



ANNUAL ISSUE

# FISHING TALES

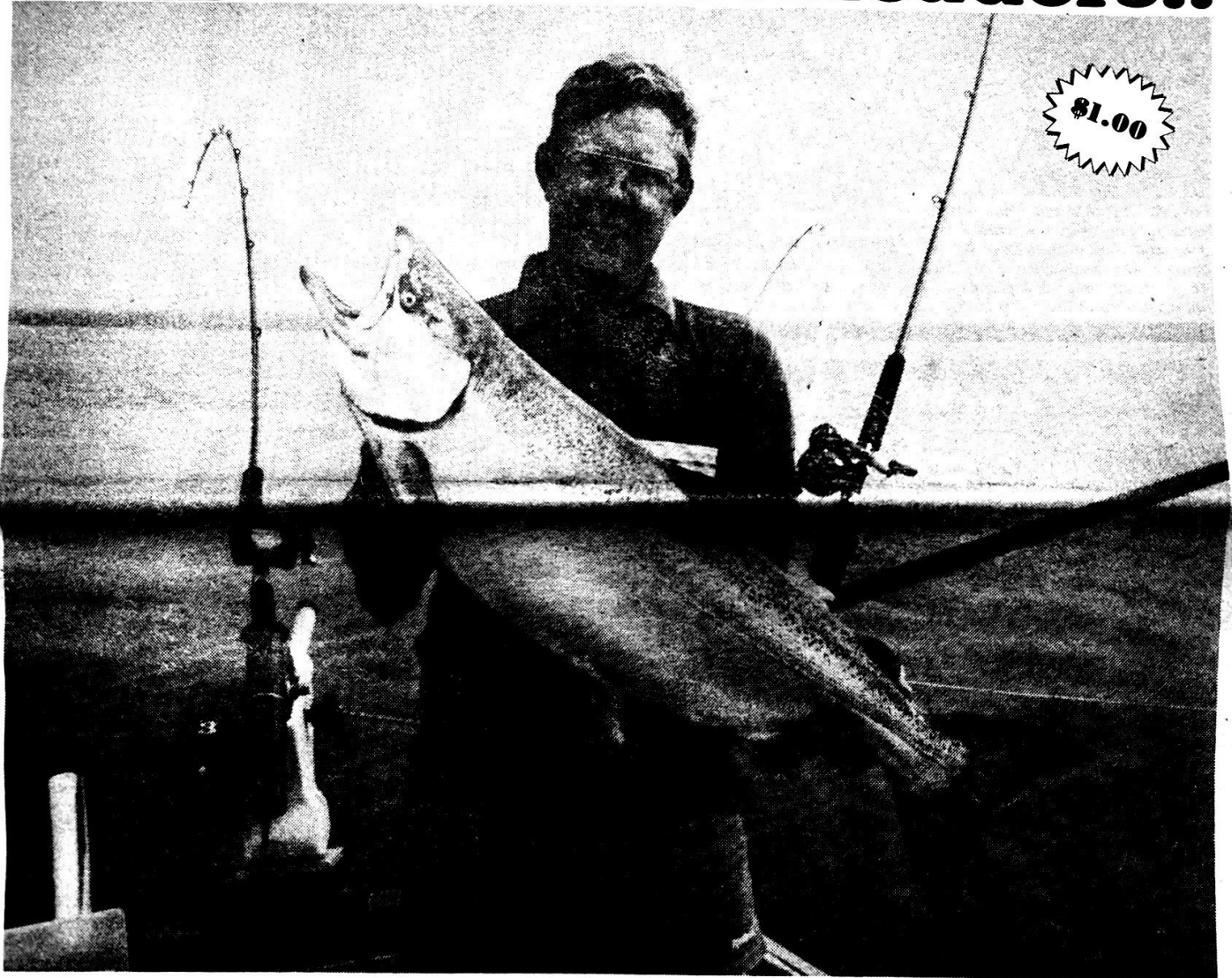


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1990 ANNUAL ISSUE

## Join the Detroit Area Steelheaders!!



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# 1989: Another successful year!

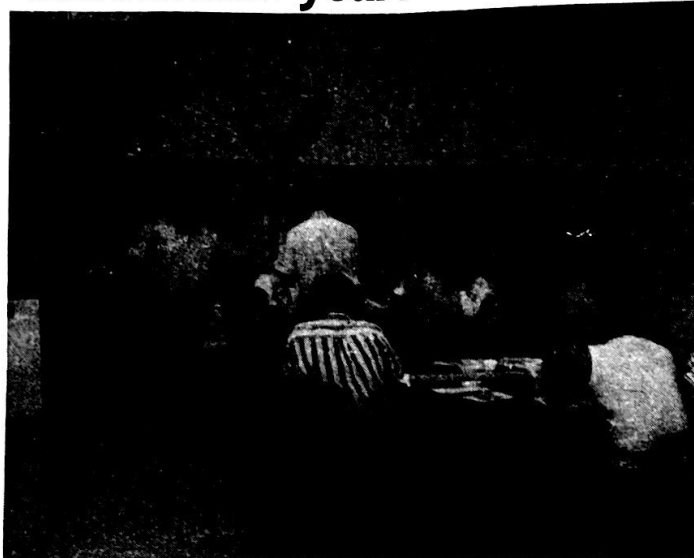
Nineteen eighty-nine was a very successful year for the Detroit Area Steelheaders. The Detroit Steelheaders continued their role as a leader in promoting and protecting the Great Lakes fishery.

As I reflect back on 1989, it was a year of many peaks and valleys. As most of you are aware, my fishing and hunting buddy and one of my best friends, my brother Ray, was hurt very seriously in an automobile accident last June. Thanks to God and many fine doctors who saved his life, Ray is doing fine and will be back in the action for 1990. But unfortunately, my father-in-law, Mel Craig, passed away in July after a long illness. He was a man I truly admired and respected and most of all, a great father-in-law. Anyone who knew him will miss him. All of my family appreciates all of your prayers and kind thoughts during this difficult time my family experienced.

The present state of the M.S.S.F.A. has caused much concern and it is my hope that this mess can be straightened out before it is too late. My personal belief is that when you have a large organization such as the M.S.S.F.A., each chapter must have equal input. If not, when difficult times come, chapters will feel slighted and leave the organization. This is what has happened to M.S.S.F.A. I hope everyone involved wakes up and recognizes it is time to run M.S.S.F.A. like a business. I hope M.S.S.F.A. survives 1990.

Another major concern is the condition of the fishery. I know many fine individuals are working hard to solve the BKD problem as quickly as possible. There are not many fishermen out there who will be talking this winter about the fine king fishing of this past summer. A repeat of last summer's fishing results is **NOT IN OUR BEST INTEREST!**

Last January, as the show season began, everyone started to get the "itch." It was nice to see everyone getting excited about the upcoming season. We traveled to several different shows promoting all Steelheaders throughout the metro Detroit area.



**PRESIDENT DAVE EVEN** is shown here on the job at a Detroit Area Steelheader Membership Meeting last year.

Our participation was helped by Bruce and Katie Haywood acquiring a new display booth, from Universal Mall. For 1990, the booth will include a new TV and VCR which will be transported around town in a new trailer purchased this fall. The booth looks impressive and has improved our ability to present the Steelheaders to the public.

The show season was highlighted by our annual Spring Fishing Show at the Dearborn Civic Center which, as always, was a huge success. Again, Dennis Holloway and Bob Ksionzek did an excellent job. Bob and Dennis spent many long hours preparing and organizing this event. There's something new in this area for 1990: our Spring Fishing Show, which only improves as the years go by, will expand to two days (March 10-11). There's more information on the Show elsewhere in this issue.

The 1989 Steelheader Dinner Dance, organized by Jim Legenzoff, was a great

time, and if you missed out, don't make the same mistake twice. Be sure to come to this year's event, set for February 10. More details on this are on Page xx.

Throughout 1990, both stream and boat tournaments were a huge success. The friendships and memories which develop at these outings will last a lifetime. Doug Karakas did a fine job on the surf/stream tournaments, and Dick Shirk did a superb job running the boat tourney schedule. I know Dick will do another great job with the boat events in 1990.

Congratulations to Bob Mitchell on winning the "Skipper of the Year" award again in 1989! Bob and his crew on "Kemo" just continue to roll on . . . Also congratulations go to Steve Banovic and his crew on a fine job in the boat events. I know how tough it is to try to knock off the "Kemo" crew. It was especially nice to see all the new boats and crews that showed up and took part in 1989. Many of these will be teams to be reckoned with in 1990.

Our Fishin' Tales continues to be the best Chapter paper of the M.S.S.F.A. (even if White River thinks different!). Our editor, Joel Garinger, does a fine job, and the paper is a true reflection of his work.

I wish to give special congratulations to two others. Our "Member of the Year" for 1989 is Bob Gilbert. Bob, you are a fine example for all members to emulate. You always find a way to help out whenever you can! Our "Director of the Year" is Steve Hamilton. Steve, this is to let you know that your efforts have not gone totally unnoticed. It is just too bad that M.S.S.F.A. hasn't taken advantage of them.

I am really looking forward to the upcoming year. Good as it has been, I expect 1990 to be even better . . . !

—Dave Even, President

## REFLECTIONS . . .

Fifteen years ago, when the Detroit Area Steelheaders were founded to promote and protect the fishery of the Great Lakes, many problems were used as a battle cry to create a strong Detroit Chapter of M.S.S.F.A. These included Indian gill netting, commercial fishing, sea lampreys, nuclear power plants, and learning how to fish for the newly planted chinook and coho salmon.

The Detroit Chapter grew to nearly 1,000 members in a very short time, as the frenzy of the Great Lakes salmon fishery exploded. That fishery became the greatest conservation success story of modern times, and Dr. Tanner and Dr. Tody of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources became true heroes.

Small towns which no one would go near because of the stench created by the massive die-off of alewives every summer became part of the Gold Coast and homes to the greatest salmon fishery in the world. Fishing equipment became more than just a rod and reel as electronics became standard. Many new careers began, as the charter boat fleet grew each year.

A new decade is about to begin, and we face new problems which cause serious concerns for the salmon fishery. Bacterial kidney disease (BKD) has apparently caused massive die-offs of king salmon, the water flea has infested Lakes Huron and Michigan, the zebra mussel has found a new home in Lake Erie, Lake Huron has so many sea lamprey that if you are lucky enough to catch a fish, it is rare if it doesn't have a lamprey attached to it or carry a lamprey scar, and the water quality has caused concern for the consumption of any fish caught in the Great Lakes!

Yes, it has been an eventful 15 years. The Detroit Steelheaders have survived, and as we celebrate our fifteenth year, we must remember our purpose and fight to solve these problems. As Steelheaders, we must continue to attack anything which interferes with the fishery we have all grown to cherish. As we move into the 1990's, our goals will remain the same: *To protect and promote anadromous sportfishing in the Great Lakes.* The D.N.R. needs our support, and we must continue to lend our help whenever possible. The problems which we now face will be solved only as we work together to find solutions. Yes, the chinook fishery is in serious trouble — now is not the time to jump ship! We need members now more than ever. During the next year, each one of us should set a goal of recruiting one new member for 1990. Our clout is in the numbers . . . the numbers of sportsmen and sportswomen who truly care for the fishery.

—Dave Even

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FISHIN' TALES is published monthly by the DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS.

The views expressed in FISHIN' TALES are those of members and the Editor. The purpose of FISHIN' TALES is to inform members of events which affect the Sportfisherman. It is our intention to teach, inform and guide members to respect and appreciate the Great Lakes, rivers and land around us.

Material published in FISHIN' TALES may be reprinted, provided proper credit is given to the author, and to FISHIN' TALES as the original source of the material, and that at least one complete copy of the publication containing the reprint is sent to the Editor at the time of publication.

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- Dick Shirk . . . . . 749-9493

The list of Officers and Committee assignments for 1990 will be published in the next issue of Fishin' Tales.

All materials for publication should be submitted to:

**JOEL GARINGER, Editor**

21237 Sunnydale, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Membership Chairman Dennis Holloway requests that all dues money and membership renewal forms be sent **ONLY** to:

M.S.S.F.A.  
 P.O. Box 16320  
 Clarkston, Michigan 48016

**DO NOT** send your payment, etc. directly to the state office.

# Spring Fishing Show grows to 2 days, set for March 10-11

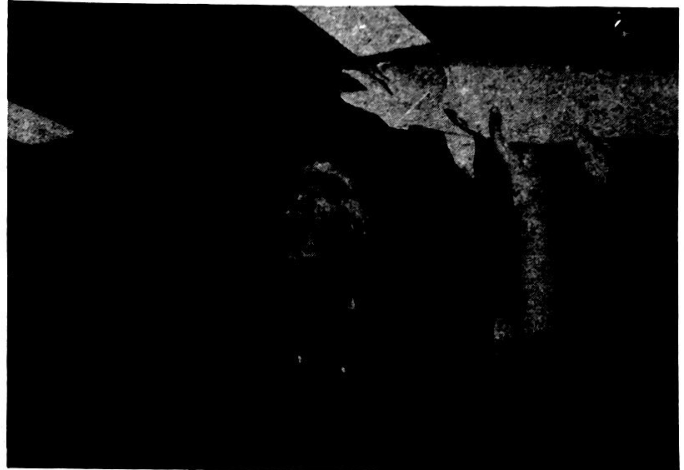
One of the surest signs that winter is nearly over — the Detroit Area Steelheaders' annual **SPRING FISHING SHOW** — is nearly here.

Mark your calendars! The dates for this year's fishing extravaganza are **SATURDAY, MARCH 10 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1990!!**

The show is being held again this year at the Dearborn Civic Center, off Michigan Avenue near Greenfield Road (see map below). The hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, with a \$3.00 donation for admission. Children under 12 who attend with an adult and senior citizens get in **FREE!** There is plenty of convenient, free parking.

As always, the show offers all fishermen the finest selection of tackle and the latest equipment at bargain prices, **PLUS** many "How to . . ." clinics to show you how to catch the elusive and much sought-after Great Lakes steelhead and salmon.

Well-known guest speakers such as light line expert Dick Swan and charter Capt. Steve Jones will reveal the tactics and tricks that make them among the most successful fishermen on the Great Lakes. Their advice on the latest techniques will help you be more successful catching salmon and trout!



**DICK SWAN**, aptly named the "Light Line Messiah" by some, has become a true legend among steelhead and salmon fishermen in Michigan!

There will be seminars on river fishing, surf fishing, and boat trolling. Other clinics scheduled during the show include fly tying, rod building, and smoking fish.

**THERE WON'T BE ANY WRESTLING BEARS, OR "MACKINAC ISLAND" FUDGE AT THIS SHOW . . . JUST EVERYTHING TO DO WITH FISHING!!**

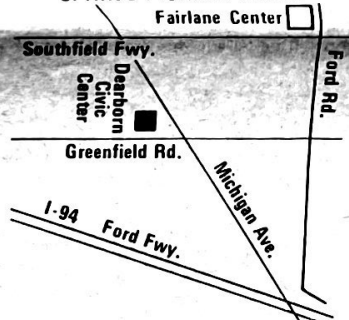
Finally, you will have the chance to buy the hottest lures at the best prices from the biggest dealers in the state!

If it has to do with steelhead and salmon fishing, you'll find it at the 1990 Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show. **JOIN US FOR MICHIGAN'S BEST STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW!!!**



**IF YOU'RE INTO FISHING**, then the Detroit Area Steelheader Spring Fishing Show is the place to be on March 10-11!

## HERE'S HOW TO GET TO THE DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS SPRING FISHING SHOW:



# Coming Events

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of month at 7:30 p.m. K. of C. Hall, 6177 Chicago Rd., Warren  
**JANUARY 30, 1990      FEBRUARY 27, 1990      MARCH 27, 1990**

### SPECIAL STEELHEADER EVENTS

- PONTIAC BOAT SHOW (Silverdome)** January 17-21
- DETROIT BOAT & FISHING SHOW (Cobo Center)** February 3-11
- STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)** February 10
- OUTDOORAMA (State Fairgrounds)** February 23-March 4
- STEELHEADER SPRING FISHING SHOW (Dbn. Civic Center)** March 10-11
- ANNUAL RAFFLE (K. of C. Hall, Warren)** April 24

| DATE        | WINTER FISHING SCHEDULE   | CONTACT                |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| February 10 | Anchor Bay (Ice Fishing)  | Doug Karakas, 545-1181 |
| February 24 | W.A.T.A. Super Tournament | Doug Karakas, 545-1181 |

| DATE     | BOAT TROLLING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE            | CONTACT              |
|----------|--|----------------------|
| April 21 | RIVER CRAB (Lexington/Port Sanilac)          | Dick Shirk, 749-9493 |
| May 5-6  | BENTON HARBOR                                | To Be Announced      |
| May 19   | HARBOR BEACH (Sunday team doubles, opt.)     | To Be Announced      |
| June 2   | PORT AUSTIN (Sunday team doubles, opt.)      | To Be Announced      |
| June 30  | OSCODA (Ladies Day)                          | To Be Announced      |
| July 21  | MANISTEE                                     | To Be Announced      |
| Aug. 4-5 | LUDINGTON                                    | To Be Announced      |
| Aug. 18  | ROGERS CITY (Inter-Chapter: Northeast)       | To Be Announced      |
| Aug. 25  | OLCOTT/WILSON, N.Y. (Research trip, no pts.) | To Be Announced      |
| Sept. 8  | FRANKFORT (Inter-Chapter: Benzie)            | To Be Announced      |



**CAPTAIN STEVE JONES**, one of the leading charter operators on the Great Lakes, will describe his successful methods!

# Annual Raffle has some great prizes!

The Detroit Area Steelheader Annual Raffle has some great prizes in 1990! First prize this year is a King Model 920 LCD graph, one of the outstanding products of its kind on the market! The Detroit Steelheaders thank King Marine Electronics for its support!!

Second prize is a pair of Riviera 300 downriggers, while third prize is a set of four rods and reels. Fourth prize is a fishing charter with Captain Bob Kring aboard "Drifter." Fifth prize is a fishing tackle pack worth at least \$100.

As you can see, we've got a great line-up of prizes, and you can really help **YOUR** club by participating in the Raffle, both as a buyer and as a **SELLER** of tickets. There'll be prizes awarded for ticket sales, along the lines of what we've done in the past. So, we ask **EVERYONE** in the club to help. Call Jim Lee at 839-8958 for tickets. **SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!!**



# Bob Mitchell repeats as "Skipper of the Year"

Winning "Skipper of the Year" honors in 1989 was no easy chore. The year's competition was as tough as it has ever been. "Kemo" started out slow, and we had to fish hard at the end under some of the most difficult conditions to eke out the win.

I've always said I believe that some of the best fishermen come out of the Detroit Area Steelheaders because we don't have a home port. We are nearly always fishing ports we haven't been to in a year, and the conditions are probably different from the previous years. Unlike a "local," we can't go home to wait for a time when the fish are biting — home is no doubt 250 miles away! However, because we stick it out, we learn to be better fishermen. We have a lot of good fishermen in our club, as shown by the tournament competition last summer.

Before detailing the year, I'd like to first thank each of the crew members on the "Kemo." Number one crew Bob Gilbert hung in there all year, providing skill and enthusiasm when needed. Pitching in were my wife Linda and Bob's wife Leslie. We rounded out the crew with Bob's daughters Carrie and Jodi, and assorted friends and relatives. It's especially satisfying to win with a family crew and they all helped.

Lexington was the site of the first tournament we had ever won on "Kemo." We also haven't done "diddle" there since, and last year was no exception. At the 1989 River Crab we only caught one fish. Two times in four years we have finished out of the Top Ten in a club boat tournament: both times were at the River Crab.

Our next trip was to 'St. Joe,' and we sure wanted to do better. We arrived a day early, and did very well at the Power Plant south of St. Joe. We headed there on Saturday and did well again — our best bait was the black/red Northport. However, many of the fish were small, and we finished fourth.

Muskegon was the next port of call for our tourney fleet. We caught three nice lakers there and finished eighth. Steve Banovic won this tournament, to add to his second place at St. Joe. The next event was to be at Port Austin, a port Steve knows well, so I knew he would be tough to catch!

Port Austin is a great port. It is also a long-time stop on the tournament trail. I've been skunked, humiliated, and rewarded at this port, and I have also learned a lot there. We've lost enough tackle to the reef there to open a tackle store. This year the reef was good to us. We caught half our fish on cowbells and a



1989 "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR" WINNER BOB MITCHELL and his "Kemo" crew won the Oscoda tourney last summer. Shown here are (l.-r.) Leslie Gilbert, Bob Gilbert, Bob Mitchell, and Bob's dad, with Carrie Gilbert in the foreground. Not shown is Bob's First Mate, wife Linda.

Spin-N-Glow, and the other half on a dodger and Spin-N-Glow. Best colors were green, pink, and chartreuse. Jodi Gilbert reeled in a 15-pound laker to ice the tournament for us. Our first win of the year put us back in the chase. The real surprise was that the reef was not kind to Steve.

Oscoda From a hospitality aspect, this is the best port on the schedule. Jan and Doug Fellows are terrific people! The lakers are usually accommodating and large, and 1989 was no exception. Dodgers and Spin-N-Glows behind bait-walker sinkers were the key, and the best colors were pink or light green. Purple scale Hot-N-Tots also took a number of fish. Jodi Gilbert reeled in another 15-pound laker — like that style! It was another win for "Kemo."

Ludington is my favorite port. True, the fishing is not as good as it used to be, and there are now several ports that are equal or better. But Ludington is the traditional place. It is such a great port for fishing structure. There are lots of traditional hot spots that most salmon fishermen know: the Point, the Bath House, the Brine Well, the Project, etc. If there is one tournament I like to win, it's Ludington. It has been several years since we have.

As it turned out, we were close but Mr. Banovic had other ideas. On Saturday we only caught four fish to keep us in contention, but I knew that to win, we would have to do much better on Sunday and Steve, who led after Day One, would

worked really well. Jodi reeled in another hawg laker and we were looking good.

But how was Steve doing? He had headed south the day before. Would he do as well or better?? At the weigh-in, everyone was standing around waiting. Steve had caught fish, but not as many as on Saturday. We weighed in. I could not believe it... Steve edged us out by ounces to win the tournament, and we ended up in second place!

The race for "Skipper of the Year" was really tight. Steve had two firsts and a second, the same as we had. There were three tournaments left, and every one would be important.

Manistee was the next port. It's special to me because it is where I first went salmon fishing. I guess we jinxed ourselves when Robbie Gilbert boated a 26-pound, 3-ounce king on the eve of the tourney. The next day Jodi and my wife Linda landed a couple of kings, but neither one topped 20 pounds. We finished third, but Steve took another first place. We were playing "catch-up" again!

Rogers City is currently the top port in Michigan for big kings, and it did not disappoint us in 1989 either, as "Molly Frair" can attest with their 28-pounder, the largest king caught in one of our tournaments in several years. We weren't able to fish much on Friday, and the two pinks we took didn't teach us much.

Dave Even knows this port as well as anyone. Naturally, I pumped him for everything I could. Fortunately, Dave is a guy who is willing to share information. He said to go north, while all my instincts were to head south to Swan

Continued on Page Twenty-Four...

have to cool off.

Sunday dawned with fog banks to the south and north of port. We motored north as close to shore as possible to avoid traffic. The whole day was eerie, as the fog never lifted. We decided to target lakers on the edge of the drop-off near the Bath House. They were there, but the key was to keep exactly on the edge. This was no easy task, since several name charters had the same plan, and we could not see them in the fog until they were right on top of us! Silver Streak spoons

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Experienced sportfishermen often make strange discoveries while cleaning their catches! They find that the fish have gobbled all kinds of man-made objects that have fallen into the water. Key rings, false teeth, bottle tops, paper and plastic objects are just a few.

Many things that boaters casually toss overboard can be lethal to fish, especially items which resemble familiar foods. Filter tips from cigarettes can look temptingly like grubs. Crumpled bits of foil from candy wrappers become attention-getting reflectors of light as they flutter down through the

water. Wads of chewing gum look like fish eggs or other morsels.

Often a hungry fish will swallow any such item tossed overboard. As most of these objects are indigestible, they can harm or even kill a fish.

Also, as part of the sportfishing scene, it's a fact that litter from unconcerned boaters often helps to ruin the fishing grounds.

As the above examples so clearly show, littering by some pleasure boaters does happen, and it has all kinds of consequences. Be a boater who cares.

...Don't Litter!



# Meet the Detroit "River Rats"

In the Detroit Area Steelheaders, members who fish the river and surf tournaments are called the "River Rats." They are a hardy and hearty bunch who persevere in the face of adverse weather and fishing conditions and the notorious fickleness of the prized steelhead!

It's a good thing that these sturdy individuals find rewards in their pursuit of catching salmon and steelhead in the surf and in the river *OTHER THAN FISH ACTUALLY CAUGHT!* So far in the 1989-90 tourney season the count of fish taken has been low indeed.

In the surf tournament at the Singing Bridge on October 7, for example, our guys caught two fish among them. At the

Manistee River Three-Way event, Detroit Area and Metro-West Steelheaders didn't catch a single fish. However, the Saginaw Steelheaders did manage to catch three steelhead on that November Saturday.

Early December found the "River Rats" on the Au Sable. This tournament produced the fabulous 15 1/2-pound steelhead of Doug Karakas, a 12-pounder by Jerry Zabel, an 11-pound beauty by Ed Yankoski II and a nice 6-pounder by Bob Kanas. Yes, the other rewards of winter steelheading are, well, rewarding indeed, but catching some good-sized fish helps to keep the interest up, too! These occasional days of brilliance really lift our spirits!!

As we went to press with this Annual Issue in mid-January, the "River Rats" were scheduled to be fishing a tourney at the Pere Marquette. However, since that river is frozen solid, the event was switched to the Big Manistee River instead.

Still remaining on our winter schedule are an ice fishing tourney at Anchor Bay, set for February 10, and the highly competitive and always popular W.A.T.A. (Wellston Area Tourist Association) Super Tournament on February 24. We "River Rats" are always on the lookout for 'a few good men', so why not join us in the snow for a good time. We may even catch some fish in honor of your presence!

—Joel Garinger



A STEELHEAD LIKE THIS is sometimes the reward for the Detroit Area Steelheader "River Rats!"



A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT — Surf fishermen in action at the Singing Bridge (south of Tawas) last October! photo/Mary Karakas



SOME OF THE "RIVER RATS": Jim Hardrick, Mike Haynes, Jim Sergent, Bob Rondelez, Doug Karakas, and Dan Gazinski.

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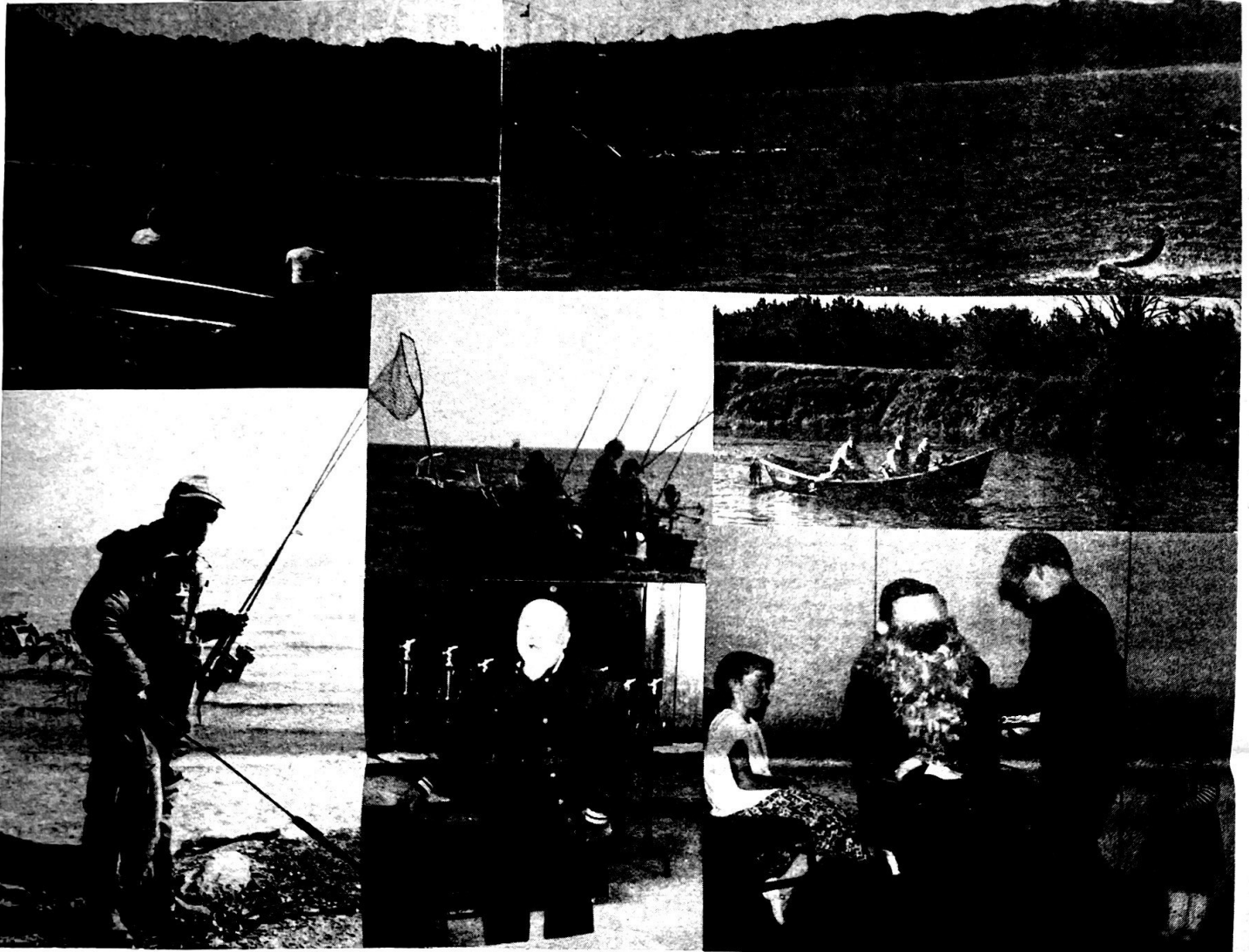
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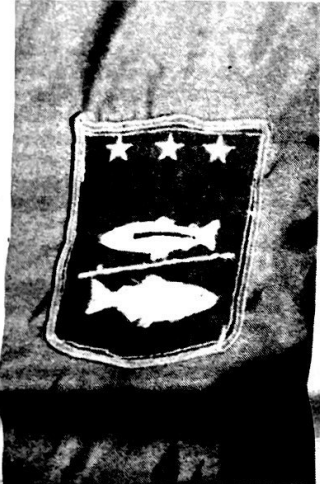
STORE NUMBER ..... 777-7003  
 FISHING REPORT ..... 777-7008

# Detroit Area Steelheaders History

The first organizational meeting of the Detroit Area Chapter (as it was originally known) was held on October 16, 1974. Many hours of planning went into the project after a feasibility questionnaire to MSSFA members in the area indicated interest in the Chapter concept.

The MSSFA Board of Directors had encouraged two of their own, John Make-la and Tom Schneider, to spearhead the move because of the membership possibilities in the vast metropolitan Detroit area. Two other Steelheaders, Ed Raquel and Joe Sizemore, jumped in, and as a committee of four, they founded the Detroit Area Chapter late one night in September, 1974.

Forty-one fishermen attended that



**THIS EARLIER VERSION** of the Detroit Area Steelheader patch shows the club's original name.

first gathering at the Northwood Inn, discussing elections, finances, committees, and reading the by-laws. But most of the talk was about fishing, naturally! It was decided that the "First Annual Meeting" would be held on December 4, and that date would be the official beginning of the Chapter.

State officers attended that Annual Meeting, with Tom Mandigo, MSSFA president, the featured speaker. Fourteen directors were nominated and elected at this meeting, while paid membership grew to over 100.

Since then, the Detroit Area Steelheaders (our present name) have had monthly meetings for the members (now held on the last Tuesday of each month), and the club has grown to be the largest MSSFA Chapter in the state.

**Attention, Steelheaders!**

*First, I'd like to thank my team, Bob Buero and Ray Banbury, whose efforts put us in position to collect various awards during the year 1989. Second, thanks to all the other members of the club who helped put us on the right track during our first year. For example, we received a lot of tips from Don Redmond early in the season that turned us around from catching 12 fish during the 1988 season, to almost as many as that per weekend in 1989. THANKS!*  
**Ron Hartman, "Molly Frair"**

# Boat tourneys produced some memorable moments in 1989

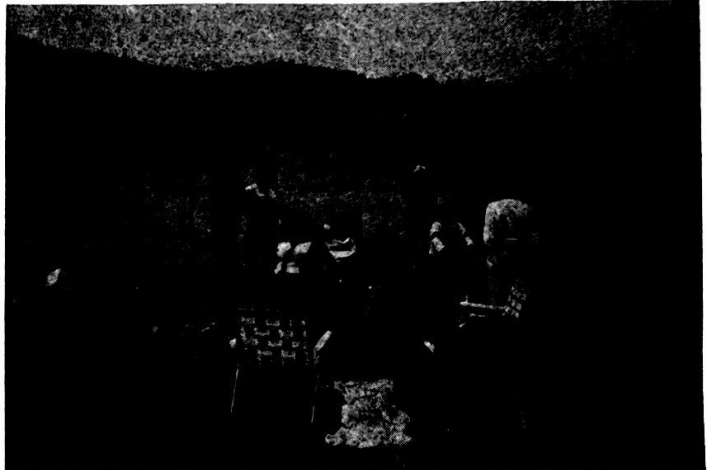
Well, here we are in the middle of winter already. Deer season is behind us, ice fishing is ahead of us, and we've got a lot of time to work on our equipment and think back — and ahead — on our boat trolling tournament season.

As to the fishing results of our 1989 season, I think it was just fair, nothing spectacular. As outings, they were very enjoyable. I don't think it comes as a surprise to anyone that our fishery is still somewhat disappointing. However, we always seem to overcome those disappointments with the fun and camaraderie that is a hallmark of the Detroit Area Steelheaders in all our activities.

Fun and camaraderie . . . like the great evening activity on the Ludington shoreline at sunset with Bob Mitchell and gang . . . like the pow wow at Tamarac Dock with Rod Coffey and gang, including a guy called "Baby Cakes" . . . like those "Special People" at Lake Erie . . . like the Pot Luck at Manistee with all the ladies in attendance . . . These are just a few of the things that make waiting for the 1990 season to roll around just a little bit easier to take.

Some memories, with a few spring shows thrown in, and we'll all be eager to uncover the ol' tub, put in the drain plug, and tow off once again to our first port on the tourney trail.

In the meantime, what do you say we all pass the word around as to what the Detroit Area Steelheaders are all about? The next time you're with that bunch of guys at the bowling alley or just having



**THE BEACH AT LUDINGTON** before last summer's tourney there was the site of a memorable pre-tournament party, proving that Steelheaders can have a good time ashore, too!

of your friends interested in joining our club. Talk to them about our boat trolling, river, and surf tournaments, our "Special People" outing, the many things our club has done to help protect the great resource we call the Great Lakes.

Let's all try to get at least one new member — it could be an old member who decides to re-join! It's no secret that clout comes from big numbers, and clout is what is going to be needed to preserve our beloved salmon and steelhead fishery as we have known it.

Some of the people who are for a monthly night card game, see if you can get some . . . we can certainly be more persuasive in

Lansing when it's decision-making time on issues that affect our sport. Just think about what we could do if there were 1,000 Detroit Area Steelheaders instead of 400, and 6,000-7,000 member statewide instead of 3,000! Right now, **WE NEED THE KIND OF REPRESENTATION THAT COMES WITH NUMBERS LIKE THESE** if we're going to pull the fishery out of the tailspin that we've been experiencing lately!!

I think we should look at the present state of affairs as only a temporary setback. We can continue to enjoy the Great Lakes, enjoy whatever bountiful offers they have for us now, and get busy trying to make things better. I know one thing for sure — fishing is still a lot better now than it was 25 years ago!

Well, so much for the soapbox! I got to get back to sharpening my hooks, or Big Al and Eddie will get all over my case! Al says he can always tell his lures from mine because of the sharpness of the hooks. I say I think Al loses more fish than I do, and I **KNOW** Eddie sure does!

Before I run out of words, I want to thank all you skippers and crews who participated in the 1989 boat trolling tournaments. You represented the Detroit Area Steelheaders well at all the ports on our schedule last year. Let's all have a great new year fishing on the Great Lakes!

—Dick Shirk  
 Boat Trolling Chairman



**FISHING THE PIER HEADS** is a popular tactic at many of the ports which host Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments.

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# Ladies Day yields nice fish and fun

MANISTEE — Ladies Day, 1989 found the Detroit Area Steelheaders once again at Manistee, and this port proved to be a bright spot in a slow year for "Alice's Angler." I was very pleased to have my daughter Andrea and my wife Alice with me as my crew.

In 1988, we had enjoyed the marina atmosphere and the Saturday picnic, but the blow on Saturday forced the tournament into Sunday, and we couldn't stay for the fishing due to a prior commitment. So, 'the crew' was especially looking forward to another opportunity in 1989.

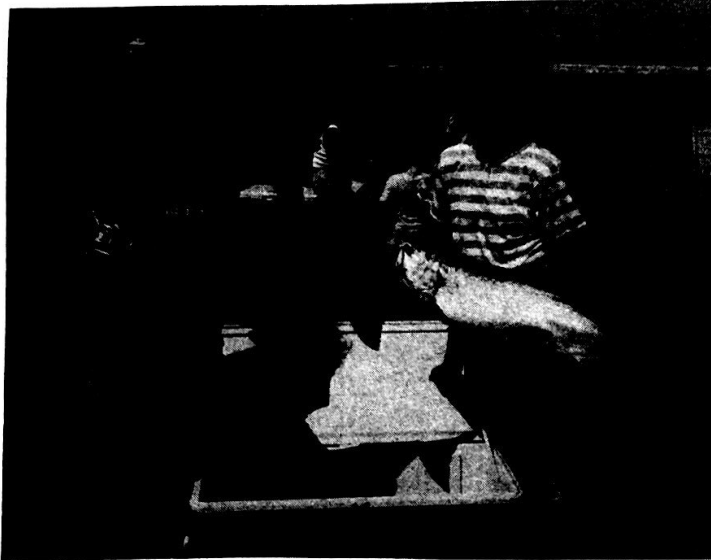
We arrived Friday afternoon, checked in at our room in town, secured a slip and got the boat launched. Then, "Alice's Angler" was off for an evening test run. No action, but that was okay, since the real action would be tomorrow, anyway.

Saturday morning came early, and "the crew" was sluggish but, fortunately, moving at 4:30 a.m. Andrea asked, "When does the fun start?" I had to agree, at half past four in the morning, it seemed impossible to imagine any kind of fun without some more sleep first! Breakfast consisted of slamming down a doughnut and some orange juice, then it was off to the Skippers' meeting. The weather was cooperating and the tournament was on!!

We headed for the boat and got the equipment ready, then made our way to the pier heads. Then it was wait for the official "GO," which came promptly at 6 o'clock. Our strategy was to start close in and move out later. We got over 40 feet of water straight out from the pier heads and sat the boat down.

I fired up the trolling motor and started setting rods, with Andrea steering the boat. "Just go with the waves," I told her. "Try to keep the boat in a straight line." By now, 'the crew' had perked up some, and it was just a matter of doing what we were there for.

With the first rod set at about 35 feet down, I was busy trying to get a slider



LADIES DAY HIGHLIGHTS for Andrea (l.) and Alice Jump included these two splendid kings they caught during the tournament. photo/Les Jump

ready when Alice said, "That rod is bouncing." I knew there was enough water, and it shouldn't have dragged loose. I quickly glanced at the graph to see if we had come over a high spot — no obstacle in sight. This could mean only one other thing . . . FISH ON!

I grabbed the rod, set into the fish, and passed the rod to Alice. She took it from me, asking me what to do. "Just reel and keep the slack out," I instructed her.

After a few moments, she said, "I think it got off!" The fish had made a run toward the boat. It had not, however, freed itself. It seemed that all this fish had in mind was coming to the boat. Within a few minutes we had one very lively salmon next to the boat! I had already raised the only downrigger we had set. Now, a little co-operation from Mr.

Chinook wouldn't hurt.

Once in and out of the net! Another chance? Yes, again back in the net, and this time in the boat. Fish On — Fish In! Wow, that was a close one!!

This was Alice's first big fish. I couldn't tell if all the excitement had set in for her yet. I looked at my watch — we had the fish in the boat by 6:15 a.m. — got on the radio and told "Net Profit" (Port Captain Bill Shackleton) about our early success. I think that "going public" with the news of Alice's fish heightened the fun for her.

The fish had made a mess of the deck, so I mopped up with a rag, which I threw into the splash well. A few hours later, that rag made its way out of the boat well and around the trolling motor prop. The ride back to port to remove the rag proved a little bumpy for Alice, who decided to

stay ashore after things were fixed.

Andrea and I took off again, with about three hours left in the tourney. I really wanted to get her into a fish, too! Things were rougher now, and the boats were mostly out over 80-120 feet. We went north, with the waves. Once again, Andrea was driving the boat and I was working the baits.

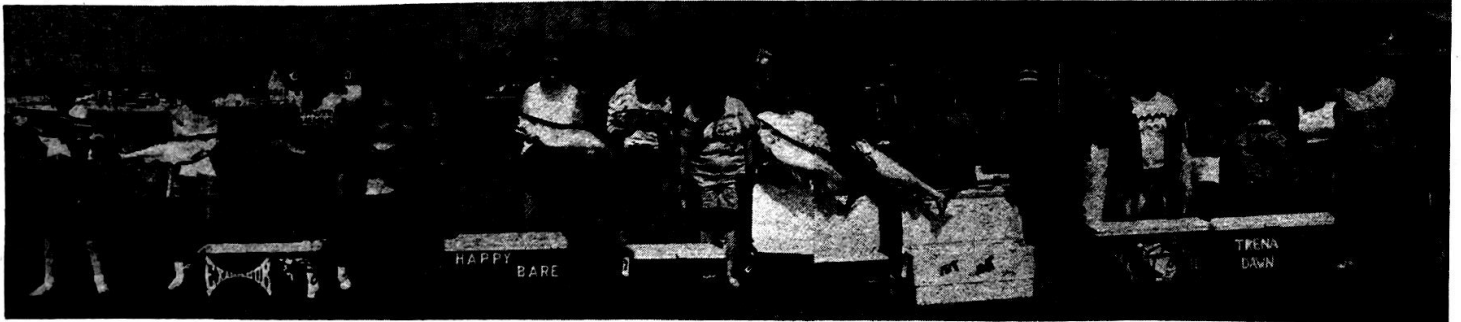
At about the third change, I put on a dodger/fly combination. Within minutes, BANG! It was Fish On one more time!! Even though there was a dodger on the line, I could tell that this was good one.

Andrea came back, and I quickly put the rod in her hands. Fortunately, there weren't any other boats around, so I could direct my attention to helping her with her fish. I just pointed the boat to run with the waves and cleared the deck of the other lines. With some minor assistance and a lot of encouragement from good ole' Dad, Andrea bested this one, and "Alice's Angler" put another one in the box. This one proved to be the last fish of the day for us, but we were sitting on two pretty good fish. We were content to see what the weigh-in would bring.


Judging by the weigh-in, the action had been generally slow. Nevertheless, some big fish were put to the scales. We had Alice's fish at 17-plus pounds, and Andrea's tipping the scales at 15 pounds. 'The crew' was happy, the picnic was getting into full swing, and Yours Truly was busy snapping photos.

Trophies were presented, and we took sixth place. Nice, but not the most important thing. The warm smiles and sharing of a common interest with family and friends is what makes Ladies Day such a great tournament. We will surely be back for this one again in 1990 . . . and we hope to see you there!

— Les Jump  
"Alice's Angler"



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# A CALL TO ACTION!

Want to help our fishery? Do you sometimes feel frustrated because you *KNOW* your suggestion would work? Please, as a Detroit Area Steelheader, don't keep things to yourself, or wait for someone else to solve the problem!

appropriate "powers that be," **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!** Write or call your state and federal legislators, your governor, your president. These people **YOU DO IT YOURSELF!** By writing letters or making telephone calls to the

will pay attention to what you think and feel . . . if you make them!

I challenge all of you to find out who your elected officials and key bureaucrats are. Get their addresses and telephone numbers, and **USE THEM!** An individual

often carries *MORE* weight by writing or calling than an entire organized group does! When you write or call, make your points clearly, briefly and respectfully, as in the example below.

—Joel Garinger



STEVE HAMILTON, 1989 Detroit Area Steelheader Director of the Year, has been writing to the "powers that be" for many years, making his voice heard effectively!

Governor Tommy Thompson  
Executive Office, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708  
Dear Sir:

I am an avid Great Lakes angler. I fish Lake Michigan for trout and salmon many days a year. I have traveled to Bailey's Harbor, WI (taking 1-5 others for one-week vacations) for 4 of the last 5 years to fish for brown trout. The last 2 years have been terrible. I am in contact with Mac's Sport Shop, Sturgeon Bay, WI. They say brown trout fishing was very poor again in 1989.

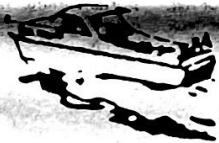
I am astounded at the number of gill netters in Wisconsin. As all know, the gill net is a *non-selective* killer of all fish. They should be banned. Also, consider cutting back the take by netters of alewives (baitfish — food for sport fish). The sport angler economy is worth many times the commercial fishery.

I do not intend to return to your state until Wisconsin demonstrates its concern for me and the many other anglers by addressing the above two issues.

Very truly yours,  
Stephen R. Hamilton

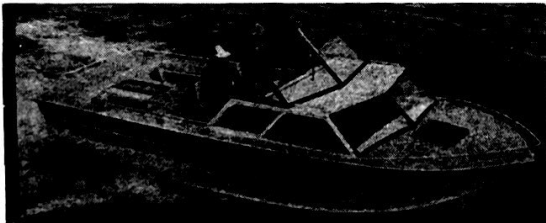


JOHN ROBERTSON, Michigan D.N.R. official, is one bureaucrat who listens — as he is shown here listening to Detroit Area Steelheaders at a recent membership meeting.



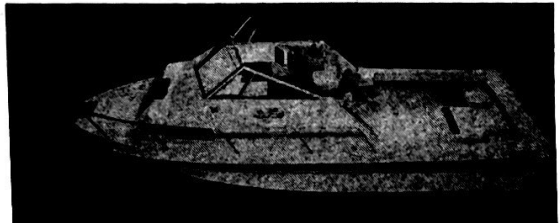
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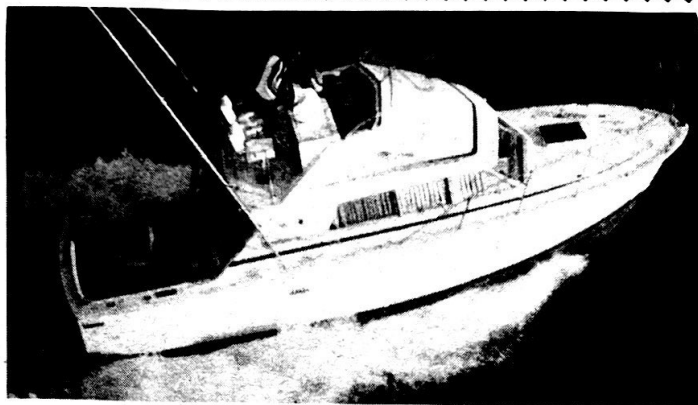
# 1989 Skipper of the Year

(Final official standings)

| SKIPPER             | BOAT              | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | PTS. |
|---------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1) BOB MITCHELL     | "KEMO"            | 33 | 4  | 8  | 1  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1  | 2  | 7    |
| 2) STEVE BANOVIC    | "EXAGGERATOR"     | 50 | 2  | 1  | 27 | 4  | 1  | 1  | 4  | 3  | 8    |
| 3) RON HUEY         | "HALF R'S"        | 1  | 75 | 3  | 2  | 75 | 16 | 8  | 15 | 10 | 24   |
| 4) RON HARTMAN      | "MOLLY FRAIR"     | 50 | 12 | 50 | 30 | 3  | 4  | 5  | 2  | 19 | 26   |
| 5) DON ANTON        | "HAPPY BARE"      | 28 | 8  | 10 | 75 | 8  | 9  | 2  | 6  | 16 | 33   |
| 6) BOB HERMAN       | "NOMAD"           | 30 | 7  | 2  | 9  | 10 | 8  | 9  | 20 | 9  | 35   |
| 7) DON REDMOND      | "TRENA DAWN"      | 16 | 19 | 6  | 7  | 5  | 24 | 11 | 11 | 6  | 35   |
| 8) HANK BACZYNSKI   | "SINSATION"       | 2  | 75 | 75 | 16 | 13 | 75 | 75 | 8  | 5  | 44   |
| 9) MIKE WAKULSKI    | "WET PAINT"       | 50 | 13 | 12 | 23 | 15 | 6  | 7  | 18 | 8  | 46   |
| 10) DOUG KARAKAS    | "CAPT'N HOOK"     | 12 | 15 | 4  | 20 | 12 | 21 | 75 | 75 | 7  | 50   |
| 11) TIM GRASKEWICZ  | "HARMONY"         | 75 | 75 | 21 | 5  | 2  | 75 | 50 | 21 | 1  | 50   |
| 12) JIM HARDRICK    | "MY DREAM"        | 34 | 3  | 18 | 10 | 23 | 14 | 75 | 36 | 13 | 58   |
| 13) DAVE EVEN       | "TEACHER'S PET"   | 75 | 6  | 14 | 17 | 75 | 12 | 12 | 19 | 17 | 61   |
| 14) TOM MOORES      | "KARE FREE"       | 19 | 5  | 50 | 19 | 24 | 11 | 75 | 10 | 50 | 64   |
| 15) JOHN CHWALIBOG  | "LITTLE B'G JOHN" | 7  | 75 | 5  | 75 | 75 | 13 | 50 | 75 | 4  | 79   |
| 16) DICK SHIRK      | "LIL' SCRATCH"    | 50 | 20 | 19 | 28 | 14 | 18 | 50 | 31 | 15 | 86   |
| 17) BILL SHACKLETON | "NET PROFIT"      | 13 | 75 | 7  | 75 | 22 | 20 | 50 | 27 | 75 | 89   |
| 18) DARWIN GREGG    | "RETURNER"        | 50 | 50 | 15 | 24 | 16 | 75 | 50 | 22 | 18 | 95   |
| 19) ROD COFFEY      | "FISH'N ROD"      | 50 | 11 | 9  | 75 | 75 | 17 | 75 | 13 | 75 | 100  |
| 20) LES JUMP        | "ALICE'S ANGLER"  | 50 | 16 | 11 | 75 | 75 | 19 | 6  | 75 | 75 | 102  |
| 21) GENE BURBARY    | "DIAMOND GIRL"    | 24 | 75 | 75 | 26 | 75 | 15 | 13 | 32 | 75 | 110  |
| 22) BOB PATYK       | "RENEGADE"        | 50 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 28 | 75 | 115  |
| 23) DICK JACKSON    | "VOYAGEUR"        | 75 | 17 | 50 | 22 | 17 | 10 | 75 | 75 | 50 | 116  |
| 24) AL SCHULTZ      | "MISERY 3"        | 50 | 1  | 50 | 50 | 75 | 19 | 5  | 75 | 75 | 118  |
| 25) LARRY GAIOWNIK  | "FORMULATOR"      | 75 | 18 | 75 | 75 | 19 | 5  | 75 | 75 | 14 | 131  |
| 26) DEAN PILAT      | "HIGH ANXIETY"    | 50 | 75 | 75 | 8  | 11 | 75 | 75 | 7  | 75 | 151  |
| 27) JOE GOLASZEWSKI | "LUCKY FALCON"    | 32 | 75 | 75 | 31 | 20 | 75 | 75 | 5  | 75 | 163  |
| 28) JIM BEELBY      | "FISH FLY"        | 11 | 75 | 75 | 29 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 9  | 50 | 174  |
| 29) ROB PINSKEY     | "ANTICIPATION"    | 6  | 75 | 75 | 12 | 7  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 175  |
| 30) BOB KSIONZEK    | "LAST DIME II"    | 21 | 75 | 75 | 3  | 6  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 180  |
| 31) NELSON CALDWELL | "WHITE CAT"       | 75 | 75 | 75 | 21 | 50 | 75 | 75 | 25 | 12 | 183  |
| 32) CHUCK SKIDMORE  | "KING FISH II"    | 15 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 10 | 26 | 75 | 201  |
| 33) BRIAN MITCHELL  | "THE NATURAL"     | 17 | 75 | 75 | 15 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 35 | 75 | 217  |
| 34) MICHAEL TOMLAN  | "CONTENDER"       | 50 | 75 | 17 | 75 | 75 | 3  | 75 | 75 | 75 | 220  |
| 35) PAUL DEEDENBACH | "HEADSTRONG"      | 75 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 75 | 23 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 223  |

a) Scoring Reference: RULE IV-E = 50 pts., RULE IV-F = 75 pts. Standings determined by total of five best tournament finishes.

b) Tournament identification key: 1 = River Crab 2 = St. Joseph 3 = Muskegon 4 = Port Austin 5 = Oscoda 6 = Ludington 7 = Manistee 8 = Rogers City 9 = Frankfort



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# '89 vs '88 TOURNEY STATS

## 1989 TOURNAMENT RESULTS (Top Ten Boats/Tournament)

**ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR**  
45 Kings, 26 Coho, 1 Brown  
72 fish, avg. weight 7.43 lbs.  
.9 fish/fishing hour

### MUSKEGON

19 Kings, 20 Lake Trout, 1 Brown  
40 fish, avg. weight 7.625 lbs.  
.533 fish/fishing hour

### PORT AUSTIN

24 Kings, 3 Coho, 32 Lake Trout  
1 Steelhead, 1 Pink  
61 fish, avg. weight 8.368 lbs.  
.75 fish/fishing hour

### OSCODA

69 Lake Trout, 2 Steelhead  
71 fish, avg. weight 8.1 lbs.  
.887 fish/fishing hour

### LUDINGTON

16 Kings, 1 Coho, 59 Lake Trout,  
5 Steelhead  
81 fish, avg. weight 6.853 lbs.  
.578 fish/fishing hour

### MANISTEE

22 Kings, 2 Coho, 17 Lake Trout  
41 fish, avg. weight 10.83 lbs.  
.512 fish/fishing hour

### ROGERS CITY

81 Kings, 4 Steelhead, 4 Pinks  
89 fish, avg. weight 11.33 lbs.  
.635 fish/fishing hour

### FRANKFORT

3 Kings, 34 Coho, 1 Steelhead  
38 fish, avg. weight 6.44 lbs.  
.422 fish/fishing hour

## 1989 TOURNAMENT TOTALS

210 Kings, 66 Cohos, 197 Lake Trout  
13 Steelhead, 2 Browns, 5 Pinks  
493 fish, avg. weight 8.372 lbs.  
.643 fish/fishing hour

## 1988 TOURNAMENT RESULTS (Top Ten Boats/Tournament)

**ST. JOE/BENTON HARBOR**  
56 Kings, 2 Coho  
58 fish, avg. weight 6.64 lbs.  
.725 fish/fishing hour

### MUSKEGON

34 Kings, 30 Lake Trout, 1 Steelhead  
2 Browns  
67 fish, avg. weight 6.539 lbs.  
.837 fish/fishing hour

### PORT AUSTIN

1 King, 79 Lake Trout  
80 fish, avg. weight 9.025 lbs.  
.666 fish/fishing hour

### OSCODA

4 Kings, 49 Lake Trout, 1 Steelhead  
54 fish, avg. weight 7.742 lbs.  
.675 fish/fishing hour

### LUDINGTON

50 Kings, 30 Lake Trout, 3 Steelhead  
83 fish, avg. weight 10.18 lbs.  
.592 fish/fishing hour

### MANISTEE

18 Kings, 2 Coho, 21 Lake Trout  
1 Steelhead  
42 fish, avg. weight 10.43 lbs.  
.525 fish/fishing hour

### ROGERS CITY

48 Kings, 1 Coho  
49 fish, avg. weight 14.45 lbs.  
.612 fish/fishing hour

### FRANKFORT

6 Kings, 8 Coho, 29 Steelhead  
43 fish, avg. weight 6.76 lbs.  
.537 fish/fishing hour

## 1988 TOURNAMENT TOTALS

217 Kings, 13 Cohos, 209 Lake Trout  
35 Steelhead, 2 Browns  
476 fish, avg. weight 8.97 lbs.  
.68 fish/fishing hour

# TOP FIVE SKIPPERS 1976-1988

## 1988 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Bob Mitchell "Kemo" 15
- 2) Dave Even "Teacher's Pet" 25
- 3) Dick Shirk "Lil' Scratch" 27
- 4) Don Redmond "Trena Dawn" 33
- 5) Steve Banovic "Exaggerator" 53

## 1982 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Brian Glaser "Least Likely" 128
- 1) Toby Lampi "Jessie III" 128
- 3) Mike Curzenski "Nooner" 123
- 4) Bob Kring "Drifter" 121
- 5) R.J. Branham "Sea Hawk" 114

## 1987 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Greg Clifford "Outdaw" 14
- 2) Bob Mitchell "Kemo" 19
- 3) Don Redmond "Trena Dawn" 25
- 4) Steve Banovic "Exaggerator" 38
- 5) Dick Shirk "Lil' Scratch" 43

## 1981 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Bob Kring "Drifter" 177
- 2) Toby Lampi "Jessie III" 153
- 3) Bob Kanas "Least Likely" 151
- 4) Jerry Lee "Sea Screw" 138
- 5) Jewell Harris "Cannonball" 128

## 1986 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Bob Mitchell "Kemo" 10
- 2) Greg Clifford "Outdaw" 26
- 3) Chuck Wood "Predator" 37
- 3) Dave Even "Teacher's Pet" 37
- 3) Blaise Pawinski "Sea Hag" 37

## 1980 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Jerry Lee "Sea Screw" 139
- 2) Terry Cholette "Fishing Fever" 130
- 3) Toby Lampi "Jessie III" 89
- 4) Randy Cope "Ouzo Too" 97
- 5) Ed Yankoski II "Least Likely" 94

## 1985 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Darrin Harris "Cannonball" 14
- 2) Joel Garinger "Fishbusters" 15
- 3) Bruce Choiniski "Kneeknocker" 21
- 4) Tom Chojnowski "Sea Con" 30
- 4) Ed McIntosh "Sweet Lorraine" 30

## 1979 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Jerry Lee "Sea Screw" 45
- 2) Howard Mills "Paramour" 37
- 3) Larry Atwell "Cobra" 24
- 4) Jim Treadaway "Okie Drifter" 17
- 5) Bob Kring "Drifter" 16

## 1984 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Bob Kanas "Least Likely" 6
- 2) Ed Choiniski "Kneeknocker" 26
- 3) Darrin Harris "Cannonball" 29
- 3) Bob Ksionzak "Last Dime" 29
- 3) Mike Zelkowski "Elvira" 29

## 1977 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Chuck Cartwright "Tuna Boat" 36
- 2) John Makela "Sisu" 32
- 3) Murrell Blackburn "Fish'n 5" 31
- 4) Bob Kring "Drifter" 30
- 5) Larry Atwell "Cobra" 27

## 1983 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Gerry Ciurzenski "Jawbuster" 153
- 2) Mike Boroniec "Horsefly" 150
- 3) R.J. Branham "Sea Hawk" 137
- 4) Bob Kozar "Snowman" 133
- 5) Ed Yankoski II "Least Likely" 121
- 5) Blaise Pawinski "Sea Hag" 121

## 1976 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) John Makela "Sisu" 41
- 2) Murrell Blackburn "Fish'n 5" 24
- 3) Chuck Cartwright "Tuna Boat" 21
- 4) Paul Irvine 20
- 5) Steve Hamilton "Valhalla" 16

## 1978 TOP FIVE SKIPPERS

- 1) Jerry Lee "Sea Screw"
- (Complete 1978 standings unavailable)

# Some 1989 Tourney Crews



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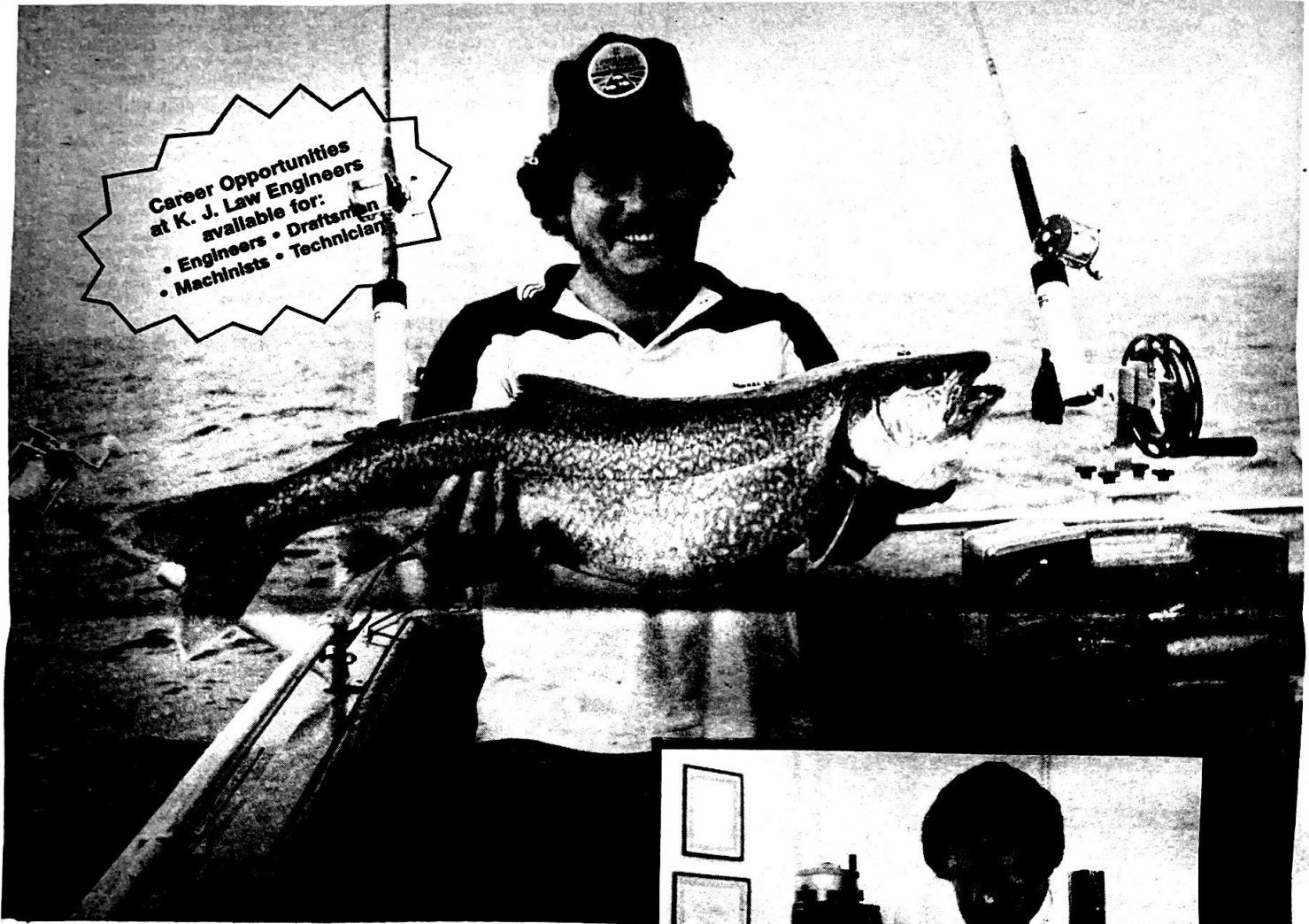


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# Special People have a Special Day!!

Every June, the Detroit Area Steelheaders host a special fishing tournament for very "Special People." It's our annual "Special People Walleye Tournament" on Lake Erie. The Steelheaders, with the assistance of the Monroe Intermediate Schools, provide the opportunity for individuals (children and adults) to experience the same feeling that we got when we hooked and landed our first 20-pound king or that 15-pound Stealie. Forget that they are only reeling in a 15" walleye. For some of these kids, the battle is just as tough as if they were fighting that 20-pound king.

A morning of fishing is followed by a picnic lunch, entertainment, trophies, and gifts donated by local area businesses. Our honorary host for the 1989 event was Dave Barr of the Detroit Red Wings.

What follows is a chronology of the days leading up to the tourney, and a report on our outing last summer.

**Monday, June 12, 7:15 A.M.** — A forecast of showers and thunderstorms from today through Wednesday. No problem, it's still early in the week.

**Tuesday, June 13, 7:15 A.M.** — Forecast of showers from today through Thursday, with clearing on Friday; highs in the 60's. It could be warmer, but still no problems.

**Wednesday, June 14, 7:15 A.M.** — Low pressure system is stalled over Ohio (it figures, the Buckeyes are still looking for revenge). Forecast of showers from today through Friday, with rain possible early Saturday morning but clearing by the afternoon. Oh well, we've fished in the rain before. At least it will be nice for the picnic.

**Thursday, June 15, 7:15 A.M.** — Forecast of showers through Saturday. Highs in the 50's (this is June, not April!), with clearing Sunday for Detroit's Grand Prix race day... WHO CARES!

**Friday, June 16, 8:00 A.M.** — Forecast of... take a guess! A call to President Dave Even confirms that the tournament is on even if we have to ice fish in the harbor! I leave work at noon, and as I walk through the parking lot, I see a patch of blue sky. Yup, it's still up there.

**Friday, June 16, 3:00 P.M.** — As we drive down I-275 to the marina, blue sky suddenly appears over Lake Erie. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

**Friday, June 16, 7:00 P.M.** — A few of the boats start arriving at Toledo



**"SPECIAL PEOPLE" TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS:** (l-r) Dennis Holloway, Dave Barr (Detroit Red Wings), Linda Bredernitz (Monroe Int. Schools), and Tim Graskewicz.

Beach Marina to spend the night. As the sky clears and hopes begin to rise, Don "Mr. Optimist" Redmond hits us with the Saturday lake forecast: southwest winds 10-20 knots, with waves of 2-4 feet.

**Saturday, June 17, 6:30 A.M.** — The sky is clear, winds are from the southwest at 10 knots... in other words, fishable. THE TOURNAMENT IS A GO!!!!

As the kids started to arrive and crowd around Linda Bredernitz, event coordinator from the Monroe Intermediate Schools, you could see the excitement in their faces. It didn't matter that the forecast still spoke of a chance of afternoon rain, or that the lake looked like chocolate milk and held little promise that we could equal 1988's fantastic catch. They were going fishing!

The 9 o'clock fish call confirmed a tough morning of fishing: "Trena Dawn" — 2 fish; "Kemo" — 1 fish; "Valhalla" — 2 fish; "Fish'n Rod" — 0 fish; "Lil' Scratch" — 4 fish (maybe Dick Shirk should trade his salmon rods for walleye rods!). As the morning wore on, the radio chatter indicated that most boats were catching fish, even if they were silver bass and perch ("Fish'n Rod")!

We pulled lines at noon and headed back in to have our picnic lunch and

listen to the kids brag about the "tough time" they had landing their fish. Lunch was already waiting for us when we got back, thanks to the efforts of Martin and Ann McGinnis, Alice Jump, and Bob Allen. There was plenty of hot dogs, chips, chili, and watermelon for everyone to enjoy. While the kids ate their lunches and compared the sizes of their fish — some fish were laid out on the picnic tables within sight of their conquerors — "Da the Clown" did an outstanding job of entertaining the kids with his balloon animals.

After lunch, it was time to award the trophies to the winners of the various categories (biggest catch, biggest fish, biggest story, etc.). By some sheer coincidence, everyone finished "first" in something, and each participant had their own "Special People" trophy, donated by Little Bill's Trophy Shop.

Another big highlight of the day was provided by Dave Barr of the Red Wings. Once the kids — and the skippers! — realized who the guy was sitting there auto-graphing pictures and Red Wing pennants, everyone was REALLY excited. Dave is a real hockey player, and a real person! **THANKS, DAVE!!**

The kids also received other goodies

donated by supporters of our outing. They were thrilled to get all the good "stuff" donated by Ford Motor Company and the Detroit Tigers. And everyone — kids and skippers — was delighted with their "Extra Special People" shirts, donated by Campbell and Company. Our special thanks go to O/E Management Services for providing the pop, and to Toledo Beach Marina for providing the use of their outstanding accommodations.

Two o'clock came around all too soon, and it was time for the kids to call it a day. For some of the skippers, it had been a long day, but it all seemed worthwhile when the little girl they took out gave them a goodbye kiss or the guys exchanged "high fives" (and maybe a little hug, too!).

I'm proud to be a Detroit Area Steelheader because, as you can see, we are more than just a fishing club. We are an organization that CARES. We CARE about people, and we CARE about the quality of our Michigan fishery. If you CARE as much as we do, you ought to become one of us! Help us support efforts in Michigan to improve the waters and the fishery so there can be a "Special People" tournament in a healthy Lake Erie in the years ahead. **JOIN THE DETROIT AREA STEEL-HEADER TODAY!!**

—Tim Graskewicz

A special thanks is due to the following Detroit! Area Steelheader Skippers (with apologies in advance for any Skipper whose name we omit) for making the "Special People" tournament a great reality in 1989:

**LES JUMP** — "Alice's Angler"  
**DOUG KARAKAS** — "Capt'n Hook II"  
**CHUCK HUXFORD** — "Chuzzy II"  
**ROBERT BRIEST** — "Daddy's Dream"  
**KEN JOHNSON** — "Finally"  
**JIM BEELBY** — "Fish Fly"  
**ROD COFFEY** — "Fish'n Rod"  
**JOEL GARINGER** — "Fishbusters"  
**TIM GRASKEWICZ** — "Harmony"  
**BRUCE HAYWOOD** — "Katie-Did"  
**BOB MITCHELL** — "Kemo"  
**DICK SHIRK** — "Lil' Scratch"  
**RON HARTMAN** — "Molly Frair"  
**JIM HARDRICK** — "My Dream"  
**ROBERT SAUNDERS** — "My Valentine"  
**BILL SHACKLETON** — "Net Profit"  
**BILL FLETCHER** — "Old Squaw"  
**LARRY McMILLAN** — "Pandemonium"  
**DON REDMOND** — "Trena Dawn"  
**STEVE HAMILTON** — "Valhalla"



**"SPECIAL PEOPLE" PARTICIPANTS:** (l-r) George and daughter Coleen, skipper Rod Coffey and mate Chuck Barr.



**"DA THE CLOWN,"** who was a big hit at the Special People Outing, is shown here entertaining participants with his balloon tricks.



# "White Cat" - A different breed of "cat"!

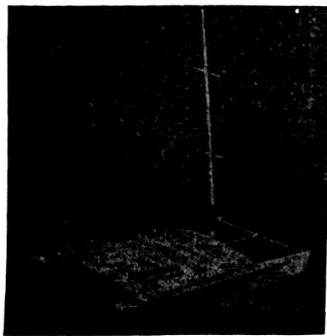
"White Cat" was designed and built with visions of wire-lining for walleyes in the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers in mind. Salmon fishing on charters out of Ludington caused that vision to shift - downriggers went on "White Cat!"

First came Rogers City, then Ludington, then Harbor Beach. Membership in the Detroit Area Steelheaders followed. Now I'm hooked on salmon and lake trout as well as walleye.

Wherever "White Cat" goes, people ask one question: "What is it?" "White Cat" is a catamaran, a motorboat, a fishing boat, an offshore salmon boat. Yes, it's true she is a catamaran, she *IS NOT* a sailboat!

By definition, a catamaran is a two-hulled boat, symmetrical port and starboard about the fore and aft center line. Yes, certain asymmetries have developed, but she is still a catamaran. It's true that to many people, a catamaran is a Hobie Cat: a beach sailboat. "White Cat" does not have a mast or a sail. In contrast to all other boats in the Detroit Area Steelheaders fleet, which could be classified as motorboats or monohulls (single buoyancy chamber), "White Cat" is a catamaran.

She was launched in August, 1987 at Admiral Marina on Lake St. Clair. We got our first king at Rogers City that same month, and took our first laker at Port Austin in June, 1988. Our first king 'doubleheader' came at Ludington in September, 1988, within casting distance of the light house. The roughest water we've sailed was in the Detroit River (winds under 5 knots!), and we experienced 50-knot



**THIS CATAMARAN IS NOT** what the salmon/walleye fishing boat "White Cat" looks like!

winds at Port Austin in June, 1988!

"White Cat" has been flagged down by the Coast Guard, Sheriff patrol, or Coast Guard Auxiliary about a dozen times. Typical questions on those occasions: "What is it?" or "Where is your mast?"

I've been asked my reasons for designing and building "White Cat." All of the following are partially true. At this point, it doesn't really matter.

I needed to stay busy for a while. I had fished Lake St. Clair for walleyes in a 26-foot sailboat at 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoons too many times - I wanted a more stable fishing platform!

I wanted to make a different folding mechanism for multihulls. Ian Farrer's Trailertr series is nice - "White Cat" is just an alternative. The beam of a multi-

hull is its beauty, and its nemesis. A folding mechanism is a useful compromise.

I wished to fish when the lake wasn't so crowded, when it was windy and rough. Walleye fishing the first week of May off Gino's Surf on a nice Sunday is crowded. Yet eight miles out of Port Austin in Lake Huron - well, yes, there are lots of boats, but somehow "crowded" doesn't apply. In retrospect, however, I've found fishing has been better when the wind dies down and the presentation of lures has a higher priority than mere survival!

What I really wanted was to design a boat, build a boat, and teach her (the boat) how to catch fish.

Interestingly, the first time out with my mother, she refused to move from one side of "White Cat" to the other - she was afraid. Then we got our first king on. The king hit on the port side and

Mom was on the starboard side, and, of course, she was supposed to pull in the fish. Let's just say she *readily* scampered across to do the honors!

If the primary purpose of building "White Cat" was to catch walleye wire-lining, it's a failure... wire has yet to pull in one walleye! Visions change, purposes change, though, and that's okay. "White Cat" told me just the other day that she likes belonging to the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Then she wanted my opinion of where she ought to wear the Steelheaders logo decal for the new season. I took that to be a *STRONG HINT* that I ought to buy one - *SOON!!*

-Nelson Caldwell

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Nelson Caldwell joined the Detroit Area Steelheaders during the summer of 1989, and attended club tournaments at Port Austin, Oscoda, Rogers City and Frankfort.

### "WHITE CAT" SPECIFICATIONS

**LOA:** 24' 4" **LWL:** 24' 0" **Displacement:** 900 pounds without motor (unloaded)

**Draft:** Hull - 12"; Motor shaft - 20"; Rudder down - 42"

**Beam (overall):** Open - 16'; Half open - 12'; Closed (on trailer) - 8'

**Power:** 7½ hp Honda (4-cycle) **Speed:** 10-11 knots (flat water)

**Mileage:** 2 gallons for an 8-hour laker outing at Port Austin 6 miles off the light

**Construction:** Occume marine plywood, Brunzeel, via Thomas Hardware, 5mm 5-ply and 9mm 7-ply. Gougeon Brothers WEST epoxy, using wood epoxy saturation technique. Double parallelogram linkage (connector links bottom out on themselves in both directions). 3" aluminum tube pivots from Copper & Brass Sales. Graphite impregnated epoxy bearings (Gougeon materials). Frames are every 12", stringers are 1x2 clear white pine, top and bottom seams are reinforced inside and out with 1"-wide 10-ounce glass tape. Skin is 5mm 5-ply.

**Equipment:** Lowrance X15B depth finder, Raynav 550 LORAN-C, VHF radio is in need of replacement (!), Cannon downriggers - each side has a 2' and 6' on the beam, and the two outside cannonballs have a 28' spread.

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| PORT AUSTIN (1989) | BOB MITCHELL  | SEA RAY | ROGERS CITY (1989)         | BOB MITCHELL   | SEA RAY |
| OSCODA (1989)      | BOB MITCHELL  | SEA RAY | FRANKFORT (1989)           | TIM GRASKEWICZ | SEA RAY |
| LUDINGTON (1989)   | STEVE BANOVIC | SEA RAY | 1989 "Skipper of the Year" | BOB MITCHELL   | SEA RAY |



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# "Slam Dunk" steelhead!

The stars shone down hard and bright as we unloaded the Suburban upon our arrival in Ludington late on a Thursday evening. Cassiopeia, Perseus and the Pleiades were prominent in the night sky, and even the faint Milky Way was evident on this cool, dark October night.

The air around us was thick with anticipation as we moved our gear inside Bob Kring's summer home. Bob, a Clarkston businessman, is a Great Lakes charter boat captain, and a Life Member and Treasurer of the Detroit Area Steelheaders. Also along on this trip was Tom Schrinel, an engineer by profession and Past President of the Detroit Area Steelheaders.

After a good night's sleep we were up by 7 o'clock, grabbed our cooler of food and drink and headed for Tamarac Marina where Bob's boat, "Drifter," is moored. Now this isn't just an average fishing boat, but rather a serious fishing machine custom-made to Bob's specifications by boat builder Dick Steele, owner of Cherokee Boats.

This 28-footer boasts an 11' 4" beam, twin inboard Chrysler 350 engines (270 h.p.), and a fuel-sipping diesel for trolling, the kind usually used in sailboats. It's well-equipped for trolling, featuring six electric downriggers, Lowrance X-16 computer graph, temperature gauge, LORAN-C, and an auto pilot — in other words, all the buttons, bells and whistles! If this boat could talk, it would say, "LET'S GO FISHIN'!"

As Tom and I loaded gear and Capt. Bob warmed up the engines, the sunrise was painting the eastern sky with soft pastels of reds, pinks, and oranges. In the sky, great V's of living geese



**KEN JOHNSON shows off this trophy-sized steelhead that he caught during a three-day October fishing trip at Ludington that provided a phenomenal fishing experience!**

places, sunbursts spread across the sky, perhaps pointing the way to a good day of fishing to come. With the powerful engines throbbing beneath our feet, Bob expertly eased "Drifter" out of its slip, used the twin screws to execute a 90-degree turn, and set out for the pier heads.

Our trip out to the lake was almost devoid of visible human activity, save for a couple of pier fishermen and the odd boat trolling the Pere Marquette lake for late salmon. Canadian geese were present by the hundreds, swimming, feeding, and lining the shore as if to watch us go by.

loomed overhead from the north, honking and calling to announce their passage.

When we reached the pierheads, we were greeted by a gentle 5-knot south-west wind and a 1-foot chop — excellent conditions for fall steelhead trolling. Clearing the river mouth, we headed north, running up to Sable Point. Bob set us down over 160' of water, and fired up the diesel trolling motor.

With the auto pilot engaged, Bob and Tom busied themselves setting lines. My job was to watch rods for hits while they were preoccupied. I could handle that! High lines would be the predominant

method used throughout this trip, a very productive method, as it turned out.

Successful steelhead fishing in Lake Michigan in late fall hinges on bait selection. According to Bob, there are three basic lures critical to success: Lucky Lures, Lucky Lures, and Lucky Lures, in yellow and green! The first thing Bob does when he acquires new baits is to replace the flimsy treble hooks with high-quality Mustad 2/0 singles, sharpened to a razor edge with a 6" mill bastard file. Only then is a lure ready for action.

Bob sets up by letting out 50'-60' of line with the Lucky Lure on the end. He then clips on an on-line planing board called a Yellow Bird. Next, he lets out another 100'-150' of line. At this point, the Yellow Bird will run some 60'-80' off to the side of the boat, thus avoiding prop wash and other water disturbance caused by the boat. When a fish strikes the lure, the Yellow Bird releases and slides down the line to a stopper rig near the end.

The stopper rig is a 1/4-ounce rubber-core sinker 4'-6' above the bait. The rubber-core sinker has a dual function: it stops the Yellow Bird from going to the end of the line (possibly knocking the fish off), and it keeps the bait slightly below the surface of the water. Due to its design, once the Yellow Bird releases and slides down the line, you fight the fish as though the planer board were no longer there. If the Yellow Bird should fail to release right away, thumbing the reel and giving a sharp yank usually is enough to cause it to let go.

The positioning of the lure just be-

*Continued on next page...*



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...Continued from Page Fifteen

low the surface, accompanied by the motion imparted to the lure by the Yellow Bird climbing through waves, speeding up and slowing down, helps to give the illusion of a wounded bait fish darting forward and fluttering back just under the surface. That day, it proved to be irresistible to hungry steelhead. Even some sea gulls were fooled and tried to get our bait.

Bob was still setting his third line when the first rod began jerking violently in its holder. I yelled, "Fish On!" and moved quickly to grab the pulsating rod. Instantly, the steelhead began its aerial display, its silver sides flashing in the morning sun. After several minutes of give and take, Tom slipped the net under an exhausted 5-pound steelhead. This episode was repeated often over the next three days. For the rest of Friday, we took turns catching fish, releasing small ones and the odd lake trout.

In the early afternoon, we had a memorable sequence. It was my turn, and the No. 2 rod began jerking downward. I grabbed it, releasing the Yellow Bird. A fish jumped violently 100' behind the boat and began to take out line. I didn't think much at first because they all tend to take a little line at first. This one, however, didn't stop - I had a screamer on!

About this time another rod, on a downrigger went off. Tom leaped into action and began to fight that fish. Bob slowed the boat down and then another rod came alive! "FISH ON!" I yelled. I grabbed it and began shouting to Bob to come and get it. A double can turn into

a triple awfully fast, can't it! Bob landed that fish quickly, a small coho of about three pounds.

Meanwhile, Tom and I were still fighting our fish. Mine was far behind, having taken most of the line from the reel. I couldn't seem to get him to move, and when I was able to gain some line back, he would take it right back again! Ten minutes passed, then 15, and finally my fish began to weaken. I was able to pump him in slowly. Bob got the net under Tom's fish, a nice 10-pound steelhead, got it unhooked and dropped it in the box. Now, he and Tom were sitting back, kidding me about milking my fish.

My arms were beginning to stiffen and I switched hands from time to time to give them some relief. Finally, I had this fish coming to me. I figured it might be a good salmon, but as it became visible just beneath the surface, it turned out to be a big steelhead. Tired but not yet defeated, he resumed the fight, taking line and diving to avoid the net. Finally, after 25 minutes, Tom slid the net under a totally spent, 16-pound, hook-jawed mature male steelhead. Upon inspection of my trophy, I saw no fin clips - I had landed a highly desirable naturally spawned steelhead!

We finished out the day with a mixed limit catch of steelhead, salmon, and a solitary brown trout, ranging in weight from 3 to 16 pounds. Interestingly, we were observing the Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournament rule on size by releasing all fish under 18" that we caught! What an incredible, exciting, memorable day of fishing

it had been for the three of us!!

Improbably, Day Two turned out to be a carbon copy of Friday, with a slight strategy shift. Bob decided to run 4 Yellow Birds and 2 Dipsey Divers, instead of 2 'Birds' and 4 downriggers. The day began with Tom getting the first fish, and us taking turns catching fish in the rotation. Bob came up lucky as we got into another big fish taking a lot of line on his turn. Bob fought (or should I say "milked") this one for 20 minutes before I was able to slip a net under it. Bob was ecstatic with his trophy fish, a 33-inch, 15-pound chrome female. Close inspection revealed that this beauty, like mine from the day before, was also a naturally reproduced fish.

As far as the numbers go, Day Two was every bit as good as Day One, with another limit catch of salmon and steelhead (no brown trout this time). Since we did not have any doubles (or triples!), Day Two was a little less exciting, but overall it may have been better fishing, as I think we released more fish!

We were up earlier on Day Three due to the end of Daylight Savings Time overnight. Dick Steele and his nephew Larry joined us this time. Weather conditions were beginning to change - it was a little cooler and the wind was stronger.

We repeated our pattern from Day One and Day Two - if it ain't broke, why fix it! - starting to troll north from Sable Point up past Four Bears. We'd break off there, pick up lines, run south, and start over. Each pass through saw us picking

up three or four fish.

Amazingly, by 2:30 on Day Three we had reached our limit on steelhead, and were ready to return to port. Now, the weather had changed dramatically. A fresh wind was kicking up the lake to four- to six-foot waves. In an effort to make a faster, more comfortable run back in, Bob moved closer to shore to take advantage of the lee of Sable Point.

Everything was going fine until we rounded the Point. We were back in those four- to six-foot waves, with the occasional eight-footer thrown in for good measure.

As we were coming through one of those large waves, just at the crest, a sickening shudder went through the boat. The engines revved way up as we pitched sideways. Bob immediately throttled down and got both engines into neutral. Then, in turn, he tried putting each one back in gear, checking to find out if one or both were not functioning correctly. The port engine was okay, but the starboard engine would not engage.

Tom and Dick jumped to the back of the boat to check for damage. Within seconds they had the lid up and the fish box over the starboard propeller shaft moved out of the way. The shaft had pulled free from the coupler, and water was pouring in through the in-board access hole!!

Tom wedged a towel in the opening and Bob got started pumping out the water.

Once the makeshift repair and the pumping was complete, Bob restarted

Continued on next page...

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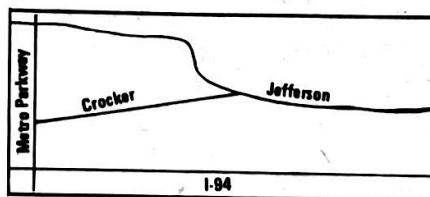
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# Boat damage challenges nerves, seamanship

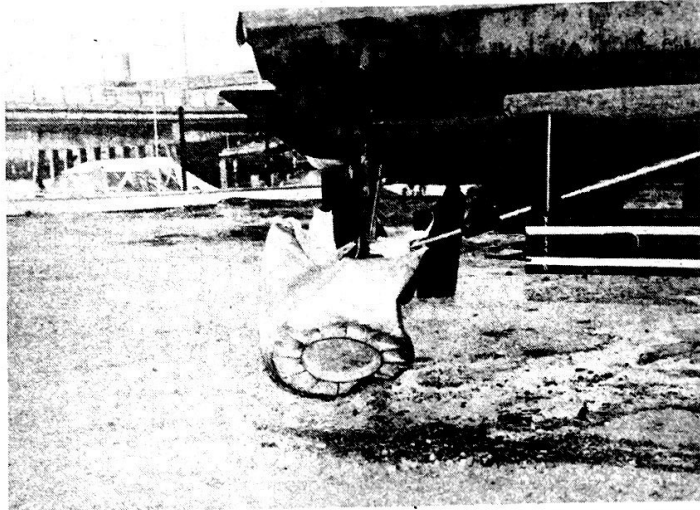
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 the diesel trolling engine. This ought to make the boat handling somewhat easier. Even so, the steering was sluggish and difficult as we limped back to Ludington. Dick surmised that the prop and shaft were probably resting against the rudder, thus producing the difficult handling. It was somewhat comforting to know that the boat's manufacturer was on board to help deal with any problems!

What should have been a 20-30 minute return trip to port ended up taking 1½ hours. With the damage resulting from our mishap and a steadily building sea, it was 90 minutes of true adventure. At one point a large wave washed completely over the boat, soaking Larry, who was at the stern.

You should have seen the look of disbelief on his face. His eyes were big as plates, his jaw was resting on his chest, and water was just streaming off him! All things considered, it was quite a comical sight.

Back at Tamarac dock, Bob pulled "Drifter" from the water for winter storage. Fishing had been so good that he had been considering leaving her in for another week. The starboard engine damage ended that particular train of thought, though.

As you might expect, a small crowd gathered around the beached craft to see what had caused the malfunction. To everyone's disbelief, a 50-gallon, yellow plastic barrel garbage can was



LAKE MICHIGAN WATERS OFF LUDINGTON contained more than free-swimming salmon and trout, as this picture attests!

entwined around the starboard prop and shaft!

Considering the fact that the final fishing trip of 1989 was ending on such a sour note, it had still been a tremendous success. We had experienced Great Lakes fishing at its finest! Day One produced a five-species day with a trophy steelhead as part of the catch. Day Two saw another limit catch of salmon and steelhead, with yet another trophy steelhead in the box. Day Three, with two more men fishing, delivered

a limit catch of steelhead. That fishing, plus the (mostly) good weather, the great company, and that last-day challenge to the skill and seamanship of Bob and the rest of us, all combined to make this an unforgettable fishing trip for me!

Next year, instead of putting your boat up after Labor Day, why not leave it in until Halloween. You might just get in on some of the best fishing of the entire year!

—Ken Johnson

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*We thank you!*

— COVER PHOTO —

*The cover photo of this year's Annual Issue shows Detroit Area Steelheader Director Tim Graskewicz hefting one of those Great Lakes beauties we all seek. The picture, taken by club president Dave Even, was the First Place winner in the 1989 Photo Contest.*



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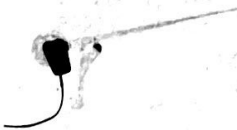


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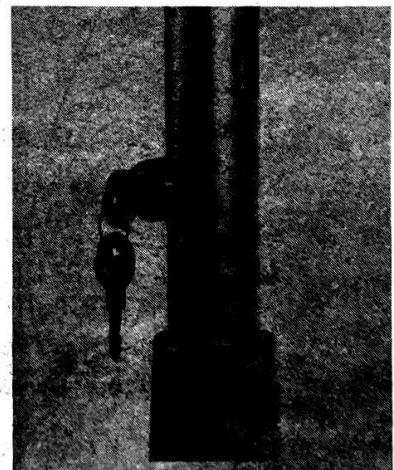
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# Does the "juice" produce?

I'm sure by now most of us have tried using fish scents. The question is, therefore, are they worth the cost, effort, etc.? I think it would be interesting for we Detroit Area Steelheaders to share with each other our non-scientific, practical experiences using these products. I'd like to start the ball rolling by sharing my own experiences and conclusions.

My most memorable experiences have been with steelhead on the Big Manistee River at Tippy Dam. A few years ago on the day after Christmas, I was fishing above the coffer with my pier fishing fanatic buddy, Bob Butler. Working low water, I caught a small steelhead on a wiggler and bobber, which I released. When high water came, I switched to a 2/3-oz. chartreuse Little Cleo and some Doctor Juice.

I started casting upstream and across the fast current, letting the lure sink a little and then retrieving just fast enough to keep a tight line. On the second cast, I hooked and landed a 9-pound steelhead! I kept on doing the same thing in the same spot and landed another steelhead about the same size!

Bob started doing the same thing from a spot about ten feet upstream from me. In the next half-hour I caught two more steelhead by the same method, and then nothing. In the meantime, Bob, doing exactly the same thing as I was except ten feet away and *NO* Doctor Juice never had a bump!

Flush with this success, I tried the same thing a few weeks later at a Detroit



THE AUTHOR is shown conducting his 'field research' on the best ways to catch the elusive trout and salmon!

Area Steelheader river tournament there expecting similar results, but instead caught nothing. The weather that day was colder and sunnier, and there were more fishermen. Doctor Juice could not break through whatever barriers there were to getting the fish to bite that day.

Below the coffer and with mid-winter conditions, I have had similar success at the start of high water for up to an hour, at most. Casting a Cleo with Doctor Juice has produced one or two steelhead several

times for me.

My conclusion after these experiences is that the Doctor Juice helped along with the fish mood created at the start of a high water period.

Other positive experiences have occurred while pier fishing. One morning during the first week of August, I went to Oscoda to cast for salmon. When I got there, I learned that only one fish had been caught, about an hour before. I put on a black Lucky Glow spoon and 'doctored' it up with some Doctor Juice. I cast it as far as I could, let it sink a bit, started to crank and wham! *FISH ON!!* I ended up landing a 15-pound salmon.

A few casts later at the same spot, another salmon hit, but got off before I could land it. Another ninety minutes produced nothing. However, it is worth noting that no one else had a fish hit during the entire time I was there.

Another time, in the early evening, I was fishing with my 7-year-old son, Ben. I would cast a lure out for Ben to reel it in, then cast my own, retrieve, and repeat the whole process. On the second cast with Ben's rod, he got a hit shortly after I handed the rod over to him. That hit turned out to be 20-pound salmon! Once again, no one else in our vicinity was catching anything at the time!

Other pier fishing experiences I've had with Doctor Juice haven't been as dramatic as those two, but I have to believe it's helped me catch the fish that I have caught.

Another time when I think Doctor

Juice helps is when river fishing with flies such as spring wigglers or yarn flies. I have caught steelhead a few such times where I think it has made a difference.

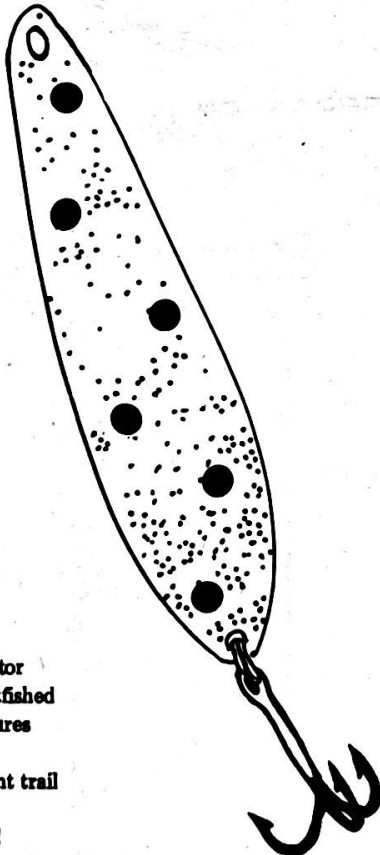
One type of fishing where I really have not noticed much of a difference is while trolling for salmon or steelhead. There has been no dramatic or definitely noticeable difference in results with or without the use of Doctor Juice. I think it still helps when trolling, but in the area of masking human scent than in causing a strike.

I think the use of a scent in trolling is less important than on other occasions, because of the speed of the presentation, dilution of the scent, and the presence of other, more important factors peculiar to trolling. I think in particular of the Charlie White video, "Salmon Spectacular," where salmon hit the lure dipped in bilge water more than the clean lure, or the popularity on the West Coast of spraying lures with WD-40. It's my belief that covering up human scent may be more important than the use of a fish-attracting scent.

Another belief of mine (about the relative value of using scents while trolling) was reinforced by the present instructions for Berkley Strike, which says that the slower the presentation involved, the more important scent becomes.

What have your experiences been with the use of scents? I, and I'm sure many other Steelheaders, would love to hear from others about their experiences. Let us hear from you!

-Mike Lehto



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# Fish locating tips for advanced anglers

Water conditions have a major influence in fish behavior. Learn to read them correctly, and you can pinpoint where catchable fish will be found.

Many fishermen ask about pH, wanting to know what it is. pH is a measurement scale of the acid-base relationships of liquids, ranging from 1 to 14, with 7 the neutral point, below 7 being acidic, and above 7 being alkaline.

More relevant considerations for the angler are: is it important, is it constant in most lakes, what causes it to change, how does it affect fish, will it cause fish to turn on or off, and will it cause fish to move. The short answers, in order, are: yes, no, many factors, many ways, yes, and yes! Read on for more detailed, and I hope, useful information on the subject.

All species are affected by pH, although some slow-moving bottom-feeders and young predator fish seem to have a wider tolerance of pH extremes than adult, active predators do.

Fish prefer, and are most active in the 7.5-8.5 pH range, and will be active and aggressive between 7 and 9. Outside this range, they will be hard to find and harder to catch. They become stressed about the same way we humans do when we're too hot or cold — we don't think clearly and don't demonstrate normal behavior. Fish, being cold-blooded, aren't affected by temperature the same way we are, but they are easily affected by pH changes.

Fish, and humans, have a blood pH of 7.4. We air breathers are not affected by air — it has no pH. But since fish get their oxygen from the water they live in, minor changes in pH affect fishes' ability to take oxygen from the water. If water pH is right, fish can get all the oxygen they need, even from oxygen-starved water. If the pH is too high or low, fish will be unable to get enough oxygen from even oxygen-rich water. When you hear about fish kills because of low oxygen levels, you can be that the pH was bad, too.

The sun has a quick influence on pH by causing photosynthesis in aquatic vegetation. Sunlight causes vegetation to take carbon dioxide (which in solution is an acid) out of the water and put oxygen and calcium carbonate (a base) into it. This causes the water pH to go up fast in areas where vegetation is concentrated.

This is why many fishermen think fishing is good early in the morning and late in the evening, but not good during the day. Most fishermen will fish shoreline cover, mosses or grasses, and the big fish may be there feeding early and late, but when the sun gets high in the sky, the pH in those areas goes up, and big fish head for deep water. Yes, some small fish will stay near the shore because they are not as affected by pH fluctuations as are the more mature, larger fish. Also, they are not as brave about leaving the protection of their home turf.

The sun also causes algae and phytoplankton (aquatic vegetables) to photosynthesize, which runs up the pH over large areas, possibly all over a lake. The fish will move away from it if they can. Thus, if algae or plankton is thick on the surface, the fish will probably go deep.

Rain also has a quick influence on water pH. Moisture condensing and falling through the air picks up carbon dioxide and forms a weak carbonic acid. Normal rainfall (without the influence of industrial or auto pollution) has a pH



ADVANCED ANGLER AL SCHULTZ accepts his St. Joseph tourney first place trophy from President Dave Even.

of 5.3-5.6. Polluted air has sulfur dioxide in it. This mixes with water to form sulfuric acid (acid rain), which can have a pH as low as 1.5, although it rarely is that low.

Rain falling directly into lakes, streams, etc. has its own effect. Water coming through the watershed can have an even greater impact. Freshly fertilized farm land, limestone deposits, forest land, etc. all have significant influence on pH. Another influence on pH is decaying vegetation in the water, and in the watershed area. Not only is such vegetation acidic, it consumes oxygen.

However, most fishermen attach too much importance to oxygen levels. The real key to fish behavior is pH. Fish will move if the pH changes, and they will stop, as if running into a glass wall, if they encounter an unfavorable pH change. If fish cannot avoid unfavorable water pH conditions, they will become dormant (turned off), and if the pH does not improve, they may die.

Another factor affecting pH is the seasonal changes through the year. In winter, with the sun lower in the sky, the water colder, algae and other aquatic vegetation dormant, decay rates low, and farmers not fertilizing their fields, pH is relatively stable. Spring brings rain which washes nutrients and silt into the lakes. Since the lake water is still cold and the rain water warm, the less-dense runoff water flows out on the surface of the lake and produces the muddy-looking water we see so often in the spring. This causes a layering of water. You get the opposite layering in the summer. Cool rain runs under the warmer surface water, causing a murky layer of water at a low level, despite the clear-appearing surface water.

The water above a thermocline is often clear while the water in it is murky. This murkiness is caused by silt particles and dying plankton, at near-neutral buoyancy, settling on the more dense cooler water. A "clarity-cline" and thermocline are together, although this isn't always the case. Big fish hide in clarity-clines so they can ambush their prey swimming above it. Thermoclines are usually found in the summer months, and they will yield good catches if you fish at the UPPER levels of

them. Knowledgeable fishermen look for breaks between clear and stained, or muddy, water because they hold fish!

Occasionally you will see what appears to be a thermocline on a sonar instrument, but when you measure the temperature at depth, you find no change. You have probably encountered a layer of zooplankton — tiny animals as large as 1/4". Unlike microscopic phytoplankton which just drifts, zooplankton has the ability to swim. They often migrate from the bottom to the surface in layers, or clouds, producing a clarity change unrelated to temperature.

"pH-clines" are horizontal layers where the pH change is significant (.2 or more on the pH scale per foot). You may see fish on a sonar unit swimming below a pH-cline — they will be inactive and hard to catch! If you find a pH-cline, and they are common in the summer, fish only at the UPPER level of it, or shallower. Eliminate all water below it.

There is a logical explanation for the existence of pH-clines, and why they are a good depth to fish. Water clarity determines how deep sunlight can penetrate. To that depth, sunlight causes photosynthesis in the phytoplankton, turning them green and running up the pH. The zooplankton are there feeding on the phytoplankton. Bait fish are there feeding on the zooplankton, and large, active gamefish are there feeding on the baitfish. Smart fishermen are there, trying to catch the gamefish! You have an entire food chain right before your eyes, focusing where the pH has the greatest change!!

The order of priority for "clines" is pH first by a mile. Then comes clarity-clines, and finally thermoclines.

The best way to look for an area of a lake that might have the best pH conditions is to give some thought to the factors that affect pH.

Consider the weather, season, any recent rain, surrounding watershed, sunshine, water depths, bottom conditions or materials, aquatic vegetation, algae, age of the lake, etc. Decide where you are likely to find the best conditions: near shore, or out in deep water; at the lower end, mid-lake, or in the upper end if the lake is an impoundment. pH will nearly always be a little higher at the surface than it is below. Use the pH guidelines listed here to eliminate poor, unproductive water — pH below 7 or above 9, and all water below a pH-cline. If the entire lake is below 7, look for the highest you can find and fish there; if the entire lake is above 9, look for the lowest you can find and then fish deep — it's probably lower deeper.

If this pH information sounds interesting to you, you may want to take a look at a new product on the market, the Multi-C-Lector, which will find and show you the depth of primary or secondary pH-cline, clarity-cline, and thermocline. The Troller model also alerts you to the presence of shears, or vertical changes in pH, clarity, or temperature, and shows you your lure speed. These shears will probably be found if you move past a spring or a stream flowing into a lake, or where there is a current within a lake. These edges hold fish like a magnet.

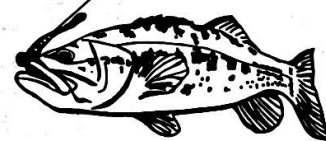
Obviously, the factors that affect fish behavior are interrelated, and complicated. That's what makes fishing fun, and a real challenge. It takes you away from all the other complications of life and gives you a new puzzle to solve. I hope this article will help a little in you solving your personal fishing puzzle!

—Dick Healey

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author may be contacted for further information at Lake Systems, Div., 315 E. South Street, Mount Vernon, Missouri 65712, or by calling (800) 641-4371 or (417) 466-7136 in Missouri.

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# 1989 guest speakers were all winners!

Nineteen eighty-nine was a premier year for guest speakers for our Detroit Area Steelheader membership meetings!

An important element of our club's existence is to educate and inform the public about the resources we have available to us in the Great Lakes. During 1989, we hosted several expert guest speakers, who dealt with numerous topics. Subjects covered ranged from bacterial kidney disease (BKD) in Lake Michigan to how to catch fish at the tourney ports.

Here is a month-by-month recap of some of the 1989 Detroit Area Steelheader membership meeting speakers.

**Don Reynolds (Michigan DNR)** — Don discussed the decline of the 1988 fishery in Lake Michigan (including some probable causes) and what we could expect in 1989.

**Jim Fenner & Mike Davis** — These two charter boat captains from Ludington explained some of their secrets for taking those *BIG* kings!

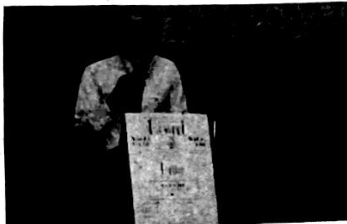
**Bill Winegarden (President, Quality Controlled Electronics, Inc.)** — Bill spoke about getting the most out of the electronics we are using.

**Dick Healy (Lake Systems)** — Dick discussed water clarity and thermoclines.

**Lanny "Creel" Virdon (Host of "The Outdoorsman")** — Lanny made a nice presentation on marine safety.

**Bruce Manney (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service fisheries biologist)** — Bruce presented an interesting slide show on lake trout rehabilitation in the Great Lakes.

**Bruce DeShano (Offshore Tackle)** — Bruce spoke about the lake trout fishery



**BILL WINEGARDEN** covered getting the most out of marine electronics at the March meeting. in Port Austin waters.

**Ron Spitler (Michigan DNR)** — Ron brought us up to date on the fishery in the metropolitan Detroit area.

**Jim Bedford (Noted outdoor writer)** — Jim took us through a slide presentation on steelhead fishing the Sustut River in British Columbia.

**Steve Stuart (Michigan Sea Grant Program)** — Steve covered BKD and other fish disease.

As you can see from the above, 1989 was an outstanding year for providing quality information to our club membership. If you weren't a member of the Detroit Area Steelheaders in 1989, you missed your opportunity to become extremely well-informed on our state's fishery, and to pick up some invaluable tips on improving your odds for catching salmon and trout.

**DON'T MISS OUT IN 1990! JOIN** the Detroit Area Steelheaders *TODAY!!* You'll experience all that we have to offer for 1990!!!

—Tim Gräskewicz

# Detroit Area Steelheaders ANNUAL SPRING FISHING SHOW!

**Saturday, March 10**

11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

&

**Sunday, March 11**

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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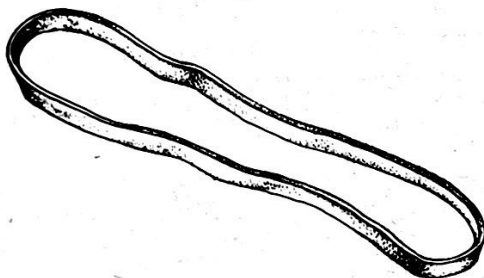


• DICK SWAN



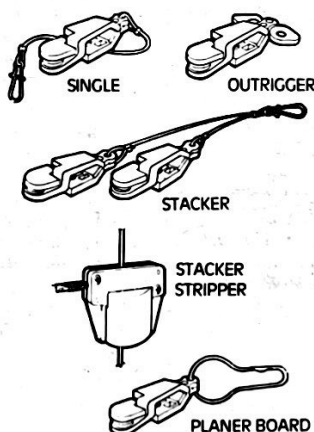
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# Oregon charter disappoints one Steelheader

Last summer, I had the good fortune of going to Portland, Oregon to visit my wife's sister's family. One of the highlights of the trip was going to be fishing in the ocean for salmon on a charter in Depoe Bay.

I was anticipating an exotic, exciting experience from which I could have fun and, perhaps, learn some things I could apply to my salmon fishing in Michigan. The reality of the charter turned out to be interesting and educational but disappointing.

I'm sure that there are many charters in Oregon that would be run differently, but I'm also sure that much of what I experienced would be quite common.

Bear in mind that I am writing from a sample of one boat and one trip. I definitely wouldn't want to imply that this one experience would apply to any other boat.

I'll start out with the positive. We had four people in our group and we boated three fish and lost one. The water was calm, with rollers about 25 yards apart. There was plenty of room on the boat, and it was run in an orderly manner. There was a captain and two mates.

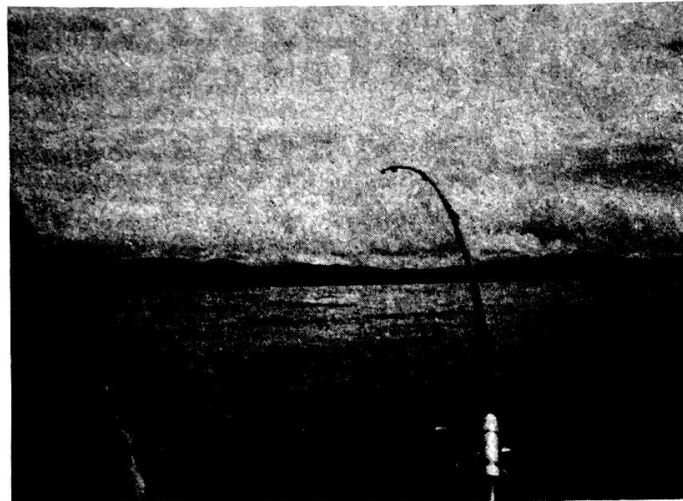
Once we were in about 60 feet of water, the mates began to set lines. The rods were heavy-action musky-type rods coupled with Penn 209 reels and 30-pound test monofilament.

The lures used included a flasher-squid combination, with orange-white and chartreuse-white squids about 12" from the flasher. Some rods used a clothespin-type release permanently tied into the line about 2 1/2' above the flasher. Others had "deep sixes" about 30" above the flasher.

The hooks on the lures were, by regulation, single and barbless, and a 1/2" square chunk of herring was on the hooks before the set-ups were put in the water.

This charter boat ran seven rods total: three "deep six" rods and four from 10-pound cannonballs attached to about 20 feet of blue braided cord. There were two cannonballs off the stern and one off each side of the boat. The "deep six" rods were off each corner and off the center of the stern.

I asked one of the mates why they didn't have downriggers. He told me



MIKE LEHTO, Detroit Area Steelheader Secretary, found his Oregon ocean salmon charter to be a somewhat "different" experience!

that they were expensive and, besides, the cannonball on a cord was simple and didn't break down. I thought to myself that their system did not seem to be very flexible in the event of changing conditions. However, I guessed they must know what they're doing.

After about a half-hour of trolling the port stern cannonball rod released, and I grabbed it. It was a king that went on one of those strong first runs just like we know about in Michigan. I fought it steadily to the boat within about five minutes, thinking to myself, "This fish is too green!" I told one of the mates that I thought I should leave the salmon out there for awhile, but he told me to reel him in.

I brought him to the stern, where the mate made a stab for him. The fish avoided the net and went behind another set line. This maneuver allowed the still-spunky salmon to get enough slack to slip off the barbless single hook and swim to freedom. Little did I know at the time that this rather brief battle would be the most positive and sporting experience of the entire charter!

A mate reset the line and we trolled some more. Another rod started jerking and my nephew grabbed it. This time it was a coho, about six or seven pounds

Over the next couple of hours, my daughter and my niece each caught a coho on "their" respective rods. Just as with my nephew's coho, these fish didn't pop the releases either, and were "caught" by means of pulling in the cannonball cord.

Another gentlemen on board, from Arizona, had a fish on momentarily, but it was lost, also without popping the release. Thus, I was the only one on the charter who had a chance to enjoy fighting and trying to land a fish!

My daughter had never been salmon fishing before. Obviously, she didn't enjoy her experience, especially when she had to watch the crew club her fish on the head after it was in the boat. Of course, I tried to explain to her that it was more humane to kill the fish than to have it thrashing around and eventually suffocating. I tried to tell her that the charter we had completed was not a legitimate sport fishing experience, and that it was a weak trip.

She wasn't too far off the mark when, after listening to my comments, she said, "It wasn't weak, Dad, it was sick."

-Mike Lehto

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STEELHEADER  
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In order to maintain your status, you **MUST** pay the M.S.S.F.A. its share of the annual dues shown on the membership application. For 1990, that amount is \$20.00.

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**BOAT TOURNAMENT  
"LARGEST FISH"  
1989 SUMMARY**

Here are the final results by species of the largest fish caught and entered at Detroit Area Steelheader boat trolling tournaments during 1989.

**KING SALMON**

(All fish taken at Rogers City, 8/20/89)

- "Molly Frair" Ron Hartman 28 lbs., 5 oz.
- "Trena Dawn" Don Redmond 24 lbs., 10 oz.
- "Kemo" Bob Mitchell 24 lbs., 6 oz.

**COHO SALMON**

(All fish taken at Frankfort, 9/9/89)

- "My Dream" Jim Hardrick 9 lbs., 3 oz.
- "Trena Dawn" Don Redmond 8 lbs., 10 oz.
- "Nomad" Bob Herman 8 lbs., 10 oz.

**LAKE TROUT**

(All fish taken at Oscoda, 6/24/89)

- "Kemo" Jodi Gilbert 15 lbs., 8 oz.
- "Capt'n Hook" Doug Karakas 15 lbs. even
- "Happy Bare" Don Anton 13 lbs., 12 oz.

**STEELHEAD TROUT**

(All fish taken at Rogers City, 8/20/89)

- "Half R's" Ron Huey 10 lbs., 7 oz.
- "Formulator" Larry Gaiownik 10 lbs., 4 oz.
- "Chuzu II" Chuck Huxford 8 lbs., 11 oz.

**BROWN TROUT**

(All fish taken at Muskegon, 5/20/89)

- "Exaggerator" Mike Heide 8 lbs., 7 oz.
- "Fish'n Rod" Rod Coffey 6 lbs., 3 oz.
- "Fishbusters" Joel Garinger 3 lbs., 15 oz.

**PINK SALMON**

(All fish taken at Rogers City, 8/20/89)

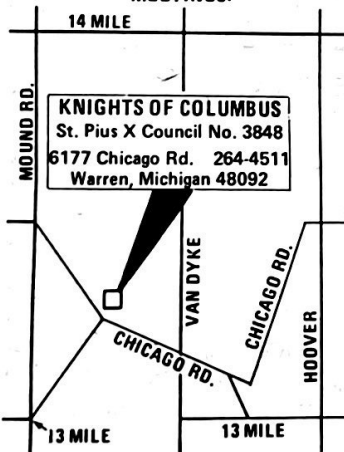
- "Vitamin Sea" Gary Rowolot 3 lbs., 9 oz.
- "Returner" Darwin Gregg 3 lbs., 8 oz.
- "Sinsation" Hank Baczynski 3 oz., 7 oz.

**\*MASTER ANGLER AWARD WINNER**



**1990 MEETING SCHEDULE**  
TUESDAYS, 7:30 P.M.  
JANUARY 30, 1990  
FEBRUARY 27, 1990  
MARCH 27, 1990  
Visitors Welcome - Bring a Friend!  
K. OF C. HALL, WARREN

**HERE'S HOW TO GET TO  
DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER  
MEETINGS:**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
St. Pius X Council No. 3848  
6177 Chicago Rd. 264-4511  
Warren, Michigan 48092

*The*  
**DEADLINE**  
*for*  
**FEBRUARY  
FISHIN' TALES**  
*is*  
**JANUARY 30, 1990**

# Detroit Area Steelheaders really know how to have fun !!

**SIXTH ANNUAL DETROIT AREA STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10 AT ST. PIUS X KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 6177 CHICAGO ROAD, WARREN**

The Detroit Area Steelheaders will hold their sixth annual Dinner Dance on February 10, 1990 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Warren, the same place where the regular monthly meetings are held.

Last year's Dinner Dance was the best one so far, and turned out to be a huge success. More people attended and had more fun than ever before! This year, we hope to see even more people on hand, Detroit Area Steelheaders and their families and friends, Steelheaders from other clubs, and other fishermen to help make the 1990 edition of this gala event even better than last year's.

Fellows, this occasion is the perfect time for all of us to repay our wives or girlfriends for all of the patience and understanding they have shown us as we have avidly pursued our sport throughout the year.

Once again, the dinner will be served "sit down style," eliminating the need for everyone standing in line to serve themselves. However, the very popular "all you can eat and drink" format remains unchanged! Music will be supplied by a well-known local disc jockey for your listening and dancing pleasure.

In addition, there will be more than \$500 worth of prizes given away!!

The cost for this great evening is only \$40 per couple, or \$20 per per-



**THE DANCE FLOOR gets lots of action at the annual Steelheader Dinner Dance.**

son. For more information, please call Jim Legenzoff (839-8958) or Bob Krings (625-8397).

**WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU ON HAND FOR THE 1990 STEEL-HEADER DINNER DANCE!!!**



**THE ANNUAL STEELHEADER DINNER DANCE is a great occasion for family and friends to get together!**

**Need A  
FISHING PARTNER  
or Another  
CREW MEMBER?**

**Do you want to fish in the  
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but don't have a boat?**

*If the answer is yes to either of  
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**TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:  
GENE BURBARY - 725-5935**

**DOUG KARAKAS - 545-1181**

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is a**

**Detroit Area Steelheader  
club service for members**

## Patches & Decals

| SIZE  | ITEM                           | PRICE     | QTY. | COST |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 5" dia.   | CHAPTER ARM PATCH<br>(8-color) | 4.00 ea.  |      |      |
| 3" x 4"   | WINDOW DECAL                   | .25 ea.   |      |      |
| 11" x 14"   | BOAT DECAL                     | 1.00 ea.  |      |      |
| 11" x 14"   | CHAPTER BOAT DECAL             | 2.00 ea.  |      |      |
| MAILING FOR ABOVE ITEMS   |                                |           |      | .75  |
| ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO<br>CHAPTER NEWSLETTER<br>"FISHIN' TALES" |                                | 12.00/yr. |      |      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                                |           |      |      |

Complete form and send with check or money order payable to:

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS  
P. O. BOX 16320  
CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN 48016**

**These items are Chapter Fund Raisers - WE THANK YOU!**

## Membership Application

**MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:**

Detroit Area Steelheader Newsletter - *FISHIN' TALES*, M.S.S.F.A. Newspaper, Boat Decal, Car Decal, Tackle Box Decal, Arm Patch, Membership Cards & Other Benefits

**ANNUAL DUES:**

New members and renewals under age 62 . . . . . \$ 30.00  
(Detroit Area Steelheaders - \$10 \* M.S.S.F.A. share - \$20)  
Renewals age 62 to 65 . . . . . \$ 20.00  
Renewals over age 65 . . . . . \$ 10.00  
Lifetime (Local Chapter Only) . . . . . \$150.00  
(Add \$1.00 postage if you wish your membership kit mailed to you)

NAME  PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY  STATE  ZIP

Complete form and send with check or money order payable to:

**DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS  
P. O. BOX 16320**

**CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN 48016**

**THANK YOU!**

**"KEMO" DOES IT AGAIN AS MITCHELL REPEATS AS "SKIPPER OF THE YEAR" FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR!**

...Continued from Page Four  
Bay. I debated long and hard, but finally decided to follow Dave and Tim Graskewicz north to where they had fished the weekend before the tournament.

We set lines and they immediately sprang to life. By 8:30 we had six, including a couple of 20-pounders. To show you how fickle salmon can be, Dave was fishing the same area and was skunked! He also demonstrated a good lesson to everyone when he never gave up, and after noon started putting them in the boat as fast as he could set lines.



**JODI GILBERT, a "Kemo" crew regular, landed this 15½ lake trout last year, one of two such lakers she caught during 1989 Detroit Area Steelheader tournaments!**

We boated 11 to take the first-day lead.

Day Two, and we decided not to ruin a good thing: we headed north to the same spot. This time the shoe was on the other foot. We had good action but couldn't boat a fish. We only landed one of the first five we hooked, and it was only 8 pounds. One 20-pound king tried so hard to get in the boat that we had to beat him off with the net TWICE before he finally gave up and left! The Dipseys were working well for us, but the real key seemed to be Silve Streak spoons - I'm convinced!! We eventually landed six nice fish on Sunday to win the tournament by nearly 100 points. Steve finished fourth.

Off we went to Frankfort. We were down to the last tournament of the year, and we were virtually tied with Steve. If he beat us and finished in the top three, he would win "Skipper of the Year."

Saturday dawned, and everyone headed north to Platt Bay. The reports had not been good, and the weather looked worse. The tournament was called early because of building waves. We headed in to weigh in the day's catch, and to see where we stood relative to Steve. At the scales, the tables had turned again. Steve had caught four fish to our three. Tim Graskewicz (or should I say Tim's good luck dad?) was in first place, followed by Steve and then us. If the order stayed

that way, Steve would win the title.

Sunday dawn brought high skies and classic cold front conditions. In my years of tournament fishing, I've never seen the conditions change so dramatically. The thermocline changed from about 80 feet on Saturday to 15 feet on Sunday. I knew the fishing would be tough.

We set lines and the first two fish we caught were lakers. Too bad the season was closed. We finally had a hit at 11 feet down on a dodger and squid. It was a small 4-pound coho. At the fish call, we reported our one fish, but missed Steve's report. How many fish did he have?

The time came to pull lines. We still had only one fish. It was a long ride in to port. I knew we had blown a great opportunity to repeat as "Skipper of the Year." We had been so close! I took our coho to the weigh-in. Steve had not yet

shown up, although I knew he was back in port. We waited. Then one of the guys went to Steve's boat to check on him. He came back... no fish.

We couldn't believe it. We had won! That little coho turned out to be the biggest fish of the year!! We were ecstatic. The I felt for Steve. He had a terrific year and deserved the title as much as I did, maybe more. I knew how he felt because I had those same feelings just a half-hour before, when I thought we had lost. If he had won, I would have been haunted by those few ounces at Ludington. It had been a close, back-and-forth race all year long.

The closeness of the race will be the thing that I remember most about 1989. But there will be other memories, too. President Dave Even had a terrible year, fishing and personally. He nearly lost a

brother, and did lose his father-in-law. He showed a lot of courage, and I'm sure he will be back strong in 1990.

And who could forget the "Molly Frair" crew... Baby Cakes and pink spoolies... Ron Huey who had a great start... Al Schultz who won a tournament... the beach party at Ludington on Friday night... and the fog... 1989 should be known as The Year of the Fog!

I'm already looking forward to the 1990 season. The competition will likely be even tougher than it was in 1989. In addition to Steve and "Exaggerator," look out for "Molly Frair," "Teacher's Pet," "Half R's," "Trena Dawn," "Harmony," and that someone else who will put it all together. Hopefully, "Kemo" will be there, too.

-Bob Mitchell  
"Kemo"

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