

Auto clubs may fall short with trailer boaters

What happens when a motorist towing a boat trailer has a breakdown on the side of the road or becomes disabled on a busy launch ramp?

The answer you'll likely get from your auto club is you are on your own, according to Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.), the nation's largest organization for recreational boaters. That's because most auto club towing plans only cover vehicles — not boat trailers.

"When there's a breakdown, trailer boaters are sometimes forced to leave their trailer boat unattended on the side of the road," said Jerry Cardarelli, vice president of BoatU.S. Towing Services. "With our Trailer Assist & Tow program, we do all the work for you by locating over 14,000 professional towing companies across the country that are equipped to handle both tow vehicle and trailer, and are available through our 24-hour-a-day dispatch centers on both coasts. We get trailer boaters on their way in a hurry — all you have to do is sign and drive."

BoatU.S. "Trailer Assist & Tow" is a service that will provide assistance when either the trailer or the towing vehicle suffers a breakdown while trailering a boat. Labor charges for flat tire assistance, fuel delivery,

lockout service, or jumpstarting of the towing vehicle are included. Most importantly, if your towing vehicle or boat trailer is disabled while trailering — or even stuck on the launch ramp — Trailer Assist & Tow will pay up to \$150 to have your tow vehicle and/or boat trailer towed to the nearest repair facility or safe location. All you have to do is sign for service.

Trailer Assist & Tow costs only \$24 a year and includes membership in BoatU.S. as well as the association's "Trailering Club," which also includes a subscription to BoatU.S. Trailering Magazine. The magazine is filled with interviews, Q&A, product reports, news and first-person accounts of great trailer boating experiences. The club also provides up to \$40 in launch ramp fee rebates redeemable at West Marine and BoatU.S. stores and other discounts. BoatU.S. membership features over 20 additional benefits including on-the-water towing, Member Rewards at West Marine and BoatU.S. stores, and a subscription to the largest circulation boating magazine in the country, BoatU.S. Magazine.

If you sign up online at <http://www.BoatUS.com/trailerclub> you'll also get a free trailer hitch ball cover. Or, you may call 1-800-245-6923.

Environmental forum to be held

PRAIRIE VILLAGE — Kansas Natural Resources Council (KNRC) and the Prairie Village Environmental Committee will conduct the fourth annual Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues Oct. 6 at the Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd. in Prairie Village. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with exhibits by Kansas natural resource organizations, followed by a 6 p.m. community supper

At 7 p.m., guest speaker Lee Allison, science and energy policy advisor to Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, will present a

lecture entitled "Wind, Prairie, and Kansas Energy." Allison chairs the Kansas Energy Council, the primary energy policy and planning arm for the state. At the request of Gov. Sebelius, he organized a task force to resolve the dispute over wind energy in the Tallgrass Prairie areas of the Flint Hills.

A \$10 donation is requested for the supper and program. Reservations are required as soon as possible. To make reservations, phone Kathy Riordan at 913-383-7882 or email Margaret Thomas at MGT84roe@aol.com.

FISH TALES

Mother/daughter team catches whopper at derby

By CHERRY MARTIN

Cherry Martin and daughter Kayla Martin, Hays but formerly of Norton, were entered in the 2004 annual Busch Carp Derby.

It was Sunday morning and the fishing had been slow. Both of us were sun-scorched from the previous day's fishing and a little tired from all the carp caught that day. Sunday promised to be another HOT day in July. We received quite a few nibbles, but were successful with only small channel cats.

We pulled in our lines and rebaited and cast back out, but were almost convinced it was just another channel cat.

Then, the pole bowed down almost to the water. I scrambled out of my chair, grabbed the pole and Kayla grabbed the dip net, an effective system that was worked out earlier.

At first the ease of the fish coming in was relatively effortless... then the monster decided to change his mind and direction. The pole bending nearly in half, me telling Kayla to "pull in the other

lines, this ones a big one and we don't want this to be 'the one that got away'!"

Being a mother/daughter team, we had felt either a real or imagined pressure to show we could be successful fisherwomen.

The carp swam right to the shore and we got a good look at it, giving us a feeling of what "buck fever" must be like.

With Kayla's skill on the dip net and the fish content to be up on the shore line, we pulled in a 19 pound, 2 ounce, 34.5 inch carp. It netted us the largest carp of the day and \$100 for that feat, along with \$50 for a position in the top ten finish.

We left with as much money as the first place fishermen and felt very fortunate to have managed the "monster".

Upon further discussion at the Carp Derby, it was found that we qualified for a Master Angler award in the State of

Kansas Fish and Game listing for the size of that carp. We both received the award.

We were unable to attend the 2005 Carp Derby because of a missed mailing of the event taking place. But, hopefully, look for us in 2006.



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