

Keeping it "Reel"

While most 16-year-olds earn date money by mowing lawns, John Billheimer Jr. of Discovery Bay, California, has a different sort of job: dominating pro bass tournaments. Billheimer won the FLW Stren Series Western Division event in Lake Havasu, Arizona, earlier this year, becoming the youngest person ever to win an FLW major tournament. And, oh yeah, he took home \$10,000 and a Ranger 519 VX.

Barely old enough to make the competition's age requirement of 16, Billheimer beat out a field of 199 seasoned pros. During the four-day event, he caught 12 large-mouth bass totaling 39 pounds, eight ounces.

"It was pretty intimidating competing against guys

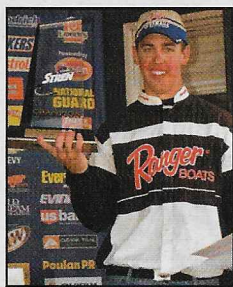
I've watched on television," he says. "The best advice a lot of the pros gave me was just to stay humble."

That's a feat in itself given that Billheimer has his own website (johnjr.basspro.com) and has won more than 50 smaller-scale tournaments in just two years. But it was the Havasu victory that broke the bass ceiling for him.

"That really made me want to fish bigger tournaments, but I didn't know I'd be doing it this soon," he says.

Proving he's no longer a small fish in a big pond, Billheimer has his sights on competing full-time on the FLW and BASS pro fishing trails after graduation. But for now, he's still trying to find a balance between fishing and studying.

"It's simple," Billheimer says. "I come in to do my homework when it gets too dark for me to fish anymore." — *Kristin Davis*



John Billheimer Jr.

The Unforgettables

By the time most of us reach 50, two words dominate our thoughts: midlife crisis. But when your background is so full of memorable moments, two more words become important: looking back. That's what we did when Glastron began celebrating the big 5-0 this year, picking five of our favorite boats from the Little Falls, Minnesota, company.

1956 The Fireflite

Inspired by the automotive industry's designs, Glastron's first-ever model featured amenities not seen on boats in those days: upholstery, running lights and a windshield. It also had Cadillac-style tail fins.



1967 The Bat Boat

Glastron produced two Bat Boats in 31 days at the original Austin, Texas, plant: one for the movie *Batman* and one for promotion.

1973 The Live and Let Die

James Bond Boat

The GT-150 pictured here was one of 26 used to film the world-record 110-foot jump over a Louisiana levee. This model became one of Glastron's best-selling boats.



1979 The Moonraker

James Bond Boat

The CV23 Scimitar, designed by Art Carlson who was known for his radical style, featured a hard top that detached into a hang glider for the movie's famous waterfall-jumping scene. Consumer models didn't feature this option, or the machine guns.

1996 The Glastron GS 205

40th Anniversary Collector's Edition

Only a limited number were built and the boat included a certificate of authenticity and a dash placard engraved with the owner's name. Glastron plans to do the same with the 50th anniversary model.

