

Good feelings, great time at annual Catch-A-Cure tourney

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Starvation State Park, located a few short miles northwest of Duchesne, played host on Saturday to the sixth annual Catch-A-Cure for Cancer fishing tournament and fund-raising event. Jerry and Carri Schlieff of West Jordan, event organizers since its inception, welcomed close to a hundred bass and walleye anglers Friday evening as they converged on Starvation Reservoir for the annual charity fishing tournament.

For the past five years I have had the privilege of participating in the event whose primary beneficiary is Camp Hobe, a summer camp located near Tooele that has enabled children suffering from cancer to experience the outdoors with friends and family. Family members as well as former guests of Camp Hobe greeted the anglers at tournament headquarters and many of them shared their personal stories of hope amid the uncertainties that surround a diagnosis of cancer in children.

Starvation, as always, was a great place to hold the event. The reservoir was full and there were plenty of fish to go around. The tough part for anglers was catching "keeper" bass.

"I love coming out here," said Brent McNee of South Jordan. "This morning I must have caught 30 bass on topwater baits, except they were all 11 inches long."

Tournament rules required bass and walleye to be at least 12 inches in length in order to be officially weighed and released at the end of the day.

Some of the walleye anglers keyed on steep, rocky banks and then fished with jigs tipped with night crawlers (red seemed to be a favorite color last weekend). Others threw crankbaits, ran bottom bouncers or used soft plastic grubs to entice strikes. The winning walleye team (the Jerry Pendleton Bunch) weighed a five-fish limit of 8.04 pounds.

On the bass side, my partner Jerry Zabriskie and I weighed 8.08 pounds and finished in first place overall. We found our bass in 2-to-20 feet of water and most of the fish took Gitzits the color of crawdads. Our big fish weighed 2.46 pounds.

One of the many thrills associated with winning this event was the opportunity to give back the prize money as a donation to Catch-A-Cure, which has become a tradition for tournament winners. However, a greater thrill was to watch Jerry Pendleton's young son, who had just won the walleye big-fish-of-the-tournament award, turn and give back his \$400 dollar cash prize to Jerry Schlieff, Catch-A-Cure director.

The event raised \$15,000 dollars and will give more than dozen children a chance to experience Camp Hobe this year. Thanks to the anglers and sponsors for their support of this worthy event.

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