

C.A.S.T.
STOCKTON LAKE EVENT
JUNE 7, 2008
“CATCH A SPECIAL THRILL”

By: Trp. Tom Spencer K-241

On Saturday June 7, 2008 I assisted with a C.A.S.T. event at Stockton Lake put on by the Stockton Lions Club and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Stockton School District’s Special Education Section helped pair the youngsters with mentors and volunteers for this special event. Take off was out of Crabtree Cove Park located on the northeastern end of the lake not far from the dam. Forty-six (46) special youngsters, some from as far away as St. Louis, showed up on a beautiful day to “Catch a Special Thrill.”

BASSMASTER Classic and FLW Champion, Dion Hibdon, Rick Flint, a G. Loomis Pro and Bass Pro Staff Member, Missouri State Senator Dan Clemens and Bill Seibel of Bill Seibel Outdoors were all there to take these lucky young anglers out for a fishing experience of a lifetime.



L-R SENATOR DAN CLEMENS, OUTDOOR WRITER BILL SEIBEL, TRP SPENCER, FLW CHAMPION DION HIBDON, BASS PRO STAFF ANGLER RICK FLINT.

Upon their return, these young anglers were treated to a great fish fry of donated fish from Bass Pro Shops cooked up by members of the Missouri Department of Conservation. No one that left this event hungry.

As this day progressed, I couldn’t help noticing a small group of officers from the Corps of Engineers. I spoke to several throughout the morning including Rod Hendricks. I watched as these guys worked their tails off from the start of the event. The water was up about 10-13 feet from normal pool which made for some last minute planning



arrangements as to how the event would be set up. You see, most of the area was under water. These guys worked tirelessly behind the scenes. They came in and dropped off tables and help set up the area with the other volunteers. The second thing I noticed is the interaction with the disabled children attending the event. These guys made the extra effort to help make a special event for these children. Maybe it’s because I also wear a uniform and know that children look

up to what that uniform stands for. But, for whatever reason, I noticed that these guys from the Corps went the extra mile, as did all the volunteers at this event. Kudo's for all the efforts of those involved in this great partnership. With efforts put forth by individuals like this from the "Show Me" state I see nothing but growth for the state of Missouri and C.A.S.T. I found myself leaving this event feeling blessed to have been a part of it. I hope they invite me back next year!



Tight Lines!!

Tom Spencer