1st place - Team Strut and Rut - 439#

2nd place - Team Pokaho - 393#

3rd place - Team Old River Assassin - 297#

Big Fish Winner- Jerry Johns - 48#

Ladies Division Winner- Cassandra Ertel

The BAI would like to take a moment to thank BAI Director Todd White for organizing the tournament and doing a great job under some tough conditions. We would also like to thank the town of Rosiclare for some of the warmest hospitality we have ever seen at a shoot. Rosiclare not only welcomed us with open arms but also took care of all fish disposal for the shoot. They have a great dock facility with good ramps, picnic shelters and clean restrooms on a part of the river that filled with huge Asian carp. If you're thinking about a trip to the Ohio, remember the town of Rosiclare! We look forward to next year's Muzzy/Flourspar Ohio River Championship!

In the next issue we will have our complete 2012 tournament schedule. This year we are expanding our shoots more across the state, having more in southern and central Illinois including Lake Mermet, Ohio River and Lake Shelbyville. Until then, good shooting everyone!

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