

Report on the annual AAA State Boat Championships run on Saturday the 27th March 2010, sponsored by Club Marine, All Boat Business, Ranger Camping, Engel Australia and hosted by the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club

The competition was run with light South Easterly Winds on land and showed up 8 knots on the Mandurah official meter system, and the event was on "you beauty".

The Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club (MOFSC) Volunteers provided the heart starters for the day, by having tea and coffee with Bacon and Egg burgers at the Hillarys Boat Ramp, and those that had either thick heads from "preparing" for the day and having pre-comp drinks the night before certainly welcomed the food, this certainly was appreciative also by the MOFSC knowing that the AAAWA allowed host clubs to also benefit from the event financially.

The forecast of 8 to 15 knot South Easterly winds, then swinging around to the South West at 15 to 20 knots in the afternoon was promising for those that wanted to go deep straight away, then come back in later and try for smaller species did so, those of us that thought we knew better, took of in close while the weather was smooth and tried our luck at the smaller species ourselves, then ventured out.

But let me tell you I don't think that was the best move, the weather turned really quickly and came in with a rush from the South, but none of us wanted to "give in" so we all persevered till the end.

The Southerly created an uncomfortable fishing platform and all had to work hard for the fish that was caught. The Radio was relatively quiet which normally indicates that the fishing was slow.

A few good fish were caught in Shallow water and it was the young ones that showed up us older (and supposed to be wiser) fisho's a thing or two, and they burley up spots and made the fish come to them, Patience was never my forte, but as indicated it was difficult work, at about 1pm most of the boats zipped (or should I say wallowed) around to all their favourite spots catching a varied range of species, albeit nothing too big.

Whilst competitors were "out there" in their favourite spots, Carmel Langdon (WSSC) who is also the secretary of the boating sub committee, with her faithful friend, Noeleen (shampers) Weymouth (HYC Committee lady), Des McLean (MOFSC) also the Field Day Officer with Roy and Kerry Lukies (MAAC) set up the presentation and the weigh in area and it looked magnificent, the juniors had their mouths open in awe at the tackle packs.

There was a multitude of people from the MOFSC that did not fish and prepared the "refreshment" areas, much to the appreciation of all competitors, thank you all.

At the closing time for the Bags (3.30pm) most boats had either got their boats on their trailers or were waiting to, and the Field Day Officer Des, ensured that the door was shut at exactly 1530hrs, and the girls i.e. Carmel and Noeleen continued taking in the skippers safety discs, this was to ensure that all were safely back on land, there was 167 competitors and 62 boats that participated.

The weigh in commenced at 4.30pm, in the area overlooking the marina area at the rear of the club, all the signage and club flags made for a great spectacle.

The MC for the weigh in was Glen Omond and provided a running commentary, with a great deal of good humour and light hearted banter, albeit I was the brunt of a fair bit of it.

The weigh in went extremely well again we would be lost without those assisting on the day, you juniors for running the score cards and assisting the competition officer with the collation, thank you, we need you guys to get up there and give us "oldies" a run for our money at these comps, now last year I said that I needed to be careful saying that, as Terry Bell's son Mitchell won the Juniors event, and this year the young gun from MOFSC did the running and was the runner up in the juniors, Ed Bradfield, well done, but I think I wont keep pushing too hard in case the end up beating me (and that's not too hard).

The MOFSC provided refreshments and an evening meal for all, I'm sure all that had partaken in the meals and refreshments enjoyed the evening.

The presentation was MC'd by our effervescent ORSSC member and Competition Officer in Terry Bell, and with the banter as always between "rival" clubs, made for an excellent evening, and can you imagine what was said when they found out I missed gaffing a nice shark that my son caught and the fish got away, (Nothing was said on the boat for a few minutes but I knew I was in big trouble©).

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