

Results of the 32nd Annual FSA Fish N Fun Social

By Lynn Stoltenburg

The 32nd Annual Social was held June 12-14, 2015 with a total of 102 entrants. This year, there were a total of 44 “Fisher people” who actually attended the annual outing that was headquartered out of the Governors Inn in Pierre. There were many FSA’ers, Retirees, and guests from throughout the State that made the “trek” to fish the “Mighty Mo” and partake in the weekend activities. The Friday night festivities started with the annual “Brat Feast” grilled to perfection by Leon Edlund, the Grill Master! Then as history usually repeats itself, there were many stories told and Saturday fishing strategies planned. All in attendance knew the walleye were going to be bigger above the dam, but harder to catch. If fishing below the dam, the bite would be better, but the fish would be on the smaller side.....decisions, decisions!!! However, hopes were high the fishing would be GREAT and everyone anticipated big catches.

Festivities continued with the Calcutta Committee consisting of Bonnie Nickelson and Leon Edlund announcing the rules of the 13th Annual FSA Calcutta of which participants may choose to participate/enter. For those participating, individual names were drawn, Captains determined, and 11 Teams consisting of 4 members each were formed. Each team member’s “walleye catch” for the weekend would be added together to determine their total team weight. The top four team totals would then “Place in the Money”. Auctioneer Steve Jacobson (member of the “Miner County Hooker Team”) then began auctioneering off the Teams to the highest bidder(s). The bidding process was extraordinarily fun (everybody believes he/she is the best fisherman), and at times, almost frantic. The highest price paid for any team was \$340 and the low purchase price was \$110 for one of the teams (Paul Hanson was a member and was last year’s **ONLY** fisherman who never weighed in a walleye - need we say more)? A total of \$2,310 was collected, and a 100% payback was paid to the successful “owners” of the top four teams. Placing first and “pocketing” \$924 were Team members Jerry Harvey, Brad Manning, Charlie Peterman (Big Jim Guests) and Wally Jacobson (Larry Gauger Guest). The remaining three payouts (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place Teams) were \$693, \$462, and \$231, respectively. It appeared everyone enjoyed the Calcutta and are looking forward to the 14th Annual Calcutta, as everyone believes he/she is the “Best” fisherman and will boat the “Big One”.

Saturday morning arrived “very early” for several participants, and everybody was anticipating big catches and early limits. The weather was beautiful and 39 “fisher people” weighed in fish. Honors of the “**Biggest fish of the Day**” were bestowed upon **Paul Hanson** who weighed in a 4 pound walleye and he was also #1 on the Leader Board after Day 1 with a total weight of 7 pounds 3 ounces. It was a mere 4 ounce lead over Dave Gilbert (Ryan Wenz Guest), but everybody was anticipating “big fish” on Sunday and knew they could easily overcome Paul and carry home the coveted FSA Fish N Fun Trophy. After the Saturday weigh-in, many more “cold” beverages were consumed and many of the participants then headed to the Cattleman’s Club or McClellan Steak House to enjoy a wholesome meal. After a full belly, most of the people “hit the hay” rather early as everyone appears to be getting a little older and oh...maybe a little wiser!

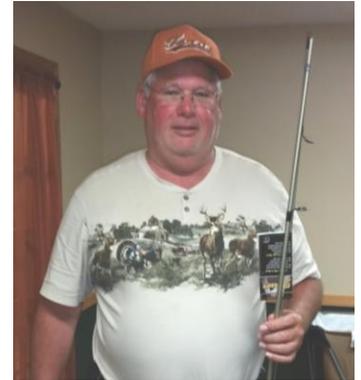
On Sunday morning, a major storm system was approaching the “Mighty Mo” that included lightning, heavy rain, and wind gusts up to 60 mph!! Around 10:00 A.M. it was the consensus of the group gathered at the Motel to cancel the Sunday outing due to safety concerns, which is the first time in 32 years that this has happened.





Therefore, the 32nd Annual FSA Fish N Fun Champion was determined to be Paul Hanson with a one-day total of 7 lbs. 3 oz. Congratulations Paul!! Dave Gilbert finished strong for 2nd place with a one day catch of 6 lbs. 15 oz.

Pictured at right is Todd Miller who won a rod and reel for the 2nd biggest fish of the day.



The one day total weighed in by all participants was 165 pounds of walleye (2014 numbers were 180 pounds). The 2015 pounds “put in the net” were about the same as last year’s two-day totals, so it appears the walleyes are making a “comeback” after experiencing a lack of baitfish for a few years and the significant flooding that took place a couple of years ago.

One of the highlights of the FSA Fish N Fun Social is to award a Traveling Trophy named “Charlie the Tuna” to the individual who catches the LEAST pounds of walleyes. This year, FIVE participants, did not weigh in ONE fish, including two former Champions, Leon Edlund and Lyle Rowen (Big Jim Guest)! “Charlie” now resides in Parkston with Leon Edlund for the forthcoming year. Congratulations Leon!!



Zero fish caught by:
Larry Nickelson, Leon Edlund, Wilmer Diebert, Dan Pekarek, and Lyle Rowen



Also presented was a Traveling Trophy which is a HUGE Stuffed Catfish wrapped in its well used plaid blanket, named Nickadameous. This Traveling Trophy is presented annually to the Captain of the Calcutta Team that weighs in the least pounds of walleye. The 6th Annual winner of Nickadameous was presented to Cathy Hanson (Bonnie Nickelson was a member and only weighed in a 4 ounce walleye – Geez!).



Once again, ALL of the fishing participants would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the entrants that always pay, but for whatever reason, do not fish. This FSA outing would not be possible without your support and it is very much appreciated! We hope to see some of you “non-fishermen” next year!

The winner of the free **Rod/Reel drawing** for the entrants that paid, but did not show up to fish was won by **Brandon Jacobson** (Larry Gauger Grandson). Congratulations Brandon!



The 4th Annual **Lori Young Memorial award (Rod/Reel)** was announced by her husband. Harlan indicated that Lori just loved to fish and she really didn't care if it was a walleye – just something at the end of the line jerking her rod. Therefore, he established this yearly award and announced the winner will be the individual who catches the largest game fish, other than a walleye. The annual award winner was **Jonathan Ristau** who weighed in a 6 pound 2 ounce northern! We all know Lori is looking down, smiling with two thumbs up! Thanks Harlan, Lori is sadly missed by all!

Jim and I would like to thank Leon, Lonnie Stoltenburg, and Kent Grode (Master Brat Grillers), Duane Marx, (Raffle Donations), and to Bonnie, Leon, and Steve Jacobson for “Taking the Bull by the Horn” and making the 13th Annual FSA Calcutta a huge success. Hope to see you all next year at the Governors Inn which will take place **June 24-26, 2016!!** Rooms may be reserved NOW! A block of 20 rooms have been already reserved, so you can make your reservations today by calling 605-224-4200 and indicate you are with FSA.

