



EYEING SHRINE TOURNEY - Some of the top slowpitch softball teams in the Carolinas will be in Kings Mountain this weekend for the second annual White Plains Shrine Club Classic. Discussing the tough, 16-team field, left to right, are Carl Champion, Kings Mountain Shriner; Artie Shoemaker, tournament director; Lee Skidmore, sponsor of the Skidmore Construction team of Gastonia, and Mick Candler, Skidmore coach.

Shrine Softball Classic Set Here This Weekend

The second annual White Plains Shrine Club Softball Tournament and Barbecue Sale will be held Friday through Sunday.

The softball tournament, featuring some of the top teams in the Carolinas, will begin Friday at 6:30 and continue through Sunday at City Stadium and Deal Street Park.

A late addition to the 16-team field is Howard's-Western Steer of Denver, N.C., formerly Howard's Furniture. The team has been organized for 27 years and has won seven world championships in different levels of competition.

The team features pitcher Don Arndt, "Mr. Softball" of the slowpitch world. He is 49 years old and has been playing softball for most of his life. He is slowpitch softball's all-time home run king.

Other key players on the Howard's team are Rick Sherrill, Tim Rhinehart and Russell Bradley.

"There will be no better softball played in North Carolina this year than what you'll see in the Shriners Classic in Kings Mountain this weekend," promises Artie Shoemaker, tournament director.

In addition to Howard's, Shoemaker has lined up two other national champions and three state champions, plus many other teams that are annually in the running for the state championships in North and South Carolina.

Gastonia Heating, which won the National Open Championship last year, is the defending Kings Mountain champion. Led by shortstop Tim White, the MVP in the national tournament last year, David Johnson, Buck Buchanan, and others, the Gastonia team will be tough to dethrone, but such teams as Howard's, Fab Master's of Greensboro, Loftis Roofing of Greer, S.C., and Blanton's Barbecue of Fayetteville, will be trying hard.

The Fab Masters team was

runner-up to Gastonia Heating both at Kings Mountain and for the North Carolina State Open title last year. The Greensboro team would like nothing better than to whip the Gastonia club and get some revenge in Kings Mountain this weekend.

Loftis Roofing is the defending South Carolina Open Champion and also won the U.S.S.S.A. national championship last year.

Blanton's Barbecue is a newcomer to the Kings Mountain field but will field a powerful ballclub. Blanton's recently defeated Howard's-Western Steer for the championship of the Wilmington Azalea Slowpitch Classic. One of the team's top performers is Mickey Morrison, who once played for Champion's Landscaping of Kings Mountain.

Others in the field will be LeeRoy's Frame of Hickory, the N.C. Class B defending champs; Southern Wholesale of Charlotte, the defending Charlotte City League champs; Skidmore Construction of Gastonia, a long-time Gaston County power; Hudson Sports of Lincoln, the defending Lincoln City League champs; Electro-Ade of Spartanburg, Carolina Merchants of Gastonia, the 1983 Gastonia Industrial League champs and fourth place finishers in the Class C. World tournament; Baucom's Nursery of Charlotte, Keller Associates of Charlotte; and some local teams.

Action will get underway Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at noon and Sunday at 1 p.m. Sunday's championship round will be dedicated to J.D. McDonald, a former Pharr Yarns player who was the first North Carolina player inducted into the ASA Softball Hall of Fame. A special seating section will be reserved for McDonald and his former teammates and McDonald will throw out the first pitch to start the championship game.

The barbecue sale will get underway Saturday at 10 a.m. beside City Auto and Truck Parts on Highway 161.

Tickets are \$30 for a whole shoulder, \$3.50 for a plate and \$1 for sandwiches. Tickets may be purchased from any Shriner, or at City Auto and Truck Parts, Champion's Construction, Home Federal Savings and Loan and Linwood Restaurant. For delivery of tickets, call Carl Champion's office at 739-9511.

A full line of concessions will also be available at both ballparks. Hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn and drinks will be available, and White Plains Shrine Softball Classic T-shirts will also be available at reasonable prices.

All proceeds from the softball tournament and barbecue sale will be given to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Greenville, S.C. The Shriners raised over \$8,000 last year.

All patients at Shriners Hospitals and Burn Centers are treated at no cost to their parents. Anyone who has or knows a child who needs treatment in these areas should contact any member of the White Plains Shrine Club.

Area Anglers In Tourney

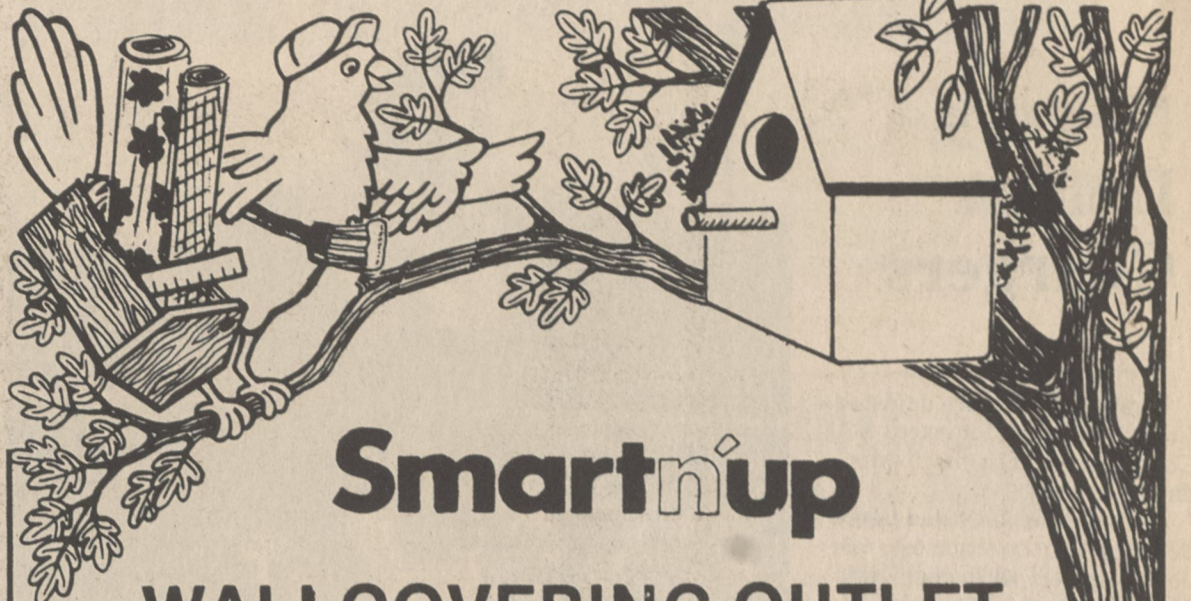
Nearly 250 fishermen, including many from the Kings Mountain area, have registered to compete in the third Carolina division event on the Red Man Fishing Tournament Trail Sunday at Clark Hill Lake.

Twenty of the top 24 anglers in the Carolina Division point standings will compete. Leading the way is first place Bruce Ellison of Spartanburg, S.C. Among the other competitors are Dwight Morgan of Gold Hill and Joe Wise of Cherryville. Morgan won the first Carolina event, held on Lake Murray near Columbia, S.C., and Wise won the second event held recently at Lake Norman.

The fishermen at Clark Hill Lake will be vying for about \$9,375 in prize money, with the winner earning about \$3,125. Cash awards will go to the top 10 percent of the field.

Other area participants include Chris Bumgardner of Belmont, Steve Cody of Shelby, John Davis of Shelby, Charlie Foster of Kings Mountain, Bill Grier of Mt. Holly, Keeter Hamrick of Kings Mountain, David Jennings of Dallas, Johnny Jones of Belmont, Rick Lamountain of Shelby, Jesus Loaces of Shelby, James Osborne of Grover, Larry Pearson of Cramerton, William Phillips of Shelby, Mike Seawright of Kings Mountain, Gary Smart of Kings Mountain, Ronald Walker of Shelby, and Bobby Winn of Shelby.

The fourth Carolina Division tourney is scheduled for June 10 on High Rock Lake near Salisbury. Entry deadline is May 30. To enter, call or write Operation Bass, Route 2, Box 74-B, Gilbertsville, Ky. 42044. Telephone (502) 362-4880. Entry fees for the one-day events are \$50, and a fisherman must join Operation Bass. One hundred percent of the entry money is paid back as cash awards along the trail.



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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Belmont:
In the triangle across from the Fire Station.
Contact: Sissy McLellan 825-5712</p> <p>Bessemer City:
At the City Cemetery on 13th Street and also at the Vantine Cemetery on Virginia Avenue.
Contact: Hilda or Otto Gunst 629-4224</p> <p>Cherryville:
At the corner of Pink and Church Streets and also beside the cemetery along Church Street.
Contact: Irene Beam 435-6778</p> <p>Cramerton:
At an entrance to the town of Cramerton.
Contact: Joyce Boiter 825-5613</p> <p>Dallas:
In the Courthouse square along the curb strip on Holland Street.
Contact: Ethel Pasour 922-3046</p> | <p>Gastonia:
At the new city limits on West Franklin Avenue at Shannon-Bradley Road in the median strip.
Contact: Lou Fuller 864-2780</p> <p>Lowell:
At the Lowell-McAdenville exit of I-85 near the bridge.
Contact: Billie Taylor 824-4489</p> <p>McAdenville:
At the Lowell-McAdenville exit of I-85 near the bridge.
Contact: Allison Decker 824-4481</p> <p>Mount Holly:
At the new underpass.
Contact: Rev. Cyrus Frazier 827-4751</p> <p>Ranlo:
In the downtown area.
Contact: Doyle Trull 824-3461</p> <p>Stanley:
In the downtown area along the railroad tracks.
Contact: Brenda Weaver 263-4166</p> |
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