

Prose from the Pres

You talk about a good start to the season. The SWT has already surpassed last year's membership totals which were the best ever and we still have two tournaments left. This in itself is fantastic, but the good news doesn't stop there. We have also given out more cash and prizes to our members thanks to our great team of sponsors. Think about it, we give out cash and prizes to the last place finishers, 60th, 50th, 40th, 30th, 20th, and 15th place, Bridesmaid prize, cool under pressure, and Big fish awards at each and every tournament. And then to wrap it all up, we give out some \$25,000 worth of cash and prizes at the year end awards night. All this for a \$30 membership, incredible. One would have to be crazy not to become a member even if it is just for one tournament. It always boggles my mind why an angler would think nothing of spending \$20 at each tournament to enter the Big Fish pool yet balk at paying a one time \$30 that qualifies you for all the tournaments. Oh well, I guess each to his own.

Competition is tight as one might expect in all categories. The Team category is presently led by Tony Hadi / Chris Kindraka after three tournaments but several teams including Mike Tonnello / Rob Ditomaso, and past winners Ward / Wilidahl are close behind.

The Angler division is also shaping up to be a horse race with Wayne Tumak leading the pack at this point but a host of others right behind him. This might turn out to be the closest race as things get a lot tighter when you factor in the dropped tournament formula that is used to determine the winners.

Mixed Team is being led by Vikki & Darren Zeller but they are feeling the heat from Gail Schugmann / Hal Loffler. Just a word on the Zellers, Vikki has recently gone through some serious health issues but thank God that she is on the way to full recovery. True to her strong will and love of fishing she still fished at the Sask Landing tournament. Here's to you Vikki and your continued recovery.

The SWT has several members on Team Canada that will be facing off against some pretty big names from the states at the PWT Dryden tournament in August. No matter how you finish, you do us proud and we know you will represent the SWT and Canada with class and skill. Go get em boys, we are all cheering you on.

All the tournaments have shown an increase in participation and that is a credit to the great organizations that run each of the tournaments. Can we be far off of a slate of sold out tournaments in the near future? Well if we keep going the way we are that may soon become a reality. Let me see, more cash to win, more prizes, more members, it's all good.

Some things to look for, Toyota trucks who are a new sponsor to the SWT will be setting up a display at the next two tournaments showing off their "Award Winning Truck" and giving out some gifts to all who come see their booth. Make sure you drop by and say hi.

On that note I think I'll wrap it up. Good luck to all of you over the next two tournaments and make sure you enter soon as the way things are going they may just be getting close to being full. See you out on the water.

Rob Furutani
SWT