

McPherson Bass Club

We are a fishing club based in McPherson Kansas dedicated to black bass (largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass) in Kansas and occasionally in surrounding states. Our members are from the McPherson, Hutchinson, Wichita and surrounding areas. The driving force behind the club is to get together, build friendships, fish Kansas lakes once per month, and have a great time doing it.

Affiliation: we are affiliated with Bass Master and the Kansas Bass Federation.

Club Fees:

- Annual Club Dues are \$25 collected each January. If you want to fish B.A.S.S. or Bass Nation affiliated tournaments, then the dues are \$85 (\$25 club, \$30 KS Bass Nation, \$30 National Bass Nation)
- Tournament fees are \$10 per tournament payable at the preceding club meeting. The boater's tournament fee is paid by the non-boater.
- Big Fish pot participation is optional, but most participate. This is \$5 per tournament day and paid on the morning of the 1st day of the tournament.

Schedule:

- **Meetings:** are held on the first Thursday each month @ Montana Mike's in McPherson with dinner starting @ 6:30 pm – and the meeting starting sometime after.
 - Reminisce about the previous tournament – discuss techniques, etc.
 - Plan for upcoming tournament – draw for partners, pay tournament fees (non-boater pays for boater's tournament fee)
 - Determine/announce non-boater share of boater's travel expense to be paid morning of first day of tournament.
 - Determine lodging if overnight stay required – determine roommates
- **Tournaments:** our club fishes tournaments each month from March thru October. Most tournaments are 2 days (Sat-Sun) with some during summer months being 1 day. The schedule for each year is voted on at the December meeting.
- **Annual Banquet:** an annual awards banquet is held in January of each year.

Tournament Format: boaters and non-boaters all compete against each other for 1st, 2nd, and often 3rd place prizes depending on the number of anglers. Pairings for each tournament are drawn at the preceding club meeting. We use a catch and release format with points based on fish length. Each angler's top 5 fish are scored for each tournament.

Non-boaters: many new members choose to fish the back seat (non-boater) for the first year even though they own a boat, in order to get to know as many members as possible. If you are fishing as a non-boater, the following guide is presented so you will know what is expected of you and what you can expect from the club. Another resource is @ http://www.bassresource.com/fishing/guide_to_tournament_fishing.html .

- **Launch** – New members are encouraged to brush up their trailer handling skills and to launch the boat in the morning and pull it out in the afternoon, including parking and retrieving the tow vehicle and trailer. Members are available who will help non-boaters brush up on these skills. *If you are not confident in your ability to perform these tasks, be sure to inform the boater you have drawn.*
- **Sharing expense** –
 - **Tournament fee** – the non-boater pays the boater’s tournament fee (\$10)
 - **Travel expense** - the non-boater is expected to pay boater a designated amount based on mileage from McPherson to the lake (amount announced at preceding club meeting) the morning of the 1st fishing day.
- **Conduct on the boat** – Things to discuss with your boater.
 1. Do not cast or stand forward of the boat windshield unless invited to do so by the boater
 2. Measuring fish – each fish is measured with observation from partner, and the length recorded on a score sheet for each angler. At the end of the tournament, the top 5 fish are scored for each angler based on instructions on the scoring sheet.
 3. Clean up your mess – do not spill anything, do not smoke or chew without boater’s permission, do not leave spent baits laying on the deck, etc.
 4. Be ready to move – When the boater starts the propulsion engine, non-boater should be in his seat, with tackle secured and life jacket in place and fastened. To do this, non-boater should maintain his gear in a neat, ready-to-travel fashion and be observant of what the boater is doing. If the outboard is running and non-boater is not secured, seated and ready to go, then non-boater is delaying the process. This is not good conduct.
 5. Be ready to net fish – Angler with fish on may or may not call for “net”. When one angler hooks a fish, the other angler should be ready to safely put down his rod and attend to netting for the other angler.
 6. Dragging gear behind the boat – Boater is not obligated to reverse direction of boat for purposes of retrieving non-boater’s snagged gear.
 7. After boat is out of the water – Non-boater is obligated to assist boater in boat clean-up before removal of his own gear to his personal vehicle.